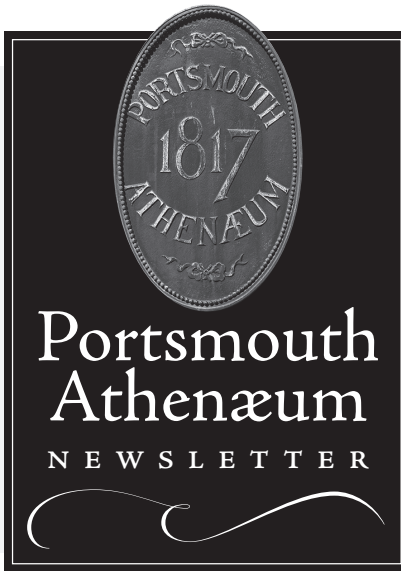


Summer 2019

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

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ATHENÆUM SECURES \$50,000 GRANT FOR NEW HVAC SYSTEM DESIGN

PEGGY HODGES

In early June, the Athenæum once again secured federal funding to complete the final step in a long-term initiative to improve environmental conditions for our collections while preserving the integrity of our historic buildings.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced that the Portsmouth Athenæum was one of just 30 grantees selected from 202 applicants to receive funding through its new *Inspire! Grants for Small Museums* initiative.

The \$50,000 IMLS grant will pay for design of new HVAC, fire suppression and electrical systems to support a board-approved space reorganization and collections storage plan for the

Athenæum. (See related article, “Collections Preservation, Space Use Study Continues at Athenæum” on page 8.)

Museum HVAC engineer Paul Kreidler of Landmark Facilities Group in Columbus, Ohio, will join forces with architect Shannon Alther of TMS Architects in Portsmouth for this project. They will work with museum space planner Jeff Weatherston of WeatherstonBruer Associates in Toronto, and independent collections conservator Barbara Moore of New Castle, to develop optimal climate control for newly reorganized public, work, and collections spaces at the Athenæum.

The grant will also fund cost analyses for implementing the new reorganization

plan. When this study is completed, the Athenæum will be well-positioned to approach federal, state, corporate and private funding sources to make the plan a reality. Project activities for HVAC design and cost analyses will begin in September of this year.

It's hard to overestimate the significance of the Athenæum consistently landing these highly competitive, peer-reviewed federal grants. We can be proud and confident, knowing that dozens of leaders in the museum and library field recognize the cultural and historical value of our collections to the Portsmouth community, the Seacoast region and the nation.

Temperance in Portsmouth

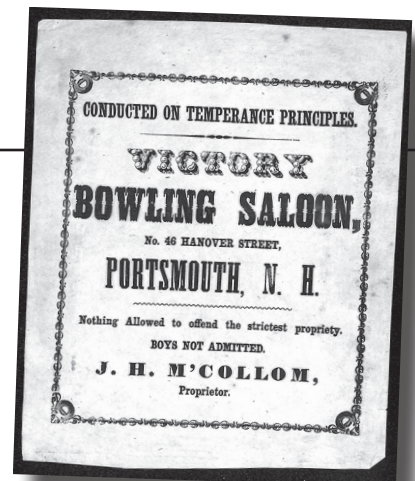
SUSAN KINDSTEDT, Athenæum Archivist

Alcohol consumption has always been a part of America's history. (See related story on Athenæum exhibit, Page 3.) In the early years of colonial settlement alcohol was consumed with most meals by all members of the family, as it was believed to be safer than water. During

the 18th century taverns grew in number and social drinking increased. In the late 18th and early 19th century, religious groups, such as Quakers, Methodists and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Victory Bowling Saloon was located on Hanover Street near the intersection of Bridge Street in the North End of Portsmouth, and it appears to have been in operation for only a short time around the 1850s.



NOTRE DAME IS BURNING

JEFFREY HOPPER

The night we flew from Boston to Paris, Notre Dame was burning and as we passed each international flight gate and lounge, the televisions repeated the same images. At first it looked like an ad for a new disaster film, but as we approached the Bostonian outpost of Air France, we realized that it was real and catastrophic. We landed and took a train to Strasbourg, as our original plan was to see this other great cathedral.

The news was full of reports about the fire. The firefighters determined to save the monument directed their hoses to creating cascading waterfalls within the cathedral, thereby saving much of the interior structure. It was estimated that without this action the structure would have been consumed. Investigators interviewed scores of workers to try to



This photo was posted on Easter Sunday on the Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Paris Facebook page, six days after the devastating April 15 fire. The post reads: "On Easter morning, from darkness rises the light...We are all committed to working on this new birth, at the renaissance of Notre-Dame de Paris." Proprietor Jeff Hopper was on his way to Paris on April 15, and was asked to share his recollections for the newsletter.

determine if there had been any foul play, but that seemed not to be the case.

