

THE *Universal Penman*

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM

GETTING ON BOARD!

Welcome to our six new board members who were officially introduced at the September 19th meeting!

Julie Andrews directs RI fundraising for Senator Jack Reed's 2008 campaign. A childhood Athenaeum member, Julie renewed upon returning to Providence from Washington D.C .

Jonathan Bell works at William Kite Architects and is an adjunct faculty member at the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation at Roger Williams University. A member since 2000, he is a formidable Pub Quiz competitor.

Ellen Hayes was most recently the Director of Pension Investments for Textron, Inc. Ellen, her husband, and their three sons are regular attendees of events in the Children's Library.

Sheila Hughes was director of development for most of her nearly 20 years with the Nature Conservancy. Now Chairman of the National Committee of the Garden Club of America, she has two daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren.

Lynn O'Marra, a senior manager at Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi & DeRienzo P.C., was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1994 and has been practicing in the tax field for over twelve years. She now serves as Treasurer of the Athenaeum.

Meredith Swan returned to her native RI in 1988. Her varied professional positions have included decorator, legal assistant, rug-hooking teacher/designer and donor services officer at the RI Foundation. She and her husband Kinnaird Howland have four grown children between them. Meredith now chairs our Development Committee.

And farewell with deepest gratitude to our departing members:

Lyn Johnson served for 10 years, as board President and in many other capacities. She was honored with the Stephen Hopkins award in 2006.

Carol Terry served for nine years, fostering our collaboration with RISD.

Frances Trafton served for 3 years, as Vice President and as chair of several committees.

Cynthia Patterson served 3 years, doing essential work on the Nominating Committee.

Alayne Barnicoat
Board President



ENTERTAINING EVENINGS: *Wines from Cocktails to Dessert* a wine tasting to benefit the Athenaeum

Join us on Thursday, November 15th from 7 to 9pm for an evening designed to assure your artfulness at entertaining as we head into the holiday season of elegant soirees, bountiful buffets, and all-out bashes! Thanks to our fine friends at Campus Fine Wines we will feature wines for events from cocktail celebrations to dinners to dessert parties, with fitting food pairings for each course provided by the generous epicurean experts at Farmstead, Local 121, and Café Choklad.

As the holiday party season approaches, don't settle for the usual fare! Let us help you entertain some different, more daring possibilities this year, from cocktail wines and aperitifs through wines for the meal, followed by ports and other after-dinner selections, and, finally, spirits to make the dessert course even sweeter.

Kate and Matt Jennings of the award-winning Farmstead and La Laiterie will offer artisanal cheeses and accompaniments for the cocktail hour, Josh Miller's acclaimed new Local 121 will provide pairings from the kitchen of Executive Chef Julia Moore for the dinner wines, and Marie Retlev's subtle, buttery pastries and sublime Belgian Leonidas Chocolates from Café Choklad will be sweet complement to the dessert wines.

This stylish evening will be made even more convivial by the spirited gypsy jazz of Minor Swing.

Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased by Tuesday, November 13th. Space is limited! Call 421-6970 to purchase tickets or for more information.

We look forward to raising a glass with you!



THE OWLET

News From The Children's Library

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 2:00

A very special performance for children *Hansel and Gretel* by Opera at Brown. Last year we were treated to opera magic with a performance of *The Magic Flute* by these talented musicians and storytellers. Much to our delight they have offered to visit us again! This is a treat you must not miss! Adults and children of all ages!

Limited space -please R.S.V.P. Guests welcome!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 2:30

The Annual Pinecone Turkey Workshop with Nancy Whitcomb: always fun, these festive fowls make a great center piece for the Thanksgiving table!

Ages 3 – 6 with an adult. Limit 10 - R.S.V.P. a must!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 2:00

Join professional jewelry designer, our own Trisha Kometer, for this necklace and earring making workshop. This will be fun, informative, and a great chance to make something lovely for the holidays to come!

