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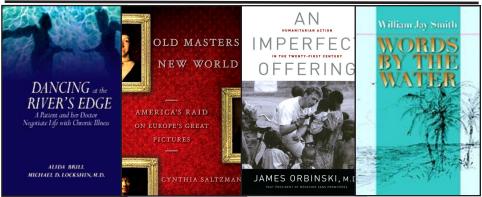
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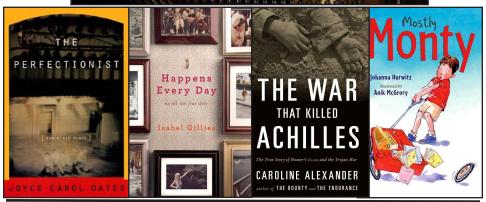


## EVENTS

September-October 2009







#### SPECIAL INVITATIONS

# EXCURSION SAGAMORE HILL, THE ROOSEVELT HOME FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING IN THE LIBRARY LOBBY AT 10:00 A.M. RETURNING TO THE LIBRARY AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 P.M. \$75 PER PERSON



Sagamore Hill was the home of Theodore Roosevelt and his family from 1885 until Edith Roosevelt's death in 1948. During Roosevelt's time in office, his "Summer White House" was the focus of international attention. It is now a national historic site and museum.

Library members are invited to visit this beautiful and influential place in the company of Harriet Shapiro, curator of *The President's Wife and the Librarian*, currently in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery. The private guided tour will cover twenty-three rooms of the house and the Roosevelt Museum and Old Orchard, which tells the story of the Roosevelt family through exhibits and films and recreates Sagamore life of a century ago. The tour will last approximately two hours and will be preceded by lunch at historic Milleridge Inn, built in 1672. More information on Sagamore Hill can be found at *www.nps.gov/sahi/*.

The fee covers transportation, entrance to Sagamore Hill, and the prix fixe lunch. Space is limited for this special excursion.

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

### BILL CONNINGTON AND RAZORS EDGE PRODUCTIONS PLAYS BY JOYCE CAROL OATES

Tuesdays, October 6, October 13, and October 20 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

\$40 FOR ALL THREE SESSIONS (RECOMMENDED); \$15 PER SESSION

Joyce Carol Oates has written some of the most enduring fiction of our time, including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaneys* and *Blonde* (a finalist for the National Book Award), and the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Falls* (winner of the 2005 Prix Femina) and *The Gravedigger's Daughter.* She has received a PEN/Malamud Award for Achievement in the Short Story, the National Book Award, and the Common Wealth Award for Distinguished Service in Literature. A nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, she has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.



Although most famous for her fiction, Oates is also a prolific and widely produced writer of drama, with past productions by the Actors Studio in Stockholm, ACT Theatre, in Seattle, the Edinburg Festival, L.A. Theatre Works, Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York, the Long Wharf in New Haven, and the McCarter Theater in Princeton, among others. She was co-winner of the Heideman Award for a work produced at the Actors Theatre of Louisbille, and nominated for an American Theatre Critics Award.



In this event, acclaimed actor/playwright Bill

Connington and a cast of Broadway and Off-Broadway actors will bring to life some of Oates' short plays, including *Homesick*, *The Adoption*, *Poor Bibi*, and *No Next of Kin*. Each text displays the combination of psychological insight, sense of America, and love of language that have made Oates' books modern classics.

**Bill Connington** was the creator and star of the extended-run, critically lauded show *Zombie*, adapted from a novella by Joyce Carol Oates and directed by Thomas Caruso. As an actor he has performed in New York and regional theater, independent film, and television. His recent plays include *The Eternal Anniversary*, which appeared at 59 East 59 Theater, *Walker*, *The Perfect Lady*, *Dating Rituals of the American Male*, and *Lord Byron's Lover*. He is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

These evenings are generously supported by the Estate of Marian O. Naumburg.

#### SINGLE-SESSION EVENTS

ALIDA BRILL AND DR. MICHAEL D. LOCKSHIN DANCING AT THE RIVER'S EDGE: A PATIENT AND HER DOCTOR NEGOTIATE LIFE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM \$10 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/\$15 AT THE DOOR

Alida Brill has suffered from a rare and chronic autoimmune illness since childhood. For more than twenty-five years, one spot of brightness in her situation has been her medical relationship with her doctor, Michael D. Lockshin. Their dual memoir traces the growth of their unique friendship over a span of decades. By exploring the bond between caregiver and sufferer, this sensitive account evokes not only the constant day to day frustrations and emotional toll suffered by the chronically ill, but also an understanding of the mental struggles and conflicts that a conscientious doctor must face in deciding how best to treat a patient without compromising personal freedoms. StoryCorps Executive Director Dave Isay calls it "a poetic, powerful and groundbreaking work that illuminates the resilience and strength of the human spirit."

