

Our Monthly Letter

We Are Fun, Friendship and Learning

Charles Dickens in His Third Century



William Shakespeare
April 26, 1564 - April 23, 1616



Charles Dickens
February 7, 1812 - June 9, 1870

Dickens and Shakespeare will be the subject of a stimulating Power Point presentation by **Herb Moskowitz** about *the Bard of Avon* and *the Inimitable Boz* at our Annual Charles Dickens Birthday Luncheon, Saturday, February 7, 2015 at Connollys Pub and Restaurant. Attached, please find your invitation to this exciting event. In addition to Herb's speech there will be entertainment and a delicious meal served buffet style from the Connollys kitchen. Continued on page 2, column 1

Our Monthly Quote

Third in a Series of Ten on
Outstanding American Writers

Sarah Orne Jewett

Novelist, short story writer and poet
September 3, 1849 - June 24, 1909



"It is a splendid thing to have the use of any gift of God. It isn't for us to choose again, or wonder and dispute, but just work in our own places, and leave the rest to God."

A Country Doctor (1884)

OUR ANNUAL BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, February 7, 1, 2015
12:00pm to 3:30pm
Connollys Pub and Restaurant
121 W. 45 Street, New York, NY 10036



Guest Speaker: Herb Moskowitz
Subject: Dickens and Shakespeare

\$50.00 per person
RSVP: January 31, 2015

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Our January Meeting:

The members and friends attending our January 3 meeting at the Epiphany Branch Library were: **James**



Armstrong, Marilyn Baranoski, Pam Bauder, Stephen Blank, Rob Clere, Irma Marie Cerne (Welcome Back!), **Jerry Frohnhoefer, Bob Havlena, Gela Kline, Mary Jane Mallonee, Lynn Manuell, Su Quinn, Susan Romanoff, Marianne Roncoli, Dorothy Smith, Ellen Spears, Ken Wachtell, Warren Wyss** and his guest

Regrets for missing the session were received from Loretta Frohnhoefer, Mike Quinn, Kevin Quinn, Mike and Ruthy Rosen and Jeannette Rosen.

Moderator James Armstrong skillfully guided our readings and discussions of chapters forty-three to forty-five of *Nicholas Nickleby* with gusto and, as usual, great learning.

We look forward now to February 7, to our Annual Charles Dickens Birthday Luncheon and its theme: **Dickens and Shakespeare.**

Herb Moskowitz, our featured speaker, is known to Dickensians the world over. His *Electronic Buzfuz*, a fact and

fun-filled blog, keeps its subscribers posted on Dickensian events, scholarly studies, recent articles and books about *the Inimitable* as well as updates from branches throughout the far flung Dickens Fellowship.

Herb holds degrees in theater arts from Drexel and Carnegie Mellon Universities.

Besides his enthusiasm for Shakespeare and Dickens he is an ardent exponent of the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

We look forward to hearing him expound on the fascinating connections

between Dickens and Shakespeare. It's augurs to be an event to remember.



The Museum of the City of New York is currently hosting several ongoing exhibitions of interest, among them:

- Gilded New York: costumes, jewelry, and decorative objects from the Gilded Age
- Timescapes: a multimedia Portrait of New York
- Activist New York: an exploration of the city's history of social activism.

The museum, located at 1220 Fifth Avenue (between East 104 and 103 Streets), New York, NY 10029, is open daily from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Call (212) 534-1672 for further information.

The Friends Bulletin Board

Our February Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday and another year of Fun, Friendship and Learning to our February celebrants: Pamela Bauder on the eleventh, Rob Clere on the thirteenth, Ellen Spears on the twenty-fourth and to former members Doris Latham and Sylvia Ryan on the seventh, Dickens's own birthday.

Keeping Up with Drood

Peter Orford of London's Buckingham University has launched a website where you can express your views about how Charles Dickens might have ended his final and unfinished novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. To participate and express your thoughts go to www.drood inquiry.com.

The Dickens Circle

Alfred. Lord Tennyson

August 5, 1809–October 6, 1892

Tennyson was Poet Laureate for much of Queen Victoria's reign. He is the ninth most frequently quoted writer in the *The Oxford Book of Quotations*, right behind **Charles Dickens**. Ahead of them are: The Bible, Shakespeare,



Sir Walter Scott, Milton, Chaucer and Dryden. According to **J. W. T. Ley**, in his book *The Dickens Circle* (New York, 1919), the two men saw much of one another during the early 1840s. In March, 1843 Dickens wrote to the poet saying he was one "whose writings enlist my whole heart and nature in admiration of their Truth and Beauty. . ." Quoting **John Forster**, Ley writes: "He (Dickens) never faltered in his allegiance to Tennyson" and of *The Idylls of the King* he said "How fine the Idylls' are! Lord! what a blessed thing it is to read a man who can write!" Tennyson was married to Emily Sellwood. They had two sons, Hallam and Lionel. He died at Lurgashall, Sussex, England.

