The same generation that founded the American republic - in fact, some of the very same people - also founded our ancestor library, the Providence Library Company, whose values the Providence Athenæum has inherited. Among those are the Enlightenment’s insistence upon individualism, humanism, skepticism, and reasoned inquiry. Like our founders before us, the Athenæum’s contemporary community believes that we may only sustain our national culture insofar as we remain regularly engaged with the humanities and sciences.

At a time when books and libraries have become increasingly digital, the Athenæum - while embracing technology in its mission - remains devoted to a sense of place, the physical culture of books, and the face-to-face exchange of ideas.

These may appear to be quaint values in the 21st century, but if they are, there’s no evidence of that at the Athenæum, which has enjoyed its most successful year in modern memory. Our membership has continued to grow, our exhibits and programs are drawing record numbers of attendees, and we ended the fiscal year with a healthy operating surplus.

We are grateful to you, and to all of Providence, for supporting this institution and for sharing its values.

Matt Burriesci
Executive Director

R. Tripp Evans
Board President
2018–2019
A YEAR TO REMEMBER

56,969
Patrons & visitors served by the library

7,034
Visitors to the Children’s Library

1,892
Total members*

56
Open hours per week

22%
Increase in program attendance

Programs
125 adult events
8,440 adult event attendees
144 children’s events
2,664 children’s event attendees
67 tours of building & collections

Library Services
176,849 items in collection
1,504 acquisitions
22,662 items circulated
173 reference questions
63 research appointments

*Includes two adult members in each Household membership.
More than 11,000 people joined the library at over 250 events for adults and children in FY19. In order to accommodate such demand, the library moved two major events offsite to the nearby First Unitarian Church: Hamilton producer and Artistic Director of the Public’s Theater Oskar Eustis and bestselling author Meg Wolitzer. Over 1,000 people attended those events alone, which were completely free of charge and open to the public.

Other notable speakers included Pulitzer Prize-winning scholar Stephen Greenblatt, National Book Award-winner Terrance Hayes, Grammy Award-winning artist Bill Harley, New York Times journalist and author Dan Barry, and renowned scholar Arnold Weinstein.

The Children’s Library was bustling, featuring story times, animal experiences, music, movies, and special events. Over 2,500 children and families attended the library’s programs.

The Athenæum continued to bring the world to Providence and Providence to the world, recording and distributing the majority of our adult programs and partnering with multiple local and national cultural organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Modern Language Association, the New York Public Library, Yale University’s Beinecke Library, the RISD Museum, The Public’s Radio, the Providence Children’s Film Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute, School One, and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.
Highlights

- Hamilton producer Oskar Eustis
- A Midnight Dreary Poe-themed fundraiser
- Bestselling author Meg Wolitzer
- Dave Marchetti's Animal Experiences
The Athenæum produced four large-scale exhibits this year, which attracted more visitors, students, and scholars to the Special Collections than ever before. *Ravenous: The Enduring Legacy of Poe* proved to be our most successful exhibition to date, and featured items from the Athenæum’s collections and the extraordinary holdings of renowned bibliophile Susan Jaffe Tane. The exhibit was complemented by a series of programs for children and adults, and was supported by Christie’s and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.

Through the Hayden Special Collections Development Fund, the library acquired a beautiful, limited-edition folio of Poe’s *The Raven*, with lithographs by contemporary artist James Reed. A magnificent pocket globe (c. 1830) was also added to the collection, in conjunction with the *Voyages: Mapping the World* exhibition. Additionally, the institution conserved six books from the Providence Library Company’s collection, five of which were originally owned by Moses Brown.

The Athenæum welcomed many school groups for building and collection tours, and the twice-weekly public staff-led tours proved increasingly popular. We also uploaded an initial batch of finding aids to the Rhode Island Archival and Manuscript Collections Online (RIAMCO) database, ensuring that scholars from around the world will have a better understanding of the Athenæum’s archival holdings.
Exhibitions

- 251 Benefit Street
  July – September 2018

- Voyages: Mapping the World
  October – December 2018

- Raven-ous: The Enduring
  Legacy of Poe
  February – May 2019

- Providence Unveiled: Stories from the Archives
  June – September 2019
Buildings & Grounds

The Athenæum continued to make progress on investigations made possible by a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities, and began to plan seriously for the long-term health and improvements of our beloved and historic home.

