



Incorporated in 1810

Winter/Spring 2017 Newsletter

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Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members and Friends:

Until Spring arrives, the Athenæum provides warmth, enlightenment, music and pleasure for all. The library is also a wonderful place to browse the stacks, find a comfortable chair for reading or working, or take in the garden.

We invite you to many wonderful programs and events coming up this year--many under the thematic heading of WHAT NOW? See the Director's Note for details.

March 4 brings the Bootleggers' Bash, with singer Stacia Kraft and the Fellas. We will have live music upstairs with plenty of room to sit down and enjoy, and partying downstairs. This annual party helps raise important funds for the Athenæum. We invite you to bid on wonderful auction items, ranging from a weekend in an elegant B&B in Marblehead, to dining and sailing, to a very generous gift certificate from Landry and Arcari for a rug of your choosing. Please come and bring your friends.

We hope you've noticed the excellent restoration work on the Athenæum's windows, made possible by a matching grant of \$35,000 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and generous donations from many of you. The goal of this project is to protect the building's envelope and the Athenæum's collections from light, humidity, and temperature swings. We hope you'll consider giving to this worthy project.

We'd like to announce some role changes in the Board of Trustees. As former Clerk Stephanie Buck now will be leading our Development planning and the new Salem Literary Festival initiative, Trustee Angela Williams will step up to be the new Clerk of the Board. Congratulations to both on their new roles.

Finally, our deepest thanks go to so many of you who gave generously to As we prepare for another exciting year ahead, we hope you will consider volunteering for one of the Athenæum's committees and nominating yourself or a friend for a seat on our board of trustees.

We look forward to seeing you at the library.

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

Vote for us!

Salem Athenaeum has been nominated as an Essex County Trailblazer in honor of Essex National Heritage Area's 20th Anniversary. Click the link below to vote for us before March 14:

[surveymonkey.com/r/TrailblazersVote](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TrailblazersVote)

AmazonSmile

If you use Amazon.com for purchases, please consider using AmazonSmile with Salem Athenaeum as beneficiary. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to us!

Director's Notes

Last year, the Salem Athenaeum looked at Democracy in America as a year-long theme. In 2017, as the sands are shifting in unexpected ways, we turn our thoughts to What Now?

As we investigate this theme, we will bring leading thinkers to Salem to share their insights on where things are heading in arts and culture, science, technology, activism and government. We'll also look to the past to learn from history about constitutional crises, ethics, and more. The series kickoff will be on March 22 with Thomas Forest Farb-Horch discussing developments in biotechnology; next fall, on October 11, acclaimed filmmaker and Syria native, Ziad Hamzeh, will discuss his films and give an artist's perspective on the refugee crisis; veteran journalist and former WGBH-TV news producer, John Carroll, will speak on October 23 about the state of the media. More programs are in development.

Currently underway are a series of events honoring Leslie's Retreat, Salem's foray into the Revolution on February 26, 1775. On April 7, J.L. Bell will speak at the Athenaeum about the new insights he uncovered while researching his book, *The Road to Concord*. See lesliesretreat.org for details of events offered from February through April by organizations in Salem and Marblehead.

The Athenaeum's Spring and Fall exhibitions will feature two Salem natives: our most famous literary son, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and the books he read that informed his writing; and the reclusive Harvard-trained artist Quinton Jones, whose paintings and sculptures filled his home to the brim--and will be exhibited here for the first time ever.

Please save the date for the annual Members' Garden Party on Sunday, June 4 and for Salem native, writer and editor, Hannah Tinti, who will read from her new book, *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley*, on July 28 as part of the Summer Salon Series in the garden.

On June 17, we're putting on the Salem Literary Festival. Attend, volunteer, bring a friend or your whole book group!

Below are more details about the offerings we have coming up for writers, readers, and music lovers.

I hope to see you at the Athenaeum soon!

Jean Marie Prociou
Executive Director



**We are
grateful
to our
2016/2017
Program
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Status of the Window Restoration Project

The Salem Athenæum's windows, which are original and were installed in 1906-1907, were in a notable state of decline upon inspection last year. Despite their protection with storm windows, the glazing and wooden members of some of the sashes had deteriorated greatly.

