

**Spring** 2009



The New York Society Library 53 East 79TH Street

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10075

in electronic form at www.nysoclib.org/notes.html. This newsletter is available

## THE WORLD OF EDITH KERMIT ROOSEVELT AND MARION KING

New Exhibition

THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE AND THE LIBRARIAN

APRIL 2-DECEMBER 31, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 5:30-7:30 P.M.
THE PELUSO FAMILY EXHIBITION GALLERY
FREE OF CHARGE
with remarks by
Sylvia Jukes Morris and Wallace Finley Dailey

In 1980, Alice Gore King donated 588 letters to the Houghton Library at Harvard University. The letters had been written by Edith Kermit Roosevelt to Miss King's mother, Marion King, between 1920 and 1947. Mrs. Roosevelt was the wife of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States. Marion King was, for almost fifty years, a staff member at The New York Society Library. This treasury of letters documents

the little-known friendship between the President's wife and the Librarian.

This exhibition marks the first time this relationship and correspondence have been displayed in public. The letters and accompanying materials offer a unique view of an influential First Lady's literary tastes and opinions and a touching story of a friendship stretching through a tumultuous period of American history.

Library members and their guests are cordially invited to get a first glimpse of this groundbreaking exhibition at the opening reception and presentation on April 2.

**Sylvia Jukes Morris** is the author of the definitive biography of Theodore Roosevelt's



Marion King courtesy of John and Rita DePasquale



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

wife, *Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a First Lady.* She will also give a full lecture about Mrs. Roosevelt on April 30, as listed below.

**Wallace Finley Dailey** is Curator of the Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library.

This exhibition is generously supported in part by Theodore and Constance Rogers Roosevelt, Helen D. Roosevelt, and Mary Kongsgaard and Richard Williams.

## LECTURE

Sylvia Jukes Morris

EDITH KERMIT ROOSEVELT: PORTRAIT OF A FIRST LADY

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.; Members' Room \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door

The new exhibition *The President's Wife and the Librarian* portrays the relationship between Edith Kermit Roosevelt and Marion King. In this event, the author of Mrs. Roosevelt's definitive biography introduces the wider world of the First Lady's influential life and tumultuous era. Newsweek called *Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a First Lady* "marvelously full-blooded, engagingly written," and in *The Washington Post*, R.W.B. Lewis said it is "an endlessly engrossing book, at once of historical and human importance."



**Sylvia Jukes Morris** is more recently the author of *Rage for Fame: The Ascent of Clare Boothe* 

Luce (Random House, 1997) and has published articles in the New York Times Magazine and served as a judge for the National Book Awards. She has appeared on PBS' American Experience, A&E's Biography, C-SPAN, and the History Channel.

## SPECIAL INVITATION

THE NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS 2008 CEREMONY AND RECEPTION WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 5:30 p.m., Members' Room PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 6:00 p.m.

FREE OF CHARGE

The New York Society Library's New York City Book Awards, established in 1996, honor books of literary quality or historical importance that, in the

opinion of the selection committee, evoke the spirit or enhance appreciation of New York City. It is not necessary that the city be the major subject of the book, but it must play an essential, invigorating role beyond that of the setting.

The awards ceremony on May 6 honors the winning authors and their publishers, with awards presented by members of the jury. The winning books and authors



Last year's winning books

will be announced in the Library's spring issue of Library Notes, available soon.

### THE 2008-2009 JURY:

Constance Rogers Roosevelt, *Chair* Lucienne Bloch Barbara Cohen Jules Cohn Ellen Feldman

Laton McCartney

Roger Pasquier Elizabeth Barlow Rogers Cynthia Saltzman Meg Wolitzer assisted by Christopher Gray

The New York City Book Awards are generously underwritten by Ellen M. Iseman and Frederick J. Iseman.

## SINGLE-SESSION EVENTS

## 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*.

# BAKERLOO THEATRE PROJECT ANTON CHEKHOV'S THE THREE SISTERS WILLIAM ADDIS, DIRECTOR THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door

The three Prozorov sisters, convinced that their lives have not yet begun, dream of escaping their small town for the excitement of Moscow. Anton Chekhov's aching masterpiece challenges viewers to find the balance between desire and responsibility, expectation and reality. This vital, streamlined production is designed to surround the audience and breathe new life into the century-old play.

The production uses the



Three Sisters—A Study in June Sunlight by Edmund C. Tarbell, 1890

Curt Columbus translation and will last approximately 90 minutes.

