

NOTES



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4, SEPTEMBER 2003

SPECIAL EVENT

EXPLORERS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 2, 9, AND 16, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM



OCTOBER 2: ROBERT MCCrackEN PECK

"TO ACQUIRE WHAT KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN...":

THE SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF LEWIS AND CLARK

The cartographical, political and commercial achievements of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are well known, but their expedition has never been properly credited for its many important scientific discoveries. Robert Peck, a naturalist and historian at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, will fill this gap using slides of many of their specimens and early reports. He is most recently the author of *Land of the Eagle: A Natural History of North America*.

OCTOBER 9: LATON MCCARTNEY

"IN THE MIDST OF THE PRINCIPLE CHAIN":

ROBERT STUART AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE OREGON TRAIL

Lewis and Clark turned America's eyes to the expanse of the west, but it was fur trader Robert Stuart who opened the door to Manifest Destiny with his discovery of the only direct passage through the Rocky Mountains. Laton McCartney, a journalist and author of the upcoming *Across the Great Divide*, is a descendant of Stuart and draws upon Stuart's journals and personal papers to tell a gripping story of adventure.

OCTOBER 16: TOM CHAFFIN

"ALL YOUR CAMPFIRE HAVE BECOME CITIES": JOHN C. FRÉMONT, THE PATHFINDER

Explorer, businessman, army officer, politician, and abolitionist, John C. Frémont was a symbol of the frontier spirit. Tom Chaffin is the author of *Pathfinder: John Charles Frémont and the Course of American Empire*, which *Publishers Weekly* calls "a deeply nuanced portrait of a man of many parts." This lecture will look at Frémont's exploration and his writings, which compelled America to re-imagine the west.

❖ *This series is \$10 per session for members and guests. Contact the Events Office to register for any or all sessions.*

CALENDAR

NEW YORK	EXPLORERS	WALTER	MICHAEL	BENITA	PATRICIA	CHRIS	WARREN
IS BOOK	SERIES	ISAACSON ON	CART ON	EISLER ON	REILLY GIFF	HEDGES	ZIMMERMANN
COUNTRY	October	BENJAMIN	WALTER R.	CHOPIN'S	ON HER	ON WAR	ON FIRST
September 21	2, 9, and 16	FRANKLIN	BROOKS	FUNERAL	WORK	December 3	GREAT TRIUMPH
12:00-	6:00 P.M.	October 23	October 30	November 11	November 13	6:30 P.M.	December 9
5:00 P.M.		6:30 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	5:30 P.M.		6:00 P.M.

❖ *Registration is required for all events. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. Any fees listed may be paid at the door.*

❖ *To receive technology news and articles electronically, send an e-mail to webmaster@nysoclib.org. To receive the monthly Children's Events Calendar, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.*



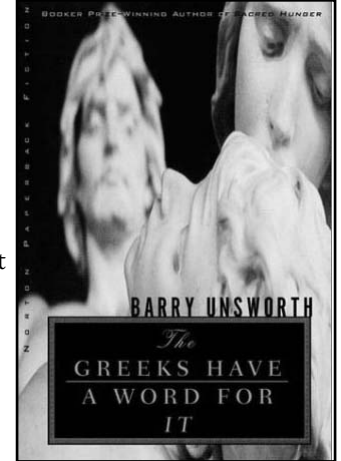
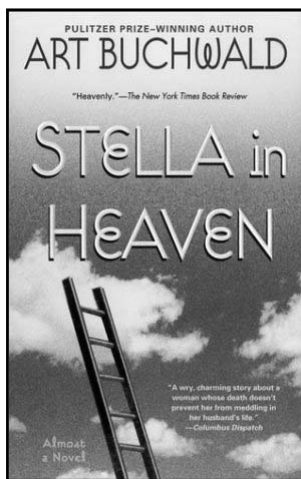
READING GROUPS

❖ Reading groups are free of charge, but space is very limited. Registration will ONLY be accepted in the order of calling beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, September 15. Leave a message at 212-288-6900 x230.