In 2016, the Athenæum received a matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for \$35,000. In accordance with its requirements, we developed specifications and advertised for bidders. Window Woman of New England of Amesbury, MA was chosen to do the work and we entered into a contract with them in late 2016. David Hart, Trustee, is leading the project for the Athenæum.

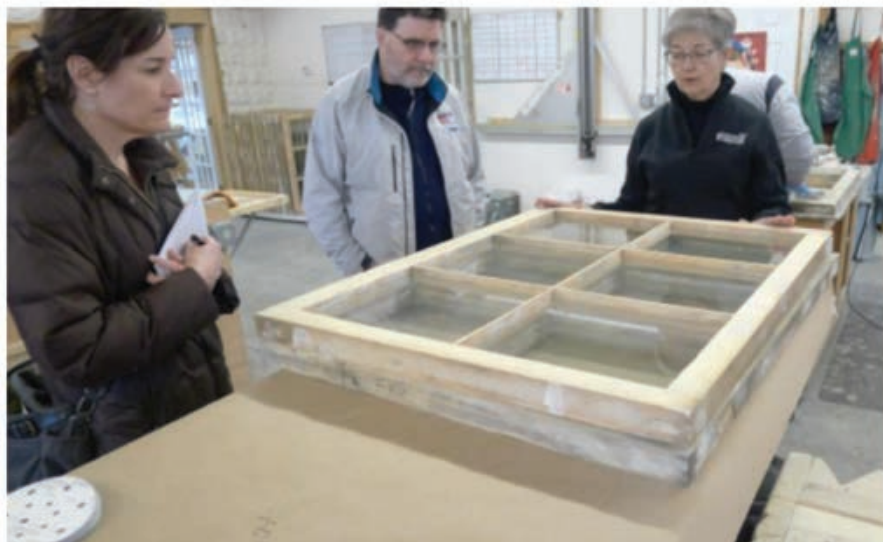


Window Woman has been working diligently to keep the project on schedule. We visited their shop in January 2017 and observed very professional restoration techniques. We expect that the sash will be reinstalled by May 31, 2017.

The project budget is \$70,000, which means we have to raise the \$35,000 independently. Our fundraising campaign is in progress and we appreciate any and all donations for this important project. We still need \$13,000 to reach our goal!

Help us protect the Athenæum's building and collections by sponsoring the restoration of the windows to secure the building envelope. All work must be completed and all matching funds must be received by June 30, 2017.

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



Tracey Fortier, MHC, Dave Williams and Alison Hardy of WW of NE view two partially restored sash similar to the Athenæum's windows.

Elections Results

The Athenaeum had its own election cycle this past Fall--1768-style. As part of our recent exhibition: *Elections: Winning the Vote* we held an election for the new Athenaeum mascot--Athena, Crow, or Conch Shell. All were welcome to vote, but participants were asked to use the ballot that reflected the level of voter requirements that they met. White ballots were for voters who would've been eligible in 1768. Blue ballots were for those who were not eligible in 1768. It is no surprise to report that two-thirds of the 155 voters who participated were not eligible according to 1768 rules.



The winner is Athena, with 98 votes. Congratulations to the Goddess of Wisdom and thank you to all who voted!



Annual fundraiser and 1920s party at the Salem Athenaeum

Bootlegger's Bash

March 4, 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Get caught at the Bootlegger's Bash!

Live music by Stacia Kraft and the Fellas
Plenty of hooch, grub, and other keen stuff!
Get dolled up! Bring your friends!
1920s attire encouraged.



Silent Auction!

Items include a weekend at an elegant B&B in Marblehead, dining, sailing, a very generous gift certificate from Landry and Arcari for a rug of your choosing, and much more! [Full list of auction items.](#)

Bring cash for the bar and the costume contest!

Tickets

\$50 in advance

\$60 at the door

All tickets include one drink, then cash bar.

