

Universal Penman

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT CANDY ADRIANCE



As detailed by Strategic Planning Committee Chair Steve Coon on page 2, the Athenaeum is moving ahead with a strategic planning process designed to consolidate the progress achieved during the implementation of our current Strategic Plan. A critical element of this work was an extensive organizational assessment of the Board of Directors and staff to evaluate our structure and current roles and responsibilities throughout the library.

With this assessment complete, we have launched the search for our next Executive Director. Our timing is fortuitous. Conducting the search as we near the finish line for the Strategic Plan, projected to be complete by June 30, 2015, allows us to tie together critical elements of our strategy and direction with the most important characteristics of a new leader. The Search Committee, chaired by Board Members Tripp Evans and Cathy Lund, and comprised of members of the Board and the staff, used our strategic planning work to date as well as best practices of successful RI nonprofit organizations and other membership libraries across the country to identify the leadership requirements that will serve us well for now and into the future. At this exciting time in the library's history we believe we will attract many strong, well-qualified candidates who share our vision of the Athenaeum as a rich library, cultural center, and gathering place for a great diversity of Rhode Islanders. The job description is now available on our website.

The search will extend into the summer, past the date that Interim Executive Director Mike Gerhardt could be available. The Board has appointed former Board President and long-time Athenaeum member Alayne Barnicoat to serve as Interim Director for the duration of the search. We thank Mike for his steady leadership of the past several months, and we thank Alayne for once again stepping up in support of the Athenaeum.

EXPLORING NEW WAYS TO INTERPRET THE COLLECTIONS: LIVE FROM THE ARCHIVES!

Kate Wodehouse, Collections Librarian



Artist Carolyn Gennari and Kate Wodehouse

The goals of this project were to deepen relationships with and among our existing cultural partners, and investigate new ways in which our collections can inspire and inform our understanding of history and culture.

Over the winter I worked with our participants on six independent *Live from the Archive* projects. In contrast to the 2014 *Paper Dolls* and *Wonder Show* projects, in which visual artists came to the Athenaeum with very specific subjects to pursue in the Special Collections, for *Live from the Archive* we invited our participants to use our collections to investigate individual topics of their choice, outside of their areas of expertise, and then discuss their in-progress research at a series of Salon presentations, with accompanying pop-up exhibits in the

(continued on page 2)

MAJOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE RI COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR 2015-16 PROGRAMMING

Christina Bevilacqua, Director of Programs and Public Engagement

We recently wrapped up our pilot project *Cultivating Collaboration: Live from the Archive*, an intensive season of collections-based research projects that were presented in the spring Salon lineup and are currently represented in an exhibit in the Philbrick Rare Book Room. Now we are delighted to announce that the RI Council for the Humanities has generously awarded us a major grant of \$12,410 to evaluate the spring pilot project with our collaborative partners and create new collections-based programming with an expanded group of new partners next year. In a nod to the possibilities inherent



Live From The Archive Salon presentation by Tony Estrella, Artistic Director of The Gamm Theatre, on secular humanism

(continued on page 3)

MESSAGE FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR STEVE COON

The Providence Athenaeum Strategic Plan, *Vision 2020*, was launched in September 2014 with the formation of a strategic planning steering committee and eight working groups composed of Athenaeum staff and board members. This approach was designed to foster direct engagement in the planning process and to provide opportunities for the staff and board to work directly together in a common purpose. The working groups are tasked with addressing critical Athenaeum issues including: Management, Organization & Governance; Financial Analysis; Buildings & Grounds; Membership & Development; Library Operations; Programming; Technology; and Communications.

All working groups were tasked with reviewing similar organizations, both the other membership libraries around the country and our "Providence peers" in the local cultural and arts community. These comparative perspectives will help us to gauge how well the Athenaeum is performing relative to like institutions, as well as to identify good ideas that may be of practical relevance to us.

Outside consulting support was engaged to conduct an internal assessment of Athenaeum staff and board—to understand how both groups can function more effectively. The internal assessment began in January and was completed at the end of March; its findings and recommendations will be considered within the working groups. Additionally, local design firm Design Agency was engaged to conduct a "visual audit" of all Athenaeum visual materials and a website redesign. A workshop to review preliminary findings with staff and board was conducted in March; first steps in planning the website redesign began in April. We will have a new and much improved Athenaeum website by fall 2015.

