

# Our Monthly Letter

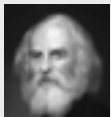
*We Are Fun, Friendship and Learning*

## Our Monthly Quote

**Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow**

Feb 27, 1807–March 24, 1882

**American Poet, Educator  
and Translator**



I  
Under a spreading chestnut  
tree  
The village smithy stands;  
The smith, a mighty man is  
he,  
With large and sinewy hands;  
And the muscles of his  
brawny arms  
Are strong as iron bands.

III  
Week in, week out, from  
morn till night,  
You can hear the bellows  
blow;  
You can hear him swing his  
heavy sledge,  
With measured beat and slow,  
Like a sexton ringing the  
village bell,  
When the evening sun is low.  
The Village Blacksmith (1840)



Mr. Venus surrounded by the Trophies of his Art by Marcus Stone.

## Our September Meeting

**Danielle Cammarota**,  
our September Meeting  
Moderator, presented us  
with a fascinating and  
well researched slide  
lecture about the  
problems of Dust (or  
garbage): its collection, its

removal and the manifold  
economic considerations  
associated with it. The huge  
“dust mound” on Mr. Boffin’s  
property that Dickens  
describes in *Our Mutual  
Friend* would be indicative of  
similar mounds throughout  
the kingdom. (Continued on  
next page)

## Our October Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2015  
1:00pm-4:00pm

NYPL Kips Bay  
446 3rd Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel. (212) 683-2520

Program  
Our Mutual Friend  
Book I Chapters 8-17

Theme: Death and Rebirth  
in *Our Mutual Friend*  
Moderator; Mike J. Quinn

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Danielle also shared with us little seen images from the Yale Library that she was able to access due to her hard work and assiduous preparation.

A number of these images from popular nineteenth century British culture showed the evolution of a particular dustman wearing his cap with its back flap *a la* that of Alfred Doolittle, Eliza's father, in Shaw's play *Pygmalion*, that identified him as a dustman. Said evolution went from quasi-scoundrel to quasi *beau-ideal* over period of time.

Danielle was aptly assisted by **Tamara Bedic** who operated the slide projector. **After a break** we turned our attention to chapter 1 of *Our Mutual Friend* wherein, on a chill autumn evening we found Gaffer Hexam in his boat on the Thames. His beautiful dark-haired daughter, Lizzie rows but she averts her face at the sight of a corpse that her father has just hauled into the boat. From there the scene moves to Mr. and Mrs. Veneering, "bran-new people in a bran-new house in a bran-new quarter of London." They are entertaining Mortimer Lightwood, a lawyer who before arriving for dinner had been summoned to look at the corpse that Gaffer Hexam had towed ashore. Although Lightwood could

not identify the man, papers found on his person show him to be John Harmon, a young man recently returned from abroad to whom a large fortune has been left by his father, an old and very rich dustman.

As we move ahead we will continue to unravel this and many other fascinating developments in the saga of *Our Mutual Friend*.

Members in attendance were: **Leona Adams, James Armstrong, Marilyn Baranoski, Tamara Bedic, Danielle Cammarota, Kristin Dennehy, Susan Detrich, Gela Kline, Carrie Lee, Mary Jane Mallonee, Joseph Palladino, Kevin Quinn, Mike and Su Quinn, Mike and Ruthy Rosen, Susan Romanoff, Adair Russell, Dorothy Smith, Bernice Stein, Mavis Thompson and Ken Wachtell.**

We also gladly welcomed visitors **Lynn Cherry, Laurie Henderson, Lena Huarths, Beatrice Indursky and Mary Ann Quinn.**

**We received regrets** for missing the meeting from **Jerry and Loretta Frohnhoefer, Jeannette Rosen and Rosa Smith.**

We hope to see all of you again at our October 3 meeting. We wish you all *Fun, Friendship and Learning.*

### *The Friends Bulletin Board*

**Our October Happy Birthday** wishes go to **Jerry Frohnhoefer** who celebrates on the 30th. To him and all our October Birthday celebrants we wish another year of *Fun, Friendship and Learning.*

**NEWS:** The Charles Dickens Museum has announced the appointment of **Dr Cindy Sughrue OBE** as its new Director. We congratulate her and wish her every success.

### *The Dickens Circle*

#### *Clarkson Stanfield*

Dec 3, 179-May 18, 1867

Clarkson Stanfield was the son of an Irish-born actor and a Catholic. After several years in the Royal Navy he turned his talents to art and eventually became the resident scene-painter in London's Drury Lane Theater. He first met Charles Dickens in 1838 and toured Cornwall with him in 1843. He was one of the illustrators of Dickens's *The Battle of Life* and *The Haunted Man*. After Stanfield's death in 1867 Dickens wrote thusly to his son: "No one of your father's friends can ever have loved him more dearly than I always did, or can have better known the worth of his noble character." Stanfield is buried in London's Kensal Green Catholic Cemetery.