Bakerloo Theatre Project has been producing innovative classical theatre in the Albany area since 2000. It is their mission to present intelligent productions of Shakespeare's canon and other classic works by serving as a home to up-and-coming professional theater artists of the highest caliber. Through performance and education, Bakerloo produces high-quality, low cost, innovative theater designed to give audiences a dynamic, accessible, and inclusive theater experience. The *Albany Times-Union* says of them, "The best thing about Bakerloo's production is that it neither merely interprets dialogue nor tries to reinterpret it, but rather builds on the wonderful foundation of the playwright's words. Bakerloo Theatre Project has become a summer tradition in the capital region. They have also performed at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Drew University, New York City's Center Stage Theatre, Brooklyn's Freddy's Bar and Pete's Candy Store, The Eaglebrook School in Deerfield Mass, Emma Willard School in Troy and Scotia's Freedom Park.

## JEAN PARKER PHIFER PUBLIC ART NEW YORK TUESDAY, MAY 12, 6:30 P.M.; MEMBERS' ROOM \$10 IN ADVANCE/\$15 AT THE DOOR

New Yorkers are constantly enriched by exemplary works of public art; Public Art *New York* gives the opportunity to become truly acquainted with it. This visually stunning guide to the best permanent public art in all five boroughs covers everything from outdoor sculpture in public plazas to murals and works of art in lobbies accessible to the public, to outstanding landscapes, and even a few examples of artistic sidewalks and creative lighting. Municipal Art Society President Kent Barwick calls it "an invitation to hit the streets." In this event Ms. Phifer will both introduce significant works of public art and share her enthusiasm for the subject and insights on creating a definitive guide.



Architect **Jean Parker Phifer** specializes in planning, renovation, and sustainable design projects for cultural institutions and has designed or restored over fifty distinguished buildings, public spaces, and landscapes, primarily in

New York. She was president of the Art Commission of the City of New from 1998 to 2003. Ms Phifer is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and teaches Environmental Design at New York University.

## Lynne Sharon Schwartz Not Now, Voyager: A Memoir Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.; Temple Israel, free of charge

Ever since the explorations of Marco Polo and the travels of Montaigne, a lively dialogue has persisted about the pros and cons of travel—its excitement and novelties, its perils and misadventures. Lynne Sharon Schwartz joins this dialogue with a memoir that raises both serious and amusing questions about travel, using her own experiences as vivid illustrations.



Not Now, Voyager takes the reader on a voyage of self-discovery as the author traces how travel has shaped her sensibilities from childhood through adulthood. In the form of memoir, Schwartz's personal history takes on new shapes, and her feelings about travel change as she shows who she started out as and who she has become. Above all, this memoir exemplifies a mode of travel in and of itself: the mind on a journey or quest, pausing here and there, sometimes by design, sometimes by serendipity, lingering, occasionally backtracking, but always on the move.

**Lynne Sharon Schwartz** has published critically acclaimed fiction including *Disturbances in the Field* and *The Writing on the Wall*, nonfiction, essays, poetry, and translations from Italian. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Foundation for the Arts. She is presently on the faculty of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

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.

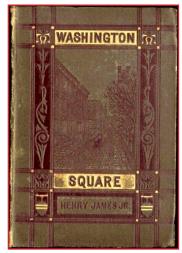
## THE BIG READ 2009: WASHINGTON SQUARE In cooperation with the Mercantile Library Center for Fiction

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. The



program is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.

This year's Big Read book is *Washington Square* by Henry James. The story focuses on heiress Catherine Sloper, whose domineering father thwarts her attempts at love and happiness with cad-about-town Morris Townsend. Critic Donald Hall proclaimed, "everybody likes *Washington Square*, even the denigrators of Henry James."



Through such events around the city as reading groups, lectures, walking tours, performances of *The Heiress*, and screenings of movies based on the works of Henry James, the Merc hopes to build a new audience for this emotionally subtle, yet universal novel.

## JAMES KRAFT

A CONVERSATION ON WASHINGTON SQUARE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM \$10 IN ADVANCE/\$15 AT THE DOOR

In this event, Professor Kraft will share context and critical thought on Henry James' *Washington Square* while guiding participants in an exchange of information and opinions.

James Kraft has taught at the University of Virginia, Université Laval, and Wesleyan University. He has written a critical study of the early tales of Henry James, written a biography and edited a five-volume edition of the work of the poet Witter Bynner, and published many articles on American and Cana-



dian literature. He is a frequent discussion leader for the Mercantile Library.

#### METROPOLITAN PLAYHOUSE

THE HEIRESS

A PLAY BY RUTH AND AUGUSTUS GOETZ DIRECTED BY ALEX ROE

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM \$20 IN ADVANCE/\$25 AT THE DOOR

This innovative theater company will perform a full-cast, creatively staged production of the play, which has had two successful Broadway runs following its premiere in 1947 and was also made into a classic 1949 film. The Goetzes adapted his story from *Washington Square*.