On the second night in Strasbourg, as we watched the news and the constant conversation about Notre Dame, on the bottom of the TV screen a notice scrolled along that the bells of France would ring at about 6:50 for 10 minutes to mark the near-loss of the great cathedral. The sound began on the TV, but by the 5th peel the sound increased dramatically as the bells from the Strasbourg cathedral, only a few blocks from our airbnb, began their toll.

Within seconds the old part of the city filled with the reverberation of the peeling bells. The power of the medieval bells was beyond anything that a modern siren can do. There was no way to confuse this eventide call to a stricken friend with Strasbourg's bright noontime peel.

It was at once mournful and hopeful. Heard on this scale it is no wonder that in the pre-modern world bells had individual names and the loss of a church bell could signify the loss of a town's heart.

When we finally did see Notre Dame it was from a distance. The bridges near Notre Dame, on the lower part of the Île de la Cité, were closed. As we stood on the left embankment of the Seine and stared at the cathedral, the large pleasure boats directed their lights at the darkened carcass and the tourists took a relentless barrage of photos of its gothic shell.

I did not expect my own reaction, but I suddenly became disturbed as the phones flashed and the people stared, like gawkers at a highway accident. Suddenly and unexpectedly the loss of the cathedral was as personal as if an old acquaintance had suddenly been struck down. We moved on and away, crossing the island at the Pont Saint-Michel to pass Sainte Chapelle to glimpse the other gothic icon on that small island, an assurance that all was not lost.

It was odd, but the cathedral, roofless and stained with the ashes of its own immolation, looked more natural than it had for many years.

The cleaning of the exterior of the cathedral in the 1980s and 1990s had scrubbed it to a glistening white. But now in its distress it looked more like an 800-year-old symbol of France; not polished and pristine—presented to the world as if eight centuries had not happened. Rather it was water marked and hollow, weary but upright—a reminder that as tragic as this was, it would become just another moment in its long history.

Portsmouth Athenæum Newsletter is published three times yearly.

Deadlines for articles are March 1, June 15 and October 1.

Contributions and queries may be directed to Publications Committee Chair/Editor Sherry Wood at sixswords@aol.com.

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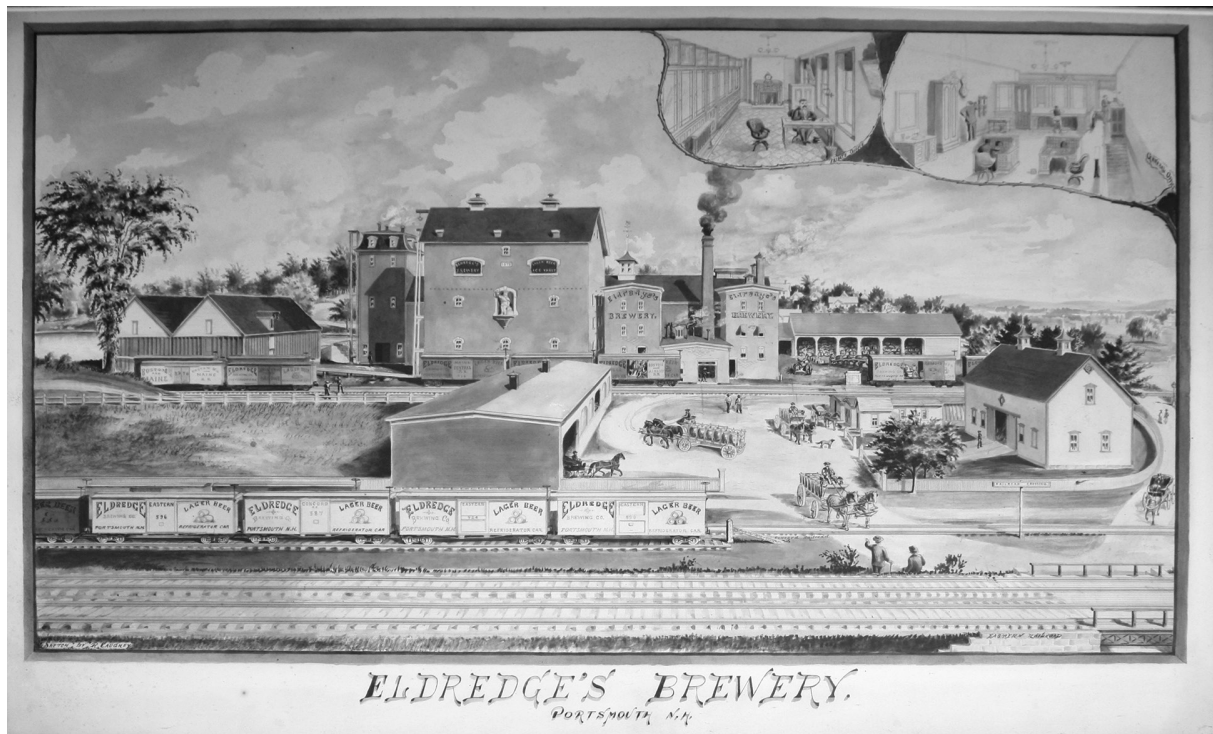
Susan Kress Hamilton

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We're Rolling out the Barrel on August 2!