Initial work began on replacing the aging roofing system and skylights over the Strickland and Isham Wings of the building, along with making substantial repairs to the failing skylight system as well. This work is scheduled to be completed in FY20. By November of 2019, the entire roofing system will be new, and will be secure (and warranted) for a generation.

Early in the year, significant improvements were also made to the Athenæum’s aged electrical system, which have mitigated fire risk and improved electrical capacity throughout the building. Engineers conducted ultrasound investigations of the Athenæum’s unique gravity hot water heating system, and, for the first time, the library now has a detailed map of the extensive piping system that supports the building.
Treasurer's Report

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 found the Athenæum in its strongest financial position in several years.

Revenues improved in nearly every category, including membership (5%) and fundraising (7%). Facility rentals increased by 33% owing largely to a one-time television shoot. While funding for capital projects declined by 48%, grants received in FY17 are being applied to work being conducted at the beginning of FY20.

Investment income designated for operations increased by 2.5% due to growth in the endowment holdings. The Athenæum's endowment grew by 1.3% in FY19, after accounting for drawdowns for operations. Total net assets increased by 1%, to $13,120,889.

Total expenses increased by 1%, largely owing to investments in programming and information technology infrastructure. (In 2019 the Athenæum upgraded its WiFi system to offer members better service, which accounts for much of the increase in its General Office & Administrative expense). Personnel expenses declined by 1.3%, largely the result of temporary vacancies.

Overall the library's financial position remains strong, and, for the third consecutive year, the Athenæum ended its fiscal year with a surplus.

Bradford M. Gibbs, Treasurer
## INCOME STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$191,433</td>
<td>$181,518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Capital Projects Funding</td>
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<td>Facility Rental</td>
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<td>Trust Funds</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Investment Income for Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
<td>$1,233,078</td>
<td>$1,196,606</td>
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## EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$787,135</td>
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<td>Library Materials</td>
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<td>Library Services &amp; Management</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>Communications &amp; Marketing</td>
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<td>Membership &amp; Development</td>
<td>$37,449</td>
<td>$39,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>Capital Projects Expense</td>
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<td>$52,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Office &amp; Admin.</td>
<td>$129,599</td>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$1,191,282</td>
<td>$1,189,645</td>
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## CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$41,795</td>
<td>$6,961</td>
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Note: the above financial information presents only unrestricted operating activity before fixed asset capitalization or depreciation. Revenue and expense for special projects are included only as net assets are released from restrictions. Further details are published in the audited financial statements available through the accounting department.

## BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY18</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Endowment</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets*</td>
<td>$1,682,893</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$13,120,889</td>
<td>$12,948,991</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$18,273</td>
<td>$10,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$45,197</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>$72,385</td>
<td>$62,056</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EQUITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>$1,232,475</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>$1,490,558</td>
<td>$1,488,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EQUITY</td>
<td>$13,048,504</td>
<td>$12,886,935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY               | $13,120,889| $12,948,991|

*Fixed assets are listed here net of accumulated depreciation.
Supporters of the Athenæum

It is only through the generosity of its members and friends that the Athenæum has thrived for close to 200 years. The following pages are a tribute to these people, businesses, and foundations who gave cash and in-kind contributions to the library between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Francis Wayland Circle ($25,000+)
- The Champlin Foundation
- The Creative & Cultural Economy Bonds, administered by the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
- Brian & Lyn Hayden
- James C. Raleigh Memorial Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Panopticon, Inc.
- Providence Preservation Society
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

Moses Brown Circle ($5,000-$9,999)
- Thomas & Antonia Bryson
- Scott & Cynthia Burns
- Dr. Joseph A. Chazan
- Stephen & Melanie Coon
- Ellen & David Galkin, Ira S. and Anna Galkin Charitable Trust
- Bradford & Robin Gibbs, Gibbs Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable
- Barbara Goldstein, Leon & Barbara Goldstein Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Susan & David Haffenreffer, Haffenreffer Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Mabel T. Woolley Trust
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

Grace Leonard Circle ($2,500-$4,999)
- Anonymous, in honor of the wonderful Ath staff
- Candy Adriance
- Bank of America
- Tripp Evans & Edward Cabral
- Grace & Carl Farmer
- Jonathan & Rita Gewirz
- Mark & Catherine Gim
Laura & Roy Brady, in honor of Lindsay Shaw & the best children's library, ever!
Drs. Ethan Hillary Kisch & Helene Kisch-Pniowski
Merrill Lynch
Chas A. Millett III & Birch Coffey / Lois H. & Charles A. Millett Foundation
Residential Properties Ltd.
Denning & Jane Sherman
Mary C. Speare
Abbot Stranahan & David Ward

