

# The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

Please donate  
your gently used  
books for our  
book sales



## From the President

Our National Friends of Library Week, October 15-19, 2017 was a big success. Dozens of folks became members of the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum during our membership discount days, we gave away loads of music CDs, 50+ patrons enjoyed free snacks on Tuesday and again on Friday, and we had a large crowd for the Friends Annual Meeting which opened with a reading of the Proclamation by the Mayor's office, proceeded with annual reports of activities, accomplishments and goals from each of the subcommittees, and closed with a slide presentation of all the materials, furniture, technology equipment, audio-visual, outdoor landscaping, best-sellers and more purchased for the library and patrons' use made possible thanks to loyal members like you and book sale shoppers. If you would like to view the slide presentation, please go to our website at [www.pittsfieldlibrary.org/friends\\_library\\_improvements.html](http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org/friends_library_improvements.html).

Don't forget to check out the wonderful items we have for sale at the Friends Store. You can view the items in the display case by the main circulation desk and in the lobby of the children's department entrance. We have a wide assortment of items from notecards to t-shirts to magnets to tote bags. All proceeds benefit the Berkshire Athenaeum and members of The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum receive a 10% discount! Just show your member card at the main circulation desk when you ask for your item.

The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum hope that you and your loved ones had a wonderful and joyful holiday celebration and that you have a healthy and fulfilling New Year.

Watch for the next book sale on March 8, 9 and 10, 2018.

Friends Executive Meetings are open to all members and take place on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM in the Athenaeum Room on the second level of the library.

Thank you for your support.

*Amy Chin*

*President*

[friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org](mailto:friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org)

## Friends Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum was held on October 19th during National Friends of Libraries Week. The following are the results of the election:

Amy Chin – President

Vickie Donahue – Vice President

Bob Bresnahan – Treasurer

Jeanne Bresnehan – Secretary

Ed Reilly and Florian Ptak – Executive Committee

## Spring Book Sale

The spring book sale begins on Thursday, March 8th, for Friends members and for the general public on March 9th. The final day is Saturday, March 10th. See the ad in this issue for the hours.

We have received large donations of CDs, DVDs, as well as books on CD.

There are still a few books left from the World War II military history donation. Most of these books are in pristine condition, with many in fine condition, some unread, from publishers such as Schiffer, Bender and Fedorowicz

If the book sale interests you, **we welcome new folks to help sort**, the more the merrier and the more books we can get out to sell. The garage is overflowing, already.

If you come to one of our sales, thank you! All of our Friends, whether you are going to resell the books or read them yourself, are special to us.

## **LIBRARY CLOSINGS:**

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

Monday, January 15, Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, February 19, Washington's Birthday

Monday, April 16, Patriot's Day

## Fall Book Sale

From Nancy McNabb

The Fall Book Sale netted a total of \$15,872.25. This is about \$500 more than the 2016 fall sale. Wow - Thank you everyone for your hard work.

Our regular sorters include: Jeanne Bresnehan, Helen Busby, Bob Cancilla, Elaine Cancilla, Jeanne Cornell, Bea DaSilva, Vicki Donahue, Paula Dambrauskas, Sandy Gero, Margaret Hintz, Ed Jacques, Ed Jurczyk, Bonnie Lingoski, Marilyn Manning, Marilyn McAlister, Sharon Mercier, Barbara Milensky, Sue Posthauer, Rosamond Rice, Bernie Scapin, Ross Shuart and Terry Walsh

A special thank-you to the clean-up crew and the cullers who worked on Monday and Wednesday. This was a boring but necessary job. Thank you Margaret, Bernie, Terri, Vickie, Marilyn, Jeanne C. and Jeanne B., Barbara, Ross, Ed J., Sharon M., Bonnie and the lobby ladies Bea and Sandy. Our newest volunteer Lana helped on Mon and Wed.

Florian and Jan have been working in the garage to neaten things. They had to make room for the 98 boxes which have been delivered from another donation. It looks like another exceptional collection. What I saw so far is pristine - the kind of donation we want.

We welcome new volunteers. We are overwhelmed with donations right now, which is really good news, but we would like more help. **We also could use a lot of extra help bringing donated items up from the garage.**

Email us at [friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org](mailto:friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org)

## Schedule of Adult Events

All events are held in the Berkshire Athenaeum auditorium, 1 Wendell Avenue. Events are supported by the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum and are free of charge.

Tuesday, January 16 at 7 PM: The Berkshire Hills Chorus performs a cappella music in four-part harmony, barbershop style.

