

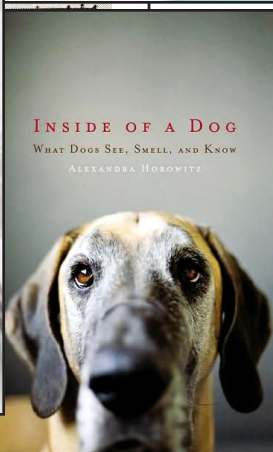
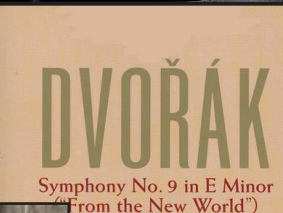
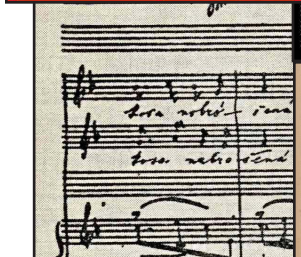
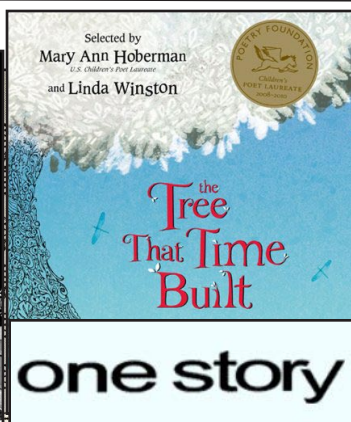
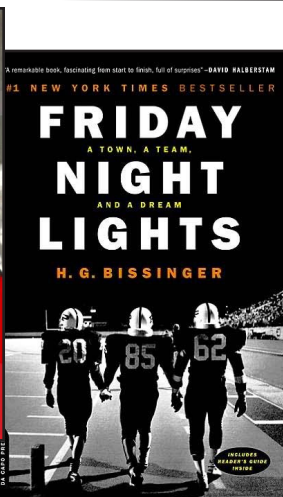
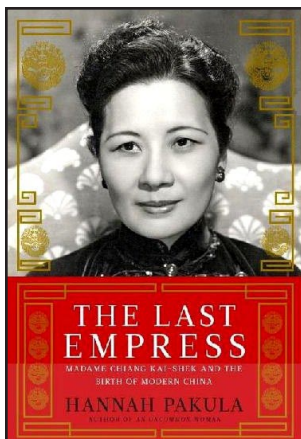
THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
53 EAST 79TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10075

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



EVENTS

JANUARY-MARCH 2010



New Events Registration System

The Library is proud to introduce a new system for adult event registration. It allows you to register and pay for events online using your membership information. This new system will streamline the process of filling our events and confirming reservations. Feedback to events@nysoclib.org is welcome.

Registration by mail is discontinued.

For All Children's Events

Call the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234
or e-mail children@nysoclib.org.

To Register Online

1. Go to www.nysoclib.org and click on the **Events** link.
2. In the calendar, click on the event for which you'd like to register.
3. Click the **Register** button at right.
4. Input your **name** and **barcode*** in the Patron Verification screen.
5. Type the number in your party in the **Reservation Number** field.
6. Click **Submit**. You're registered.

The **Program Confirmation** screen will appear. You will also receive an automatic e-mail confirmation to the address associated with your membership.

To pay fees for your events:

If you are registering for multiple events with fees, please complete your registrations, then pay the total fees.

1. In the **Program Confirmation** screen, click the **Pay Fees** button.
2. Input your total fees in the **Unit Price** field.
3. Log in to your PayPal account or type in your credit card information.

For help, see www.nysoclib.org/events_registration, call 212-288-6900 x230, or e-mail events@nysoclib.org.

To Register By Phone

Call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230. You will be asked for your membership name. You can pay in advance using a credit card or pay at the door.

*To obtain your barcode, email systems@nysoclib.org, ask for it at the circulation desk, or call 212-288-6900.



Register

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

Special Invitation

A New Exhibition

Literary Lives:

The World of Shirley Hazzard and Francis Steegmuller

Exhibition open March 24-December 31, 2010

Opening Reception Wednesday, March 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

remarks by Shirley Hazzard at 7:15 p.m.