Zachariah Allen Circle ($1,000-$2,499)
Kristi & Lucien Agnmi
Leslie Atik & Robert Preucel
Kqantu Bennett, in memory of Doretta Lawson Bennett
Julie M. Boegehold, in memory of Alan Boegehold
Dr. & Mrs. William Braden
Campus Fine Wines
Arnold B. Chace, Jr., Chase Family Giving Fund, Fidelity Charitable, in memory of Elizabeth Keiko Chace
Inge & Richard Cha'afe, Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Cha'afe Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Christie's Auction House
Jill Davis
Charles & Marilyn Doebler Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Joseph L. & Sarah T. Dowling
Davide Dukevich & Alice Berresheim-Dukevich, in honor of Miss Lindsay Alice Farmer, Alice Farmer Charitable Fund, Schwa Charitable
Nicholas G. Fazzano
Jen & Michael Gazdacko
The Gertrude & Seebert Goldowsky Foundation / The Pearle W. & Martin M. Silverstein Foundation
Touba Ghadessi & John Richard Martin Gibbs
Cate S. & Richard T. Gilbane, Richard T. Gilbane Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Betsey Grenier & Jane Linden, in support of Jen Gazdacko's board service
Almon & Suzanne Hall, Almon & Suzanne Hall Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Elizabeth Hallowell, in honor of Tripp Evans
Karen & Richard Jessup, in memory of my late father who valued libraries as one of the hallmarks of a democratic, civil society, and in honor of the Athenæum staff
Lyn Johnson
James L. Keck II & Eileen Forster-Keck
Danielle Kemssly, in honor of Oskar Eustis and the Athenæum staff
Jennifer E. Kiddie, Kiddie Giving Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Leonard & Linda Levin
Cathy Lund & Peter Kaczmarz / City Kitty Veterinary Care for Cats, in honor of the amazing cats of Providence, who know that reading creates more laps to sit on!
Karen Kremer McCuley
Anne B. Miller
Charles O'Boyle, Jr. & Richard Rambus
Joanne & Hugh Oechler
Charles Otto & Carol Grant
John & Regina Partridge / Partridge Snow & Hahn, LLP
Tim & Claudia Philbrick
Kate Barber & Edward Pitoniak, in honor of the Philbrick Family
Nina Pratt
Providence Journal
Dian K. Reynolds, in memory of Samuel A. Miller
Richard and Barbara Bell Fund for Social Justice
Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
Russell & Carla Riucci, the Racci Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Rustigan Rugs
Frank & Monica Schaberg
Kay & Peter Scheidler
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Schweich
Peggy & Henry Sharpe, Peggy & Henry Sharpe Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Susan & Dan Shedd
Jillian Siqueland, in memory of Einar Siqueland
Tom & Barbara Slaight
Ann & John Woolsey
Howland Swan Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Sylvia Street Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, in memory of Ruth Ely Michael Tobi & Ann Shakeshaft, in memory of Sam Miller
Variable Data Printing, Inc.
Carol & Kevin Welsh
Ann T. Willaman, matching gift Textron, Inc.
Yanke Travel, Inc.

William Stickland Circle ($500-$999)
Anonymous (4)
Suzanne Barksdale
James Barnett, in honor of the Philbrick Poetry Project
Alayne Barnicoat & Dale Lesh
Jonathan Bell & Sarah Zurier
Mary Brooks Wall
Kip & Judith Brott
Matt Bur riesci & Erin Kemper
Muriel H. Constantine
Alexandra Cummings, Robert Cummings Family Foundation
Albert & Pamela Dahlberg
Lewis & Betty Dana
Kristin A. DeKuiper
Mary-Beth Fafard
Skip & Ann Faith
Joseph Flexa
David Franklin & Ann Lacquerre
Robert Garzillo & Kate Wodehouse
Sarah Gleason, in memory of Tom Gleason
Teresa & Peter Hackunsa, Hackuna Fund, Fidelity Charitable, for the Children's Library, in honor of our friend Justin Lutes
Mitchell & Ellen Hansen, Hansen Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Alfred Jeffries
Evan & Catherine Jones
Matthew & Diane Josefiowicz
Karen Kaplan
Mary Louise Kennedy
Howard & Kate Kilguss
Mike King & Martha Bellows
Sally Kingsbury
Russell & Jean Knott