Looking ahead, the working groups will continue their efforts over the next two months. Staff and board, working together, will discuss the findings of the working groups, culminating in a comprehensive review that will consider all the findings and recommendations in context. We intend to publish a summary of key findings and recommendations before the end of the fiscal year. A final document - *Vision 2020* - will be formally submitted for board approval by June 30 and will also be made public.

NEW SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

We are grateful to these funders for their generous support of our building, operations, strategic planning, collections, programs, and staff development:

The Champlin Foundation: \$161,005 for public space improvements to the Reading Room and Philbrick Rare Book Room, and staff offices design (not construction) of the Technical Services area (the Athenaeum will be submitting a request to fund the construction phase of the Technical Services area work in the 2015 Champlin application cycle); Rhode Island Council for the Humanities: \$12,415 in support of *Open Sesame*, collections-based programming for the 2015-16 Salon season; Mary Dexter Chafee Fund: \$10,800 for conservation of the *Description de l'Egypte*; Rhode Island Foundation, the state's community foundation: \$10,000 for strategic planning; Ida Ballou Littlefield Trust: \$7,500 for strategic planning; Mabel T. Woolley Foundation: \$5,000 for technology upgrades; Susan Jaffe Tane Foundation: \$2,500 to establish a conference scholarship for staff.

LIVE FROM THE ARCHIVES (continued from page 1)

Philbrick Rare Book Room, throughout the spring.

Working intensively and simultaneously with ten to twelve researchers on diverse, nuanced examinations of topics including Tuvan throat singing, contemplation, the depiction of race in children's literature, 18th-century French philosophers, the history of alternative spaces in Providence, and even some little-studied history of the Athenaeum itself, challenged the library staff to educate ourselves on these subjects in order to locate and interpret relevant material from the collections. Although the project was conceived to focus on research within the Special Collections, participants also used the resources of the Reference Collection and the Children's Library. CMW's Jesse Holstein found his greatest inspiration on mindfulness in a children's picture book, *The Three Questions* by John Muth, recommended by Children's Librarian Lindsay Shaw, and several projects relied heavily upon the assistance of Reference Librarian Carol Tatian within the Rhode Island Collection.



Kate Wodehouse with CMW musicians Clara Yang and Jesse Holstein

It was so rewarding at the Salon presentations to experience how the collections had been incorporated into the research and even the performances, demonstrating new ways in which the collections can be explored, interpreted, and activated. The presentation by artists Jason

Curzake, Erick Armbrust, and Shey Rivera began with Jason reading an original poem about Narragansett Bay as he hand-cranked our 1870 tourist souvenir panorama depicting color lithographic views of the RI coast and bay. And at the CMW presentation, Laura Cetilia played some short pieces of music on her cello to represent specific animal sounds that she found recorded in the 1837 book *The Music of Nature*.

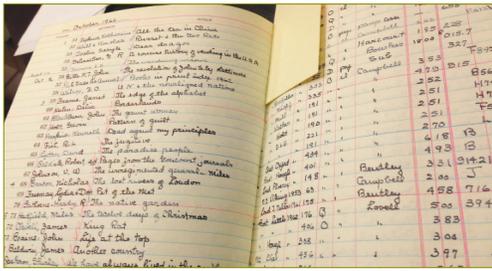
An exhibit called *Cultural Collaborations: Live from the Archives* is on view May through July in the Philbrick Rare Book Room. Compiled from the pop-up displays featured at the Salon, it will highlight each of the individual projects, give viewers the opportunity to explore the myriad of subjects presented in the series, and learn more about the extensive Special Collections at the Athenaeum.



1870 souvenir panorama of Narragansett Bay

We thank all of our participants for generously volunteering their time to research in the collections and present at the Salon, and a special thanks to my fellow librarians Lindsay Shaw and Carol Tatian for their inspired research assistance. Bravo!

