

NOTES



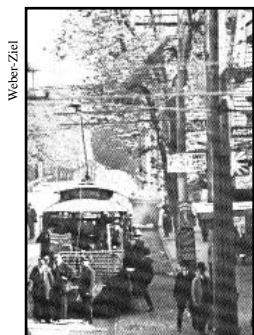
Volume 8, Number 2, March 2001

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY BOOK AWARDS, 2000

The New York Society Library Book Awards were established in 1996 to honor current authors who capture the essence of New York City. This year's jury comprises Constance Rogers Roosevelt, Chair; Richard B. Bernstein, Barbara Cohen, Joan K. Davidson, Hope Cooke, Christopher Gray, Tom Mellins, Roger Pasquier, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Jean Strouse, and Wendy Wasserstein.

The 2000 Book Awards will be presented Wednesday, May 2 at 5:30 P.M. in the Members' Room. The presenters will be Wendy Wasserstein, Eric Foner, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Christopher Gray, and Tony Hiss. Library members are cordially invited to the award ceremony and reception, but space is limited. Reservations must be placed with the Events Office (212-717-0357) by April 26.

AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Weber-Ziel

Vincent Seyfried,
Historian Seyfried's monumental work focuses on Queens before it became part of greater New York and on the history of the Long Island Rail Road. Christopher Gray calls him "the grand old man of

From Seyfried's *Queens: A Pictorial*

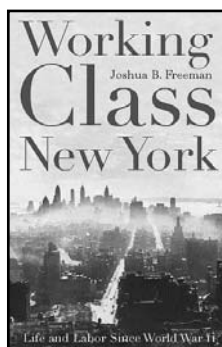
AWARD FOR FICTION



The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay
Michael Chabon
(Random House)

"The depth of Chabon's thought, his sharp language, his inventiveness and his ambition make this a novel of towering achievement."
-*The New York Times Book Review*

AWARD FOR HISTORY



Working-Class New York: Life and Labor Since World War II
Joshua B. Freeman
(New Press)

"Explores the creation, by workers and their allies, of a true social democracy in New York City. An amazing book."

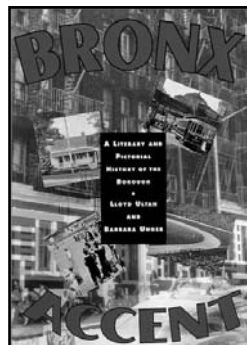
AWARD FOR NATURAL HISTORY



Heartbeats in the Muck: The History, Sea Life, and Environment of New York Harbor
John R. Waldman
(Lyons Press)

"Waldman's background as a field biologist has equipped him to describe the harbor's ecological history, but his gift for graceful narration is all his

AWARD FOR BOROUGH HISTORY



Bronx Accent: A Literary and Pictorial History of the Borough
Lloyd Ultan and Barbara Unger
(Rutgers University Press)

"Filtered through the imaginations of authors, The Bronx emerges not only as a shaper of destinies and lives, but as an important literary

SPECIAL CITATION OF MERIT



The AIA Guide to New York City, Fourth Edition
Norval White
(Crown Publishers)

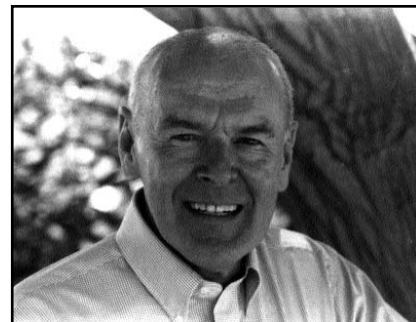
"Vivid, funny, and opinionated. It's appealing to anyone who loves to walk the city streets."
-Christopher Gray

 CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

RICHARD PECK READS FROM *A YEAR DOWN YONDER*
Thursday, May 24, 6:30 P.M., Members' Room

Library author-member Richard Peck is this year's recipient of the John Newbery Medal, awarded annually by the American Library Association to the most distinguished book for children or young adults. Peck's *A Year Down Yonder* tells the Depression-era story of 15-year-old Mary Alice, who is sent from Chicago to rural Illinois to spend a year with her feisty grandmother. Reviewers have praised "these hilarious stories that rest solidly within the American literary tradition of Mark Twain. . . Readers will gain historical perspective from this lively picture of the Depression years."

Mr. Peck has researched many of his more than thirty books in the Library. "The New York Society Library is a treasure to me," he says. His reading from *A Year Down Yonder* is for adults and young adults aged 10 and above. The reading is free but space is limited, so please call the Events Office at 212-717-0357 to



Source: Barnes

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK DISCUSSION
Tuesday, April 24, 5:30 P.M., Whitridge Room


Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns about her long-gone mother from her preacher father. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal makes friends among the unusual residents of her new hometown in Florida. And because of Winn-Dixie, Opal begins to find her place in the world and let go of the sadness left by her mother's abandonment.

Mothers and their daughters in grades 3-5 are invited to join Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman for a discussion of *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a 2001 Newbery Honor Book by Kate DiCamillo. Sandwiches will be served. Space is limited; call the Events Office at 212-717-0357.

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH

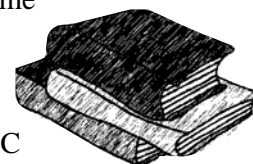
The Children's Library is celebrating National Poetry Month with poet and playwright Dave Johnson, who will lead workshops in reading and writing poetry. Participants' work will be read aloud in a celebration on April 30 and collected into a book for the Children's Library. Space is limited, so call the Events Office at (212) 717-0357 to register.

