Annual Report of the Providence Athenæum
July 2021 - June 2022
The ‘modern’ Providence Athenæum is 186 years old, but its origins stretch back before the dawn of the republic. It was established in the wake of great philosophical upheaval, during which time the very nature of society underwent radical transformation. Since then, there has rarely been a decade when America was not gripped by some crisis - a revolution, various religious awakenings, civil war, plagues, financial panics, and the ongoing struggle to expand human liberty.

In the United States, few institutions have endured for so long. But in 2022, the Athenæum did more than simply survive. The library ended the year with more members than at any point in its history, as its membership grew younger and more diverse. Its humanistic programs reached national audiences. The institution received the most significant addition to its Special Collections in more than a century and saw overall circulation increase for the first time in five years. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the library did not fully re-open to the public until May of 2022 - but when it did, it opened a new Visitor Center capable of properly welcoming guests. And as the Athenæum broke membership and fundraising records, it reduced its endowment draw; improved pay equity across the institution; and produced its sixth consecutive budget surplus.

All of this is a testament to the work of our tireless Board and Staff, who labored through yet another year of the pandemic, and to you, our supporters, who made all of it possible. 2022 was truly a remarkable year for the Athenæum.

Thank you.

Jonathan Bell
President of the Board

Matt Burriesci
Executive Director
Board of Directors

Jonathan F. Bell  
President

Jen Gazdacko  
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Peter Lofgren

Cathy Lund, DVM

Cynthia Patterson

John Stephenson

Melvin D. Wesley, AIA

Library Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Matt Burriesci

FULL-TIME STAFF
Mary Brower**  
Circulation Supervisor
Ken Garrepy  
Director of Finance & Administration
Juli Anna Herndon  
Circulation Manager
Vanessa MacEachen  
Technical Services Librarian
Stephanie Ovoian  
Head of Research & Library Services
Brendan Ryan*  
Technical Services Librarian
Lindsay Shaw  
Children’s Librarian
Robin Wetherill  
Director of Membership & External Relations
Kate Wodehouse  
Director of Collections & Library Services
Jenny Young  
Events & Facilities Manager

PART-TIME STAFF
Genesis Barrera  
Library Assistant
Gabriela Cantú  
Library Assistant
Andrés Escobar*  
Library Assistant
Mecca Levesgue  
Library Assistant
Sandy Markley  
Membership & Development Assistant
Erin Perfect  
Library Assistant
Morgan Ross  
Library Assistant
Lily Wright  
Library Assistant

*Resigned in FY22.
**Mary Brower retired in 2022 after 18 years of dedicated service.

FY21-22 Snapshot

28,003
Patrons & visitors served by the library

1,921
Total memberships

PROGRAMS
212 adult events
8,403 adult event attendees
756 kids' craft activities assembled
63 building & collections tours

LIBRARY SERVICES
175,945 items in collection
1,550 acquisitions
27,282 total items circulated
6,556 digital items circulated

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH
Excludes complimentary memberships
8,403 people attended an Athenæum program this year, in which we welcomed leading humanists from a wide array of disciplines, including best-selling authors, Pulitzer Prize-winners, and recipients of the National Book Award. Presenters included Michael Pollan, Eddie Glaude, Jr., Barbara Kingsolver, Ann Patchett, Azar Nafisi, Jeffrey Stewart, Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Jonathan Rauch, Betsy West, and many more. The Athenæum offered more than a dozen reading groups on a broad range of topics, facilitated by excellent leaders from our community.

In 2021, the Athenæum launched its Program Working Group to help curate events. The group consists of members of the Athenæum’s board, staff, and of the larger community, and its charge is to develop diverse, high-quality humanistic events.

Athenæum programs engage viewers from around the world, and moving forward, the majority of events will be presented live at the Athenæum and via simulcast. Programs are available free of charge to the public through our growing Program Archive, which now features more than 125 events. Anticipating a return to in-person programs, we developed the infrastructure to record and stream events live from the library itself, installing a new audio/visual system in the Reading Room.
This year, the Athenæum welcomed the most significant gift to its Special Collections in more than a century: the Susan Jaffe Tane Collection of Ralph Waldo Emerson & Henry David Thoreau. Among the many historically significant items in this collection are a copy of Thomas Carlyle’s *The French Revolution*, signed by both Emerson and Thoreau; manuscripts by both authors; and a first edition of Emerson’s *Essays* that belonged to Sarah Helen Whitman. We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary gift.

