

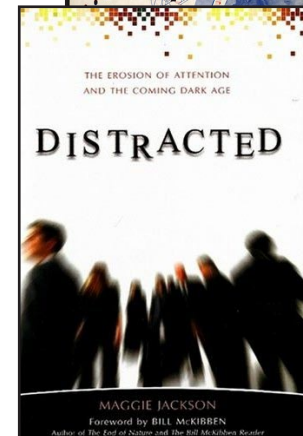
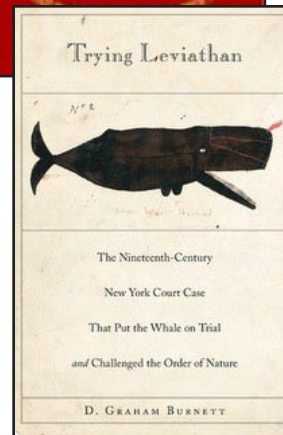
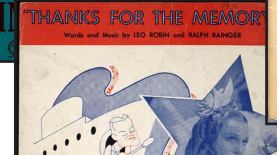
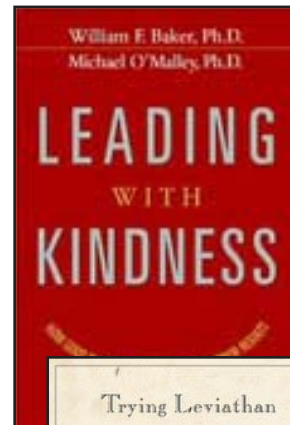
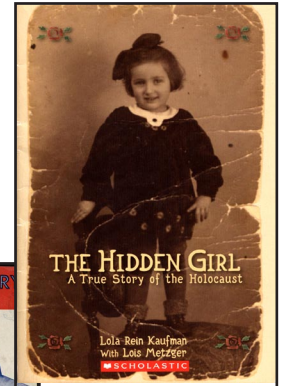
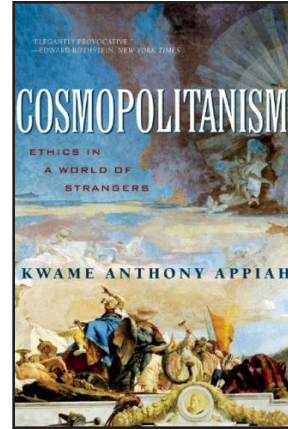
# EVENTS

WINTER 2009



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

This newsletter is available  
in electronic form  
at [www.nysolth.org/notes.html](http://www.nysolth.org/notes.html).



Covers of books for  
upcoming Library  
events, plus:  
(upper right)  
William Cristofer and  
Christine Lahti in *A  
Body of Water at  
Primary Stages*, fall  
2008  
(center) early-  
20th-century sheet  
music about the love  
of New York City

## SINGLE-SESSION EVENTS

### KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH “MY COSMOPOLITANISM”

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 6:30 P.M.,  
MEMBERS’ ROOM  
\$10 IN ADVANCE/\$15 AT THE DOOR

In his acclaimed book *Cosmopolitanism*, Kwame Anthony Appiah overcomes the divisive sectarian rhetoric of politicians and fundamentalists with a true ethic for the era of globalization, inspired by the ancient Greek ideal of cosmopolitanism. Originally a paradoxical term, the word suggests that a human being is not only a citizen with allegiance to one “polis,” but also a citizen of the entire cosmos, alongside everyone else. In this event, Dr. Appiah will link his Ghanaian roots and education in Great Britain and the U.S. to his own realization of cosmopolitanism and discuss its implications for the future peace and well-being of the world.

Kwame Anthony Appiah is Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy and the Center for Human Values at Princeton University. His books include *The Ethics of Identity* and *Experiments in Ethics*.

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### MICHAEL LASSER WITH SARA HOLLIDAY, SOPRANO, SHAD OLSEN, BARITONE, AND BRENNAS SAGE, PIANO “MINGLING WITH THE OLD-TIME THROG: LOVE SONGS FOR NEW YORK”

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2:00 P.M., MEMBERS’ ROOM  
\$10 IN ADVANCE/\$15 AT THE DOOR

While love was always the overriding subject of their work, American songwriters also produced thousands of songs about New York City—the wise-guy cockiness, the irreverent skepticism, the bruised romanticism, and the heightened awareness of the cacophony that surrounded them. They rev-



eled in the crowded streets of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, the tumult of Little Italy and the Lower East Side, and they moved to the sound of ragtime. Even when the subject wasn’t New York, or even a city, their sensibility had become decidedly urban. They occupied a vantage point on the east bank of the Hudson, and reported on what they saw to the rest of America. They wrote love songs about a city.