Ages 8 and up. \$5 craft fee. Limit 10 - R.S.V.P. a must!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 AT 4:00

Owl Babies: an extra special interactive story hour with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Ages 3 – 5. Limit 15 - R.S.V.P. Guests welcome.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT 5:30

Family Movie Night: *Ratatoulli*!

Pizza, juice boxes, and Hoodsies.

Ages 6 and up. \$5 per child (adults free).

Limit 15 - R.S.V.P. a must! Guests welcome.

DECEMBER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 2:30

Georges Seurat's Birthday: come celebrate the birthday of the famous father of pointillism by making your own pointillist painting. This is a fun and educational program with Nancy Whitcomb.

Ages 5 and up. Limit 10 - R.S.V.P. a must! Guests welcome.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 3:00

Our Annual Holiday Open House: bring your friends and good cheer to this lovely Athenaeum holiday tradition. Music, refreshments, and the joy of being with good friends! **Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped children's book for a child whose family cannot afford holiday presents this year – we are working with Family Service of Rhode Island to make books available to some of their neediest clients. Thank you!** All ages. Guests are welcome!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 5:30

Family Movie Night: *The Muppet Christmas Carol*
Pizza, juice boxes, and Hoodsies.

Ages 6 and up. \$5 per child (adults free).

Limit 15 - R.S.V.P. a must! Guests welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 2:30

Make a Puzzling Picture Frame with Nancy Whitcomb: decorate a picture frame with cool puzzle pieces, pop in your favorite photograph, and voila! instant gift.

Ages 3 and up with an adult.

Limit 10 - R.S.V.P. Guests welcome.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Thank you to all of our wonderful families who help us out with programs and events. Your kind assistance means the world to us. Thank you also to everyone who supports our Children's Library by visiting often, sharing good books and good times!

SATURDAY MORNING MOVIES AT 10:30

Running times approximately one hour.

11/3: *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* and other stories...

11/10: *Harry the Dirty Dog* and more stories...

11/17: *Strega Nona* and other stories...

11/24: *Is Your Mama a Llama?* and other stories...

12/1: *The Amazing Bone* and other stories...

12/8: *Five Stories for the Very Young*

12/15 *Tikki Tikki Tembo* and other stories...

12/22 no movies

12/29 no movies

STORY HOURS

Please note: non-members are welcome as guests of members. For more information call Lindsay at 421-6970 ext. 17 or e-mail lshaw@providenceathenaeum.org

BEAR CUBS - TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30

Songs, rhymes, and clapping games.

Infants to age 2.

FAWNS - WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS AT 4:00

Stories, songs, and craft activities.

Children ages 3 - 6.

CHIPMUNKS - THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30

Songs, rhymes, stories, and craft activities.

Toddlers 24 to 34 months.

NO STORY HOURS:

Wednesday, November 21

Thursday, November 22

Tuesday, December 25 through Thursday, December 27

Tuesday, January 1 through Thursday, January 3

MEANWHILE, AT THAT SAME MOMENT...

In our upcoming program and salon series, *Meanwhile, At That Same Moment...*, we'll take a kaleidoscopic survey, one facet at a time, of the world of Providence in 1838 when the Athenaeum opened to see how the library fit into not only the geographical, but also the political, philosophical, and cultural landscapes of the era. The series debuts with three salons in November; these initial points of entry into our historical inquiry will include the 1838 opening of Rhode Island's first state prison, Brown University's 1838 purchase of a telescope, and an 1838 novel in which the tale of a purloined pocket handkerchief is also the tale of a society in transition. The series will continue in the spring with public programs and salons alike; other implicative phenomena we hope to examine include, among others, a slave narrative, the dueling code, innovations in steamships, and the nearly delirious luxuriance of temperance societies.

