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Announcements

The Athenæum will close early, at 2:30 p.m., on Monday, August 31, because of a staff recognition event.

The Athenæum will remain open weekends in August:

Saturdays,
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sundays,
Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Follow the Athenæum!



The Athenæum on Open Studio

Watch Elizabeth Barker, the Stanford Calderwood Director, and David Dearing, Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings and Sculpture, discuss the current exhibition,

Director's Letter



To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time.
-Leonard Bernstein

As the dog days of summer arrive, and the Athenæum's reading rooms become a refuge from the heat, our staff is busy behind the scenes, preparing for a productive year to come. The two ingredients in Leonard Bernstein's recipe for great achievement are on hand: the hastening march of time, and a formal plan for our operations.

That operational plan outlines our near-term priorities for Member, reader, and public services, as well as our ongoing administrative responsibilities involving risk management, our facility, staffing, and finance. Approved by the Athenæum's Trustees, and available on our website ([here](#)), the plan would not have been possible without the thoughtful, candid contributions of more than 1,200 members of the Athenæum's community. To all of you who participated in a discussion session or completed the survey: thank you!

Our future work will be furthered by two generous grants recently awarded to the Athenæum: \$65,000 from the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust to co-sponsor a two-year graduate curatorial fellowship in paintings and sculpture, and \$50,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Sustaining Cultural Heritage Program to monitor our climate control systems and assess the environments in which we house our collections. We are honored and grateful to have received both awards.

Recent visitors to 10% will have noticed the addition of a

Lafayette: An American Icon on Open Studio with Jared Bowen this Friday, July 31, 8:30 p.m. on WGBH 2.

The Athenæum's iPhone App

To try the Athenæum's new App for the iPhone, please click [here](#).

Quick Links

Contact Us

Renew Membership

Find a Book

Ask a Question

Children's Library

Exhibitions

Events Calendar

Featured Events

Please check the [calendar](#) or your booklet for the full spring schedule. If you find these events interesting, you may wish to browse these [books related to events](#).

Lecture CANCELLED: David Dearing, [Lafayette in American Art](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 5,
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Concert: [Arsenii Gusev and Trio](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 12,

reading table to a third-floor alcove; the organization of newspapers and journals in the Gordon Room (a step intended to permit uninterrupted access to the periodical literature in question, even during events); and the installation of handsome lockers in our vestibule. Less visible, but equally exciting, is the launch of [the Athenæum's first App for the iPhone](#), allowing Members and visitors to learn about the special exhibition, our institution, and selected artworks displayed on the first floor.

Following the resounding success of our first black-tie soiree, we're looking forward to making such festive occasions a regular part of our annual cycle. And we're delighted to follow the [Boston Globe's cover story](#) about the Athenæum with a special segment of the WGBH Boston Public Television arts program [Open Studio with Jared Bowen](#) featuring our Lafayette exhibition, scheduled to air this weekend (on Friday, 31st, at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, August 1st, at 5:30 a.m., and Sunday, August 2nd, at 11:00 a.m.).

Looking ahead to the colder months of winter, I'm pleased to announce the Athenæum's January 2016 excursion--an intimately scaled, [once-in-a-lifetime tour of India's "golden triangle."](#) Participants will join me for two weeks of exclusive access to private art collections and architectural treasures, luxury accommodations and gourmet dining, and opportunities to mingle with leading authors at the renowned Jaipur Literature Festival. Like so much that takes place at the Athenæum, our journey to India promises to generate memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.
Stanford Calderwood Director

Credit: Our director on board l'Hermione, a modern replica of the Marquis de Lafayette's tall ship. (2015)

Open House

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Fellow Presentation

Monday, Aug. 17,
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Gallery Talk: David Dearing, *Lafayette: An American Icon*
Wednesday, Aug. 19,
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Children's Library

Family Story Time
Saturdays
Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
10:30 a.m.

Stories, Songs, & Activities
Thursdays
Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27
10:30 a.m.

Looking for the best books your children will want to read? See the Athenæum's **suggestions for summer reading**.

Staff Recommendations

Perhaps you want a book to take to the beach with you or perhaps a read that will take your mind off the sizzling temperatures. (Yes, last winter should spare us any seasonal discomforts for years to come, but Nature heeds no call to fairness.) Perhaps the current exhibition has stirred the Francophile within you. Members will find something for these or other desires among the **Athenæum staff book recommendations**.

Please save the date for this year's public **Open House**, Saturday, September 12.

