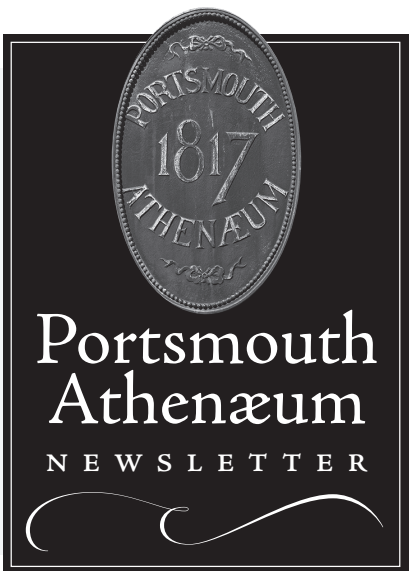


Fall 2018

*News and events for  
Proprietors, Subscribers & Friends  
of the Portsmouth Athenæum*

THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM  
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## ATHENÆUM SECURES \$49,875 STUDY GRANT TO BETTER PRESERVE COLLECTIONS

PEGGY HODGES

This summer, the Athenæum secured federal funding to take the next step in an important study project designed to help us better preserve our collections and strengthen the integrity of our historic buildings. This project is part of a grant-funded process, guided by nationally known museum consultants working with Athenæum staff and board members, that began in 2014.

To date, we have raised over \$80,000 in federal funding for this ongoing study project, which has allowed us to benefit from multiple museum consultants' expertise at no cost to the Athenæum.

This summer's grant award will bring a museum space planner, a museum HVAC engineer and collections conservation consultant together to explore options for reorganizing our spaces to improve environmental conditions for our collections and better support daily operations.

This project, which has been fully funded by a \$49,875 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) *Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections* grant, will

begin in mid-November. During this period, the space planner and conservator will interview staff, committee chairs and board members about space and adjacency needs at the Athenæum.

The consultants will then work with the HVAC engineer to develop several alternative facility concept plans for space reorganization and collections storage improvements to present to the board. A cost analysis will then be done of the final plan chosen by the Athenæum board and staff. At the end of this project, the Athenæum will be well-positioned to approach federal, state, corporate and private funding sources to make the concept plan a reality.

The Athenæum joined just 14 other institutions in sharing the \$2.2 million allocated for *Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections* grants in 2018. We share this honor with such nationally known organizations as Winterthur, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the American Institute of Physics. It's hard to overestimate the significance of our consistently landing these highly competitive,

peer-reviewed federal grants. We can be proud knowing that dozens of leaders in the museum field recognize the merits of our efforts to improve conditions for our collections while preserving our historic buildings.

A final note: We are already working on securing funding for the next step in this long-term study process, which will bring our consultants together again, with a preservation architect, to develop final schematic building and systems designs of our proposed reorganized facilities. Stay tuned, and wish us luck!



*The Athenæum's 2018 Summer Picnic was held August 21 at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park and was well attended. The annual event is for Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends of the Athenæum as well as their families. Photo courtesy of Doug Aykroyd.*

# December 2 Winter Concert by Noree Chamber Soloists

KRISTIN GOODWILLIE

The Performance Committee of the Athenaeum would like to invite all members to a winter concert in the Sawtelle Reading Room on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m.

Join Noree Chamber Soloists' winter presentation of two chamber masterpieces, Mozart's "Divertimento for String Trio in E-flat Major, K. 563" and Ravel's "Sonata for Violin and Cello," both marked by exceptional scope, innovative instrumental writing and emotional dignity.

One of Mozart's last chamber pieces, the intimate "Divertimento" is the most ambitious among his compositions for strings alone.

Ravel paid homage to his compatriot Debussy by heeding to the



On Dec. 2 at 3 p.m., the Athenaeum Chamber Music Series presents a concert by the Noree Trio in the Reading Room. Harriet Langley, violin; Sung Jin Lee, viola; and Yi Qun Xu, cello, will perform Maurice Ravel's "Duo Sonata for Violin and Cello" and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Divertimento in E-flat Major."

latter's notion of "depouillement" (economy of means) when he composed one of his largest and most challenging chamber works for just two string instruments, violin and cello.

