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## What We Read

Every year our circulation department gets a kick out of the titles that turned out to be most popular among our membership of voracious readers.

These were our top ten circulating items for 2009:

[Olive Kitteridge](#) by Elizabeth Strout (a Library member)

[The Elegance of the Hedgehog](#) by Muriel Barbery

[The White Tiger](#) by Aravind Adiga

[The Associate](#) by John Grisham

[The Girl Who Played with Fire](#)

by Stieg Larsson

[Honestly Dearest, You're Dead](#)

by Jack Fredrickson

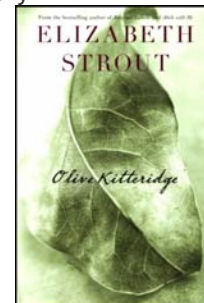
[August Heat](#) by Andrea Camilleri

[Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi](#)

by Geoff Dyer

[The Spies of Warsaw](#) by Alan Furst (a Library member)

[Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor](#) by Brad Gooch



Providing a bit of context, here are our top-circulating books in all the time since we started keeping records in 1998.\*

*The Death of Faith, A Sea of Troubles, Friends in High Places*

*Death at La Fenice, AND Acqua Alta* by [Donna Leon](#)

(shown at right)

[American Pastoral](#)

by Philip Roth

[Revolutionary Road](#)

by Richard Yates

[Interpreter of Maladies](#)

by Jhumpa Lahiri

[The Fifth Woman](#)

by Henning Mankell

[Bel Canto](#) by Ann Patchett



\*We don't retain the names of patrons who checked out books once they're returned--only the number.

## Workshop

*You're reading this on a computer, but if you ever felt you were thrown into the deep end with them, you might be interested in*

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP  
FOR MEMBERS

### [Introduction to Computers](#)

Taught by Derek Stadler

This workshop will include how to use a mouse and keyboard, open and close documents, save work, print, find missing files

and install basic software. The workshop is primarily PC-based, but will briefly cover the Macintosh operating system as well.

Thursday, May 6, 2:00 PM

free of charge; [advance registration](#) required

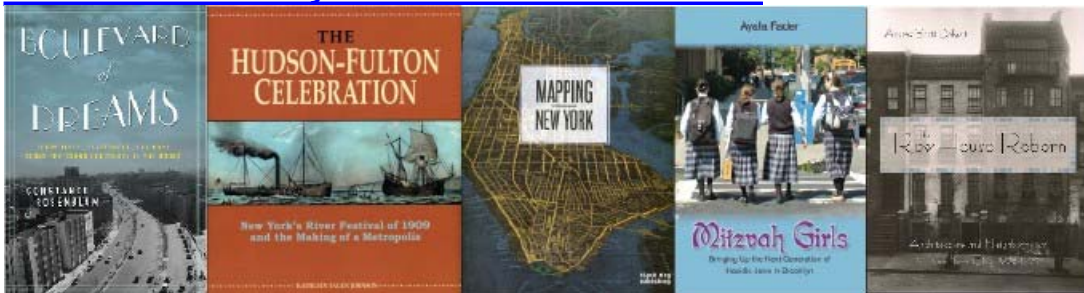


For a full list of this month's technology workshops, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

AWARDS CEREMONY  
FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

## The New York City Book Awards 2009-2010



The New York Society Library's New York City Book Awards, established in 1996, honor books of literary quality or historical importance that, in the opinion of the selection committee, evoke the spirit or enhance appreciation of New York City. The winning authors and publishers of this year's New York City Book Awards will be honored at a ceremony and reception on May 5. The ceremony will be hosted by author Adam Gopnik. Library members and their guests are cordially invited.

Adam Gopnik has been writing for *The New Yorker* since 1986, and his work for the magazine has won both the National Magazine Award for Essay and the George Polk Award for Magazine Reporting. His books include *Paris to the Moon*, *The King in the Window*, *Through the Children's Gate: A Home in New York*, and most recently *Angels and Ages: A Short Book About Darwin, Lincoln, and Modern Life*. His new book, *The Steps Across the Water*, which will appear in October, is set in both New York and the still larger city of U Nork.

Wednesday, May 5, 6:00 PM  
Ceremony begins at 6:30 PM  
Members' Room  
Free of charge. Space is limited; [registration required](#).

AWARDS CEREMONY  
FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

## The Eighth Annual Young Writers Awards

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. The 2010 winners and participants will be honored at an awards ceremony and reception. Author judges Robert Quackenbush, Dave Johnson, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk will present the awards and offer advice and inspiration for young writers. *At right: the 2009 winners and judges.*

**Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 6:00 PM**  
**Members' Room**  
**Free of charge. Space is limited;**  
**registration required.**

*The 2010 young writers awards are generously underwritten by Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner and Paul A. Wagner.*

SPECIAL INVITATION FROM IRISH ARTS CENTER  
 FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

**[Peter Behrens & Paul Sullivan](#)**  
**[A Terrible Beauty](#)**



*A Terrible Beauty* is a dramatic work based on Peter Behrens' novel *The Law of Dreams*, with music by Grammy Award-winning Irish American composer Paul Sullivan. The novel, on which Mr. Behrens lectured at the Library in 2007, tells the story of a young man's Homeric passage from innocence to experience during the Irish Famine of 1847.

In *A Terrible Beauty*, an actor brings to life scenes from the book while a young singer presents emigrant ballads and songs based on its text, woven together with Behrens' historical narration and Sullivan's music. The *Ellsworth American* (Maine) calls it "an event of uncommon depth and artistry...wrapping the tragedy of the Irish Famine and emigration in stunning music, evocative readings and incomparable songs and slides."



**Sunday, May 23, 2010, 3:00 PM**  
**Irish Arts Center, 553 West 51st Street (10th/11th Avenues)**  
**\$25 per person**

For this event only, [advance registration and payment](#) are required for tickets to be held. Other performances are offered on May 21 and 22; see [www.irishartscenter.org](http://www.irishartscenter.org) for details.

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