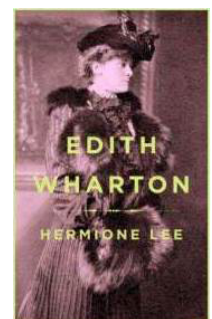
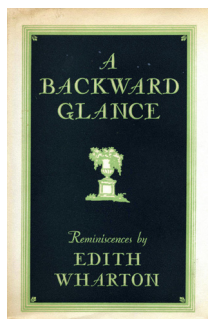
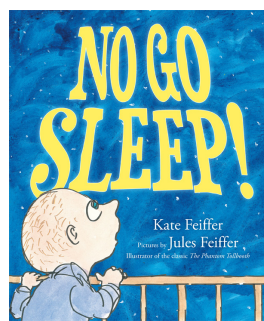
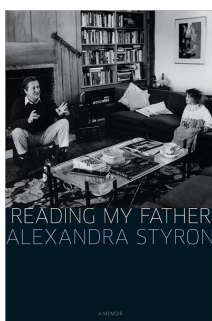
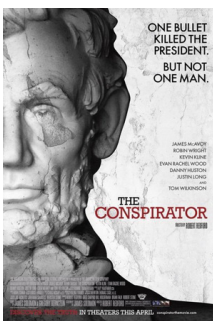
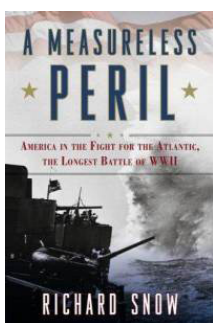
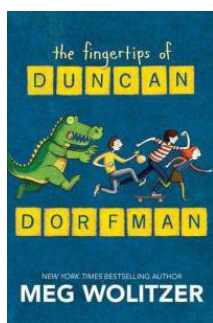
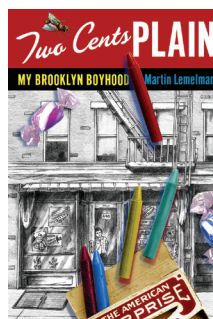
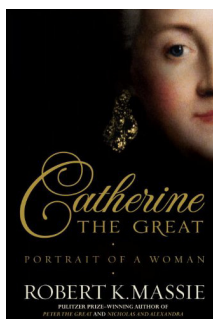




EVENTS

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SPECIAL INVITATION

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

New Exhibition

Edith Wharton's New York City: A Backward Glance

EXHIBITION OPEN MARCH 15–DECEMBER 31, 2012

OPENING RECEPTION WITH REMARKS BY ROXANA ROBINSON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 6:00–8:00 PM

PELUSO FAMILY EXHIBITION GALLERY

FREE OF CHARGE; SPACE IS LIMITED; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Edith Wharton's New York City celebrates the 150th anniversary of the birth of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edith Wharton. Born in New York City on January 24, 1862, Wharton lived abroad for much of her adult life, but 19th-century New York City inspired her great novels and short stories, from *The House of Mirth* to *The Age of Innocence*. Wharton's writings brilliantly recreated her deep and unbreakable ties to the city and its complex architectural and social heart.

This exhibition, curated by Head of Exhibitions Harriet Shapiro, will reveal for the first time the intimate links between Wharton's world and the Society Library. Edith's father George Frederic Jones was a Library shareholder who often took out books for himself and his family. Many of Wharton's other relatives were also members, including her niece Beatrix Farrand, a well-known landscape architect.

Edith Wharton's New York City will showcase family photographs from various collections and books by Wharton, including several from the collection of Martin Hutner. The Mount, Wharton's home in Lenox, Massachusetts (EdithWharton.org) is generously lending historic family portraits and books Wharton read as a child. A catalog with essays by Ms. Shapiro and authors David Garrard Lowe and Roxana Robinson will accompany the exhibition.

THIS EXHIBITION IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED IN PART BY THE ACHELIS FOUNDATION

AND DEBORAH S. PEASE.



THIS YEAR'S EVENTS AND FEATURES NEWSLETTERS ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY ADA PELUSO AND ROMANO I. PELUSO IN MEMORY OF ASSUNTA SOMMELLA AND IGNAZIO PELUSO.

Hermione Lee***Edith Wharton***

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

Hermione Lee won international acclaim and awards for her biographies of Virginia Woolf and Willa Cather, and her *Edith Wharton* (2007) is considered the definitive modern biography of one of America's most famous women of letters.

