



THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM *News Release*

Contact: Peter Walsh, 617-720-7639; walsh@bostonathenaeum.org

For Immediate Release

BOSTON ATHENÆUM TO BE OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 2014

(Boston, MA, August 26, 2014): The Boston Athenæum will begin new, extended opening hours this fall, the Athenæum announced today, adding hours on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings, as well as being open on five holidays which were previously closing days. Except for the summer months, the Athenæum will be open to the public seven days a week. As of October 1, 2014, the Athenæum's opening hours will be:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

The new hours apply to both Athenæum members and visitors.

The first floor of the Athenæum building, at 10 1/2 Beacon Street, Boston, will be open to the public during the new hours free of charge. Admission to exhibitions in the Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery will continue to be \$5 for the public, free for members. The first-floor Newspaper Reading Room will continue to open, for members only, at 8:30 a.m., weekdays. Upper floors will continue to be open to members only except by guided tour. For tour reservations, please call 617-227-0270, ext. 221

The Athenæum will also be open to the public on Martin Luther King Day, Patriots' Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, and on the day after Thanksgiving.

“These new, extended hours are part of our efforts to provide better service to our members and the public,” said Robert L. West, director of development, whose department oversees member services. “Our members and visitors have responded well to increased hours on weekday evenings and on Saturdays. A recent survey of our members and visitors indicated strong interest in having Sunday hours as well.

“In recent years, working and family schedules have changed dramatically. Institutions around Boston and elsewhere have made a concerted effort to

be open when people are most able to visit them. I am pleased we are joining the group of Boston cultural institutions that are now open seven days in most weeks.”

The Athenæum will use Sunday afternoons for special programming, including a public Open House on November 2 from noon until 4:00 p.m.

About the Boston Athenæum

Founded in 1807, the Boston Athenæum is one of the oldest cultural institutions in North America. Many distinguished writers, poets, scholars, politicians, and jurists have been part of its membership. The Athenæum is located in a beloved National Historic Landmark building at 10 1/2 Beacon Street, Boston. Today, it combines an art museum with a public exhibition gallery and collections of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, photographs, and decorative arts; a leading scholarly research and membership library with more than 480,000 volumes, including more than 100,000 rare and historical editions; and a civic forum including lectures, book talks, readings, panel discussions, concerts, and other events. For membership information, please visit www.bostonathenaeum.org or call 617-720-7629.