



EVENTS

SPRING 2008

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
53 EAST 79TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10075

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

REMARKS AT 6:30 P.M.

Dedication of the Peluso
Exhibition Gallery

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 26, APRIL 9,
APRIL 23, MAY 7

“Primary Previews” Drama Seminar
Primary Stages

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 6:30 P.M.

“The Book Is Dead!
Long Live the Book!”
Michael Gorman, James G. Neal,
and Maggie Jackson

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 4:00 P.M.

Henry, The Dog With No Tail
Jules and Kate Feiffer

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2:00 P.M.

National Library Week Lecture
and Reception
Washington Irving: An American Original
Brian Jay Jones

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 P.M.

Marie-Thérèse: Child of Terror
Susan Nagel

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 6:30 P.M.

Scottsboro
Ellen Feldman

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 6:00 P.M.

The Young Writers Awards Ceremony

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 7:00 P.M.

Author Series
Einstein: His Life and Universe
Walter Isaacson

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 5:30 P.M.

The New York City Book Awards
Ceremony and Reception

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 6:00 P.M.

The Things That Matter to Us
Patricia Reilly Giff

MONDAY, MAY 19, 6:30 P.M.

New Yorkers and *The New Yorker*
Mark Singer and Nick Paumgarten

*Registration is required
for all events.
Information on
registration, locations, and
fees for these programs,
and a full listing of
workshops, is inside.*



RECEPTIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

R.S.V.P to the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

THE ASSUNTA, IGNAZIO, ADA AND ROMANO PELUSO EXHIBITION GALLERY

DEDICATION AND RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 6:00-8:00 P.M.; REMARKS AT 6:30 P.M.

Library members and their guests are cordially invited to the dedication of the Ignazio, Assunta, Ada and Romano Peluso Exhibition Gallery on the second floor of the Library. The gallery's name honors a generous monetary gift to the Library by Ada and Romano Peluso in memory of their parents, Ignazio and Assunta Sommella Peluso.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m., with remarks by trustees and the unveiling of a plaque naming the gallery at 6:30 p.m.

The Library is proud to celebrate the Peluso family and anticipates many important future exhibitions in the new gallery.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK PANEL

THE BOOK IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE BOOK!

MICHAEL GORMAN, PAST PRESIDENT, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JAMES G. NEAL, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

MAGGIE JACKSON, AUTHOR

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

How have computers and the Internet altered the use of books? What do changes in the publishing world mean for libraries and readers? Will new work, research, and reading habits make libraries or even books themselves unrecognizable? National Library Week is a particularly appropriate time to consider such issues, reevaluating commitments to books and libraries while valuing the contributions developing technology can make.

These questions and others will be discussed by a distinguished panel including two of the country's leading authorities on books and libraries, moderated by sociologist and author Maggie Jackson. Questions and contributions from the audience will be welcome.

Michael Gorman recently retired as Dean of Library Services at California State University, Fresno and has taught at library schools in Britain and the United States. He has been a major participant in the creation and updating of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, the primary reference work for book catalogers throughout the English-speaking world. The author of hundreds of articles in professional and scholarly journals, he is also the recipient of



Exhibition Launch, December 2007: from upper right, trustee Shirley Hazzard and Michael Leahy; exhibition designer John Bernstein and Lorna Livingston, granddaughter of the Library building's architect Goodhue Livingston; Chairman of the Board Charles G. Berry and member Anthony Gronowicz.



ness of themselves as they discover other people's thoughts," she says. "I want them to make the connection that books are people's stories, that writing is talking on paper, and I want them to write their own stories. I'd like my books to provide that connection for them....[Writing is] talking about the things that matter to us."

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THE SIXTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS COMPETITION IS OPEN JANUARY 14-APRIL 7

AWARDS CEREMONY THURSDAY, MAY 8, 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. Children and grandchildren of Library members are invited to enter according to the competition rules, which are available at the circulation desk, on the web at www.nysoclib.org/kids/young_writers.html, or by mail by calling 212-288-6900 x230.

The winning and participating young writers will be honored at an awards ceremony on May 8, featuring presentations and remarks about the writing life by the four author judges, Robert Quackenbush, Carol Weston, Edra Ziesk, and Dave Johnson. Library members and their guests are cordially invited.



Storyteller Getchie Argetsinger shares spooky stories in the Whitridge Room, Halloween 2007

numerous awards from library organizations and served as President of the American Library Association in 2006-2007.

James G. Neal is Vice-President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, providing leadership for a system of 25 libraries. Among his many accomplishments is service on the Council and Executive Board of the American Librarian Association, speeches and publications at national and international conferences, and representation of the American library community on copyright matters before Congressional committees.

