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Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

As the garden renews itself this spring, the Athenæum board is also being refreshed! We were pleased to welcome three new trustees at the annual meeting in early May: Wendy Biggs, Phil Gillespie, and Dave Williams.

Each brings new skills and energy to the board. At the same time, we offer deep thanks to departing trustees Judy Kearney for her leadership of the membership committee, and Sarah Harrington for her many roles on the board over four years. We also thank two trustees who stepped down during the year: Sandy Heaphy, vice president and an important leader at the Athenæum for more than six years, and Ann Fisher Cook, clerk. The [report presented at the annual meeting](#) is available at the Athenæum and on our website.

As always, we are grateful for the service of a truly committed board of trustees who, along with a host of volunteers, our Director Jean Marie Prociou and Carolyn McGuire, make the Athenæum such a special place. The annual meeting is a time for the trustees to reflect on the importance of all the people who enrich the life of the Athenæum. It also reminds us the importance of the support that you, our members, give the Athenæum in so many ways. Thank you.

In keeping with the three-year strategic plan established at the beginning of 2014, the board will focus this year on the future of the Athenæum as a membership library that owns an historic building and a beautiful garden, an extraordinary collection, and offers a broad range of programs for our

members and the community. Our goal is to create a building use plan that will enable us to then define building improvements and maintenance needs based on our vision of the library's future over the next 20 years. We are just beginning this effort. We will look for your help through a member survey, and solicit your thoughts as our work moves forward.

The annual Conservation Evening is moving this year from June to September. This special evening, at which we celebrate the books conserved under the Adopt-a-Book program and consider the next round of book conservation projects, will once again give us an opportunity to glimpse the richness of our collections. Thank you for your generous support of this program, which enables the preservation of some of our literary treasures each year.

We are grateful to our 2015 Program Sponsors

Beverly Bank

Boston Private Bank

And now, please join us for our annual summer Garden Party on Sunday, June 7, as well as for the enticing programs we're offering in June, and the Friday evening salons in July and August. We invite you to enjoy some respite and renewal at the Athenæum and in the garden during the summer.

Best wishes,
Meg Twohey
President, Board of Trustees

New Trustees

At the Annual Meeting on May 6, Salem Athenæum Proprietors approved the appointment of three new members to the Board of Trustees: Wendy Biggs, Phil Gillespie and David Williams. We also offer a heartfelt thank you to our departed trustees Ann Fisher Cook, Sarah Harrington, Sandy Heaply and Judy Kearney.



Wendy S. Biggs, an Athenæum Subscriber, is a Salem resident and is an avid volunteer at the Salem Athenæum. She graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois with a Bachelor's degree in Medieval English Literature and a certificate in Museum Studies. Wendy is an executive assistant with John Hancock Financial Services in Boston.

Phil Gillespie, an Athenæum Proprietor, is also a Salem resident. He is an executive vice president and General Counsel at State Street Global Advisors. Phil has held positions at Oppenheimer Funds and the SEC. Phil is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and earned his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from Tulane Law School.

David E. Williams, an Athenæum Proprietor and Salem resident, is president and founder of Williams and Associates, a company that has consulted with both corporate and political clients around the globe. David began his career in public opinion research at Cambridge Survey Research in 1979, leaving as a senior vice president at Cambridge Reports Incorporated in 1989. Prior to that he served as a campaign aide to U.S. Senator Edward W. Brooke (MA). David graduated from University of Massachusetts in Amherst with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.



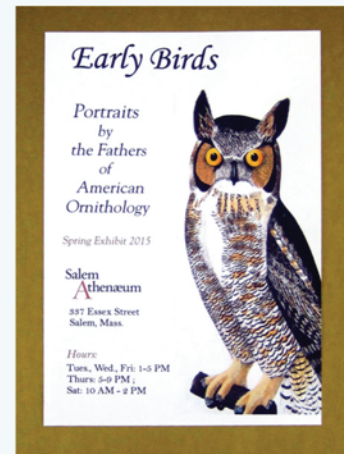
Athenæum Receives Second ECCF Grant

The Athenæum is honored to have received a second grant in May from the Essex County Community Foundation Center for Board Excellence. This new grant supports the work we began last year to ensure that the Athenæum's board governance processes are current and that we use best practices. Our continuing work this year with consultant Gayle Gifford will focus a review of the bylaws, as well as a review to ensure that we complete the changes in board practices defined last year.