The Writer in Your Neighborhood

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Salem has a long, distinguished literary history that still thrives today. Come talk writing, browse books, and sample the prose and verse of your talented neighbors – published authors who are members of the Athenaeum or residents of the North Shore. Authors who will be reading their works include Kevin Carey, MP Carver, Jim DeFillippi, Elisabeth Horowitz, Linda Dini Jenkins, Mark Levy, Jennifer Martelli, Matt Phillion, and J.D. Scrimgeour. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Salem
Athenæum
for **Writers**

[Reserve Now](#)

Spring Course

Becoming and Artist

6 weeks

March 11-April 15, 2:00-4:00 pm



This Spring, Theo Theoharis offers another exciting literary exploration. His entertaining yet erudite teaching style, which focuses more on dialog than a lecture format, engages all students in the discussion. His annual courses have become a highlight of the Athenaeum calendar.

He will guide us on a six-week literary journey that will explore Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark* and James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Three sessions will be spent on each book.

When you register, please note that you now have the option to purchase the books for pick up at the library.

Theo Theoharis, Ph.D. 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.



Members \$155

Non-members \$175

**Cambridge Society for Early Music
Concert**

March 11, 2017 @ 8:00 pm



Before Bach: Chamber Music of Germany and Italy
with Jesse Irons and Sarah Darling, violins - Jason Fisher, viola
Michael Unterman, cello - Byron Schenkman, harpsichord
With guest artist Ingrid Matthews, violin

Gut Reaction brings together five brilliant performers to explore the best of the baroque on period instruments. The four string players are members of the critically acclaimed Boston ensemble A Far Cry. They are joined by renowned harpsichordist Byron Schenkman, who won CSEM's prestigious Erwin Bodky Prize in 1999.

Winner of the Bodky Prize in 1989, baroque violinist Ingrid Matthews, will appear as a guest artist. With Byron Schenkman, she was co-founder of the Seattle Baroque Orchestra in 1992, and served as music director until recently. For many years, she was also first violinist in the Luna ensemble, specializing in the 17th century. Her performances for CSEM are always a delight! Join us for a journey into the lesser-known but rich repertoire of the 17th century.

A reception follows.

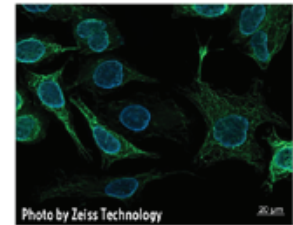
Tickets at the door (cash or checks): \$30 / \$25 seniors and Athenæum members / Free for students 17 and under.

For more information, and for credit card payment, visit csem.org or call 617-489-2062.



Transformations in Biotechnology: Major Trends that Are Changing Life Sciences

March 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm



- How will our annual physical and doctor's office visit change in the future?
- What is the importance to us of research in gene editing, stem cells and tissue culture?
- Why are some of our best friends germs, such as gut bacteria?
- How is drug discovery and drug development changing our therapies of the future?

Thomas Forest Farb-Horch, Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer at Thrive Bioscience, Inc. will discuss major trends in biotechnology, such as those above. His lecture will draw on his extensive experience as the founder of 10 technology and life sciences companies in areas ranging from software development tools, artificial intelligence, medical devices and cancer diagnostics to genomics, pharmaceuticals and information technology.

Thrive Bioscience, is developing previously unavailable instruments to automate cell culture, stem cell culture and tissue culture to meet the needs of cell-based research, drug discovery, drug development & regenerative medicine. Its first customers and collaborators include the Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

Mr. Farb serves on a number of for profit and non-profit boards. He holds a BA from Harvard College and lives in Salem, Massachusetts.

\$15; \$10 members; Free for Students with ID

[Register](#)

Cambridge Society for Early Music Concert

April 1, 2017 at 8:00 pm



Les Delices *Songs Without Words: Airs and Torch Songs Transformed*

with Debra Nagy, baroque oboe
Emily Walhout, viola da gamba - Eric Milnes, harpsichord
David Jacques, theorbo and baroque guitar

Since 2006, Debra Nagy, a baroque oboist of "consummate taste and expressivity" founded Les Delices and has been bringing together artists with national reputations who share a passion for the exquisite music of the French baroque. Their polished, dynamic performances of masterpieces and little-known works draw rapturous reviews.

