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Welcome!



Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Welcome to snowless 2015. But there's a blizzard of wonderful things going on at the Athenæum in the next several weeks that I'm delighted to share and to warmly invite you to.

First to note is a special celebration of ... Mardi Gras. We'll brighten your winter with this party on February 21 at 8:00 p.m. that will feature blues guitarist Mark T. Small during an evening of fun, music, food, and a silent auction worthy of a trip to New Orleans-in-Salem. The auction will feature items from North Shore artists and writers, and there will be a few Mardi Gras twists--you'll have to come to see what they are! When you do, you'll be benefiting the Salem Athenæum, as this is our annual fundraiser. No need to dress up, but please do if you're inclined. Bring friends, and join the spirit of New Orleans.

And speaking of writers: Our writers program is in full swing under the leadership of Trustee and best-selling author Brunonia Barry and Salem State Professor J.D. Scrimgeour. Take note of the upcoming courses, including those offered by the nationally renowned Grub Street writers. Watch for them on our website.

In January, we inaugurate the Re-Appraisal Book Group, dedicated to reading once well-known writers from the Athenæum's collection. On the 29th, take part in our special program, *Mementos: Jewelry of Life and Love*, sponsored with Historic New England's Phillips House and Historic Salem.

Another offering in our popular series of courses begins March 21, when Harvard Professor Theo Theoharis returns to teach a six-week course on Short Stories by Southern Writers.

(If a quiet visit is what you need, then come and tour our current exhibit: *Bookplates: Miniature Works of Art*. Curator Elaine von Bruns has done her magic again.)

New Website

Another bit of news to celebrate: we've got a new website. Check it out and then thank Trustee Ken Harris, Principal of Great Island Design, and Director Jean Marie Prociou and the intrepid Carolyn McGuire. Their work on the website makes it truly a joy to visit and see what's in store.

January 17, -
December 31, 2014

*The Athenæum is grateful for
the generous support of all
our donors!*

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Karen N. Levin

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Hale and Dorothy Bradt

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Meg Twohey
Matthew Whitlock and
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Stephen Phillips*
Sue Weaver Schopf
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Anonymous, *In memory of
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James and Claire Bailey
Jeffery Beale
John R. and Judy Wang Bedell
Wendy Biggs
Nathalie Binney
Ellen Brandenburg, *In memory of
George Brandenburg*
Abby Burns
Walter and Ann Fisher Cook
Peter Copelas and Krissta King

Building & Grounds

We're also happy to tell you that the Buildings & Grounds team has been hard at work: they've refurbished the trusty old furnace and spruced up the grounds; and the long-awaited stabilization of the Rare Book Room ceiling is nearly complete. Thank you to David Hart and Dick and Pam Jendrysik.

Thank You

Finally, and not least, we thank so many of you for your generous year-end support of the Athenæum through your gifts to the annual fund and your attendance at the Winter Gathering at Adriatic. Thank you for the pledges that allow us to replace the projector so fundamental to the upcoming presentations. Nothing of value happens at the library without you. Your support is critical. We are deeply grateful.

We are very grateful to Ann Fisher Cook for her service as Trustee and Clerk of the Proprietors over the past 18 months. We regret to inform you that she has stepped down for personal reasons. Best wishes to Ann and her family.

On these chill, dark days, the Athenæum is bright and warm and awaiting your visit. We look forward to seeing you soon at the Athenæum!

Meg Twohey
President, Board of Trustees

**Collections Committee Presents:
Re-Appraisal Reading Circle and More!**

The Athenæum's Collections Committee is working on several initiatives to increase circulation and awareness of our holdings, and to improve the care and preservation of the Collection. The committee meets regularly and encourages anyone interested in volunteering to contact Trustee [Marla Gearhart](#) to learn more.

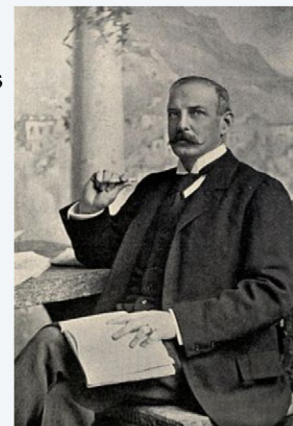
The Committee's first initiative, Re-Appraisal Reading Circle, is open to all Athenæum members. The project began as an effort to organize the older fiction in the basement stacks. As the volumes were reshelfed, volunteers noted several prolific authors of the past who clearly had fallen out of fashion. This discovery presented an opportunity to learn about the Collection while enjoying some authors that might be worthy of renewed attention.