Spring Exhibit

Early Birds: Portraits by the Fathers of American Ornithology

Curator Elaine von Bruns presents a Spring exhibit that celebrates the bird portraits by Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon, the Fathers of American Ornithology. Both Wilson, a Scot, and Audubon, a Frenchman, sought to create portraits and biographies of all the bird species of their adopted country.



Wilson's *American Ornithology* (1808-1814) and Audubon's *Birds of America* (1827-1838) gave Americans and Europeans pictures and information about the wonders of what they both termed "the feathered tribe" of America. The volumes of Athenæum's set of *American Ornithology* are the focal point of the exhibit. These oversize books are a rare treasure not often on view and include hundreds of hand-colored illustrations.

In addition, *Early Birds* displays Audubon's first published bird illustration, and several important volumes from the Athenæum collection that have connections to early ornithological studies in the United States. When you visit, also take note of the newly framed page from the Audubon's *Birds of America* now on permanent display in the Wendt Room.

The nine-volume set of Wilson's *American Ornithology* will be the focal point of our 2015 Conservation Program and will be available for adoption at our Conservation Night on September 29. If you are interested in learning more about the Athenæum's conservation program, please [contact us](#).

Don't miss *Early Birds*, on display through the end of August.

Student Award

Congratulations to Lisa Robinson, winner of the 2015 Salem Athenæum Literary Award!



This award is given each year to a student graduating from Salem High School who is most distinguished by his or her abiding curiosity, intellectual engagement, and passion for literature.

Be a Part of the Athenæum

We are able to accomplish much at the Athenæum because so many people volunteer their time and talent. Please consider becoming a volunteer. All Athenæum members and proprietors are welcome to join the volunteer committees that keep the Athenæum vital. Collections Committee, Membership, and Building and Grounds, to name a few, have year-round projects. With your help they can do even more.

Collections Committee

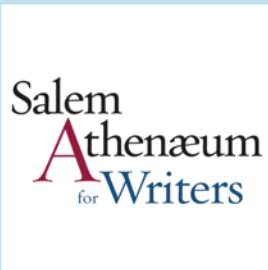
Help attend the needs of the Athenæum's treasured collections. Regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

If you don't have time to be a full Collections committee member, but would like to help, we are holding two special work meetings in June and August. During these sessions we will be creating boxes for several important items and complete other collections care tasks. No prior knowledge required.

Membership Committee

Membership organizes member events and festivities including: Annual Garden Party, Members Preview Book Sale, New Members Night, and Welcome Winter!, which help us introduce new members to the Athenæum and provide special events for members and their friends.

Please [contact Jean Marie](#) if you would like to know more about serving on a committee.



Staged Readings from the Playwriting Workshop

Monday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Members of the Athenæum Playwriting Workshop will present material from their current works-in-progress.

Peter Sampieri, the workshop instructor, will direct. Recent graduates of Salem State University's BFA performance program in theatre will read.

Please join us and give these new plays an audience!

A reception will follow with an opportunity to meet the authors and discuss their work.

Free.

Fresh Voices/Verses

Salem Poetry Seminar Public Readings

June 3-6 at 7:30 p.m.

Salem State University and the Salem Athenæum announce the sixth Salem Poetry Seminar, a week-long event for students at public colleges and universities in Massachusetts. The Seminar gives 13 students, selected from throughout the Commonwealth, the opportunity to study poetry with noted teachers and authors Charlotte Gordon, J.D. Scrimgeour, and Jill McDonough.



Each evening will feature free public readings by an established poet and brief readings by the promising poets. We hope you can attend one or all of these special events.

