



Incorporated in 1810

Fall 2016 Newsletter

In This Issue

Director's Notes
American Medical
Botany
Windows Project
Book Sale
Fall Writing Course
Vintage Flair Picnic
Conservation Night
Democracy in America
Fall Literature Course
Publish Your Novel
CSEM
What's It Worth?
New Members Night
Welcome Winter!
Winter Warm-up
Reading Circle
Recent Events
Groups at the Athenæum
Welcome!
In Memoriam



Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members and Friends:

As we reluctantly bid goodbye to the lush spring and summer colors of our gardens, we look back on some truly wonderful programming at the Athenaeum this summer. Our Summer Salon series opened with a great talk on gravitational waves by physicist and author Hale Bradt, and ended with new insights from Pamela Hartford on the history of Winter Island and plans for the restoration of Fort Pickering. We also had presentations from Dave Prentiss, Bonnie Hurd Smith, Crocker Snow, Joe McGuire, and in conjunction with our Celia Thaxter summer exhibition, Ann Beattie's *Artistry of the Isles of Shoals—Celia Thaxter's Salon*.

The Athenaeum is possessed of a unique and valuable collection, and our first priority is to preserve and protect it. On Tuesday, September 27, we will host our fifth annual Conservation Night and unveil the recently conserved volumes sponsored by last year's generous conservation donors. The new, carefully chosen candidates for conservation in 2016 will also be presented. We hope you will join us for this and many other wonderful events planned for this fall, outlined in this newsletter.

Finally, and of great importance, we have embarked on an ambitious project to repair all the failing windows in the building, toward fulfilling our mandate of preserving this historic space and collections. Light, humidity, and excessive heat degrade our collections, so long-term preservation requires sealing the Building's "envelope" against these elements. Your continued financial support will be crucial to the success of this endeavor.

We are blessed with a first rate board of trustees who, along with Executive Director Jean Marie Prociuous and Carolyn McGuire, make the Athenaeum a great place to visit and expand intellectual horizons. We owe a deep debt of gratitude for the gracious support of our members and volunteers, without whom the Athenaeum would not be what it is today. We thank you for your generosity.

Best wishes,
Meg Twohey and David Williams, Co-Presidents

We are grateful to our 2016 Program Sponsors

BOSTON PRIVATE BANK
& TRUST COMPANY

SalemFive
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Beverly Bank

Landry & Arcari

Soucy Insurance Agency

Director's Notes

In this and every issue we welcome the Athenaeum's newest members. Starting with this edition, we will also begin celebrating the milestone anniversaries of longtime members. These individuals have helped create the Salem Athenaeum of today and are an essential cornerstone of our community.

Members who have been Proprietors for 30 years or more are listed below in order of longevity. It is only fitting that a relation of founder Edward Augustus Holyoke, David T. Brewster, is our longest-tenured member.

I look forward to adding more names to this esteemed list as we continue to document the intellectual history of our community.

David T. Brewster, 56 years
Abby Burns, 55 years
Sandra W. Millen, 43 years
Jane A. Phillips, 43 years
Thomas M. Davis, 40 years
John H. and Carol P. Carr, 39 years
David and Martha Martini, 36 years
Mary T. Leary, 35 years
William J. Lundregan, 35 years
Jacqueline Frederiksen, 31 years

See you in the Reading Room!
Jean Marie Prociuous

Conservation Night September 27, 7:00 p.m.

Collection Close-up:

American Medical Botany by Jacob Bigelow, 1817

Dr. Jacob Bigelow's *American Medical Botany* published in 1817, was a pioneering survey of the pharmacological use of plants in North America. Bigelow (1786-1879) served as Dean of Harvard Medical School just as science was transforming medicine into a serious profession. His three-volume work supported this endeavor because it used science in the practical evaluation of medicinal plants at a time when "herbal" medicine was suspect.



In the history of American printing, Dr. Bigelow's *American Medical Botany* is significant because it was the first book published in the United States to have plates printed in color. In addition, most of the 60 illustrations were drawn from nature by Dr. Bigelow. Hand-colored engraving was too costly in the quantity required, so Dr. Bigelow developed a special method of making prints involving etched stone. This technique had been developed in Europe in the 1790s, but it is generally considered likely that Bigelow and his engravers discovered this technique independently, as printing from stone was little known in America at this time.

In the history of American printing, Dr. Bigelow's *American Medical Botany* is significant because it was the first book published in the United States to have plates printed in color. In addition, most of the 60 illustrations were drawn from nature by Dr. Bigelow. Hand-colored engraving was too costly in the quantity required, so Dr. Bigelow developed a special method of making prints involving etched stone. This technique had been developed in Europe in the 1790s, but it is generally considered likely that Bigelow and his engravers discovered this technique independently, as printing from stone was little known in America at this time.