Delving into heretofore untapped sources, Lee does away with the image of the snobbish bluestocking and gives us a new Wharton—tough, startlingly modern, as brilliant and complex as her fiction. Born into a wealthy family, Wharton left America as an adult and eventually chose to create a life in France. Her renowned novels and stories have become classics of American literature, but as Lee shows, Wharton's own life, filled with success and scandal, was as intriguing as those of her heroines. Bridging two centuries and two very different sensibilities, Wharton here comes to life in the skillful hands of one of the great literary biographers of our time.

Hermione Lee grew up in London and was educated at Oxford. She began her academic career as a lecturer in Williamsburg, Virginia (Instructor, 1970-1971) and at Liverpool University (Lecturer, 1971-1977). She taught at the University of York from 1977, where over twenty years she was Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader, and Professor of English Literature. From 1998-2008 she was the Goldsmiths' Chair of English Literature and Fellow of New College at the University of Oxford. In 2008 Lee was elected President of Wolfson College, University of Oxford.

Lee is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a Fellow of the British Academy and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an Honorary Fellow of St Hilda's and St Cross Colleges, Oxford. She has Honorary Doctorates from Liverpool and York Universities. In 2003 she was made a Companion of the British Empire for Services to Literature.



Robert K. Massie

Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman

in cooperation with WNET/THIRTEEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 6:30 PM

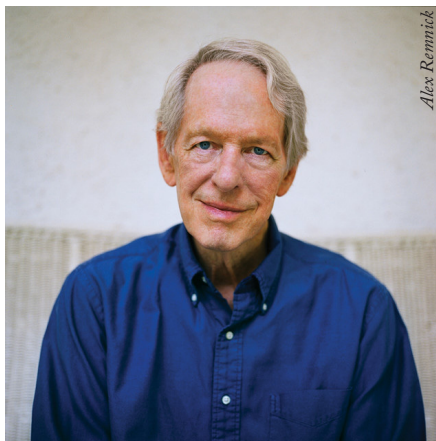
TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET (PARK/LEXINGTON)

\$10 PER PERSON; ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Peter the Great*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *The Romanovs* returns with another masterpiece of narrative biography, the extraordinary story of an obscure German princess who traveled to Russia at fourteen and rose to become one of the most powerful and captivating women in history.

Fired by Enlightenment philosophy, Catherine contended for thirty-four years with the deeply ingrained realities of Russian life, including serfdom. Admired and reviled by observers both inside and outside Russia, she controlled the government, foreign policy, cultural development, and the people's welfare, dealing with domestic rebellion, foreign wars, and the unrest churned up by the French Revolution. Massie also brings to life Catherine's family, friends, ministers, generals, lovers, and enemies, from her weak, bullying husband Peter to the giant figure of Gregory Potemkin. Massie's famous historical accuracy, depth of understanding, and felicity of style tell this monumental story like no other historian.

Robert K. Massie studied American history at Yale and European history at Oxford, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. He was president of the Authors Guild from 1987 to 1991. His previous books include *Nicholas and Alexandra*, *Peter the Great: His Life and World* (for which he won a Pulitzer Prize for biography), *The Romanovs: The Final Chapter*, *Dreadnought: Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War*, and *Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea*.



Alex Remnick

A Most Dangerous Woman

a staged reading of a new play about George Eliot

by Cathy Tempelsman

directed by Richard Maltby Jr.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

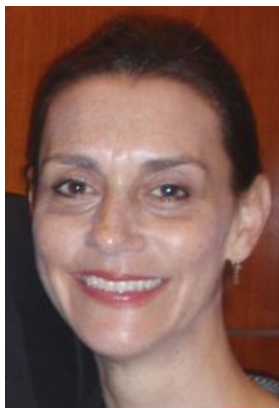
"You can never imagine what it is to have a man's force of genius in you, and yet to suffer the slavery of being a girl." —George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*

A Most Dangerous Woman is the little-known story of the English novelist George Eliot. A country girl, brilliant, passionate, and notoriously plain, she wanted conventional marriage but was led by circumstances into a wildly creative and scandalous life. Forced to publish her novels—including *Silas Marner*, *Daniel Deronda*, and *Middlemarch*—under a pseudonym, she became one of the country's most famous writers before anyone knew who she was. Her life is itself the stuff of great fiction—a literary story, a love story, and a mystery. Of the play's prior production, *CriticalRant.com* said, "Nothing feels quaint or sedate about Tempelsman's play...a marvelous candid portrayal of the emergence of a literary giant."

