

Incorporated in 1810

Winter 2016 Newsletter

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## Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Athenæum:

Welcome to the new year and a host of new programs and events! It looks like there is something for nearly everyone, and we hope you will take advantage of many of these. (We can't recommend Theo Theoharis's course highly enough; it'll be held March 19-April 23.)

It was great to see so many of us at our December Welcome Winter Party and our January gathering at the Adriatic. Now it's time to mark your calendars for our biggest annual event and most important fundraiser which will be held on February 27. This year we're going to Cuba! Our celebration of Havana and all things Cuba will be at Ames Memorial Hall in the Salem YMCA, complete with lively music and dancing, terrific Caribbean food, a very special auction, and a crowd of great people. Plan early and do join us and bring your friends.

News on our strategic plan: Thanks to Trustee David Williams, a professional pollster, and the work of many others, we've sent a survey to our members and to those who have attended our events. The results are important as we continue planning for the Athenæum's future. Great thanks to all who have responded so far. If you haven't, we urge you to add your voice. [Please contact us](#) if you have not received the survey in your email. If

you prefer, you may also do a hard copy version in the library. In other news, we're moving forward on hiring a part-time development professional to help with our fundraising. If you wish to recommend someone, we would welcome your suggestion.

Finally, a very heartfelt thank-you for your generous contributions to the Athenæum's annual fund. Your support is critical to all that we do. Deep thanks to Thomas Forest Farb-Horch and Peter Forest Valhouli-Farb for giving several very special paintings to the Athenæum which you will see gracing the reading room later this year.

Best wishes for this new year, and we'll see you at the library.

Meg Twohey  
President, Board of Trustees

## Save the Date!

February 27  
8 pm

## Club Havana

at  
Ames Hall



We are grateful to our  
2015-2016 Program  
Sponsors

Beverly Bank

Boston Private  
Bank

Salem Five  
Charitable  
Foundation

Soucy Insurance  
Agency

## Director's Corner

Have you heard? There is a *new* Athenæum membership library, the first in over a century! [Folio: The Seattle Athenæum](#) opened its doors this week, on January 20, 2016. Stop in when you find yourself in Seattle, or add it as a new destination to your life list of membership libraries to visit. If you are a Salem Proprietor you may even check out books during your stay.

Back at home, many of you are reveling in books by authors that have been featured as part of the Reappraisal Reading Circle. I encourage you all to spend time when you can in the stacks unearthing these treasures. The fiction shelved in the Ground Floor Stack is now very browsable because it has been reorganized alphabetically by author's last name, the same method of shelving as the contemporary fiction on the Main level.

We are looking for volunteers to enter the literature in the Ground Floor Stack into the on-line catalog. Currently the card catalog is still the fastest method of checking our holdings in this collection.

Ideas and stories collected in books comprise the Athenæum's collections and document the intellectual history of the citizens of Salem and its vicinity since the first Social Library in 1760. To protect the collections, we have been working on new security measures outlined below.

As planned we have significantly strengthened the security system at the Athenæum, including the addition of cameras in key locations in the public area and the stacks. The decisions involved many trade-offs and we are deeply grateful to Bob Ouellette for helping us explore options.

The cameras will record use of the public areas and stacks and will only be reviewed as necessary to make sure the system is operating properly and in the event of theft, damage, or inappropriate or illegal behavior.

We are grateful to Brian LaCroix of Setronics for donating most of the equipment. Labor and associated installation costs have been covered by the insurance settlement from the theft identified during the last appraisal.

The Trustees are currently crafting a detailed security camera policy and we will post it to the web site as soon as it is approved. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the security cameras or security in general at the Athenæum.

See you at Club Havana on February 27!

Jean Marie Prociuous

## Massachusetts Book Award Winners at the Athenaeum

Congratulations to two winners of the 2015 Massachusetts Book Award: Katherine Howe and January Gill O'Neil.

Howe, already a *New York Times* best-selling author for adult fiction, is an Athenaeum member and contributor to the Writers Committee. She received the prize in fiction for Middle Readers / Young Adults, with her novel *Conversion* (Penguin/Putnam). Set in Danvers at a fictional girls' school, the novel follows several students who display behaviors parallel to the girls who claimed to be cursed during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. *Conversion* is her third novel.