A thousand issues of the first edition *American Medical Botany* were issued.

The Athenaeum's copy of this three-volume set will be featured at Conservation Night on September 27. We hope you will attend and see them, along with the other volumes that we hope to preserve and the works that have been conserved over the last year thanks to your generous support.

The information in this article was provided by Dale Gephart who curated the exhibition *American Medical Botany* at the Athenaeum in Spring/Summer 2009. More information about the show and the books is available in the library.

The Windows Restoration Project

The Salem Athenaeum, listed in the State Register of Historic Places, has received a matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The grant for \$35,000 greatly advances funding for this \$70,000 project that will restore all of the Athenaeum's windows.



We will engage experts to do a thorough restoration of each of our historic windows, including:

- Chip and remove loose, flaking glazing putty
- Replace broken panes and sash cords
- Repair any rot, weak joints, and surface damage
- Remove paint, repaint, clean, wax, and re-install
- Fabricate storm windows where needed.

The cost of each window restoration ranges from \$650 to \$4,500. As funding is raised, the work on each window will take between a day and three weeks, depending on condition.

Help us protect the Athenaeum's collections. Sponsor the tune up, renovation, and full restoration of the Athenaeum's windows to secure the building envelope. All work must be completed and all matching funds must be received by June 30, 2017. We are very grateful to the Trustees and Proprietors who have already helped us raised over \$12,000 toward our \$35,000 match goal and hope that you will consider joining them.

To support the windows project, please visit salematheneum.net/windows or contact: info@salematheneum.net.

Annual Book Sale

Member's Preview: Friday, September 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Book Sale: Saturday, September 10, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 11, 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the best book sale of the Fall!

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.

[Reserve for Member's Preview](#)

The public book sale is on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday is clearance day, \$3/bag. Teachers with ID may receive free books for their classroom. During Sunday clearance, books are free for teachers with ID.

Proceeds benefit the Athenaeum collections and educational programs. Donations to the book sale may be delivered to the Athenaeum during normal open hours now through September 8.

Fall Course Preview

The (Screen)Play's The Thing!

Shari Frost, instructor
5 Thursdays starting September 15
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



You can see it. On screens big and small. The story only you can tell. The story the Academy has been waiting for (they just don't know it). You've even rehearsed your Oscars acceptance speech.

From brainstorming to beat sheets, and protagonists to opening pages, this five-week workshop will take you through the whole process of turning your screenplay idea into an extra-large-popcorn-please feature-length screenplay. We're not going to 'fade in', we're going to 'dive in!'



Shari D. Frost is a screenwriter and playwright on Boston's North Shore. Her screenplays include *Low and Outside*, *Having Words*, *#HallMonitors*, and a short, *The Lesson Plan*, which she wrote and co-produced. Shari is currently working with a Marc Platt Productions executive (*Bridge of Spies*, *Into the Woods*) on a revision of *Low and Outside*, which advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2015 Academy

Nicholl, Final Draft Big Break and Austin Film Festival Screenwriting Competitions. Shari also spent a year as a reader/story analyst for New Horizons Pictures.

Shari is a proud member of Proscenium Playwrights, a Boston-based playwright collective. She is also the creator and producer of the TNT! -- Totally New Theater Playwrights' Collective and Festival. Shari received her MFA in Creative Writing with a concentration in Writing for Stage & Screen, from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, where she is now adjunct faculty.

\$60 Members

\$145 Non-members (includes individual membership).

[Reserve Now](#)

Picnic with Vintage Back-to-School Flair

September 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Pop your collar, grab your Joe Cool lunch box, don your uniform skirt and blazer...and join us on the eve of the final Derby Square FLEA Salvage ART Market weekend of the season to enjoy the live music of the [EduKated Fleas](#) decked out in your vintage back-to-school look.

The Edukated Fleas have delighted audiences in venues as varied as the Clearwater Festival, Hoot on the Hudson, Ukulele Cabaret, New York Ukulele Festival, and more across New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine.

Bring your own picnic and blanket or chairs. This event will be in the garden, weather permitting; we'll move indoors, if necessary.

\$10

[Reserve Now](#)

Conservation Night

Tuesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.