Cathy Tempelsman's *A Most Dangerous Woman* was seen in workshop at Echo Theatre in Dallas in September 2011, has had readings in New York and elsewhere, and received a development grant from the Pilgrim Fund. She is also the author of a one-act, *Missing*, produced at Boston Playwrights Theatre, and the book *Child-Wise*. The Society Library's Eliot collection was a major resource in the creation of her play.

Richard Maltby Jr. is the award-winning director, conceiver, and/or lyricist for the Broadway productions of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Fosse*, *Baby*, *Closer Than Ever*, *Miss Saigon*, and the film *Miss Potter*, among many others.

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



Jean Marcus

The Center for Contemporary Opera

Prima le Parole (First the Words)

directed by Amy Leland; hosted by Carlin Glynn

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

\$20 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/\$25 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 nonmusical readings from two new operas. The evening will be moderated by Carlin Glynn, co-Artistic Director of The Actor's Studio.

Oh, Egypt (Eugene Rotberg, librettist; Mohammad Fairouz, composer) tells the story of the Egyptian revolution overthrowing Hosni Mubarak during the winter of 2011. The libretto is a faithful representation of the events that took place during those historic two months. Mr. Rotberg was vice president and treasurer of the World Bank for almost twenty years. Mr. Fairouz is a widely performed composer whose venues have included Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

The Human Zoo (Mark N. Grant, composer and librettist) takes place in 19th-century New York City, where rival museum owners desperate for revenge against the too-successful P.T. Barnum exhibit a group of artificial human oddities. As the Human Zoo overtakes Barnum in popularity, the mystery increases as to whether its denizens are fake or real. Mark N. Grant won a 2006 Friedheim Award for his cantata *The Rose of Tralee*.

Carlin Glynn's notable parts include creating the lead in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and starring in Horton Foote's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Young Man From Atlanta*. In addition to her Actor's Studio work, she has served as a professor in the Graduate Film Division of Columbia University.

Amy Leland's credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *West Side Story*, and *The Normal Heart*. Ms. Leland is the founder of Summer Woman Productions, dedicated to bringing the works of new writers to life.

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



Carlin Glynn

Bill Connington and Razors Edge Productions *Art* by Yasmina Reza

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

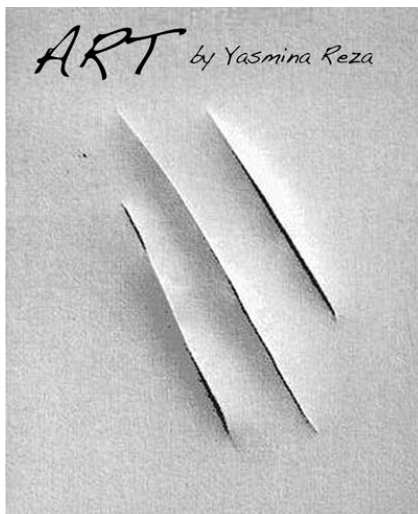
\$20 WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION/\$25 AT THE DOOR

Yasmina Reza's *Art* premiered in Paris in 1995 and won the Molière Award for Best Author. Since then it has had productions worldwide in over thirty languages. The London production (translated by Christopher Hampton) received the 1996-97 Laurence Olivier Award and Evening Standard Award, and its Broadway run garnered it the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play.

Raising questions about art and friendship, the comedy concerns Serge, a collector of modern art, and his friends Marc and Yvan. When Serge buys an expensive painting that Marc hates, their relationship suffers while they struggle to define what makes something art. Yvan, caught in the middle, tries to please them both. Anyone who has visited a contemporary art exhibit will be challenged and exhilarated by the debate.