This experience underscored for Christina and me that it is essential to our mission and the library's future that we encourage new groups to explore and interpret the collections. Thanks to newly received support from RICH (see page 1), we look forward to refining and expanding the model next year. Stay tuned!



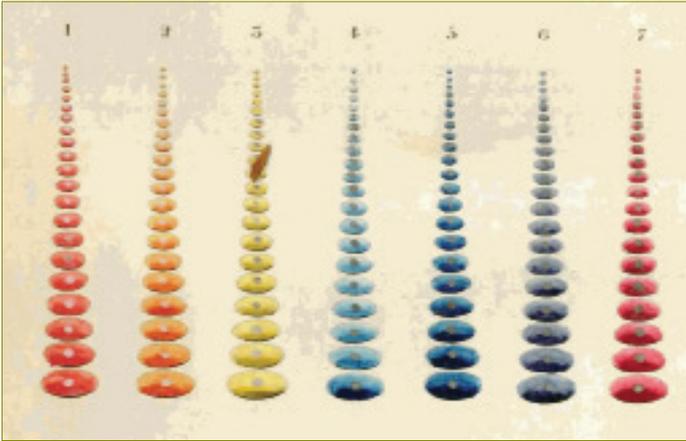
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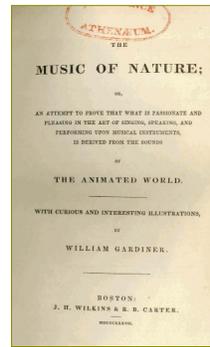
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Items from the Athenaeum collections used in *Cultivating Collaboration: Live From The Archive* research projects: 1) Accessions Book, Jan. 1962-March 1964. Archives, Providence Athenaeum; 2) *Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings*, by Joel Chandler Harris. New York: Appleton, 1881; 3) Kate with artists Erick Armbrust and Jason Curzake; 4 - 6) *The Music of Nature*, by William Gardiner, Boston: J.H. Wilkins, 1837; 7) *Seeing Providence*, Providence Journal, [1970s].

MAJOR GRANT FUNDING (continued from page 1)

in exploration, the new project is called *Open Sesame*, and we look forward to bringing new corners of the collections to new life throughout the 2015-16 year.

By widening the circle of engagement of both presenters and audience, this collaborative endeavor helps us address one of our most critical challenges: opening the door of the Athenaeum to a more diverse group of citizens in our city and state. It is only by cultivating a diversity of voices that we can fulfill the Salon's promise of transformational conversation.

And our *Cultivating Collaboration: Live from the Archive* collaborative partners agree. Here's what some of them had to say:

"The *Live from the Archive* project afforded me the wonderful and rare opportunity to meet with people and other organizations that I have known about and admired from afar for a long time. In our mediated world, the opportunity for face-to-face conversations has been diminished, and this collaboration has enriched me immeasurably. I have thought about other people's projects for days afterwards. I applaud the Athenaeum for supporting and sponsoring this initiative." *Daniel Kamil, co-owner, Cable Car Cinema*

"I was amazed at what Kate was able to track down on the shelves relating to the Buddhist scripture of the *Four Contemplations*. I also am greatly indebted to Lindsay in the Children's Library, who pulled several books that were invaluable to my research, as well as being very fun to read! I found 'working' on the project at the Athenaeum itself not work at all, but very centering and highly enjoyable. All the staff were so giving of their time and energy. What a treasure the Athenaeum is!" *Jesse Holstein, Senior Resident Musician, Community MusicWorks*

"The *Live from the Archive* series provided an opportunity to bring to life the rich collections of the Athenaeum while offering a platform from which participating organizations could engage with each other. The latter component is something that I've reflected on greatly: the value of reaching beyond our own work to meaningfully connect with individuals within other cultural organizations in Providence. This project is the only example I've seen that has taken on this task through creative collaboration, and I hope to see this series continue in the future." *Carolyn Gennari, founder of The Wonder Show, AIR (Artist in Residence) Coordinator, AS220*