**Alida Brill** is a sociologist, an essayist, and the author of several nonfiction books, including *Dimensions of Tolerance, Nobody's Business*, and *A Rising Public Voice*.

**Michael D. Lockshin, M.D.** is one of America's preeminent experts in the long-term care of chroni-

cally ill patients. He is the director of the Barbara Volcker Center for Women and Rheumatic Disease at the Hospital for Special Surgery and a professor of medicine and obstetrics-gynecology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York. He is the author of *Guarded Prognosis* and *The Hospital for Special Surgery Rheumatoid Arthritis Handbook*.



Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room \$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door





In 1870 a group of wealthy and culturally ambitious New Yorkers founded the Metropolitan Museum of Art in a Manhattan brownstone with a lackluster collection and not a single major work of art. Soon, America's new industrial tycoons began to compete for Europe's extraordinary Old Master pictures, laying claim to works by Vermeer, Titian, Rembrandt, and others, and causing a major migration of art across the Atlantic. Cynthia Saltzman recounts the fierce competition to acquire some of the greatest paintings in the world and the boom in the market. She will focus on Henry Clay Erick



in the market. She will focus on Henry Clay Frick, the Pittsburgh steel tycoon, who gave New York his great collection, and will explain how the collector acquired some of his most important pictures.

**Cynthia Saltzman** holds degrees in art history from Harvard and Berkeley and an MBA from Stanford. She is a former reporter for Forbes and The Wall Street Journal and author of *The Portrait of Dr. Gachet*.

#### Dr. James Orbinski

AN IMPERFECT OFFERING:

HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7:00 P.M.
MERKIN CONCERT HALL AT KAUFMAN CENTER
129 WEST 67TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023
WWW.MERKINCONCERTHALL.ORG

An Imperfect Offering is a searing personal memoir that is also an urgent

call to confront suffering in all its many forms, from one of the greatest living humanitarian activists.

Having seen things we hope never to see, confronted evil we hope never to encounter, and faced deep personal torment, James Orbinski still believes in "the good we can be if we so choose." His chosen medium for revealing this is stories from his own experience—a doctor's indelible testimony from the front lines in Peru, Somalia, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Zaire—embodied in which are warnings, hope, and lessons in how we can inject humanitarian activity into our lives. Be-



ing political, he has discovered, is not only reserved for politicians; admitting imperfection is essential to compassion. With an eye for detail like that of the finest journalist and the empathy of the most committed doctor, Orbinski's powerful voice is matched by the urgency of his message.

James Orbinski is past international president of *Médecins Sans Frontières*/Doctors Without Borders, and accepted the Nobel Peace Prize for MSF in 1999. Prior to joining MSF, he was a medical researcher in Rwanda in the late 1980s, and a family doctor in small town Canada. With MSF, he worked in Peru, in Somalia during its famine and civil war, in Afghanistan during its civil war, in Rwanda through the genocide and in Zaire during the slaughter that followed. In 1999, he helped launch MSF's Access to Essential Medicines Campaign, and he has spoken on behalf of MSF before the United Nations Security Council, the leaders of the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commission for Relief, the World Bank, and at the White House and before government ministers and heads of state the world over. When his term as president of MSF ended in 2001, he worked as chair of MSF's Neglected Diseases Working Group. In 2004, he left MSF to found Dignitas International, an organization committed to community-based care for people living with HIV/AIDS in the developing world.

This event is part of the 2009-2010 Author Series, co-sponsored by the Library and WNET/Thirteen New York.

#### WILLIAM JAY SMITH

Words by the Water and Dancing in the Garden Reading and Refreshments

Wednesday, September 30, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room \$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door

William Jay Smith has been one of the most respected figures on the

literary scene for more than half a century. Two of his thirteen poetry collections were finalists for the National Book Award. In celebration of his 91st birthday, he will read from those collections and newer work, and discuss Dancing in the Garden: A Memoir of His Study in France on the Eve of World War II. Jeffrey Meyers writes in New Criterion, "Few poets go on writing well into old age, but the Louisiana-born William Jay Smith is one of them. Still going strong, his poetry, marked by great technical skill, is witty and satiric, poignant and humane...Smith's poetry offers sensuous pleasure and intellectual delight."



