



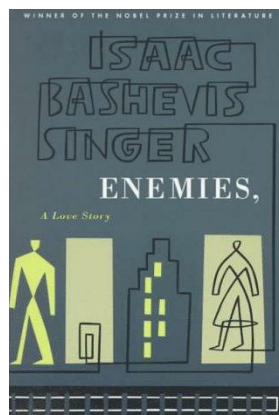
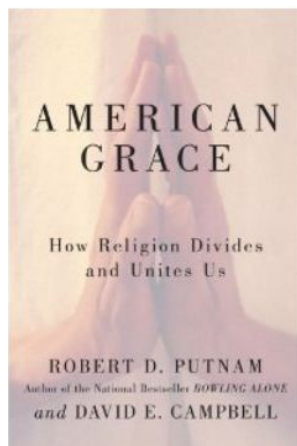
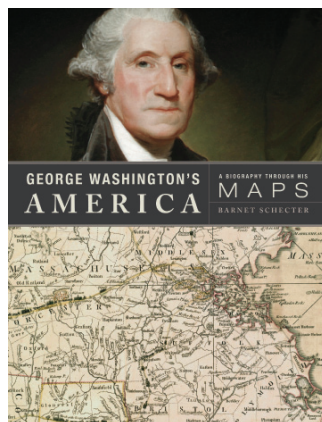
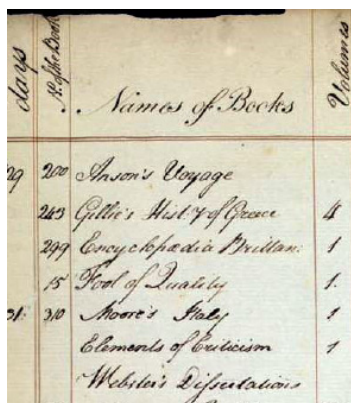
EVENTS

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NEW RESOURCE

The Library's First Charging Ledger (1789-1792) What Newborn America Read

www.nysoclib.org/ledger

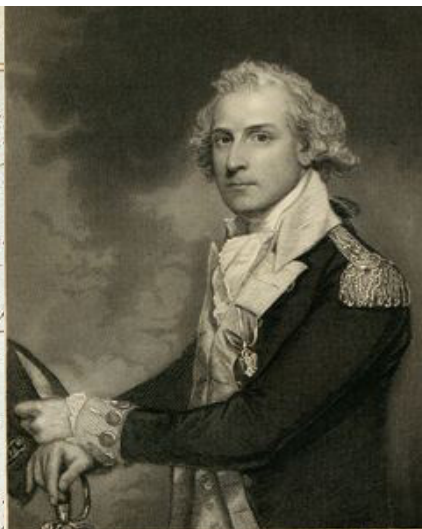
The Library's earliest surviving charging ledger records the names of borrowers and the titles of books taken out between July 1789 and April 1792. It is a window into the reading habits of over five hundred prominent New Yorkers during the earliest years of our nation. In those years, the Federal government was based in New York and shared a building with the Library. Borrowing privileges were extended to President Washington, Vice-President Adams, and members of Congress, and their borrowing is also recorded in this volume.

A large leather-bound volume with about 300 pages, the first ledger was misplaced for years and finally found in 1934, on a trash pile at 109 University Place, the Library's former location. The ledger was intact but in extremely fragile condition. In 2007 it underwent extensive preservation and digitization.

The Library is proud to make this historic treasure available to members, scholars, and the public through a website showing the ledger pages, transcriptions and links for the patrons and titles, and information about the books and readers of the era. Over 1,100 titles circulated between 1789 and 1792, and several hundred are still in the Library's rare book collection.

THE LIBRARY'S ARCHIVES AND CHARGING LEDGERS ARE SUPPORTED IN PART
BY THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS FOUNDATION AND GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS.