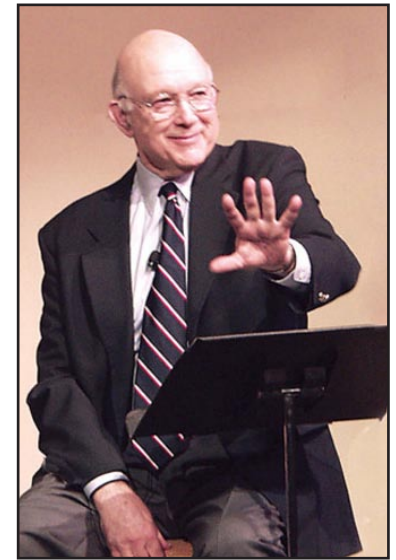
This event will survey timeless songs from before 1900 to World War II, with insights from musicologist Michael Lasser.

**Michael Lasser** is the co-author (with Philip Furia) of *America’s Songs: The Stories Behind the Songs of Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley*. He is well known as the host of the nationally syndicated public radio program *Fascinatin’ Rhythm*, winner of the 1994 George Foster Peabody Award. The Peabody citation praised the show for letting “our treasury of popular tunes speak (and sing) for itself with sparkling commentary tracing the contributions of the composers and performers to American society.” He is back by popular demand following his event on the songs of World War I in May 2007.

**Sara Holliday** holds a degree in Vocal Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and has performed extensively in musical theater and opera with the New Punctuation Army theater company in Manhattan and the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island, among others.

**Shad Olsen** is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. He has performed in many operas, musicals, and plays Off-Off Broadway as well as in his native Minnesota. He is the book author and lyricist for the musical *The Man in the Iron Mask*, which premiered at Chelsea Studios in 2005.

**Brenna Sage** primarily works as a musical director for theatrical productions but has credits as an accompanist, actor, dancer, singer, vocal impressionist, drummer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, choir director, orchestral conductor, choral arranger and orchestrator, music copyist, sound designer, midi recording engineer, voiceover artist, radio dj, club dj, and church organist, as well as a graphic and web designer.



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*This year’s events and features newsletters are generously underwritten by Ada and Romano Peluso in memory of Assunta Sommella and Ignazio Peluso.*

## MAGGIE JACKSON

### ***DISTRACTED:***

*THE EROSION OF ATTENTION AND THE COMING DARK AGE*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 6:30 P.M.,  
MEMBERS' ROOM**

**\$10 IN ADVANCE/\$15 AT THE DOOR**

Today's technological inventions offer rapid-fire virtual relations and instant access to reams of data. But the costs of such advances are mounting. In *Distracted*, Maggie Jackson examines the rise of an attention-deficient modern culture, marked by split-focus, social diffusion, frenetic movement and superficial thinking. Among other subjects, she explores the cultural history, anatomy, psychology, and plasticity of attention, and relates the remarkable new neuroscientific discoveries related to this crucial human faculty.

Ms. Jackson moderated the Library's April 2008 panel on the future of the book in a digital age. ([www.nysoclib.org/notes/2008/book\\_dead.html](http://www.nysoclib.org/notes/2008/book_dead.html)) Her new lecture also will address and develop some of the important questions raised in the spring.

**Maggie Jackson** is an award-winning author and *Boston Globe* columnist who writes often about the social impact of technology on our lives. She is also the author of *What's Happening to Home? Balancing Work, Life and Refuge in the Information Age*.



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## WILLIAM F. BAKER

### ***LEADING WITH KINDNESS:***

*HOW GOOD PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY GET SUPERIOR RESULTS*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 7:00 P.M.;**

**TEMPLE ISRAEL**

**FREE OF CHARGE**

The former CEO of the Educational Broadcasting Corporation (Thirteen/WNET and WLIW21) discusses the new ideas of management and leadership that are replacing



old-fashioned images of corporate callousness and greed, including how to define kindness in the business context and the best way to 'use' this deceptively complex notion as a guiding principle to lead an organization successfully into the future.

