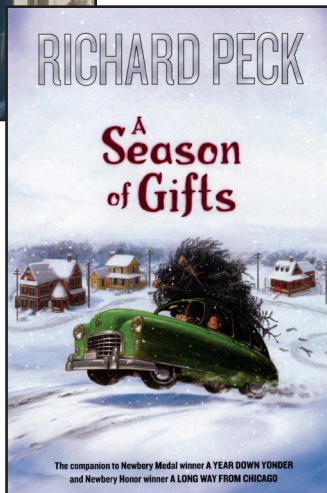
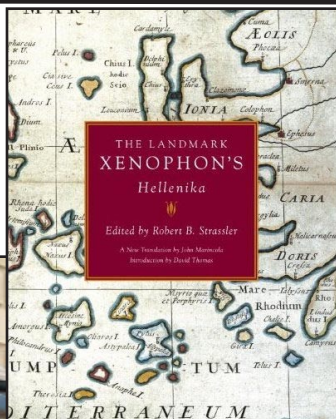


NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2009



MORE CONTACT WITH THE LIBRARY

NEW ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

In October, the Library initiated a monthly electronic newsletter available to anyone with an e-mail address. This newsletter offers news, updates, book recommendations, and occasional features. It is not intended to replace either of our print newsletters, and all major news and events will be announced in both places.

We encourage anyone who uses e-mail to be added to our recipient list. We will keep your address private, as we do all membership information, and you can opt out at any time directly from a message.

If you did not receive the October newsletter but would like future ones, give your e-mail address at the circulation desk, or send a message to events@nysoclib.org.

SINGLE-SESSION EVENTS

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY OPERA

PRIMA LE PAROLE (FIRST THE WORDS)

READINGS OF NEW LIBRETTI

BY TERRY QUINN AND DR. CAROL GILLIGAN

BASED ON THE WORKS OF NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

WITH COMMENTS BY BRENDA WINEAPPLE

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM

\$10 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/

\$15 AT THE DOOR

The Center for Contemporary Opera presents the "Prima le Parole" series to give lovers of opera and literature a first glimpse of exciting new works, and their writers a first hearing of their text. This 90-minute presentation offers non-musical readings from new opera libretti by noted playwright Terry Quinn and by well-known feminist, ethicist, and psychologist Dr. Carol Gilligan. Each libretto is based on a work by Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Brenda Wineapple, author of *Hawthorne: A Life*, will



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

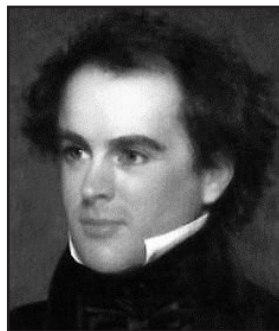
provide context and commentary. Light refreshments will be served.

The Center for Contemporary Opera is a performing arts organization devoted to the development and production of new opera and music theater works and, working with a community of artists and a committed public, to the development and encouragement of a new operatic and music-theater culture in this country. Now in its 27th season, it has presented forty-seven operas and music-theater works in complete productions, workshops, or readings, including thirteen premieres. More information on the Center is available at www.centerforcontemporaryopera.org.

Terry Quinn's plays include *Dear Bunny*, *Dear Volodya: The Friendship and the Feud*. His fiction, biography, and poetry have been published on four continents by Little, Brown, St. Martin's Press, Allen & Unwin, and *The Paris Review*, among others. His dramas and comedies have been produced in London, Cambridge, Paris, Bordeaux, Amsterdam, Berlin, Frankfurt, Vienna and Moscow, as well as on Off Broadway, in regional theaters throughout America and on National Public Radio. As an opera and art song librettist, Mr. Quinn has had world premiere performances at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and at the 92nd Street Y's Kaufmann Concert Hall in New York City. He has also composed the score and written the book and lyrics for three music theater works produced in New York, Savannah and Washington, D.C.

Carol Gilligan's landmark book *In A Different Voice* (1982) is described by Harvard University Press as "the little book that started a revolution." Dr. Gilligan initiated the Harvard Project on Women's Psychology and Girls' Development and co-authored or edited 5 books with her students, including *Meeting at the Crossroads: Women's Psychology and Girls' Development*, a 1992 *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Her 2002 book *The Birth of Pleasure* was hailed by the *Times Literary Supplement* as "a thrilling new paradigm," and her first novel, *Kyra*, was published by Random House in 2008. Her play *The Scarlet Letter*, coauthored with Jonathan Gilligan, was presented as part of the 2007 WomenCenterStage festival in New York City.