Bill Connington is the creator and star of the extended-run, critically lauded show *Zombie*, adapted from the novella by Joyce Carol Oates. His short films of *Zombie* and *The Thornhills of Park Avenue* are currently appearing on the film festival circuit. The full-length feature of *Zombie* is slated for production in May 2012. As an actor, he has appeared in theater, television, and independent film. His recent plays include *The Eternal Anniversary*, which appeared at 59 East 59, and *Princes of Darkness* at the Dream Up Festival. He is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

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



Martin Lemelman

Two Cents Plain: My Brooklyn Boyhood

winner of the 2010 New York City Book Award for Memoir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

Martin Lemelman's elegiac and bittersweet graphic memoir *Two Cents Plain* collects the memories and artifacts of the author's childhood in Brooklyn. The son of Holocaust survivors, Lemelman grew up in the back of his family's candy store in Brownsville during the 1950s and '60s, as the neighborhood, and much of the city, moved into a period of deep decline. In *Two Cents Plain*, Lemelman pieces together the fragments of his past in an effort to come to terms with a childhood that was marked by struggle both in and outside of the home. But Lemelman's Brooklyn is also the nostalgic place of egg creams and comic books, malteds and novelty toys, where the voices of Brownsville's denizens—the deli man, the fish man, and the fruit man—all come to vivid life. Through his stirring narrative and richly rendered black-and-white drawings, family photographs, and found objects, Lemelman creates a lush, layered view of a long-lost time and place, the chronicle of a family and a city in crisis. *Two Cents Plain* is a wholly unique memoir and a reading experience not soon forgotten.

Martin Lemelman is the author/illustrator of *Mendel's Daughter* and has illustrated over 30 children's books, and his work has been published in magazines ranging from the *New York Times Book Review* to *Sesame Street* magazine. He recently retired from the Communication Design Department at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. See www.twocentsplain.com for more information about the book and www.twocentcomics.com for more stories from Brownsville.



Ellen Feldman and Richard Snow Loves and Perils of World War II

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

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

In this event, acclaimed novelist Ellen Feldman and celebrated historian Richard Snow will discuss the struggles and rewards of writing about World War II.

Inspired by a quotation from a British lexicographer—"War, next to love, has most captured the world's imagination"—Ellen Feldman's *Next to Love* follows the lives of three young women and their men during the years of the war and its aftermath, beginning with the men going off and ending when their children are on the cusp of their own adulthood. A novel of a nation and its citizens in flux, *Next to Love* depicts the enduring power of love and friendship and illuminates a transformative moment in American history.

Richard Snow's *A Measureless Peril* brings to life America's role in the struggle for the Atlantic, the longest continuous battle in modern history. If the Allies had lost that battle, they would have lost the war, and it is the only part of the conflict that American civilians could see, as ships loaded with crucial supplies for the European fronts were torpedoed, burned and sank a few hundred yards offshore. Yet few people even at the time saw the six-year campaign as a single, unified effort on which every other success depended.

Ellen Feldman, a 2009 Guggenheim fellow, is also the author of *Lucy*, *The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank*, and *Scottsboro*, which was shortlisted for the Orange Prize.

Richard Snow worked at *American Heritage* magazine for nearly forty years, 17 of them as editor-in-chief. He has written novels and nonfiction as well as the screenplays for historical documentaries. He was drawn to his most recent book by letters his father wrote home from his destroyer, on North Atlantic anti-submarine duty during the war.



James D. Solomon***The Conspirator***

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

The 2011 film *The Conspirator* tells the saga of Confederate widow Mary Surratt, tried for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth and others to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Although the Lincoln murder is widely taught, few know the full story—that multiple attacks took place that night, that hundreds were rounded up by authorities, and that eight civilians were tried in a military court, one of them accused of crimes probably committed by her own son. Surratt's relationship with her son and with the Union colonel who defended her form an extraordinary and timeless story.

Screenwriter James D. Solomon began work on *The Conspirator* in 1993 at the Society Library, and he immersed himself in everything he could find on the subject over the next eighteen years. This long and intense effort produced a compelling film directed by Robert Redford, with a distinguished cast including Robin Wright, James McAvoy, Kevin Kline, and Tom Wilkinson. Roger Ebert commented, "Not many films this smart can be made," and the *San Francisco Chronicle* says that the film invites the audience to see the assassination and its associated tragedies "not as some immovable historical event, but as people of the time saw it, as an absolute outrage and an epic disaster."

In this event, Mr. Solomon will discuss his research on the assassination and its aftermath, the process of seeing his hard work brought to the screen, and the film's many complex responses. Clips from the film will be shown.

James D. Solomon also co-wrote and executive produced the ESPN miniseries *The Bronx is Burning*, among other projects.



Alexandra Styron

Reading My Father: A Memoir

introduced by Ellen M. Iseman

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

In *Reading My Father*, William Styron's youngest child explores the life of a fascinating and difficult man whose own memoir, *Darkness Visible*, so searingly chronicled his battle with major depression. Alexandra Styron's parents—the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Sophie's Choice* and his political activist wife, Rose—were, for half a century, leading players on the world's cultural stage. Alexandra was raised under both the halo of her father's brilliance and the long shadow of his troubled mind.

