



# Salem Athenæum News

Incorporated in 1810

Winter 2011

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Welcome!



## Last Chance!

January 30<sup>th</sup> is the final day of the 1629 Endecott Charter exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum. Please take advantage of these remaining days to see our founding manuscript before it returns to the archive!



## Letter from the President

Dear Athenæum Members and Friends,

Welcome to the first digital Athenæum Newsletter!

After much discussion and a close review of the budget, we decided that producing our newsletter in this format would result not only in measurable savings but in a swifter flight into the world of electronic communication. For members who prefer not to get the electronic version, we will happily print each issue from this template and mail it. We hope this change will cut down on the amount of paper mail you receive, and we'll be eager to hear your comments on this new development.

In fact, you can tell us in person when you attend our wintertime cocktail fundraiser on **February 1 at Salem's Adriatic Restaurant** (last year's was a sell-out at Sixty2 on Wharf). The restaurant will provide hors d'oeuvres (at no charge) and a cash bar. Bring friends and make an evening of it, knowing you're making a significant contribution to a Salem mainstay. Tickets are just \$20 per person and can be purchased [here](#). The Athenæum has established itself as the premier provider of educational and cultural programs in Salem. These, along with our extraordinary collections, have made the library an important cultural center. Your attendance on February 1 will help support this worthy effort.

Our 2011 winter programming is dedicated to **Mark Twain**. Marking the publication of *The Autobiography of Mark Twain, Vol. 1* (November 2010) on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twain's death, the Athenæum devotes the first months of 2011 to Twain with both a new exhibition at the library and a six-week course on Mark Twain and *Huckleberry Finn*, presented on Saturday afternoons from February 5 through March 19. Tuition is \$155 for members and \$175 for non-members. Check the website for full details. Seats fill quickly, so make your reservation now!

On **March 26**, we honor an American icon, one whose popularity was born in 1934 right here in Salem. We invite you to Save the Date for an **evening celebration of the game of Monopoly!** Details will be coming soon, but think about the year: America was in the midst of a Depression and was more eager than ever for a bit of diversion and entertainment. It was the time of satin evening gowns, breadlines, and fictional hotels on the Boardwalk and Park Place. The Athenæum celebrates the game and you can be part of it! Stay tuned.

Until then, be sure to enjoy our early 2011 upcoming programs and events and let us welcome you to as many of them as possible. There is truly no better place to spend a winter's eve than here!

Cheers,  
Francie King  
President, Board of Trustees  
Salem Athenæum

### **Cambridge Society for Early Music presents Bach**



Saturday, January 22, 8:00 p.m.

In honor of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Cambridge Society for Early Music presents an all-Bach season this year. This second concert in the series features Nicholas Kitchen, a founding member of the Borromeo Quartet and award-winning soloist and chamber player. He will present Bach's challenging works for unaccompanied violin on a unique Cremonese violin from the 1730s.

Athenæum members and seniors \$25; non-members \$30.  
Students with ID, and children 17 years and under, free.  
To reserve, visit [www.csem.org](http://www.csem.org)

### **The Potteries of Salem**

An illustrated lecture by Rick Hamelin  
Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.

As early as 1629, Salem, Massachusetts had established clay industries. Local clay works provided pottery, bricks and tiles for household, agricultural and industrial use. These wares were widely traded, especially to the Caribbean. Production flourished between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Rick Hamelin, a Massachusetts Humanities Scholar in Residence at the Peabody Historical Society and recognized Massachusetts Cultural Council "Keeper of Tradition" redware potter, will present the story of these early potters and their wares.

For more information about the speaker and his craft, see  
<http://piedpotterhamelin.com>

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Members \$10; non-members \$15; free for students.

