



Boston Authors Club

November 2019 Newsletter

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Message from Julie Dobrow, BAC President



Greetings to you all!

I am thrilled and a bit humbled to take on the role of president of the BAC. Thrilled, because the BAC was co-founded by Mabel Loomis Todd, one of the subjects of my mother/daughter biography *After Emily: Two Remarkable Women and the Legacy of America's Greatest Poet*. Mabel, who served as president or chair of every organization she belonged to, would definitely approve.

And I'm humbled because I'm stepping into the shoes of so many very accomplished and able people who have preceded me in this role. Starting with the BAC's very first president, Julia Ward Howe, through its most recent leader, Mary Cronin, I feel that this organization has been indeed fortunate to have so many wonderful leaders. I want to especially thank Mary, who has helped to steer the BAC in some very positive directions.

I want to let all our membership know about some important decisions made at our first Board meeting of the year, and also tell you about some of the new initiatives the BAC will be undertaking.

First, after a thorough review and much discussion, we have amended our by-laws in significant ways. You will soon be able to read them on our website, but let me highlight some of the most important changes we voted to make:

- *Going forward we will only have one membership category. We will eliminate the "Associate Member" designation.*
- *With this change, the Board voted to have only one membership fee, which will be \$50*
- *Reflecting our actual practice, we changed the time of the annual meeting from May to September*
- *Also reflecting our actual practice, we reconstituted a quorum from seven members to five*

As for new BAC initiatives, we're going to be working on the following:

- Making a big push to expand our membership. We want to reach out not only to authors, but also to people who are involved with literary endeavors (librarians, teachers, bookstore owners) and people who love books. Please see the article on membership elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter and help us in these efforts!
- Extending the programming we do. In addition to the hugely successful children's literature events, look for more programs at bookstores on different topics, and, thanks to new Board member Martha Pott, a bookmaking workshop in time for Valentine's Day.
- Developing a new BAC website
- Partnering with other local organizations on programming
- Working to develop some BAC initiatives that will enable us to combine literary endeavors with civic ones

We welcome your thoughts, your ideas and your participation in all of these areas. Please get in touch, volunteer, and join us as we continue working to make the BAC a vibrant 21st century organization.

Julie Dobrow
BAC President

Storytelling Evening

Life-Notes Social and Stories on November 13



You are cordially invited a social gathering and storytelling evening on **Wednesday, November 13, from 6:30-8:00PM at the Waterworks in Chestnut Hill** hosted by BAC members and Life-Notes co-founders, Scott Guthery and Mary Cronin.

Life-Notes (www.life-notes.com) is launching a neighborhood story project to inspire, collect, and preserve personal and community stories about growing up in mid-century America. We look forward to hearing your creative ideas during this social evening. There will be abundant food, drink, and stories to stimulate brainstorming and story sharing.

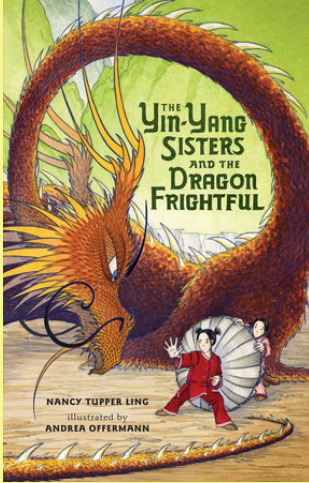
To RSVP and get the location details, or to hear more about the Life-Notes neighborhood story project, please email mary@life-notes.com



Email your book and event news by Nov 30 to bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com for the December newsletter

Double Congratulations to Nancy Tupper Ling for 2 Book Awards from Northern Lights

Nancy Tupper Ling was twice-honored in the 2019 Northern Lights Book Awards as a Winner of the *Picture Book 4-8*



category for her book **The Story I'll Tell** and Winner of the *Picture Book – All Ages* category for **The Yin-Yang Sisters and the Dragon Frightful**.

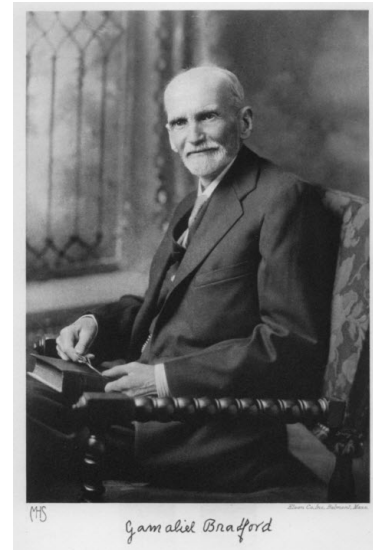
Nancy will be at Barnes and Noble, Framingham, MA, on **November 16th, at 1:30 pm** for an anthology book signing.

