



BOSTON ATHENÆUM

MAY-JUNE 2017

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer. There was so much to read, for one thing ...”

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

WITH SUMMER AROUND THE CORNER, the Athenæum is bursting with life. Join us for a coffee hour in June, where members and staff can become better acquainted, or for Conservation Evening to learn more about our special collections. Lectures, book talks, and panels are springboards for discussion on Nietzsche, religious plurality, the culture of healthcare, collective memory, one of America’s founding families, and more. A trivia night offers a chance to prove your knowledge. And, as always, there’s so much to read ...

Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.

Stanford Calderwood Director

Tuesday, July 4
Monday, May 29

CLOSED

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-8 pm
Friday, 9 am-5:30 pm
Saturday, 9 am-4 pm
Sunday, 12 pm-4 pm

OPEN



To register for an upcoming event,
contact us at 617-720-7600 or
events@bostonathenaeum.org.

Boston Athenæum
10½ Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108





NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Thursday, May 11, 5:30-7:30 pm

M F R Invite-only, RSVP by May 4

This wine and cheese reception offers new members an opportunity to meet fellow members of the Athenæum's energetic, intellectually curious community and explore its labyrinthine building. Questions? Contact membership@bostonathenaeum.org.

DIRECTOR'S COFFEE HOUR

Thursday, June 15, 12-1 pm

M F Registration begins June 1, 9 am

All are welcome to join Stanford Calderwood Director **Elizabeth Barker** and several Athenæum colleagues for this informal discussion over coffee and pastries in the Long Room, a perfect opportunity to share ideas with the administration and become better acquainted with other members.

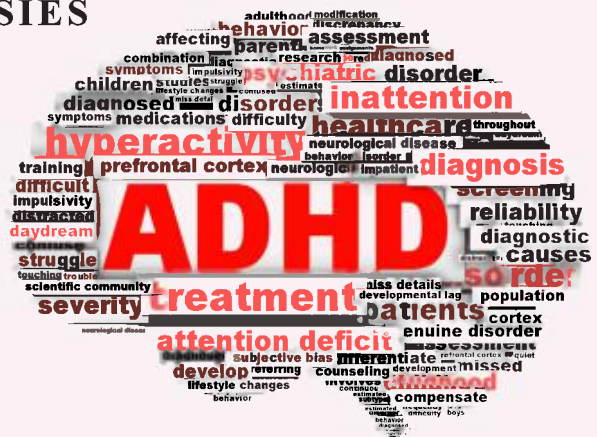
ADHD'S CHALLENGES AND CONTROVERSIES

Tuesday, May 16, 6-7:30 pm

P F R Registration begins April 24, 9 am

ADHD poses considerable challenges and provokes intense controversy surrounding its diagnosis, treatment, and frequency. These topics will be discussed by a panel of experts, composed of a physician (**Dr. Leonard Rappaport**, Boston Children's Hospital), an epidemiologist (**Dr. Kathleen Merikangas**, NIH), a neuroscientist (**Dr. John Gabrieli**, MIT), and a journalist (**Alan Schwarz**, author of *ADHD Nation*).

This program is offered in partnership with MIT.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

A COMPOSER'S SENSE OF PLACE

Monday, May 8, 6-7 pm

Registration begins April 24, 9 am

P Members \$15 Non-members \$30

The **New England Philharmonic Chamber Players** present compositions from New England and abroad, demonstrating that music, like works of art on paper, is permeated by a sense of place and context.

This performance is part of the collaborative series *Who Are We When We Are At Home?*, sponsored by the **Boston Literary District**. For more information about the series, visit bostonlitdistrict.org.

BOSTON LITERARY DISTRICT



FOR OUR FATHERS: AN EVENING WITH UTE GFRERER & LISA ROSOWSKY

Monday, June 12, 6-7 pm

Registration not required

P Members \$15 Non-members \$30

Austrian soprano **Ute Gfrerer** and Boston artist **Lisa Rosowsky** present a moving program of music and visual art in honor of their fathers' starkly different experiences during WWII: Gfrerer's father fought for the Nazis, while Rosowsky's father went into hiding after his parents were sent to Auschwitz. In this original program, Gfrerer and Rosowsky pair artwork and Holocaust-related songs to explore family history and collective memory.