Our fifth annual Conservation Night will be held in September. We will unveil the recently conserved volumes -- books sponsored by generous participants of the 2015 Conservation Night -- and present the carefully chosen candidates for conservation in 2016, including:



North American Sylva by F. Andrew Michaux. Philadelphia: 1817-19.
The History and Present State of Discoveries Relating to Vision, Light, and Colours by Joseph Priestley. London: 1772.
A History of the Quakers by William Sewel. New York: 1774.
The Elements of Astronomy, Physical, and Geometrical by David Gregory. London: 1775.
American Recorder and the Charlestown Advertiser. v.1 n.1 December 9, 1785-v.1 n. 69 August 11, 1786.

And more! A full list with share prices will be released soon.



In recognition of this watershed year in American politics, the Salem Athenaeum 2016 Program Series explores many of the profound influences on the political process and democracy in America -- past, present and future.

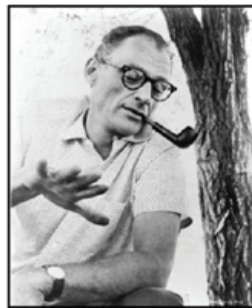
Inspired to Vote: Election Day in Early Massachusetts

Monday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m

On Columbus Day we will present a program for all ages exploring the traditions of elections in America from the Election Day sermons of the Colonial Era recreated with marionettes, to a post-vote celebration with cake made from an authentic recipe.

Free

[Reserve Now](#)



Fall Course Preview

The Plays of Arthur Miller: America's Shakespeare

Sue Weaver Schopf, instructor
6 Thursdays starting October 13
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The centennial of Arthur Miller's birth was celebrated in 2015 and continues through 2016, as revivals of his plays are performed from New York to London and Boston to Beijing. Often dubbed "America's Shakespeare" and "the conscience of the American theater," Miller plumbs the depths of the American psyche as no other playwright has. His works present unforgettable portraits of the common man, his hopes and desires, and the struggle to maintain dignity. Many theater historians consider *Death of a Salesman* to be the finest American play ever written. Of particular interest to Salem residents is *The Crucible*, set during the witchcraft trials of 1692 but constituting a not-so-subtle critique of McCarthyism. Personally committed to the issues of free speech and social justice, Miller had a complicated private life, which came into view with his short-lived marriage to Marilyn Monroe, a subject of the controversial play, *After the Fall*. We will examine these plays, along with *All My Sons*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *Broken Glass*, and form our own assessments of why these works continue to resonate with audiences.

Sue Weaver Schopf, Ph.D. recently retired from her position as Associate Dean of the Master of Liberal Arts Program and Research Advisor in the Humanities at Harvard Extension School. Dr. Schopf continues to teach, lecture, write, and lead literary walking tours. Her expertise ranges from the literature of 19th- and early 20th-century to 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](#)

How to Write and Publish Your Novel in Fifteen Months



Saturday, October 15 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Few accomplishments deliver the joy and pride of writing and publishing a novel. Jim DeFilippi, an author of 20 books (mostly novels), leads you through the surprisingly achievable -- although not easy -- process of plotting, writing, and publishing your own novel while still leading your busy life of work, family, etc.

\$50 Members
\$65 Non-members

[Reserve Now](#)

CSEM

Chamber Music by Candlelight series
Saturday, October 15, 8:00 p.m.



All Beethoven Concert
with Susanna Ogata and Ian Watson

Violinist Susanna Ogata and English keyboard master Ian Watson performed an all-Beethoven concert at the Athenæum in 2014, to great success. They will return this October for another sublime evening. Ogata and Watson are among the finest period-instrument specialists today, appearing together in several premier ensembles, such as the Handel and Haydn Society.

Lately, their efforts have been turned to The Beethoven Project: they are recording all ten of Beethoven's sonatas for piano and violin, on period instruments. Susanna Ogata plays with exquisite grace and imagination, and Ian Watson combines profound mastery of his instrument with ebullient charm.



A reception follows.

For tickets and information, call [617-489-2062](tel:617-489-2062) or visit www.csem.org.

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

What's It Worth?

Appraisal Event to Benefit the
Salem Athenaeum



Sunday, November 6, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Expert appraisals provided by Kaminski Auctions.

\$25 for 2 items you can carry

\$50 for house calls (will be scheduled for a subsequent day)

[Reserve Now and select an appointment time.](#)

New Members Night

Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00 pm

If you are a new, long-time, or prospective member, this behind-the-scenes tour will orient you to the Salem Athenaeum building, include an overview of our history and mission, and outline our current services and the benefits of membership.

[Reserve Now](#)

Welcome Winter!

Community Open House

Saturday, December 10, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

In the spirit of hospitality and fellowship, The Athenaeum will open its doors to the community and celebrate the coming winter season.