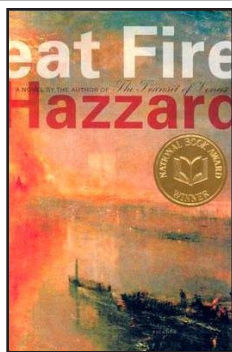
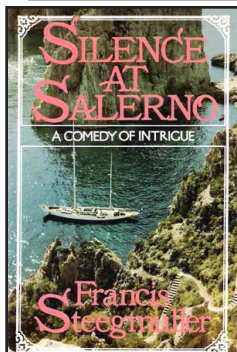
Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery; Free of Charge

This is the first exhibition ever devoted to the extraordinary literary couple Shirley Hazzard and Francis Steegmuller.

Mr. Steegmuller was a Library member from 1944 until his death in 1994. He is remembered best for his translations; his 1957 rendering of Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* is considered among the finest. He also wrote a seminal biography of Flaubert, highly praised works on Apollinaire and Maupassant, and the National Book Award-winning *Cocteau: A Biography*, as well as several works of fiction.

Ms. Hazzard became a member in 1963 and has served on the board since 1974. She is the author of fifteen books including *The Transit of Venus* and *The Great Fire*. She has received an O. Henry Award, a National Book Critics Award, and a National Book Award for her fiction. Her literary travel memoirs *Greene on Capri* and *The Ancient Shore: Dispatches from Naples* are also of enduring importance.

Along with celebrating these two significant writers, the exhibition presents and preserves the experiences and reflections of this gifted and eloquent woman who has served the Library for more than three decades. Ms. Hazzard will greet guests at the opening reception and give brief remarks. Members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.



Single-Session Events

Hannah Pakula

***The Last Empress:
Madame Chiang Kai-shek
and the Birth of Modern China***

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.

The Kaye Playhouse, 695 Park Avenue (at 69th Street)

\$10 per person

With the beautiful and powerful Madame Chiang Kai-shek at the center, this is the story of the founding of modern China, one of the great dramas of the twentieth century. The epic narrative begins with a revolution that swept away more than 2,000 years of monarchy, followed by World War II, and ending in the eventual loss to the Communists and exile in Taiwan.

Madame Chiang's family included her remarkable parents, who broke tradition by educating her in America; her husband, the dogmatic warlord, her brother-in-law, China's George Washington, Sun Yat-sen, and her brother, a financial genius. Together, they were largely responsible for China's transformation into a player on the world stage.



The book also reveals new aspects of U.S. Army General Joseph Stilwell; Claire Chennault, head of the Flying Tigers; Communist leaders Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai; murderous warlords; journalists Henry Luce, Theodore White, and Edgar Snow; and the unfortunate State Department officials who would be purged for predicting the Communist victory in the Chinese Civil War.

As the representative of an Eastern ally in the West, Madame Chiang was befriended—before being rejected—by the Roosevelts, stayed in the White House for long periods during World War II, and charmed the U.S. Congress into giving China billions of dollars. Although she was dubbed the Dragon Lady in some quarters, she was an icon to her people and is certainly one of the most remarkable women of the twentieth century.

Hannah Pakula is a biographer. Her other books include *An Uncommon Woman* (Women in History), *The Last Romantic: A Biography of Queen Marie of Roumania*, *Queen of Roumania: The Life of Princess Marie*, *Grand-Daugh-*

ter of Queen Victoria, *An Uncommon Woman: The Empress Frederick*, and *Victoria*.

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

A Literary Magazine Salon Readings and Refreshments

Thursday, January 28, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room

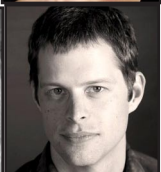
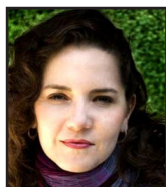
\$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door

Join us for this unique evening of cocktails and readings celebrating the literary magazine. Hosted by Jenny Lawrence, this special evening features

One Story editor Hannah Tinti (*The Good Thief*) introducing Terese Svoboda (*Trailer Girl and Other Stories*)

jubilat publisher Rob Casper introducing Cathy Park Hong (*Dance Dance Revolution*)

A Public Space editor Brigid Hughes introducing John Wray (*Lowboy*).



