



BOSTON ATHENÆUM

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"... keep your mind wide open."

—Katherine Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*

This fall, think openly with us at 10½. Opportunities for listening and discussion abound: an original theatrical performance based on the historic relationship between the Athenæum and the London Library; book talks on the East-West culture gap and literature's most devious villains; panels on feminist resistance in Trump's America, the hidden world of book editing, and the role of digitization in the future of special collections; an insider's look at our conservation lab and a series featuring our own members; lectures on systems-based problem solving and the complicated histories revealed in our own rare materials; and numerous chances for members to communicate their own needs with us. In October, acclaimed author of the young adult novel *Bridge to Terabithia* Katherine Paterson will join us to present her new book. We hope to see you—and to learn what you're thinking in the days ahead.

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

Monday, September 4

CLOSED

Wed-Sat 10-4
Tue 12-8

VISITOR HOURS

Mon-Thu 9-8
Fri-Sat 9-5

MEMBER HOURS



Boston Athenæum
10½ Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108



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

October 5-7, 2017

We are pleased to join Boston University and Boston Public Library as a co-sponsor of the forum *Recording Lives: Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age* presented by Boston University Center for the Humanities. For a complete schedule of panels and registration information, visit bu.edu/humanities. In conjunction with the forum, we will host a public conversation about how local cultural organizations use digital technologies to expand access to their collections and engage audiences.

RECORDING LIVES AT LIGHTNING SPEED

Thursday, October 5, 12-1 pm

P Registration not required; Members and Non-members *Free*

Representatives from the **Boston Athenæum, Congregational Library & Archives, Handel and Haydn Society, Historic Newton, Mount Auburn Cemetery, and Mellon Sawyer Seminars at Boston University** will give a "lightning round" of presentations on how each institution uses digital technology to preserve the material past and plan for the future. Members of the audience will be invited to participate.



Cover Art

Illustrating Early American Sheet Music

In 19th-century America, sheet music was commonly sold with a printed illustrated cover. Many printmaking firms relied heavily on the income of illustrated sheet music covers to support other—often less lucrative—artistic endeavors.

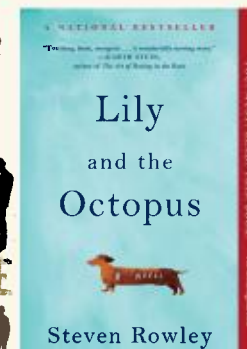
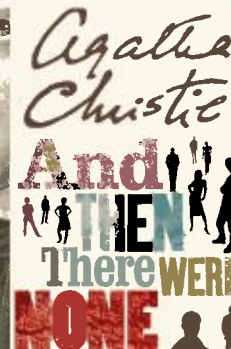
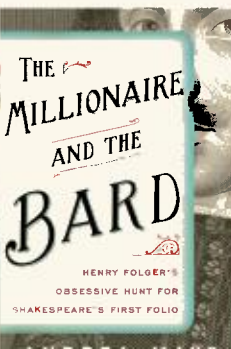
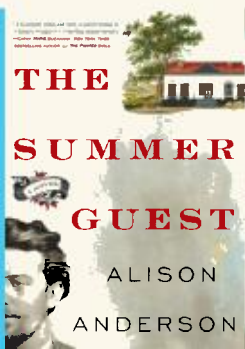
The Athenæum's own robust collection of illustrated sheet music covers includes examples by such celebrated New England artists as Fritz Henry Lane and Winslow Homer.

Our digital programs team has digitized hundreds of covers from our collection—a mirror of 19th-century social and cultural life.

Visit <http://cdm.bostonathenaeum.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16057coll44> to view the entire collection!

1. J. H. Bufford's Sons, *Homeless Tonight or Boston in Ashes*, 1872. Chromolithographic sheet music cover. Gift of Charles E. Mason Jr., 1980; 2. Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865), *Song of the Fisher's Wife*, 1840. Tinted lithographic sheet music cover. Purchase, 1997; 3. Joseph E. Baker (ca. 1837-1914), *I Would I Were a Slave Again*, 1861. Lithographic sheet music cover. Gift of Eric Cossart-d'Espies, 1991 4. William Sharp (1803-1875), *Fleurs d'Ete Trois Valses.*, 1849. Chromolithographic sheet music cover. Gift of Charles E. Mason Jr., 1976.

