



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Published by the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum Public Library

Volume 22 Number 5

Fall 2011

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum cordially invite all Friends of the library to attend the annual general meeting to be held on **September 8 at 5:30 p.m. on the second floor**. The meeting will include the annual financial report, as well as the nomination and election of new officers. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact the Friends.

From the Chair

The Friends are busy planning new activities for the Athenaeum. Check out this newsletter to see the schedule of events that will be happening this Fall. Our Program chairperson, Marilyn Manning, has scheduled a truly eclectic set of programs for the library patrons to enjoy. Also, if you have children, grandchildren, or want to be a hero with your neighborhood kids bring them to the children's activities sponsored by the Friends and scheduled by Joanne Pearson, the children's librarian.

I hope you have had a chance to see the new aquarium sponsored by the Friends in the children's department. It is part of the new enhancements the Friends have planned for the children's library—more to follow. BTW—if you have ideas on improvements please forward them to me. The Friends always welcome suggestions on how to improve the library experience. I also hope you have had a chance to visit the lobby book sale area, managed by Nancy McNabb. Bargain books are available and every penny of profit goes to improving your library. Also remember the holidays are fast approaching and the Friends store at the library has some attractive gifts to choose from.

Remember we can always use volunteers to help out. The Friends are in particular need of a secretary to handle correspondence, write minutes of meetings and develop agendas. This is a Friends officer position on the Executive Committee. Please volunteer if you have the skills to do this job. If you want to help the Friends in any way please contact me or any Executive Committee member—they are listed on our web site http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org/friends_home.html

Please ask your friends and relatives to join us. We should all be ***Friends!***

Florian Ptak --- Chair, FBA fmp1941@aol.com

What's the Library Worth To You?

Using circulation statistics from the fiscal year ending in June, the Berkshire Athenaeum compiled a list of library services used during the year and calculated how much its patrons would have had to pay directly if the great library services were not offered. They reported that out of Pittsfield's total municipal expenditures, the library's share amounted to less than 1%! Pittsfield taxpayers get a tremendous bang for their bucks they invest in the library!

- Books: 207,255 were borrowed (@ \$35) = \$7,253,925 for patrons
- E-books: 1,774 were borrowed (@ \$10) = \$17,740
- Audio-visuals (CDs, cassettes, VHS, DVDs): 62,700 were borrowed (@ \$20) = \$1,254,000
- Museum passes: 2,232 were borrowed (@ \$10) = \$22,320
- Reference inquiries: 36,353 were asked (@ \$10) = \$366,340
- Internet access using the library's PCs: 38,353 units (@ \$5) = \$191,765
- Online database access: 10,340 units (@ \$10) = \$103,400
- Wireless Internet signal use: 10,536 units (@ \$5) = \$52,680
- Computer training sessions: 195 used (@ \$50) = \$9,750
- Attendance at children's programs: 3,647 (@ \$5) = \$18,235
- Attendance at Friends co-sponsored events: 765 (@ \$10) = \$7,650
- Use of conference room by outside groups: 139 (@ \$100) = \$13,900
- Use of auditorium by outside groups: 212 (@ \$200) = \$42,400

Total Value: \$9,354,105

FY 2011 Operating Budget: \$897,652

Minimum Return on Investment: 1,042%

BOOK SALE

Thursday, **November 3**,
5 -8 PM Friends Night (Open exclusively to
members.)

Friday, **November 4**,
10 AM - 4 PM

Saturday, **November 5**,
10 AM - 4 PM

This is a local sale—all proceeds benefit your
local library. Keep your money in the Berkshires!

Short Story Winners Announced

The Berkshire Athenaeum's Children's Library is pleased to announce the winners of the Annual Short Story Writing Contest. Stories were judged on their originality, appeal and writing style. Winning entries, Honorable Mentions and works of merit will be bound and added to the collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum. See the Athenaeum web site for a listing of winners and their stories.

Want to Learn to Knit?

Berkshire Athenaeum volunteer, Ann Tierney will offer a series of knitting classes at the library Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning September 15. The ten week course will continue through November 17. The lessons are free, and needles for novice knitters will be provided by the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum. Practice yarn will be provided by Tierney. In the first series of lessons, participants will learn to cast on and off, as well as knit, finishing either a scarf or set of coasters. A second set of lessons will be offered in the winter/spring. Space is limited. Pre-register for the lessons by calling the reference department of the Berkshire Athenaeum at (413) 499-9488, or register by e-mail to pittsref@cwmares.org.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS:

Labor Day, Monday, September 5
Columbus Day, Monday, October 10
Veterans Day, Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24
Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

Schedule of Computer Classes: October/November 2011

Space is Limited and Preregistration is Required

Register at the Reference Desk (413 499 9480 ext 202) during regular library hours or pittsref@cwmares.org

Our Computer Lab sessions -- except Computer Basics -- are taught presuming attendees' ability to type on a computer keyboard; use either a laptop touchpad or a mouse; and enter an address in the address bar of a browser. Those who do not have these skills are welcome to sign up for our sessions; however, they may find they are unable to fully participate.