A New York-based chamber group, the musicians of Noree Chamber Soloists are students and graduates of the Juilliard School, Curtis Institute, New England Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music.

*Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter* is published three times yearly. Deadlines for articles are March 1, June 1 and October 1.

Contributions and queries may be directed to Publications Committee Chair/Editor Sherry Wood at [sixswords@aol.com](mailto:sixswords@aol.com).

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## FALSE ALARM!

### Another Plea for Patience

The Athenaeum continues to experience false alarms triggered by members using their keys incorrectly.

A feature of our system is that using your pass key at the same card reader three times in 30 seconds will arm the alarm. If the door does not open on the second try, please take a deep breath and wait 31 seconds before the third try. This feature is built into the system

and cannot be disabled. Alarms that yield police dispatch cost the Athenaeum up to \$250 per incident, so please be patient.

Also note that in the cold weather the hydraulics which propel the elevator are slow to build up pressure. The car will respond when the proper pressure is reached and there should be no need to press the button more than once.

# ATHENAEUM WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

SHERRY WOOD

The Athenaeum welcomes two new staff members, Research Librarian Katy Sternberger and Office Manager Stephanie Hobbs Tabit.

"After three years of fabulously organized work as our office manager, Patty Kosowicz has retired to do some much-earned travel time," Keeper Tom Hardiman said. "Carolyn Marvin has been Research Librarian for 11 years and will be cutting back to working Saturdays. Among her many achievements in her time at the Athenaeum are a popular exhibit: "Ephemera: the Art of Everyday Printed Matter," and an acclaimed book: *Hanging Ruth Blay*."

Stephanie Hobbs Tabit, who lives in Rye, has a long history of volunteering in the schools and has worked as a substitute teacher and in marketing and sales. This year the Williams College graduate with a degree in economics earned her certification as a QuickBooks ProAdvisor.

"Stephanie Tabit has a great eye for detail and is very enthusiastic about helping the Athenaeum to succeed," Hardiman said. Tabit said she is thrilled at the opportunity to work at the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

"The position of Office Manager/Bookkeeper feels like the perfect fit for me, combining my passion for libraries, love of learning and financial background," Tabit said. "I think that communication is critical to success, and I encourage members to reach out to me so that we can work together to achieve their goals for the Athenaeum."



New staff members Research Librarian Katy Sternberger, left and Office Manager Stephanie Hobbs Tabit.



Sternberger is a University of New Hampshire graduate who received a master's degree in 2016 in archives management/library and information science from Simmons College's School of Library and Information Science.

Most recently, she worked as the marketing coordinator for the University of New Hampshire Library in Durham. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists and New England Archivists.

"I started volunteering at the Athenaeum in February this year and became engrossed in the letters of Nicholas Rousselet, a Portsmouth merchant in the late 1700s," Sternberger said. "With my knowledge of French and 18th-century handwriting, Athenaeum Archivist Susan Kindstedt had asked me to translate and catalog the collection. Rousselet mentions the names of hundreds of people and discusses his life experiences in his letters;

it has been fascinating to learn about history from someone who lived it. I look forward to writing more about Rousselet soon."

Sternberger said while working on the letters, she came to admire the variety of local history materials available at the Athenaeum. "My areas of expertise include metadata and preservation, so I am excited to help make library resources discoverable and accessible," she said. "As a Seacoast native, I am passionate about caring for our local history."

She thanked Carolyn Marvin for her support and helping "me feel at home immediately during my first week." Hardiman said Sternberger, like Marvin, is a scholar and a writer.

"Katy is already doing important work with our collections that will impact how we interpret aspects of Portsmouth's history going forward," he said.



# Arcana DICK ADAMS

## Newspapers' Importance in the 19th-Century Athenaeum

The role of newspapers in establishing and maintaining the social and intellectual vibrancy of the Athenaeum in the first several decades of its existence can hardly be overstated. From 1823, when the move to the 1805 Building on Market Square took place, and thence through the 1870s, newspapers were regarded by Athenaeum Proprietors as the key, indeed the only, way in which news could be readily transmitted and given wide distribution.