FALL STAFF PICKS



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As the Board of Trustees advances a broadly consultative process of strategic planning for the years ahead, we seek our members' thoughts and critical insights into your own needs as readers and users of our services. Please join us at one of the following conversations as we consider the bright future of our institution.

PROPRIETORS' BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

Tuesday, September 12, 12-1:30 pm

Proprietors are invited to join an informal conversation intended to strengthen constructive communication within our community. We will provide the essentials: table seating, tea, coffee, water—and cookies! You are welcome to bring your own lunch.

DIRECTOR'S COFFEE HOUR

Monday, November 6, 2:30-4 pm

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

PROPRIETORS' FALL MEETING

Tuesday, November 28, 5:30-7 pm

This seasonal gathering—one of three such meetings offered annually—offers Proprietors the opportunity to engage with Trustees and administrators on issues important to our community. This year, we have partnered with the New England Historical Genealogical Society to present the history of a single share.

Glimpsed at 10½



Answers: 1. Toenails 2. 10 3. Daniel Defoe.

A group of our most devoted history buffs, culture gurus, and encyclopædists engaged in a battle of wits at our first (but certainly not last!) Young Patrons' Sponsored Trivia Night. Missed the fun? Test yourself with these questions!

1. Unguiology is one topic found in our collection of over 10,000 tracts and pamphlets. While phrenology was said to determine personality traits by looking at the shape of the head, unguiology focused on what part of the human body?
a. Hands b. Ears c. Lips d. Toenails
2. How many levels are in the Drum?
a. 7 b. 10 c. 13 d. No one has ever been to the bottom.
3. Scrupling was an early Athenæum term for locking away books deemed to contain offensive material. To see them, members had to ask the librarian for permission. One "scrupled" title was *The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders*. Who wrote *Moll Flanders*? Hint: the author is best known for a 1719 novel about a Caribbean castaway.

ATHENÆUM AUTHORS: A THREE-PART SERIES FEATURING OUR MEMBERS

WRITING RADAR

Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories

Monday, September 11, 6-7 pm

Registration not required

P Members and Non-members *Free*

Newbery Award-winning children's book author **Jack Gantos** inspires emerging writers to find brilliant story ideas in their everyday lives in his new book. Incorporating his own misadventures as a developing writer, Gantos shows readers how to build confidence and establish good writing habits as they create, revise, and perfect their stories.

On January 11, **Cullen Murphy** will speak about his book *Cartoon County: My Father and His Friends in the Golden Age of Make-Believe*, which tells the story of a community of cartoonists and illustrators living in Connecticut in the mid-20th century.

PRINCE HARRY BOY TO MAN

Thursday, September 14, 6-7 pm

Registration begins August 31, 9 am

P **R** Members \$15 Non-members \$20

Author and historian **William Kuhn** discusses his recently published satirical war novel, a lighthearted work of fiction that recounts Prince Harry's wartime experiences in Afghanistan. A former historian in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, Kuhn will share personal anecdotes, including his impressions of a Christmas party at Buckingham Palace.

MAKE AN IMPACT BEFORE OCTOBER 1!

We're grateful that so many of our members chose to share their thoughts, questions, and insights throughout the year at Director's Coffee Hours and Proprietors' Brown Bag Lunches. Thank you! We look forward to our members continuing to play a meaningful role in the development of new projects that further our mission in the year to come.

Gifts to the Annual Fund support all aspects of our efforts to collect, preserve, and share the Athenæum's extraordinary collections, including expanding our library services and encouraging discovery through innovative programming and exhibitions.

Nearly 1,000 generous donors have already given to this year's Annual Fund. Our fiscal year closes on September 30—there is still time to give! Leadership donors of \$1,000 enjoy a number of special benefits, including dining privileges at the historic Union Club, just steps away from our red leather doors.

For more information about our donor benefits—or to make a last-minute donation—contact Heather Lonks at 617-720-7639 or development@bostonathenaeum.org.