Books by a chosen author available for check-out are prominently displayed in the Reading Room, so you may select one to read at your leisure before the meeting. (Many works are also available online for little or no cost.)

Choose a book and join us for any or all discussions!

All meetings are on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.
John Buchan, February 20 [RSVP](#)

Francis Marion Crawford, March 20 [RSVP](#)



Francis Marion Crawford

Mary Costello
 Jannette and Rafael Crespo
 Debrah R. Glasser
 Bruce Goddard and John Casey
 Deborah A. Greel and
 John Wathne
 Sarah and Neil Harrington
 Annie Harris and Andy Lippman
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hayes
 Sandra Heaphy
 Marie Heinz
 David and Jeannine Helen
 Megan Hurst and Tony Owens
 Stephen and Darcy Immerman
 Timothy and Joannie Ingraham
 Meghan Jendrysik
 Richard and Pamela Jendrysik
 Dana P. Jordan, *In memory of*
Joan C. Jordan
 Judy and Jim Kearney
 Francie King and Robert Erbetta
 Peter D. LaChapelle
 Nancy B. Lutts
 Timothy and Julie Shaw Lutts
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Margerum
 Trip and Susan Mason
 Donna Mayers, *In memory of*
Ann Mayers
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Merry
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitnik
 Lynn Murray
 Anne Nigro
 John Owen and
 Jean Marie Prociuous
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pyfrin
 Daniel C. Randall and
 Phillip Gillespie
 Octavia Randolph and
 Jonathan Gilman
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rosenvold
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schaefer
 Anne L. Seamans
 Robert N. Shapiro
 David Shayeb
 Victoria and Louis Sirianni
 A. Homer Skinner
 Jody and Stanley Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Willis Stinson, III
 Charles E. and Donna Thorland
 Barbara Timmons
 Chip and Leslie Tuttle
 Liz Vago
 Chuck and Elaine von Bruns
 Dr. Kirsten Wagner
 Edward and Win Wilkens

Nathaniel Hurd: Bookplate Artist

Notes from the Curator, Elaine von Bruns

Early American bookplates are rare since foreign bookplates out-numbered them three to one. Before the 1800s, few book owners used bookplates made by American engravers. Southerners from prominent families ordered their plates from London. The earliest settlers in the North, especially those who had fled from political or religious persecution, shunned symbols of aristocracy and eschewed heraldic plates.

As the colonies grew and prospered, a few industrious engravers in the North began to produce their own bookplates. The most important of these engravers was Nathaniel Hurd (1729-1777). He was the foremost engraver of bookplates in the North before the Revolution. Born in Boston, he learned the art of engraving as a boy from his silversmith father.

The Athenæum is fortunate to have in its collections various bookplates designed and engraved by Nathaniel Hurd.



Nathaniel Hurd

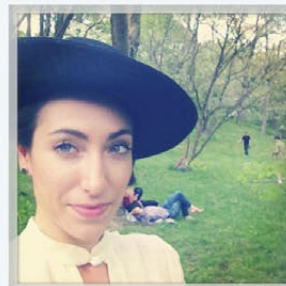


Bookplate of Dr. Edward A. Holyoke by Nathaniel Hurd

Nathaniel Hurd made this plate for Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke (1728-1829), the eminent Salem physician who was founder and first President of the Salem Athenæum.

This is one of Hurd's first bookplates and it is cherished among collectors and featured in books on the subject.

We encourage you to come and examine Hurd's work for yourself at our current exhibit, *Bookplates: Miniature Works of Art*. The exhibit will be on display through February 14.



Meet Shari Caplan

Welcome to Shari Caplan, our new volunteer Writing Program Director. Shari is helping to craft the new slate of programs especially for writers and you will see her at many upcoming events.