Dr. Gilligan was a member of the Harvard faculty for over 30 years and in 1997 became Harvard's first professor of Gender Studies. She has received many awards and fellowships and was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the



25 most influential Americans.

Brenda Wineapple's books include *White Heat: The Friendship of Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson*, *Hawthorne: A Life* (winner of the Ambassador Award of the English-Speaking Union for Best Biography of 2003 and the Julia Howe Award of the Boston Book Club), as well as *Sister Brother: Gertrude and Leo Stein* and *Genêt: A Biography of Janet Flanner*. Her essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in many publications, among them *The American Scholar*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Parnassus*, *Poetry*, and *The Nation*. A Guggenheim fellow, a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, and twice a fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, she teaches at Columbia University and The New School.

This event is generously supported by the Estate of Marian O. Naumburg.

ROBERT B. STRASSLER

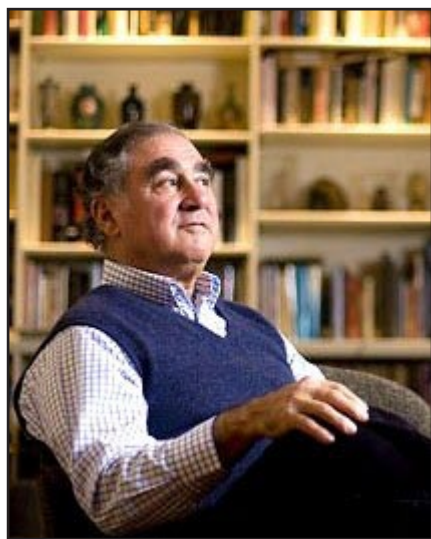
THE LANDMARK HERODOTUS

AND *THE LANDMARK XENOPHON*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

\$10 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/\$15 AT THE DOOR

The Landmark editions of Thucydides and Herodotus have become the new standard for elegant and accessible editions of classical works. To this monumental work, editor Robert B. Strassler now adds Xenophon's *Hellenika*, the major primary source for the events of the final seven years and aftermath of the Peloponnesian War, completing an ancient narrative of the military and political history of classical Greece. In this event, Mr. Strassler will introduce both Herodotus and Xenophon and show their pleasure for the reader, as well as their importance to the study of the ancient world.



Cicero called Herodotus "the father of history," and his only work, *The Histories*, is considered the first true piece of historical writing in Western literature. With lucid prose, Herodotus's account of the rise of the Persian Empire and its dramatic war with the Greek city states set a standard for narrative nonfiction that continues to this day.

Hellenika covers the years between 411 and 362 B.C.E., a particularly

dramatic period during which the alliances among Athens, Sparta, Thebes, and Persia were in constant flux.

Robert B. Strassler is an unaffiliated scholar who holds an honorary Doctorate of Humanities and Letters from Bard College and is chairman of the Aston Magna Foundation for Music and the Humanities.

AFFINITY COLLABORATIVE THEATER

W.H. AUDEN'S

FOR THE TIME BEING: A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

produced by Sheila Schwartz, Diane Morrison, and John Dias

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:00 P.M. (*two separate performances*)

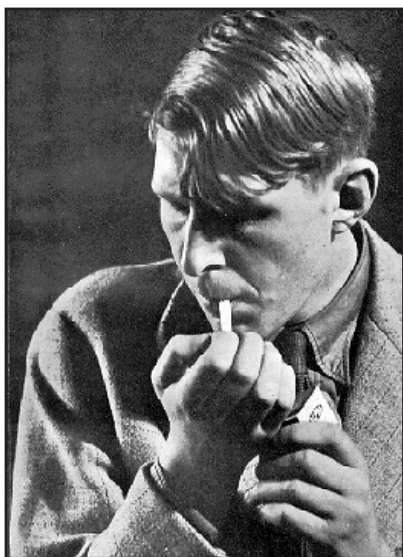
MEMBERS' ROOM; \$20 PER PERSON

Affinity Collaborative Theater return for the second year with their moving and popular production.