Maggie Jackson was the Associated Press national Workplace columnist from the mid-1990s until 2001 and now writes regularly for the *Boston Globe*, the *New York Times*, and other publications. She is the author of *What's Happening to Home? Balance Work, Life and Refuge in the Information Age* (2002) and the upcoming *Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming Dark Age*.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK LECTURE AND RECEPTION

BRIAN JAY JONES

WASHINGTON IRVING:

AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2:00-4:00 P.M.

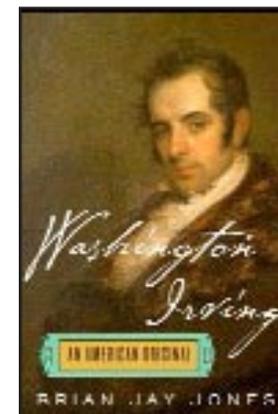
LECTURE BEGINS AT 2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM

April 2008 marks the 225th birthday of Washington Irving, one of America's first authors and a longtime New York Society Library trustee. In observance of this anniversary and National Library Week, the Library will offer a celebration of libraries featuring wine, refreshments, and a keynote lecture about Irving's life and work.

The first American writer to live by his pen and the first to gain an international reputation, Washington Irving gave his fledgling nation her own distinct literature with works such as *A History of New York* and "Rip van Winkle." Jones' new biography reveals a very human portrait of the sparkling public and challenging private life of this true American original.

Brian Jay Jones served as a speechwriter, ghostwriter, and policy analyst for two U.S. senators and now works as a writer and policy analyst. This is his first biography.



THE 2006 NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS

CEREMONY THURSDAY, MAY 15, 5:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

The New York City Book Awards are given to current authors who have captured the essence of New York City. This year's jury members are Constance Rogers Roosevelt, chair; Lucienne Bloch, Barbara Cohen, Jules Cohn, Ellen Feldman, Martin Filler, Roger Pasquier, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Susan Weber Soros, and Meg Wolitzer.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony and reception honoring the winning authors and their publishers. Library members are cordially invited to hear the presentations and greet the authors. Invitations and a list of the winning titles will be sent to Library members in early April.

THE 2007-2008 AUTHOR SERIES

Author Series lectures are free of charge, but reservations are required. To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

The Author Series is co-sponsored by the Library and Channel 13/WNET.

WALTER ISAACSON

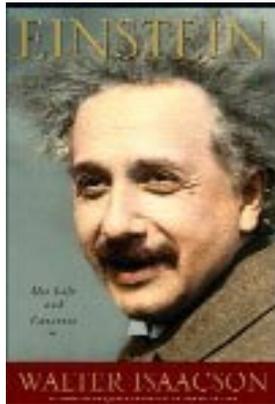
EINSTEIN: HIS LIFE AND UNIVERSE

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET (AT PARK AVENUE)

"I like writing about creativity, and that's what Franklin and Einstein shared," says Walter Isaacson about the subjects of his biographies *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (2003) and *Einstein, His Life and Universe*. The latter, the first biography to make use of Einstein's massive personal correspondence, shows how Einstein's scientific genius, his leaps of creative thought, was part and parcel with his public face as a rebel and innovator. The *New York Sun* calls the book "a narrative masterpiece...This is a great read by a great writer about a great man—a biographical perfect storm."

Walter Isaacson is the former chairman of CNN and the current president and CEO of the Aspen Institute. His other books include *Kissinger* and *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*.



WHERE ARE LIBRARY NEWS AND FEATURES?

Library news, columns from the Chairman and Head Librarian, and other features will be published in a separate mailing of *Library Notes*, coming soon.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY EVENTS

To reserve spaces, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or children@nysoclib.org. Listed fees may be paid at the door.

A Children's Calendar listing events for younger children is sent monthly by mail and e-mail. To receive it, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

JULES AND KATE FEIFFER

HENRY, THE DOG WITH NO TAIL

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM; \$5 PER PERSON
FOR KINDERGARTEN AND OLDER

One of America's most important editorial cartoonists and writers, Jules Feiffer is also the author and illustrator of acclaimed children's books such as *Bark*, *George* and *The House Across the Street*. Now he has collaborated as illustrator with his daughter Kate Feiffer, also the author of *Double Pink*, on *Henry, the Dog With No Tail*. In this event, the Feiffers will share their story and talk about how they worked together to create a tale of a "satisfying journey of self-discovery" that "becomes funnier with each reading," according to *School Library Journal*. The audience will also have a chance to help create a new story which Mr. Feiffer will illustrate.