Shari is the Director of The Theatre of Words & Music, a bi-monthly series now held at the Athenæum that brings different art forms together in one event. She has an MFA in Poetry from Lesley University and BA from Salem State University, where she first became involved with the Salem Writers Group.

Her work has been published in *Bone Orchard Press* and *Paper Nautilus*; she has been a featured reader at the Massachusetts Poetry Festival and the Mr. Hip Reading Series among other festivals. Her short film, "Empty

Angela Williams and
Charles Swift
Cynthia J. Williams
David and Sharon Williams
Frederic Winthrop, *In memory of*
Bill Saltonstall

Up to \$99

Anonymous
Susanna Baird and
Rich Thornett, *In honor of*
Salem Writers Group
Brunonia Barry
Richard Boardman
Marie Brescia
Stephanie Buck and
Matthew Phillion
Karen Burns
Kevin and Elizabeth Carey
Roberta Clement
Peter A. Copelas
Karina Corrigan
Brian and Cathy Cuffe
Christian and Silvia Dupont
Peter G. and Jan N. Eschauzier
Mary-Ann Fraser
Lawrency Frej
Karen Gahagan
Mr. and Mrs. George Gearhart
William Goldberg and
Marlene Jueder
Laurie LaChapelle and
David Leach
Peter Little
Richard Luecke and
Perry McIntosh
Roger Mason and
Ellen Colingsworth
Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. Mayo
Mr. Robert T. Moulton, Jr.
Sam Northrup
Carole O'Blenes
Beth Pascal
Denise Regan and Chris Burke
Carol Rice and Gerard Bras
William Sano
Jenn and Gary Santo
Joycelyn Snell
J. Michael Sullivan and
Clare White-Sullivan
Carlotta Tyler
Katherine A. van Dyke
Patricia Zaido

Room" won four awards including Best Film, at the NH48 Film Project Screening. Shari has taught adult education classes at The Brookline Adult and Community Education Center and at Lesley University and she can also be seen acting occasionally at theaters in Jamaica Plain, Salem, and Somerville.

Scribbler's Ink

Writing Workshops with Bobbi Lerman

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
January 24 and March 21

Do you love to write? Do you think you might like to write? No matter if you are an aspiring or a seasoned writer, one rule is the same for us all: you need to make time to write.

Resolve to write in 2015! Join Bobbi Lerman for a day of practice writing designed to awaken your lost or hibernating creative voice through a series of tools and exercises used by experts. No matter where you are in your writing process, join us at the Athenæum for a day of guided writing guaranteed to push you to new limits. [Register here.](#)



Bobbi Lerman began writing at a young age, when she would spend her afternoons crafting short stories about her extended family in the three-family home she grew up in on the North Shore. She earned a Degree in Fine Arts from MassArt, and is a member of the Romance Writers of America and Grub Street.

She has been running workshops for over 15 years to help writers unblock and find their voice and inspiration. She founded [Scribbler's Ink](#), an active online community and website offering interviews with authors, writing tips, and daily prompts. Today, she and her husband make their home in Nahant.

Mementos: Jewelry of Life and Love from Historic New England

Thursday January 29, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Join Associate Curator Laura Johnson for a lecture illustrating some of Historic New England's extensive jewelry collection with a special focus on Salem. This illustrated talk will focus on jeweled gifts such as watches, rings, bracelets, and cuff links that marked major life transitions and helped men and women tell stories about themselves and their families. Through these heirlooms this talk explores how New Englanders mark their important moments and memories of love and life.

Attendees are encouraged to wear and discuss pieces of jewelry special to their own family stories for the lecture.

\$15, \$10 for members of Historic New England, Historic Salem, Inc. and the Salem Athenæum,
Free for students with ID.

Co-presented by Salem Athenæum, Historic New England and Historic Salem, Inc.

Salem
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Adopt a book

Donna Albino
Anonymous
Wendy Biggs
Hale and Dorothy Bradt
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Dickson
Sarah and Neil Harrington
Sandra Heaphy
David and Jeannine Helen
Megan Hurst and Tony
Owens
Meghan Jendrysik
Mary Katz
Judy and Jim Kearney
Darrow Lebovici and
Meg Twohey
Robert E. Levin
Nancy B. Lutts
Jean Marie Prociou
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pyfrin
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Phillip Gillespie
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III
Barbara Timmons
Chuck and Elaine von
Bruns
Angela Williams and
Charles Swift

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CSEM

Chamber Music by Candlelight series
Saturday, January 31, 8:00 p.m.