SHERRY WOOD



Rollin Caughy, *Drawing of Eldredge's Brewery*, 1884. Portsmouth Athenaeum Collection.

Sandra Rux, co-curator of **“By the Bottle or the Barrel: 400 Years of Brewing in Portsmouth”** is hoping the friends of the Athenaeum will belly up to the bar with items for the new exhibit opening Aug. 2.

“We’re looking for souvenir beer steins—Keeper Tom Hardiman has one from the Portsmouth Peace Treaty era—and beer glasses from more recent times,” Rux said.

Opening night (5 to 8 p.m.) coincides with Art 'Round Town. Rux said the hope is that a friend of Athenaeum President Steve Roberts, who has a Frank Jones ale recipe, will brew a batch for the festivities.

Jones, the famed 19th-century Portsmouth brewer who was the subject of a 2010 exhibit curated by Proprietor

Dick Adams, will be featured in the new exhibit. The goal is to give an overview of four centuries, from the beer that was imported from England in the 1600s and 1700s to the recent resurgence of craft brewing.

“I was really surprised about how much beer was imported from England as late as the 1760s,” Rux said. She said people in New Hampshire always home-brewed beer, but it had a lower alcohol content—under 3 percent. It was “strong beer” of 5 percent or higher alcohol content that could stay fresh over a long ocean journey.

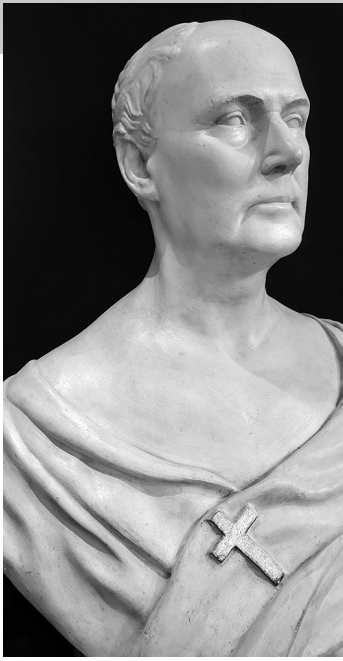
Rux cited a 1633 letter to England written by Ambrose Gibbons, one of New Hampshire’s founders, complaining that there had been no beer for four months. “He’s whining that he’s totally lacking in beer” she said.

By 1792, Hardiman said the New Hampshire Legislature passed a law for the encouragement of making malt beverages, noting “it would be good for the farmers, and would reduce the use of ardent spirits.”

Not everyone was a fan of alcoholic beverages, malt or otherwise. The temperance movement began in earnest in Portsmouth in the 1820s (*see related article on Page 1 by Athenaeum Archivist Susan Kindstedt*). In the late 1830s, a Portsmouth city directory lists six or seven temperance organizations.

Frank Jones was on his way to being the largest producer of ale in the United States by the 1860s. His chief competitor was Eldredge Brewing Co., which also used Islington Creek as its source of fresh water.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Arcana DICK ADAMS

Charles Burroughs, Athenaeum President from 1829 to 1868



Photograph of a plaster copy of a marble bust sculpted by David M. French in 1859 when Burroughs was 72. A contemporary article said "... it promised a perpetuity of that cheerful and expressive countenance which for half a century met the welcome of our citizens generally—and imparted by good works a richness to those deeds of philanthropy and charity which has imparted happiness to thousands." Photo by James Smith.

The encomiums showered on Athenaeum Proprietor Charles Burroughs over the span of his long life fill one (or at least this writer) with a sense of inadequacy—that meeting the exceptionally high standards set by him in a life lived close to perfection is not possible for mortals encumbered with the usual array of frailties.

Everything written about him conveys the certainty that he unfailingly employed his substantial intellectual gifts and magnanimity of spirit for the benefit of those of lesser endowments, and in return nothing adverse seems ever to have been said about him.

Born in Boston in 1789, Burroughs entered Harvard at the age of 15. His memoirist Andrew P. Peabody wrote that "his coevals in college [attested] that he had great personal beauty, winning manners, and the most amiable disposition." On receiving his master's degree he delivered the Latin valedictory, typically assigned to the leading student in the class.

