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## Need Help Registering for Events?

Master our NEW and improved online registration system in this short class

Online Event Registration:  
Everything You Need to Know  
Tuesday, March 11,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Second Floor, Computer Room

To register please contact  
Amanda Pirog:  
[617-720-7625](tel:617-720-7625)  
[pirog@bostonathenaeum.org](mailto:pirog@bostonathenaeum.org)

*Space is limited.*

## Featured Events

## Welcome Spring

Dear Members,

As we enter the month of March, can spring be far behind? Sure signs are longer days and warmer sunshine, the sounds of birds returning to their trees, and the blaring of car radios as more of us drive with our windows down. The equipment truck has begun its southern journey from Fenway, and pitchers and catchers are playing catch in Florida. I have tickets for two Red Sox games in the weeks approaching. I can't wait to sit in the bleachers and soak up the sun. Wait, I just remembered, they're night games! Never mind!



Weather in March has its ups and downs, unlike the Athenæum's main elevator. The lift will not be an uplifting experience for members for a period of five months beginning on Monday, March 24. The elevator, which recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be completely replaced. Efforts have been made to ease the disruption to our members' daily routines. The second elevator will continue to service the second floor and the upper and lower levels of the Art Department. The WiFi coverage has been increased. A members' lounge, with abbreviated hours, will be available in the Seminar Room on 1G. Members will be welcome and encouraged to request books be pulled for them from upper floors.

As the weather changes in our favor, some things get easier. No, I don't mean finding a parking space in South Boston as the tables, chairs, and cones are removed from "reserved" spots. I do mean attending Athenæum events when the walking becomes safer underfoot. Victoria O'Malley of the Events Department points out some highlights for the next few weeks. Two concerts: one by the *New England Conservatory: Liederabend*, will take place on Tuesday, March 4; later in the month, *The Princeton Tigerlilies* will perform on Wednesday, March 19. Three additional book talks that do not appear in the Winter Booklet should be entertaining and warrant your attention: *America's Test Kitchen: The How Can It Be Gluten Free Cookbook*, Wednesday March 5, at 6:00; Karen Hansen's *Encounter on the Great Plains*, on Monday, March 10, at noon; and last, the John Sturgis Hubbard Annual Lecture: *Love and Death in Opera*, will occur on Wednesday, March 26, at 6:00 in the

**Please go to the website to learn more about and register for March events.**

Concert: New England Conservatory, Liederabend  
Tuesday, Mar. 4,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: *America's Test Kitchen: The How Can It Be Gluten Free Cookbook*  
Wednesday, Mar. 5,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Karen V. Hansen, *Encounter on the Great Plains*  
Monday, Mar. 10,  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Class: Online Event  
Registration, Everything You Need to Know  
Tuesday, Mar. 11,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: James C. O'Connell, *The Hub's Metropolis*  
Wednesday, Mar. 12,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wine Tasting: Sweet are the Fruits  
Tuesday, Mar. 18,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Concert: The Princeton Tigerlilies  
Wednesday, Mar. 19,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Concert: The Capital Trio  
Monday, Mar. 24,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

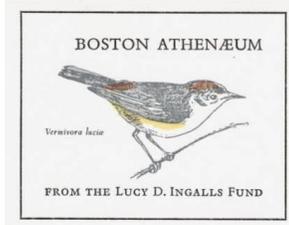
John Hubbard Sturgis Eaton  
Annual Lecture: Love and Death in Opera  
Wednesday, Mar. 26,  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Book Talk: Bruce Levine, *The Fall of the House of Dixie*  
Thursday, Mar. 27,  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

evening. What may be the most popular event? A wine tasting sponsored by the members of Young Patrons, which will take place on the evening of Tuesday, March 18.

So with everything forthcoming, get ready to walk a few extra steps, attend a pleasant concert, attend a lecture worth listening to, and await the call of "Play Ball."

James P. Feeney, Jr.  
Howard Lang and Barbara Lang  
Hacker Head of Circulation



Credit for image above: Fifth Floor Terrace in warm weather, (Megan Manton, 2012).

Credit for image below: "*Vermivora luciae*: From the Lucy D. Ingalls Fund." The bird depicted on the bookplate is the Lucy Warbler, a bird primarily seen in the southwest of the United States." Created by Bruce Chandler, (1996).

## Update: Search for Athenæum Director

I am very pleased to share with you a brief update on our director search.

The Athenæum's Director Search Committee met for about three hours this week with Laurie Nash, our search representative from Russell Reynolds Associates. Together we reviewed 18 outstanding résumés from potential candidates for the position. RRA had previously interviewed each of these accomplished women and men on their own, and Laurie shared with us RRA's impressions of the group. We were all very pleased by both the range and the professional achievements of the candidate pool in this first stage.

Our task from now on is gradually to winnow down that pool until we have found the best possible champion to lead the Athenæum into the future. Our primary task this week was to make the first cut: from this initial pool of candidates, we have chosen eight that we will interview as a committee. These interviews will take place March 13 and 14 at the Boston offices of RRA. We have tentatively schedule our second interviews for early April.

At our next meeting, the Search Committee will discuss the format of these next two sets of interviews and plan our questions for the candidates. I hope to have good news about the final stages of the search later this spring. Please

Book Talk: Adrian Tinniswood, *The Rainborowes: One Family's Quest to Build a New England* Thursday, April 3, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

## Readers Advisory

Spring is in the air, and the new book shelves on the first floor hold many titles that can help you transition to warmer weather, if only in your imagination.