**Register Here**

*Co-presented by the Salem Athenæum and Historic Salem, Inc.*

## Join Us at the Adriatic!

Tuesday, February 1, 6-8 p.m.  
Adriatic Restaurant and Bar  
155 Washington Street, Salem

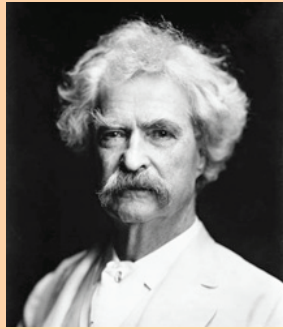
Chase away the winter blahs with a trip to the Adriatic. Join the Salem Athenaeum and Adriatic Restaurant and Bar for a mid-winter cocktail party and fundraiser for the Athenaeum on February 1, 6 to 8 p.m., at the restaurant.

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and soak in the warmth of one of Salem's premier eating establishments.

The Salem Athenaeum began its annual winter cocktail gatherings last year to kick off its 2010 Bicentennial. For this year's fundraiser, the library focuses on its popular programs and courses.

Tickets are \$20 per person. All proceeds go to the Salem Athenaeum.

[Register Here](#)



### Mark Twain Course Begins Feb. 5

Saturdays, from 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
February 5, 12, 26; March 5, 12, and 19.

The Salem Athenæum will offer a 6-week course on one of America's favorite authors and his most popular novel: Mark Twain and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Twain has been in recent news because 2010 marked

the 100th anniversary of his death and the long-awaited publication of his autobiography, which Twain would not allow to be released until the centennial of his death.

*Huckleberry Finn* stands with *Don Quixote*, *The Divine Comedy* and Shakespeare's plays as its nation's definitive literary work. It is of its time and of ours--a work with moral, psychological, and narrative power unequalled in subsequent American literature. And it is very humorous.

No American novel has garnered greater praise from fellow writers. Ernest Hemingway famously stated, "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*. ... there was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since."

Join us and find out why this novel, still turning up on banned book lists across the United States, has become the most revered in American literature. In addition to a close reading of the book, the course will also incorporate relevant biographical and historical contexts from Twain's life and American culture.

Dr. Theoharis C. Theoharis, who has lectured widely on American and European literature and has received teaching awards from UC Berkeley, MIT, and Harvard, will teach the course. He has taught at Harvard for the last 25 years. His most recent course was "Satire and Resistance in the American Novel: *Huckleberry Finn* and *Catch-22*."



Members, \$155; non-members, \$175.  
(Course seats fill fast. Make your reservation soon!)

## Milton Read-Aloud Event: The Music of *Paradise Lost* Regained

Sunday, February 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

John Milton, one of the great poets of the English language, is surpassed only by Shakespeare in the scope of his art. *Paradise Lost*, Milton's masterpiece, has been called "the story of all things" and the most sublime poem in English. Its influence has been enormous. Yet its vastness and baroque style often pose an obstacle to modern readers.



In previous centuries, long poems such as *Paradise Lost* were read aloud in a single sitting. Modern readers seldom experience epic poems this way. And yet it is the only way to truly hear the music and variety of Milton's language and to experience the emotional drama of the poem.

Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf invites Athenæum members to join her and her Harvard Extension students in a marathon reading aloud of *Paradise Lost*—in its entirety on Sunday, February 13, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Athenæum.

The poem will be read continuously, with each person reading from 50-100 lines before the next person reads on. We will not pause to discuss the poem. Breaks to indulge in pre-and-post-lapsarian dining, however, are planned. Participants may stay for the entire event or only a portion.

Nothing rivals the elegance of Milton's attempt to "justify the ways of God to men," his bold re-imagining of the war in Heaven, Genesis, the architecture of Heaven, Hell, and Earth; his personæ for Satan, God, the Son, and their minions. So bring along your copy of the poem and join us!

RSVP to Sue Weaver Schopf no later than Friday, February 11 at: [sue\\_schopf@harvard.edu](mailto:sue_schopf@harvard.edu).

\$10 members.

*Sponsored by The Salem Athenæum.*

## Très presents "Mediterranean Sizzle"

Sunday, February 27, 4 p.m.

