THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM ANNOUNCES
SPRING 2018 PROGRAM SEASON

PROVIDENCE, RI- The Providence Athenæum is pleased to announce its Spring 2018 program season. Highlights include:

- Internationally acclaimed author ANITA SHREVE on her newest novel, The Stars are Fire, an instant New York Times bestseller
- Pulitzer Prize-winning historian GORDON WOOD on his recent book, Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, a Wall Street Journal Best Book of 2017
- Observing Nature: Edna Lawrence & Cabinets of Curiosities EXHIBITION highlighting extraordinary illustrated works from the Philbrick Rare Book Room’s Natural History Collection alongside specimens of insects, birds, and other wonders collected by the RISD Nature Lab

“We’re looking forward to a spring of spirited conversation with many of the country’s finest authors, historians, and artists,” said Executive Director Matt Burriesci. “If you’re tired of the coarse and ephemeral, these thinkers can elevate the spirit and invigorate the mind.”

One of the oldest libraries in the country, the Providence Athenæum seeks to enrich the literary, cultural, and intellectual pursuits of its members and surrounding community. The library celebrates the physical culture of the book and advances the humanities through innovative programming.

The Athenæum Salon series regularly welcomes some of the country’s most celebrated writers, historians, artists, scientists, and cultural leaders to address an engaged audience of members and the public. From topics ranging from Homer’s Odyssey to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, from the natural world to contemporary theater, from pub quizzes to poetry, the Athenæum seeks to bring Providence to the world, and bring the world to Providence. To accomplish its mission, the library regularly partners with a wide array of cultural institutions, such as Rhode Island Public Radio, the RISD Museum, the RISD Nature Lab, Providence Children’s Film Festival, Goat Hill Writers, Rhode Island Historical Society, Trinity Repertory Company, the English Speaking Union, and many others.

A full schedule of programs follows. All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Registration is required (provath.org/calendar). More information is available at provath.org, and the Children’s Library calendar can be found at provath.org/childrens/calendar. Please contact Robin Wetherill at rwetherill@provath.org for press photos or interview requests.

[Program listings begin on next page]
PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM SPRING 2018 PROGRAMS

The Spring 2018 season is generously sponsored by Bank of America.

SALON | FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 5-7PM | DANIEL MENDELSON (RESCHEDULED FROM NOVEMBER 17)
Award-winning author and critic DANIEL MENDELSON will discuss his recent book An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic. Homer's masterpiece led him and his father on a hilarious and poignant adventure when they decide to recreate Odysseus’ journey by following the hero's path through the ancient Mediterranean world via cruise ship. Mendelsohn explores the complexity of human relationships, the challenges of interpretations, and the human desire for endless discovery. Book signing to follow. Sponsored by Yankee Travel, Inc.

EXHIBITION | JANUARY 30 - MARCH 18 | COLLECTING THE CLASSICS
This exhibition will celebrate the classically inspired collections housed within our Greek Revival building. It will feature sculptures, prints, paintings, and books from the 17-19th centuries which have influenced our members for generations. Highlights include a seven-foot plaster statue of Athena Lemnia, a 2nd-century Greek amphora, 18th-century prints by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, and 19th-century marble replicas from the Roman Forum.

SALON | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 5-7PM | CHARLES C. MANN

SALON | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 5-7PM | PAMELA PAUL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 5:30-7PM | LIBRARY ORIENTATION & TOUR
reception 5:30-5:45pm; presentation 5:45-6; building & special collections tours 6-7
Drop in to learn about the Athenæum and ensure you’ll be able to make the most of your experience at the library! Potential, new, & longstanding members welcome. RSVP to Stephanie Knott at sknott@provath.org/401-421-6970 x14.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30-9PM | PUB QUIZ
Our popular pub quiz strikes again with quizmaster Alex Moffett! Teams of up to six compete for trivia bragging rights over pizza and beer. Members: $20, non-members: $25 (refreshments included). Tickets are available at provath.org/calendar. Sponsored by Narragansett Beer.
**SALON | FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 5-7 | TONY ESTRELLA**

Tony Estrella, Artistic Director of the Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre, gives a behind-the-scenes look at the composition of a diverse, balanced theatrical season and the mission to provide innovative theater that challenges and expands perceptions and understanding. *Sponsored by the Pearle W. and Martin M. Silverstein Foundation.*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 5:30-7:30PM | THAT’S MY STORY... AND I’M STICKING TO IT**

In partnership with Rhode Island Public Radio

Join the Athenæum and Rhode Island Public Radio for a unique evening of writing and live storytelling. Using some prompts to get the creativity flowing, the audience will be asked to write for a brief time and then be invited to share their stories live. The live storytelling will be recorded for a future RIpr broadcast.