During the Open House, the public will be invited to tour all floors of the Athenæum, including areas that are otherwise members-only, such as the fifth-floor Reading Room.



Docents and staff will be stationed throughout the building to talk about our history, collections, and services. This is a great way for both members and the public to learn more about the institution. We hope you will join us and bring your friends and family too!

If you have questions about the **Open House** or are interested in volunteering to help for all or part of the day, please contact the Membership Office at [617-720-7604](tel:617-720-7604) or membership@bostonathenaeum.org.

Please be advised that during the Open House there will no members-only or quiet areas. Additionally, certain areas of the stacks will be closed off to both the public and members for security purposes. Some member services will also be suspended for the day. For complete details on what members can expect, please visit: bostonathenaeum.org/openhouse. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we open our doors to the broader community.

Be a Docent at the Boston Athenæum

The Athenæum is seeking applications from qualified members to serve as volunteer docents. Athenæum docents facilitate educational opportunities for Athenæum members, their guests, and the



public. Docents offer tours of the Athenæum's historic building on Beacon Street; lead exhibition-related discussions in the Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery; and encourage members and visitors to engage with the Athenæum's history, collections, and architecture.

Candidates should be personable and professional and enjoy working with diverse audiences. Requirements include membership at the Athenæum, experience in public speaking or teaching, intellectual curiosity, and a

commitment to participate for at least a year. Knowledge of American history and art history are preferred.

Acceptance as an Athenæum docent requires the successful completion of an intensive training course from late October to early December 2015 that culminates in a final exam.

To apply to be an Athenæum docent, please send your resume and a brief cover letter to Hannah Weisman at weisman@bostonathenaeum.org.

Hannah Weisman
Director of Education

Credit: Enrico Meneghelli (Italy 1853-after 1912), *Picture Gallery of the Boston Athenæum, 1876*. Oil on canvas. Boston Athenæum, Purchase, 1876

New Discussion Groups

The **Dickens Discussion Group** will meet for the first time on September 3, and regular meetings will be held the first Thursday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees' Room, unless otherwise specified. Taking its keynote from the memorable Nabokov introduction in which he announced, 'We are now ready to tackle Dickens. We are now ready to embrace Dickens. We are now ready to bask in Dickens;' the group seeks to create a welcoming literary space where members may tackle, embrace, and bask in Dickens for years to come. At its first meeting the group will determine the reading list for the coming year, based on the interests of its members, with individual books discussed over an appropriate number of sessions thereafter.

The **Film & Text Seminar** will meet for the first time on October 10, (please note this is a month *later* than announced in July) and regular meetings will be held the second Saturday of every month from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Trustees' Room, unless otherwise specified. Each month this group discusses a film and a related text. Main themes for the first season could include movies about movies and the love of movies (*Cinema Paradiso*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Day for Night*, *Sullivan's Travels*, *Be Kind Rewind*), movie musicals (Busby Berkeley, Fred Astaire, MGM musicals), Viktor Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning* (related movies could include *It's A Wonderful Life*, *About Time*, *Groundhog Day*), and seasonal favorites (*Easter Parade*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*). The material on the schedule is subject to change, based, in part, on the group's interests.

Arnold Serapilio
Circulation Assistant

Annual Fund

I am pleased to report that 1,054 members and counting have donated more than \$1,024,000 towards this year's Annual Fund goal of \$1,100,000.



As a non-profit organization, the Athenæum relies on charitable contributions. Annual Fund donations help fund our everyday efforts to:

- Augment, preserve, and exhibit the Athenæum's special collections of books and art
- Provide library services and research assistance
- Maintain the unique atmosphere of our landmark home at 10½ Beacon Street
- Create meaningful learning opportunities through programs and events

With the fiscal year nearing its end, time is running out! If you have not yet made a gift, we need your help to reach our goal. It's your participation that counts.

If every member who has not yet made a gift donates just \$20, we will meet and exceed this year's goal. Please consider donating today.

Gifts can be made immediately on our **secure online giving page** or at [617-720-7604](tel:617-720-7604). Please call or email development@bostonathenaeum.org with your questions.

Thank you for your support

Michael Jugenheimer
Director of Annual Giving/Membership

Credit for image above: Clock in the Athenæum (Megan Manton, 2011)

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If you would like to unsubscribe from this e-newsletter or change

your email address, please click [here](#), and we will gladly update your information for you. Please allow approximately two week's time to process the update. Membership changes may also be made by calling the Membership Office at [\(617\) 720-7629](tel:6177207629).