"*Live from the Archive* is further proof (if more was necessary) that the Athenaeum is greater Providence's premier cultural and intellectual hub. It is the center of an expanding collaborative web, spinning threads of connection that encourage and enable partnerships among artists and culture creators and most importantly opens this work up to the community, both through their influential membership and expanding public outreach." *Tony Estrella, Artistic Director, The Gamm Theatre*

"In addition to the incredible opportunity we were offered to dig into the Athenaeum's collections, our *Live from the Archives* cohort meetings gave us the opportunity to engage in rich discussions about everything from the relevance and purpose of libraries in the 21st century to how collaborations amongst our organizations could further enrich our Providence audiences. Christina led us in our own private salon." *Kelly Reed, Managing Director, CMW*

(continued on page 4)



"Ethnographic Tableau" from *Indigenous Races of the Earth*, by Joseph Clarke Nott. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1857.

MAJOR GRANT FUNDING (continued from page 3)

"The intriguing ingredient of *Cultivating Collaboration* has been pursuing a personal interest as we engaged with each other and inquired into the Salon. Spending time in and with the Athenaeum has been empowering, and our sense of cultural connectedness is palpable." *Elizabeth Francis, Executive Director, RICH*



Program Committee volunteer Ray Olson and Salon goers



Kate Wodhouse and Elizabeth Francis, Executive Director of RICH



JOIN US JUNE 6 TO CELEBRATE BETSY CARPENTER'S LIFE

Betsy Carpenter, a member of the Circulation Desk staff from 1987 to 2014, beloved by Athenaeum staff and members alike, died on March 19, 2015 at Miriam Hospital in Providence.

Betsy was born in Methuen, Massachusetts, on April 27, 1927, and attended Antioch College in Ohio, and Brown University. She had lived in Rhode Island since 1949, residing in Providence and spending time at the beach in Little Compton. In addition, she had many wonderful stories of the periods of time that she spent living in England, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Tennessee, Germany, and New Zealand when on sabbatical with her husband, Gene B. Carpenter, a professor of chemistry at Brown University, to whom she was married for 64 years until his death in 2013.

In addition to her role at the Athenaeum, she worked at the American Friends Service Committee in Pasadena, CA; the Rhode Island American Civil Liberties Union; the John Hay Library at Brown University; and the Rumford Branch of the East Providence Public Library. In 2007 she received a Citizen Citation from the City of Providence for her service to elderly and disabled readers.

Betsy loved books, poems, nature, art and curios, crossword puzzles, and cats, including Wilson, her most recent feline companion. She had many friends in Providence and from all over the world, friends who loved her candor, her occasionally inappropriate sense of humor, and the marvelous stories she told with wry wit in her unforgettable voice. Betsy was often surprised at how dearly her friends loved her and how many people she touched.

Betsy is survived by her daughter Anne E. Carpenter of Little Compton; her son and daughter-in-law Jonathan R. Carpenter and Mary Engel of Bozeman, Montana; granddaughters Tate Carpenter, Sophia Carpenter, Ave Millhauser, Rebecca Dry and Jessica Dry, and two nieces.

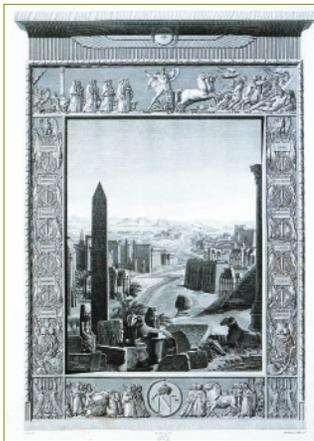
Betsy was not only a staff member of the Athenaeum, but one of its most generous supporters, and she indicated that friends wishing to make memorial gifts could make them to the Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903.

The Athenaeum community is filled with people who were touched by Betsy's thoughtfulness, kindness, inquiring mind, and humor. Please join us at the Athenaeum for a celebration of her life on Saturday, June 6th from 5 to 7pm.

NEWS FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS Collections Librarian Kate Wodehouse

“Within her granite walls, filled with the genius of mankind, we learn to discover that what we thought was impossible, might be possible”

*Sylvia Moubayed, Executive Director,
Providence Athenaeum Annual Report, 1981*



Frontispiece, *Description de l'Égypte*. Paris: Imprimerie Imperiale, 1809-28.