**William F. Baker** is president emeritus of Educational Broadcasting Corporation (Thirteen/WNET) and has had a career of over 40 years in broadcasting. He is Executive in Residence at Columbia University Business School, University Professor at Fordham, and senior research fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations.

*Leading with Kindness* is co-authored by Michael O'Malley.

*This event is part of the 2008-2009 Author Series, co-sponsored by the Library and Thirteen/WNET New York.*

*Temple Israel is located at 112 East 75th Street, just east of Park Avenue.*

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## D. GRAHAM BURNETT

### ***TRYING LEVIATHAN: THE***

*NINETEENTH-CENTURY NEW YORK COURT CASE THAT PUT THE WHALE ON TRIAL AND CHALLENGED THE ORDER OF NATURE*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 6:30 P.M.,**

**MEMBERS' ROOM**

**\$10 IN ADVANCE/\$15 AT THE DOOR**

In *Moby-Dick*, Ishmael declares, "Be it known that, waiving all argument, I take the good old fashioned ground that a whale is a fish, and call upon holy Jonah to back me."

With this statement, Melville's protagonist takes sides in one of the great controversies of the early nineteenth century—one that ultimately had to be resolved in the courts of New York City. In *Trying Leviathan*, a 2007 New York City Book Award winner, D. Graham Burnett recovers the striking story of *Maurice v. Judd*, an 1818 trial that pitted the new sciences of taxonomy against the then-popular—and biblically sanctioned—view that the whale was a fish. Falling in the middle of the century between Linnaeus and Darwin, the trial dramatized a revolutionary period that saw radical transformations in the understanding of the natural world. The *New York Times* says, "*Trying Leviathan* isn't just another fish story...[H]is story is riveting, one of those wonderful obscure microcosmic matters."

**D. Graham Burnett** is associate professor of history at Princeton University, where he recently held the Christian Gauss Preceptorship and directed the



Program in History of Science. He studied history and philosophy of science at Cambridge University on a Marshall Scholarship and was a member of Trinity College. He has taught at Yale and Columbia universities, and serves on the board of directors of the Vermillion Sea Foundation. His books include *Masters of All They Surveyed* and *A Trial By Jury*.

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## MULTI-SESSION EVENTS

*Copies of all books for discussion are available for purchase from the Library. Information about purchasing books will be sent to registrants.*

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### CAROL RIAL

#### NOBEL LAUREATES FOR LITERATURE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, FEBRUARY 18, AND MARCH 18

WHITRIDGE ROOM, 11:00 A.M.; FREE OF CHARGE

With writer and educator Carol Rial, readers tour the world of literary greatness in novels by recent Nobel Prize winners.

#### Books for Discussion:

January 21: *Snow* and “My Father’s Suitcase” (Nobel Lecture) by Orhan Pamuk, 2006 Nobel Laureate

February 18: *Alfred and Emily* by Doris Lessing, 2007 Nobel Laureate

March 18: *Wandering Star* by Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, 2008 Nobel Laureate

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### ROB ACKERMAN

#### READER’S THEATER:

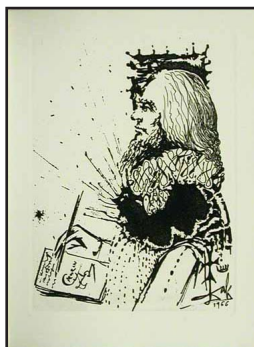
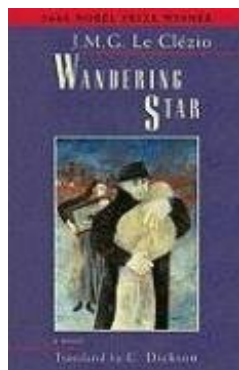
#### *LIFE IS A DREAM AND OTHER PLAYS*

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 15, JANUARY 29,  
AND FEBRUARY 12, 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS’ ROOM; \$10 PER PERSON

In this group, participants will read aloud Pedro Calderón de la Barca’s masterwork *Life is a Dream* and other plays under Rob Ackerman’s guidance. Everyone who wishes to read will have an opportunity; good parts will be available for both genders. The idea is to bring the story to life in real time, and no theatrical experience is required. (At right: *Calderón de la Barca* by Salvador Dalí.)

