

## The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

# Friends Newsletter

### **From the Chair**

As the new chairperson of the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum, I suggested, and then received, the Executive Committee's approval to issue a summer newsletter to publicize the many activities and programs that we are sponsoring during the summer months. Our Museum Pass program has expanded so more passes are available, the children's activities this summer are outstanding, and based on our success last year, we are having a summer book sale to raise funds for the Friends sponsored activities. Read all about it in this newsletter.

Remember that we can always use volunteers to help out. There are many areas in which you can help. For example, you may like to,--sort books, work at our book sale, help with our membership drive, stock our brand new lobby book shelves, manage the Friends store, schedule events, distribute posters, help with publicity, maintain our bulletin boards and anything else you can think of that benefits the library.

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

*Florian Ptak --- Chair—FBA*

### **Public Relations**

The FRIENDS are working to increase our visibility in the community so that we can be more effective advocates for library needs. We are happy to report that our recent lapsed membership special solicitation has resulted in an influx of new memberships amounting to \$1120. If interested in becoming a member of the FRIENDS, please submit the application form provided on the last page of the newsletter, or the application form on the FRIENDS website. We'd love for you to join us!

### **Welcome to the Board**

We have welcomed many new additions to the FRIENDS Executive Committee this spring. Marsha Anthony, Ashley Paddock, Edward Rielly and James Arpante were elected to the Board. Marsha has accepted the position of assistant treasurer and Ashley will work on communications for the FRIENDS, Edward will head up a new membership drive, James will do publicity for the committee.

### **Museum Passes**

The FRIENDS are happy to announce that we have secured museum passes to three area venues for library patrons to borrow at their leisure. Adding to an extensive list of local sites offered by the FRIENDS at the Berkshire Athenaeum, patrons now can visit the Berkshire Botanical Gardens, the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum and Steepletop, Home of Edna St. Vincent Millay free of charge. FRIENDS chairperson, Florian Ptak, was able to negotiate a new ticketing system with the new venues that will eliminate the hassle for patrons' to return borrowed passes back to the library by a designated time.

### **Friends at your Fingertips**

FRIENDS of the Berkshire Athenaeum now has a presence on the web at: [www.pittsfieldlibrary.org/friends\\_home.html](http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org/friends_home.html) Information about the organization, its programming, and its library improvement projects are now all at your fingertips. In addition, users can access the FRIENDS newsletters and membership forms in PDF format.

#### **LIBRARY CLOSED**

**Independence Day, Monday, July 4  
Labor Day, Monday, September 5**

# Summer Book Sale

*Come one, come all to the annual community event*

**Friday and Saturday,**

**July 29 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

at the Berkshire Athenaeum.

&

A preview sale held exclusively for FRIENDS members,

**Thursday, July 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.**

The sale will feature thousands of used books categorized for easy browsing, as well as a variety of audio, video and LPs. A selection of children's books, paperbacks and specialty items will also be available. If interested in volunteering at the event, contact the FRIENDS at [fmp1941@aol.com](mailto:fmp1941@aol.com) or Florian at 413-447-9115.

## Schedule of Computer Classes: July/August

**\*\*\*PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED: SIGN UP AT THE REFERENCE DESK\*\*\***

*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. (Taught by Mary Ann) Wednesday, July 27, 10 - 11:30 am*

### **Computer Basics Series: Part 2 Email**

*Setting up a free gmail account. (Taught by Mary Ann) Wednesday, August 3, 10 - 11:30 am*

### **Computer Basics Series: Part 3 Intro to Google**

*Personalize your Google Use. (Taught by Mary Ann) Wednesday, August 10, 10 - 11:30 am*

### **Excel 202**

*Participants will explore advanced spreadsheet functions, including importing text data, creating complex formulas, designing a basic balance sheet with check functions, and exporting data through a mail-merge. (Taught by Alex) Thursday, July 28, 5:30 - 7 pm*

**Job Search Series: Part 1 Resume Basics Workshop** *Create or fine-tune your resume and learn how to post it online. This session will provide an introduction to basic resume types and formatting techniques, an overview of the abundant resume-writing resources online and in print, and instruction on how to share your resume online. (Taught by Jeanne) Tuesday, July 12, 5:30 - 7 pm*

### **Job Search Series: Part 2 Make the Most of Web Resources**

*Session will outline how to use job search engines effectively, create an online job search profile using websites like Monster.com and careerbuilder.com, and network using social media such as Linked-in, Twitter and Facebook. (Taught by Jeanne) Tuesday, July 19, 5:30 - 7 pm*

