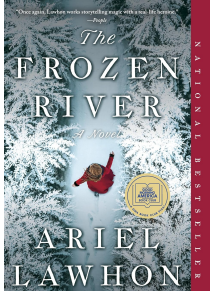


Athenian Dialogue

"The Frozen River"

By Ariel Lawhon



Date: Friday, July 17, 2026, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Detroit Lakes City Hall, 1025 Roosevelt Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN

Facilitator: Marita Rhude, MMC
City Clerk/Treasurer, Barrett, MN

Cost: \$50 MCFOA Members (includes lunch)
\$60 Non MCFOA members. **DOES NOT INCLUDE BOOK PURCHASE**

(Participant must purchase & read book prior to dialogue) Book is available through Amazon (about \$11.99)

Inspired by the life of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into history.

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.

Athenian Leadership Dialogue

Leadership Dialogues are conversations that exceed the usual knowledge recall and application process familiar to all Municipal Clerks in training seminars. They explore leadership principles and practices, drawing on the insights contained in a book that all participants have read. Dialogues focus on helping develop critical thinking skills and increasing leadership ability. See the IIMC website, www.iimc.com, for more information on this unique program.

POINTS: 3 CMC Education Points; or
3 MMC Advanced Education Points
(With completion of mandatory assessment)

Additional Information

Please make check payable to MCFOA Region I and return registration form on next page to:

MCFOA Region I
c/o Kari Tyson
1025 Roosevelt Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

For additional information contact Kari Tyson,
KTyson@cityofdetroitlakes.com, or by phone at
218-846-7128

**REGISTRATION FORM
ATHENIAN DIALOGUE – 7/17/26
DETROIT LAKES, MN**

This is a first come, first served event and is limited to 30 participants.

Name_____

Position/Title _____

Municipality _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone_____FAX_____

Work E-Mail_____

_____ Enclosed is my \$50 check payable to: **MCFOA Region I**

_____ Enclosed is my \$60 check payable to: **MCFOA Region I**

Please advise if you are in need of special accommodations or meal considerations.

Please make check payable to MCFOA Region I, and mail with registration to:

**MCFOA Region I
c/o Kari Tyson
1025 Roosevelt Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501**

Registration deadline: Wednesday, July 8, 2026