The stated fee will cover the cost of providing copies of the plays, which



will be available to participants at each session.

Rob Ackerman is a widely produced playwright whose works include *Origin of the Species*, made into an award-winning independent film, *Tabletop*, which received a 2001 Drama Desk Award, and *Icarus of Ohio*, chosen for the 2008 hotINK International Festival of New Plays at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

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## PRIMARY PREVIEWS: A DRAMA SEMINAR

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIMARY STAGES

LED BY TESSA LENEVE

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4, MARCH 11, MARCH 18, AND MARCH 25

MEMBERS’ ROOM, 5:00-7:00 P.M.

\$40 PER PERSON

This seminar gives an advance look at Primary Stages’ 25th anniversary 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 2009.

**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 premieres, 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](http://www.primarystages.com).

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

**FOR THIS EVENT ONLY, PLEASE REGISTER** by contacting *Primary Stages* at 212-840-9705 or [tessa@primarystages.org](mailto:tessa@primarystages.org).

*Two other sections of the seminar will be offered at the Primary Stages office on alternative dates.*

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



## SPECIAL SERIES: THE WRITING LIFE

The Library is pleased to present a new series of daytime talks by and for writers. The second Tuesday of each month will feature a lively discussion with a different speaker about the writing life. All members are welcome; there is no fee and no registration is required. Sessions take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes. Watch future newsletters for announcements of more second-Tuesday talks.

### PUBLISHING 101 WITH CHRIS EVANS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 10:00 A.M.

A publishing insider shares his experiences in the book world and the qualities that get a manuscript noticed or relegated to the slush pile.

Library member Chris Evans has edited history, military history, and current affairs books for Random House/Ballantine/Del Ray and Stackpole Books. His first novel, *A Darkness Forged in Fire*, was published by Simon & Schuster in July 2008.



### THE SCREENWRITING LIFE WITH WILLIAM FINKELSTEIN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 10:00 A.M.

William Finkelstein is an Emmy Award-winning producer and screenwriter of the television dramas *L.A. Law*, *Law and Order*, *Brooklyn South*, *Murder One*, and *NYPD Blue*, and a former attorney. In this talk he will share how he moved from practicing law to writing for hit legal and crime dramas and what it takes to be a screenwriter today.

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

To reserve spaces, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or [children@nysoclib.org](mailto:children@nysoclib.org).

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](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

### LOIS METZGER AND LOLA REIN KAUFMAN

#### THE HIDDEN GIRL:

A TRUE STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 5:30 P.M.; MEMBERS' ROOM

FOR FOURTH GRADE AND OLDER AND ADULTS

FREE OF CHARGE

Born in southeast Poland in 1934, Lola Rein lost every-



thing at the age of eight when her parents died in the Holocaust. Lola's grandmother arranged for her to be concealed by a Ukrainian family, and she spent seven months hiding in a barn, her only possession a beautiful dress her mother had embroidered for her. After Poland's liberation, she would be adopted by an uncle and move to the United States, one of the few survivors of her town. With author Lois Metzger, she tells her powerful story in the book *The Hidden Girl*. In this Holocaust Remembrance Day event, Ms. Kaufman and Ms. Metzger will speak about the Holocaust experience and the process of transforming memory into writing.

### THE SEVENTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

COMPETITION OPEN

JANUARY 12-APRIL 6

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. Writers in grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit a short story, essay, or poem on a theme of their choice. Prizes will be presented by notable authors for prose and poetry in four age categories.

Competition rules are available at the circulation desk or on the web at [www.nysoclib.org/kids/young\\_writers.html](http://www.nysoclib.org/kids/young_writers.html). Entrants must be children or grandchildren of Library members, or students at a member or invited school. Watch this space for announcements of the awards ceremony and the winners.

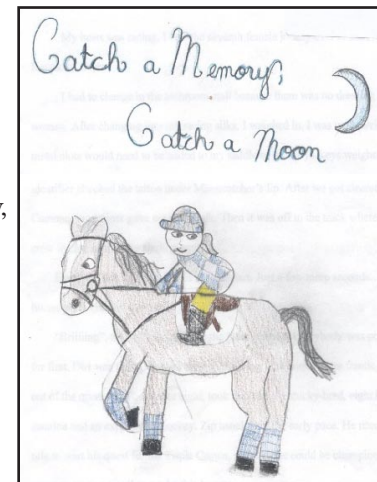
The 2009 Young Writers Awards are generously underwritten by Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner and Paul A. Wagner.