This event is part of the Writing Life series. All members are welcome.

Alexandra Horowitz *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know*

Thursday,
February 11,
6:30 p.m.
Members' Room
\$10 with advance
registration/\$15 at the
door

Inside of a Dog is a fresh look at the world of dogs from the dog's point of view. Horowitz introduces dogs' perceptual and cognitive abilities and



then draws a picture of what it might be like to be a dog. The relationship between dogs and humans is arguably the most fascinating animal-human bond because dogs evolved from wild creatures to become companions, an adaptation that changed their bodies, brains, and behavior. Yet dogs always remain animals, familiar but mysterious. With a light touch and the weight of science behind her, Horowitz examines the animal we think we know best but may actually understand the least.

Alexandra Horowitz teaches psychology at Barnard College, Columbia University. Prior to her academic career, Horowitz worked as a lexicographer at Merriam-Webster and served on the staff of *The New Yorker*. Her family includes Finnegan, a dog of indeterminate parentage and determinate character.

H.G. “Buzz” Bissinger **The Changing World of Sports Journalism**

Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m., Members’ Room
\$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door

News publishing is being strongly affected by new trends and technology, and a long tradition of great sports journalism is equally at risk. In this event, Buzz Bissinger will address the provocative questions current in his field. Is sports journalism—or any journalism—“dead”? Will print become obsolete? Will reporting become obsolete, replaced by sensational and self-indulgent blogs? Or, in the media’s most turbulent times, is there a ray of hope for the values and resonance of the journalistic tradition?



H.G. “Buzz” Bissinger wrote what is widely regarded the best and bestselling book ever about football, *Friday Night Lights*. That work has sold almost two million copies to date and given birth to a film and a television series. His other books include *Shooting Stars* (with LeBron James), *A Prayer for the City*, and the *New York Times* bestseller *Three Nights in August*. He is a contributing writer to *Vanity Fair*, has written extensively about sports for the *New York Times*, and is about to begin a monthly sports column for *The New Republic*.

Nora Armani and David Bakamjian
Evocations of Armenia:
A Journey Through the Spirit of Armenia
with Words and Music

Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room
\$20 with advance registration/\$25 at the door



Actor Nora Armani and cellist David Bakamjian lead a cultural journey through the spirit of Armenia in the company of poets, composers, folk songs, and sacred chants. This presentation premiered to a sold-out audience in the Met Museum's Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium in 2007.

This combination of powerful spoken word (in English and Armenian) and haunting solo cello is highlighted by the story of the enchanted Dove Abbey by Hovhannes Toumanyan (widely considered Armenia's greatest poet); the music of Komitas and Alan Hovhanness, the sacred chants of Sharagans, the poignant legend of Akhtamar, among other pieces.

Actor **Nora Armani** has an international list of theatre and film credits. Her award-winning original performances have toured internationally in six languages to such venues as the Sydney Opera House, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Cairo Opera House, the Riverside Studios (London), La Cirée National Theatre in Marseilles and the Sundukyan National Theatre of Armenia. Her films include *The Doors of Denis*, *Voisins Voisines*, *The New Eve*, *Last Station*, *Haifa*, and *Labyrinth*, for which she won Armenia's Best Actress award. She holds undergraduate and masters degrees from the American University in Cairo and the University of London. More information on her is available at www.noraarmani.com.

Cellist **David Bakamjian** performs regularly as a recitalist, chamber

player, recording artist and as a member of several New York area ensembles. He has performed at New York 's premiere concert halls, appeared several times on National Public Radio and WQXR (NY), and was a winner or finalist in four international chamber music competitions. He has appeared as soloist with the Allentown Symphony, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the Beijing Symphony, the Bachanalia Festival Orchestra, and the Lehigh University Symphony Orchestra. He performs with the American Symphony Orchestra and is principal cellist of the Berkshire Opera and the New York Grand Opera. Mr. Bakamjian is a founding member of Brooklyn Baroque (flute, cello and harpsichord) of critical acclaim by the American Record Guide. He also performs on baroque cello with Concert Royal, the American Classical Orchestra, Gotham Chamber Opera and the Long Island Baroque Ensemble.