**William Jay Smith** served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (the position now called Poet Laureate) from 1968 to 1970. His many volumes of poetry include *The World Below the Window* and *The Traveler's Tree*. He is also the author of several critical works and books for children.

## ISABEL GILLIES HAPPENS EVERY DAY: AN ALL-TOO-TRUE STORY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room \$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door

When Isabel Gillies' husband took a teaching job at a Midwestern college, Isabel and their sons moved with him from New York City to Ohio, where Isabel taught acting, threw herself into the college community, and

delighted in the less-scheduled lives of toddlers raised away from the city. But within a few months, the marriage was over. The life Isabel had made crumbled. "Happens every day," said a friend.

Far from a self-pitying diatribe, *Happens Every Day* reads like an intimate conversation between friends. On the one hand, reading the book is like watching a train wreck. On the other, as Gillies herself says, it is about trying to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness. "By turns enlightening, funny, gut-wrenching, this is a great read about one of the great truths in life: you can't control what happens to you, you can only control how you react," says *Library Journal*. "Highly recommended."



**Isabel Gillies,** known for her television role as Detective Stabler's wife on *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* and for her cinematic debut in the film *Metropolitan*, graduated from New York University with a BFA in film. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Happens Every Day* is her first book.

# CAROLINE ALEXANDER THE WAR THAT KILLED ACHILLES: THE TRUE STORY OF HOMER'S ILIAD AND THE TROJAN WAR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 7:00 p.m., Temple ISRAEL \$10 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/\$15 AT THE DOOR

The story of the Trojan War is immortalized in Homer's epic of epic poems, the *Iliad*, and brought to new life in Caroline Alexander's *The War That Killed Achilles*. Beyond the trial of Paris, the battle over Helen of Troy,

and the incessant intervention of the gods lies a sincere tale of war. While Homer touches on only a few weeks of what is said to have taken ten years, Alexander brings to light the forgotten message behind the poem: the misery of war and the sacrifice and courage of its soldiers. Through the hero Achilles, the *Iliad* draws on the true nature of what it means to be a soldier, to fight a bloody conflict whose hallmarks are not honor and glory so much as deception, betrayal, petulance, pride, violence, and the inescapability of fate. *The War That Killed Achilles* is a poignant dissection of the epic poem relevant to all wars, past and present.



Caroline Alexander is the author of the international bestsellers *The Endurance* and *The Bounty*, and four other nonfiction books. She has written for *The New Yorker, Granta, Smithsonian, Outside*, and *National Geographic*. She is also the writer and co-producer of the award-winning documentary *The Endurance*. Alexander studied philosophy and theology at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar and has a doctorate in classics from Columbia University.

This Author Series event is co-sponsored by the Library and WNET/Thirteen. Temple Israel is located at 112 East 75th Street, just east of Park Avenue.

#### Multi-Session Events

#### CAROL RIAL

#### **PASSING**

Wednesdays, September 23, October 21, and November 28 Whitridge Room, 11:00 a.m.

\$40 FOR ALL THREE SESSIONS (recommended); \$15 PER SESSION

The popular writer, educator, and reading group leader returns with three very different books focused on a person who "passes" in a category not assigned to them at birth.

#### Books for Discussion:

September 23: The Human Stain

by Philip Roth

October 21: Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of

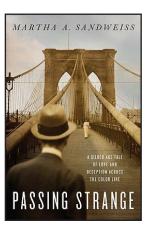
Love and Deception Across the Color Line

by Martha A. Sandweiss

November 28: Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey Into Manhood and Back Again by Norah

Vincent

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



#### DONALD McDonough

#### BEOWULF AND GAWAIN MEET ALYS:

OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH CLASSICS

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 1, NOVEMBER 5, AND DECEMBER 3 WHITRIDGE ROOM, 11:00 A.M.

\$40 FOR ALL THREE SESSIONS (recommended); \$15 PER SESSION

Professor McDonough's hugely popular groups on the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, and the *Aeneid* breathed life into these classics. Back by member demand, he moves forward in history with three major works of the medieval world, in powerful contemporary translation.

Professor Emeritus of English at Central Connecticut State University, **Donald McDonough** is an acclaimed authority on the works of John Milton as well as other areas of literature.