INTIMATE STRANGERS IN CONTEMPORARY FICTION WITH NANCY NEWMAN

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 28, AND DECEMBER 2
11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Novelist Nancy Newman will lead a new reading group focused on novels in which characters hide key emotions from friends, relatives—sometimes even themselves—with disastrous results. The books under discussion will be Penelope Lively's *Passing On*, Margaret Livesey's *Homework*, and Barry Unsworth's *The Greeks Have a Word for It*. Newman is the author of the novel *Disturbing the Peace*. Reviewers have called her work "a delicious foray" and her lectures, "useful" and "inspirational."



MEMORY AND MEMOIR WITH CAROL RIAL

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 9, NOVEMBER 6, AND DECEMBER 11
11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Teacher and editor Carol Rial became interested in the permeable lines between autobiography and memoir while working with humorist Art Buchwald on his fictionalized memoir *Stella in Heaven: Almost a Novel*. The group will examine *Stella in Heaven*, Azar Nafisi's recent *Reading Lolita*, and the more traditional *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, looking at the creative challenges of writing from memory and of constructing oneself in memoir.

LIBRARY LECTURES

MICHAEL CART

THE IRREPRESSIBLE PIG: THE RENAISSANCE OF THE *FREDDY THE PIG* BOOKS

FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN THIRD GRADE AND ABOVE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM



"Well, why wouldn't they say what they mean?" Sniffy asked. "That's the trouble with books: you have to think what they mean all the time."

Forty years ago, Walter R. Brooks's *Freddy the Pig* books were a staple of American children's literature. In more than twenty-five books, the multi-talented Freddy appeared as cowboy, explorer, politician, publisher, poet, magician, banker, pilot, detective, and anything else the occasion called for. Today, the Freddy books are regaining their place on the shelf with the critical attention of Michael Cart, in *The Art of Freddy*. The author of *What's So Funny? Wit and Humor in American Children's Literature* and the young adult novel *My Father's Scar*, Cart is also a columnist for *Booklist* magazine, past president of the Friends of Freddy fan club, and former director of the Beverly Hills Public Library.

Walter R. Brooks, a Library member, created not only Freddy the Pig but also the talking horse immortalized on television as Mr. Ed. In this lecture, Cart will talk about Brooks's career and bring a new generation into the fun of Freddy. This lecture is free of charge, but registration is required.

LIBRARY LECTURES

BENITA EISLER

THE MUSIC OF CHOPIN'S LAST DAYS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM



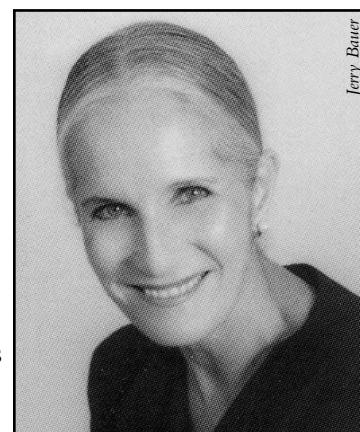
A sketch of Chopin by George Sand

"A young man from the provinces, armed with talent or brilliance, ardent with ambition, arrives in the capital. His mix of cynicism and innocence is irresistible—especially to older women.... From its salons, he conquers Paris: The rich, the titled, the gifted bow to his genius. His distinction of dress and manner is enhanced by the sorrows that have left their mark.... To these will be added other losses: the death of illusions and of love itself."

—Chopin's Funeral

In *Chopin's Funeral* Benita Eisler retells the often-romanticized story of Frédéric Chopin. According to the *New York Times*, the book shows "poetic insight and admirable brevity, combining analytical skill with that of a novelist." *Publishers Weekly* says, "Chopin's failings...are made clear; but Eisler, deeply sympathetic to the quality of the music, also shows that he never ceased to struggle, despite perpetual illness, to expand his extraordinary

gift into areas where no musician had previously ventured." Eisler is the author of *Byron: Child of Passion, Fool of Fame* and *O'Keeffe and Stieglitz: An American Romance*. This lecture will be accompanied by excerpts of Chopin's beautiful music. The event is \$10, and registration is required.



