

# NOTES



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2004

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4, FALL 2004

## RENOVATION

The Library's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary renovation is moving closer to realization. While a starting date is not yet set, the Board committee in charge is now in discussion with contractors. We will post updates in the lobby and on the Library's website ([www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org)).

The renovation is expected to take a little over a year. It will fill in the lightwell over the east stairs on floors three, four, and five and create two large study rooms on the sixth floor. Including these new study rooms, the Library will then have added:

- Over twenty additional reading places
- Six more individual study rooms
- A 30% larger Children's Library with a better layout
- Additional computer terminal locations
- Rationalized staff offices
- Improved air conditioning, lighting, elevator service, and handicapped access

The Library will remain open throughout the renovation process. Books will circulate as usual. Members will be able to enter all the stacks and use the stack elevator as usual. The first-floor Reference Room and catalogues will be available, as will the second-floor Members' Room, except for a brief period for air conditioning improvement in that room.

All construction materials will be brought in through the basement or over the roof. The east elevator will be turned into a construction elevator for the duration. All construction will be carefully sealed off from regular Library operations.

The lightwell construction will proceed floor by floor, with only one floor at a time closed to members. The fifth floor will close first, limiting available study space. In anticipation, signups for individual study rooms and four-month lockers are on hold, but extra desks are being added in most stack levels to accommodate as many readers and writers as possible. When the fifth floor is finished, it will serve as "swing space" for other Library services as these are dislocated by the renovation of the fourth floor and, in turn, the third floor.

We ask for your patience during this time. There will inevitably be noise and dust, but we will do everything we can to limit these disruptions. This anniversary renovation, so long in planning, will result in far better service to our membership as we begin our next 250 years.



## CALENDAR

October 19 6:00 P.M. MEMBERS' ROOM <b>RICHARD PANEK</b> on <b>EINSTEIN AND</b> <b>FREUD</b>	November 10 6:30 P.M. TEMPLE ISRAEL <b>ROBERT GOTTLIEB</b> on <b>GEORGE</b> <b>BALANCHINE</b>	November 16 6:00 P.M. MEMBERS' ROOM <b>ELIZABETH WINTHROP</b> on <b>BECOMING A</b> <b>WRITER</b>	November 18 6:00 P.M. MEMBERS' ROOM <b>BARBARA FOSTER</b> on <b>ALEXANDRA</b> <b>DAVID-NÉEL</b>	December 1 6:30 P.M. MEMBERS' ROOM <b>PERFORMANCE:</b> <b>NOT ABOUT</b> <b>HEROES</b>	December 16 6:30 P.M. TEMPLE ISRAEL <b>RENÉE FLEMING</b> on <b>THE INNER</b> <b>VOICE</b>
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- ❖ *Registration is required for all events. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org). Listed fees may be paid at the door.*
- ❖ *Children's events are listed on page 5, reading groups and technology workshops on page 4. To receive technology news and articles electronically, send an e-mail to [webmaster@nysoclib.org](mailto:webmaster@nysoclib.org).*

**THE 2004-2005 AUTHOR SERIES**

- ❖ Author Series lectures are free for members and their guests, but registration is required.
- ❖ To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

**ROBERT GOTTLIEB**

**GEORGE BALANCHINE: THE BALLET MAKER**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:30 P.M., TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET**



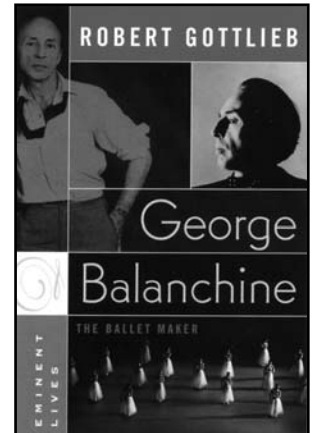
Balanchine with Suzanne Farrell

"Balanchine produced masterpiece after masterpiece, miracle after miracle, not only summing up the entire art form but advancing it into unknown territory—a supreme conservator combined with a radical innovator; Bach and Beethoven rolled into one."

—Robert Gottlieb

By the time of his death in 1982, George Balanchine had been recognized as a true modern master. With his fearless extensions of classical technique, his profound understanding of pedagogy, his absorption of popular dance influences from the waltz to jazz to square dance, his storytelling genius, and his overwhelmingly sensitive response to music, Balanchine carried within him all of ballet, past and present, and was constantly redefining its future. This impassioned portrait, coinciding with the centenary of Balanchine's birth, chronicles the life and achievement of the great choreographer.

