



Dear Library Members,

We are very happy to report that as of today, August 16, the NYSL is once again open to members. We apologize for the extended delays but want to assure you that, while unexpected, they were absolutely necessary, from both a construction and safety perspective. As originally announced, the fifth floor will remain closed. At present, we expect it to reopen at the end of October.

As a reminder, we have three different renovation projects in process simultaneously: a) making our main entrance wheelchair-accessible; b) building out the third, fourth, and fifth floors into the lightwell, thereby increasing the seating in the fifth-floor Large Study Room by ten seats and the number of individual study rooms from two to six; and c) restoring the skylight above the main staircase, which was part of the original John S. Rogers home built in 1917.

Let us assure you that these past six weeks, during which the Library was closed, were not spent idly. One major project that was accomplished during this time was the demolition/annihilation of the fifth floor writing room:



Another major undertaking was the removal of the marble slabs from the entryway steps, which needed to be done in order to make the building wheelchair accessible:



Here are the marble slabs, all piled up in the Lobby and looking a bit like Stonehenge after an earthquake:



Of course, the entryway staircase needed reinforcing before the marble slabs could be reset, a task which involved steel and unbelievable amounts of noise:



In order for anyone in a wheelchair to access the building, the old granite slab which formed the first step up into the building needed to be dropped to sidewalk level:



On a slightly more delicate note, we also began working on the skylight above the main staircase. The first step in that process was having the glass removed to a studio for restoration. This was a nail-bitingly tense occasion:



Through it all, however, the Library staff had plenty to do, including sitting outside on the sidewalk updating members and receiving book returns. All in all, it was a pleasant way to make the best of a very chaotic situation:



There is, as was mentioned earlier, still some work to be done, which means more noise and dust. We are confident, however, that the most disruptive work is behind us, so we call all start enjoying our wonderful Library again. A librarian named Robert Downs (1903-1991) once remarked that "my lifelong love affair with books and reading continues unaffected by automation, computers, and all other forms of the twentieth-century gadgetry." Were he alive today and a member of the New York Society Library, we suspect he might have added "twenty-first century renovations" to the list.

Welcome back!



This email was sent to carolyn@nysoclib.org by renovation@nysoclib.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

The New York Society Library | 53 E. 79th Street | New York | NY | 10075