New England on Paper

Contemporary Art in the Boston Athenæum's Prints & Photographs Collections

263 guests attended the April 5 opening of *New England on Paper: Contemporary Art in the Boston Athenæum's Prints & Photographs Collections*, featuring local artists' interpretations of New England's built and natural environments. The exhibition will remain on view through September 3. Visit our website for a complete schedule of exhibition-related programming, including docent-led gallery talks.



Presidential Incidentals

The next time you're in the building, be sure to make a pilgrimage to Upper Pilgrim Hall (located in the art department on the basement level) for a new mini-exhibition, *Presidential Incidentals*. The installation features oddities from the Athenæum's special collections related to the American presidency. Among the objects on view: a pin-cushion made from a scrap of Martha Washington's wedding dress by one of her granddaughters; a mint-condition example of the Martha Washington Dollar Bill (1886), the only US paper currency to bear as its main image the portrait of a woman; First Lady Ida McKinley's court shoes, painted and decorated by her own hand; the famous 1860 life mask of Abraham Lincoln; and more! On view until September 2017.

CONSERVATION EVENING

A BENEFIT FOR THE CONSERVATION LAB OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

Founded in 1963, the Athenæum's conservation lab is one of the oldest conservation facilities in any library in the United States. Athenæum conservators address the complex technical challenges of preserving paper-based materials, performing treatments on rare books, maps, manuscripts, prints, architectural drawings, broadsides, and pamphlets dating back to the 16th century.

The curators and conservators of the Boston Athenæum have hand-selected treasures from the collection that are in need of special care. Join us for a rare opportunity to view these materials, then bid on your favorite object in a silent auction to sponsor its conservation treatment. Your support will ensure that these one-of-a-kind works of art and literature are preserved for generations to come.

Conservation and curatorial staff will present the diverse selection of items, explain their significance, and outline the treatments each will need. Starting bids for the 19 objects range from \$700 to \$5,000. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Thursday, May 18, 5:30-7:30 pm

Registration begins March 16, 9 am

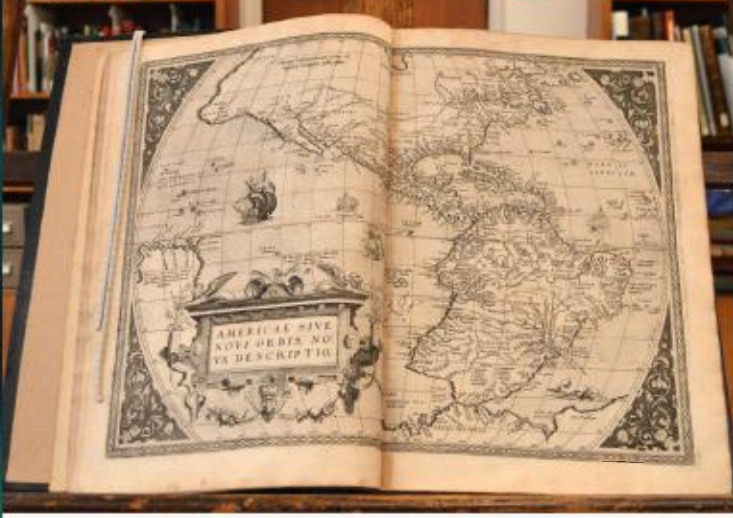
  Members and Non-members \$40



Welcome! Willkommen! Bienvenue! Bienvenido!

Help us make the Athenæum a welcoming place for members and visitors from all over the world! We are looking for members who fluently speak languages other than English to record a brief message of welcome for our iPhone app. Please contact Hannah Weisman at weisman@bostonathenaeum.org or 617-720-7617 if you would like to lend your linguistic skills to record a message for BA visitors on **Friday, May 19**.

A Homecoming Story



The Ortelius Atlas Returns to Cuba

On April 6, in a moving and memorable ceremony, Stanford Calderwood Director Elizabeth Barker and Anne C. and David J. Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts Stanley Cushing presented to Dr. Eduardo Torres Cuevas, Director of the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí, a precious volume that had been improperly removed from the Cuban institution a quarter century ago: *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World), created in 1570 by cartographer Abraham Ortelius, is widely considered to be one of the first modern atlases, containing maps of uniform size systematically arranged and bound in a book.