Bindings, *Description de l'Égypte*. Paris: Imprimerie Imperiale, 1809-28.

Grants: Mary Dexter Chafee Fund Award for Conservation

The Athenaeum has been awarded \$10,800 from the Mary Dexter Chafee Fund to complete the restoration of our *Description de l'Égypte* 25-volume set.

Committee and family members including Helen Lee, Molly Harrington, and Alex Reynolds visited the Philbrick Rare Book room last fall to review the application and to learn about the most important work from our Travel and Exploration collection. The *Description de l'Égypte*, published by the French government between 1809 and 1828, inspired the Egyptian Revival style in America, and led to the study of Egyptology. Donated in 1838 by members under the leadership of John Russell Bartlett, ours is the only full set in RI, and has a prestigious provenance: its previous owner was the ultra-Royalist Prince de Polignac, deposed during the French revolution of 1830.

We have repaired seven volumes since beginning conservation efforts in 2006, and our initial grant request to MDCF was for a three-year commitment of \$3,600 per year, with annual contributions of \$1,500 from the Athenaeum. We were thrilled when the committee fully endorsed our project and generously made a full commitment in the current grant cycle, allowing the Athenaeum to complete the restoration within 18 months. Thank you to the Mary Dexter Chafee Fund for such generosity and foresight!

Loans: *The Unicorn Found: Science, Literature and the Arts*, on view through July 30, 2015 John Hay Library, Brown University

The Providence Athenaeum is a participating partner in a citywide interactive arts experience, *Unicorns in Residence: Providence*, inspired by the work of NYC-based contemporary artist Camomile Hixon.

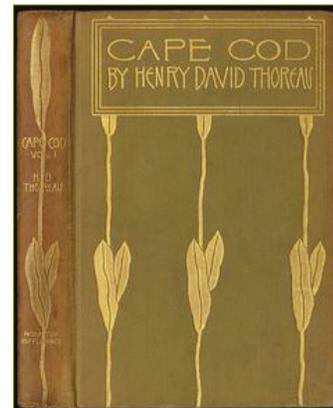
The exhibition traces the history of the representation of unicorns by different cultures, from Medieval bestiaries to contemporary children's literature, and is the culmination of a collaboration between librarians from the special collections at Brown, Providence Public Library (PPL), Fleet Library at RISD, the John Carter Brown Library, and the Athenaeum. Athenaeum items on loan include an illustration of the constellation Monoceros

from the *Atlas of the Heavens* (pictured below) and a fantastic sea unicorn recorded in 1661 from *Les Monstres Marins* (Paris, 1870), shown alongside the narwhal tusk from PPL's Nicholson Whaling Collection. In addition to the exhibition at the John Hay Library, the Brown libraries have created a complementary digital exhibition that is available at library.brown.edu/hay (click on "Exhibitions" on the menu at the right). And stay tuned for details of the "Unicorn in the Garden" event from the Children's Library.

For a full listing of events related to *Unicorns in Residence: Providence*, please see the website: unicornsinresidence.com

Women Artists: *The Untold Story (1890-1940)*, on view April 16 – May 1, 2015 University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Women Artists: The Untold Story (1890-1940), curated by Professor Anna Dempsey and her Art History Senior Seminar class at UMass Dartmouth, included paintings, illustrations, photographs, and books created or designed by professional women artists, including bindings by Sarah Wyman Whitman from the collection at the Athenaeum. Whitman worked primarily for Houghton Mifflin in Boston during the 1880s and 1890s, producing over 200 book



Cape Cod, by Henry David Thoreau. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1896.

cover designs. Influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, she preferred a simple aesthetic of spare designs with elegant gilt lettering and decorative ornamentation stylistically reminiscent of medieval bindings and organic forms from nature. The Athenaeum has many examples of her splendid bindings. We loaned eight volumes to the exhibition.

Visit *Women Artists: The Untold Story* on Facebook.



The Geography of the Heavens, by Elijah H. Burritt. New York: Huntington & Co., 1856.