Written in 1942, when the world was at war, Auden's *Oratorio* is a parable merging the Biblical and the contemporary with a result that is simultaneously audacious and poetic. Auden points the audience toward seeing present-day attitudes, desires, and failings in the Nativity, to see themselves as both the Wise Men and King Herod. This concert-style dramatic reading is directed by Michael Cumpsty, star of the Tony Award-winning *Copenhagen*, and narrated by Maria Tucci, with a cast of exceptional classically trained actors. ACT presented *For the Time Being* to sold-out audiences in 2007; Edward Mendelson, Auden's literary executor, said that it was by far the best production of the piece he had ever seen.

In his later years, W.H. Auden was a member of the Library, and his charging card and related materials will be displayed at the event.

Affinity Collaborative Theater is a new company committed to creating stimulating productions with a community of artists for audiences of entertaining and provocative theater, in order to enlarge and deepen perspectives on our culture and society.



KAREN ETEROVICH

CHEER FROM CHAWTON:

A JANE AUSTEN FAMILY THEATRICAL

WITH SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM; \$20 PER PERSON

Jane Austen never traveled more than 200 miles from the town of her birth. She never married, nor left her family. Her novels were not published under her name while she lived. Yet they testify to a person of great wit, insight, and depth. Using original text woven with excerpts from Austen's novels, letters, and juvenilia, together with suitable speech, period



movement, costume, and music, *Cheer from Chawton* reveals the humor, affection, character, and depth of a dependent “old maid” who write, with little fame or remuneration, some of the greatest novels in the English language. The setting is Chawton Great House, the home of Austen's brother, where the family have gathered for a “theatrical,” like the one in *Mansfield Park*, and instead urge Jane to share her pointed observations on them, their friends, suitors, and society, as well as her own hilarious early efforts as an author.

A member of Screen Actors Guild, Actors' Equity Association and the Dramatists Guild, **Karen Eterovich** has won international acclaim with her play *Love Arm'd: Aphra Behn and Her Pen*, which she has performed in over thirty states across American and throughout Europe. She is the writer/performer of *Cheer From Chawton* and is recognized as an authority on acting in Restoration literature.

MULTI-SESSION EVENT

JAMES KRAFT ON HENRY JAMES

***THE WINGS OF THE DOVE* AND SELECTED STORIES**

WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 9, 2009,

AND JANUARY 13, 2010

WHITRIDGE ROOM, 11:00 A.M.

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

At the beginning of the 20th century, Henry James wrote his three late,

great novels. *The Wings of the Dove* was published first in 1902 and remains for many readers one of his most rewarding achievements. It concerns the attempt of an American heiress to achieve a sense of personal meaning as she confronts her own nature and the complexity of European culture, manners, and morals, in places—especially England and Venice—that have the power to influence her as much as the people she meets.

The novel will be introduced in the first session with some related works, including “The Aspern Papers” (1888), a story that points to the very essence of James’ idea of fiction, and Colm Tóibín’s *The Master* (2004). The second and third sessions will cover *The Wings of the Dove* directly.

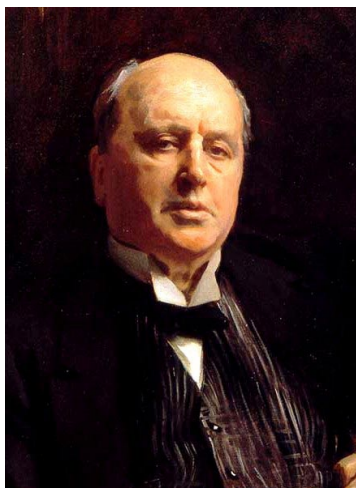
James Kraft led the Conversation on *Washington Square* at the Library in April 2009. He has taught at the University of Virginia, Université Laval, and Wesleyan University. He has written a critical study of the early tales of Henry James, written a biography and edited a five-volume edition of the work of the poet Witter Bynner, and published many articles on American and Canadian literature.

Books for Discussion:

November 11: “The Aspern Papers,” “The Beast in the Jungle,” and “The Jolly Corner” by Henry James, and *The Master* by Colm Tóibín

December 9 and January 11: *The Wings of the Dove* by Henry James

The Master and *The Wings of the Dove* are available for purchase from the Library; information about purchasing books will be sent to registrants. The Modern Library edition of *The Wings of the Dove* is strongly recommended. The other selections will be sent to registrants free of charge.