Blue Heron & Les Délices

A More Subtle Art -- The 14th Century Avant-Garde

This concert brings together two very distinguished groups—one of singers, the other, instrumentalists.

The vocal ensemble Blue Heron has been acclaimed by *The Boston Globe* as "one of the Boston music community's indispensables" and by *The New Yorker* for the "expressive intensity" of its interpretations. Combining a commitment to vivid live performance with the study of original source materials, Blue Heron's wide and fascinating repertoire includes 15th-century English and Franco-Flemish polyphony, Spanish music between 1500 and 1600, and early 16th-century English music.



Les Délices, founded in Cleveland in 2006, brings together artists with national reputations who share a passion for the French Baroque. Their performances on period instruments allow them to explore a rich tapestry of tone colors, and the group's name conveys their approach: a delight, a fine delicacy, sumptuous, and exciting. Les Délices' polished, expressive, and dynamic performances have been garnering much critical acclaim.



A reception follows.

For tickets and information, call 617-489-2062 or visit www.csem.org.

Members and seniors, \$25; non-members, \$30.
Free for students 17 and under.

In Kind

Six chairs and floral arrangements, Abby Burns
Subscription to Christian Science Monitor, Christian Science Reading Room, Lynn
Winter Welcome craft activity and supplies, Jannette Crespo
Painting by Childe Hassam, Thomas Forest Farb
Painting by Jasper Francis Cropsey, Thomas Forest Farb
Appearance as Friar Fergus at March fundraiser, Ken Harris
Subscription to GRANTA, Marie Heinz
Kousa dogwood tree, Ted and Lisa Jendrysik
Decorative owl, Meghan Jendrysik
Raven for children's corner, Pamela Jendrysik
Decorations and hospitality supplies, Judy Kearney
Floral rug, Francie King
Rubinstein Collection (cd boxed set), Joseph and Carolyn McGuire
Repair of antique chair, Michael Selbst
Repair of antique chair, Arthur Sullivan

Books Given by the Author

Dennis Daly, *Night Walking with Nathaniel*
Jim DeFilippi, *Mules of Monte Cassino*
Richard Scott, *Mission in Time*
Donna Thorland, *Rebel Pirate and The Turncoat*

Writing From Real Life

6 Thursdays

February 5, 12, 19 and March 5, 12, 19
6:00-9:00 p.m.



After a very successful Fall session, GrubStreet is offering additional writing courses at the Athenæum. Please note the new dates for *Writing From Real Life*. There is still time to join the class!

Writing From Real Life

Writers are observers, continually examining their lives and the lives of others. For memoir writers, and writers in other genres, life experiences become the raw material of their creative work. In this six-week course, we will focus on the key challenges in our lives today, and other hurdles we've overcome—in other words, the potential "raw material" for new work. We will discuss strategies for developing this material in a way that avoids the sentimental and general, and look at a number of short examples of how other writers (i.e., Didion, Ehrenreich, Sedaris) use essays as a way of making meaning of difficult circumstances. By the end of the course, you will have worked through a topic and be well on your way to writing about it in a thoughtful and critical way.

Judah Leblang is a Boston-based writer, teacher and storyteller. His radio essays have appeared on almost 200 NPR and ABC-network stations around the U.S., and on several college and community radio stations. His column, "Life in the Slow Lane," appears regularly in *Bay Windows*, a Boston-area newspaper. The second edition of his memoir, *Finding My Place: One Man's Journey from Cleveland to Boston and Beyond*, was published in 2013.

\$305 members

\$330 for non-members

Register online at grubstreet.org

Discount code for Athenæum members: Winter2015SAthenaeum

Hildegard's Wander Theater

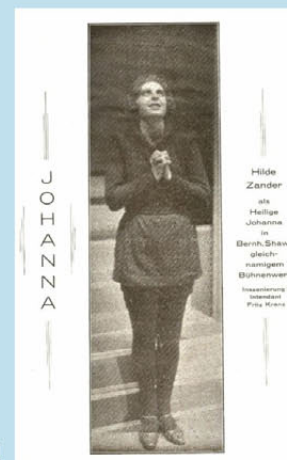
A multi-media presentation by
JoAnne Brasil

Saturday, February 7, 2:00 p.m.