A SEASON OF TRANSITIONS:



ALISON MAXELL
Executive Director, 2005-2014:

When Alison left in December, she expressed these sentiments: “The opportunities I have had in the last ten years to see firsthand the difference that the Athenaeum makes in each of your lives has been a tremendous source of personal inspiration. You have enriched my life immeasurably.

It has been a true privilege to work with such a committed and talented group of people over the years.”

In turn, we thank Alison for the ten years that she gave us; for her dedication, commitment, friendship, and guiding hand through those successful years. We miss her and wish her well!

We recently heard from Alison that she has accepted a new position in her home state of Maine as Library Division Director, Director of Public and Outreach Services, Research and Innovation with the Maine State Library. In her new role she will be responsible for the management of outreach services of all kinds to state agencies, Maine libraries, and the public. She is looking forward to the rich variety of work and opportunities for professional development in her new role. She also reports that John and the girls are doing well; Delaney is graduating from Lincoln High School this year and will join her sister Olivia at Salve Regina University in the fall. If you would like to contact Alison, she can be reached at alison.maxell@gmail.com.



MARY ANNE GOLDA: Farewell and joyous retirement to one who brought us far! We said goodbye in March after seven years at the Ath, to our Head of Technical Services Mary Anne Golda. Her vision brought the Athenaeum into the 21st century in all the best ways, while making sure that we never lost our connection to our rich and storied past. We wish her wonderful adventures ahead!

Before leaving, she wrote, “Athenaeum friends, I will be retiring on March 20th. Much of my work has been behind the scenes. Comprehensive wi-fi coverage, so students can sit in our alcoves and get work done; our blog *Raven-ous*, that hopefully presents items of interest; our presence on Facebook and Twitter; and providing Kindles to our members are a few of my initiatives. I love technology and the 19th century! I have been a librarian for 33 years, my children are grown and gone, and I’ve recently sold my house. I feel it’s time to relax, have some fun, and travel. I love the Athenaeum and I will miss you all.”



**SMOKEY TURNBULL,
LESLIE MYERS:**

In February, our custodian Ralph “Smokey” Turnbull retired after a decade of keeping the Athenaeum ship-shape, and we welcomed Leslie Myers as our full-time Facilities Coordinator. Here is an introduction to Leslie - be sure to say hello next time you’re in!

“I have loved libraries since preschool, thanks to my mom, who took

me on weekly trips to the stacks. Monthly childhood trips to mountains and seashores led to my abiding interest in landscape art and photography. My love of books became a love of literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz with a double major in art and literature, especially of the 20th-century. It was there that I fell in love, through reading and art history, with early 20th-century Parisian cafe culture and Gertrude Stein’s salons.

Salons got me thinking about how communities of like-minded people, especially in the last two centuries, coalesce, evolve, and reinvent themselves. I learned that communities often coalesce around special architecture and urban symbols, as well as having a shared state of mind. I like to believe this is still true in the digital age.

My interest in communities, and a disposition toward art and design, led me to pursue an architectural degree at Yale. After working in large architectural offices on institutional projects, and some smaller federal projects, I returned to Yale as a project manager. The Yale Art Gallery (a delightful, modest term for a 190,000 square foot museum) was undergoing a major renovation of its three campus buildings. My role was to keep alive the museum’s priorities - historic architecture, use of space, art stewardship, and education - while difficult time, budget and engineering issues were confronted.

During these years, my husband and I relaxed by seeking out architectural wonders, and just such a day trip led us to our first encounter with the Providence Athenaeum about six years ago. Another memorable road trip, while living in New Orleans, led us to almost buy an abandoned 19th-century small town jewelry store, replete with original wood detailing, casework, glass storefront, and vault in Acadian Louisiana but we thought the better of it in time.

Instead, we tried loft living in Boston, and a Connecticut coast condo, but settled eventually and in perpetuity into our 1828 Fox Point Providence home. It gives me a thrill thinking of Emily Dickinson and Ralph Waldo Emerson walking this earth at the same time as our home’s original inhabitants. I remain fascinated by how historic buildings become present buildings through new use, re-interpretation, and modern technologies - but only if their pasts remain alive as well.