The Athenæum had acquired the rare atlas in 1993 from a Boston-based bookseller. In the summer of 1999, conservators discovered two mutilated ownership stamps indicating that the atlas belonged to the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí in Havana. The volume bore no sign of deaccession (formal removal from a library collection), suggesting that it had been stolen and smuggled out of Cuba, a regrettably frequent occurrence in the early 1990s.



Athenæum administrators initiated correspondence with the José Martí Library, but were slowed by a period of limited contact between the United States and Cuba. We raised the matter again following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between our nations in 2015.

Following due deliberations and approval by the Special Collections Committee and the full Board of Trustees, Stanley Cushing worked with faculty from Harvard's Cuban Studies Program to arrange to return the volume to Dr. Torres Cuevas during a visit to the university. A snowstorm delayed the originally scheduled visit in February, but on April 6, the sun shone on the long-awaited event. As Dr. Torres Cuevas remarked on the occasion, "We hope that this process may serve as an example of ethical best practices for libraries and cultural institutions that, as trusted sources of knowledge, are united by a common purpose."

Glimpsed at 10½: Read Across New England

New England Patriots wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell made a special stop at 10½ Beacon Street on March 26 as part of his Read Across New England tour. Mitchell spoke about his personal reading journey and his Read With Malcolm youth literacy initiatives, before reading from his picture book, *The Magician's Hat*, which tells the story of a magician whose powers come from books.

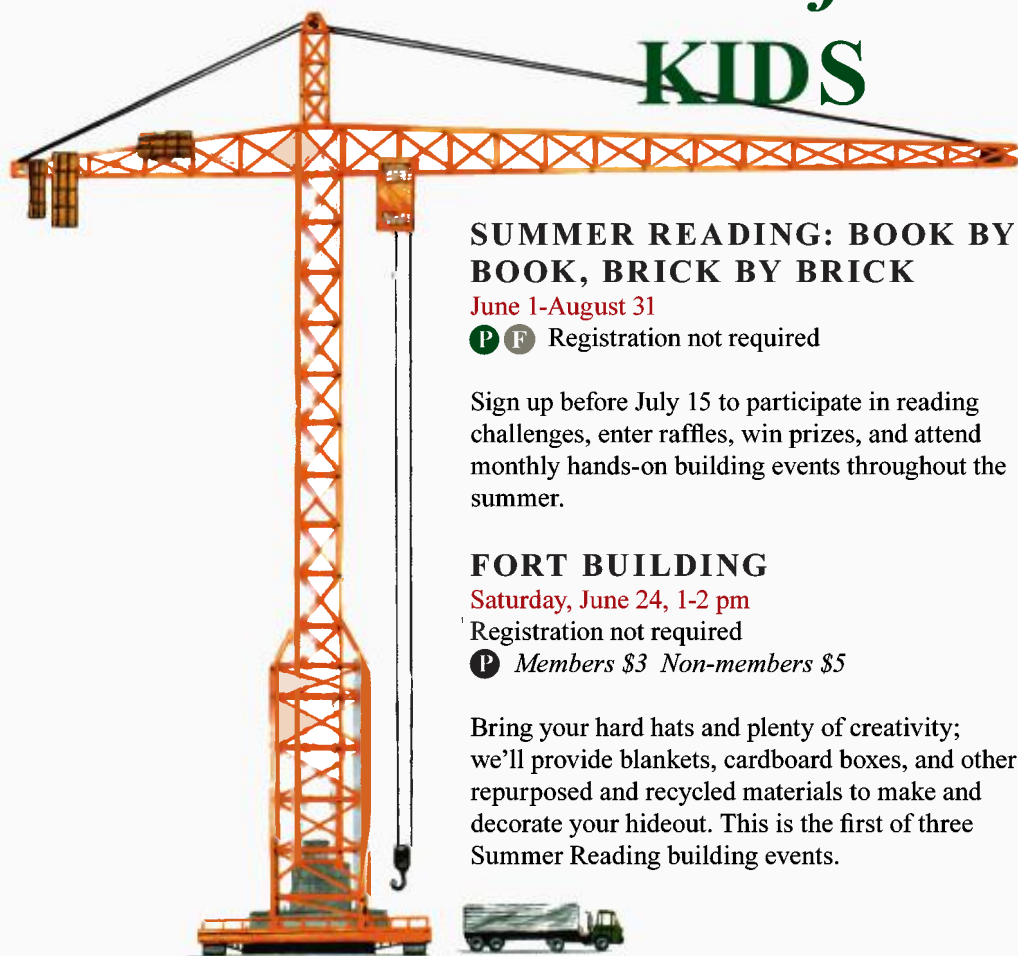
Though he struggled with reading for much of his young life, Mitchell grew to love books while recovering from a knee injury during his sophomore year at the University of Georgia. Sidelined from the field, Mitchell dedicated himself to improving his reading skills while he recovered. Reading was fundamental to his rehabilitation, and books became an important outlet for Mitchell's own curiosity and creativity.