Mary- Beth Fafard
Skip & Ann Faith
Joseph Flexa
David Franklin & Ann Lacquerre
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Matthew & Diane Josefiowicz
Karen Kaplan
Mary Louise Kennedy
Howard & Kate Kilguss
Mike King & Martha Bellows
Sally Kingsbury
Russell & Jean Knott

Douglas Kolacki
Jane & Tony Lancaster
Jane Langmuir
Govind Menon & Anjali Sridhar, in honor of the Athenæum's Special Collections
Margorie Montgomery, in memory of John B. Montgomery
Doug & Elise Morse
Suzanne & Terrence Murray, Murray Family Charitable Foundation

Audrey & Richard Olmsted
Richard A. Olsen
Peter O'Neill & Lindsay French
Mr. Charles H. Page
Jill Pearlman, Pearlman Charitable Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Sara Reichley
J.R. Rudert
Phoebe Salten & Merrill Weingrod, Salten Weingrod Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation

Raymond Strong & Maureen Taylor, Taylor Strong Charitable Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
The Daniel Rosenblatt Foundation

Jill Pearlman, Pearlman Charitable Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
The following individuals have generously provided for the long-term financial health of the library by including the Athenæum in their will or estate plans.

### Anonymous
- In memory of the Athenæum’s Special Collections
- Adale M. Bourne
- Michele Brannigan
- Jennifer Ketzky Brock
- Anna Brower
- Mary E. Brower, in memory of Elizabeth Carpenter
- Joe & Rachael Caiati
- Christopher Carr
- Stephen Carvuna
- Barbara Casey
- Elizabeth Caswell
- Zulette Catir
- Paula Champa
- Nicole Cheney
- Robert Christian
- Sharon Lloyd Clark
- Avram & Maxine Cohen
- Anne & Evan Cohen
- William Colaiase
- Jon Colombo & Abby Davies
- Sean & Anne Connor
- Carol Cook
- Thomas & Hollie Courage
- Alex Cutler
- David & Sharon Cutts
- Stephen Dambru
- Andy Davies
- Judy Davis
- Betsey Delaney
- Donor Advised Fund, Fidelity Charitable
- Jane & Allen Dennison
- Gregory DePardo
- Oliver & Lisa Dow
- Mark & Annette Dunkelman
- Sara Dunn
- Shannon K. Dungan
- Susan W. Durham, in honor of Dr. R. Tripp Evans
- Charles & Christine Eccles
- Jai-Lee Egna
- Tina Egnozki & Dan O’Mahony
- Lory Engelmann
- Nathan Epstein
- Janie Evans
- Constance Eyraud
- John & Heidi Farsh
- Jean & Barrett Flanders
- Miguel Fisguier, in memory of Wilhum H. Pugnaire, weird author extraordinaire and a kind and generous human being
- Jennifer Forbes
- Marilyn Franklin
- Catherine Fury, in memory of Helen Hughes
- Ann Garth
- Anne Gasper, in honor of Steve Coon’s Prout reading group
- Mary Anne Golda
- Dawn A. Goodman
- Ellen Goodman
- Jennifer Dewees Hale
- Rebecca Hancock
- Seth Handy & Charlotte Breed
- Handy
- Daniel Harrop & Jeffrey K. Harrington
- Janet Hanson
- Carl Helmut & Diane Petrella
- Jim Howard & Dennis Teepe
- Lucia Huntley
- Jay Hunt
- Mary Hutchins
- Ann & Jonathan Huyck
- Rachael Jeffers
- Irene Jefferson
- Dana Josup Turner
- Alice Kalman
- Katherine Kazarian
- Dave & Dorothy Kellogg
- Jesse & Jim Kingston
- Crawford & Pamela Kirkpatrick
- Emily Kloehlen
- Maureen Krasnow
- Linda Baxter Lasco
- Rebecca Lebeau
- Lucy Ann Lepreau
- Allison Levy
- Dave Lorusso & Kiki King
- Kate Losman
- Ralph & Emily Lutfkin
- Simone Lukas-Jogl & Gerard Jogl
- Diane Lynch
- Penelope Manzella
- Faye Maris
- Sheryl Mason
- Jason May, in honor of Jenny Young
- Donald & Mary McClure
- Lee McDaniel
- Joan Medeiros
- Loren Metzger-Marcus
- Michael & Marianne Miglior
- Grace Miller-Trabold
- Adrienne Morris