Wednesday, June 3 M.P. Carver and J.D. Scrimgeour
Thursday, June 4 Charlotte Gordon and January Gill O'Neil
Friday, June 5 Salem Poetry Seminar Alumni Reading

Saturday, June 6 Jill McDonough

A 2014 Lannan Fellowship and three-time Pushcart Prize winner, Jill McDonough's books of poems include *Habeas Corpus*, *Oh, James!*, and *Where You Live*. The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fine Arts Work Center, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and Stanford's Stegner program, she taught incarcerated college students through Boston University's Prison Education Program for 13 years. She teaches at UMass Boston.

Free.

Members Garden Party

Sunday June 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

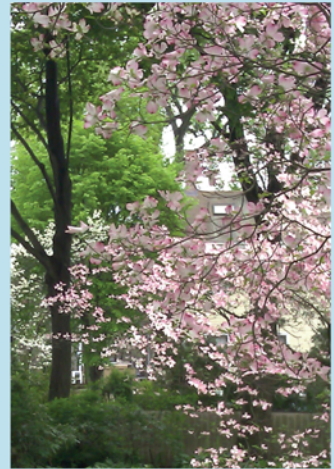
Annual Members' Garden Party featuring live music and refreshments.

Bask in the warmth and color of our spring garden at the Athenæum's annual kick-off to the summer season.

Feel free to invite guests who you think may have an interest in the Athenæum.

Don't forget to wear your spring hat!

[Reserve Now](#)



New Members Night

Thursday June 18, 7:00 p.m.

Get to know your Athenæum! Come and see what's hidden away in our library while exploring it top-to-bottom. Learn the stories and fascinating facts about our collections and 100-year-old building.

Familiarize yourself with the collection and meet your fellow members while enjoying wine and cheese.

All members--new or not--are encouraged to attend these semi-annual orientation nights. Our next one will be in the Fall.

Questions? [Contact Jean Marie.](#)

[Reserve Now](#)

Theatre of Words & Music

Saturday, June 19, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

This fun, bi-monthly series includes a literary reading, concert, pop-up art gallery, and open mic. Learn more at www.thetwm.com.

The June TWM will feature readings by Cate Marvin and Kurt Klopmeier, and music by Saraswathi Jones.

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

Tickets: \$8 at the door



Scribbler's Ink

One-Day Writing Workshops with Bobbi Lerman

Saturdays,
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
June 20 or August 29

Salem
Athenæum
for **W**riters

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.

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.

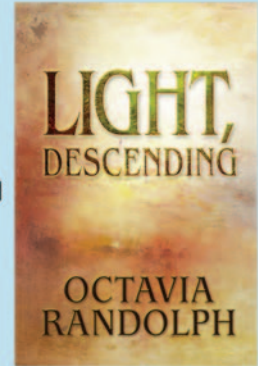
She has been running workshops for over 15 years to help writers unblock and find their voice and inspiration. She founded [Scribbler's Ink](#), an active online community and website offering interviews with authors, writing tips, and daily prompts. Today, she and her husband make their home in Nahant.

Unlucky in Love: John Ruskin

A book talk with Octavia Randolph

Thursday, June 25 7:00 p.m.

John Ruskin was one of the 19th century's greatest and most influential thinkers. His opinions on art, architecture, issues of social and economic justice, and education reverberated throughout the Victorian world. Figures like Gandhi, Tolstoy, and Proust revered him. Yet Ruskin's life was also blighted by his disastrous romantic choices. Salem Athenæum member Octavia Randolph will speak about Ruskin's unconsummated marriage to the beautiful Effie Gray, and his tragic obsession for the teenaged Rose LaTouche, and read from her new novel about Ruskin's life, *Light, Descending*.



Octavia Randolph has been the recipient of Fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Ledig House International, and Byrdcliffe in support of the research and writing of *Light, Descending*, her biographical novel about John Ruskin. She is author of the best-selling historical novel series, *The Circle of Ceridwen Saga*.

Free.