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

Open Mic Night **Readings and Refreshments**

Thursday, March 18, 6:00 p.m.,
Members' Room
\$10 with advance registration/
\$15 at the door



Our first Open Mic Night in October 2009 was such a great success that we are thrilled to host another. Come for a casual, entertaining evening of refreshments and readings by our own Library member writers. This event is open to both readers and listeners.

Those wishing to read must contact Carolyn Waters at writers@nysoclib.org or 212-288-6900 x244.

Note to Readers: Please register early; spaces are limited. Readings will be limited to five minutes. Readings can consist of material in progress or newly published work. All genres are welcome.

This event is part of The Writing Life series. All members are welcome.

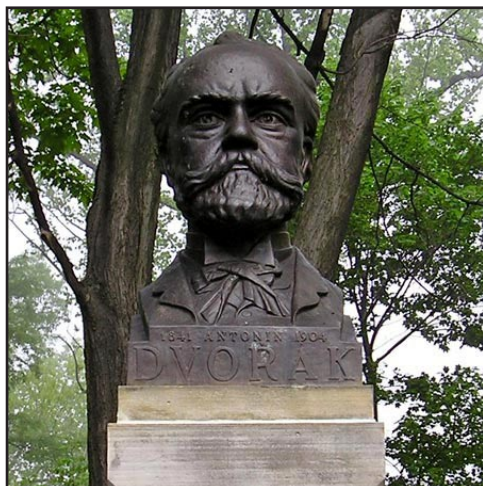
Joelle Wallach **Dvorák in New York**

Thursday, March 25, 6:30 p.m., Members' Room
\$10 with advance registration/\$15 at the door

Invited to teach young musicians at the school which became Juilliard, and to craft a new American music, Antonin Dvorák came to New York for several years. Using the techniques and enthusiasm he had brought to the national music of his native Bohemia, Dvorák espoused the causes of Native- and African-Americans, studying their melodies and infusing his symphonic and chamber music with them to create the sonorities we still recognize as the sound of American classical music.

Joelle Wallach, returning after her rich introduction to Handel's *Messiah* in December 2008, will illustrate Dvorák's life, music, and significance with lecture, slides, and musical examples.

Dr. Joelle Wallach's music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, solo voices and choruses has been honored with commissions by the New York Philharmonic Ensembles and the New York Choral Society and a nomination for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in Music. She holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University, as well as the first doctorate in composition given by the Manhattan School of Music. A frequent pre-concert lecturer for the New York Philharmonic, Dr. Wallach speaks on a broad range of musical subjects, bringing fresh insights to familiar works.



A bust of Dvorák in Cleveland, Ohio

Multi-Session Events

Carol Rial

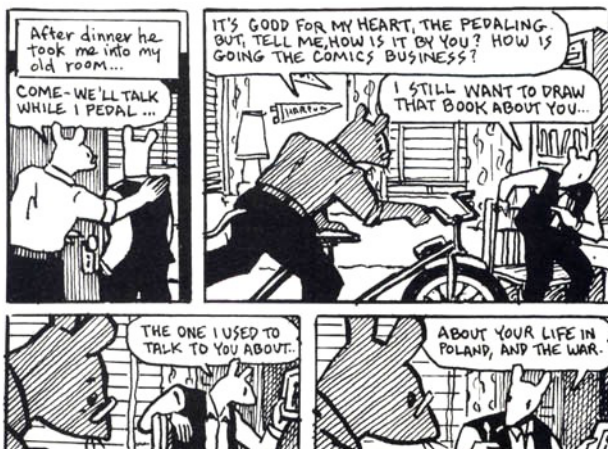
The Graphic Novel and Memoir

Sundays, February 7, March 7, April 11

Whitridge Room, 2:00 p.m.

\$40 for all three sessions (recommended); \$15 per session

Writer and educator Carol Rial introduces substantial works in the con-



temporary genre of graphic fiction and memoir.