Matthew Clarkson		
Nov. 30	-	Chesterfield's Letters
Jan. 15	-	Modern Times or Gal. out look
Mar. 11	due	Sanchez Letters
June 2	due	Le Philosophe Moderne
June 9	at	Prince de Noailles
June 9	oct	Miquelonne Genereux
July 16	due	L'Esprit de la Sage
July 16	2	Bacons Works
July 23	36	Voltaire
July 20	37	do
July 2	1	Rousseau
July 7	2	do
July 11	1 oct	Philosophy of Rousseau
July 17	2 de	Gibbon
July 20	1	Rousseau
July 21	17 au	Rousseau
July 4	19	2/3rd Aug
Aug 16	25	Voltaire
Aug 26	-	Horsterns Ph. Pol.
Sept 1	-	Montbr. Voltaire



"GENERAL" MATTHEW CLARKSON
AND HIS LEDGER PAGE

LANDMARK SPECIAL EVENT

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Celebrating the Library's First Charging Ledger with remarks by Thomas Fleming

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

FREE OF CHARGE; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

This event will introduce the priceless resources of the first charging ledger. Attendees will be invited to speak with Conservator George Muñoz about the conservation of the ledger and see before-and-after images. Head of Systems/Project Coordinator Ingrid Richter will demonstrate the uses of the ledger website, such as finding a book, a patron, or just an engaging fact. Selected eighteenth-century books mentioned in the ledger will be displayed. Historian Thomas Fleming will speak briefly about the history of the early national era and the importance of the ledger as an artifact.

Thomas Fleming is the author of more than forty books of fiction and nonfiction, most recently *The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers* (Smithsonian, 2009). He has been the president of the Society of American Historians and of PEN American Center. Mr. Fleming is a frequent guest on C-SPAN, PBS, A&E, and the History Channel.

THE LIBRARY'S ARCHIVES AND CHARGING LEDGERS ARE SUPPORTED IN PART
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THE 2010-2011 AUTHOR SERIES

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

Stacy Schiff

Cleopatra: A Life

in cooperation with WNET/THIRTEEN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:30 PM

THE KAYE PLAYHOUSE, 695 PARK AVENUE (AT 68TH STREET)

\$10 PER PERSON; ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Though Cleopatra's life spanned fewer than forty years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. Incest and assassination were family specialties. She took only two men as partners, but they were Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, two of the most prominent Romans of the day, both married to other women. Already she was the wealthiest ruler in the Mediterranean; the relationship with Antony confirmed her status as the most influential woman of the age.

Surviving in imagination, Cleopatra has gone down in history more for her dramatizations than for her own qualities. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new order across the ancient world.

Stacy Schiff is the author of *Véra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; *Saint-Exupéry*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; and *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*, winner of the George Washington Book Prize and the Ambassador Book Award. Schiff has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



THE 2010-2011 AUTHOR SERIES

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

Robert D. Putnam

American Grace:

How Religion Divides and Unites Us

book co-authored with David E. Campbell

lecture sponsored in cooperation with WNET/THIRTEEN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:30 PM

THE KAYE PLAYHOUSE, 695 PARK AVENUE (AT 68TH STREET)

\$10 PER PERSON; ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Unique among nations, America is deeply religious, religiously diverse, and remarkably tolerant. But in recent decades the nation's religious landscape has been reshaped, resulting in a growing polarization—the ranks of religious conservatives and secular liberals have swelled, leaving a dwindling group of religious moderates in between. At the same time, personal interfaith ties are strengthening. Interfaith marriage has increased while religious identities have become more fluid. Based on two of the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted on religion and public life in America, Putnam and Campbell show how this denser web of personal ties brings surprising interfaith tolerance, notwithstanding the so-called culture wars.

Robert D. Putnam is the Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University and founder of the Saguaro Seminar, a program dedicated to fostering civic engagement in America. He is the author or coauthor of ten previous books, including *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, and is former dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government.



The Center for Contemporary Opera

Prima le Parole

Moderated by Carlin Glynn; directed by Amy Leland

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 6:30 PM, 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 based on I.B. Singer's *Enemies: A Love Story* (by Nahma Sandrow, music by Ben Moore) and the novel *The Tin Angel* (book and libretto by Paul Pines), plus two others. Context and commentary will be given by Tony Award-winning actress Carlin Glynn. Light refreshments will be provided.

Carlin Glynn is an actress, director, and teacher. Her most notable parts include creating the role of Mona Stangley, the madam, in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and starring in Horton Foote's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Young Man From Atlanta*. Her many films include *Blessing*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Sixteen Candles*, and *Three Days of the Condor*. She has directed short films and plays and has served as a professor in the Graduate Film Division of Columbia University, Chair of the Board and Co-Artistic Director of the Actor's Studio, and professor in the MFA program at the Actor's Studio Drama School.