- Edward & Carolann Morrissey
- Elion Nachman, in memory of Adrienne & Jo Nachman
- John P. Nagler
- Rita Nenonen
- Susan & Bill Newkirk
- Mildred Nichols
- Dean E. A. Nicolson, in honor of H.P. Lovecraft
- Vera Old
- Lauri & Christopher Ontso
- Ruth Otto
- Allison Pace, in memory of Marianne Pace
- Kenneth Payne
- Elise Petraca
- Anthony & Lillian Picchione
- Phyllis D. Poor
- John & Christine Popoli
- Rosemary Prisco, in memory of John & Betty Prisco
- Judith Queen
- Kurt Raflaib & Deborah Boedecker
- Ramon J. Loqa, P.E.
- Richard & Margaret Ratcliffe
- Connie & George Raymond
- Amy Remensnyder
- David & Jennifer Riedel
- Tina Rizack & Christopher Langlois
- Wendy Barry Roberts, in honor of the Athenæum’s Special Collections
- Michael Robinson & Shayna Kessel
- Elizabeth Warburton Robechtor
- Scott Rodenhizer & Kate Hanley
- Ralph E. Rodriguez
- Michael & Christine Rogers
- Victoria Rogers
- Dario & Jodi Roque
- Carolyn Rosenthal
- Fred & Sally Rotenberg
- Brent Runyon
- Brett Rutherford
- Nancy Safer
- Paul & Sylvia Sapir
- Ford & Sally Sayre
- Sophie Roooker Scott
- Ronie Sigounos
- Midil Shah & Patricia Ybarra
- Ruby Shalansky
- Linday Shaw
- Sarah & Robert Shaw
- Stephen Sheinkopf & Jennifer Levy
- Kathleen & John Sheran
- Elaine Shiner
- Josh Short
- Helen Smiler
- Heidi Smith
- Holly Lorraine Smith
- Robert Smith & Sarah Stanbury Smith
- Allan Smalling & Lori Baltruchtis
- Andrew & Carla Spacone, in honor of Steve Coon
- Joseph Spencer
- Penney Stein
- Andrew & Louise Swanson
- Robin M. Tagliaferri
- Alain & Karen Usas
- Amy & Joel VonderWeele
- Mary J Volatile
- Mike & Marcia Walsh, in honor of the Levin Family
- Jessica Wang
- Terry Ward
- James Watkins & Elizabeth Pannell
- Vera Wayne
- Ellen & Stanley Weiner, in honor of Dr. Richard Goldberg
- Steve Wellnemeir & Anne Bergeron
- Ellen Welby & Michael Middleleet
- Sarah Wheaton
- Michael White
- Lauren Williams
- Ryder & Anne Windham
- Shannos Wittwer
- Tom Wojack & Anggie Kozia
- Timothy Wynne
- Leslie Atik
- Jennifer Becker
- Karina Bertsch
- Adele Bourne
- Ellen Bruezelus
- Erin Dahil
- Carol Delaney
- Peggy Edwards
- Carl Farmer
- Grace Farmer
- Sarah Gleason
- Molly Harrington
- Greg Healy
- Lucia Huntley
- Jenn Huntley
- Jennifer Kiddle
- Jane Lancaster
- Lucy Lepreau
- Ivaeta Maddin

### Committee Volunteers
- Peter Logge, Buildings & Grounds
- Conor MacDonald, Buildings & Grounds
- Deming Sherman, Finance
- Lyn Johnson, Finance

### Workstudy Students, RISD
- Thomas Caycedo

### Reading Group Leaders
- Robert Allio, The Examined Life
- Elizabeth Ly Bell, Classic Fairy Tales Reconsidered
- Susan Cohen, Athenæum Book Discussion Group
- Stephen Coon, Soundings: Interpreting Mobillie & Conrad
- Rhoda Flaxman, Eminent Victorian Writers
- Vanessa Lilie, Reading Like a Writer

### Athenaeum Society

### Donor Advised Fund, Fidelity Charitable
It is our design to place within the control of every man the means of bettering his pecuniary fortunes, of cultivating his intellectual powers, of improving his moral nature. An important instrument in effecting purposes like these, is to be found in Public Libraries, founded, like our own, upon liberal principles, and having for their aim the general good.

These establishments are not intended, as many mistakenly or perversely think for the more especial benefit of the rich, and the learned, and the unoccupied…

they are accessible to all classes of men.

The first Annual Report of the Providence Athenæum, 1836