With a musical approach that's "distinctly sensual...pliant, warm and sweet" (*The New York Times*), Ms. Nagy expands the repertoire for her instrument with timeless songs whose emotionally charged melodies stir the passions and inspire improvisation with echoes of jazz. Accompanied by a lush continuo band of viola da gamba, theorbo, and harpsichord, she breathes new life into torch songs from the 17th to 20th centuries in this program of original arrangements and improvisations. Music by French masters who served Louis XIV-Michel Lambert (d. 1696) and Sebastien Le Camus (d. 1677)--along with popular Americans Jerome Kern and Nina Simone.

A reception follows.

Tickets at the door (cash or checks): \$30 / \$25 seniors and Athenæum members / Free for students 17 and under.

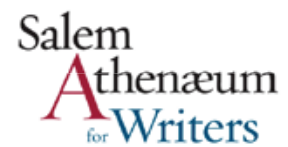
For more information, and for credit card payment, visit csem.org or call 617-489-2062.



Favorite Poems

April 2, 2:00 pm

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than reading poems at the Athenaeum.



Inspired by Robert Pinsky's Favorite Poem Project (www.favoritepoem.org), the Athenaeum is hosting a Favorite Poem reading to celebrate National Poetry Month. A poem can transform a life. It can give comfort, inspiration, or insight. Members and guests are invited to share a poem that has meant a lot to them and talk briefly about why. You don't need to bring a poem to attend, just your ears. The event is free and open to the public. Please direct queries to J.D. Scrimgeour (jdscrimgeour@gmail.com).

[Reserve Now](#)

The Salem Connection: A Crucial Part of Massachusetts's Secret Drive to Collect Artillery Before the Revolutionary War

April 7, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

As part of a citywide commemoration of Leslie's Retreat, J. L. Bell presents a lecture that connects the confrontation in Salem on February 26, 1775 (known as "Leslie's Retreat") to the first battle of the American Revolution starting at Concord on April 19, 1775.

J. L. Bell is the proprietor of boston1775.net, a popular website dedicated to the history of the American Revolution in New England. A Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society and American Antiquarian Society, he is author of the National Park Service's study of George Washington's work in Cambridge, and has delivered papers to the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Organization of American Historians, and historic sites around greater



Boston. In May 2016, his first book, *The Road to Concord: How Four Stolen Cannon Ignited the Revolutionary War* was published as one of the first series of micro-histories published by the Journal of the American Revolution. The series features meticulous, groundbreaking research and well-written narratives about unknown or lesser-known topics related to the Revolution.

\$15; \$10 members; Free for students with ID.

[Register](#)

Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, promptly at 11:00 am

Join us to celebrate spring at the annual egg hunt. Gather in the Reading Room for refreshments (coffee for the adults, too) before the hunt begins. Everyone is welcome and the event is held outside rain or shine.

Bring your baskets!

Young Adult Writing for All Ages

5 weeks

April 27-May 25, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Matt Phillion, instructor.



Young Adult stories aren't just for younger readers--and they certainly aren't just for young writers. We'll discuss the basics of YA writing, story elements, character development, and achieving the right tone for your audience. Whether you're a young adult yourself or just young at heart, this course will help you strike the right cord when writing for this ever-growing genre.

Members \$70

Non-members \$120

[Register](#)

207th Annual Meeting

May 3, 2017 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



207th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Salem Athenæum and election of officers and new trustees. All members in good standing are welcome to attend.

Boston Classical Trio Concert

May 12, 2017 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

We welcome the return of three brilliant musicians from Boston's Handel & Haydn Society: cellist Guy Fishman, violinist and assistant concertmaster Susanna Ogata, and resident conductor and keyboard virtuoso, Ian Watson.

They will present an all-Beethoven program on period instruments.

Sonata for piano and cello in F major, op.5, no.1.