Yesteryear at the BAC by Scott Guthery Finding Guides as Literature

You can undoubtedly name a famous librarian or two and you may be able to name a famous archivist (other than Tiny Tim), but can you name a famous cataloguer? I came to this thought as I was perusing the Houghton Library catalog entry for Gamaliel Bradford's correspondence. You may think this entry would be bone-dry reading. Maybe it is, until remind yourself that back in Yesteryear days some dedicated staff member sat in some unheated Library corner, in an office that isn't even on the directory, reading and reflecting on each and every Bradford letter and distilling it down to a tweet-sized summary.

Consider:

- **13 Jul. 1916.** *Recalls article on History of Cardenio. Intimated intention of reprinting The Double Falsehood. Has it appeared?*
- **10 Feb 1911** *Discusses story of Lee's casket floating away in flood*
- **23 Jul. 1905.** *Acknowledges receipt of copy of Walpole's letter and announces plans for editing Letters of Madame Du Deffand to Walpole.*



I scanned the catalog entry carefully and while I learned that it was © 2004 *The President and Fellows of Harvard College*, I could not find the name of the skilled writer who was its author.

Gamaliel Bradford joined the Boston Authors Club in 1920. He called himself a psychographer (someone who wrote psychographs) but we'd more likely think of him today as a biographer who wrote biographies; lots and lots of biographies.

Bradford's entry in **Notable Boston Authors** opines that "coming generations may assign him to the niche occupied by Rousseau, Amiel, and Henry Adams." As far as I can tell that generation hasn't been born yet but who's to say it won't be.

Boston Athenaeum librarian Charles Knowles Bolton penned a memorial to Bradford in Volume 35 of the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*. There is an informative page about Bradford written by Alyssa True on the Athenaeum's web site.

<https://www.bostonathenaeum.org/library/book-recommendations/athenaeum-authors/gamaliel-bradford>

The correspondence at Houghton is, as far as I can tell, letters written to Bradford. For the other side of the correspondence we can turn to *The Letters of Gamaliel Bradford, 1918-1931*, edited by Van Wyck Brooks and published in 1934. And we know the name of the individual -- Edward S. Noyes -- who wrote the review in *The New England Quarterly* of Brook's book. But we don't know and it is unlikely we could ever find out who wrote Houghton's finding guide.

Maybe that unsung archival author will be in the sequel to **Milestones in Cataloging: Famous Catalogers and their Writing, 1835-1969** written by Donald J. Lehnus and published by Libraries Unlimited in 1974. I'll be sure to check the sequel when it comes out.

BAC 2020 Membership Campaign - Spread the Word!

The BAC is actively looking for new members and we need your help!

Please reach out to folks you know who might be interested in joining us. These people can be published authors, but they also can be people who are involved with other literary endeavors (such as journalism, book publishing, etc.). They can be librarians, bookstore owners, teachers or people who just love books.

We encourage every BAC member to copy the following factsheet and send it out along with a personal note to several people you know, encouraging them to join.

Questions? Feel free to be in touch with BAC Membership Director, Nancy Tupper Ling.



Become a member of the Boston Authors Club today!

As an author or as someone affiliated with the world of books, you are cordially invited to become a member of the Boston Authors Club (BAC).

Who we are

The BAC has been around since 1899. Founded by a group of literary minded people who wanted to gather to read and speak about books, the BAC became the first major organization of its kind open to both men and women. Social activist and author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" Julia Ward Howe served as the organization's first president. Members of the club have included both well-known and relatively unknown authors, librarians and people who just love books, ever since the late 19th century.

What we do

The BAC sponsors events throughout the year, including book readings and workshops on different aspects of the writing and editing process. We also award the Julia Ward Howe prize, an honor given yearly for the best fiction and non-fiction books written by a Boston-area author, as well as special prizes for the best book for young people written and the best new book of poetry by a Boston-area author.

What's involved

You can join the BAC and receive our monthly newsletter, containing lively literary information and listings of upcoming events. You can attend one of our events. You can become a member of one of our reading committees to help select the annual Julia Ward Howe prizes.

BAC membership is \$50 a year. To become a member of the BAC, contact our membership chair, Nancy Tupper Ling (nancytupperling@gmail.com).

Questions?

Email us: Bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com

Membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. You can join and renew online by [clicking here](#). If you would rather pay by check, please make your check out to Boston Authors Club and mail it to the following address:

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