Wander Theater is German for *traveling theater*.

This is the story of the late German-Jewish actress, Hildegard Zander. It is the basis for JoAnne Brasil's novel of the same name.

Hildegard Zucker was born in 1908 and grew up in



Large Collections of Books

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Robert E. Levin
Richard Luecke and
Perry McIntosh
Michael Rutstein

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Crowninshield Sponsors, \$500

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Grants

Essex County Community
Foundation, Center for
Board Excellence, \$5000

***Accuracy is important to
us; please inform us of
any corrections.***

a prominent Jewish family in Dresden. Exposed to the arts as a child by her grandmother, Hildegard fell in love with the theater at an early age. At 17, she took the stage name Hildegard Zander and got her first acting job. In the late 1920s and early 1930s she joined a theater company and traveled from town to town in the Rhineland.

In 1938, fleeing the German Third Reich, Hildegard left Dresden and immigrated to the United States with her husband and child.

Under the destructive power of the Third Reich and the massive Allied firestorms of 1945 Dresden was reduced to ruins and ashes. It now stands as a symbol of the horrors of Western barbarism, of genocide, and war.

But this is a survivor's tale, a tale of loss but also of hope. Whenever possible it is told in Hildegard's own words. It is a true story of art and love, wandering through time and continuing.

Members, \$10; non-members, \$15.
Free for students with ID.

[Reserve Now](#)

New Orleans North Mardi Gras Party!

Saturday, February 21, 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a spectacular evening of Mardi Gras splendor, featuring:

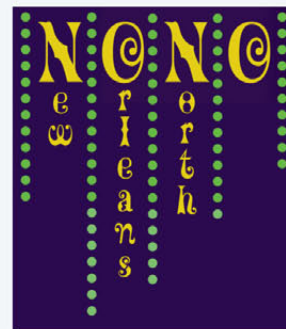
- Music by blues virtuoso Mark T. Small
- New Orleans-style hors d'oeuvres
- Signature Mardi Gras cocktails
- An art and writers silent auction
- Election of the costumed King and Queen!
- Photo booth
- And much, much more!

Mardi Gras finery welcomed but not required.

\$40 Advance, \$50 at the Door

Tickets include one drink of your choice, then cash bar.

[Reserve Now](#)



CSEM

Chamber Music by Candlelight series
Saturday, February 28, 8:00 p.m.



Dünya: an Early Music Collective *Othello in the Seraglio* *The Tragedy of Sümbül the Black Eunuch--A coffee house opera*

It is the early 17th century in Istanbul, at Topkapi Palace. Sümbül, the title character, is a black eunuch, an African emasculated as a slave, who has risen to a position of wealth and power overseeing the harem. In old age, he is rewarded with freedom by the Sultan. In gratitude, he purchases a gift for his former master: a beautiful European slave girl. But he falls in love with her, and the ensuing drama of devotion and jealousy is intensified by the crossing of racial and religious boundaries. The opera is set in an intimate Istanbul coffee house of the period, with a storyteller, four masked singing roles, and an ensemble of ten specialists in Turkish and early European instruments and vocal styles.

The text draws upon a web of Mediterranean tales, from Shakespeare's *Othello* and its Italian predecessor, to a Turkish novel of the 1930s about Sümbül. The music is from 16th- and 17th-century Ottoman and European sources, with improvisations in Turkish and European styles, and new music by Mehmet Ali Sanlikol. There is a truly splendid array of instruments, some familiar, many exotic



For tickets and information, call 617-489-2062 or visit www.csem.org.

Members and seniors, \$25; non-members, \$30.
Free for students 17 and under.

What Makes a Poem Great: **Poets Share Their Favorite Poems**

J.D. Scrimgeour

Saturday, March 7, 2:00 p.m.