The Reading Room, as it is now called, served as a locus for avid newspaper readers well before the Athenaeum took occupancy. The New Hampshire Fire & Marine Insurance Company, the original owner of the building, had from 1808 allowed the general public access to the company's subscription of over thirty newspapers for an annual fee of \$4. When the Athenaeum acquired the building at auction for \$4,000, the practice of stocking the Reading Room with newspapers continued apace, although only Proprietors were given access to the room. By 1828 they were able to peruse 28 different newspapers (86 separate editions) each week.

Placed on high slanting desks like the one recently installed in the Reading Room, the newspapers enabled Proprietors to keep abreast of general news both locally and nationally as well as business news, which was of particular importance to many. For the most part the early Proprietors were well-educated, many being men of affairs who had a particular interest

in maritime-related information. One Proprietor, for example, requested that the business publication *The New Orleans Price Current* be brought north by fast packet, a request that was accommodated.

The interest in newspapers locally mirrored the situation nationally. In 1825 over 800 were published in the country. Rapid improvements such as those in the printing press, papermaking, and type-founding made the daily and weekly press the most rapid and efficient means of transmitting information. In consequence the passion for news of all kinds resulted in the founding of not fewer than 15 newspapers in Portsmouth between 1800 and 1830.

Frank Hackett, in his oft-quoted memoir of his father, wrote that in the mid-1850s the Reading Room offered "...files of newspapers ... aslant on high red desks and there were high-legged stools for the convenience of those who took their time to possess the current news and the editorial wisdom of the day. Here local public opinion crystallized and events both domestic and foreign came up for intelligent and temperate discussion."

Perhaps Hackett cherished an idealized image of those long-ago times. In point of fact, fierce partisan political warfare was not uncommon in Portsmouth, as

Whigs/Republicans and Democrats engaged in pitched battles in the press, manifested in biased editorials and heated letters to the editor of a sort that are not equaled even in our own highly charged times. The destruction of the Athenaeum's bust of proprietor Levi Woodbury, a conservative states' rights Jacksonian Democrat, offers evidence that passions could run high within the ranks of Athenaeum Proprietors.

Those of the Democrat persuasion may well have found the local *States and Union's* characterization of Abraham Lincoln as "the original gorilla" pleasing, while their Whig opponents no doubt enjoyed reading in the *Portsmouth Journal* upon the election of William Henry Harrison "the people have put their seal of disapprobation upon the men and measures of the Loco Foco [sic] Party."

By the mid-1870s the local popularity of newspapers began a slow downward spiral. Eighteen were on the desks in 1875, a decline that accelerated steadily over ensuing decades so that 75 years later the Athenaeum offered only one local and two national papers. Initially, changing demographics, a generally less well-educated potential readership, and a stagnant economy were likely contributing factors.

In more recent times radio and television of course were significant influences, with the creation of the Internet being unquestionably the agent of today's precipitous decline in newspaper readership both locally and nationally.

## Athenaeum Book Group Visits The Mount

DONALD MARGESON

The Common Reader, the Athenaeum's fiction book club, traditionally winds up its annual September-to-June season with a special finale gathering. It has usually consisted of a pot luck supper and play reading at the home of a member of the group.

This year, Reader Lynne Crocker proposed that the finale take the form of a "field trip" to The Mount, the mansion in Lenox, Massachusetts, that was for nine years the home of Edith Wharton (1862-1937). Lynne further suggested that in lieu of the play reading, we read (or re-read) and discuss Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* (1920), for which the author received the first Pulitzer Prize for Literature ever awarded to a woman.

The group having embraced the field trip idea, Lynne led us to a consensus on the details and then made all the arrangements. And so it was that on June 12 at 7:30 a.m., a van left Portsmouth for Lenox with 11 Readers aboard.

Delayed by several traffic snarls on the way, we reached The Mount at 10:45. We were met by Anne Schuyler, The Mount's Director of Visitor Services and a confirmed Wharton enthusiast. Before leading us on a tour of the house, Anne filled us in with some background. In 1901, when Wharton bought the property on which The Mount is situated, she had not yet published her first novel.