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. www.centerforcontemporaryopera.org

THIS EVENT IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE ESTATE OF MARIAN O. NAUMBURG.



Madeleine Kristoffersson and John Ray

The Nightingale

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 3:00 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

\$20 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/\$25 AT THE DOOR

When "The Swedish Nightingale," opera star Jenny Lind, sailed into New York Harbor in September 1850, an enthusiastic crowd of more than 30,000 greeted her ship, even though no one on this continent had ever seen or heard her. Who could cause this great effect? Only the Prince of Humbugs himself, Phineas Taylor Barnum, born 200 years ago in 1810. In this afternoon of song and story, contemporary Swedish opera star Madeleine Kristoffersson and actor John Ray recreate the music and the drama of Jenny Lind's landmark American tour under Barnum's management.

Madeleine Kristoffersson is an acclaimed international artist. She has performed at opera houses and festivals across Europe, Mexico, and the United States, as Salome, Brunnhilde, Donna Anna, Elektra, Leonore, and Tosca, among others. Her performances have been featured twice on *Good Morning America* and on national television in Europe, as well as at Carnegie Hall, Bechstein Hall and the United Nations Assembly Hall. She has given several command performances for the King and Queen of Sweden.

John Ray, Esq. has been a well-known practicing attorney in the greater New York area for over 27 years. Several of his high-profile cases have been covered on Court TV, and he has appeared there and on national television as an advocate, legal expert, and guest commentator. He enjoys a parallel career as an actor and reenactor, portraying Barnum, Benjamin Franklin, and multiple roles in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.

THIS EVENT IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE ESTATE OF MARIAN O. NAUMBURG.



Robert F. Gatje

Great Public Squares: An Architect's Selection

introduced by Jean Parker Phifer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

Bob Gatje offers new insights, stunning computer-generated plans, and color slides to convey the spatial experience of some of Western world's outstanding urban spaces. The storied piazzas of Rome, Venice, and Florence, the elegant places of Paris, less familiar gathering places in Germany, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Portugal, the former marketplaces and graceful Georgian-style squares of the United Kingdom, and the most interesting and impressive squares of the New World—Santa Fe, Portland, Boston, and New York—are shown in common scale and set in the context of their history to assess their success in meeting human needs for inspiring outdoor space.

Among the highlights:

- waiting in line with Venetian plumbers at the building department in search of the accurate footprint of their second-best square;
- concluding that Santa Fe's Plaza and Mussolini's San Gimignano were redesigned at the same time for the same purpose;
- wondering why New York City's best square is never thought of as such;
- discovering an identity between Times Square and the Piazza di Spagna;
- arguing that Bernini hoped to diminish the facade of St Peter's by using optics.

Robert F. Gatje, formerly partner of Marcel Breuer and of Richard Meier, lives in New York City.



Barnet Schecter***George Washington's America:
A Biography Through His Maps***

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

From his teens until his death, the maps George Washington drew and purchased were always central to his work. After his death, many of the most important maps he had acquired were bound into an atlas. The atlas remained in his family for almost a century before it was sold and eventually ended up at Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library.

Inspired by these remarkable maps, historian Barnet Schecter has crafted a unique portrait of America's preeminent founder, placing the reader at the scenes of his early career as a surveyor, his dramatic exploits in the French and Indian War (his altercation with the French is credited as the war's spark), his struggles throughout the American Revolution as he outmaneuvered the far more powerful British army, his diplomacy as president, and his shaping of the new republic. *George Washington's America* allows readers to visualize history through Washington's eyes, and sheds fresh light on the man and his times.

Historian **Barnet Schecter** is the author of *The Battle for New York*, the city's pivotal role in the American Revolution, and *The Devil's Own Work*, a chronicle of the Civil War draft riots in New York. He lives in New York City.



Broken Pencils and Dried-Up Paint: An Unfortunate Evening with Brett Helquist

FOR GRADE 3 AND OLDER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 4:00 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

\$5 PER PERSON; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Brett Helquist will talk about how he became a children's author and illustrator, starting with a childhood love of comic books, and describe the process of creating the illustrations for *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and other books. Participants will also learn the techniques for drawing his favorite characters.