#### Books for Discussion:

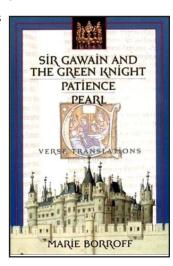
October 1: *Beowulf,* translated by Seamus Heaney

November 5: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,

translated by Marie Borroff

December 3: *The Canterbury Tales* (selections) by Geoffrey Chaucer, translated by Nevill Coghill

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



#### THE WRITING LIFE: DAYTIME SESSIONS

The Writing Life is a monthly series of daytime talks of interest to member-writers of the New York Society Library. All members are welcome; there is no fee, but registration is required. Sessions take place on the second Tuesday of the month in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes. To register for any of the following talks, please return the enclosed form or contact Carolyn Waters at writers@n



enclosed form or contact Carolyn Waters at *writers@nysoclib.org* or 212-288-6900 x244.

#### The Changing Face of the News

Tuesday, October 13, 10:00 a.m.

There's no question that the internet has had an overwhelming impact on the way the news is reported. Is the age of print journalism over? What's next in news coverage? A panel of distinguished journalists and news professionals will talk about where the industry is headed and how they and their organizations have adapted to the new paradigm in news coverage.

#### DEALING WITH PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHT

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

When does a writer need copyright permission? How does one go about finding copyright holders? What are the legal ramifications of copyright protections? This discussion will illuminate anyone looking to use someone else's text, photographs, or art in their work.

#### THE WRITING LIFE: OPEN MIC NIGHT

READINGS AND REFRESHMENTS

Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m., Members' Room \$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door

This evening will give writers a chance to read material in progress or newly published work in an informal, encouraging atmosphere and in the Library's beautiful reading/event space. Writers will have a chance to connect with each other and receive feedback on their work.



This event is open to all members, both readers and listeners. To register either to read or to attend,

please return the enclosed form or contact Carolyn Waters at writers@nysoclib.org or 212–288–6900 x244.

#### 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/.

#### THE LIBRARY CATALOG: NEW FEATURES

**Thursday, October 22, 10:00** A.M. taught by Ingrid Richter For computer users

Learn how to create lists, save searches, register for programs and keep track of the books you've checked out through the library catalog.

#### Introduction to the Macintosh

**Thursday, October 22, 2:00 P.M.** taught by Matthew Haugen For current and prospective beginner Mac users

This course will provide an overview of Apple Macintosh computers and software and demonstrate basic features and tips for the Mac operating system, such as using the mouse and keyboard, navigating the desktop and personal files, opening and using software applications, and customizing your computer.

Google docs

#### GOOGLE DOCS

**Wednesday, October 28, 10:00 A.M.** taught by Carolyn Waters For Internet users

Google Docs include word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and forms. In this new class, learn how to create, edit, and share documents online using the free Google Documents tool.

#### INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD

Wednesday, October 28, 2:00 p.m. taught by Derek Stadler For computer users with little or no MS Word experience This class covers creating, editing and formatting, saving and renaming Word documents, along with spelling and grammar checks and printing. Focus will be largely on Word versions 2003 and earlier, with some attention to Word 2007.

#### GOOGLE BOOKS

Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 A.M.

taught by Ingrid Richter

For Internet users

Learn how to search, retrieve and print from Google Books. The class will focus on full-text books and periodicals.



#### MEET THE KINDLE

Tuesday, November 3, 2:00 P.M.

taught by Sara Holliday

For Internet users

In response to interest from many members, this class will introduce the Amazon Kindle's basic functions, utility, and place in the new world of electronic books.

#### RESEARCHING ON THE INTERNET

**Thursday, November 12, 2:00 P.M.** taught by Carolyn Waters For Internet users

This class will help searchers go beyond Google with meta-search engines and subject directories, including tips for refining search results with a clear searching strategy, constructing unambiguous searches in Google and other search engines, and evaluating search results to identify the most authoritative sites.

MOBILE INTERNET: THE INTERNET ON YOUR PHONE

**Thursday, November 12, 10:00** A.M. taught by Ingrid Richter For current and prospective web-enabled phone users From a regular telephone to the iPhone, learn how to search the Internet from your phone.