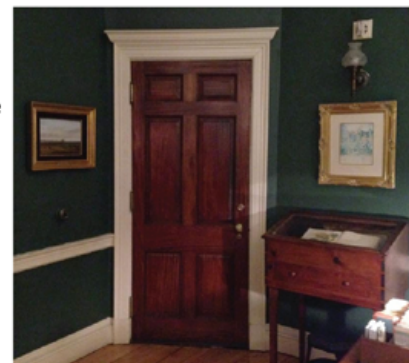


O'Neil is the executive director of the Massachusetts Poetry Festival and an assistant professor of English at Salem State University. She is member of Salem Writers Group that meets at the Athenaeum and received the award for poetry for her book *Misery Islands* (CavanKerry). The book's title sequence is named for the islands in Salem Sound, and a number of its pieces examine the all-too-common hardships of daily life since the 2008 economic downturn. *Misery Islands* is her second book. O'Neil is the first African American woman to receive the poetry award.

The Mass Book Awards is the largest state book awards program in the country and recognizes significant works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's/young adult literature published by Commonwealth residents or about Massachusetts subjects. The winners are announced in November each year. A complete list of winners and more information about the Massachusetts Center for the Book is at [massbook.org](http://massbook.org).

## New Landscapes in the Reading Room

The next time you visit the Reading Room to check out a book, be sure to notice the two new paintings flanking the entrance to the Stacks. A very generous Athenaeum member, Thomas Forest Farb-Horch, donated these lovely examples of 19th- and early 20th-century American art: *Cows in Field* by Jasper Cropsey and *Isle of Shoals Garden* by Childe Hassam.



Jasper Francis Cropsey (1823-1900) a landscape artist of the Hudson River School, was born on his father's farm on Staten Island, New York, the oldest of eight children. Initially trained as an architect, Cropsey studied watercolor and life drawing at the National Academy of Design and first exhibited there in 1844. A year later he was elected an associate member and turned exclusively to landscape painting. Cropsey died in anonymity, but was rediscovered in the 1960s. Today, his paintings are found in most major American museums and in the White House.



Frederick Childe Hassam (1859-1935), born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, was a prominent and prolific American Impressionist painter, noted for his urban and coastal scenes. Along with Mary Cassatt, Hassam was instrumental in introducing America to Impressionism. He produced over 3,000 paintings, watercolors, etchings, and lithographs in his career, and was a founding member of The Ten, an influential group of American artists in the early 20th century.

### **Fall/Winter Exhibition**

## **Samuel Hall Printer Patriot**

Curated by Dr. Matteo Pangallo of Harvard University, our Fall/Winter Exhibition, "Samuel Hall: Printer-Patriot of the Revolution," provides an in-depth exploration of the life and work of Salem's first printer. Included in the exhibit are many of Hall's publications on loan from a private collection, and the Salem Athenaeum.

Hall's printing career took him to many places throughout New England, including New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Boston, Cambridge, as well as Salem. His publications ranged from sermons, court documents, scientific papers, and newspapers including *Salem Gazette*, *Essex Gazette* and *Essex Almanack*. Later in his career he branched out to reading primers and children's books.

After apprenticing with his uncle, the first printer in New Hampshire, he married into the family of Benjamin Franklin. In 1768, Hall set up the first printing shop in Salem, Massachusetts and remained in Salem until 1775, when the Provincial Congress asked him to move to Cambridge to aid the patriot cause. He returned to Salem in 1781.

The exhibition will be on display through the end of February. Please join us on February 12 for Dr. Pangallo's lecture on Samuel Hall.



## **Movietelling: A Workshop**

January 25 7-8:30pm

Have you ever found yourself having more fun talking over a movie than watching it? Anyone who has put words into the mouths of characters on screen will find this workshop to be fun and motivating. Movietelling is a new cross-genre form of poetry, inspired by the silent film era "benshi" tradition of Japan. Movietellers write poems to be read while a muted film clip plays. Led by the Athenaeum's Writing Program Committee director, Shari Caplan, workshop participants will learn about the form's origins, will see examples of it as it is used today, and will work on creating their own Movietelling pieces.



Participants must bring their own device with which to watch a film clip for the writing portion of this workshop (a tablet, laptop, or smart phone would be suitable).

\$15 Members

\$20 Non-members

### **Salem History Lecture**

#### **No Place Like Home-- Ada Louise Huxtable's ranch house as her housing ideal A lecture by Edward Nilsson**



Wednesday January 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

As part of Historic Salem, Inc.'s celebration of Ada Louise Huxtable and her influence on historic preservation in Salem, Ed Nilsson will present the Salem History Lecture on the subject of Huxtable's own house. The annual lecture is presented by the Salem Athenæum and Historic Salem, Inc.