Burroughs came to Portsmouth in 1806, just after the fire that destroyed the

original St. John's Church. For a brief period he and Daniel Webster boarded together, establishing a close friendship that endured to the end of Webster's life. In 1812 he was ordained as a priest, and held that position at St. John's for half a century, resigning owing to failing health a few years before his death in 1868 at the age of 80.

Burroughs was one of the founders of the Athenaeum, having served on the inaugural committee formed in 1816 to plan and set policy for the institution that came into being a year later. He served as president from 1829 to 1868—the second-longest tenure of any Athenaeum president—and during his presidency the Athenaeum's fortunes burgeoned.

Over the course of his 80 years Burroughs held leadership positions in a diverse range of charitable activities, above and beyond the demands of his priesthood. Peabody observed that "...he was more than the minister of a parish: he was foremost—in many regards and for a long period the foremost—citizen of Portsmouth."

His leadership at the Athenaeum brought it from a feeble beginning with questionable prospects of success to a leading role in the intellectual life of the city. Indeed, his tenure as president can arguably be regarded as the most successful in the institution's history.

A champion of education, in particular free public schools, Burroughs was instrumental in establishing the local high school. He also served as a trustee of Phillips Exeter Academy for over 30 years, much of the time as president. President of the NH Insane Asylum for 30 years, he was renowned for his kind and solicitous interactions with the inmates.

Everyone who has written about him seems to have commented on his cheerful affect. At his funeral service the officiating minister observed, "...you all know his genial nature, his ready and boundless hospitality, and his sunny temperament. In regard to this last feature of his character, it might be peculiarly said of him, in the beautiful words of Charles Lamb, that, whenever we met him 'from his eyes a cheerful ray did cast a bliss upon the day.'"

We have been unable to determine whether Burroughs had any offspring. We do know that he and his wife, Ann Ridge Peirce, purchased the John Langdon mansion about 10 years after their marriage in 1823 and for the rest of his life "exercised in [that magnificent mansion] the ample and elegant hospitality in which he rejoiced," but the absence of mention of progeny suggests that there were none. Burroughs died of bronchial disease in 1868. After funeral services in Trinity Church, Boston, he was interred in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass.

PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM CHAMBER MUSIC 2019

BILL WEITING

Subscriptions and tickets are now on sale for the 2019 Portsmouth Athenaeum Chamber Music series of four concerts, which opens July 21 at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth and continues monthly through October.

All concerts are on Sundays at 3 p.m.

July 21: The performance will feature cellist SEBASTIAN BAVERSTAM and pianist CONSTANTINE FINEHOUSE. They will perform Brahms' *F Major Cello Sonata No. 2* and Shostakovich's *Cello Sonata*.

Subsequent performances include:

August 11: Musicians from A FAR CRY at The Dance Hall in Kittery, Maine, at 3 p.m. Six musicians from Boston's acclaimed string ensemble A Far Cry will perform a trio and two quintets including Dvorak's *Terzetto in C Major*, Mendelssohn's joyous *Quintet in A Major*, and Brahms' *Viola Quintet in G Major*.

September 22: OMER STRING QUARTET at North Church of Portsmouth at 3 p.m. The quartet's program in September will include Schubert's *Quartet n.10 in E-flat Major*, Brahms' humorous and playful *Quartet no. 3 in B-flat Major*; and the disturbing but hauntingly beautiful *Yiddishbuk*, by Osvaldo Golijov.

October 27: NEAVE PIANO TRIO at The Dance Hall, Kittery, at 3 p.m. The trio will perform a program of piano trios by four distinguished female composers, including *The Piano*



Alex Cox, cello, Erica Tursi, violin, Jinsun Hong, viola and Mason Yu, violin of the Omer String Quartet who will perform on September 22 at North Church of Portsmouth at 3 p.m. Photo: Matt Dine

Trio in A minor by Amy Beach, *Piano Trio* by Rebecca Clarke, *Piano Trio No. 1* by Cecile Chaminade, and *Piano Trio* by Jennifer Higdon.

Audience members planning to attend all four concerts can purchase a Series Subscription for \$75 per person. The Portsmouth Athenaeum also offers Series Patronage for \$250 per person, which includes admission to all four concerts and invitations to post-concert receptions with the performers in private homes after each event. There is a suggested \$20 advance or at-the-door donation for each concert for those who elect not to subscribe to the full series.

Those interested in subscriptions, patronage or individual tickets should mail an appropriate check made out to The Portsmouth Athenaeum to

P.O. Box 848, Portsmouth, NH 03802 with "PACM" noted on the memo line.