The library also saw a remarkable 25% increase in circulation. This shift is the result of the rapid growth in membership as well as investment in new digital resources like hoopla.

Other notable projects and acquisitions this year include:

- The re-installation of the mezzanine busts with the addition of Wollstonecraft, Douglass, and Alcott.
The Athenæum saw an unprecedented 38% increase in paid membership this year, welcoming hundreds of new members to our community. The library continued to extend hundreds of complimentary memberships to Providence's school teachers and to those who are unable to afford annual fees.

For perhaps the first time in the library's history, members were provided with membership cards, which enable them, depending on their membership level, to access the Rhode Island School of Design's Fleet Library and to visit over 1,000 museums free of charge through the North American Reciprocal Museum Association.

After the longest public closure in the institution’s history, the Athenæum fully re-opened to the public in May 2022, greeting guests in a new Visitor Center. The new Center allows visitors to orient themselves and offers multiple newly designed self-guided tours of the building. It also enables the Athenæum to understand its audience, so we can better curate the visitor experience. The suggested $5 donation per adult and merchandise sales are proving a significant new revenue stream to support library activities. Over 2,000 non-members visited in the first two months after re-opening.
We spent much of the year engaged in planning for the library's heating system replacement, which will commence in the Spring of 2023. Engineers, architects, and preservation experts developed plans and detailed drawings. Supply chain issues delayed the commencement of the work, but in 2023, the Athenæum will finally replace its antiquated and failing heating system – a key priority identified in our Master Plan. Once this project is completed, we will begin to address other critical infrastructure issues at the institution, including fire suppression, climate control, hardscaping, and accessibility.

The cast iron fence facing Benefit Street was repaired and repainted, the Richmond Fountain was turned back on for the first time since the pandemic began, and we commenced work to evaluate the landscape for both short- and long-term renovation and restoration plans.
Treasurer's Report

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 found the library in a strong financial position despite ongoing disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the volatility of the national economy.

Revenues. Total operating revenues declined by 16% to $1,401,064. The decline was due largely to the smaller draw from the endowment, and less capital project funding. Total fundraising also declined because of the absence of COVID-related government funded grant programs. On the positive side, the Athenæum saw an unprecedented rise in membership revenue, up 27%. The Annual Fund also set a record, and building rental income surged 896% as the building reopened after the COVID shutdown. The reduction in endowment draw to the lowest level in decades was made possible by the overall strength of operations and the benefits of COVID-related funding received. As a result, the Athenæum was able to preserve capital in the current volatile market.

Expenses. Total operating expenses declined by 2.6%, mainly due to a significant drop in Capital Project expenses due to the completion of the Master Planning process. Personnel expenses increased by 7%. Following a pay freeze for staff the previous year, the Athenæum has invested in its staff, and advanced pay equity. Significant percentage increases in Programs and Membership & Development expenses were due to investments in virtual programming and the post-COVID revival of some marketing campaigns. Other cost increases were attributable to normal operating functions. The major looming capital expense is the replacement of the heating system which will be done in the Spring of ’23. Capital funds have been allocated for the replacement and will not adversely affect the bottom line.

Balance Sheet. Total invested endowment declined by 18.2% in fiscal year 2022 in line with the decline experienced by financial markets in the last half of the fiscal year. Total Liabilities declined by 47% largely due to PPP loan forgiveness. Changes in other liability accounts were in line with normal operations.

Other. In fiscal year 2022, the Athenæum received the largest gift to its Special Collections in over a century. The trove of literary materials was appraised at $525,500.

Conclusion. The Athenæum weathered the COVID years and emerged in strong financial shape, registering its sixth consecutive operating surplus. It remains well-positioned to continue to serve its members and the broader community.