Today, Mitchell is an avid reader, Athenæum member, award-winning author, and mentor to elementary school students. Read With Malcolm's mission is to introduce book ownership to disadvantaged students and to improve literacy in underperforming schools. Learn more at readwithmalcolm.com.





JUST for KIDS



NEWS YOU CAN USE

SPRING BOOK LIST

The Athenæum staff's spring book recommendations are out! Visit our website to learn what we're reading, then stop by the library to take home one of our seasonal picks.

HIRE A RESEARCHER

If you are unable to visit the library in person, you can hire an Athenæum reference librarian to assist with research using the library's resources. The fee for this service is \$90 per hour. Contact reader services at reference@bostonathenaeum.org with questions.

NEW FACES

Welcome Elizabeth Jarcy, Cataloging Intern; and Richard Newton, Security Officer.

BAG CHECK POLICY

Security staff have initiated a random bag check policy. All members and their guests, as well as staff, contractors, and other visitors, are subject to search. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our community and collections safe and secure.

SUMMER READING: BOOK BY BOOK, BRICK BY BRICK

June 1-August 31

P F Registration not required

Sign up before July 15 to participate in reading challenges, enter raffles, win prizes, and attend monthly hands-on building events throughout the summer.

FORT BUILDING

Saturday, June 24, 1-2 pm

Registration not required

P Members \$3 Non-members \$5

Bring your hard hats and plenty of creativity; we'll provide blankets, cardboard boxes, and other repurposed and recycled materials to make and decorate your hideout. This is the first of three Summer Reading building events.

NURSERY RHYME TIME

Up to 18 months

Fridays, 10:30-11:00 am

M F Registration not required

AFTER-SCHOOL READ ALOUD

Ages 5+

Wednesdays, 4-5 pm

M F Registration not required

INDEPENDENT READERS BOOK GROUP

Ages 6-8

Tuesday, May 30, 5-6 pm

M F To register, email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am

M F Registration not required

STORIES, SONGS, & ACTIVITIES

Ages 2-4

Thursdays, 10:30 am

M F Registration not required

FAMILY STORY TIME

Up to age 5

Saturdays, 10:30 am

M F Registration not required

LEGO®, CHESS, & PUZZLE CLUB

Ages 5-8

Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 pm

M F Registration not required

TWEENS & TEENS

FRIDAY DIY

Ages 8-12

Fridays, 4-5 pm

M F Registration not required

HOMEWORK HANG-OUT

Ages 8+

Thursdays, 5-7 pm

M F Registration not required

TEEN READERS BOOK GROUP

Ages 14-18

Wednesday, May 31, 5-6 pm

M F To register, email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

YOUNG READERS BOOK GROUP

Ages 9-13

Monday, June 5, 6-7 pm

M Members \$3 To register, email Dani Crickman at crickman@bostonathenaeum.org

SELECTED MAY-JUNE EVENTS

Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming programs.



THE OUTER BEACH: A THOUSAND MILE WALK ON CAPE COD'S ATLANTIC SHORE

Tuesday, May 9, 12-1 pm

P **F** Registration not required

In this poignant tribute to the storied edge of the Cape's legendary arm, writer and radio broadcaster **Robert Finch** calls upon the literary legacy and history of the Outer Beach to inform his reflection on time spent near the ocean.

HE WANTED THE MOON: THE MADNESS AND MEDICAL GENIUS OF DR. PERRY BAIRD, AND HIS DAUGHTER'S QUEST TO KNOW HIM

Wednesday, May 17, 12-1 pm

P **F** Registration not required

Texas-born and Harvard educated, Dr. Perry Baird was a rising medical star who sought to identify the biochemical root of manic depression, just as he began to suffer its effects. Decades later, **Mimi Baird** recovers a manuscript written by her father during his institutionalization, and sets off on a quest to piece together the memoir and the man.

