



June 4, 2010

Dear Library Member:

*The Library is open to all
for reading, reference,
and most events,
with circulation
and other services
by subscription.*

We are writing to announce new developments in the expansion and renovation of our beautiful Library building, and to tell you about upcoming closings for this purpose. Progress on our long-planned renovation has been made possible through the generous support of the Marshall Hornblower Fund, the Estate of Marion Naumburg, and contributions from Trustees and members.

With support from the Naumburg Estate, we will be installing a wheelchair lift in the entry hall stairwell. For the first time in our long history, we will be proud to say that the Library is accessible to the disabled. With support from the Hornblower Fund, the lightwell space will become increased floor and shelving space on floors three, four and five, and the fifth floor will be reconfigured to increase the seating capacity of the Large Study Room and raise the number of private study rooms from two to six. Improved lighting, furniture, seating, and more book shelving will be features of the new fifth floor. Additional unfinished space added on the third and fourth floors will be completed as funds become available.

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We are delighted finally to be able to restore our antique skylight, which is currently concealed by the plaster ceiling above the main stair between the lobby and second floor. Although the restored skylight cannot be naturally lit due to the extension of the floors above it, we will install indirect artificial lighting to approximate the appearance of daylight.

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To allow this work, the Library will be closed for two weeks in July, and the fifth floor will be closed for a longer period because of expansion into the lightwell (floors three, four, and five) and refurbishment of the fifth floor.

MARK BARTLETT
Head Librarian

Although we had initially hoped this interior work could be accomplished without any closing, our architect and contractors advise that the work will be significantly facilitated and expedited by a relatively brief closing. To minimize inconvenience to our members, we have scheduled this to include the Fourth of July holiday weekend, when the Library would be closed anyway. Accordingly, the Library will be closed for nine business days, beginning no sooner than July 6 (Tuesday) and lasting approximately through July 16 (Friday). As of this writing, we plan to open again on July 19, and we will advise if these plans change.

The fifth floor will be closed from June 21 (Monday) through September 17 (Friday). The Whitridge Room on the third floor and desks throughout the stacks will remain available as quiet writing and reading spaces. We will temporarily add more tables to the Whitridge Room, and wireless internet access will be available there. These spaces will remain available on a first come-first served basis.

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(please turn over)

To ensure that members have enough to read during summer months, we are extending summer loans again, and stack books checked out after May 15 will not be due until September 13. No books will be due while the building is closed to members. No overdue fines will be imposed between June 15 and September 13. Please contact the front desk if you need more time with checked-out items or if you have special requests.

News about the Library's renovation will be on our website at www.nysoclib.org/renovation.html, on signs throughout the building, and on Facebook and Twitter. Please call the front desk at 212-288-6900 or email renovation@nysoclib.org with any questions. Thank you for your understanding and support as we proceed with these important renovations to our landmark building, which will make the Library an even better place to bring together books and people.

Sincerely,



Charles G. Berry
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Mark Bartlett
Head Librarian