Brett Helquist is best known as the man who brings Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire and their archenemy Count Olaf to life in Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, where he uses "broken pencils, dried-up paint, and boxes and boxes of tissues" to depict the tragic lives of the Baudelaire orphans. Sometimes he finds this work so distressing that he "sends himself flowers, but it never helps." His other work includes the acclaimed illustrations for *Chasing Vermeer* and its sequels by Blue Balliett, his adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, *Capt. Hook* by James V. Hart, James Howe's *House of Bunnica* series, and the story and pictures for *Roger, the Jolly Pirate*.



Open Mic Night III

hosted by Betsy Carter

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6:00 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

Last year we were treated to a bawdy farce, a comedic play about a stalker in a coffee shop, and a memory of posing for Salvador Dalí, as well as experimental poetry, fiction, and memoir. What are our writers working on now? Join us for a fun, casual evening of refreshments and readings by our own NYSL members.

This event is open to both readers and listeners. To register to read, you must contact Carolyn Waters at cwaters@nysoclib.org or 212-288-6900 x244.

Note to Readers: Readers must be Library members. Please register early, as spaces are limited. Readings must be five minutes or less and may be material in progress or newly published work.

Betsy Carter is the author of *The Puzzle King* (Algonquin Books, 2009), *The Orange Blossom Special*, and *Nothing to Fall Back On*. She was the founding editor-in-chief of *New York Woman* and *My Generation Magazine* and has written for *New York* and *Newsweek*, among others.



THE WRITING LIFE

FOR MEMBERS

The Writing Life Daytime Talk Series

Beyond the Book Tour: Marketing Your Book

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10:00 AM, WHITRIDGE ROOM

FREE OF CHARGE; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The days of publishers' big budget public relations campaigns are over for all but the biggest selling authors. Do you need to hire your own publicist? **Gilda Squire** of Gilda Squire Media Relations will join us to discuss the new realities of book marketing and what hiring your own publicist could do for you.



THE WRITING LIFE DAYTIME TALK SERIES IN 2010
IS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY JENNY LAWRENCE.

Ongoing Writers' Groups

The Library hosts five ongoing monthly discussion groups for member writers. No registration is necessary, but for space availability and more information, contact Carolyn Waters at 212-288-6900 x244. All sessions take place in the Whitridge Room on the third floor.

NONFICTION WRITERS GROUP:

MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 8, DECEMBER 13, 3:00-4:45 PM

MEMOIR WRITERS GROUP:

MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 15, DECEMBER 20, 3:00-4:45 PM

FICTION GROUP I:

TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 16, DECEMBER 21, 5:00-6:45 PM

FICTION GROUP II:

WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 24, DECEMBER 22, 11:00

A.M.-1:00 PM

POETS GROUP:

TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 23, DECEMBER 28, 4:30-6:30 PM



REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

For Adult Events:

Online for Members With a Barcode*: Go to

www.nysoclib.org/events_registration.html and follow the onscreen instructions.

*To obtain your barcode, email systems@nysoclib.org.

Online for Nonmembers: Go to www.eventbrite.com, search for the event of your interest, and follow the onscreen instructions.

By Mail: Complete the order form with your membership name (for members) or full name (for nonmembers) and charge information, or enclose a check payable to The New York Society Library. Mail the order form and payment to Events, The New York Society Library, 53 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075.

By Phone: Call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230. Payment in advance using a credit card is recommended; you may also pay at the door.

No refunds are given, unless the event is canceled or no space becomes available for a waitlisted reservation. A seat cannot be guaranteed after an event has begun.

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

REGISTRATION ORDER FORM

MEMBERSHIP NAME

PHONE

E-MAIL

NAME OF EVENT

OF SPACES

TOTAL COST

☐ MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED

☐ PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

E-Mail Addresses: If you have an e-mail address and have not given it to the Library, please consider doing so now. Our monthly electronic newsletter offers up-to-the-minute news, features, event reminders, and new ways to participate in the Library community. Both members and nonmembers can receive the e-news. E-mail users also have the option of receiving circulation notices—such as the availability of a held book—much faster, while saving us paper and postage. To add an e-mail address to your membership, please drop a line to that effect to *events@nysoclib.org*. The Library never sells or trades your information.