Refreshments with the Feiffers will follow this event as part of our National Library Week celebration (see pages 2 and 3 for more about the Library's NLW observances).

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PATRICIA REILLY GIFF

THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO US

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM, \$5 PER PERSON
FOR THIRD GRADE AND UP

Patricia Reilly Giff writes books with the message that "ordinary people are special." The author of *Lily's Crossing*, *Nory Ryan's Song*, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, and, most recently, *Eleven*, Giff has been honored with two Newbery medals as well as awards from the American Library Association and the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards*. In this event, Giff will talk about her love for writing and for sharing her favorite books. "I want to see children curled up with books, finding an aware-



word-processing software being used by writers today. Please note that the class will cover PC software only; writing programs for Macs will be included in the handout only.

2:00 P.M. Introduction to Microsoft Excel, taught by Carolyn Waters
For computer users, Microsoft Excel beginners

This class covers creating, editing, saving, renaming, and printing Excel spreadsheets. Participants will also learn how to use formulas to manipulate data and create simple charts. Please note that this class will not include features found only in the latest version, Excel 2007.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

10:00 A.M. Digital Collections Online, taught by Keren Fleshler
For Internet users

Learn how to search the Internet for free scanned images of books, manuscripts, maps, letters, art images, audio-visual resources, and other valuable research tools.

2:00 P.M. Finding Articles on the Web, taught by Carolyn Waters
New Class ■ For Internet users

Participants will learn how to search for articles through magazine website and the Library's databases. Members are encouraged to bring examples of specific articles they want to find or topics they wish to research.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

10:00 A.M. Troubleshooting Computer Problems, taught by Ingrid Richter
For advanced PC users
Learn tips and tricks for repairing a desktop or laptop PC.

2:00 P.M. Social Networking Websites, taught by Ingrid Richter
New Class ■ For Internet users

Those curious about Friendster, MySpace or Facebook can learn how to create personal or business pages with these social networking websites.

TUESDAY, MAY 6 AND THURSDAY, MAY 15 (SEPARATE SESSIONS)

10:00 A.M. Your Collector's Items, taught by Jerry Patterson
New Class ■ For everyone

Collectors and fans of rare books, autographs, and manuscripts are invited to bring their treasures to the Library's book appraiser, Jerry Patterson. Mr. Patterson served as Senior Vice-President in charge of rare books and manuscripts at Sotheby's auction house and has frequently appeared on *Antiques Roadshow*. This class will follow a format like that show and include Mr. Patterson's remarks on what makes a book rare, how pricing works, and the influence of condition, autographs, and other factors. Space is very limited.

LIBRARY LECTURES

Registration is required for all events.

To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

The listed fee may be paid at the door.

SUSAN NAGEL

MARIE-THÉRÈSE: CHILD OF TERROR

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 P.M.,

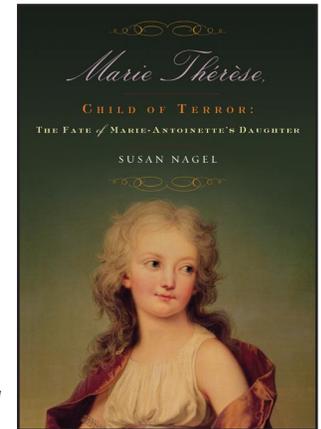
MEMBERS' ROOM; \$10 PER PERSON

Marie-Thérèse, the only surviving child of Louise XVI and Marie Antoinette, escaped from Paris' notorious Temple Prison in 1795 at age seventeen and went on to become one of the defining figures of the early nineteenth century through her political skill, strategic marriage alliance, and fierce loyalty to France. Napoleon would call her "the only man in the family." *Child of Terror*, the first major biography of this pivotal figure, was praised as "highly detailed, exhaustively researched, often riveting" by *Booklist*.

Susan Nagel is the bestselling author of *Mistress of the Elgin Marbles: A Biography of Mary Nisbet, Countess of Elgin*. She has written for the stage, screen, and scholarly and popular magazines. She is a professor in the humanities department at Marymount Manhattan College.

