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The Library This Month

The Library will close at 3:00 PM on December 23 and 31 and be closed December 24-26 and January 1.

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

There's Still Time...

...to support the Annual Fund. Gifts to the Annual Fund provide essential support for the day-to-day operations of the Library. Please make a contribution today, as there are only a few weeks left in our fiscal year.

You can mail your gift or make a [donation online](#). And you can double or triple the impact of your contribution if your company has a matching gift program. Thank you for your support!

Give the Gift of Reading

In this festive season, we offer a handful of unique gift possibilities for the library lover on your list. All are available at the circulation desk.

Gift Memberships

Gift memberships for a year or six months offer the recipient all the privileges you treasure, from books to workshops.

Library Tote Bags, \$15

Featuring our handsome logo, adapted from the 1930s bronze by Rockefeller Center designer Paul Manship.

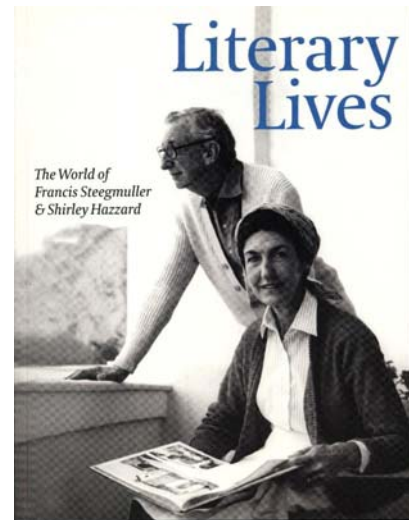


America's Membership Libraries, \$36

A beautiful full-color book introducing sixteen of the nation's membership libraries, including this one. This is a major discount from current cover price.

***Literary Lives: The World of Francis Steegmuller and Shirley Hazzard* Catalog, \$15**

With essays by Jonathan Galassi and Caroline Weber and an exclusive interview with Shirley Hazzard, plus many wonderful color photos, celebrating the lives and work of these literary lions.



Event Reminders

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

with remarks by Thomas Fleming

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

free of charge; [registration required](#); light refreshments provided

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. It has now been fully conserved and digitized.

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.

Matthew Clarkson				
Nov-30	due	Bluestein's Letters	1	Oct-...
Jan 15	due	Madison's Speeches on Education	1	Dec-...
Nov 11	due	Sancho's Letters	1	June 16
June 2	due	Le Philosophe Moderne	9	20
9	due	Paris de M. de M...	9	25
9	due	Almanach de M...	16	July 30
16	due	Le Philosophe Moderne	23	July 15
16	due	Paris de M...	28	Sept-2
23	due	Voltaire	2	
20	due	...	7	196
July 2	due	...	1	22
7	due	...	17	24
11	due	...	20	27
17	due	...	21	
22	due	...	4	Oct-5
21	due	...	16	7
4	due	...	16	20
Aug 16	due	...	16	26
26	due	...	3	201
Sept 1	due	...	8	31
3	due	...	16	Nov 01
1	due	...	21	21

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Madeleine Kristoffersson and John Ray

[The Nightingale](#)

Sunday, December 5, 3:00 PM, Members' Room

\$20 with [advance registration](#)/\$25 at the door

When the "Swedish Nightingale," opera star Jenny Lind, sailed into New York Harbor in September 1850, an enthusiastic crowd of more than 30,000 greeted her ship, even though no one on this continent had ever seen or heard her. Who could cause this great effect? Only the Prince of Humbugs himself, Phineas Taylor Barnum, born 200 years ago in 1810. In this afternoon of song and

story, contemporary Swedish opera star Madeleine Kristoffersson and actor John Ray recreate the music and the drama of Jenny Lind's landmark American tour under Barnum's management.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Barnet Schecter

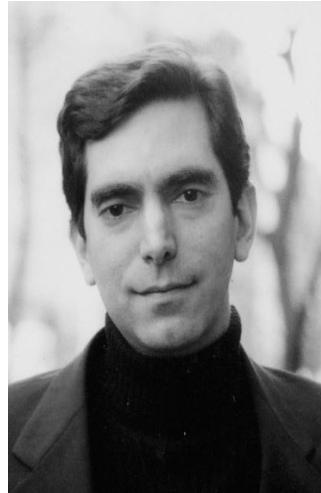
[George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps](#)

Introduced by Betty Kelly Sargent, trustee

Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 PM,

Members' Room

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



From his teens until his death, the maps George Washington drew and purchased were always central to his work. Historian Barnet Schecter has built a unique portrait of America's preeminent founder around these maps. *George Washington's America* allows readers to visualize history through Washington's eyes, and sheds fresh light on the man and his times.

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

2010-2011 AUTHOR SERIES, CO-SPONSORED BY THIRTEEN/WNET

Robert D. Putnam

[American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us](#)

Wednesday, December 15, 6:30 PM, Kaye Playhouse

(68th Street, Lexington/Park)

\$10 per person; [advance registration](#) required



Unique among nations, America is deeply religious and religiously diverse, but recent decades have produced growing polarization between sacred and secular, conservative and moderate. Based on two of the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted on religion and public life in America, Putnam (author of *Bowling Alone*) shows how an increasingly dense web of personal ties brings surprising interfaith tolerance, notwithstanding the so-called culture wars.

The Writing Life

FOR MEMBERS

The Writing Life Daytime Talk Series

[Beyond the Book Tour: Marketing Your Book](#)

Tuesday, December 14, 10:00 AM, Whitridge Room

free of charge; [registration required](#) due to space constraints

The days of publishers' big budget public relations campaigns are over for all but the biggest-selling authors. Do you need to hire your own publicist? **Gilda Squire** of Gilda Squire Media Relations will join us to discuss the new realities of book marketing and what hiring your own publicist could do

for you.

The Writing Life Daytime Talk Series in 2010 is generously underwritten by Jenny Lawrence.

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, December 13, 3:00-4:45 PM

Memoir Writers Group: Monday, December 20, 3:00-4:45 PM

Fiction Group I: Tuesday, December 21, 5:00-6:45 PM

Fiction Group II: Monday, December 22, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Poets Group: Tuesday, December 28, 4:30-6:30 PM

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