Thomas Bryson
Treasurer
## Income Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>FY22</th>
<th>FY21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$229,506</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>$202,340</td>
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<td>Facility Rental</td>
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<td>Bequest</td>
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<td>Trust Funds</td>
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<td>$40,469</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Investment Income for Operations</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
<td>$523,722</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>$1,401,064</td>
<td>$1,659,364</td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Communications &amp; Marketing</td>
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<td>Membership &amp; Development</td>
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<td>Building &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>Capital Projects Expense</td>
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<td>$202,340</td>
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<td>General Office &amp; Admin.</td>
<td>$134,155</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$1,334,176</td>
<td>$1,369,194</td>
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| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS         | $66,888   | $290,170  |

Note: the financial information above presents only unrestricted operating activity before fixed asset capitalization or depreciation. Revenue and expenses 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>FY22</th>
<th>FY21</th>
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<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>
<td>$30,775</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets*</td>
<td>$1,910,795</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$13,863,990</td>
<td>$16,166,389</td>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$60,659</td>
<td>$33,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$33,801</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>$14,200</td>
<td>$10,644</td>
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<td>PPP Loan</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>$108,860</td>
<td>$207,140</td>
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<th>EQUITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$10,793,537</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>$1,493,284</td>
<td>$1,493,208</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>$13,755,130</td>
<td>$15,959,249</td>
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| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | $13,863,990| $16,166,389|

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

The Athenæum is deeply grateful to the following friends for their generosity & support. These pages are a tribute to the people, businesses, & foundations who gave cash & in-kind contributions to the library between July 1, 2021 & June 30, 2022.

Steward Circle ($25,000+)
- The Champlin Foundation
- James C. Raleigh Memorial Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Susan Jaffe Tane

Antiquarian Circle ($10,000-$24,999)
- Anonymous (2)
- Vincent Buonanno
- Scott & Cynthia Burns
- The Carter Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Dr. Joseph A. Chazan
- June Rockwell Levy Foundation
- Bill Mark & Denis Roche
- Ann Mason
- Cynthia & James Patterson

Folio Circle ($5,000-$9,999)
- Candy Adriance
- Julie M. Boegehold, in memory of Alan Boegehold
- Stephen & Melanie Coon
- Douglas Davis & Rachel Littman
- Davide Dukevich & Alice Berresheim-Dukevich, Carolina Dukevich Family Fund, Vanguard Charitable, in honor of Miss Lindsay
- Patricia Fuller
- Ellen & David Galkin
- Barbara Goldstein, Leon & Barbara Goldstein Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Susan & David Haffenreffer, Haffenreffer Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter G. Lisle, Fidelity Charitable
- Mabel T. Woolley Trust
- Chas A. Miller III & Birch Coffey, Charles A. & Lois H. Miller Foundation
- Brian Regal
- Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Residential Properties Ltd.
- Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
- Abbot Stranahan & David Ward, Entelco Foundation
- Quarto Circle ($2,500-$4,999)
- Roy & Laura Brady, in honor of Lindsay Shaw - the best children's librarian ever!
- Jill H. Davis
- Tripp Evans & Edward Cabral
- Grace & Carl Farmer
- Jonathan & Rita Gewirz
- Bradford & Robin Gibbs, Gibbs Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable
- Cate S. & Richard T. Gilbane, Richard T. Gilbane Fund, Vanguard Charitable
- Mark & Catherine Gun
- Sarah Godfrey, Godfrey Family Fund, Fidelity Charitable
- Ira S. & Anna Galkin Charitable Trust, in honor of Ellen B. Galkin
- Jennifer Ellen Kiddie
- Monica & Frank Schaberg
- Deming & Jane Sherman
- Barbara & Tom Slaight
- Mary Chapman Speare
- Universal Service Administrative Company
- Ann & John Woolsey