She had, however, co-written a successful nonfiction work, *The Decoration of Houses* (1897). Thus prepared, she



Members of The Common Reader Book Club in Edith Wharton's library, left to right: Marjorie Smith, Don Margeson, Kristin Goodwillie and Barbara Renner. Photo by Lynne Crocker.

planned the house herself, drawing on the design values for which that book argues: order, symmetry, scale and abundant natural light. On the tour, Anne led us through beautiful rooms of generous proportions, each having a kind of comfortable and welcoming elegance; wall colors are mostly creamy pastels rather than the darker tones we usually associate with interior design at the turn of the 20th century.

By tour's end, we were ready for lunch. This was served in The Mount's café, which occupies an immense terrace overlooking a long-range view of the stunning Berkshire countryside. After lunch, Anne rejoined us for the discussion of *The Age of Innocence* that she opened with a quiz (no grading) on Wharton's sometimes high-flown vocabulary ("sedulous") and references to items from a bygone era ("aigrette," "buhl"). We then turned our attention to the novel itself.

The action takes place during the 1870s in upscale settings, mainly situated in

New York City. The focus is on a tight circle of "well-born" families whose members subscribe to a conservative social and ethical code that some of them apply more stringently in judging others' behavior than they do in guiding their own.

Our consideration of the book took directions that others who know it will easily imagine: assessing how the protagonist's background leads him into the painful romantic conflict at the book's center and shapes the way he deals with it; taking note of the author's satirical depiction of her own social class as recalled from her adolescence; trying to identify just what "age" it is that the title refers to, and in what way it was "innocent."

After adjourning a thoroughly satisfying discussion, we left the terrace to wander for an hour or so in the gardens, also of Wharton's own design. By 4:30 we were en route home. At some point,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## MEMBER MILESTONES

(compiled by Douglas Aykroyd showing  
share number first):

### **FORTY-FIVE YEARS**

144 Robert Chase  
137 Hon. Elaine S. Krasker  
150 Hon. John Maher  
128 W. Rodman Philbrick  
17 David Sanderson  
145 William Seaward Jr.  
129 Andrew Sherburne  
115 -Edmund Tarbell II

### **FORTY YEARS**

34 Charles Eldredge

### **THIRTY-FIVE YEARS**

200 Margery Clark  
211 George Dodge III  
33 Joan Lockhart  
215 Paul McEachern  
224 Peter Peirce Rice

### **THIRTY YEARS**

50 Ronan Donohoe  
45 Ellen Fineberg  
220 Laurence Bussey

### **A QUARTER CENTURY**

1 Robert Margeson  
132 W. G. Morrison III  
160 Eléonore Sanderson

### **TWENTY YEARS**

322 Deborah Child  
325 Barbara Engelbach  
323 Steven Fowle  
327 Dr. Frank Graf  
328 Paul Peter Jesep  
336 Bruce MacIntyre  
331 Garvin McCurdy  
329 James Russ  
333 Carol Rymes  
337 Dr. Ira Schwartz  
338 Heather Thomsen

255 Alan P. Ammann  
259 J. Dennis Robinson  
11 Maryellen Burke  
85 Cathleen Hodson  
146 John Mayer

### **FIFTEEN YEARS**

89 Joan Sanborn  
353 John Payzant  
244 Dr. Robert Allister  
351 Michael Harvell  
349 Cynthia Knapp  
356 Mark McNabb  
352 Kathleen Murray  
350 William Stewart  
109 Hon. Daniel Hughes  
97 Stella Scamman  
225 Richard Toomey Jr.  
119 Ronda Baker Hill  
44 Felice Fullam

### **TEN YEARS**

149 Charles Bickford  
130 Sarah Hamill  
230 M. Elaine Tefft  
9 Peter Narbonne  
207 Joseph Capobianco  
277 Dr. Robert Chaikin  
219 John Lamson  
41 Wendy Starkey, Esq.  
233 David Watters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5  
*Athenaeum Book Group....*

someone in the van noted that the sun was “over the yardarm,” and accordingly wine and snacks were passed around (though not to the front seats).