So somehow, through serendipity, intuition, accident, and patience, I now walk every morning down Benefit Street (a fine survey of 19th-century American domestic architecture) and begin my work day at the Providence Athenaeum, filled to the brim with architectural history, literature, salons, and community. It is the perfect job!”



Interim Executive Director Alayne Barnicoat presents Smokey Turnbull with a commemorative photo of the Athenaeum at the Annual Meeting in March.

(continued on page 7)



TINA EGNOSKI says: "I've had the good fortune of being a staff member at the Athenaeum for the past 20 years. From my first job as Development Assistant to my current dual position as Publications Coordinator and Weekend Circulation Supervisor, working inside these granite walls has truly been, both professionally and personally, a joy. Some of the accomplishments I'm proudest of

are developing a membership database, overseeing the automation of the Circulation Desk, and participating in the Philbrick Poetry Project. (Oh, and then there's the hundreds of books from the Children's Library that I read to and with my son over the years. *Dinner at the Panda Palace* was one of our favorites! He's fourteen now and loves reading graphic novels in the YA alcove.)

My co-workers are some of the most dedicated and intelligent professionals I know. They - we - all love the Athenaeum and put our hearts and time into making it a great place. The patrons I've met are insightful readers, always eager to share book titles, travel tips, and life lessons. There's an intimacy at the Circulation Desk, surrounded by book shelves and busts and Athena herself, that brings out the best in all who stand in front of it and sit behind it.

My new position as the Academic Department Manager of the Gender and Women's Studies program at the University of Rhode Island is, so far, both challenging and absorbing. It will give me time to write and, since I won't be working every weekend, I'll be able to spend more time with my family. The building I work in isn't as old as the Athenaeum, but it has its charms. Built in 1936 as a women's dorm, Roosevelt Hall has windowed alcoves, makeshift and funky furniture, and, much like the Athenaeum, spotty A/C and heating. One of the things missing in my new office is a pendulum clock like the one behind the circulation desk. Patrons always asked me if the ticking bothered me. Nope, I'd answer. I love it. And that is how I feel about the Athenaeum. I'm proud to have been a part of this lively, thriving library and cultural center."



ROBIN WETHERILL says: "I am thrilled to be rejoining the Athenaeum family as the new Communications Manager, helping to define and promote the Athenaeum's role as a historic pillar of Providence and also as a forward-thinking, contemporary institution with deep connections to its community.

Many of you may remember that once upon a time I worked at the Circulation Desk, wrote and managed press releases for events and programs, cultivated young audiences for the Salon, and assisted Danielle in the Membership and Development Office. Since leaving the Athenaeum two years ago, I have worked just down the street for an interior design firm as a project manager. It was an exciting opportunity for me, and I was able to work on some truly amazing projects while honing my organizational, managerial, and creative skills.

I must admit, however, the Athenaeum never stopped pulling me back. My interests and passions have always lain in the arts and cultural sphere. I graduated from Tufts University with degrees in English and Classical Studies and was lucky enough to spend some time at Oxford along the way. I also worked in a local bookstore for years and have been a voracious and varied reader throughout my life. So coming back to the Athenaeum feels like a homecoming - I hope to see all of you soon, be it in the stacks, at the Salon, or about town!



AMANDA KNOX: Circulation Assistant Amanda Knox will begin a dual degree in Master of Library and Information Science/Archives and Master of History at Simmons College next September, while carrying on her exemplary work at the Circulation Desk.

Amanda says: "I'm very excited about finally starting my journey of becoming a librarian and an archivist. I will continue to work at Circ and hopefully be able to apply my new knowledge to help the Athenaeum the best I can."

CALLING ALL CORPORATE CATALYSTS

Danielle Kemsley,

Director of Membership and Development

Are you a business owner, partner, or manager who has a voice in which local non-profits your company supports? Do you relish the thought of reaching an attractive potential client base while supporting one of the oldest cultural organizations in the city? If so, we invite you to become a member of the Athenaeum's new Corporate Catalyst program with your tax deductible donation of \$1,000. Your support will ensure that the library remains open to the public seven days a week, our programs and signature Salon series continue and flourish, our collections and historic building are maintained and enhanced, and the Athenaeum remains a vibrant and vital part of the cultural landscape of the city and region.