Robert Gottlieb, a longtime New York City Ballet board member who knew and worked with Balanchine, has been Editor in Chief at Simon & Schuster, Alfred A. Knopf, and *The New Yorker*. He is currently the dance critic for the *New York Observer*.



**RENÉE FLEMING**

**THE INNER VOICE: NOTES FROM A LIFE ONSTAGE**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 6:30 P.M., TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET**



recalls her childhood as the daughter of two music teachers and her rise to international stardom. In sharing her story and what she has learned, she is an inspiration to other present and future artists.

"Those of you who perform...will have by now practiced perhaps three thousand hours a year times fifteen years, which equals forty-five thousand hours. Which means collectively that you as a group will have practiced eleven million hours. Challenge the idea that the arts are for a select few—reach, make more people love what you love, and help them to understand why you dedicated those eleven million hours in the first place."

—Renée Fleming

Renée Fleming's combination of vocal beauty, stylistic versatility, and dramatic impact have made her one of America's leading classical voices and given her a devoted international following. Her numerous honors include two Grammy awards and eight other Grammy nominations, the Grand Prix at the International Singing Competition in Belgium, a Fulbright Scholarship, and an honorary doctorate of music from the Juilliard School.

In her upcoming memoir, *The Inner Voice*, Fleming



THE INNER VOICE  
*The Making of a Singer*  
 RENÉE FLEMING

**LIBRARY LECTURES**

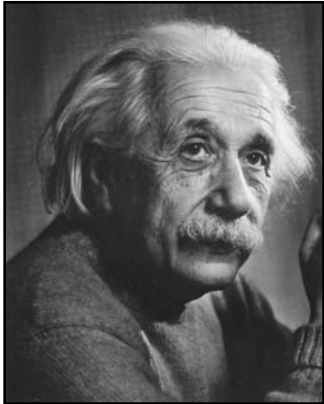
- ❖ Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door.
- ❖ To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

**RICHARD PANEK**

***THE INVISIBLE CENTURY***

***EINSTEIN, FREUD, AND THE SEARCH FOR HIDDEN UNIVERSES***

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**



Although they met only once and were uncertain about each other's work, Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud had more in common than they might have imagined. Each had tried to solve the single most challenging problem in his field, and each had been confronted with the same obstacle: a lack of physical, observable evidence that would satisfy their era's scientific method. Thus it was at the frontier of the invisible that these revolutionary intellects first glimpsed the foreign landscapes of relativity and the unconscious. Richard Panek's new book, *The Invisible Century: Einstein, Freud, and the Search for Hidden Universes*, vividly portrays the creation of two sciences that would come to define two new universes—without and within.



Also the author of *Seeing and Believing: How the Telescope Opened Our Eyes and Minds to the Heavens*, Panek renders the pursuit of scientific knowledge as exciting, accessible narratives. Of *The Invisible Century*, *The New York Times* writes, "Mr. Panek's presentation is masterly...strikingly lucid, easy to follow, and successful," and *Nature* magazine adds, "Both [Einstein and Freud] would have been pleased." This lecture is \$10 for Library members and their guests.

**BARBARA FOSTER**

**ALEXANDRA DAVID-NÉEL:**

**EXPLORER OF TIBET AND ITS FORBIDDEN PRACTICES**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**



Lawrence Durrell called Alexandra David-Néel "the most astonishing woman of our time." In the 1920s, David-Néel became the first European to know the monks, hermits, and shamans of Tibet and the first foreign woman to enter its capital. She journeyed over the Himalayas on foot, braving cold, bandits, and the threats of British imperial officials. She studied the esoteric practices of Tibetan Buddhism to strengthen herself and to share with the Western world. Her twenty-five books influenced Beat culture and the rise of American Buddhism, and now serve as a vital treasury of a threatened culture.

Barbara Foster, an associate professor at Hunter College, is the co-author (with Michael Foster) of *The Secret Lives of Alexandra David-Néel*, the definitive biography of this remarkable woman. The *New York Times Book Review* calls it "a superbly adventurous, disciplined and intelligent effort," and Allen Ginsberg, who credited David-Néel's work for his own introduction to Buddhism, praised it for making "her own vast sacred life record...happily accessible." Ms. Foster has lectured across the country on David-Néel's life and travels, with a slide show including breathtaking views of the lands she explored. This event is free for Library members and their guests.