MULTIPLE CHOICE: EXPLORING RELIGIOUS PLURALITY THROUGH *REV. 23*, A NEW OPERA

Wednesday, March 24, 6-7:30 pm

Registration begins April 24, 9 am

P **M** **R** **F** **R** Members \$20 Non-members \$30

REV. 23 is a fantastical imagining of the hypothetical 23rd chapter of the Book of Revelation by librettist **Cerise Lim Jacobs** and composer **Julian Wachner**. A panel of Buddhist, Humanist, and Muslim chaplains will explore the opera's predominant theme of tension between light and dark through the lens of their faith traditions to spark conversations on the diverse approaches to fundamental questions of the human experience.

EYE OF THE EXPERT: LEADING THE WAY: INNOVATORS AND PIONEERS AT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

Thursday, May 25, 5:30-7:30 pm

Registration begins May 11, 9 am

M **R** **F** **R** Members \$35

Throughout its history, the Boston Athenæum has been an important incubator of innovation and home to intellectual pioneers. In this special presentation, colleagues **David B. Dearing**, Ph.D., **Carolle R.**

Morini, and **Mary Warnement** offer a glimpse into the lives of three significant cultural figures with historic connections to the Boston Athenæum.



NIETZSCHE: PHILOSOPHER OF LIGHTNESS AND DYNAMITE

Tuesday, June 6, 12-1 pm

Registration not required

P **M** **R** **F** **R** Members and Non-members Free

Christopher Hamilton will trace the outlines of Nietzsche's thought, revealing a thinker of immense generosity and subtlety, full of lightness and mischief. This lecture offers an introduction to Nietzsche's life and work and a profound reflection on his body of thought, perfect for those new to the subject as well as those already familiar with this "prophet of modernity."

ROBERT GOULD SHAW AND THE SHAW MEMORIAL

Wednesday, June 7, 6-7 pm

M **F** **R** **F** **R** Registration not required

The story of Robert Gould Shaw is one of heroism and loss. This lecture by **Henry Duffy**, Ph.D., will focus on the Shaw Memorial, Augustus Saint-Gaudens' magnificent bronze tribute to the first African-American volunteer infantry unit of the Civil War, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment.



FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE ADAMS FAMILY PRESENTED BY THE POETS' THEATRE

Thursday, June 8, 6-7:30 pm

P **M** **R** **F** **R** Members and Poets' Theatre Supporters \$25 Non-members \$30

One of America's founding families, the Adams family of Massachusetts has left a priceless legacy of correspondence, speeches, histories, and novels that reflect the birth pangs and moral struggles of the republic. In this special performance, the actors of the **Poets' Theatre** will bring to life the voices and preoccupations of these influential Americans.

OPIOIDS: THE LITERARY, EXPERIENTIAL POINT OF VIEW

Tuesday, June 13, 12-1 pm

P **F** **R** **F** **R** Registration not required

While experts from many fields have approached the issue of addiction, no field has been more directly engaged with the subject than literary studies. Some of the greatest Anglo-American literature is fundamentally concerned with addiction and alcoholism. In this lecture, **Susan L. Mizruchi** explores the potential of the humanities to provide major insights, both into the social stigma associated with addictive behaviors and the subjective experience of addiction.

CONTEMPORARY ART + CRAFT: A CONVERSATION WITH JASMINE BAETZ AND LISA HOUCK

Wednesday, June 14, 6-7 pm

P **M** **R** **F** **R** Members and Nichols House Museum Members \$15 Non-members \$20

Two vibrant exhibitions at the Athenæum and the Nichols House Museum showcase the works of contemporary regional artists. The Athenæum's *New England on Paper* reveals artists' responses to the region's landscapes, built environments, and culture, while *Makers' Marks: Art, Craft, and the Fiber of Change* at the Nichols House Museum explores the role of craft as a platform for activism in contemporary society. Join **Jasmine Baetz** and **Lisa Houck**, two artists whose works are featured in these exhibitions, for a conversation about their studio practices and the concepts and ideas behind their work.

M Members only
P Open to the public

R Reception to follow
F Free event