

# Universal Penman

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

### FINAL QUARTER, AND WE NEED YOU!

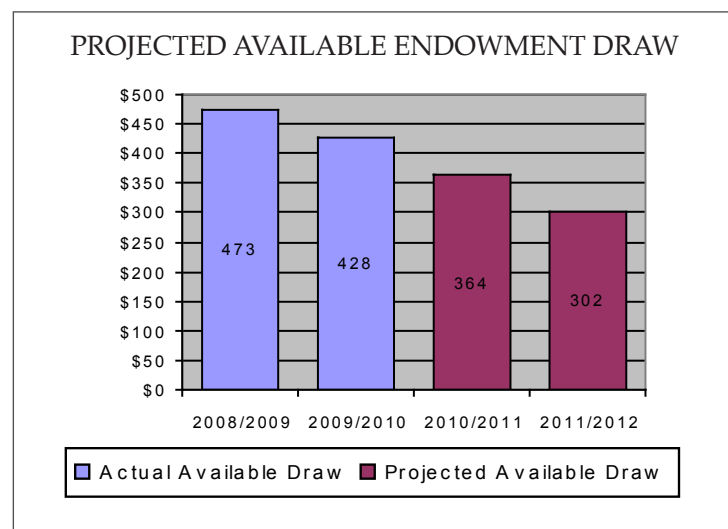
In the December issue of the Penman, we reported on the Athenæum's financial status and our proactive efforts to better position the library to weather the perilous economic downturn that had begun in October. With the dual goals of protecting the endowment and preserving core services, we made initial budgetary cuts to achieve approximately 10% in savings. Three months later, I am pleased to report that we have held the line on the expense side, with the promise that these returns will be realized. Core services have been retained while expenses continue to come in about 10% under budget.

As we stated in December, however, the benefit of these savings is predicated on meeting projected income goals - the increasingly more difficult side of the equation. Revenue goals for fiscal year 2008-09 are projected at \$309,000. Our main sources of earned revenue come from membership, contributions, and events. As of Monday, April 20th, 2009, we have raised \$224,624.

We have held to our declaration of "determined optimism" despite daily headlines asserting that global economic uncertainty is threatening charitable giving. Annual giving thus far has kept pace with last year, but we are still about \$37,000 away from meeting our goal. Additionally, we have seen some erosion in membership income in January and February. If the current attrition rates are not reversed, we could fall short of our membership income goals by \$7,000 to \$10,000 at year's end. Also, with reports from other nonprofits that event ticket sales are down, we approach our annual gala with real needs and equally real concerns. While we have made every effort to modify this event to encourage maximum attendance and participation, we must raise \$24,589 (rounded off to \$25,000) to make our goal. In each of these scenarios, if we do not make the individual income goals, we will need to make up any shortfalls through our Annual Appeal.

Finally, based on the drop in our endowment value, and the resultant drop in what we can draw in the next two

years, it is more essential than ever that we do not end this year in a deficit. The challenges we face are illustrated below. As you can see, it is imperative that we go into the next fiscal year in as strong a position as possible.



With just three months left in the fiscal year and \$85,000 left to raise in a tight financial market, we face an undeniable challenge, and truly need the help of every member. Here are ways that you can participate and make a difference:

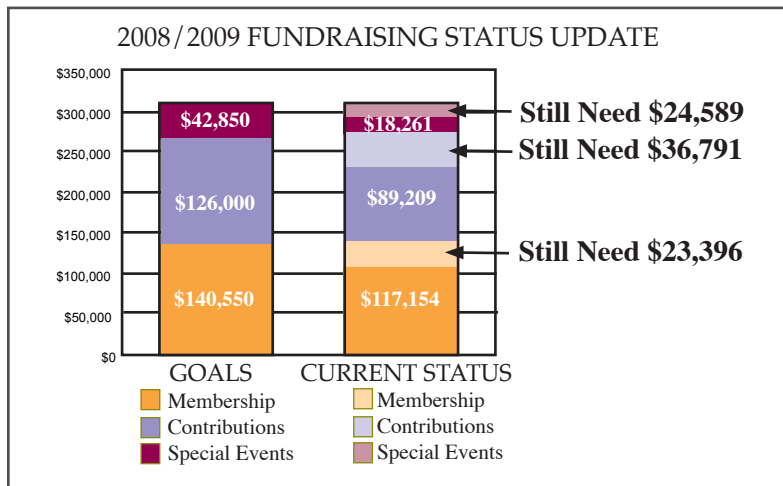
**Annual Appeal:** As a membership organization we do not seek a handful of big gifts to meet our goals. While big gifts are wonderful, the power of a community lies in each person in the membership giving what he or she can. At a thousand members, if every member gave even a small amount we would easily meet our goals. When everyone participates, there are no small gifts. This is true of additional gifts as well. If you have given to the Appeal already, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you can give again, even a modest gift, know that it will count!