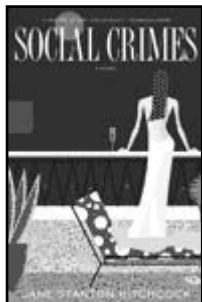
## READING GROUP

### UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS, AND IN THE MIDDLE

WITH CAROL RIAL

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 14, NOVEMBER 18, AND DECEMBER 16, 11:00 A.M.,

WHITRIDGE ROOM



Returning by popular demand, Carol Rial will lead discussions of class outsiders and insiders through three authors' popular, yet surprising, perspectives. The sessions will consider Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nicked and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (Owl Books, ISBN 0805063897); Chang-rae Lee's *A Gesture Life* (Riverhead Books, ISBN 1573228281); and Jane Stanton Hitchcock's *Social Crimes* (Miramax, ISBN 0786888482), respectively. Carol Rial is a teacher and editor. Reading groups are free of charge, but space is very limited, and registration is required. To register, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.

## TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Learn new skills and explore the Library with Technology Workshops taught by staff members Ingrid Richter and Paul Burley. All workshops take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes. The classes are free, but registration is required; contact 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS</b> NOVEMBER 9, 10:00 A.M.</p>	<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO MILLENNIUM, THE LIBRARY'S CATALOGUE</b> NOVEMBER 9, 2:00 P.M. AND NOVEMBER 10, 2:00 P.M. (separate classes)</p>
<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET</b> NOVEMBER 10, 10:00 A.M.</p>	<p><b>NEW CLASS</b> <b>VIRUS PREVENTION AND REMOVAL</b> NOVEMBER 11, 2:00 P.M.</p> <p>Ingrid Richter will describe the major viruses threatening computer users and the virus protection software available to combat them. Topics will also include how to detect and remove an infection.</p>
<p><b>NEW CLASS</b> <b>DIGITAL IMAGING</b> NOVEMBER 11, 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>Paul Burley will address the basics of digital image input and editing. Discussion will cover choosing and using digital cameras and scanners, copying images from the Internet, and image-editing software.</p>	

## TOURS OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING

CHRISTOPHER GRAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:00 P.M., MEETING IN THE LIBRARY LOBBY

Christopher Gray, author of *New York Streetscapes*, leads historical tours of the Library covering the building's 1917 construction as a town house as well as secrets of the current structure. The tours are free of charge, but space is very limited; to register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

## INSIDE THE LIBRARY

### RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF RARE BOOKS

The Library's Cataloguing Department and Head of Cataloguing Mark Bartlett are proud to announce that 13,000 records of the rare books collection have been converted into searchable electronic form. Researchers can now find the majority of the "Z Stack" rare holdings through the Library's online catalogue. "This is an important service to our members as well as to the research community throughout the world," says Arevig Caprielian, Rare Books Librarian and project liaison. Recent users of the service have included a scholar from Oxford, England, who has been able to examine a manuscript by Walter Scott. The Cataloguing Department continues to add and refine records and standardize names and subjects to help researchers more easily find rare materials.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

- ❖ Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door. To register for children's programs, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or [carrie@nysoclib.org](mailto:carrie@nysoclib.org).
- ❖ To receive the monthly calendar of younger children's events, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.

### ELIZABETH WINTHROP ON BECOMING A WRITER



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

SECOND GRADE AND OLDER

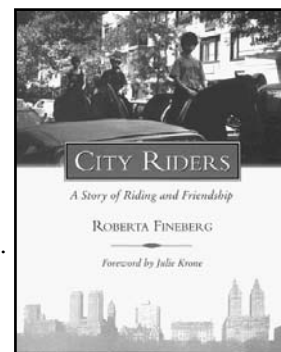
Author Elizabeth Winthrop tells aspiring writers, "By the time you are twelve years old, you'll have all the memories you need to write a hundred books." She herself is the author of the classic *The Castle in the Attic* and nearly sixty other books for children and adults, including recently *The Red-Hot Rattoons* and *Dog Show*, illustrated by Mark Ulriksen. She has twice won the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award, as well as numerous state literary awards, and her short fiction has been included in *Best American Short Stories*. In this event, she will describe the creative process, answering the age-old question of where she gets her ideas. A selection of her books will be available for sale and autographing. This event is \$5 per person for Library members and their guests.