Refreshments, music, a children's craft activity and plenty of good cheer included!

Free.

Winter Warm-up

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00 pm



Join us in January for our annual gathering to support 2017 programs and warm up with friends new and old. Enjoy complimentary appetizers in the welcoming glow of the Adriatic Restaurant & Bar, one of Salem's premier eating and drinking establishments.

\$25 per person, Cash bar

[Reserve Now](#)

Reappraisal Reading Circle 2017

With winter around the corner, we offer you something to look forward to! In January, we will resume the Reading Circle with a fresh group of authors from the Athenaeum's fiction collection.

Help us answer the question: Do these writers have an audience today?



Rudyard Kipling

January	Rudyard Kipling
February	Edna Ferber
March	Sinclair Lewis
April	E.M. Delafield
May	James Fenimore Cooper

Watch for the display in the Reading Room later this Fall when we announce the monthly discussions dates. Everyone who is interested is welcome.

Recent Events

The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.

Town Hall with R.D. Sahl

On July 13, days before the National Conventions began, The Salem Athenæum had its own political caucus when trustee Ken Harris chatted with renowned journalist R.D. Sahl about politics and the media.

Sahl's career in broadcast journalism spans more than 40 years. His insights on the challenges of being an informed voter in the Information Age provided much fuel for discussion. We look forward to his next visit.



Summer Salon with Anne Beattie

The Reading Room was packed to capacity for our August 19, Summer Salon, *Artistry of the Isles of Shoals: Celia Thaxter's Salon* with guest speaker Ann Beattie. She held her audience captive as she shared intriguing tales of the people who lived in that magical time and place.



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 Prociuous if no link is included).

Monday Evening Conversations

Second Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

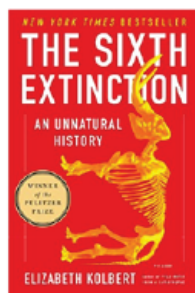
Topics for discussion are wide open, but must be amenable to good conversation.

Athenæum Book Group

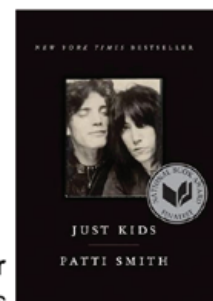
Second Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Meetings: September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10

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!



September
The Sixth Extinction
by Elizabeth Kolbert



October
Just Kids

by Patti Smith

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

Board of Trustees

Brunonia Barry
Wendy Biggs, *Vice-President*
Stephanie Buck, *Clerk*
Josiah Fisk
Marla Gearhart
Phil Gillespie
Ken Harris, *Vice-President*
David Hart
Steve Immerman
Richard Jendrysik
Owen Mathieu
Pat Padden, *Treasurer*
Meg Twohey, *Co-President*
Angela Williams
David Williams, *Co-President*

Dickens Fellowship

For details about the group, visit [Dickens North of Boston](#).

Salem Writers' Group

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

Writers' Open Studio Hours

Thursdays 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/>

Welcome!

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

Kirsten Alexander and Jeremy Gross
John and Anne Boris
M.P. Carver
Jennifer Chapman
Anne Daniels and Joseph Berkovitz
Maureen Holub
Phillip A. Mallard
Sara and Dann Maurno
Barbara McNeill and Ailie McNeill
Christiane Miczek
Susan K. Moulton
Olivia Notter
Caroline Ouellette
Thomas Shirley and Sarah Kaull
Paul and Rosemary Venter
Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein
Mary Zalewski



In Memoriam

Please join us in remembering the lives of two Salem Athenaeum members who passed recently.

Walter Cook

Walter passed away after a prolonged illness. He was beloved husband to Anne Fisher Cook, a former Trustee and Clerk of the Athenaeum. He appreciated the commitment, skill and compassion of the many doctors, nurses and caregivers who extended the length and quality of his life so that he could enjoy fresh corn on the cob this summer--something he had longed for over the winter.

[Read the Ipswich Chronicle Obituary](#)

Richard Fubel

With profound sadness we report the recent passing of Richard. He was a cherished Athenaeum member who served on the membership committee and was a much-relied-upon volunteer at membership events and the annual book sale. For the past few years he also had teamed up with Trustee Wendy Biggs to manage the CSEM concerts. His smile and spirit of fellowship will be dearly missed.

[Read the Boston Globe Obituary](#)



Salem Athenæum

337 Essex Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970
salemathenaeum.net

Contact Info

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

Jean Marie Prociou
978-744-2540
info@salemathenaeum.net

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

Carolyn McGuire
cbmcguire6@gmail.com