A drinker, a carouser, and above all “a high priest at the altar of fiction,” Styron helped define the concept of The Big Male Writer that gave so much of twentieth-century American fiction a muscular, glamorous aura. In constant pursuit of The Great Novel, he and his work were the dominant force in his family's life, his turbulent moods the weather in their ecosystem. From Styron's Tidewater, Virginia, youth and precocious literary debut to the triumphs of his best-known books and on through his spiral into depression, *Reading My Father* portrays the epic sweep of an American artist's life, offering a ringside seat on a great literary generation's friendships and their dramas.

Alexandra Styron is the author of the novel *All the Finest Girls* and a graduate of Barnard College and the MFA program at Columbia University. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, among other publications, and she has taught memoir writing in the MFA program at Hunter College.



Rex Bonomelli

Sally Bedell Smith***Elizabeth the Queen: The Life of a Modern Monarch***

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

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

In this magisterial new biography, *New York Times* bestselling author Sally Bedell Smith brings to life one of the world's most fascinating and enigmatic women, Queen Elizabeth II. From her ascension to the throne in 1952, Queen Elizabeth has been the object of unparalleled scrutiny, but the fog of glamour and gossip have obscured the real person. Drawing on numerous interviews and never-before-revealed documents, Smith pulls back the curtain to show in intimate detail the public and private lives of a queen who has led her country and Commonwealth through the wars and upheavals of the last sixty years with unparalleled composure, intelligence, and grace.

Elizabeth the Queen follows the girl who suddenly becomes "heiress presumptive" at her uncle's abdication through her teenage leadership in the war effort and her struggle to balance the parenting of two sons with her duties as the young ruler. Smith introduces the Queen's daily routines, from the weekly meetings she has held with twelve prime ministers to her physically demanding tours abroad, as well as her personal relationships with her husband of sixty-four years, her children and their often problematic partners, her grandchildren, and her friends. Scrupulously researched, *Elizabeth the Queen* is a close-up view of a woman previously known only from a distance, and a fascinating window into life at the center of the last great monarchy.

Sally Bedell Smith is the author of bestselling biographies of William S. Paley, Pamela Harriman, Diana, Princess of Wales, John and Jacqueline Kennedy, and Bill and Hillary Clinton. A contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* since 1996, she previously worked at *Time* and *The New York Times*, where she was a cultural news reporter.



Literary Magazine Salon

hosted by Adam Kirsch

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 6:30 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

\$10 PER PERSON; ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Celebrate the literary magazine at our third annual Salon, featuring refreshments, conversation, visual presentations, and readings.

Triple Canopy is an exciting four-year-old online magazine showcasing new media projects that incorporate art, literature, essays, and critical theory.

The Paris Review is a venerable print literary institution with an energized web presence dedicated to promoting fiction, poetry, belles lettres, and essays.

Adam Kirsch is a senior editor at the *New Republic* and a columnist for *Tablet Magazine*. He is the author of several books of poetry, criticism, and biography, most recently *Why Trilling Matters* (Yale University Press).

triplecanopy



The Library hosts monthly writing groups for fiction, nonfiction, memoir, poetry, and children's/young adult writers. Interested Library members must contact Carolyn Waters at cwaters@nysoclib.org to inquire about space availability and other requirements.



THE WRITING LIFE DAYTIME TALK SERIES

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

The A-B-Cs of E-Book Publishing with John Snyder, Joshua Tallent, and Parnell Hall

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 , 10 :0 0 AM, MEMBERS' ROOM

FREE OF CHARGE; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

In this primer on digital self-publishing, we'll walk through the process of selecting and working with a firm to format and design your e-book and getting your e-book listed for sale on online outlets like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Google Books. On the way, we'll also discuss what digital rights are (and why you might not want to sign these rights away to a traditional print publisher).

John Snyder retained the digital rights to his memoir *Hill of Beans: Coming of Age in the Last Days of the Old South* (Smith/Kerr Associates, 2011), which he has just published as an e-book.



Parnell Hall

Joshua Tallent is the founder and CEO of eBook Architects, an e-book conversion and consulting firm based in Austin, Texas.