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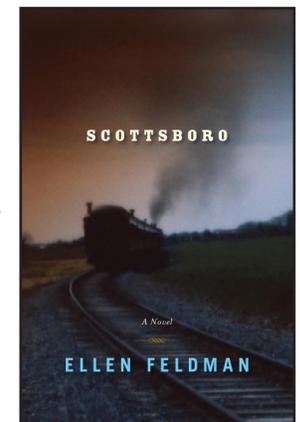
ELLEN FELDMAN

SCOTTSBORO

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 6:30 P.M.,

MEMBERS' ROOM; \$10 PER PERSON

On a spring afternoon in 1931, an Alabama posse stopped a freight train and rounded up nine black youths, ranging in age from thirteen to nineteen. Their crime was fighting with white boys—until two white girls, dressed in men's overalls, turned up in one of the freight cars. Though the girls showed no signs of abuse, the cry of rape went up, and a case and a cause that would drag on for almost half a century were born. No crime in American history, resulted in as many trials, convictions, reversals, retrials, and seminal Supreme Court decisions. Based on first-person accounts, archival material, and court records, *Scottsboro* is a novel about the two girls who cried rape, the



nine young men who were sentenced to death again and again, and the men and women who fought, some to sacrifice and some to save them.

Ellen Feldman is the author of the historical novels *The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank* and *Lucy*, as well as many other works of fiction and nonfiction. She writes for the *American Heritage* website and is a sought-after speaker.

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**MARK SINGER AND NICK PAUMGARTEN
NEW YORKERS AND THE NEW YORKER
MONDAY, MAY 19, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM;
\$10 PER PERSON**

Mark Singer moved to New York in 1974 and straight to the heart of the city's culture and events by writing for the *New Yorker's* "Talk of the Town." Nick Paumgarten grew up in the city and joined the *New Yorker* staff in 2000. On this evening, they will share their perspectives about the evolution of writing about the city in its essential magazine. Along the way they will offer insightful and engaging anecdotes about the stories that have given them the greatest pleasure and the greatest pain.



Mark Singer's books include *Funny Money*; *Mr. Personality: Profiles and Talk Pieces from The New Yorker*; *Character Studies: Encounters with the Curiously Obsessed*; and *Somewhere in America: Under the Radar with Chicken Warriors, Left-Wing Patriots, Angry Nudists, and Others*.

Nick Paumgarten has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 2005, previously serving as an editor of "The Talk of the Town" and as a reporter and editor at the *New York Observer*. His *New Yorker* features include profiles of Eliot Spitzer, Mort Zuckerman, and Mike and the Mad Dog, as well as reported pieces on such subjects as pre-Dutch Manhattan, extreme commuting, and neighborly noise.

READING GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required, and space is limited.

To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

**PRIMARY PREVIEWS: A DRAMA SEMINAR
PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIMARY STAGES
LED BY TESSA LENEVE AND BILL CONNINGTON
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 26, APRIL 9, APRIL 23, MAY 7
6:00-8:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM;
\$40 PER PERSON for all four sessions, nonrefundable**

This new seminar gives an advance look at Primary Stages' 24th season of exciting new plays by some of today's most prominent playwrights. Participants

will become part of the artistic process by reading the plays, then discussing the motivations of the playwrights and their characters, and the dramatic structure. These perspectives will inform the productions of these plays, which will begin in August 2008.

March 26: *Buffalo Gal* by A. R. Gurney
April 9: *A Body of Water* by Lee Blessing
April 23: *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* by Donald Margulies
May 7: *Chasing Manet* by Tina Howe

Primary Stages was founded in 1984 as a not-for-profit theater company with the mission of producing new plays and fostering the artistic development of emerging and established playwrights. The company has given life to more than 90 new plays, many of them world premiers, helping to create a library of new works for the American theater. More information on Primary Stages and the upcoming plays is available at www.primarystages.com.

Tessa LaNeve, Primary Stages Literary Manager, is a professional dramaturg and freelance director.

Bill Connington is an actor and playwright whose plays have been performed regionally and off-off-Broadway.

The stated fee covers the cost of copies of the plays for participants.

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TECHNOLOGY AND BOOK WORKSHOPS

These free workshops take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes. More information on all classes being offered is available at www.nysoclib.org/tech/.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

10:00 A.M. Introduction to Microsoft Word, taught by Carolyn Waters
For computer users, Microsoft Word beginners

This class covers creating, editing, formatting, saving, and renaming Word documents, along with spelling and grammar checks and setting up documents for printing. Please note that this class will focus on Word versions 2003 and earlier.

2:00 P.M. Advanced Microsoft Word, taught by Carolyn Waters
For computer users with some MS Word experience

Covers advanced features such as tracking changes, inserting clip art and other special objects, and printing special formats such as postcards and envelopes. Please note that this class will focus on Word versions 2003 and earlier.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

10:00 A.M. Alternative Word-Processing Programs, taught by Keren Fleshler
For computer users

Those who want a change from Microsoft Word can find out about other