**Job Search Series: Part 3 Safeguarding your Digital Profile** *This session will focus on both the benefits and potential hazards of using social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Topics will include Networking and Friends, Privacy Settings, Employers and Facebook, and strategies to protect your digital profile.*

*(Taught by Matthew Martin, Community Outreach Representative, Mildred Elley)*

**Tuesday, July 26, 5:30 - 7 pm**

### **Word Basics**

*An introduction to Microsoft Word 2007. (Taught by Madeline) Thursday, July 7, 5:30 - 7 pm*

*This service is offered by the Berkshire Athenaeum, incorporated on March 24, 1871, observing its 140th anniversary as Pittsfield's Public Library*

# CHILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES

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

## Special programs

- Len Gerwick—The Gerwick Puppets, "Aesop's Fables"** Thursday, June 30 at 1 PM  
**Aaron Larget-Caplan, Latin music and stories** Wednesday, July 6 at 1 PM  
**Davis Bates, Under One Sky: A Multicultural Celebration** Thursday, July 14 at 1 PM  
**Jeff Snow, Celtic music and stories** Wednesday, July 20 at 1 PM  
**Don Jordan's Nutshell Playhouse, Dance with a Clown** Wednesday, July 27 at 1 PM  
**Didgeridoo Down Under, Australian music** Thursday, August 4 at 3 PM  
**Diane Edgecomb, Native American Nature Tales**, Tuesday, August 9 at 1 PM  
**Berkshire Music School, Otha Day, Drum to the Beat** Tuesday, August 16 at 1 PM

*\*\*Special programs are suggested for children ages 5 and up*

### Join our Summer Reading Club!

Pre-school - Grade 5 \*\* June 27—August 20

#### **READING CLUB GUIDELINES:**

Participants are encouraged to have their own library cards. Summer Reading Program runs for 8 weeks, and Club members must visit the Library at least once during 4 different weeks to complete their weekly visit card. Participants will receive a prize for each weekly visit, including a special final prize on their 4<sup>th</sup> visit!

Club members also receive raffle tickets for every visit to the Library, as well as for participating in various activities. (see below) Prize drawings will be held once a week. Winners will be notified by phone.

Participants must be present in the Library to receive credit for weekly visits and raffle tickets.

### **Summer Reading Club Weekly Calendar**

#### **Mondays—Picture Day**

Bring an original drawing about a book to get a raffle ticket.

#### **Tuesdays—Crazy Hat Day**

Wear a silly hat to the library to get a raffle ticket.

#### **Wednesdays—Stuffed Animal Day**

Bring your favorite stuffed animal to get a raffle ticket.

#### **Thursdays—Recital Day**

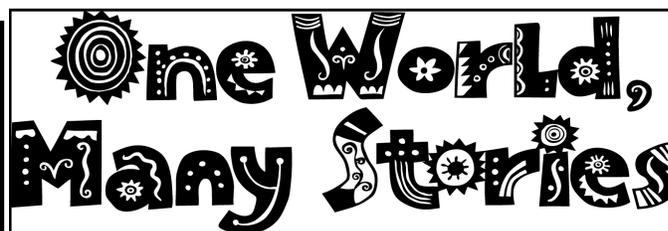
Recite a poem or sing a song to get a raffle ticket.

#### **Fridays—Blue Shirt Day**

Wear a blue shirt to the Library to get a raffle ticket.

#### **Saturdays—Fly Like a Bird**

Flap your wings like a bird for a raffle ticket.



"One World, Many Stories" Summer Reading 2011  
Sponsored by The Berkshire Athenaeum, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Massachusetts Library System and the Friends of The Berkshire Athenaeum

### Craft Activities

Crafts will be held on June 29, July 7, July 12, July 21, July 26, August 3, August 11, and August 17.

All at **1:00 PM**

Crafts are 30 - 40 minutes long  
and intended for children 5 to 12 years old. \*

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**—call or stop in to the Children's Desk. Registration is free, first-come first-served, and will begin approximately one week before each craft.

**\*Children under 10 years old may not be left unattended in the library.**

### Short Story Writing Contest

For Children and Young Adults (K-12)

Cash Prizes!

Applications available starting Wednesday June 1, 2011

Children's Desk

**All entries must be submitted by July 11 at 4 PM**

Awards Ceremony and Reception for all participants

Friday, August 19, 2011 at 1 PM

Kelly Bevan—Speaker

# 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**

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

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