Saturday, January 20 at 1 PM: The First Very Interesting Lecture of 2018. Local author and B.C.C professor, James Arpante will discuss "The Constitution and the Presidency". *This program is approved for Forum Credit for Berkshire Community College Students.*

Saturday, January 27 at 1 PM: The Second Very Interesting Lecture of 2018. Photographer Paul Rocheleau will talk about his career and the creation of his photography books. Brand new books signed and sold (at book sale prices) Proceeds to benefit the Berkshire Athenaeum. *This program is approved for Forum Credit for Berkshire Community College Students.*

Saturday, February 3 at 1 PM: The Third Very Interesting Lecture of 2018. TBA.

Thursday, February 15 at 7 PM. Mezzo-soprano, Marjorie Dix and pianist David Anderegg perform a classical concert with music by Mozart, Ludwig Spohr and others.

March: Berkshire Law Library presents "Fake News then and Now". Events and times TBA.

# SPRING BOOK SALE

## Mark your calendar!



**Thursday, March 8**

**4 - 8 PM Friends Night  
an hour earlier!  
(Open exclusively to mem-  
bers.)**

**Friday, March 9**

**10 AM - 4 PM**

**Saturday, March 10**

**10 AM - 4 PM**

Get the best selection — become a Friend — join at the door!

## **Berkshire Seed Library kicked off with Halloween Pumpkin Event**

*From Madeline Kelly*

On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Berkshire Athenaeum hosted Halloween at the Library, a family friendly kickoff for the Berkshire Seed Library – and a stupendously fun time. Over 200 individuals, including many first-time library visitors, strolled the reading-terrace-turned-pumpkin-patch, which was stocked with 244 pumpkins from Taft Farms. Kids selected a pumpkin and created original decorative carvings. A number of participants took pumpkin seeds home and expressed interest in more seed saving/gardening workshop opportunities.

Thanks to the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum for supporting this first Berkshire Seed Library event; to Taft Farms for the generous deal on pumpkins; to library staff, most especially the Children's Staff, for providing arts and crafts and other services to the many visitors that day.

Watch for our next Berkshire Seed Library event taking place on February 17, in coordination with Cultural Pittsfield's annual 10X10 Upstreet Arts Festival. Hancock Shaker Village will host workshops and a seed swap; musical performances and refreshments will be offered.

### **Children's Library Activities**

#### **Monday Morning Story Time at 10 AM**

Tiny Tots – Stories and activities for babies and toddlers, ages 0 – 2:

January 8, 22, 29.

February .5, 12, 26.

March 5, 12, 19, 26.

#### **Thursday Morning Play & Learn at 10 AM**

Stories and activities for preschoolers, ages 3 – 5.

January 4, 11, 18, 25.

February 1, 8, 15, 22.

March 1, 8, 15, 22.

#### **Lego Club**

Fourth Thursday of the month, 3:30 – 4:30 PM:

January 25, February 22, March 22.

## **Book Sale Volunteer Recruiter**

The Friends need someone to recruit volunteers to help with our Book Sale efforts. As we get more successful our need for volunteers grows too. Perhaps this is just the thing you've been looking to help out with.

### **Job Description**

The volunteer recruiter will be responsible for gathering names from all sources (suggestions from other volunteers, membership forms, word of mouth, etc.) and calling or emailing these people.

The volunteer recruiter will get a list of the types of duties that are needed and an explanation of the tasks the volunteer is expected to perform.

The recruiter will find out what days a volunteer is available, how often they can volunteer and what types of duties they are interested in.

The recruiter will coordinate with the book sale chair when the new recruits will come in for orientation or when they will begin their volunteer work.

The recruiter will keep track of the number of volunteers available for specific events like setup, cleanup, and book sale days to assure that there are an adequate number. Ideally, there should be a signup sheet with time slots filled in so no one has to work too many hours/days. The recruiter will keep a list of contact information of all volunteers.

If interested contact Amy Chin: [friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org](mailto:friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org)



*Berkshire Seed Library Pumpkin Party*

# **DONATE!**

**Gently used books, movies, music, puzzles, and games are always welcome at the Friends' Book Sale.**

*If you are able to get your donations in early it would help the Friends sort and organize for the next sale. The next sale after November is in March, so donations in December, January and February would be appreciated. Of course, we will still take donations anytime but the sooner the better.*

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

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

## Don't miss the Spring Book Sale (see inside)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

- Friend \$10.00
- Family 25.00
- Supporter 50.00
- Patron 100.00
- Benefactor 200.00
- Lifetime Member 500.00
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

New Member       Renewal Membership

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

- Book sale  Membership  Publicity
- Programming  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**