MEMORIAL CONCERT DATE CHANGE. In another development, our annual Memorial Concert has been rescheduled for a date later in the year. The Memorial Concert is presented by the Athenaeum itself, for the edification and entertainment of its own members; admission is gratis. For over two decades held in late January or early February, the Memorial Concerts have been sparsely attended in recent years, despite some very estimable performances presented in ample venues. The Performance Committee and the Board of Directors have made this change for 2020 in the hope that milder weather and a more propitious time (probably a May or June Sundayafternoon at 3:00) will attract larger numbers of Athenaeum Proprietors and friends.

Introducing Gina Damiano, New Coordinator of Gallery Greeters

DONALD MARGESON

As everyone knows who has attended an exhibit in the Athenaeum's Randall Gallery, a greeter is there to assist visitors and answer questions about the Athenaeum. But behind the scenes is a greeter coordinator who recruits volunteers to be greeters and schedules their coverage of gallery hours.

For several years now, Proprietor David Ewing has taken on this responsibility, but early this year David announced that he was ready to relinquish it. The Athenaeum is deeply grateful for David's diligence, imperturbability and courtliness in handling the coordinator's duties.

A search effort led by Sandra Rux, Exhibits Committee Chair and Athenaeum board member, found a new coordinator to succeed David. She is Gina Damiano, an Athenaeum subscriber now living in Dover. Her day job is that of Director of Donor Relations, Stewardship and Compliance at the University of New Hampshire.

She first heard about the Athenaeum from a friend, but became truly interested when she passed our building and got to thinking how impressive it is that the structure has been preserved through so many years. Via social media, Gina saw Sandra's notice in the last issue of this newsletter that the coordinator position was open. The recent Seacoast LGBT History exhibit was Gina's first as coordinator; to get acquainted with



Gina Damiano, new Greeter Coordinator for the Randall Gallery.

a greeter's work, she took the exhibit's first greeter shift herself.

Though born in Manchester, Conn., Gina has a sort of prenatal tie to New Hampshire through her parents, who grew up in the state and met as UNH undergraduates. Gina herself attended UNH, graduating in 2002 with a degree in hospitality management. Her interest in that field, and perhaps in historic preservation as well, began in youth during one of her family's regular summer vacations in Whitefield N.H.

They paused to look at the then-derelect Mountain View House, one of New Hampshire's four surviving "grand dame" hotels from the Gilded Age. (The others: the Mount Washington in Bretton Woods, The Balsams in Dixville Notch, and the Seacoast's own Wentworth.) Gina was fascinated by all that she could glimpse inside,

from elegant chandeliers to peeling wallpaper.

This experience inspired her in high school to research and write a paper on New Hampshire's grand hotels. During and after college, she worked at the renovated Mountain View, the Mount Washington and the Wentworth, and also at The Cliff House up the coast in Cape Neddick, tackling a range of jobs that included front desk registration, event sales and planning and catering management.

To inaugurate her tenure as coordinator, Gina hosted a small greeters' reception, introducing herself to the greeters and, in some cases, the greeters to each other. Going forward, she hopes to recruit more volunteers. She says that for those who might be interested in volunteering as a greeter, all it takes is a passion for the mission of the Athenaeum and a willingness to support the Randall Gallery; a partiality for chatting with people is helpful but not required.

She notes that one of the most valuable things we can give is our time to support the people and places we believe in. If you're looking for ways to get more involved at the Athenaeum and this sounds like something you might be interested in, you can email Gina at gallerygreeter-coordinator@gmail.com for more information.

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Please join us for
The *Twenty-seventh* Annual
Portsmouth Athenæum Pot-Luck Picnic



The Seacoast Science Center
Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH
Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:30 pm
(In the tent, rain or shine!)

Bring a dish to share, by last name:

A-C: Appetizer
D-H: Salad
I-M: Dessert
N-S Main Dish
T-Z: Main Dish

Wine, beer, water, and punch are provided!

No RSVP - just come!

And please encourage a fellow Proprietor, Subscriber, or Friend to join you!

Any questions? Call : Cindy Knapp 603 436 8748 or Tom Hardiman 603 431 2538

“Both stopped brewing beer some time before national prohibition (1920 to 1933),” Rux said. “Eldredge tried to make a comeback after Prohibition but did not succeed. Frank Jones Brewery did make a comeback, closing its doors in 1950. By then national companies had taken over brewing,” Rux said.

The founding of Portsmouth Brewery on Market Street in 1991 marked the start of the local craft brewing movement. Rux said the Athenaeum is enlisting the help of Granite State Growler Tours co-founder Dave Adams to tell this part of the story.