Grades 2-3 Workshop	Thursday, April 19	4:00-5:30 P.M., Whitridge Room
Grades 4-6 Workshop	Thursday, April 26	4:00-5:30 P.M., Whitridge Room

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS RECEIVE BOOKS FROM PROJECT CICERO

Project Cicero, a city-wide book drive to benefit public schools, took place February 26 through March 2, and dozens of dedicated volunteers made it a huge success. On Friday, March 2, the New York City Fire Department collected book donations from over fifty schools and public drop-off points. The same night, student and adult workers sorted the books, led by Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman. Over the following weekend, more than 200 teachers from the city's most disadvantaged public schools selected from over 70,000 donated books. Some teachers brought students to cart away boxes of books for their classroom or school library.

The Library extends its thanks to all our Project Cicero partner organizations, including Teach For America New York, Teachers For Tomorrow, Children For Children Foundation, Books for Kids Foundation, Vornado Realty Trust, Building Maintenance LLC, PENCIL, WNYC Kids, and the New York City Board of Education. Thanks are also due to the Library's Education and Community Outreach Committee and to everyone who donated a book. "Teachers are always in need of books," said a P.S. 92 teacher. "This was such an amazing resource."



 ∞ CONVERSATIONS ON GREAT BOOKS ∞

ROBERT D. RICHARDSON JR. ON RALPH WALDO EMERSON

FIRE AT THE CORE OF THE WORLD

Tuesdays, April 10, 17, and 24, 6:30 P.M.; Members' Room


Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803-1882)

Ralph Waldo Emerson is an American prophet—maybe *the* American prophet. He stands for the idea that despite all the evidence to the contrary, the individual human mind and spirit is adequate for this world, that human powers are commensurate with human needs, that the world is fundamentally constituted in such a way that our minds can deal with it. When he says “self-reliance,” he means “self-trust,” or “self-respect”—not “self-sufficiency.” When he writes a book called *Nature*, he could have called it *The Way Things Are*. He also stands as the first great spokesperson for the modern American poet.

Emerson lived for ideas, but he did so with the reckless, headlong ardor of a lover. He associated the human mind and its capacity for thought with activity and energy. He hated the notion of the mind as a passive blank slate. His main image of the creative mind is of a volcano. “We must have not only hydrogen in balloons and steel springs under coaches,” he wrote, “but we must have fire under the Andes at the core of the world.”

 JASON EPSTEIN ON PUBLISHING

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL PUBLISHING?

Thursday, May 17, 6:30 P.M.; Members' Room

Norman Mailer writes, “It is possible, even likely, that no one knows more about the publishing industry than Jason Epstein.” On May 17 Mr. Epstein will share that expertise at the Library, describing how digital publishing may change books and libraries as profoundly as the invention of movable type.

Epstein, co-founder of *The New York Review of Books*, created the Library of America and *The Reader's Catalog*, a precursor of online bookselling. He is a former editorial director for Random House and the first recipient of the National Book Award for Distinguished Service to American Letters. *Publishers Weekly* called his memoir *Book Business* “erudite” and “electrifying.” The lecture is \$10 for Library members and guests. Space is limited; call the Events Office at 212-717-0357 to register.



 NEW EXHIBITION FROM OUR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Get a glimpse of some of the NYSL's hidden treasures. In May, the Library will display selections from three of the special collections, including works from Paracelsus, Eugene Delacroix, Gertrude Jekyll, Edith Wharton, Max Beerbohm, and Franz Masereel.

The exhibition includes sixteenth-century books given by John Winthrop (1606-1676), a physician and the first governor of Connecticut. Eighteenth-century novels make up our collection from James Hammond, a Newport merchant who set up a lending library in his dry goods shop. John Cleve Green (1800-1875) was a railroad entrepreneur

 SECOND CHANCE FOR THE NYSL TOP TO BOTTOM

Saturdays, April 7 and May 5, 10:00 A.M.

Because of member demand, trustee Christopher Gray has scheduled two more historical tours of the Library. A limited number of spaces remain in the tours on April 7 and May 5. Call the Events Office at (212) 717-0357 to register. The tours are free, but contributions to the Helen Ruskell Flower Fund are welcomed.



THE LIBRARY EMBRACES NEW TECHNOLOGY

Internet Access: Members can now get online on terminals in stack one, the Children's Library, and the fifth-floor microfilm room. Internet access is unfiltered and each terminal is attached to a printer. Library catalogs throughout the country are accessible and subscriptions to online research sources are being acquired. We ask only that members show courtesy and confine their use to thirty-minute periods. Look for signs in the Library pointing you to the nearest Internet terminal.

Telephone System: The Library is now implementing an improved telephone system. Beginning in April, callers will hear recorded directions to our various services. Any staff member can be reached either directly or by voice mail. There will always be the option of speaking to a live person. The Library's telephone numbers will remain the same.

Catalog Access: Access to the NYSL catalog from a home computer is now available on a limited basis. Login information will be e-mailed to interested members, allowing them to open a screen like those on catalog terminals in the Library. If you would like home access to our catalog, visit our website at www.nysoclib.org.



SPRING SPECIAL EVENTS

For a full calendar of children's events, please call 212-717-0357.

Table with 7 columns listing events: April 7, May 5 Library Tours with Christopher Gray; April 24 Mother-Daughter Book Discussion; April 19, 26 April 30 Children's Poetry Workshops; April 10, 17, 24 Emerson Conversations with Robert D. Richardson Jr.; May 2 NYSL Book Awards Ceremony; May 17 Jason Epstein on Digital Publishing; May 24 Richard Peck reads from A Year Down Yonder.



Please write or phone the Library with any comments or suggestions.

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
53 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021