Books for Discussion:

- ❖ February 7: *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* and *Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began* by Art Spiegelman
A simple visual concept—Jews are mice, Nazis are cats—creates a searing narrative of struggle, survival, and the legacy of the Holocaust.
- ❖ March 7: *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* and *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return* by Marjane Satrapi
“A memoir of growing up as a girl in revolutionary Iran, *Persepolis* provides a unique glimpse into a nearly unknown and unreachable way of life... That Satrapi chose to tell her remarkable story as a gorgeous comic book makes it totally unique and indispensable.”
—*Time*
- ❖ April 11: *Signal to Noise* by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean
The masterpiece from the award-winning creators of *Sandman* tells a compelling story of the turn of the first millennium as seen by a film director whose own time is running out.

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

Wednesdays, February 17, March 24, and April 21

Whitridge Room, 11:00 a.m.

\$40 for all three sessions (recommended); \$15 per session

Back by member demand, Professor McDonough introduces three major works of the medieval world, in powerful contemporary translation. A limited number of spaces is remaining in this event, which was originally presented in the fall. A full listing can be found at www.nysoclib.org/notes/2009/beowulf_gawain.html.

The Writing Life: Daytime Sessions

The Writing Life is a series of 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.



Understanding Print and Digital Piracy

Tuesday, January 12, 10:00 a.m.

This talk is an important primer for writers on the right to protect copy-

righted works. Our panelists will discuss what's at stake and what writers must know, and will present the self-help tools writers need to stop infringements on their work.

with **Maria Danzilo**, Legal Director, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Patrick Murphy, Senior Enforcement Officer, John Wiley & Sons, inc.

Working with an Editor

Tuesday, February 9, 10:00 a.m.

Get the most out of the relationship with your editor. Join us for an enlightening discussion of the objectives and value of the book editing process and of how best to resolve issues over the title, cover art, blurbs, publicity and, of course, content.

with **Susan Dalsimer**, editor, The Independent Editors Group

Bruce Frankel, author of *What Should I Do with the Rest of My Life?*

True Stories of Finding Success, Passion, and New Meaning in the Second Half of Life

The Google Book Settlement

Tuesday, March 9, 10:00 a.m.

Jan Constantine, General Counsel and Assistant Director of The Authors Guild, will discuss the origin and outcomes of the groundbreaking class action copyright infringement lawsuit against Google, and describe the purpose and workings of the Book Rights Registry, the entity formed as a result of the settlement.

Social Networking for Writers

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

Twitter, Facebook, blogs, and other social media are increasingly critical tools in the marketing and publicity of books. Learn how to use the power of the social web to connect with your audience and spread the word. **Gretchen Rubin**, author of the new book *The Happiness Project* as well as the popular blog of the same name, will talk about her experience using social media to develop a devoted following and raise interest in her new book.



The 2010 The Writing Life series is generously underwritten by Jenny Lawrence.

Children's Events

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

Mary Ann Hoberman with Linda Winston *The Tree That Time Built*

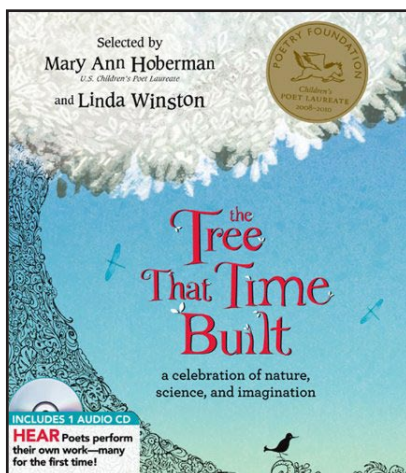
Friday, March 12,
4:00 p.m., Members' Room
for first grade and older
\$5 per person, at the door

Mary Ann Hoberman is a poet and the critically acclaimed author of over forty books for children, including the beloved *A House Is a House for Me*, winner of the National Book Award. In 2008, Ms. Hoberman was named Children's Poet Laureate of America by the Poetry Foundation.

In this event, she will be joined by educator Linda Winston in introducing their new book, *The Tree That Time Built: A Celebration of Nature, Science, and Imagination*. *The Tree That Time Built* is a moving anthology of more than 100 poems celebrating the wonders of the natural world and encouraging environmental awareness.

Mary Ann Hoberman's other popular titles include *The Llama Who Had No Pajama*, *The Seven Silly Eaters* and the *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* series. She has also received the 2003 Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, given by the National Council of Teachers of English.