It was perhaps in an elevated mood that we then chose as our opening read for the coming season *Swann's Way*, the first volume of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*. We arrived in Portsmouth at 7 p.m. and—after applauding Lynne for the memorable day she had conceived and successfully labored to give us—parted for home.

The cost of the trip described here was \$87 per person, including tax and tips: \$51 for the transportation and \$36 for admission, tour and lunch. Those thinking about visiting The Mount can find its website at [www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)

*Some notes for those interested: The Common Reader meets at 11 a.m. in the Athenaeum on the first Monday of the months of September through June; for details, including our reading list for last season, e-mail [donaldsmargeson@gmail.com](mailto:donaldsmargeson@gmail.com).*

*The Common Reader Book Club members in Edith Wharton's drawing room. From left: Joan Graf, Don Margeson, Sandra Took seated, Corbe Feeney, Ellie Sanderson, Barbara Renner, Kritin Goodwillie and Marjorie Smith. Photo by Lynne Crocker.*





## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Douglas Aykroyd  
oakscouter@comcast.net

### 2018 Holiday Gala Will Be At the Athenaeum

A lot of work has gone into bringing the Holiday Party back to the Athenaeum this year. Treasurer Jeff Keefe has been at the center of this effort, which depends on improving the fire safety standards of our buildings.

Understandably, the Portsmouth Fire Department did not feel that the seven fire buckets in the hall behind the Reading Room were enough to protect the buildings and the people who might be in them. Their list of recommended improvements included putting fire doors on areas with heaters, improving our alarm system, changing our locks to improve accessibility for firefighters, and to put a one-hour fire barrier between the Reading Room and the basement below.

Dick Adams, Ted Alix, and Jon Wyckoff of the Building Committee kept close tabs on needed upgrades. All that remains to be done now is adding addressable smoke and heat detectors. Keeper Tom Hardiman expects that to be completed before the end of November.

Thanks to the hard work of Peggy Hodges, we have a grant-funded project starting later this year to study the best means of improving fire suppression at the Athenaeum. (See story, page 1)

The Social Committee is already making plans to provide Proprietors

and Subscribers with an experience like the one enjoyed in 2016. Furthermore, the Exhibits Committee will be opening the 2018 Proprietors' Show that evening. Be sure to save Dec. 7 for another great social event at the Athenaeum.

### Parking at the Athenaeum

Proprietors and Subscribers should be aware of the parking available in the small lot behind the Athenaeum. There are five spaces facing our buildings starting to the right of our back door and continuing just past the rear entry to Ireland on the Square.

There are two additional spaces along the building behind ours that creates the two entries to our parking spaces.

The space facing the rear door of Ireland on the Square is exclusive for their use as it is included in their rental agreement. The space just to the right of that is reserved for the use of the renter of our 4th-floor condo on Sundays and Mondays and from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. on other days. Proprietors and Subscribers who wish to take advantage of this parking need to obtain an Athenaeum sticker for their car from the Keeper.

### Qualified Charitable Distributions

We know that citizens who are at least 70½ years old and who have an individual retirement account (IRA) are required to take distributions from the IRA and report this money as income on tax returns, unless the money is sent directly to a qualified charity such as the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

In fact, one Proprietor (who wishes to remain anonymous) responded to the annual appeal with a \$5,000 contribution from an IRA directly to the Athenaeum.

The benefit of this type of transfer is that the money donated does not count as income. With the standard deduction having been raised to \$13,600 for individuals and \$26,600 for couples, the Qualified Charitable Distribution may be an attractive alternative.

Obviously members should speak with their financial advisors before making decisions about how a Qualified Charitable Distribution might work in your specific case. An article on page R2 of the Sept. 24, 2018, *Wall Street Journal* (What's a QCD? And Why It's Timely) contains more information. (The Keeper has a copy.)

### The Athenaeum Prize for the Humanities

The first Athenaeum Prizes for the Humanities were presented last November to two students from Portsmouth High School.

The purposes of the prize are several: to inspire interest in the Humanities (history, literature, philosophy, rhetoric, and the graphic and performing arts) among the young people of Portsmouth; to acknowledge our connections to and appreciation of the Portsmouth community; and to stimulate the community's interest in and affection for the Athenaeum.