Jerry Bauer

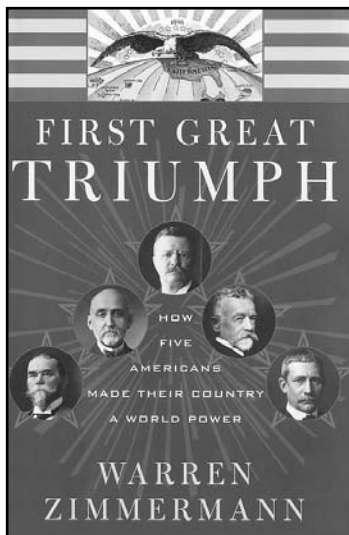
WARREN ZIMMERMANN

FIRST GREAT TRIUMPH: HOW FIVE AMERICANS MADE THEIR COUNTRY A WORLD POWER

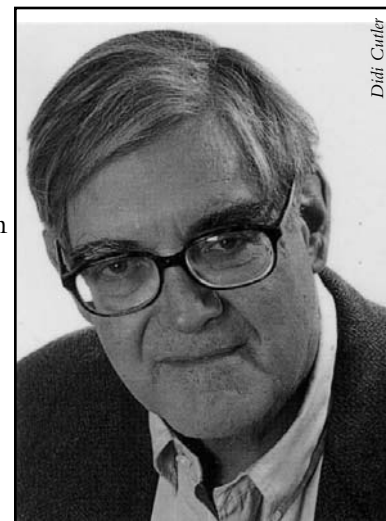
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

"We were sure that we would win, that we should score the first great triumph in a mighty world-movement."

—Theodore Roosevelt, 1904



Much ink has been spilled about America's rise to modern empire status, but Warren Zimmermann's *First Great Triumph* demonstrates its little-known beginning between 1898 and 1903. Zimmermann details the roles of Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge, John Hay, Elihu Root, and Admiral Alfred T. Mahan in the U.S. interventions in Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam at the turn of the century. The *New York Times* calls the book "a good story, full of craggy individualists and events that retain their power to amaze." Zimmermann has served as a diplomat around the world and taught at Columbia and Johns Hopkins universities. He has also written the critically acclaimed *Origins of a Catastrophe: Yugoslavia and Its Destroyers*. The lecture is \$10, and registration is required.



Didi Cantler

2003-2004 AUTHOR SERIES

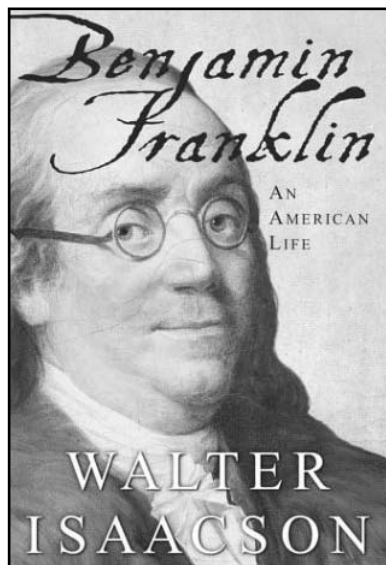
WALTER ISAACSON

AUTHOR OF *BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE*

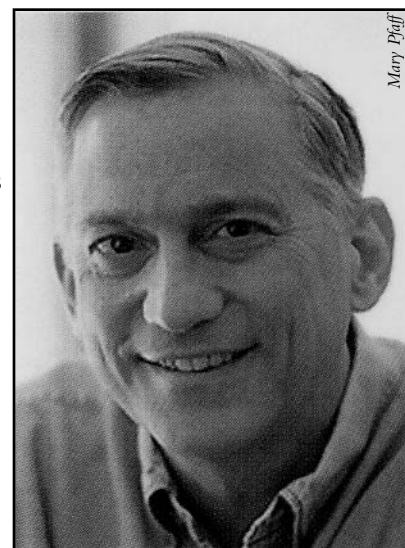
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6:30 P.M.