Octavo Circle ($1,000-$2,499)
- Anonymous
- Lucien & Kristi Agniel, in honor of Tripp Evans
- Leslie Atik & Robert Preucel
- Joan Stroud Blame
- Dr. & Mrs. William Braden
- Kip & Judith Brott
- Teal Butterworth & Dennis Ballou
- Paula Carmichael & Richelle Russell, matching gift United Health Group
Arnold B. Chace, Jr., Chace Family Giving Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Inge Chafee
Debra Chase & William Penhallurick
Charles & Marilyn Doebler Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Nicholas G. Fazzano
Jen & Michael Gazdacko
The Gertrude & Seebert Goldowsky Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. L. Martin Gibbs
Donna & Paul Gricus
Almon & Suzanne Hall, Almon & Suzanne Hall Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Elizabeth Hallowell
Hamnah Street Consulting, Inc., in support of Jen Gazdacko's board service
Brian & Lyn Hayden
Karen & Richard Jessup
Lyn Johnson
Evans & Catherine Jones
Karen Kaplan
Leonard & Linda Levin
Cathy Lund & Peter Karzczar, in honor of the purr-fectly literary cats of RI
Murray Family Charitable Foundation
Hugh Oechler
Peter O'Neill & Lindsay French
Pearle W. & Martin M. Silverstein Foundation
Timothy & Claudia Philbrick
Suzanne Scanlan
Kay & Peter Scheidler
Peggy & Henry Sharpe, Peggy & Henry Sharpe Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
John Stephenson & Mary Bogdanow
Dexter Strong & Maureen Taylor, Taylor Strong Charitable Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Sylvia Street Fund, in memory of Ruth Ely, at the Rhode Island Foundation
Variable Data Printing, Inc.
Ann T. Willaman
Jennifer & Harry Winograd, Jennifer & Harry Winograd Family Fund, Morgan Stanley

Codex Circle ($500-$499)
Anonymous
Mary Stair Andrews
Mary-Kim Arnold & Matthew Derby
Suzanne Barksdale
Gordon & Ellen Beeton
Jonathan Bell & Sarah Zarrier
Phoebe Blake & Peter McClure
Matt Burriesci & Erin Kemper
Lisa C. Casey, Casey Family Giving Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Muriel H. Constantine
Alexandra Cummings, Robert Cummings Family Foundation
Kristin A. DeKuiper
Curt DiCamillo, in honor of Matt Burriesci & the bright beacon of enlightenment; the Goddess of Tolerance & Liberalism
Rena & Bob DiMuccio
Joseph L. & Sarah T. Dowling
Mary-Beth Fafard, Ph.D.
Pedro Felzenszwalb & Caroline Kivans
David & Suzanne Francis, Francis Family Fund, Schwab Charitable
Touba Ghadessi & John Richard
Ruth & Mark Guyer
Dean Hantzopoulos
Laurel Davis Huber
Matthew & Diane Josewiesicz
Mary Louise Kennedy
Sally Kingsbury
Russell & Jean Knott
Jane & Tony Lancaster
Peter & Natasha Loligren
Stephen Mazzariello
Donald & Mary McClure
Jack & Sara McGonell
Frederick McMullen
Govind Menon & Anjali Sridhar
Ted & Susan Moscari
Mark & Linda Narbay
Richard A. Olsen
Amy & Kevin Orth
Kim & Tim Page
Jill Pearlman, Pearlman Charitable Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Kevin & Marianne Phelan, matching gift Amica Companies Foundation
Anthony & Lillian Piccione
Barbara & Larry Schoenfeld for the Sand Foundation
Monique & Robert Schweich, in honor of Jenny Schweich
Cynthia L. & Gardiner H. Shatztsck Jr.
Irvng Chase Sheldon Jr., in memory of Katharine M. Sheldon
Jillian Siqueland
Starkweather & Shpley Ins.
Jim Sunshine, in memory of Anne
Mary Wall 'Polly'
Steve Wellmeier & Anne Bergeron
Robin Wetherill & Ryan Cobb, in honor of Mary Brower's retirement, matching gift Dell Technologies
Kate Wodehouse & Robert Garzillo, in memory of Scott M. Wodehouse