Bill Wieting was the driving force to create the award and is now working to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

perpetuate the distinction into the future. Work has already begun in the Athenaeum and Portsmouth High School to identify candidates for the 2018 award.

The presentation of the prize is scheduled during the Fall Concert of the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Nov. 4.

Bill Wieting is looking for other members of the Athenaeum who share his interest in recognizing young people who have demonstrated a strong interest in the humanities and would like to join him in this endeavor. You can contact him at: billwieting@usa.net.

### **Giving Tuesday**

I will freely admit that I understand Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. From the first time I drove my wife and son to a mall in Virginia on that day in the early 1980s, I recognized a very unpleasant parking and shopping situation and was not surprised by the name.

I welcomed Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, in 2005 wondering what took it so long.

Now, I understand we have celebrated Giving Tuesday for the last seven years on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Finally, a celebration of giving rather than receiving! Just let me suggest that if you plan on celebrating Giving Tuesday by making a donation somewhere, you consider the Athenaeum. Who knows what Wednesday will bring?

### **Appealing to Our Youth**

During the years that I have served on the Board of Directors, there has been an enduring fear that the average age of Proprietors is way too high. We need to get younger (as a group), some say. Of course modern medicine has played an important role in allowing Proprietors to remain active longer.

Just this year we celebrated seven Proprietors who have had that distinction for 45 years. If you look around, you will find Proprietors whose shares have come down to them through their families. All that said, I agree that we should appeal to new members of all ages. For one, having spent over 20 years working with Scout-aged youth, I like being around younger people, and I think most people do.

So how do we appeal to a younger group? In the first place, members should not feel that only the Proprietor and spouse are welcome. We have an area with children's books to help send this message.

We would appeal to more younger people if we had more contact. Having an open house where the general public had a chance to see our facilities could create a greater interest. Can we do anything for high school classes in the area?

Another approach would be to organize activities which would attract a younger group. The Boston Athenaeum has a group of members under the age of 35 called Young Patrons. The Frick Collection has a group from 21 to 45 called Young Fellows. In both cases they

have activities and programs aimed at a younger population.

The bottom line is that in order to get younger people into our ranks, we are going to have to do more than just talk about it. And it will not happen overnight. A focus on age diversity will have to become a way of life to be successful. I would be happy to receive any suggestions you may have on this subject.

### **A Final Thought**

Treat the Athenaeum as if it was your home. After all, it is.

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### **GET YOUR BOOK!**

A recent check revealed that about 150 Proprietors have yet to pick up their bicentennial books. This lavishly illustrated, hardbound text written by and for our membership is free of charge and comes with a personalized bookplate.

All you have to do is ask the staff for your copy of *Portsmouth Athenaeum: The Story of a Collection Through the Eyes of Its Proprietors, 1817-2017*. We will also mail copies anywhere in the States via media mail for \$7.

The gift of the book is made possible in part by the Donald H. Margeson Fund. Anyone wishing to maintain the fund for future publications is welcome to make a donation to the fund.



# Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum

OCTOBER 2018– FEBRUARY 2019

*Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public. Reservations are requested since space is limited. Please call 603-431-2538x2 at least 48 hours in advance. For more current listings, check [www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org).*

## OCTOBER 28, SUNDAY:

Historic Portsmouth Chamber Music Series presents Emily Smith and Tanya Gabriellian at the New Castle Congregational Church, 3 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 2, FRIDAY:

The Randall Gallery will be open for Art Round Town, 5 to 8 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 4, SUNDAY:

The second annual Portsmouth Athenæum Prize in the Humanities will be awarded during the intermission of the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra's 3:30 p.m. Fall Concert at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, featuring Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," Mozart's "Serenade No. 10" and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4." Tickets are available at [www.themusichall.org](http://www.themusichall.org).

## NOVEMBER 11, SUNDAY:

The 2018 Program Series: "Remembering the Great War, Home and Abroad" concludes as Douglas Aykroyd leads the program, "Poetry of the Great War." One hundred years ago, on the 11th day of the 11th month, World War I ended in Europe. The poetry written during or shortly after this war expresses a wide range of emotions and helps us to gain a deeper understanding of the personal impact of that conflict. Join us to explore the thoughts and feelings of those dramatically affected by the "war to end all wars."