[Reserve Now](#)

Night Owls

Friday, July 3, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Night Owls is back after a long winter's nap.

On the first Friday of every other month, the Night Owls invite attendees to bring games to share, a topic to discuss, or just show up and join in the fun. It'll be a hoot!

Summer Salon Series

8 Fridays 5:30-7:00 p.m.
July 10 - August 28

The long-awaited season of warm evenings and gentle breezes has returned. What better way to celebrate summer than with a Friday Salon. This year's speakers cover everything from birding to paper conservation.

All events will begin at 5:30 p.m. and meet in the back garden, weather permitting.

- Jul. 10: Joe McGuire, *Birding Stories, Tips and Tools*
Jul. 17: Price Grisham, *Visiting and Speaking at Chawton House Library*
Jul. 24: Lynn Murray, *Travels in Patagonia*
Jul. 31: Norman Gaudrault, *Two Years in America: The Discoveries of a French Family*
- Aug. 7: Carlotta Tyler returns to lead another lively discussion.
Aug. 14: TBD
Aug. 21: Susan Snively, *Emily Dickinson: The Heart Has Many Doors*
Aug. 28: Toddy Glaser, *A Paper Conservator's 40-Year Journey through a Changing Landscape*



North Shore International Poetry Salon

Kissing Moonlight: Hafez and the Path of Ecstasy

Saturday, July 11, 2:00 p.m.

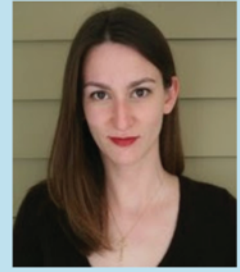
The love poems of Hafez (1310-1390) are like the whispered advice from your best friend. They startle, confound, and resonate. In his poetry, he is the master of magnanimity, tamer of tensions, initiator of intimacy, and mentor of the unconventional.



Poets Bill Wolak and Mahmood Karimi-Hakak and sitarist Srinivas Reddy will perform a unique combination of Persian love poetry and Hindustani ragas that will feature the ghazals of Hafez performed in both Persian and English.

Masterclass with Katherine Howe

When Witches Fly, Which Way Should They Hold the Broom?: Experiments with Genre Convention in YA and Adult Fiction



Saturday, August 1, 10:00 a.m. - noon

As fiction writers, we spend much of our time building worlds that differ from the one in which we live. How do we decide which rules of reality to break? How many is too many? What's the difference between world-building in literary fiction and genre fiction? This discussion-based class will think through strategies for making (and breaking) the rules of reality in your fiction process. Perfect for novelists and short-story writers across the spectrum, from sci-fi to magical realism and everything in between.

A member of the Salem Athenæum, **Katherine Howe** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* and *The House of Velvet and Glass* and most recently, *Conversion*. She has hosted "Salem: Unmasking the Devil" for the National Geographic Channel, and her fiction has been translated into over 25 languages. A native Texan, she lives in Marblehead and upstate New York, where she teaches at Cornell and is at work on her next novel.

\$75 Tuition

[Reserve Now](#)

Pencils, Teachers, Dirty Looks

Friday, September 4, 7-10:00 p.m.

Summer's over. Back to school and work we go. Ease back into Fall with tales told out of school by local writers who will take the stage with no notes, nothing but the truth...and the challenge to tell their best school-related story.

These storytellers will be telling ORIGINAL STORIES that they crafted themselves. It might have happened to their cousin, but they were there and this was how they saw it.

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Free for Students with ID.

[Reserve Now](#)

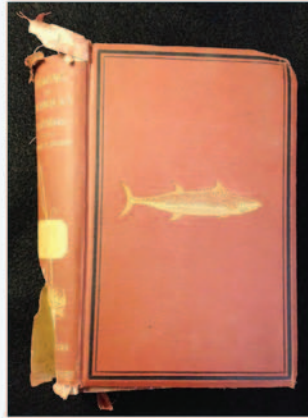
Annual Book Sale

Member's Preview: Friday, September 18, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Book Sale: Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 20, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the best book sale of the Fall! Check your shelves for potential donations. We need your help (i.e. books) to exceed last year's success.