Proprietor Profile: David Driscoll

David Driscoll has been an active member for nearly 30 years. He became a Proprietor in 2009 and later joined the 10½ Circle of leadership donors.

David's commitment to the preservation of our special collections has provided conservation treatment for a number of important works. At this year's Conservation Evening, he chose to sponsor four wonderful objects in need of special care: a 19th-century statuette depicting the medieval Italian poet Dante; two "golden age" locomotive builders' prints; and an 1854 print commemorating the Troy Fire Department's annual parade in New York.

"A large part of my annual giving to the Athenæum has been directed to conservation efforts, and to the restoration of specific items in the collection," David explains, "primarily because I consider the conservation of historically significant material to be central to the mission of the Athenæum." He has made a number of tribute gifts to conservation in memory of loved ones, adding:

"My hope is that such gifts help to preserve the memory of those in whose honor they are made as well as the objects themselves." Thanks to David's generosity, these priceless works will be conserved for future generations to discover and appreciate.



NEWS

YOU CAN USE

NEW FACES

Please welcome Arin Lustberg, visitor services coordinator; Richard Newton, security officer; and Stephen Wallace, security officer.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking friendly volunteers to welcome members into the building. Volunteers will work in three-hour shifts during members-only hours to scan membership cards, share information about programs, direct members with questions to appropriate staff, and politely inform visitors of public hours and services. Volunteers must be comfortable using a computer and speaking on the telephone.

Please contact Hannah Weisman at weisman@bostonathenaeum to request a volunteer application.

NEW PROGRAMMING MEETINGS

Our programming team wants to hear from you! What topics, themes, and big ideas would you like to explore through programs in the coming seasons? Join Director of Education Hannah Weisman for one, two, or three programming meetings to share your thoughts. We will meet on:

Wednesday, October 4, 6 pm

Friday, January 12, 8 am

Thursday, April 12, 12 pm

Please contact Hannah Weisman at weisman@bostonathenaeum.org to sign up for one or more of the meetings.

JUST *for* KIDS

For a complete calendar of regularly scheduled children's programs, please visit our website. Program fees are for participants ages 5+ and include first floor admission.

MAKE WAY FOR NANCY

A Life in Public Art

Saturday, September 23, 1-2:30 pm

Registration begins September 7, 9 am

P Members and Non-members \$5

Perhaps best known for her beloved *Make Way for Ducklings* sculpture in the Boston Public Garden, artist **Nancy Schön**'s new book tells the story of some of her major projects, including how the iconic ducks traveled to Moscow to mark the occasion of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Her talk will encourage all forms of creative expression and demonstrate that drive and determination, when coupled with talent, enable an artist to overcome any obstacle.

MY BRIGADISTA YEAR

Saturday, October 21, 1-2:30 pm

Registration begins October 5, 9 am

P Members \$10 Non-members \$15

In her new historical novel, two-time winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award—and acclaimed author of *Bridge to Terabithia*—**Katherine Paterson** tells a moving coming-of-age story. Inspired by true accounts, the narrative follows a Cuban teenager as she volunteers for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign and travels into the impoverished countryside to teach others to read.

Remembering Shirelle Farmer



In Memoriam: Shirelle Farmer

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that our dear friend and colleague Shirelle Farmer has passed away. Shirelle was a member of our community for nine years, serving as a custodian with care and dedication—and touching all of our hearts in the process.

We will remember Shirelle's warmth, her insatiable sweet tooth, and her sartorial flamboyance on special occasions. We will miss her uncanny ability to appear at the opportune moment, seemingly out of nowhere, to offer a playful quip and a friendly face. This winter, we will celebrate Shirelle's life and her important contribution to the Athenæum at our staff's annual holiday party, which we have renamed "Shirelle's Soirée" in her honor. A photograph album filled with our own cherished memories of Shirelle's time here will join other precious objects in the Athenæum's archive.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Shirelle's family and friends as they mourn her loss. Her presence at 10½ will be sorely missed.

SELECT FALL EVENTS

Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming programs.