#### 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.

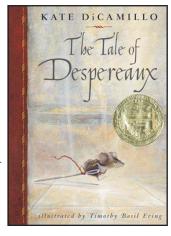
#### FAMILY BOOK DISCUSSION

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: BEING THE STORY OF A MOUSE, A PRINCESS, SOME SOUP, AND A SPOOL OF THREAD BY KATE DICAMILLO

Wednesday, October 28, 5:30 p.m., Whitridge Room

free of charge; for grades 3 and older

Despereaux Tilling is a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea.



Roscuro is a rat who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. Miggery Sow is a serving girl who harbors a single, impossible wish. These three characters embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittery castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.

Parents and their children in grades 3 and older are invited to join Children's Library staff for a discussion of this award-winning tale and its quirky, unforgettable characters.

#### **AUTHOR EVENT**

### JOHANNA HURWITZ NEW YORK STORIES

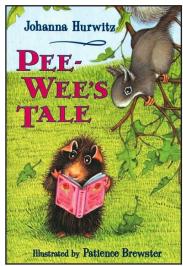
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 5:00 p.m., MEMBERS' ROOM \$5 PER PERSON, AT THE DOOR

Johanna Hurwitz is one of the most popular children's authors in the country, and her books are especially appreciated in New York City, where she lived and worked as a librarian for many years. Her stories of Central

Park in the *Park Pals Adventures*, and city life in *Riverside Kids* show a true New York spirit. "At a very young age I began making up stories and writing them down," she says. "Being an author was my dream since childhood... having achieved it, it feels great." In this visit, Ms. Hurwitz will read from some of her books and talk about how she creates them.

Johanna Hurwitz went from a thirty-year career as a children's librarian to write more than sixty popular children's books including *Pee Wee's Tale, Busybody Nora, Russell and Elisa*, and *The Hot and Cold Summer.* She has won many literary awards chosen by children and travels extensively, inspiring young people to read and to write.





#### COMING UP IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

These events and more will be fully announced in the next issue of this newsletter. Registration is open for them now.

**James Kraft:** *The Wings of the Dove* and Other Henry James Stories Wednesdays, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, 11:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

Robert B. Strassler: *The Landmark Herodotus* and *The Landmark Xenophon* Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

**Affinity Collaborative Theater:** W.H. Auden's *For the Time Being* Sunday, December 6 and Monday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., Members' Room

**Karen Eterovich:** *Cheer from Chawton: A Jane Austen Family Theatrical* Saturday, December 12, 2:00 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.

The Library is currently upgrading to a new, user-friendly online registration system. Information on registering online will be published on the website and in the November/December *Events* newsletter.

**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.

TIME TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Spaces Ev	ENT
Brill/Lockshin: Dancing At	the River's Edge, September 17 (\$10)
Cynthia Saltzman: Old Mas	sters, New World, September 22 (\$10)
Carol Rial on "Passing," sta	rting September 23 (\$40)
James Orbinski: An Imperfe	ect Offering, September 24 (\$10)
Sagamore Hill Excursion, S	September 25 (\$75)
William Jay Smith: "Words	by the Water," September 30 (\$10)
Donald McDonough on C	old/Middle English Classics, 3 sessions (\$4
Bill Connington, Joyce Car	col Oates plays, starting October 6 (\$40)
The Writing Life: The Ch	anging Face of the News, October 13 (fre
Isabel Gillies, Happens Ever	y Day, October 15 (\$10)
Workshop: Library Catalog	g New Features, October 22 (free)
Workshop: Introduction to	o the Macintosh, October 22 (free)
The Writing Life: Open M	ic Night, October 27 (\$10)
Workshop: Google Docs,	October 28 (free)
Workshop: Introduction to	o Microsoft Word, October 28 (free)
Caroline Alexander: The W	ar That Killed Achilles, October 29 (\$10)
Workshop: Google Books,	November 3 (free)
Workshop: Meet the Kind	le, Novmeber 3 (free)
The Writing Life: Permissi	ons and Copyright, November 10 (free)
James Kraft: The Wings of t	he Dove etc., starting November 11 (\$40)
Robert B. Strassler: Herod	otus/Xenophon, November 11 (\$10)
Workshop: Researching or	n the Internet, November 12 (free)
Workshop: Mobile Interne	et, November 12 (free)
Affinity Collaborative Thea	ter: For the Time Being, December 6 (\$20)
Affinity Collaborative Thea	ter: For the Time Being, December 7 (\$20)
Karen Eterovich: Cheer from	n Chawton, December 12 (\$20)

TOTAL FEES	Снеск	CREDIT CARD:
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