THE WRITING LIFE

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@nysoclib.org or 212-288-6900 x244.



DEALING WITH PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHT

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

When do you need copyright permission? How do you go about finding copyright holders? What are the legal ramifications around copyright protections? If you're looking to use someone's else's text or photographs or art in your work or have had questions about such use in the past, join us for a discussion that is sure to illuminate. Our panelists will discuss the history and issues surrounding copyright protections and what you need to know to gain the rights to work or protect your own work.

with **Anita Fore, Director of Legal Services, The Authors Guild**
Debbie Rabina, Assistant Professor, Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science

SELF-PUBLISHING 101

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 10:00 A.M.

When David Carnoy, Executive Editor of CNET Reviews/CBS Interactive wrote his book *Knife Music*, he tried to go the traditional route. Then, against his agent's advice, he began researching and evaluating self-publishing sites, related blogs, and customer testimonials. David will join us to talk about what you need to know if you are thinking about self-publishing.

NEXT SEASON IN THE WRITING LIFE

Winter/Spring 2010 talks are being planned now, and upcoming topics range from Working with an Editor to Social Networking for Writers. Suggestions from writer or non-writer members are welcome. What topics or programs would you like to see? Member feedback ensures that our Writing Life programming is vibrant, current, and indispensable to our member writer community. Contact Writers Services Librarian Carolyn Waters at writers@nysoclib.org or 212-288-6900 x244.

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.

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.

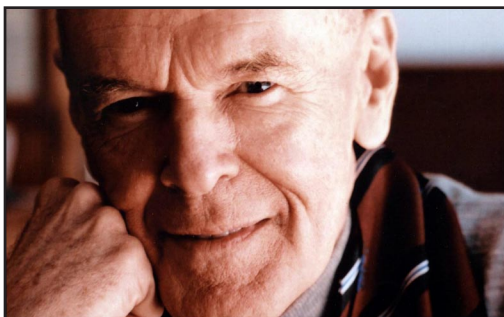
RICHARD PECK

A SEASON OF GIFTS, WITH SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
5:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM
\$5 PER PERSON, AT THE DOOR

Richard Peck's thirtieth book continues the story begun in the Newbery Medal winner *A Year Down Yonder* and the Newbery Honor book *A Long*

Way From Chicago, starring the gruff, unorthodox, and fiercely independent matron in small-town Illinois, Grandma Dowdel. In this book, Mrs. Dowdel works her particular brand of charm—or medicine, depending on who you’re asking—on her new neighbors, helping them find the true home they didn’t realize they were seeking. *Kirkus Reviews* calls it “one of Peck’s best novels yet—and that’s saying something.”



Richard Peck’s books are among the most beloved and acclaimed in contemporary children’s and young-adult literature. In addition to his Newbery honors, he was the first young-adult author to receive a National Humanities Medal, and he has twice been a finalist for the National Book Award.



Author Joyce Carol Oates visited the Library on October 13 for an evening of readings from her plays. Above: Ms. Oates with the cast.

Right: Actor/director Bill Connington, Ms. Oates, and Head Librarian Mark Bartlett. Photos by Karen Smul.



NAME OF PRIMARY REGISTRANT (PLEASE PRINT)

DAYTIME TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

OF SPACES

EVENT

	Center for Contemporary Opera: <i>Prima le Parole</i> , November 8 (\$10)
	The Writing Life: Permissions and Copyright, November 10 (free)
	James Kraft: <i>The Wings of the Dove</i> etc., starting November 11 (\$40)
	Robert B. Strassler: Herodotus/Xenophon, November 11 (\$10)
	Affinity Collaborative Theater: <i>For the Time Being</i> , December 6 (\$20)
	Affinity Collaborative Theater: <i>For the Time Being</i> , December 7 (\$20)
	The Writing Life: Self-Publishing 101, December 8 (free)
	Karen Eterovich: <i>Cheer from Chawton</i> , December 12 (\$20)

TOTAL FEES

CHECK

CREDIT CARD:

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

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.

This form 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.

For most events, the Events Office will contact you only if you are on a wait-list. Reminders will be sent to registrants in advance of events.

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.