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The Library This Month

The Library will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.

Otherwise, our hours are as usual: M/W/F/S 9-5, T/Th 9-7, Sun 1-5.

Renovations are finished! The fifth floor and all other spaces that are usually open are open again. A small amount of work will be done this month in the entry hall, but it will be open for use.

The Library's First Charging Ledger (1789-1792)

What Newborn America Read

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/

The Library's earliest surviving charging ledger records the names of borrowers and the titles of books taken out between July 1789 and April 1792. It is a window into the reading habits of over five hundred prominent Americans, including President George Washington and members of his administration and Congress.



For example, John Jay (*shown at right*), borrowed Swift, Voltaire, Plutarch, Smollett, Fielding, and more--over 100 volumes of literature, history, science, and travel.

The Library is proud to make this historic treasure available to members, scholars, and the public through a website showing the ledger pages, transcriptions and links for the patrons and titles, and information about the books and readers of the era.

You are welcome to click through the link above and start investigating what newborn America read.

The Library's archives and charging ledgers are supported in part by The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation and generous individuals.

Landmark Special Event

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

[Celebrating the Library's First Charging Ledger](#)

with remarks by Thomas J. Fleming

Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 PM, Members' Room

free of charge; registration is required

light refreshments provided

This event will introduce the priceless resources of the first charging ledger through display of the conserved ledger and rare books and demonstration of the new online resource. Historian Thomas Fleming, author of *The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers*, will speak briefly about the history of the early national era and the importance of the ledger as an artifact.

**Event Reminders**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Susan Cheever**[Louisa May Alcott: A Personal Biography](#)**

Wednesday, November 3, 6:30 PM, Members' Room
\$10 with [advance registration](#)/\$15 at the door

Bestselling author Susan Cheever's comprehensive and definitive biography sheds new light on the life of *Little Women* creator Louisa May Alcott. Cheever examines Alcott as a woman, a working writer, and a daughter at a time when Alcott's rejection of marriage - her refusal to be any man's little woman - defied conventional wisdom.

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

The 2010-2011 Author Series

in cooperation with WNET/Thirteen

Stacy Schiff**[Cleopatra: A Life](#)**

Wednesday, November 10, 6:30 PM
The Kaye Playhouse, 695 Park Avenue (at 68th Street)
\$10 per person; [advance registration](#) required

Though Cleopatra's life spanned fewer than forty years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. Yet history has remembered her more for her dramatizations than for her own qualities. Biographer Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new order across the ancient world.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Center for Contemporary Opera**[Prima Le Parole \(First the Words\)](#)**

Sunday, November 14, 6:30 PM, Members' Room

\$10 with [advance registration](#)/\$15 at the door

The Center for Contemporary Opera presents the Prima le Parole series to give lovers of opera and literature a first glimpse of exciting new works and their writers a first hearing of their text. This 90-minute presentation offers non-musical readings from new opera libretti based on I.B. Singer's *Enemies: A Love Story* (by Nahma Sandrow, music by Ben Moore) and the novel *The Tin Angel* (book and libretto by Paul Pines), plus two others. Context and commentary will be given by Tony Award-winning actress Carlin Glynn. Light refreshments will be provided.

This event is generously supported by the Estate of Marian O. Naumburg.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

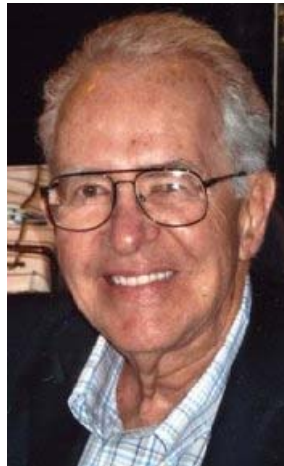
Robert F. Gatje

[Great Public Squares: An Architect's Selection](#)

Introduced by Jean Parker Phifer

Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 PM,
Members' Room

\$10 with [advance registration](#)/\$15 at the door



Bob Gatje offers new insights, stunning computer-generated plans, and color slides to convey the spatial experience

of some of Western world's outstanding urban spaces, in Rome, Paris, the Czech Republic, the U.K., and New York, among others. Gatje is a former partner of Marcel Breuer and of Richard Meier.

The Writing Life

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

[Open Mic Night III](#)

hosted by Betsy Carter, author of *The Puzzle King*

Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 PM, Members' Room

\$10 with [advance registration](#)/\$15 at the door

Last year we were treated to a bawdy farce, a comedic play about a stalker in a coffee shop, and a memory of posing for Salvador Dalí, as well as experimental poetry, fiction, and memoir. What are our writers working on now? Join us for a fun, casual evening of refreshments and readings by our own NYSL members.

This event is open to both readers and listeners. To register to read, you must contact Carolyn Waters at cwaters@nysoclib.org or 212-288-6900 x244.



FOR MEMBERS

Ongoing Writers' Groups

The Library hosts five ongoing monthly discussion groups for member writers. No registration is

necessary, but for space availability and more information, contact Carolyn Waters at 212-288-6900 x244 or cwaters@nysoclib.org. All sessions take place in the Whitridge Room on the third floor.

Nonfiction Writers Group: Monday, November 8, 3:00-4:45 PM

Memoir Writers Group: Monday, November 15, 3:00-4:45 PM

Fiction Group I: Tuesday, November 16, 5:00-6:45 PM

Fiction Group II: Monday, November 22, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM *(date change for this session only)*

Poets Group: Tuesday, November 23, 4:30-6:30 PM

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