Luke Barr, *Provence, 1970: M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, James Beard, and the Reinvention of American Taste*  
Call Number: TX715.B3417 2013

Allie Brosh, *Hyperbole and a Half*  
Call Number: PN6727.B7568 H96 2013

Sarah Churchwell, *Careless People: Murder, Mayhem, and the Invention of "The Great Gatsby"*  
Call Number: CT275.F567 C58 2013

Jamie Ivey, *Ten Trees and a Truffle Dog: Sniffing out the Perfect Plot in Provence*  
Call Number: DC611.P961 I94 2012

Edward Lewine, *Death and the Sun: A Matador's Season in the Heart of Spain*  
Call Number: GV1108.5.L49 2005

James McWilliams, *The Pecan: A History of America's Native Nut*  
Call Number: SB401.P4 M39 2013

G.M. Malliet, *Pagan Spring*  
Call Number: PZ4.M2535 Pag 2013

Tim Richardson, *The New English Garden*  
Call Number: Lg SB466.G7 R54 2013

Suzanne St. Albans, *Mango and Mimosa*  
Call Number: CT788.S244 A3 2012

Salley Vickers, *The Cleaner of Chartres: A Novel*  
Call Number: PZ4.V515 CI 2013

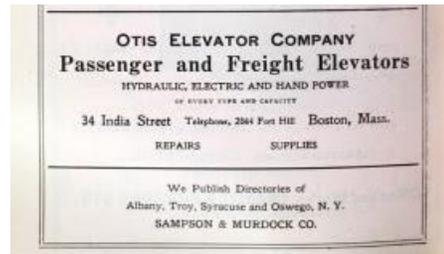


wish us luck as we head for that final stretch!

Deborah Hill Bornheimer  
President, Board of Trustees

## Elevator Out of Service as of March 24, 2014

The Athenæum's effort to modernize and improve service in its 100-year-old elevator starts soon, on Monday, March 24, 2014. Remember: this renovation will take an estimated twenty weeks or five months.



- The elevator that runs between the sub-basement and second floor will remain in service.
- The Art Department in the basement will become a quiet reading room for those unwilling or unable to walk the stairs to the fifth floor.
- Laptops will be allowed in the Albert Gordon Newspaper Reading Room.
- Members will be allowed to bring food into the seminar room on 1G when it is not in use for meetings. A schedule will be posted on the door and online.
- Those unable to walk to the stacks on the third, fourth, and fifth floors will have their books pulled and held for them at Circulation.

Mary Warnement  
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

Credit for image above: Otis Elevator Company, advertisement, *Boston Directory* (1914).

## New Chief Conservator

On January 1, 2014, Dawn Walus was promoted to chief conservator of the Boston Athenæum.

Dawn joined the Athenæum in 2011 as associate conservator, after having worked at the Weissman Preservation Center at Harvard University. She previously worked at Rieger Art Conservation and the Preservation Society of Newport County. Dawn is a graduate of the art conservation program at Buffalo State College and held

conservation internships at The Huntington Library and The New York Academy of Medicine.

During the autumn 2013 series of events celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the conservation laboratory, Dawn gave a noon lecture on the training of conservators, chaired a panel discussion by former Athenæum interns and fellows, and hosted a day-long open house in the lab.



In her new role, Dawn will supervise the conservation laboratory and coordinate disaster response planning. She has primary responsibility for the preservation of rare books, prints, manuscripts, and maps.

James Reid-Cunningham  
Deputy Director

Credit for image above: Dawn Walus in the conservation laboratory. (Evan Knight, 2014). Photo copyright the Boston Athenæum.

## Repairs to Fifth Floor

The Boston Athenæum has hired Ornamental Plasterwork to repair damaged portions of the ceiling in the fifth floor reading room at the end of March. Affected spaces will include the Jackson Room and alcoves along the Granary Burying Ground side of the room. The repairs should take three weeks from start to finish.



We apologize for the inevitable inconvenience of noise and dust and ask for members' understanding and patience as we work to maintain the architectural beauty of this reading room.

John Lannon  
Associate Director and Curator of Maps

Credit for image above: Fifth Floor Reading Room, (Megan Manton, 2010).

## Conservation Lab Featured in *Boston Globe*



On February 17, 2014, Brian MacQuarrie of the *Boston Globe* featured the Athenæum's state-of-the-art lab and its conservators: Dawn Walus, Chief Conservator, Evan Knight, Project Conservator, and Jeanne Goodman, Von Clemm Fellow in Book Conservation. These professionals practice a combination of science and art in an effort to preserve the Athenæum's works on paper into the twenty-second century and beyond.

"The lab is a quiet, brightly lit place, full of earnestness and delicate craftsmanship....It's also something of an anomaly in a world consumed by exploding access to instant digital information: a place where the printed word from long ago is a treasured, coddled commodity."

The Athenæum is not alone in its efforts to protect the printed word, and its efforts clearly do not go unnoticed, as seen in quoted comments from colleagues at area institutions. Peter Drummey, librarian at the Massachusetts Historical Society, called the Athenæum a "treasure house," and Joe Bagley, archeologist to the city of Boston, declared "the lab's work as critical" to the work of historians.

Benefactors have acknowledged this by supporting the work of conservators not only to preserve items but also to digitize them. Two grants totaling \$250,000 allowed for improved cataloging, conservation, and digitization of over 4,000 Confederate materials. This not only improves access for interested researchers and members but also shows a commitment to preserving these historic objects.

Mary Warnement  
William D. Hacker Head of Reader Services

Credit for image above: Conservation Laboratory, (2012).

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