A keg borrowed from the Portsmouth Historical Society will be the centerpiece of the exhibit in the Randall Gallery. Stoneware bottles, home brewing supplies, vintage newspaper advertisements and a drawing of Eldredge Brewing Co.’s giant facility will also be on display. A number of gallery talks are planned, Rux said (go to www.portsmouthathenaeum.org and click on “social feed” to sign up for email updates).

Judy Groppa, Barbara Adams, Joan Graf, Elaine Tefft, Linda Cheatham and Susan Kress Hamilton are among the Athenaeum Exhibit Committee members helping pull together “Roll Out the Barrel.” To loan an item for the exhibit, which runs through Nov. 9, contact Sandra Rux at sandrarux@comcast.net or Tom Hardiman at thardiman@portsmouthathenaeum.org. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

COLLECTIONS PRESERVATION, SPACE USE STUDY CONTINUE

PEGGY HODGES

Previous newsletters have reported on several grant-funded studies we’ve undertaken to explore options for improving environmental conditions for our collections, preserving our historic buildings, and reorganizing spaces to better support the Athenaeum’s daily operations. Each of these studies has built upon knowledge gained from previous studies—and we have learned a lot.

Last November, you may recall, museum space planner Jeffrey Weatherston and collections conservator Barbara Moore worked intensively with the Athenaeum board and staff to create a detailed picture of our museum and library collections, how we use our spaces, and our aspirations for the future.

The consultants spent the winter months compiling and analyzing the data gathered, and developing concepts for improved collections storage and space use.

In late April, Jeff and Barbara returned to share the results of their work. Granular analyses of the size and storage needs of our museum and library collections were reviewed with staff for fine-tuning prior to development of a final storage equipment plan.

At the end of the visit, Jeff presented to the board and staff four different conceptual plans for reorganizing our public, work and collections spaces.

The problems and possibilities highlighted by Jeff’s plans have sparked a deeper exploration of the Athenaeum’s long-range goals and how best to achieve them.

Additional strategies to free up space in our overcrowded buildings, such as off-site storage of underutilized books or the addition of compact library shelving, are currently being considered, in addition to space reorganization.

Within the next few months, the Athenaeum board will approve a final space reorganization and collections storage plan.

The next step, of course, is HVAC, electrical and fire suppression design to support the new plan. We are so excited and happy to report that we have secured full grant funding for this as well! (*See related article, “Athenaeum Secures \$50,000 Grant for New HVAC System Design on page 1.”*)

Our peers in the museum field—as well as the federal government—clearly agree that the Athenaeum’s collections are of great historic and cultural value to the region and our nation. We take our stewardship of this legacy seriously, and are committed to preserving, caring for and providing access to our remarkable collections for the benefit of all.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Douglas Aykroyd
oakscouter@comcast.net

The 28th Annual Portsmouth Athenaeum Potluck Picnic. On Tuesday, Aug. 20, Proprietors, Subscribers, Friends, and employees of the Portsmouth Athenaeum will gather at the Seacoast Science Center to celebrate summer. The picnic continues to be one of the most popular events of the year for at least three reasons. (See flyer on Page 7.)

First of all, the others attending the event are all interesting, convivial people who provide a great resource of engaging conversation. These are truly people you would want to enjoy a meal with. The second reason for the picnic's popularity is the location of the event. The view from the tent behind the Seacoast Science Center on Odiorne Point is spectacular, especially when there are sail boat races. On the rare occasions when we have had rain, the tent has kept us nice and dry. The third reason lies in the wide variety of delicious food brought to the event by attendees. No one goes away hungry.

To top things off, the Social Committee provides a great variety of wines, beers, waters, and other non-alcoholic drinks to complement the food and conversations.

Who is invited to the picnic? All those who receive the Newsletter. So please plan to join us under the tent. Why not make arrangements to join other members of the Athenaeum family there. We will see you there!

The Value of Volunteers. I have long suggested that readers volunteer at the Athenaeum to get the most out of their association with the organization. The

value of volunteering goes far beyond the personal satisfaction gained in providing service to others.

The Long Range Plan Committee recently did a survey that documents the popularity of our exhibits in the Randall Gallery. While the Exhibits Committee deserves a great deal of credit for planning and developing our annual program of interesting exhibits, there is another group of people, our Gallery Greeters, who make it possible for the exhibits to be accessible to members and the public 12 hours each week. They provide both a welcome for visitors and security for the exhibit. That is about 600 hours a year without cost. At \$15 an hour, the Athenaeum is saving around \$9,000 a year.

There are other volunteers who provide important services to the organization. Reading Room volunteers provide three hours a week. The Curator and Art and Artifacts volunteers serve 12 to 18 hours a week. Five Library volunteers contribute even more hours each week. And photo volunteers add eight to 10 hours a week.