Sonata no. 8 for piano and violin in G major, op. 30, no. 3

Trio for violin, cello, and piano in C minor, op. 1, no. 3

\$25; \$30 non-members; Free for students with ID.

Salem Literary Festival

June 17

The Salem Athenaeum will serve as the new home of the Salem Literary Festival!

This year's Festival will be primarily prose-focused and primarily for readers. Stay tuned for updates on the guest speakers!



Brunonia Barry

If you missed Brunonia Barry's launch party at the Athenaeum in January for her newest book, *The Fifth Petal*, you are in luck! She will be one of the featured speakers at this year's Literary Festival!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Interested people should contact Stephanie Buck:
stephaniesbuck@gmail.com

Reappraisal Reading Circle 2017

As winter rolls into spring, we continue our labor of love in the Reappraisal Reading Circle. Selections from the older fiction in the basement stacks await you! Help us answer the question: Do these writers have an audience today?

March 13	Sinclair Lewis
April 10	E.M. Delafield
May 8	James Fenimore Cooper



Sinclair Lewis

Watch for the changing display in the Reading Room. Discussion are on the second Monday of the month. Everyone who is interested is welcome.

Recent Events

The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.

Solstice Storytelling

The Athenæum was filled with story and music lovers who braved the cold for a night of Solstice Storytelling on December 16. Thank you to all the performers who warmed us with their words and music: Sam Cha, Dawn Paul, Dawne Shand, Melissa Varnavas, and Dan McGinn (BlackDogBrother), Shari Caplan and Danielle Jones-Pruett.



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: March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10

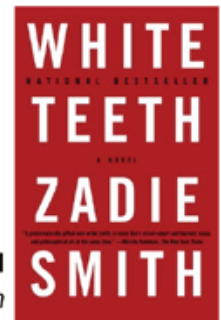
The Athenæum book group meets monthly. Group members take turns selecting a book for discussion. Whoever chooses the book also serves as discussion leader and provides background materials (if needed). Join us for this opportunity to discuss, debate, and grow together as book lovers!



March

Where'd You Go, Bernadette?

by Maria Semple



April

White Teeth

by Zadie Smith

May: *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson

Jun: *Never a Dull Moment: 1971 The Year That Rock Exploded*

by David Hepworth

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

Dickens Fellowship

For details about the group, visit [our website](#).

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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Stephanie Buck, *Clerk*
Josiah Fisk
Marla Gearhart
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Angela Williams
David Williams, *Co-President*

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 Prociuous
978-744-2540
info@salemathenaeum.net

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

Carolyn McGuire
cbmcguire6@gmail.com

Welcome!

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

Betsy August
Mac Bell
Brooklyn Brown-Northrup
Philip Burke
Michele Campbell
Rebecca Crockett and Michael Banach
Lauren Dyer
Alex Effgen and Jennifer Novicki
Alison Faria
Jeffrey Gross
Deborah Jackson
Danielle Jones-Pruett
Marjorie Kelly and Shelley Alpern
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lahikainen
Lester MacLaughlin and Helen MacLaughlin
Helen Martin
Kathleen McDonald and Bill Ewing
Cynthea Michaels
Benjamin Ruback and Andrea Crompton
Curt Savoie
Elizabeth Tener
Karen A. Torkildsen
Cristina Valverde
Nicole Weedon



In Memoriam

Please join us in remembering Jackie Frederiksen, a voracious and enthusiastic reader who served as a trustee and was Proprietor for over 30 years.

Jackie Frederiksen

Jacquelyn "Jackie" Frederiksen, age 87, died in her home on December 20, 2016. Wife of the late Jacob Frederiksen, she was born in Buffalo, N.Y. They married in October of 1946 and raised their family of nine children in Peabody, Mass., Chevy Chase, Md., and finally ended up in Salem, Mass., where Jackie lived until her passing.



Jackie loved music, especially piano, and played the organ in church before she was married. She served as a Trustee of the Salem Athenæum and was a member of Hamilton Hall.

[Read the Salem News Obituary](#)