THE HARMONIE CLUB, 4 EAST 60TH STREET

"Benjamin Franklin is the founding father who winks at us... He speaks to us, through his letters and hoaxes and autobiography, not with orotund rhetoric but with a chattiness and clever irony that is very contemporary, sometimes unnervingly so. We see his reflection in our own time."
 —Benjamin Franklin: An American Life



Benjamin Franklin can be described as America's greatest scientist, politician, businessman, writer, and homespun philosopher. His *Autobiography* and other writings demonstrate that he was fully aware of his invention of himself, and in this biography, Walter Isaacson reveals and enjoys Franklin's multi-faceted character. Historian Joseph J. Ellis calls the book "a thoroughly researched, crisply written, convincingly argued chronicle," which is "a prime candidate for the authoritative Franklin of our time." Isaacson, former chairman of CNN and now president of the Aspen Institute, is also the author of *Kissinger* and *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*. The lecture is free for members and their guests; registration is required. Please note the change in location.



Mary Picoff

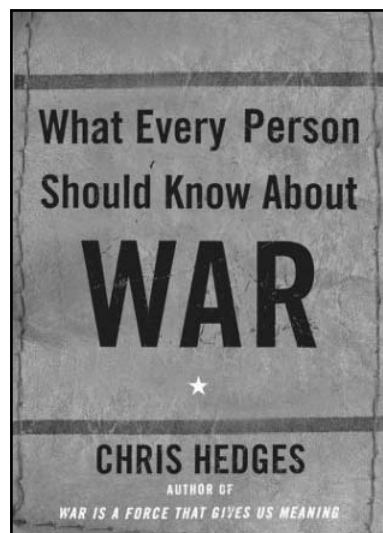
CHRIS HEDGES

AUTHOR OF *WHAT EVERY PERSON SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WAR*

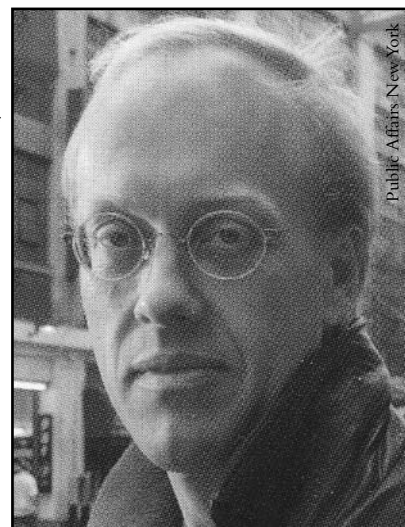
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 6:30 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET

"If people understood, or individuals or societies understood in a sensory way what war was, they'd never do it."
 —An interview with Chris Hedges



Chris Hedges has been a war correspondent for fifteen years, writing for the *Dallas Morning News*, NPR, and, most recently, the *New York Times*. His bestselling *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* fearlessly analyzes the mythology that carries societies into war. His new book emphasizes the soldier's reality, often hidden behind war's exciting façade, by answering questions such as "Will I be afraid?" and "What are the long-term consequences of combat stress?" The *New York Times Book Review* says, "Neither jingoistic nor pacifist, the book is about the moral authority of information, as it applies to the present and future nature of war." The lecture is free for members and their guests. Registration is required.



Public Affairs New York

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

PATRICIA REILLY GIFF

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO US

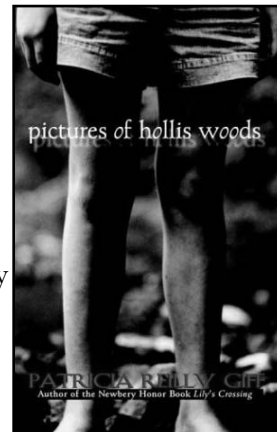
FOR SECOND GRADE AND UP * THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 5:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

Patricia Reilly Giff writes books with the message that "ordinary people are special." The



North Shore Council

author of the *Kids of the Polk Street School* series, *Lily's Crossing*, *Nory Ryan's Song*, and, most recently, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, Giff has been honored with two Newbery Medals, as well as awards from the American Library Association and the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards*. Reviewers have called her books "deft," and "compelling." In this event, Giff will talk about her love for writing and for sharing her favorite books. "Anyone who has problems or worries, anyone who laughs and cries, anyone who feels can write," she says. "It's only talking on paper... talking about the things that matter to us." This event is free for members and guests, but registrants are encouraged to bring a new children's book for the Project Cicero book drive. To register, call 212-288-6900 x234.