Très, the North Shore Baroque Ensemble, will present its concert "*Mediterranean Sizzle*" on Sunday, February 27, at 4 p.m. at the Athenæum. The program features spirited music for two violins and continuo team, including vocal renditions of Marini's *Sopra La Monica*, and a tracing of this piece's travels through the Mediterranean. In addition, they will perform music by Rossi, Leclair, a Handel trio sonata, and music by Marais and Lully: *Trios pour le coucher du Roi*, which was performed in the royal chambers at the King's bedtime. Vocal music will include Scarlatti arias and *Mariam Matrem*, from the *Libre Vermeille* of Spain. Spanish flavored ciaconnas complete the Mediterranean program.

Members \$20; non-members \$25; Children 17 and under free.

## The Other Dickens

The Life of Catherine Hogarth Dickens  
A lecture by Lillian Nayder

March 10, 7:00 p.m.  
Presented by the Dickens Fellowship

Lillian Nayder will speak on Catherine Hogarth Dickens, wife of Charles Dickens. A reception following the lecture will feature traditional bread puddings. Nayder will also be available to sign her recently released book, *The Other Dickens: The Life of Catherine Hogarth*. A professor and chair of English at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, Nayder is also author of *Unequal Partners: Charles Dickens, Wilkie Collins, and Victorian Authorship*.

Please note that books will not be sold at this event. You are encouraged to bring your own copy to be signed by the author. Fellowship members may purchase discounted books at Barnes and Noble in Peabody.

Contact Deb Benvie 978-979-0574 or <http://dickensnorthofboston.com> for details.

\$5 donation; free for Fellowship and Athenæum members.

## Massachusetts Poetry Festival Fundraiser

Thursday, March 17, 7-9 p.m.

Thursday's Theatre of Words & Music (TTWM), an artist performance series formerly held at Salem's Cornerstone Books, re-emerges with a new location: the Salem Athenaeum. Its debut event will be a fundraiser on Thursday, March 17, to benefit the **2011 Massachusetts Poetry Festival**. The two-day festival, on May 13-14, will bring more than 1,500 poets and poetry lovers to downtown Salem for a variety of readings, workshops, music, and performances.

For the fundraiser, poet Lloyd Schwartz will discuss the poetry of beloved Massachusetts poet Elizabeth Bishop and his friendship with her, as well as read his own poetry. Additionally, local musician/composer Sebastien Jean will perform *Air for Orchestral Suite in D major* by Bach for electric guitar and piano.

### About the artists:

Lloyd Schwartz is Frederick S. Troy Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Boston and a regular commentator for NPR's "Fresh Air." His poems, articles, and reviews have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, *The Pushcart Prize*, and *The Best American Poetry*. In 1994, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism.



Sebastien Jean is a composer, rock guitarist and musicologist. Jean received his MFA in musicology from Brandeis University.

Suggested Donation: \$50

To make online donations to the 2011 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, visit: [www.masspoetry.org](http://www.masspoetry.org).



**Cambridge Society for Early Music  
presents *Goldberg Variations***



Saturday, March 19, 8:00 p.m.

In honor of its 30th anniversary season, Cambridge Society for Early Music continues its all-Bach program with Peter Sykes on harpsichord. He will perform the selections from Bach's masterpiece, the *Goldberg Variations*.

Athenæum members and seniors \$25; non-members \$30.

Students with ID, and children 17 years and under, free.

To reserve, visit [www.csem.org](http://www.csem.org)

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**Celebrate Monopoly!  
(an Athenæum Fundraiser)**

Saturday, March 26

Save the date for an evening celebrating the game that was made popular right here in Salem! Details to come...

**Adams Lecture: Sherry Turkle**

Thursday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Sherry Turkle, Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT, will be the Salem Athenæum's 2011 Adams lecturer on April 21. She is the founder and current director of the [MIT Initiative on Technology and Self](#).



Professor Turkle writes on the "subjective side" of people's relationships with technology, especially computers. She is an expert on mobile technology, social networking, and sociable robotics. Profiles of Professor Turkle have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and *Wired*. She also was named "Woman of the Year" by *Ms. Magazine* and among the "forty under forty" who are changing the nation by *Esquire*. A featured media commentator on the social and psychological effects of technology for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, the BBC, and NPR, she has appeared on such programs as *Nightline*, *Frontline*, and *20/20*.