At this year's Athenaeum birthday party in July architectural historian Robert O. Jones set the stage for the series, highlighting the rapid population growth, rise in industry, and technological innovations that combined to create a city that was at once exhilarating and uneasy. Join us to learn more about the era that gave birth to the Athenaeum, and to consider the continuum between that era and our own, both within the library and without. As part of the series we will feature items from our collections that illustrate the subjects at hand, giving participants a rare opportunity to enjoy some of the lesser-known works that we hold.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: New online catalog interface set to launch October 1!

The RISD/Athenaeum catalog is being updated and improved and will have a new look as well as a number of new features. Patrons will now be able to renew items, place holds, see any monies owed, and save search results on their account from their home computers. All this is via new, coming-as-we-go-to-press online features. Ask at the Circulation Desk for your barcode, which is all you'll need to access your own account. Go to the catalog's website at <http://parc.risd.edu>, choose "My Record" and then enter your name and barcode number. We can give you the number over the phone and/or present you with a green barcode card for your convenience.

The new features will expand the versatility of the search functions and offer extra options such as a direct link to Amazon.com for detailed book information. The shared online catalog will still function as before; that is, you don't need your account information to access the general catalog. If you have questions, call Trisha Kometer, Reference Librarian, or Mary Brower, Circulation Supervisor, at 421-6970 ext. 16.

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE, PLEASE!

Please let our generous sponsors know how much you appreciate their support of our programs! Fall sponsors are Antiques & Interiors, Claudia Curl Cuts Color, Figments, Hope Alswang and Henry Joyce, Kas DeCarvalho Business Law, risdworks, and Studio Hop.

We are also grateful to Café Choklad, Farmstead, Local 121, and Minor Swing for their contributions to our fall fundraiser, *Entertaining Evenings: Wines from Cocktails to Dessert*.

Thanks also as always to Greg Matta and the crew at Campus Fine Wines for all their support and assistance.

DOWNSTAIRS, UPSTAIRS

New to Technical Services is library school student Kieran Ayton, who's been a friendly and familiar face at the Circulation Desk since last fall. Kieran is currently enrolled in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College and has taken classes in cataloging and database management. As a member of the Technical Services team, he will help improve access to our collections through his work on the online catalog and library database.



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, January 25th, 7 pm
A Birthday Salute to Robert Burns
to include readings and a single-malt tasting!

STOCK APPRECIATION

In our last edition of the *Universal Penman* we shared the "Top Ten Reasons to Support the Athenaeum this Year!" In this issue, we will discuss making a gift to the Annual Fund using appreciated stock.

First, why is your gift to the Annual Fund so important? This year our operating budget is \$835,000. How do we raise that money? Some \$469,000 will come from our \$10 million endowment as a percentage of the total investment income it generates. We also have our membership dues, events, grants made by foundations and agencies, and approximately \$32,000 a year from the Helen Walker Raleigh Fund managed by The Rhode Island Foundation. The balance, this year budgeted at \$95,000, will come from individual members like you who generously support the Annual Fund.

While many members give cash, others find that making a gift of appreciated stock allows them to be even more generous.

The following example illustrates this: suppose you would

like to make a gift of \$10,000 to the Athenaeum and your marginal tax rate, federal and state, is 39%. If you make this donation in cash, the net cost to you would be \$10,000 less \$3,900, or \$6,100. On the other hand, making the same gift in the form of \$10,000 of appreciated stock owned for one year or more and acquired for \$5,000 could cost even less. Selling such a stock would have potentially incurred a capital gains tax of 20% of the built-in gain - an extra \$1,000 in taxes by this example. By donating the stock instead, you could avoid this extra taxation and reduce the net cost of your gift even further, to \$5,100. The lower your cost basis, the more you can save by making the gift in stock rather than in cash. As always, you should check with your tax advisor to see how this can work in your particular case.