Parnell Hall is the acclaimed author of the *Puzzle Lady* and *Stanley Hastings* mystery series. His most recent book, *\$10,000 in Small Unmarked Puzzles: A Puzzle Lady Mystery* will be published this January in print by St. Martin's Press and as an e-book by Parnell Hall.

Blurb is a Verb! Adventures (and Misadventures) in Book Publicity with Sarah Pinneo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 , 10 :0 0 AM, WHITRIDGE ROOM

FREE OF CHARGE; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Sarah Pinneo is the author of the popular blog *Blurb is a Verb!*, in which she shares true (and sometimes terrible) stories of book publicity gone right (and wrong). In this talk, the self-described publishing nerd will reveal what she's learned about online book publicity, book bloggers, social media, bookstore events, working with your in-house publicist, and how to find your audience.

Sarah Pinneo writes about food, family, and fiction from Hanover, New Hampshire. Her forthcoming novel *Julia's Child* (Penguin, February 2012) has been hailed as "a witty, well plotted fiction debut" by *Publishers Weekly*. She is also the co-author of *The Ski House Cookbook* (Clarkson Potter, 2007).

THE WRITING LIFE DAYTIME TALK SERIES

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Close Reading: The Craft of Reading Fiction Like a Writer with Dylan Landis

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00 AM, WHITRIDGE ROOM
FREE OF CHARGE; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

In this session we'll take the first chapter of Daniel Woodrell's novel *Winter's Bone*, read it aloud one sentence or paragraph at a time, and hold each part up to the light.

Close reading is a slow, surprisingly exciting process. It reveals how a writer does the critical jobs of storytelling: creates conflict, ramps up tension, reveals and deepens character, establishes place and time, anchors a world in sensory detail, and moves the story forward. Through close reading we refine our ability to learn, as writers, the craft of fiction from the authors we admire.

Dylan Landis is the author of the novel in stories *Normal People Don't Live Like This*, one of *Newsday's* Top Ten Books of 2009, and is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

THE WRITING LIFE EVENTS IN 2012 ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY JENNY LAWRENCE.



SEMINARS

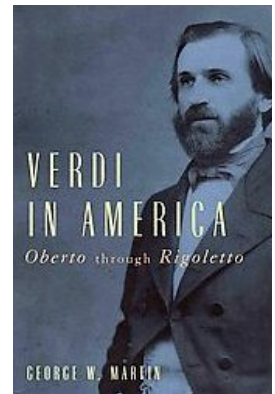
FOR MEMBERS ONLY

George W. Martin Verdi in America (Three Early Operas)

TUESDAYS, 11:00 AM, WHITRIDGE ROOM

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

Verdi scholar George W. Martin is the author of the recently published *Verdi in America: Oberto through Rigoletto* (University of Rochester Press), a study of the reception of those operas and how and why opinion of them formed and changed. This seminar's three meetings, each focused on one opera, will discuss what stirred Verdi in the opera's source and how he fashioned his libretto and drama, with recorded musical examples. *Verdi in America* may be purchased from the Library; copies of the opera texts will be distributed to registrants at no additional charge.



JANUARY 24: *VERDI IN AMERICA* CHAPTER 4, *I DUE FOSCARI* (BYRON)

FEBRUARY 21: *VERDI IN AMERICA* CHAPTER 11, *RIGOLETTO* (HUGO)

MARCH 20: *VERDI IN AMERICA* CHAPTER 6, *MACBETH* (SHAKESPEARE)

James Kraft

Edith Wharton and New York City

WEDNESDAYS, 11:00 AM, WHITRIDGE ROOM

\$60 FOR ALL FIVE SESSIONS (RECOMMENDED) OR **\$15** PER SESSION

Although she traveled and lived in other places, Edith Wharton was born and raised in New York City and remained fascinated by the idea of the city's society—what it was, how it behaved, and how it evolved. Offered in conjunction with our 2012 exhibition, this course traces Wharton's interest through a reading of her principal New York books, a selection of her New York stories, and her autobiography, *A Backward Glance*.

Dr. Kraft recommends Penguin editions, which registrants may purchase from the Library.

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

FEBRUARY 8: *THE HOUSE OF MIRTH*MARCH 7: *THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY*APRIL 11: *THE AGE OF INNOCENCE*MAY 9: *OLD NEW YORK*JUNE 6: *THE NEW YORK STORIES OF EDITH WHARTON*
AND *A BACKWARD GLANCE*

Donald McDonough

Milton's *Paradise Lost*

THURSDAYS, 11:00 AM, WHITRIDGE ROOM

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

Professor Donald McDonough, leader of sold-out seminars on Dante and other works of the Western canon, will here revisit his specialty, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The Hackett edition is recommended and will be available for purchase from the Library; registrants may also bring alternate versions.