YOUNG WRITERS' WORKSHOP

The Library is pleased to offer a new workshop for young writers. Each month a guest leader will introduce a different writing genre and help participants find their own voices. Each workshop session is \$10, and registration is required. Call 212-288-6900 x234 to register. All sessions take place from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Whitridge Room.

MINI-BOOKS

FOR GRADES 3 TO 5 * TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Participants will create mini-books of different shapes and sizes. Then, Children's Librarians Carrie Silberman and Randi Levy will guide young writers to tell stories inspired by the shapes of their books.

KEEPING A JOURNAL AND FINDING YOUR VOICE

FOR GRADES 4 TO 6 * TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Carol Weston, author of *Girltalk*, *The Diary of Melanie Martin*, and seven other books, will help participants find ways to tell their own stories in personal journals and other forms.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Parents and children are invited to join Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman for discussions of these award-winning books. Please call 212-288-6900 x234 to register. All sessions will take place in the Whitridge Room.

FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS IN GRADES 3 AND 4

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE BY KATE DICAMILLO * TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 5:30 P.M.

Great things happen to Opal because of her big, ugly, happy dog, Winn-Dixie.

FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS IN GRADES 5 AND 6

LILY'S CROSSING BY PATRICIA REILLY GIFF * THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 5:30 P.M.

In the summer of 1944, a new friendship changes Lily's views on the war and her world.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN GRADES 3 AND 4

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER BY E.L. KONIGSBERG

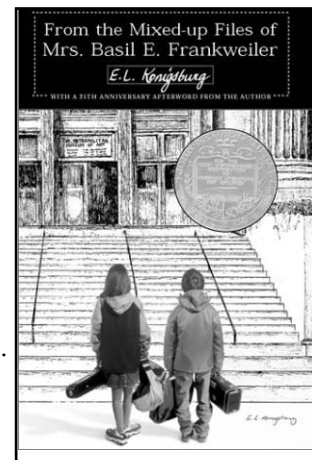
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 5:30 P.M.

Runaways Claudia and Jamie have surprising adventures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN GRADES 5 AND 6

HOLES BY LOUIS SACHAR * THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 5:30 P.M.

Digging holes at a desert correctional camp, Stanley digs up the truth.





NEW YORK IS BOOK COUNTRY 2003

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

ALONG FIFTH AVENUE BETWEEN 48TH AND 57TH STREETS

Authors, publishers and book lovers of all kinds will gather on Fifth Avenue for the 25th New York Is Book Country fair. These member authors will visit the Library's booth between noon and 5:00 p.m. See *The New York Times* on September 21 for details on all the booths and activities.



RAY ROBINSON
author of
Iron Horse: Lou Gehrige in His Time

ANN BIRSTEIN
author of
What I Saw At the Fair



**SUSAN BUCKLEY
ELSPETH LEACOCK**

authors of
Journeys in Time: A New Atlas of American History



MEG WOLITZER
author of
The Wife



RICHARD PANEK
author of
Seeing and Believing: How the Telescope Opened Our Eyes...

EXHIBITION



An exhibition from two of the Library's special collections will be on display in the second-floor exhibition space outside the Members' Room. The exhibition includes theology books from the library of John Sharpe and art and literature volumes donated by Irene Sharaff and Mai-Mai Sze. Reverend Sharpe was a missionary in 18th-century America and an early advocate of libraries. Irene Sharaff, one of the 20th century's leading costume designers, gave a distinctive look to *An American in Paris*, *The King and I*, *West Side Story*, and dozens of other works for stage and screen. Mai-Mai Sze, the daughter of a Chinese diplomat, was a painter, model, and writer. Among the Sharaff-Sze selections is *Praeterita*, a memoir by John Ruskin, whose self-portrait is at left.

❖ *Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at www.nysoclib.org.*

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

53 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021