### YOUNG WRITERS' WORKSHOP: PHOTOJOURNALISM WITH ROBERTA FINEBERG

FOURTH GRADE AND OLDER

In this ongoing series, young writers in grades four through seven are invited to join notable writers in exploring different genres. There is a \$10 per session fee. All sessions take place from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. in the Whitridge Room.

In this workshop, award-winning photojournalist Roberta Fineberg will introduce her art and help participants find stories in their own photography. Fineberg is the author of *City Riders: A Story of Riding and Friendship*, about young horseback riders in New York. Her shorter work has appeared in many publications including *American Girl* and *Entertainment Weekly*, and her photographs have been exhibited in galleries in New York, France, and Russia. "Every photo tells a story," she says. "I create work with the intent of revealing a truth...about the people, places, and things that I photograph." Registrants should bring five favorite photographs taken by or for them.



### MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Mothers and their daughters are invited to join Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman for discussions of these Newbery medal books. Copies are available for registrants. All sessions take place in the Whitridge Room at 5:00 P.M.

**FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS IN GRADES 3 AND 4**

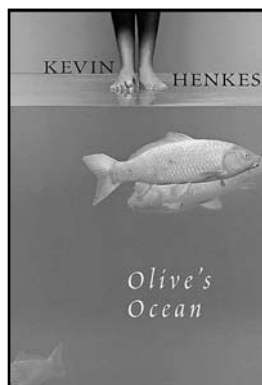
**BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE BY KATE DICAMILLO \* THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

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

**FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS IN GRADES 5 TO 7**

**OLIVE'S OCEAN BY KEVIN HENKES \* THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

A page from a schoolmate's diary accompanies twelve-year-old Martha during a summer of personal discovery.



### REMEMBERING PAULA DANZIGER

Author Paula Danziger, a Library member from 1998 to 2004 died in July. Danziger was known for over thirty popular books for children and young adults, including *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*, *P.S. Longer Letter Later*, and the *Amber Brown* series. Danziger spoke at the Library in November 2002, captivating her audience with stories of her travels and writing.



**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**NOT ABOUT HEROES**

**A PLAY BY STEPHEN MACDONALD, PRESENTED BY AUREA**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**

*“This book is not about heroes. English poetry is not yet fit to speak of them. Nor is it about deeds, or lands, nor anything about glory, honour, might, majesty, dominion, or power, except War. Above all I am not concerned with Poetry. My subject is War, and the pity of War. The Poetry is in the pity.”*  
*—Wilfred Owen, in the preface to his collected poems*



In June 1917, Siegfried Sassoon, an established poet and a lieutenant in the British army, wrote a letter to his superior officers criticizing the conduct of what would be called the Great War. He was silenced through a transfer to Craiglockhart War Hospital, where he met a shell-shocked young fan and aspiring poet, Wilfred Owen. Their friendship and collaboration, as both dealt with the war that would take Owen’s life and leave Sassoon forever changed, is a watershed in literary history. Stephen MacDonald’s award-winning two-man play *Not About Heroes* brings this friendship to life using quotations and adaptations of letters, memoirs, and the two men’s most famous poems. The Library is honored to host the New York premiere of this acclaimed production, which has been seen at the Providence Athenaeum and other venues across the

Northeast. The *Providence Phoenix* called it “a must-see theater event” that “reminds us that literary works, like lives, are not inevitable but rather the consequences of persistent choices.”

Nigel Gore and Rudy Sanda star as Sassoon and Owen. Gore’s stage work includes *An Evening of Nathan Currier’s Gaian Variations* at Lincoln Center, and he has appeared in films such as *Outside Providence* and Richard Griffin’s *Titus Andronicus*. Sanda’s credits include a praised Newport production of *A Winter’s Tale* and many other plays. Violist Consuelo Sherba provides original music evoking the period and the poetry; she teaches chamber music at Brown University and performs regularly with the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

This event is \$10 for Library members and their guests, payable at the door. Registration is required; contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).



❖ *Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at [www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org).*

**THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY**

53 East 79th Street  
 New York, NY 10021