

# HISTORY AT PLAY



## *Victorian Gossip Girl: Annie Fields*

Being the spouse of James T. Fields wouldn't seem like a historic position, until you realize that Mrs. Fields had incredible influence on literary decisions at Ticknor and Fields Publishing House. Now called Houghton Mifflin, Ticknor and Fields was the greatest publishing house in the world by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Not only an avid critic, Mrs. Fields was a literary agent herself, discovering the talents of many female writers, including: Emma Freeman, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Mr. and Mrs. Fields often hosted members of the Saturday Club in their home. Counting Oliver Wendell Holmes, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Charles Dickens amongst their friends, they witnessed quite a bit of revelry in their houseguests. No short of a Gossip Girl, Mrs. Fields wrote about her guests' in her novel Authors and Friends.

Join Mrs. Annie Fields for a teatime conversation. There will be disbelief and blushing cheeks when you hear the tales of the Victorian Gossip Girl!

Judith Kalaora is a professional actress, historical interpreter, and educator. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University and attended the Globe Education Program of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, England. Email [HistoryAtPlay@gmail.com](mailto:HistoryAtPlay@gmail.com) for more information and for booking inquiries.

[www.HistoryAtPlay.com](http://www.HistoryAtPlay.com)  LIKE us on Facebook!