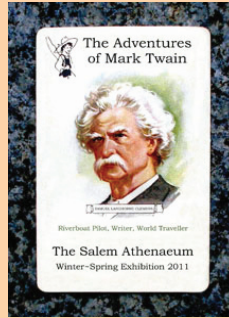
Professor Turkle's most recent book, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*, was published in January 2011.

Professor Turkle received a joint doctorate in sociology and personality psychology from Harvard University and is a licensed clinical psychologist. Her Adams Lecture will be held at Hamilton Hall, Salem, at 7:30 p.m., followed by a reception and book signing. (Reservations are strongly encouraged for this event.)

Members \$20; non-members \$25; students \$5.

[Register here](#)

*Sponsored by The Salem Athenæum.*



## Winter Exhibition: **The Adventures of Mark Twain** Riverboat Pilot, Writer, World Traveler

The Salem Athenæum's upcoming exhibit is dedicated to the definitive American writer, Mark Twain. In honor of the centennial of his death and the authorized publication of his autobiography, we take a look at the many ways Twain continues to influence American culture.

The Athenæum's collection of Twain books will be a main feature of the exhibit along with imagery connected with Twain. Of particular interest are illustrations from various editions of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and Twain's travel writings.

Since their initial publication, many of Twain's writings have incited strong reactions, both positive and negative. To this day, his works are banned in some areas and continue to provoke controversy. A look at this public reaction will be presented.

Even by today's standards, Mark Twain was a personality of immense breadth. Commercial images of Twain's likeness appeared on product labels and in advertisements for myriad goods including cigars, whiskey, flour, and even Cream of Wheat. And like celebrities today, his likeness was used in both approved and unapproved forms.

Books by Twain's contemporary "friends and enemies" will be presented as well. Authors include William Dean Howells, who helped Twain launch his publishing career; Harriet Beecher Stowe, his neighbor and friend; and Bret Harte, of whom Twain has written, "In the early days I liked Bret Harte and so did the others, but by and by I got over it; so also did the others. He couldn't keep a friend permanently."

The exhibit opens February 1st.

*Sponsored by The Salem Athenæum.*

### Feature:

## **Self-made Man's Legacy Funds the Salem Athenæum**

A gift this past year from the Constance Killam Trust and the Elizabeth Killam Rodgers Trust--constituting the Killam Fund--combined with the 1997 Killam funds, puts the Athenæum in a strong position to take meaningful steps to address key issues facing the Athenæum's building and collections. The Collections Committee began this year to look at a long-range plan and alternatives for conserving the collection and ensuring that the building meets the collection's needs, while we continue to grow Athenæum membership and use the building as a cultural center for the North Shore.

The Athenæum has received two grants from the Killam Fund: a grant for \$25,000 in 1997 (now valued at approximately \$28,000 after several withdrawals), and a grant of \$25,000 in honor of the Athenæum's Bicentennial in April 2010.

*For full article, go to page 9.*

## Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Brian and Mary Best  
Karen M. Burns  
Quinn Colgan  
Robbin Crandall  
Lucille Grant  
David Helen and Jeannine Matthews  
Sebastien and Jennifer Jean  
Mary Katz and Paul Kelly  
Marie and Daniel Meegan  
John Melby  
Rev. Jeanne Melis Mills  
Garlan and Jody Morse  
Jan Pacak  
Paul and Katharine Richards  
Joan and Warren Sawyer  
Steven Solter  
John R. Stopfel  
Jura Strimaitis and David Kerman  
Sue Townshend, Larry Underhill and family  
Anna Tschetter  
Marjorie Wittner and family  
Laura Wood and James Barkley



## Board of Trustees

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## Salem Athenæum

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Salem, Massachusetts 01970

## Contact Info

For general information about the Athenæum or its events, please contact the Director:

**Jean Marie Prociuous**

978-744-2540

[info@salemathenaeum.net](mailto:info@salemathenaeum.net)

For comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact the editor:

**Carolyn McGuire**

[Contact me!](#)

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