### PROJECT CICERO 2009

LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTION FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 4

Project Cicero is now in its ninth year of bringing new and gently used children's books to the under-resourced public school classrooms of New York City. Since its founding in 2001, Project Cicero has placed over 1,150,000 books in more than 6,500 New York City classroom and school libraries, reaching an estimated 250,000 children.

To join over 100 schools and other organizations in donating books, look for the boxes in the Library's entry hall or call the Project Cicero mailbox at 212-288-6900 x511. More information about the book drive and a wish list of titles is available at [www.projectcicero.org](http://www.projectcicero.org).



The title page from Sydney Jennison's 2008 winning story

## EVENTS REGISTRATION

For **Children's** Events: please contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or [children@nysoclib.org](mailto:children@nysoclib.org). Fees for children's events should be paid at the door.

**For All Other Events:** Advance registration and payment is required. Advance registration will be taken up to two hours prior to the stated event start time. On the day of the event, please phone the Events Office at the number below.

The form on the following page can be dropped off at the Circulation desk, faxed to 212-744-5832, or mailed to The New York Society Library Events Office, 53 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075.

Please include credit card information or a check made out to The New York Society Library.

Online registration and payment through PayPal is available at [www.nysoclib.org/events\\_registration.html](http://www.nysoclib.org/events_registration.html).

**For single-session events:** The Events Office will contact you only if you are on a waitlist. Reminders will be sent to registrants in advance of events.

**For multi-session events:** The Events Office will contact you with further information.

**Refunds** will not be given except in the case of waitlisted reservations for which no space becomes available, or cancellation of the event.

If you have reserved places for an event but are unable to attend, you are welcome to donate the fee as a tax-deductible contribution. Please indicate this by calling the Events Office up to two hours prior to the start of the event.

**For past events,** see "Events: Recordings" at [www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org).

**Questions? Please contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).**

### COMING UP IN THE SPRING

*These events and more will be fully announced in the March issue of this newsletter.*

#### **Bakerloo Theatre Project and Director William Addis**

**Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters***, Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Exhibition Opening: "The President's Wife and the Librarian"**

Thursday, April 2, Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery, 5:30 p.m.

#### **The Big Read 2009,**

*in cooperation with the Mercantile Library Center for Fiction*

#### **A Conversation on Henry James' *Washington Square* with James Kraft**

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.

**Metropolitan Playhouse presents *The Heiress***, Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.

#### **Lynne Sharon Schwartz on *Not Now, Voyager: A Memoir***

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m., Temple Israel (*A 2008-2009 Author Series lecture*)

**The 2008-2009 New York City Book Awards Ceremony**, Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 p.m.

## REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF PRIMARY REGISTRANT (PLEASE PRINT)
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DAYTIME TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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# OF SPACES	EVENT
	The Writing Life: Publishing 101, January 13 (free)
	Rob Ackerman, Reader's Theater, 3 Sessions (\$10)
	Kwame Anthony Appiah, "My Cosmopolitanism," February 3 (\$10)
	Carol Rial, Nobel Laureates for Literature, 3 Sessions (free)
	The Writing Life: The Screenwriting Life, February 10 (free)
	Michael Lasser et al, "Love Songs for New York," February 14 (\$10)
	Maggie Jackson, <i>Distracted</i> , February 26 (\$10)
	William F. Baker, <i>Leading With Kindness</i> , March 5 (free)
	D. Graham Burnett, <i>Trying Leviathan</i> , March 12 (\$10)

*To register for the Primary Previews Drama Seminar, please see page 7.*

### IN THE SPRING

	Anton Chekhov's <i>The Three Sisters</i> , March 26 (\$20)
	Exhibition Opening Reception, April 1 (free)
	James Kraft, Conversation on <i>Washington Square</i> , April 22 (\$10)
	<i>The Heiress</i> , April 25 (\$20)
	Lynne Sharon Schwartz, <i>Not Now, Voyager</i> , May 13 (free)
	New York City Book Awards Ceremony, May 6 (free)

TOTAL FEES		Check		Card:
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CARD NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE
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