Edward O. Nilsson is principal of Nilsson + Siden Associates, Inc. Architects & Planners, of Salem and serves on the board of Historic Salem.

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

*Co-presented by Salem Athenaeum and Historic Salem, Inc.*

### **Storytelling Event**

#### **Unbreak My Heart: Stories of True Love and True Disasters**



Friday, February 5, 7-9:00 p.m.

This time of year finds us pondering such questions as "Is it better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? Does absence really make the heart grow fonder? And if I eat this roll of cookie dough, will it plug the holes in my broken heart or just clog my arteries?" Whether you're preparing for a weekend getaway with your steady, thumbing through Tinder profiles, or guarding the cockles of your cold heart, you will find a story to love at the Athenaeum's evening of romance themed live stories.

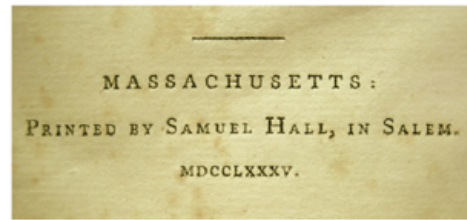
Told without notes, these stories come straight from the hearts and mouths of our performers. Refreshments will be served and there will be a chance to participate in the sharing if the spirit (of Cupid) moves you!

Free

## Exhibition Talk

### Samuel Hall: Printer-Patriot

Friday, February 12 at 7:00 pm



Dr. Matteo Pangallo of Harvard

University, curator of the current exhibition, "Samuel Hall: Printer-Patriot of the Revolution," will give a gallery talk about the life and work of Salem's first printer.

In 1768, Hall set up the first printing shop in Salem, Massachusetts and remained in Salem until 1775, when the Provincial Congress asked him to move to Cambridge to aid the patriot cause. An outspoken advocate of independence and a dedicated Federalist, abolitionist, and promoter of the art of printing, Hall is one of the many individuals who can rightly be counted among the founders of the nation.



**Matteo Pangallo, Ph.D.** is a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University. His primary areas of interest are early modern drama and theater history, with a focus upon connections between text, performance, and reception. He also has interest in dramatic literature and the social and intellectual history of the book. Outside of his academic pursuits, Pangallo is a director and dramaturge who has worked for Salem Theatre Company as its founding artistic director, Rebel Shakespeare Company, and the Globe Theatre in London. He is also an award-winning book-collector.

Free

[Reserve Now](#)

## Cambridge Society for Early Music

Chamber Music by Candlelight series

Saturday, February 20, 8:00 p.m.

The Athenaeum  
historical collections  
include a complete set  
of Denis Diderot's  
famed  
[Encyclopedie](#),  
published with supplements  
between 1751-1782.

### Five's a Crowd

The Diderot String Quartet of New York with guest artist Sarah Darling  
Viola quintets of Boccherini, Mozart & Mendelssohn

Boston's ever-popular Sarah Darling joins the Diderot for an evening of viola quintets--string quartets with added viola. Diderot String quartet formed in New York in 2012 and was named for the French philosopher and Boccherini enthusiast Denis Diderot.

The viola quintet was the most popular string ensemble for 5 instruments. Boccherini over flowed with them--more than 100 flew from his pen. Adding a second viola opens up a world of new possibilities: harmonies are easily completed, the sound is rich, the textures varied. Mozart wrote just 2 of them, at the height of his career, but the viola was his preferred string instrument. Mendelssohn also wrote 2 viola quintets.



### Spring Concert

Saturday, May 7, 8:00 p.m.

### Rumbarroco: Cinco de Mayo!

Rumbarroco is a Boston-based Latin-Baroque fusion ensemble, founded and directed by Laury Gutiérrez. The musicians draw upon indigenous Hispanic and African instruments and rhythms and infuse the quality of these sources into European-Baroque music.

Their program of festive Iberian and Latin American music celebrates Cinco de Mayo, the holiday honoring the unlikely victory of the Mexican army on the Fifth of May, 1862--when a ragtag group of 2,000 Mexican patriots defeated a French army of 6,000.

Tickets for each concert may be purchased at the door (cash or checks):  
\$30 / \$25 seniors and Athenæum members / students with ID free.

[Reserve tickets through CSEM online.](#)

For details, visit [csem.org](http://csem.org) or call 617-489-2062.