Have you ever puzzled over a poem? Do you want to learn what poems have guided and inspired the

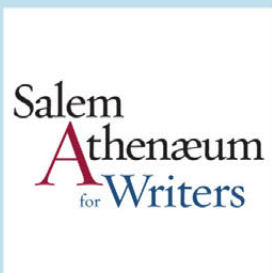
Salem
Athenæum
for Writers

poets of today? Join host J.D. Scrimgeour and a collection of poets, including Jennifer Jean, Danielle Jones-Pruett, Kirun Kipur, Rich Murphy and Enzo Surin, for a reading and discussion of their favorite contemporary poems.

A member of the Salem Athenæum, **J.D. Scrimgeour** is the author two collections of poetry, *The Last Miles* and *Territories*. With musician Philip Swanson he released the CD, *Ogunquit & Other Works*. He has also published two collections of nonfiction. He currently serves as Coordinator of Creative Writing at Salem State University.

Members, \$5; non-members, \$10
Free for students with ID.

[Reserve Now](#)



Playwriting Workshop with Peter Sampieri

Starts March 9
6 sessions
March 9, 23; April 13, 27; May 11 and June 1
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Come explore the craft of the playwright in a supportive, seminar-style workshop environment. Experience the process of shaping characters, action, and conflict through weekly development of your play in process with other writers. The class culminates in a public staged-reading of your work before a live audience.

Peter Sampieri is a professional stage director, playwright, and university professor who has served as guest faculty at New York University, Brown University, Providence College, New England Conservatory, Huntington Theatre Company, Northwestern University, and The Brown/Trinity Consortium. His professional directing credits include the Off-Broadway world-premiere of *On The Line* at The Cherry Lane Theatre and *The Three Same Guys* at The Public Theatre, in NYC. His regional work includes Trinity Repertory Company, Portland Stage, and The Gamm Theatre, where his direction of *Radio Free Emerson* received an Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding New Play in 2008. His original play *Kafka in Tel Aviv* was the recipient of three national awards from the Kennedy Center in 2014. He is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Salem State University, where he loves teaching.



Members, free; non-members, \$120 -- very limited class size.

Spring Course

Short Stories by Southern Writers

Theo Theocharis, instructor
6 Saturdays starting March 21, 2015
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



The literary heritage of the American South is as complex as the lives and the land it represents. Join Theo Theocharis this spring as he leads a six-week course of 10 short-story masterpieces from the men and women of the American South: black and white, from the 1920s to the present.

Combined with the inherent intensity of the short story form, this selection of stories offers an excellent springboard for discussion about writing and the human experience.

Zora Neale Hurston, *Drenched In Light* (1924)
William Faulkner, *Dry September* (1930)
Robert Pen Warren, *When The Light Gets Green* (1936)
Nancy Hale, *The New Order* (1954)
Alice Childress, *Northerners Can Be So Smug* (1956)
Elizabeth Spencer, *First Dark* (1959)
Ernest J. Gaines, *The Sky Is Grey* (1962)
Peter Taylor, *Two Pilgrims* (1963)
Alice Walker, *Everyday Use* (1973)
Ron Rash, *Dead Confederates* (2010)

All of the above stories, with the exception of Rash's *Dead Confederates*, can be found in a single volume, [*The Signet Classic Book of Southern Short Stories*](#).



Theo Theocharis has lectured widely on American and European literature both in the United States and abroad. He is author of *James Joyce's Ulysses: An Anatomy of the Soul* and *Ibsen's Drama: Right Action and Tragic Joy*, and well as the translator of *Before They Could Change Them: The Complete Poems of Constantine P. Cavafy*. He has received teaching awards from UC Berkeley, MIT and Harvard. He has taught courses on the epic, tragedy, and modern fiction at Harvard for the last 25 years, his most recent course being "Satire and Resistance in the American Novel: Huckleberry Finn and Catch-22."

Tuition:
\$155 Members; \$175 non-members

[Reserve Now](#)

Theatre of Words & Music

Saturday, March 21, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

The Salem Athenæum welcomes its new regular feature: The Theatre of Words and Music! These fun, bi-monthly events will include a literary reading, concert, pop-up art gallery, and open mic. Learn more at www.thetwm.com.



The March TWM will feature poets Curtis Perdue, Rebecca Wolff of Fence, and the eclectic, witty band, Nomad Dreams.