**To ensure that it will count even more, our Board of Directors has issued a challenge to the membership: for every dollar that members give, the board will match up to \$9,000 of donations. So this is the time to make your gift, or additional gift, because no matter its size, it will double in value (up to \$9,000). Take advantage of this generous challenge to help us reach our goal!**

(continued)

**Annual Gala:** Our fundraising event brings in essential funds each year, and we depend on its income to maintain library services throughout the year. Please join us by buying tickets and encouraging friends to attend, too. If you can't attend, consider sending in a contribution. Or, to get more for your money, buy raffle tickets! At \$5 each, or 12 for \$50, they are priced for every budget – you can mail in a check, drop by and pay by cash, check, or credit card, or buy safely on-line by clicking the link on our home page, [providenceathenaeum.org](http://providenceathenaeum.org). The winner and the Athenaeum split the total funds raised in raffle ticket sales – so encourage your friends to buy tickets, too – the more we sell, the bigger the prize! If you *can* attend the event, consider the Benefactor level ticket, or a sponsorship opportunity. And be sure to bid on the silent auction items that night. Help ensure a profitable party, one you'll remember every time you enjoy ongoing library services!

**Membership:** Have you renewed? Have you encouraged your friends to renew and join? Have you considered a gift membership for a birthday, anniversary, new arrival to Providence, or graduation? Members are the best advocates for membership – please spread the word and help us keep membership numbers healthy!



If you love the Athenaeum, please think of the ways that you, as a member, can help lead it through these difficult times. We want to continue to provide excellent services, seven days a week, including the best in books, periodicals, and movies; lively and engaging programming for children and adults, including exhibits from our unique collections; dedicated, hard-working, and resourceful staff, who know and love the library and do everything they can to fulfill its mission and serve its members; and a beautiful, useful building where members can gather together and also spend time alone in restorative contemplation. Let us all join as a community, one with a rich history and a promising future, and work together to ensure that promise, keeping the Athenaeum, all it has stood for, and all it can be, on course.

*Alison Trappe*



## THE OWLET

Notes From  
The Children's Library

MAY 2009



King George Vavrick

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 13,  
20 AND 27 AT 3:30PM**

You Read to Me! Reader's Theatre

A new kind of story hour! If you like to read and you like to act, Reader's Theatre is for you! Learn to read simple stories in parts and pieces. Stretch your imagination with colorful characterizations. Note to parents: This program can be tailored to a variety of reading levels.

Ages 6-10. Limit 10. RSVP a must.

**SATURDAY, MAY 9 AT 2:30PM**

Mother's Day Magic

Stop in and create a magical mystery gift for you-know-who! We have to keep it a secret but you can be sure it will be a beautiful re-mom-brance craft that all ages will be able to handle. Dads may call Lindsay at the library for details.

Ages 3 and up. Limit 12. RSVP a must.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22 AT 5:30PM**

Family Movie Night

*Milo and Otis*

A great adventure tale filled with thrills, spills, and even a little romance. Don't miss this live-action classic starring best friends Milo, the ginger cat, and Otis, the spunky pug dog. Pizza, juice boxes, and Hoodies™ of course!

Ages 5 and up with an adult. Limit 15. \$5 snack fee per child. RSVP a must.

### STORY HOURS

**BEAR CUBS - TUESDAY MORNINGS**

**AT 10:30AM**

Songs, rhymes, and clapping games for the very young. For Infants to age 2.

**CHIPMUNKS - THURSDAY MORNINGS**

**AT 10:30AM**

Songs, rhymes, stories, and craft activities.

For infants to age 2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Summer story hours in the Brown Street Park, begin Wednesday, June 3 at 4PM, weather permitting. When bad weather is forecast please call Lindsay Shaw at the library 421-6970 to confirm that day's program. Thank you!