Members, plus one guest, have the opportunity to attend the Member's Preview Book Sale on Friday night, before it opens to the public on Saturday morning.

Proceeds benefit the Athenæum collections and educational programs. Donations to the book sale may be delivered to the Athenæum during normal open hours now through September 10.



Conservation Night

Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Our fourth annual Conservation Night will be held in September this year. We will unveil the recently conserved volumes -- books sponsored by generous participants of the 2014 Conservation Night -- and present the carefully chosen candidates for conservation in 2015.

Stay tuned for details about this year's conservation candidates.

Fall Course Preview

The Art and Fiction of World War I

Sue Weaver Schopf, instructor
5 Thursdays starting October 1
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



As a follow-up to her Spring lecture on the poetry that emerged from World War I, Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf will present a Fall series, in which she will examine how painting and the novel were transformed by the horrors of the war. Heroic battle scenes were nothing new in the history of painting or writing. How the artists and authors captured their personal experience of the war in their art will be the focus of this series.

The art of World War I is anything but "heroic" in what it set out to capture: the blistering reality of trench warfare and the destructive technology of the machine gun, modern explosives, and mustard gas. The genre of the war novel underwent a similar transformation, the two greatest examples being *A Farewell to Arms* by the American Ernest Hemingway and *All Quiet on the Western Front* by the German Erich Maria Remarque.

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* and the *Boston Globe* and has been a guest on national radio programs. Her courses have been featured in articles in various publications including *The Huffington Post* and *MTV.com*.

\$155 Members

\$175 Non-members

[Reserve Now](#)

Recent Events

The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.

What Makes a Poem Great

On March 7, host J.D. Scrimgeour collected a panel of poets, including Jennifer Jean, Danielle Jones-Pruett, Kirun Kapur, Rich Murphy and Enzo Surin, to read and discuss their favorite contemporary poems, and what makes a poem meaningful to readers across cultures and time.



New Orleans North

On the snowy evening of Feb. 21, the Athenæum transformed into a Louisiana music hall complete with its own boss bluesman--guitarist Mark T. Small. A few snowflakes did not dissuade us from having a Mardi Gras party that lived up to that New Orleans motto: Let the good times roll.

[See more party photos.](#)

Groups at the Athenæum

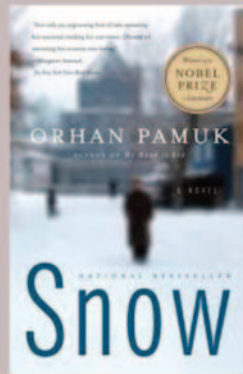
The following groups meet regularly at the Salem Athenæum. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please follow the links provided in their listings (or [contact Jean Marie](#) if no link is included).

Athenæum Book Group

Second Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Meetings: June 13, September 11, October 10, November 14, December 12

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!



June

Snow by Orhan Pamuk



September

The Rainbow
by D.H. Lawrence

October

Red Mars by K.S. Robinson

November

A Brief History of Everything by Ken Wilber

December

One More Thing by BJ Novak

[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 conclude *Little Dorrit*: June 6, Book 2, Ch. 34-end.

Our next book will be *The Old Curiosity Shop*: September 5, Chs. 1-18

Salem Writers' Group

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

Writers' Open Studio Hours

Wednesdays 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/>

Board of Trustees

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Angela Williams
David Williams

Welcome!

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

Jeremy Bell
Amy E. Brown
Moira Campbell and Evelin Barry
Holly Chase
Karina and Sharon Corrigan
Elizabeth A. Farmer
Nigel Godley
Alice Goldsmith
Kevin and Melissa Koen
Jacqueline Leary
Peter and Ellen Lemire
Roberta Lerman
Alexander Marks and Kim Tompkins
Tony and Caroline Mason
Timothy C. McFarland
Merritt and Lisa Mulman
Patricia O'Neil
Raymond David Patch
Carol Solomon and Karl Scheuerman



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