Christy McIntosh and Jeff Pucillo in The Truth, 2007

Founded in 1993, **Metropolitan Play-house** explores America's theatrical heritage

to illuminate contemporary American culture. The Playhouse produces early American plays, new plays drawn from American culture and history, and plays from around the world that resonate with the American canon. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Alex Roe since 2001, the company has grown into an institution recognized for both artistic excellence and cultural significance.

## Special Series: The Writing Life

The Library is pleased to continue the new series of daytime talks by and for writers. The second Tuesday of each month features a lively discussion with different speakers about the writing life. All members are welcome; there is no fee but registration is required due to space constraints. Sessions take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes. For more information, contact Carolyn Waters at 212-288-6900 x244 or cwaters@nysoclib.org.

## Panel: The Market for Literary Magazines

Tuesday, March 10, 10:00 a.m.

A distinguished panel discusses the state of the literary magazine market and how the Internet is changing the landscape of independent press publishing.

Rob Casper is the Programs Director at the Poetry Society of America,

publisher of the poetry journal *jubilat*, and co-founder of the *jubilat* reading series.

**Karen Gisonny** is the Helen B. Bernstein Librarian for Periodicals and Journals at the New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Library and the host of the reading series Periodically Speaking: Literary Magazine Editors Introduce Emerging Writers.

Library member **Ed Park** is the founding editor of the literary magazine *The Believer* and the author of the novel *Personal Days*, published by Random House in 2008.

## PANEL: MARKETING AND PUBLICITY TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 10:00 A.M.

A panel of veteran authors and publishing insiders lead a discussion on the new realities of book marketing and publicity today and share practical advice on what authors can and need to do for themselves.

## POETRY AND THE BLENDING OF VOICES TUESDAY, MAY 12, 10:00 A.M.

Poet Brian Bartlett reads from his most recent collection, *The Watchmaker's Table*, and talks about his experiments blending his voice with those of others in glosas, haiku sequences, sonnets about teaching, and found poems. He supplements his reading and commentary with a display of source books and documents for the found poems and recorded fragments of guitar music improvised for the haiku.

**Brian Bartlett** is the author of five collections and four chapbooks of poems, including *Wanting the Day: Selected Poems* (2003). He is the recipient of the 2004 Atlantic Poetry Prize. Since 1990, he has taught creative writing and literature at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

## TECHNOLOGY 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/.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9

10:00 A.M.—Basic Backup, taught by Ingrid Richter 2:00 P.M.—Digital Images, taught by Ingrid Richter

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

10:00 A.M.—Google Docs, taught by Carolyn Waters 2:00 р.м.—New York Library Databases, taught by Patrick Rayner

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

**10:00 A.M.**—Introduction to Blogging, taught by Matthew Haugen **2:00 P.M.**—Buying and Selling on eBay

#### Tuesday, May 5

**10:00** A.M.—Introduction to MS Excel 2003, taught by Carolyn Waters **2:00** P.M.—Introduction to MS PowerPoint, taught by Matthew Haugen

## MULTI-SESSION EVENT

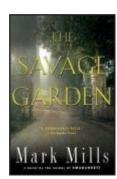
Copies of all books for discussion are available for purchase from the Library. Information about purchasing books will be sent to registrants.

## B.J. RAHN

OUT OF THE PAST: MYSTERY AND CRIME NOVELS TUESDAYS, APRIL 7, APRIL 23, AND MAY 19
WHITRIDGE ROOM, 11:00 A.M.; FREE OF CHARGE

Crime and mystery critic B.J. Rahn examines three popular novels in which past villainy haunts and incites present-day crimes.

**Dr. B. J. Rahn** teaches English literature at Hunter College. She has been teaching, researching, and writing about crime fiction for over two decades, and she leads detective walking tours in the U.K. and U.S. Her articles appear in many journals and reference books, including *The Armchair Detective, The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, and The Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing.



### Books for Discussion:

April 7: *The Savage Garden* by Mark Mills April 23: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* 

by Stieg Larsson

May 19: will be selected by participants

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

To reserve spaces, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or 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.

## Lola Rein Kaufman with Lois Metzger

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 everything 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

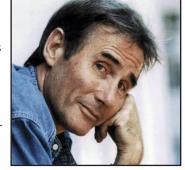


be adopted by an uncle and move to the United States, one of the few survivors of her town. With author Lois Metzger, she tells her powerful story in the book *The Hidden Girl*. In this Holocaust Remembrance Day event, Ms. Kaufman and Ms. Metzger will speak about the Holocaust experience and the process of transforming memory into writing.