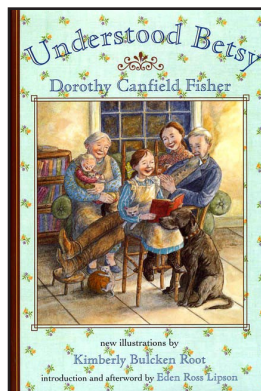
Linda Winston, a cultural anthropologist and teacher, has worked with students of all ages. She is the author of *Keepsakes: Using Family Stories in Elementary Classrooms* and *Grandpartners: Intergenerational Learning and Civic Renewal*, K-6.



Mother-Daughter Book Discussion *Understood Betsy* by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Friday, February 26,
4:00 p.m., Whitridge Room Room
for mothers and their daughters in grades
3-5

For all of her nine years, fragile Elizabeth Ann has heard her aunts refer in whispers to “those horrid Putney cousins.” But when her aunts can no longer care for her, Elizabeth Ann embarks on a journey of self-discovery as she leaves her sheltered city life to live on a farm in Vermont with these distant relatives. Mothers and their daughters in grades 3-5 are invited to join Children’s Library staff for a discussion of Dorothy Canfield Fisher’s classic *Understood Betsy*, which has delighted readers since it was first published in 1917. Copies of the book are available for registrants.



The Eighth Annual Young Writers Awards Competition Open January 11-April 12

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 at <http://www.nysoclib.org/kids/ywa/rules.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 2010 Young Writers Awards are generously underwritten by Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner and Paul A. Wagner.



2009 judge Robert Quackenbush
with winner Gabrielle Herzig

THE TENTH YEAR OF


PROJECT CICERO®

LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTION FEBRUARY 22-MARCH 4

Project Cicero is celebrating its tenth 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 1.3 million books in more than 7,500 New York City classroom and school libraries, reaching an estimated 300,000 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.

Affinity Collaborative Theater presented W.H. Auden's For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio in the Members' Room in December 2009. Right: A flyer signed by the company; Below: Director and actor Michael Cumpsty (front) with the cast.



Founded 1784

AFFINITY COLLABORATIVE THEATER

W.H. AUDEN'S


FOR THE TIME BEING:


A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

**E
V
E
N
T**

To attend, pick up a registration form at the circulation desk or see www.nyso.lib.org/event_registration.html.

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 returns 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, one 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.

Michael Cumpsty

Maria Tucci

Rebecca



Calendar of Events

Registration is required for all Library events. Please see instructions for registering on page 1.

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.

The Library has also introduced a monthly electronic newsletter with features, links, and event reminders. If you are not currently receiving this newsletter and would like to do so, send your e-mail address to events@nysoclib.org.

Tuesday, January 12	The Writing Life: Understanding Print and Digital Piracy	Whitridge Room, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 27	Author Series: Hannah Pakula, <i>The Last Empress</i>	Kaye Playhouse, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 28	A Literary Magazine Salon	Members' Room, 6:30 p.m.
Sundays, February 7, March 7, and April 11	The Graphic Novel and Memoir	Whitridge Room, 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 9	The Writing Life: Working With an Editor	Whitridge Room, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 11	Alexandra Horowitz, <i>Inside of a Dog</i>	Members' Room, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, February 17, March 24, and April 21	Old and Middle English Classics (3 Sessions)	Whitridge Room, 11:00 a.m.
February 22-March 4	Project Cicero Book Collection	Lobby
Thursday, February 25	H.G. "Buzz" Bissinger, <i>The Changing World of Sports Journalism</i>	Members' Room, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, February 26	Mother-Daughter Book Discussion	Whitridge Room, 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9	The Writing Life: The Google Book Settlement	Whitridge Room, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 16	Nora Armani and David Bakamjian, <i>Evocations of Armenia</i>	Members' Room, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 18	Open Mic Night II	Members' Room, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24	<i>Literary Lives</i> Exhibition Opening Reception	Members' Room, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 25	Joelle Wallach, <i>Dvorak in New York</i>	Members' Room, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 12	Young Writers Awards Entry Deadline	
Tuesday, April 13	The Writing Life: Social Networking for Writers	Whitridge Room, 10:00 a.m.