Contact organizers Shari Caplan and Casey Roland with questions or suggestions for future programs: theatreofwordsandmusic@gmail.com

Tickets: \$8 at the door

Henry Beston's Cape Cod

A lecture by Don Wilding

Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

The Cape Cod National Seashore has drawn millions of visitors since its establishment in 1961. One of the major influences on the decision makers regarding its founding was the nature classic, *The Outermost House*, by Henry Beston.



Beston's experiences in World War I left him scarred. Upon returning to the U.S., he began writing to process his war experiences. While on writing assignment at Cape Cod, he found peace. Eventually, he had a 20-foot by 16-foot house called "the Fo'castle," built on the dunes of Eastham.

In 1925, he visited his shanty for a two-week vacation, and decided to stay, observe nature and write. The result, *The Outermost House*, was published in 1928 and it has never been out of print. The Fo'castle was dedicated as National Literary Landmark on October 11, 1964.

Don Wilding, author of the book, *Henry Beston's Cape Cod*, is co-founder of the nonprofit Henry Beston Society of Cape Cod, and an award-winning newspaperman. Proclaimed as an "Outermost House Expert" by the *Cape Codder* of Orleans, MA, Wilding has presented over 100 lectures about Henry Beston since 2001. His lecture will feature rough-cut footage from his [Henry Beston documentary film](#), now in production!

Members, \$10; non-members, \$15
Free for students with ID.

[Reserve Now](#)

One Man's Journey through the Middle Ages

Saturday, April 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Join Boston-based writer/storyteller Judah Leblang for a humorous look at life and its many misadventures. Leblang's show, based on his recent memoir *Finding My Place*, chronicles both his youth growing up in Cleveland, Ohio during the 1960s and '70s, his ongoing attachment to that gritty city and its unfortunate sports teams, and his life today as a gay, single, hard-of-hearing man in Boston.



Judah Leblang is a Boston-based writer, teacher, and storyteller and a columnist for *Bay Windows*, Boston's gay newspaper. His essays and commentaries have been broadcast on NPR stations around the U.S. Some of these essays are featured in his memoir, *Finding My Place: One Man's Journey from Cleveland to Boston and Beyond*, published in 2010. Leblang has performed his one-man show in Boston, New York City, Toronto, and other cities in the Northeast and Midwest. Samples of his work are at www.judahleblang.com.

Members, \$15; non-members, \$20
Free for students with ID.

[Reserve Now](#)

Beethoven in Salem

Friday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Susanna Ogata, violin, and Guy Fishman, cello, principal players from Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, join the Society's resident conductor and keyboard virtuoso Ian Watson for an evening of Beethoven performed on period instruments.



The trio will perform sonatas and variations by the young Beethoven, composed as he was still touring Europe as a firebrand soloist, and before his tragic deafness. They will play on a violin & cello from the 1700s, and a replica of the piano Beethoven would have been intimately familiar with at this time in his life. The trio evokes sounds from these instruments akin to what Beethoven would have heard himself, and are sure to imbue this music experience with freshness and vivacity.

Members, \$20; non-members, \$25.
Free for students with ID.

[Reserve Now](#)

Poetry of World War I: The Horrors of Warfare and the End of Romanticism

A lecture by Sue Weaver Schopf

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.



As part of the Salem Athenæum's participation in the international Centennial Commemoration of World War I (1914-1918), Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf returns to discuss the impact of the war on the poetry of the period. Most of that poetry was written by gallant young soldier-poets who wrote directly from the battlefield and who came to see the war as the greatest waste of life in human history. Their verses forever transformed the nature of war poetry and became part of the vocabulary of Modernist expression. Some of the poets to be considered are Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, and Rupert Brooke.

Sue Weaver Schopf, Ph.D. is Associate Dean of the Master of Liberal Arts Program, Research Advisor in the Humanities, and Lecturer at the Harvard Extension School. Dr. Schopf teaches a range of literature courses focused on 19th- and early-20th-century authors as well as popular culture topics such as "The Vampire in Literature and Film." She has appeared in *The Times* of London, has been interviewed by the *Boston Globe*, has been a guest on national radio programs and her courses have been featured in articles in various publications including *The Huffington Post* and MTV.com.