As Tom Hardiman put it, "If you take an average of 54 hours each week total, that's 1.35 full-time equivalents." Roughly speaking, it would cost each Proprietor and Subscriber an additional \$100 a year to provide these services if volunteers were not available. That would be equal to a 40% increase in the Annual Assessment. Tom added that if you consider the work done by the committees, the total volunteer effort would exceed two full-time positions.

Help Wanted. Several Athenaeum committees are looking for volunteers to participate in their activities. The Program Committee, which is responsible for an annual series of lectures on a specific

topic, is looking to add new members. Its current series, "Scripting the Seacoast with Words, Beauty, Learning and Laughter," has already presented Brendan Dubois, a mystery writer; Rebecca Rule, a humorous New England storyteller; and Rachel Forrest, who writes about food and drink. In September, photographer and poetic writer Alexandra de Stiguer will share her photographs and prose. Coming in October will be playwrights Marguerite Matthews and Gregory Gathers. In November the program will feature John Perrault, a former Poet Laureate of Portsmouth.

The job of the Program Committee is to develop a plan for an appealing annual series, contact and engage the speakers, develop advertising materials, and ensure that each presentation goes off flawlessly. Ann Beattie has been the chair of the committee since its founding eight years ago and is looking to step down while continuing to be involved with a committee. The committee is also looking for interested new members to help share in its ongoing work.

The Social Committee of the Athenaeum is responsible for the reception after the Annual Meeting, the annual summer potluck picnic, the annual holiday party, and two "socials." The committee currently consists of seven active members led by chair Cindy Knapp. This committee is also looking for new members who would be interested in planning and executing our annual series of events.

Anyone interested in either of these two committees, or any Athenaeum committee, should contact Tom Hardiman for more information.

Temperance....

Baptists began to condemn drinking in excess. At a time when reform-minded groups began to address women's rights and slavery, the temperance movement was also born.

The call for temperance in Portsmouth began with the arrival of Baptist minister Baron Stow to the Middle Street Baptist Church in 1827. Stow's sermons excited the cause in Portsmouth and support grew quickly. Soon the city had chapters of many national organizations including the American Temperance Society, American Temperance Union, Washington Total Abstinence Society, Sons of Temperance, International Order of Good Templars, Cold Water Army and Women's Christian Temperance Union. Support for the temperance movement in Portsmouth included a diverse group of individuals, both male and female, from a variety of socio-economic groups including laborers, merchants and religious leaders.

Recent additions to the Athenaeum's collections help tell the story of temperance in Portsmouth. In 2018 the Athenaeum acquired an 1845 petition listing the names of nearly 900 Portsmouth women calling for reform.

By the 1840s national temperance groups increasingly emphasized that alcohol consumption was destroying families. This language drew many reform-minded women to the cause. In 1845 when the Athenaeum's broadside petition was published, Portsmouth was in the midst of a significant population increase, with the largest influx of immigrants since early settlement. Viewing the stability of their community and families as being at

risk, local temperance advocates pleaded for reform in the city's newspapers and in public proclamations.

Mid-century also saw a shift in leadership within the movement. Before 1840 temperance leaders were often religious leaders. They hoped to reform attitudes toward alcohol through means of "moral suasion." By the late 1840s, temperance advocates began to suggest that the best way to achieve temperance was to prevent the sale of liquor through legislation.

In 1846 Maine became the first state to pass a prohibition law. In 1855 the state of New Hampshire passed its own act for the "Suppression of Intemperance," limiting alcohol sale to appointed agents and only for purposes of art, medicine and religion. The law was rarely enforced.

Early in 2019 the Athenaeum acquired another temperance broadside. This broadside, believed to be from the 1850s, is an advertisement for a bowling saloon operating under "temperance principles." The bowling alley, located on Hanover Street in Portsmouth's North End, appears to have operated for a brief period of time, as little other record of the establishment has been found.

In the 1851 City Directory, a "bowling saloon" was listed at 46 Hanover St., and although it was not distinguished as a "temperance" establishment, it likely was. As made clear in an 1844 Portsmouth Journal article, 19th-century bowling alleys were viewed as a "serious evil," described as "unprincipled rum-holes." In 1845, in response to pressure from temperance advocates, the New Hampshire state legislature passed an ordinance "to suppress bowling alleys."

A bowling alley that did not serve alcohol was a novel idea that does not appear to have lasted long.

In the second half of the 19th century Portsmouth's economy became heavily indebted to the brewing industry. Breweries, most notably Frank Jones and Eldredge, provided 16 percent of the city's jobs. Jobs provided by the brewing industry were only a fraction of the economic impact the industry had on the city.