## JIM DALE

THE SHOE BIRD
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 5:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM
FOR FIRST GRADE AND OLDER AND ADULTS
\$5 PER PERSON

In *The Shoe Bird* Grammy-award-winning performer and Guinness World Records holder Jim Dale brings to life a flock of unforgettable bird characters—Arturo the parrot, Gloria the goose, Minerva the owl, even the extinct Dodo. This is Eudora Welty's fantastical story of how some feathered friends made a fateful switch from flying to wearing



shoes, little knowing that they would soon become the prey of Freddy the Cat. With music by Samuel Jones for full symphony orchestra and children's choirs, *The Shoe Bird* appeals to both children and adults, like the classic *Peter and the Wolf.* 

Jim Dale's audiobook renditions of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series garnered multiple Grammy awards, and he has gone on to make acclaimed recordings of a variety of new and classic books. Called "the toast of Broadway" by the *New York Times* for his Tony Award-winning

role in the musical *Barnum*, Dale is also active as an actor, comedian, singer, and songwriter. We are pleased to welcome him back for his third appearance at the Library.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS COMPETITION OPEN JANUARY 12-APRIL 6
CEREMONY AND RECEPTION THURSDAY, MAY 14, 6:00 p.m., Members' Room

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by children and grandchildren of Library members, and students at member and invited schools. Writers in grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit a short story, essay, or poem on a theme of their choice. Competition rules are available at the circulation desk or on the web at <a href="https://www.nysoclib.org/kids/young\_writers.html">www.nysoclib.org/kids/young\_writers.html</a>.

The young writers will be honored at a ceremony and reception on May 14, where awards will be given by author judges Robert Quackenbush, Dave Johnson, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk. Library members and their guests are welcome to attend.

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Writing Life (separate sessions—see full list inside)

March 10, April 14, May 12, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

D. Graham Burnett: Trying Leviathan

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

Bakerloo Theater Company: Anton Chekhov's The Three Sisters

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

**Exhibition Opening:** *The President's Wife and the Librarian* Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m., Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery

**B.J. Rahn: Out of the Past: Mystery and Crime Novels** Tuesdays, April 7, April 23, and May 19, 11:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

**Technology Workshops (separate sessions—see full list inside)** April 9, April 22, April 30, and May 5, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Lola Rein Kaufman with Lois Metzger on *The Hidden Girl* Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 p.m., Members' Room

The Big Read: James Kraft: A Conversation on Washington Square Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

The Big Read: Metropolitan Playhouse: The Heiress

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m., Members' Room

Jim Dale: The Shoe Bird

Wednesday, April 29, 4:30 p.m., Members' Room

Sylvia Jukes Morris: Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a First Lady

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

The New York City Book Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 p.m., Members' Room

**Jean Parker Phifer:** *Public Art New York* Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m., Members Room

**Lynne Sharon Schwartz:** *Not Now, Voyager* Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m., Temple Israel

The Young Writers Awards Ceremony Thursday, May 14, 6:00 p.m., Members' Room

#### EVENTS REGISTRATION

For **Children's** Events: please contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or *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.

**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.

Questions? Please contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230

or events@nysoclib.org.

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Primary Registrant (please print)		
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# of Si	PACES EVENT	
	Writing Life: The Market for Literary Magazines, March 10 (free)	
	D. Graham Burnett: Trying Leviathan (\$10)	
	Anton Chekhov's The Three Sisters, March 26 (\$20)	
	Exhibition Opening Reception, April 2 (free)	
	B.J. Rahn, Mystery and Crime Novels, 3 Sessions (free)	
	Workshop: Basic Backup, April 9 (free)	
	Workshop: Digital Images, April 9 (free)	
	Writing Life: Marketing and Publicity, April 14 (free)	
	Workshop: Google Docs, April 22 (free)	
	Workshop: New York Library Databases, April 22 (free)	
	Big Read: Conversation on Washington Square, April 22 (\$10)	
	Big Read: The Heiress, April 25 (\$20)	
	Workshop: Introduction to Blogging, April 30 (free)	
	Workshop: Buying and Selling on eBay, April 30 (free)	
	Sylvia Jukes Morris, Edith Kermit Roosevelt, April 30 (\$10)	
	Workshop: Introduction to MS Excel 2003, May 5 (free)	
	Workshop: Introduction to MS PowerPoint, May 5 (free)	
	The New York City Book Awards Ceremony, May 6 (free)	
	Writing Life: Poetry and the Blending of Voices, May 12 (free)	
	Jean Parker Phifer, Public Art New York, May 12 (\$10)	
	Lynne Sharon Schwartz, Not Now, Voyager, May 13 (free)	
	The Young Writers Awards Ceremony, May 14 (free)	
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 $Or\ register\ online\ at\ www.nysoclib.org/event\_registration.html$