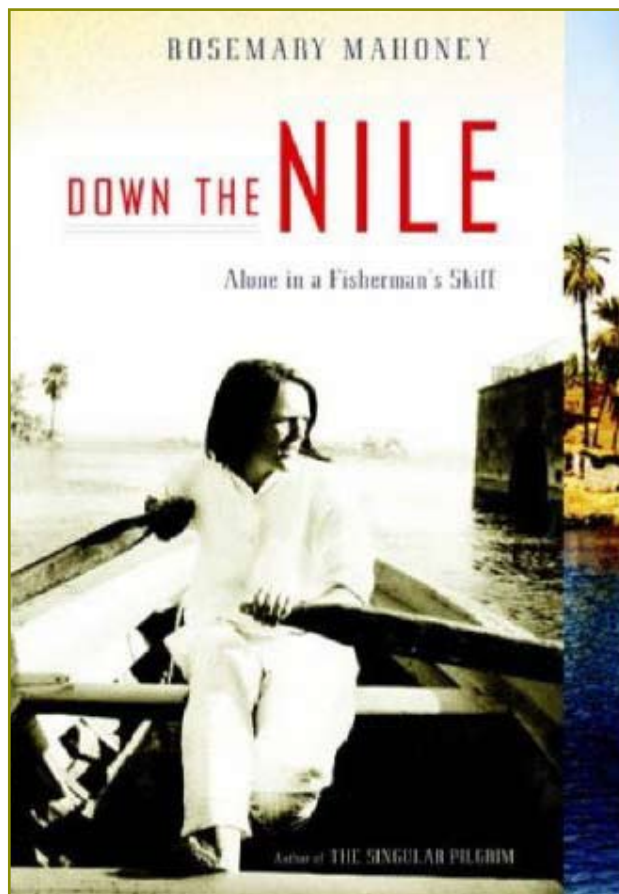
If you are interested in making a stock gift before year-end it is important to set the wheels in motion soon. Please call Alison Maxell at 401- 421-6970.

THE PHILBRICK RARE BOOKS ROOM: A NILE TRIBUTARY?

Don't miss this fall's *Inspired by the Athenaeum* talk by Rosemary Mahoney, in which she explains how she explored the Nile River via the Philbrick Rare Books Room at the Athenaeum. A celebrated writer with an unusual method, Rosemary has made a life of following her interests around the globe, writing about her life as a traveler from her own deeply inquiring and insightful perspective. Former places of exploration have included China (*The Early Arrival of Dreams: A Year in China*), Ireland (*Whoredom in Kimmage: The Private Lives of Irish Women*), and the world's great pilgrimage sites (*The Singular Pilgrim: Travels on Sacred Ground*).

Her new book, *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*, which has just been published to ecstatic reviews, took inspiration from the Athenaeum's 19th century Travel and Exploration Collections. After having made her own incredible solo journey down the Nile, Rosemary spent many months in The Philbrick exploring the history of others' travels along its waters. Our Collections Librarian, Kate Wodehouse, who was Rosemary's cicerone for her tour of the collections, notes that in the book, Rosemary interweaves descriptions of past voyages including the travels of Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert with those of her own journey. And we are very proud to note that Kate's is the first name mentioned in Rosemary's list of acknowledgements! At her Athenaeum presentation Rosemary will talk about how her research informed her book, and will read excerpts from it. Thanks to Borders, we will also have copies available for sale and signing. In addition, inspiring examples from our collections will be on exhibit in the Philbrick Rare Book Room.

Rosemary Mahoney's *Inspired by the Athenaeum* talk takes place Tuesday, November 13th at 7 pm, and is free and open to the public. We hope you'll join us!



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday through Thursday: 9am to 7pm
Friday and Saturday: 9am to 5pm
Sunday: 1 to 5pm

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Sunday, Nov. 11 & Monday, Nov. 12 – Veterans Day
Thursday, Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Day
Monday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Day
Tuesday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day
Monday, Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve – closing at 1pm
Tuesday, Jan. 1 – New Year's Day