

## Your Membership

Do you have an idea for a speaker or program? Your next steps are simple: **Join**, or renew your membership and start a conversation with one of our staff, board, or volunteers.

Membership begins at \$25 a year for first-time members and just \$5/month (\$60 a year) for sustaining members.

### Apprentice : \$25

for first-time members, creatives, and students

- For use of the library's quiet space & Wifi for reading and study, with borrowing privileges from our collection of over 30,000 volumes.

### Subscriber : \$60

for sustaining members

- Comes with discounted tickets to Long Wharf Theater at the price of \$35 for standard ticket prices up to \$75.

### Patron : \$125

for Membership Library Lovers

- Comes with reciprocal membership privileges at 9 historic partner libraries including: The NY Society Library, New York City; the Salem Athenaeum, Massachusetts; Redwood Library, Newport, Rhode Island; & the Portsmouth Athenaeum, New Hampshire.

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Select 1:

Apprentice (\$25)  Subscriber (\$60)  Patron (\$125)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay by:  Cash  Check  Credit Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mastercard  Visa  Discover  Amex

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly detach & leave with payment at the main desk.



## Recurring Programs

--- find even more special events online! ---

Most programs are "Pay What You Wish" with a suggested donation of \$5 - \$10.

2nd Tuesdays  
7 to 9pm

### Listen Here!

Classic short stories read live! Selected by the editors of the New Haven Review, read by actors from the New Haven Theater Company. Talk-back follows with tea and cookies, freshly baked!

3rd Thursdays  
6:30 to 9pm

### Poetry Institute

Celebrate an eclectic mix of poetic voices in a casual setting. Open mic with outstanding featured readers. 1/2 featured reader, 1/2 open mic. Bring 1 poem to read out loud or simply come to listen.

3rd Thursdays  
6 to 8pm

### Story Sharing

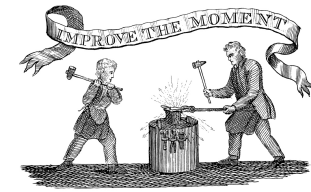
Share stories in an informal atmosphere. Stories may be of any kind – traditional folk tales, myths, stories of personal experience, etc. Open to all levels, fun, and encouraging!

### Shelf Life

Opens  
Sat. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>  
at 4pm  
Artist Talk  
at 5pm

Our fall art show will feature books from the Institute Library's biography collection and art about historic individuals, portraits, self portraits, and more. Join us for thematic refreshments and learn about history, biography & fame.

Register for all events online at  
[www.institutelibrary.org](http://www.institutelibrary.org) > events



## Welcome to The Institute Library

New Haven, Connecticut

*Founded 1826*



### Hours:

**Monday - Thursday  
10:00 am to 6:00 pm**

847 Chapel Street  
New Haven, CT 06510  
[www.institutelibrary.org](http://www.institutelibrary.org)  
(203) 562-4045

## We're not like other libraries...

The Institute Library (founded in 1826) is New Haven's oldest independent lending library.

We are one of less than 20 historic circulating membership libraries in North America.

We predate the New Haven public library system by 61 years, and have operated for nearly two hundred years. At times a bustling center of lectures and debates and at others a quiet refuge, we have been known by several names: The Apprentices' Literary Association in 1826, The Young Mechanics Institute in 1828, and The New Haven Young Men's Institute in 1841.

Today, all are welcome to join us in working with the historic creed to encourage moral improvement and the pursuit of useful knowledge.

## Famous Speakers

In the conservative city of 19<sup>th</sup>-century New Haven, the library served as a rare sanctuary for advocates of women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery. It offered classes, debates, and a popular lecture series that attracted such leading American social thinkers as Henry Ward Beecher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Anna E. Dickinson, and Frederick Douglass.



Ralph Waldo Emerson, Anna E. Dickinson, Frederick Douglass

## A Special Classification System

(it's not Dewey Decimal)

The library employed our first professionally trained librarian from 1887 to 1910, William Alanson Borden. During his tenure at the library, Borden experimented with new library technologies and practices, patenting new categories such as B66 – “Temperance,” D54 – “Charity, Poverty,” I – “Medical Science,” and more.

Though Borden's classification system was officially adopted for use in Baroda, India for some time, the system and its original card catalog can only be found at the Institute Library today. To us, this is a living collection; we add to and expand its particular subsets regularly with purchased and donated, new and used books, accessioned to reflect our members' interests.

## Some people say

**“I must've walked by this place  
a hundred times...”**

In 2011, we hired our first Executive Director, grew our membership, and got social, renewing our historical connections to the city of New Haven.

Today we run many programs, including Listen Here, a literary theater program co-presented with the New Haven Review; the Poetry Institute, a collective who invites regional published and performing poets monthly amidst an open mic session; Story Sharing, a program co-facilitated with the CT Storytelling Center that perfect techniques in sharing stories of personal experience, folklore, suspense, local history and more; and contemporary art exhibits in our gallery focused on words, language, collections, and archives.



Upstairs art gallery opening, 2014

## Our Building

Taking better care of our 140-year old building is very important to our board, staff, and members.

In the last 60 years, much standard maintenance had been deferred – roofs were not patched, wiring and lighting was left unrepaired, doors and windows leaked badly.

In 2016 we did a historic and energy analysis that set us up with the following goals to:

- replace our roof, with better insulation
- improve our accessibility
- repair our historic windows and skylights
- upgrade for safety and energy efficiency
- restore our facade

If you would like to help with our building renovation and restoration plans, please let us know.

Your first and best move is to join the Institute Library today (see reverse for membership information). We depend on and thank you for your support!

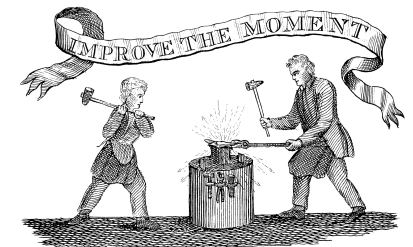


Our events space and street view at 847 Chapel Street

## Hours:

**Monday - Thursday**

**10:00 am to 6:00 pm**



**THE INSTITUTE LIBRARY**

*Founded 1826*