Douglas Aykroyd is a 1969 graduate of the United States Military Academy. Many of his 23 years of service in the Army were spent in Europe where, as a military historian, he had opportunities to visit the battlefields and cemeteries of WWI. He serves as the Secretary of the Portsmouth Athenæum Board of Directors and has initiated several historical projects as a local Scoutmaster.

The talk is at 7 p.m. in the Research Library of the Portsmouth Athenæum. *Reservations for each program are*

*required as seating is limited; please call (603) 431-2538, Ext. 2. Attendance at programs is free for Athenæum Proprietors, Subscribers and Friends. Guests and members of the public are welcome to attend the entire series by becoming a Friend of the Athenæum for as little as \$25 per year, payable at the door. Admission to an individual program is \$10.*

## DECEMBER 2, SUNDAY:

Athenæum Chamber Music Series, concert by the Noree Trio in the Reading Room, 3 p.m. Harriet Langley, violin; Sung Jin Lee, viola; Yi Qun Xu, cello. They will perform Ravel's "Duo Sonata for Violin and Cello" and Mozart's "Divertimento in E-flat Major." (see article on page 2).

## DECEMBER 7, FRIDAY:

Annual Proprietors' and Subscribers' Holiday Gala. Invitations are forthcoming.

## DECEMBER 9, SUNDAY:

Book signing and author talk with Kimberly Alexander, whose new book *Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era* is an expansive look at the important but overlooked role shoes played in society, commerce, and politics in the 18th century, 3 p.m. in the Reading Room.

## DECEMBER 17, MONDAY:

Holiday concert with Great Bay Sailor, 7 p.m. in the Reading Room.

## JANUARY 27, SUNDAY:

200th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum.

## FEBRUARY 7, THURSDAY:

Memorial Concert honoring Proprietors who have passed in 2018.



THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM  
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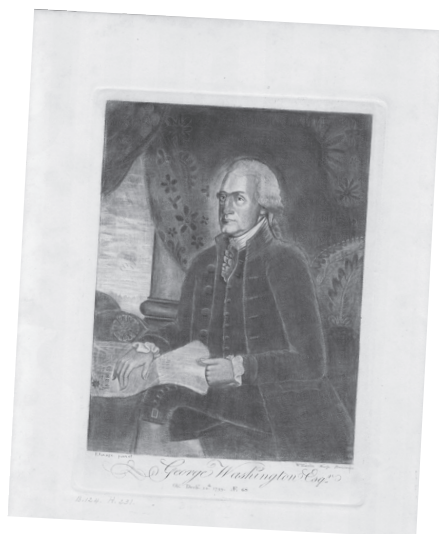
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AN EXHIBIT

*"The Many Faces of  
George Washington"*

"The Many Faces of George Washington" opens Feb. 15, 2019 in the Randall Gallery and will run through mid-April. It will feature images from the Portsmouth Athenaeum and other collections. The exhibit is being curated by the Exhibits Committee, under the direction of Sandra Rux, Tom Hardiman, Judy Groppa and Elaine Tefft.

*The print is by William Hamlin (1772-1869), Providence RI after portrait by Edward Savage (1761-1817). Probably done in c 1799 for the Memory of Washington published by Oliver Farnsworth in 1800.*



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PROPRIETORS' SHOW OPENS DEC. 7

The Proprietors' Art Show returns on Dec. 7 in the Randall Gallery. "We already have several exciting pieces lined up for the show," Exhibits Committee Chairman Sandra Rux said.

All forms of creative endeavor are welcome—paintings, photographs, sculpture, fiber arts, and furniture have been exhibited in past shows. This is your opportunity to share work with fellow Proprietors and the public.

Delivery of items will be the week after Thanksgiving (Nov. 26 to Dec.1). The show will close Jan. 26; pickup of exhibited items will be at the annual meeting on Jan. 27.

For more information please email Sandra at [sandrarux@comcast.net](mailto:sandrarux@comcast.net) or call at 203-654-0552.

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