Benefits and recognition for Corporate Catalysts:

- * Access to the Athenaeum membership of over 1,000 households, the majority of which are well-educated, well-traveled, culturally sophisticated people from the greater Providence area.
- * Acknowledgement in the Annual Report and the *Universal Penman* newsletter (mailed to 1,000+ households, and distributed at the library), and on a dedicated page of the Athenaeum's website.
- * Invitation to our Major Donors' Brunch.
- * Reserved seating at Salons and programs.
- * 10% discount on Athenaeum facility rentals (for business meetings or receptions).
- * 10% discount on Athenaeum Household, Individual, or Individual Under 35 memberships for company employees.

Many thanks to our founding Corporate Catalysts:

- * Agniel Commodities (agnielcommodities.com)
- * Mandel & Tracy, LLC (mt-cpas.com)
- * Yankee Travel, Inc. (yankeetravel.com)

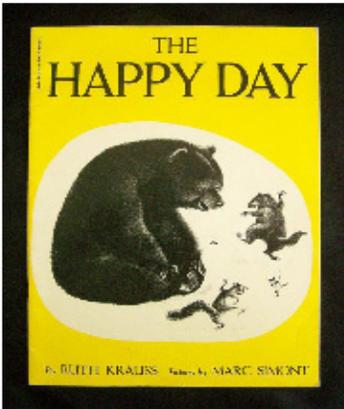
How to become a Corporate Catalyst or learn more about the program: Contact Danielle Kemsley, Director of Membership and Development, at 401-421-6970x15 or dkemsley@provath.org, or mail a check for \$1,000 (made payable to The Providence Athenaeum) to:

The Providence Athenaeum
Attn: Danielle Kemsley
251 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903



THE OWLET NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Lindsay Shaw, Children's Librarian



The Happy Day, written by Ruth Krauss and illustrated by Marc Simont, is the perfect book for celebrating our emergence from this most wintery of winters. The hibernating creatures of the forest awaken and race through the snow to discover the first flower of spring - and that is just what I think we all have been doing, just waiting for the first

glimmer of warmer days to come. Despite snowy closures and delays, though, we managed to keep things humming in the Children's Library. Educator Chris Hitchener of the Roger Williams Park Zoo's "Our Big Backyard" once again partnered with us for three wonderful nature-based programs. Plus we had film nights, story hours, Sparky's Puppets, a lovely morning of music for babies with Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School instructor Diana Dansereau, silly songs and stories with Celtic musician Mary King, and year three of our partnership with Trinity Repertory Company's "Shakespeare for Children" classes. A warm thank you to all who brought such lively entertainment to the Children's Library.

Looking forward, the Children's Library schedule will include story hours, Mother's and Father's Day workshops, films, and a chance to join Kate Wodehouse in the Athenaeum's partnership with *Unicorns in Residence: Providence*, as we host "A Unicorn in the Garden," a unicorn poster program for children. Also in June, morning story hours at the Gladys Potter Park (the "baby park," to those in the know) will resume. And finally, get ready for the ultimate summer reading challenge! We DOUBLE DARE children and families to join the "Read an Old Book, Make a New Friend" challenge: who will read the oldest book? A complete detailed listing of all spring and summer programs and activities will be listed on our website and in *The Owlet*.

Happy Spring!



Above: Studying beach artifacts and a fairy house creation from the RWP Zoo Workshop with Chris Hitchener



Middle: The directions to a wonderful game designed by young Rose Callanan for the Children's Library

Bottom: Singing with Diana Dansereau



SPRING AND SUMMER HOURS

Through May 31:
Mon-Thurs: 9am to 7pm
Fri & Sat: 9am to 5pm
Sun: 1 to 5pm

June 1 through June 20
Mon - Thurs: 9am to 7pm
Fri: 9am to 5pm
Sat: 10am to 2pm
Sun: closed

June 21 through Labor Day
(except for annual close August 2-16)
Mon - Thurs: 10am to 6pm
Fri: 9am to 5pm
Sat: 10am to 2pm, Sun: closed