**SALON | FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 5-7PM | GORDON WOOD**

Acclaimed historian and winner of the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes Gordon Wood discusses his recent book, *Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson*, a dual biography of two of America’s most enduringly fascinating figures, whose partnership helped birth a nation, and whose subsequent falling out did much to fix its course. *Sponsored by Agniesl Commodities, LLC.*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 5-7PM | ANNUAL MEETING**

All are welcome to join us at the Athenæum’s Annual Meeting and election of the Board of Directors for an overview of last year’s landmark successes and to learn about some of the library’s future plans.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 6:30-9PM | PUB QUIZ WITH MATTHEW LAWRENCE**

Writer/editor/publisher and man-about-town Matthew Lawrence plays quizmaster for an evening of trivia ranging from literature to pop culture. Teams of up to six compete over pizza and beer. Members: $20, non-members: $25 (refreshments included). Tickets are available at provath.org/calendar. *Sponsored by Narragansett Beer.*

**SALON | FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 5-7PM | EDNA’S NATURE LAB**

In partnership with the RISD Nature Lab

Celebrating 80 years, the RISD Nature Lab continues to fulfill the mission of founder Edna W. Lawrence to “open students’ eyes to the marvels of beauty in nature.” Three panelists will discuss the value and relevance of Edna’s vision from their distinct disciplines: the role of color and pattern in nature from entomologist David Wagner; the value of having a natural history collection in an art school from Betsy Ruppa, the manager of Edna’s collection today; and recollections from Alba Corrado, one of Edna’s students who later joined the RISD faculty and teaches Edna’s pedagogy of learning from nature. This Salon is the opening of the Observing Nature: Edna Lawrence & Cabinets of Curiosities exhibit in the Philbrick Rare Book Room.
EXHIBITION | APRIL 6 - JUNE 17 | OBSERVING NATURE: EDNA LAWRENCE & CABINETS OF CURiosITIES

Selections from the Athenæum’s Natural History Collection will be on display, showcasing illustrated works of the natural world from the Rare Book Room alongside specimens of insects, birds and other wonders collected by the RISD Nature Lab, as well as drawings by RISD alumna and Nature Lab founder Edna Lawrence and her students. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Nature Lab.

SALON | FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 5-7PM | TOM HENNES

TOM HENNES, principal and founder of the global exhibition design firm Thinc, discusses his work at New York's 9/11 Memorial Museum and how to tell the complex story of tragedy, bravery, and the resilience of a nation.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 5-7PM | 20TH ANNUAL PHILBRICK POETRY READING WITH MAJOR JACKSON

Award-winning poet MAJOR JACKSON reads from and discusses his work at the annual poetry event dedicated to the memory of Charles and Deborah Philbrick and to fostering the art of poetry in Rhode Island and beyond. Sponsored by the Philbrick Family.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 5-7PM | GOAT HILL WRITERS PRESENT JILL BIALSKY AND AKHIL SHARMA WITH ANN HOOD

In partnership with Goat Hill Writers

Best-selling writer ANN HOOD joins her editor, award-winning poet and memoirist JILL BIALSKY, and acclaimed fiction writer AKHIL SHARMA in conversation about the collaborative relationship between writers and their editors. Sponsored by Residential Properties Ltd.

SALON | FRIDAY, MAY 11, 5-7PM | ANITA SHREVE

Internationally acclaimed author ANITA SHREVE joins us to discuss her newest book The Stars are Fire, an instant NYT bestseller. The novel tells the incredible story of a young woman tested by a catastrophic event and its devastating aftermath, based on the 1947 true story of the largest fire in Maine's history. Sponsored by Residential Properties Ltd.

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About the Providence Athenæum: The Providence Athenæum is an independent, member-supported library and cultural center located on Providence’s historic Benefit Street. Over its nearly 200 years of existence, the library has welcomed illustrious writers, spirited thinkers, and energetic community members through its doors to engage in reading, conversation, and debate. At its heart, the Athenæum encourages a love of reading and learning to all. Learn more at provath.org.