M Members only **R** Reception to follow
P Open to the public

A TALE OF TWO LIBRARIES

Tuesday, September 19, 6-7 pm

Registration begins September 5, 9 am

P Members \$25 Non-members \$30

An original theatrical presentation based on correspondence between the directors of the London Library and the Boston Athenæum in the period spanning World Wars I and II. The surviving letters, which date from 1913 to 1945, tell a remarkable story of global cooperation and resilience in the face of great challenge.

KOH-I NOOR

The History of the World's Most Famous Diamond

Wednesday, September 20, 12-1 pm

Registration not required

P Members *Free*, Non-members *Free with admission*

On March 29, 1849, the ten-year-old Maharajah of the Punjab handed over to the British East India Company in a formal Act of Submission to Queen Victoria not only swathes of the richest land in India, but also arguably the single most valuable object in the subcontinent: the celebrated Koh-i Noor diamond. In the first comprehensive and authoritative history of the object, William Dalrymple and Anita Anand dispel the myths that have long surrounded this awe-inspiring jewel.

THE GIRL AT THE BAGGAGE CLAIM

Examining the East-West Culture Gap

Monday, September 25, 6-7 pm

Registration begins September 11, 9 am

P **R** Members \$15 Non-members \$20

Gish Jen's second work of nonfiction is a provocative and important study of the different ideas Easterners and Westerners have about the self and society and what this means for current debates in art, education, geopolitics, and business. Drawing on a treasure trove of stories and personal anecdotes as well as cutting-edge research in cultural psychology, Jen reveals how this cultural difference in perception of self influences what we say and do and make.

EYE OF THE EXPERT

It's Complicated

Thursday, September 28, 5:30-7:30 pm

Registration begins September 14, 9 am

M **R** Members \$35

Stanford Calderwood Director **Elizabeth Barker** and colleagues **Casey Riley** and **Hannah Weisman** delve into the complex and sometimes troubling histories implicit in the Athenæum's special collections. Members are invited to join the conversation as these scholars illuminate structures of power and gender in selected works of art and literature.

SYSTEMS THINKING, MELIORISM, EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY, AND POT

Monday, September 25, 6-7 pm

Registration begins September 11, 9 am

P **R** Members \$15 Non-members \$20

Preventative medicine and public health expert **Dr. Donald Louria** argues in his book *reThink* that "societally connected systems thinking" can allow us to solve problems where conventional methods have failed. By analyzing an entire issue through systems diagrams rather than its component parts, problem solvers are able to examine causes and consequences, understand patterns and themes, and identify leverage points.



CONSERVATION LAB TOUR

Thursday, October 12, 5:30-6:30 pm

Registration begins September 28, 9 am

M Members \$15

Chief Conservator **Dawn Walus** offers a rare insider's view of the Athenæum's own conservation lab, revealing the unique multidisciplinary blend of history, craft, and science required of conservators. Members will have the opportunity to participate in a bookbinding demonstration.

NASTY WOMEN

Feminism, Resistance, and Revolution in Trump's America

Wednesday, October 18, 6-7 pm

Registration begins October 4, 9 am

P **R** Members \$15 Non-members \$20

If 53% of white women voted for Donald Trump and 94% of black women voted for Hillary Clinton, can women unite in America? Editors of the feminist anthology *Nasty Women* **Kate Harding** and **Samhita Mukhopadhyay** question what it means to be a woman in the Trump era. *Nasty Women* includes inspiring essays from a diverse group of women writers who take a broad look at how we got here and what we need to do to move forward.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Literary Tales, Trials, and Tribulations

Thursday, October 26, 6-7:30 pm

Registration begins October 12, 9 am

P **R** Members \$15 Non-members \$20

A panel of book editors moderated by WBUR host **Meghna Chakrabarti** illuminates the unknown world of book publishing. What choices and challenges do editors face? How does their mission drive the work they publish? **Michael Reynolds** of Europa Editions, **Helene Atwan** of Beacon Press, and **Ladette Randolph** of Ploughshares respond to these questions and more.

THE BIG BOOK OF ROGUES AND VILLAINS

Tuesday, October 31, 12-1 pm

Registration not required

P Members *Free*, Non-members *Free with admission*

Edgar Award-winning editor **Otto Penzler** brings together 72 of the most cunning, ruthless, and mischievous criminals in mystery fiction in this spooky Halloween book talk.