## Club Havana

Saturday, February 27, 8:00-11:00 p.m. at  
Ames Memorial Hall at the Salem YMCA

Celebrate the re-opening of Cuba and the  
warm vibrancy of Caribbean culture.

Entertainment will include

- Live Cuban music & dancing with Greg Coles Drum and Dance Company
- Caribbean food
- Silent auction
- Rum provided by Salem's own Deacon Giles Distillery
- Mojitos and more!



\$50 advance/\$60 door

[Reserve Now](#)

*Live music will be played at a background level.*

## Spring Course

### Three Award-Winning Novels

Theo Theoharis, instructor  
6 Saturdays starting March 19  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Brilliant writing transports readers, stretches minds, and sometimes changes lives. How each author achieves this depends on a variety of factors. Award-winning writing reaches beyond the limits of its time and place, affects readers for generations to come, and shapes and advances literature.

Award-winning novels will be the focus and the connecting theme of the course. Each of the three selections represent a different decade and award--National Book Award, Booker Prize, and PEN/Faulkner-- in an effort to examine shared traits of award winning novels.

The novels for discussion are, in this order:

*The Eighth Day* by Thornton Wilder, National Book Award, 1968

*Offshore* by Penelope Fitzgerald, Booker Prize, 1979

*Netherland* by Joseph O'Neill, Penn Faulkner Fiction Award, 2009



**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.



\$155 Members

\$175 Non-members

[Reserve Now](#)

## Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26, promptly at 11:00 a.m.

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!

## Night Owls

Friday, April 1, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

On occasional first Fridays, the Night Owls will convene.

This time it's April Fool's Day, so who knows what will happen... We invite you to bring games to share, a topic to discuss, or to just show up and join the fun. It'll be a hoot!

[Sign up!](#)

## Fictional Character's Brunch, an Exercise in Method Writing

Saturday, April 2

Join *New York Times* and international best-selling author Brunonia Barry for an illuminating and entertaining brunch as she helps writers understand their characters by inhabiting them. Come as yourself then slip into another's skin and dine as your character might, socializing with fictional characters from all genres. As they say, you never really understand people until you walk a mile in their shoes... or, in this case, until you "join" them for brunch.

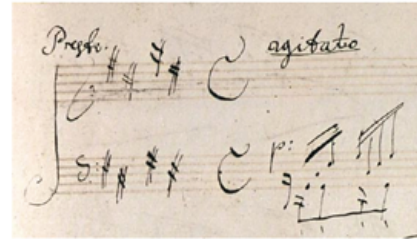
Salem  
**A**thenæum  
for **W**riters

Stayed tuned for details on this upcoming program!

## Boston Classical Trio Returns

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Guy Fishman, cello  
Susanna Ogata, violin  
Ian Watson, fortepiano



Principal cellist Guy Fishman and assistant concertmaster Susanna Ogata of Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, join Ian Watson, the Society's resident conductor and keyboard virtuoso, for an evening of music performed on period instruments. The program will include two Beethoven sonatas and Mozart's piano trio in B-flat major, K. 502.

Watson will play a replica of the fortepiano that Beethoven was intimately familiar with in the early 1800s. Don't miss this opportunity to hear exceptional artists create a memorable musical experience.

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

[Reserve Now](#)

## Quick Script: A 72-Hour Playwriting Festival

Workshop, April 14-17  
Public performance, Sunday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Salem  
**A**thenæum  
for Writers

Ever write a play in 3 days? Come explore the craft of the playwright in a fun, interactive and 3-day intensive workshop. Experience the process of shaping characters, action, and conflict through development of your play in process with other writers, directors, and actors. This three-day festival culminates in a public staged-reading of your work before a live audience.

Participants must be free on Thursday and Friday evening (April 14-15) after 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. This experience is limited to 4 playwrights. Actors will be recruited separately and the public is invited to experience the new plays on Sunday evening.

**Peter Sampieri** is a professional stage director, playwright, musician, puppeteer, and university professor. He has served as guest faculty artist 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, and an O'Neill semi-finalist in 2015. He is a 2002 recipient of a Pell Award Scholarship for Artistic Excellence, and an Associate Professor of Theatre at Salem State University, where he loves teaching.