Frank Jones, the owner of Portsmouth's largest brewery, also owned hotels, factories, and an insurance company and served as president of the Boston and Maine Railroad. Jones made generous donations and bequests to Portsmouth's Public Library, Cottage Hospital, Chase Home for Children, Home for Indigent Women and Middle Street Baptist Church.

In an ironic twist brought to light in Richard Winslow's *Frank Jones of New Hampshire: A Capitalist and Politician During the Gilded Age*, "Hot water heated at the [Frank Jones] brewery was trundled through the streets in barrels carried by beer wagons and poured into the font in time for the baptismal ceremonies" at Middle Street Baptist Church.

The same church where Rev. Baron Stow had first brought the notion of temperance to Portsmouth was later baptizing in water heated at a city brewery. Jones' influence in the city placed temperance leaders in a difficult position during the second part of the 19th century. The Athenaeum's new broadsides help tell the story of a city with divided allegiance, economic prosperity and the regulation of vice.

Athenaeum Archivist Susan Kindstedt researched the temperance movement in Portsmouth while writing her thesis at the University of New Hampshire.

Events at the Portsmouth Athenæum

JULY-OCTOBER 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.

JULY 5, FRIDAY: The Randall Gallery will be open for 'Art Round Town, and the closing of the exhibit "Seacoast LGBT History: 50 Years of Rainbow Reflections."

JULY 21, SUNDAY: The 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Chamber Music series begins with Sebastian Haverston (cellist) and Constantine Finehouse (pianist), 3 p.m. at St. John's Church.

AUGUST 2, FRIDAY: Opening reception for the exhibit "By the Bottle or Barrel: 400 Years of Brewing in Portsmouth", 5-8 p.m. in the Randall Gallery.

AUGUST 11, SUNDAY: The 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Chamber Music series continues with four musicians from A Far Cry, 3 p.m. at The Dance Hall, Kittery, Maine.

AUGUST 18, SUNDAY: Tammi Truax, Portsmouth's Poet Laureate and author of *For to See the Elephant* gives a book talk in the Reading Room, 3 p.m.

AUGUST 20, TUESDAY: 27th Annual Athenæum Picnic at the Seacoast Science Center, 5-7 p.m. See *flyer on Page 7*.

SEPTEMBER 6, FRIDAY: The Randall Gallery will be open for 'Art Round Town.

SEPTEMBER 18, WEDNESDAY: Portsmouth Athenæum Program Series: "Scripting the Seacoast with Words, Beauty, Learning and Laughter": Alexandra de Steiguer, photo essay writer. 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

SEPTEMBER 22, SUNDAY: The 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Chamber Music series continues with the Omer Quartet, 3 p.m., North Church in Market Square.

SEPTEMBER 29, SUNDAY: The Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival presents cameo concerts in the Reading Room from 1 to 5 p.m..

OCTOBER 4, FRIDAY: The Randall Gallery will be open for 'Art Round Town.

OCTOBER 16, WEDNESDAY: 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Program Series: "Scripting the Seacoast with Words, Beauty, Learning and Laughter": Marguerite Matthews & Gregory Gathers, playwrights, 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.

OCTOBER 27, SUNDAY: The 2019 Portsmouth Athenæum Chamber Music series concludes with the Naeve Trio, 3 p.m. at the Dance Hall, Kittery, Maine.

OCTOBER 29, TUESDAY: Lecture by Kurt Leland: "Celia Thaxter: Ghosts, Ghouls, and Gurus." The ghosts refer to her interest in spiritualism. The ghouls can do double duty as a reference to the Smuttynose murders and to a creepy story about a murderer haunting one of her friends, a medium named Marion Dickinson. The gurus will allow Leland to bring in Celia's involvement for a couple years with the Theosophical Society, including her having attended classes in the Bhagavad Gita taught by a young Indian man in 1887, one of the earliest appearances of such a guru in the United States. The lecture is at 5:30 p.m. in the Research Library.



THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENÆUM
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Generosity!

The Portsmouth Athenaeum received residual disbursements from the estates of Edward C. and Evelyn B. Stickney totaling \$20,779.88. This is in addition to the \$30,000 received from the trusts last year. In gratitude for their remarkable generosity, the Stickneys will be honored as members of the Portsmouth Athenaeum Legacy Society.

The society celebrates those who have remembered the Athenaeum in their will, trust, IRA, or other estate

plan. If you would like more information about the Portsmouth Athenaeum Legacy Society, please contact the Keeper.

The Athenaeum was the beneficiary of 1/3 of the May sales at the Fabulous Find in Kittery. Our share came out to an extraordinary \$7,231.34! Thank you to the Fabulous Find and to all of our fabulous friends who shopped and donated in May.