Manuscript Circle ($250-499)
Anonymous (4)
Anonymous, in memory of Jane Szurek
Kate Barber & Edward Ptomiaik
Arrisa & Harrison Bilodeau
Kathleen Bower
Bernard V. Buonanno, Jr.
Desree Caldwell & Bill Armitage
Stephen H. Clark
Mary K. & Jack Connor
Levin & Betty Dina
Vanessa G. & Dante T. De Giudice
Ron & Dolores DeLellis
Dennis J. & Kathleen Y. Duffy
David Durand & Elliot Mylonas, in memory of Laura G. Durand
Julia & Rob Emlen
Skip & Ann Faith
Helena & Bill Foulkes
Carol Golden & Stuart Einhorn, Goldern Einhorn Family Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Teresa & Peter Hacunda, Meighan Hacunda Gift Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Kate & Ted Herman, in honor of the Athenaeum Reading Groups
Lynn Holstein
Sheila Hughes
Alfred Jeffries III
Michelina Kelly
Susan Kinloch
Betty Ravi Lang & Fraser Lang
Charles & Amea Larmore
Francis J. Leazes, Jr.
Brooke & Eugene Lee
Janice W. Libby
Michael & Gerry Malanga
Sarah J. Montgomery
Sarah & Pierre Morenson
Jack & Pat Nolan
Stephen Ostrach & Linda Eisenmann
Ben & Annie Philbrick
Marguerite Ofría Pile & Wells Mylacraine Pile, Wells M. Pile & Marguerite Ofría Pile Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Nancy Reichley & Tim Higgins, Schwab Charitable, in memory of Sara Reichley
Tina Ruzack & Christopher Langlois
Richard Rudert
Nancy Safer
Clarkson Schoettle, Raether-Schoettle Charitable Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Sherman Family Charitable Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
Ann & Daryl Stahl
Sally & Scott Stevenson, Stevenson Charitable Fund, Fidelity Charitable
Louise & Andrew Swanson
Hrant & Carol Tatian, in honor of the wonderful Athenaeum Staff

Chapbook Circle ($1-$249)
Anonymous (26)

Joan Abrams
Noomi Aidan
Denise C. Aiken
Dayna Cueva Alegria
Lauren Allegrezza
James & Susan Allen
Mary Allen
Susan & Peter Allen
William & Amabel Allen, in memory of Sara Reichley
Mark R. Allio
Katharine Amalar
Susanna Angelillo
Debbie Antonelli, in memory of Sara Reichley
Robert & Jane Arnold
Jernrod Avant
Amy Barlow & Peter Kammerer, in honor of Tripp Evans
Barbara Barnes & Beverly Pettine
Alayne Barnicoat & Dale Lesh
Ellen Bar-Zemer
Milton Baster
J. Becker & J. Fox
Patricia Becker
Stephanie Benedetti
Beverly Y. Bennett
Jim & Barbara Bentzen
Amy Berg
Brynna Bettigole
Eric & Cristen Bilodeau
Davies & Megan Biset
Jane & Daniel Blanchette
Leah Blanchette
Steven B. Bloomfield
Catherine Bouseau
Tamar E. Bolotow
Robert Bonadies & Bettina Rouns
Michael & Alice Bonitati
Ann & Thomas Boyd
Kipp Bradford & Julie Steele
Carol Bragg
Michele Brannigan
Tish Brennan
Jennifer Ketya Brock
Brooke & Brooke, Attorneys at Law, in memory of Sara Reichley
Julia Broug
Anna Browder
Mary E. Brower, in memory of Elizabeth Carpenter
J. Serra Bruno
Laura Budsmeuser & Brian Mehan
Susan Burland
Anne Butler
Elaine Cali
Leonard Cambra
Suzanne & David Cane
Tim Carey
Charlie Cannon & Hannah Carlson
Nancy Whittaker Carlson
Rachel Carlson
M. Rebecca Carr
Stephen Caruana
Barbara F. Casey
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anonymous</th>
<th>R. Tripp Evans</th>
<th>Timothy &amp; Claudia Philbrick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous (2)*</td>
<td>Dean Hantzopoulos</td>
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<td>Candy Adriance</td>
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<td>Gardiner &amp; Cynthia Shattuck</td>
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<td>Doug &amp; Elsie Morse</td>
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</table>

Athena Society

This report highlights the operational and financial activities of the Providence Athenæum and reflects gifts made to the Athenæum over the 12-month period July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

Center spread: Selections from the Susan Jaffe Tane Collection of Ralph Waldo Emerson & Henry David Thoreau