\$50 Members

\$65 non-members

Public performance is free

[Reserve Now](#)

## 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).*

### 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.

Upcoming Meetings: February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14

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

*Command and Control* by Eric Schlosser

### March

*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy

### April

*Dragons of Eden* by Carl Sagan

### May

*My Struggle, Vol. 1* by Karl Ove Knausgaard



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



**Dickens Fellowship**

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

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

Our current book is *Dombey and Son*:

February 10, Chs. 17-20; March 5, Chs. 21-30;

April 2, Chs. 31-43; May 7, Chs. 44-54; June 4, Chs. 54-end.

**Re-appraisal Reading Circle**

Third Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Choose any book by a once-popular author from the our fiction collection.

February 19, Anne Douglas Sedgewick

March 18, Booth Tarkington

April 15, Eden Phillpotts

May 20, William Dean Howells

**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.

**Mandarin Chinese for Children**

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

[Contact Judy Wang Bedell](#) for more information or visit

<http://www.pandalandchinese.com/>

**Call for Nominations and Volunteers**

As you can see from this newsletter, we are continuing to do more. As a heavily volunteer organization, we need to continually expand our wonderful core of volunteers for committees and for the Board.

We are grateful for those of you who answered the invitation in the last newsletter to volunteer in the garden. Now we'd like to ask you to consider participating on a committee. Our committees include Building and Grounds, Collections, Communications, Cultural Programming, Development, Finance, Membership and the Writers' Programs, all described on the [website](#). If you'd rather help with an occasional event or a specific program and not serve on a committee, [contact Jean Marie](#) about your interest.

As part of the Board's focus on Governance over the past two years, we have implemented a year round nominating committee process. Incoming Trustees will be elected at the Annual Meeting on May 4; however, we request that you nominate others or yourself by the end of February, so that we have an opportunity to talk with all the nominees well in advance of the Annual Meeting. Please contact Jean Marie or Angela Williams, Chair of the Nominating Committee by February 28 with any suggestions or nominations for the new Board. Trustees are elected for a three-year term, which is renewable up to a total of three terms or nine years. Officer positions are elected annually.

## **Welcome!**

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

Alexander D. Ayube  
Amy Brennan  
Marianne Cannon  
Rebecca Curran  
Dennis Daly  
Peter Endicott  
Josiah Fisk  
Lynn Fletcher  
Tobi Dress Germain  
Ellen Goldstein and Mike Martin  
Andrea Kelly-Russell and family  
Barrie Levine  
Marc Levy  
Sara and Paul Massari  
Erin McManus  
Kate O'Hare  
Donald Place  
Nancy Ryan  
Jon David Stroud  
Josh, Jane, and David Turiel  
Roberta Villanti  
Jennine Zito



### **New Proprietors**

Scott Guthery  
Christopher Hyland  
Timothy Loring & Ardith Driscoll  
Owen and Eileen Mathieu

## In Memoriam

### Board of Trustees

Brunonia Barry  
Wendy Biggs  
Stephanie Buck, *Clerk*  
Abby Burns  
Marla Gearhart  
Phillip Gillespie  
Ken Harris, *Vice-President*  
David Hart  
Stephen Immerman  
Richard S. Jendrysik  
Owen R. Mathieu, M.D.  
Patrick F. Padden,  
*Treasurer*  
Meg Twohey, *President*  
Angela Williams  
David Williams

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

#### **Birsan Clark**

Wife of Stephen Clark, former trustee and founder of the Adopt-a Book program, Birsan died last October at their home in Salem. Both she and Steve have had an abiding love of books and travel -- and of her native country, Turkey.

Birsan studied at William Smith College and pursued her graduate degree in art history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst before establishing Tribal and Decorative Rugs on Charles Street in Boston. [Salem News Obituary](#)

#### **Eleanor M. (Walsh) Morey**

Ellie was an active proprietor of the Athenaeum for 25 years, delighting in the programs and new books. For years her sunny disposition kept the weekly Thursday-night Scrabble games congenial rather than cutthroat.

Ellie graduated from Saint James Girls High School in Salem, earned a B.S. in Dietetics at Framingham State College, and a M.Ed. from Boston College. She began her career with the Veterans Administration as a Dietitian and worked at VA hospitals across the country for 38 years before she retired as the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for the Veteran's Administration and returned to the North Shore. [Boston Globe Obituary](#)

### Salem Athenaeum

337 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
[salemathenaeum.net](http://salemathenaeum.net)

### Contact Info

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

Jean Marie Procius

978-744-2540

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

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

Carolyn McGuire

[Contact me!](#)

Salem Athenæum, 337 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970