Members, \$10; non-members, \$15
Free for students with ID.

Recent Events

The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.

Salem Lit Fest Kick-off Party

The Reading Room was anything but quiet the night of November 7, when we hosted the 2014 Salem Lit Fest's kick-off. Authors and readers gathered to celebrate the world of words, while Theater of Words and Music artists Leo Loginov Katz and Mariya Deykute performed their riveting duet of music and poetry.



Welcome Winter!

On December 13 we welcomed the winter season with good cheer and creative energy. This year's bookplate-making activity inspired members of all ages. Plentiful hors d'oeuvres and good company rounded out an afternoon that got the cold season off to a warm start. Thank you to Jannette Crespo and everyone else who helped make this event possible.



Groups at the Athenæum

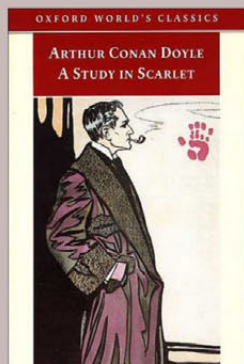
The following groups meet regularly at the Salem Athenæum. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please follow the links provided in their listings (or [contact Jean Marie](#) if no link is included).

Athenæum Book Group

Second Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Next meetings: February 14, March 14, April 11

The Athenæum book group meets monthly. Group members take turns selecting a book for discussion. Whoever chooses the book also serves as discussion leader and provides background materials (if needed). Join us for this opportunity to discuss, debate, and grow together as book lovers!



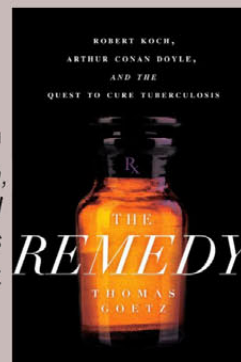
February

A Study in Scarlet

by Arthur Conan Doyle

March

*The Remedy: Robert Koch,
Arthur Conan Doyle and
the Quest to Cure Tuberculosis*
by Thomas Goetz



April

The Stories of Jane Gardam by Jane Gardam

[Contact Jean Marie](#) if you are interested in joining or leading a discussion!

Dickens Fellowship

Literary discussion meetings on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

For details on all events, visit [Dickens North of Boston](#).

We will read *Little Dorrit* starting in February, with meetings on these dates:
Feb. 7, Ch. 1-18; Mar. 7, Ch. 19-35; Apr 3, Ch. 36-60; May 2, Ch. 61-end.

Salem Writers' Group

First and Third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Writers' Open Studio Hours

Tuesdays from 8:45-11:30 a.m.

For details visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/salemwriters/>

La Tertulia Spanish Language Discussion Group

Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Incessant Pipe Poetry Salon

Fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in or starting a French language discussion group, [contact Jean Marie](#).

Mandarin Chinese for Children

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

[Contact Judy Wang Bedell](#) for more information or visit
<http://www.pandalandchinese.com/>

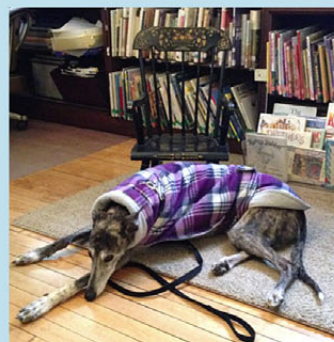
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Welcome!

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

Giovanni Alabiso
Maille Black
Shari Caplan
Charles F. Choate, V
Brian and Cathy Cuffe
Nelson and Jane Dionne
Tom and Pam Gaither
John Hermanski and Barbara Taylor
Timothy Kenslea and Ana Nuncio
Kali Lightfoot
Susanne Macdonald
Jennifer Martelli
Kevin and Maureen McCarthy
Jennifer McFadden
Pam and Jeff McKee
Simon Morrell
Victoria Nadel



Matthew W. Nugent
Beth Paschal
Marlene Schaedle
Judith Skeen
Shirlee Marlene Slater
Angela Taveres and Sue Williams
Henry Zacchini

New Shareholder

Thomas Forest Farb

Salem Athenæum

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Salem, Massachusetts 01970
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Contact Info

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

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info@salemathenaeum.net

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

Carolyn McGuire

[Contact me!](#)