Computer Basics Series: Part 1 Mouse Skills

You need a little computer help so you can start enjoying all the great possibilities a computer can provide? This tutorial is designed to help people who have never used a computer before. We will concentrate on using the mouse and other basic skills.

Wednesday, October 5, 10 - 11:30 am

Computer Basics Series: Part 2 Email

Setting up a free gmail account.

Wednesday, October 12, 10 - 11:30 am

Computer Basics Series: Part 3 Intro to Google

Personalize your Google Use.

Wednesday, October 19, 10 - 11:30 am

Microsoft Word: Mail Merge

*Participants will explore the Mailings Tab of Microsoft Word, including Mail Merge functions – creating form letters, envelopes, labels, and emails. Various sources for recipient lists – manually-typed lists, Excel spreadsheets, and Outlook contacts – will be discussed. **Participants are expected to have a basic comfort level with Excel.** (Taught by Alex)*

Wednesday, October 26, 5:30 – 7 pm

Organizing Your Digital Photos

We will walk you through the process of putting your photos online using Picasa, free software available from Google. (Taught by Jeanne)

Tuesday, November 1, 5:30 – 7 pm

Word Basics

An introduction to Microsoft Word 2007. (Taught by Madeline)

Wednesday, November 9, 5:30 – 7 pm

CHILDREN'S FALL ACTIVITIES

Children's Library **Berkshire Athenaeum** 1 Wendell Avenue Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-499-9480, Ext 203 <http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org>

September 13, 2011 Story time resumes Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM
(September 13, 20, 27—October 4, 11, 18, 25—November 1, 8, 15, --December 6, 13, 20)

September 16, 2011 Preschool Videos resume Friday mornings at 10:00 AM
(September 16, 23, 30—October 7, 14, 21, 28—November 4, 18—December 2, 9, 16, 23)

Saturday October 15, 2011 - 10:30-noon: "Fall into Fall" a fun festivity for kids—
craft, stories, snack, movie. (for preschoolers and up) (sponsored by The Friends of the
Berkshire Athenaeum and Wee Read)

Friday October 28, 2011 at 11:00 AM Preschool Halloween Parade.

Saturday December 3, 2011 at 1:00 PM Berkshire Music School presents a
medley of winter holiday music including an audience sing-along. (for children ages 5-92)

Wednesday December 28, 2011 at 1:00 PM Mad Science of Western New
England presents: "Holi Daze" the How and Why of the Season. (for children ages 5 & up)

Friends Events at the Library

September 8 (Thursday) 7 P.M. Rory Raven (Mentalist)

Minds read, spoons bent, volunteers test their own 'powers'. The evening concludes with a manifestation you might have witnessed at a séance over a century ago

September 13 (Tuesday) 7 P.M. David Polansky: Concert

Music Through the Decades

September 20 (Tuesday) 7 P.M. Eric Lamet returns with his second book:

A Child al Confino A Jewish child's experiences in Mussolini's Italy a captivating story of awakening knowledge and a child's resilience
a child's resilience" *The Advocate* Baton Rouge

October 12 (Wednesday) 7 P.M. Pittsfield Jazz Week featuring

Alma Macbride: piano prodigy

October 18 (Tuesday) 7 P.M. Lecture with power point presentation:

"The Architects who Created the Colonial Theatre by Jeff Bradway

November 1 (Tuesday) 7 P.M. Character actor Richard Clark

portrays Ernest Hemingway

Relive with Ernest those days from WWII through the inauguration of JFK.

November 22 (Tuesday) 7 P.M. Holiday Concert by the Pittsfield High School String Orchestra

directed by Alla Zernitskaya

December 6 (Tuesday) 6 P.M.—Art Lesson "The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe:

How to Pastel Paint Flowers" taught by Gregory Maichack

Supported by a grant from the Pittsfield Cultural Council and the MA Cultural Council

December 15 (Thursday) 7 P.M.— Concert: Spare Parts

plays dance music on piano and flute and violin. Liz Stell, Bill Matthiesen and Eric Buddington
play historically accurate programs of music popular in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Please Join the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

If you like what the Friends do for the library, consider becoming a member in one of the following categories:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | 200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member | 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

New Member Renewal Membership

I would like to volunteer for one of the following committees:

<input type="checkbox"/> book sale	<input type="checkbox"/> membership	<input type="checkbox"/> publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> programming	<input type="checkbox"/> finance	<input type="checkbox"/> executive

Please tear off and return with your check payable to Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

Your Contribution is Tax Deductible

Mail to: Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

FALL BOOK SALE

**Thursday, November 3, 5 -8 PM Friends Night (Open exclusively to members.)
 Friday, November 4, 10 AM - 4 PM Saturday, November 5, 10 AM - 4 PM**

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 121
 Pittsfield, MA

The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
 1 Wendell Avenue
 Pittsfield, MA 01201