CALENDAR

Registration is required for all events. See registration instructions on the previous page.

November

NOVEMBER 3, WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

Lecture: Susan Cheever

Louisa May Alcott

Members' Room

NOVEMBER 5, FRIDAY, 4:00 PM

Children's: Mother-Daughter

Book Discussion

See website for details

NOVEMBER 8, MONDAY, 3:00 PM

Writing Life: Nonfiction Writers Group

Whitridge Room

NOVEMBER 9, TUESDAY, 10:00 AM

Writing Life: Sallie Bingham

First of two sessions

See website for details

NOVEMBER 9, TUESDAY, 6:00 PM

Writing Life: Open Mic Night III

Members' Room

NOVEMBER 10, WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

Author Series: Stacy Schiff

Cleopatra

Kaye Playhouse

NOVEMBER 12, FRIDAY, 4:00 PM

Children's: Brett Helquist

Members' Room

NOVEMBER 14, SUNDAY, 6:30 PM

Performance: Ctr. for Contemporary Opera

Prima le Parole

Members' Room

NOVEMBER 15, MONDAY, 3:00 PM

Writing Life: Memoir Writers Group

Whitridge Room

NOVEMBER 16, WEDNESDAY, 5:00 PM

Writing Life: Fiction Writers Group I

Whitridge Room

NOVEMBER 17, WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

Lecture: Robert F. Gatje

Great Public Squares

Members' Room

NOVEMBER 21, SUNDAY, 3:00 PM

Reading Group: Tea and Trollope

First of ongoing sessions

Whitridge Room

NOVEMBER 23, TUESDAY, 4:30 PM

Writing Life: Poets Group

Whitridge Room

NOVEMBER 24, WEDNESDAY, 11:00 AM

Writing Life: Fiction Writers Group II

Whitridge Room

December

DECEMBER 1, WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

Special Event: First Charging Ledger

with Thomas J. Fleming

Members' Room

DECEMBER 5, SUNDAY, 3:00 PM

Performance: *The Nightingale*

Members' Room

DECEMBER 7, TUESDAY, 6:30 PM

Lecture: Barnett Schecter

George Washington's America

Members' Room

DECEMBER 13, MONDAY, 3:00 PM

Writing Life: Nonfiction Writers Group

Whitridge Room

DECEMBER 14, TUESDAY, 10:00 AM

Writing Life: Beyond the Book Tour

Whitridge Room

DECEMBER 15, WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

Author Series: Robert D. Putnam

American Grace

Kaye Playhouse

DECEMBER 20, MONDAY, 3:00 PM

Writing Life: Memoir Writers Group

Whitridge Room

DECEMBER 21, TUESDAY, 5:00 PM

Writing Life: Fiction Writers Group I

Whitridge Room

DECEMBER 22, WEDNESDAY, 11:00 AM

Writing Life: Fiction Writers Group II

Whitridge Room

DECEMBER 28, TUESDAY, 4:30 PM

Writing Life: Poets Group

Whitridge Room

WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY

Founded in 1754, we are the city's oldest library and one of only sixteen membership libraries in the country. We are open to all for reading, reference, and selected events, with circulation and other services by subscription.

Our general collection of approximately 300,000 volumes has particular strengths in biography, belles lettres, and New York City history and culture. The membership has included many notable authors past and present, such as Washington Irving, John James Audubon, Herman Melville, Willa Cather, Lillian Hellman, and W.H. Auden.

Further information on the Library's history, building, services and policies is available at the reference desk on the first floor or on our website.

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to become a member of the Library, please pick up a membership application at the reference desk.

Membership Options

\$225 Household, one year

\$175 Household, six months

\$175 Single, one year (*individual living in a one-person household*)

\$125 Single, six months

\$150 Educational, one year (*individual teacher or full-time college student with active ID*)

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

The New York Society Library has benefited through the years from those who care deeply about our organization. Contributions are essential to support our daily operations and to make events possible. All gifts are tax-deductible and can be made by check, credit card, or in appreciated securities. For more information about supporting the Library, please visit www.nysoclib.org/donations.html or contact the Development Office at 212-288-6900 x214. Thank you for your support!

Library Main Page.....www.nysoclib.org

NYSL Writers Blog.....www.tinyurl.com/nysliblog

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