Professor Emeritus at Central Connecticut State University, Donald McDonough has spoken on Milton at conferences around the world.

MARCH 22: *PARADISE LOST* BOOKS 1-4APRIL 12: *PARADISE LOST* BOOKS 5-8MAY 10: *PARADISE LOST* BOOKS 9-12

Meg Wolitzer

The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman

FOR GRADES THREE TO SEVEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 4:00 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

\$5 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

At first glance, Duncan Dorfman, April Blunt, and Nate Saviano don't seem to have much in common. Duncan is trying to look after his single mom and adjust to life in a new town while managing his newfound Scrabble superpower—he can feel words and pictures beneath his fingers and tell what they are without looking. April is pining for a mystery boy she met years ago and striving to be seen as more than a nerd in her family of jocks. And home-schooled Nate is struggling to meet his father's high expectations for success.

When these three unique kids are brought together at the national Youth Scrabble Tournament, each with a very different drive to win, their paths cross and stories intertwine . . . and the journey is made extraordinary with a perfect touch of magic. Readers will fly through the pages, anxious to discover who will take home the grand prize, but there's much more at stake than winning and losing. With shrewd observations, wry humor, and a touch of whimsy, bestselling author Meg Wolitzer's classic storytelling will delight readers of all ages.

In this event, Ms. Wolitzer will read from her book, talk about its origins, present a slideshow about Scrabble, and facilitate games.

Meg Wolitzer is a *New York Times* bestselling, critically acclaimed novelist as well as a voracious Scrabble player.



Jules and Kate Feiffer *No Go Sleep!*

FOR AGES FOUR TO SEVEN

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 4:00 PM, MEMBERS' ROOM

\$5 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

A baby finally falls asleep with the rest of the world in this new picture book from Kate and Jules Feiffer. Even though the stars are out and the moon is bright, the baby says “No go sleep!” But as the surrounding world gradually goes to sleep—first the sun, then the moon, then the sheep, tree, and owl—the baby finally, finally, finally falls asleep too. In this event, the Feiffers will talk about how they worked together to create the book and engage attendees in creating their own story.

Kate Feiffer is a writer, a filmmaker, and a mother. The *New York Times Book Review* heralded Ms. Feiffer’s “economy of style and understated wit” in her debut picture book *Double Pink*, illustrated by Bruce Ingman. She has collaborated with her father Jules Feiffer on two other picture books, *Henry, the Dog with No Tail* and *Which Puppy?* Her other works include *President Pennybaker*, *My Mom is Trying to Ruin My Life*, and *The Wild, Wild Inside*, as well as a middle-grade novel, *The Problem with the Puddles*.

Jules Feiffer is one of the most influential editorial cartoonists of our time, as well as a playwright, novelist, screenwriter, and an author and illustrator of children’s books. Mr. Feiffer’s many awards and honors for his work include a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award, and an Obie Award. His books for children include *The Phantom Tollbooth* (written by Norton Juster), *The Man in the Ceiling*, and *Bark, George*.



Young Writers' Workshop with Rob Ackerman Playwriting

FOR GRADES THREE TO SIX

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 3:30 PM,

WHITRIDGE ROOM

FREE OF CHARGE;

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

In this workshop, acclaimed playwright Rob Ackerman will share the basics of playwriting and guide participants in writing their own scenes.

Rob Ackerman's extensive Off-Broadway and regional credits include the Drama Desk Award-winner *Tabletop*, *Disconnect*, and *Icarus of Ohio*. His first play, *Origin of the Species*, became an award-winning feature film starring Amanda Peet, and the more recent *Volleygirls* premiered in 2009 and is being adapted into a musical. His newest play, *Call Me Waldo*, will be produced by the Working Theater in New York in February and March.



THE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

The Tenth Annual Young Writers Awards

COMPETITION OPEN JANUARY 3-MARCH 16 (NOTE NEW DATE)

AWARDS CEREMONY WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 6:00 PM

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 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 the announcement of the winners.



2011 winner Emily Gaw

THE 2012 YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY
JEANETTE SARKISIAN WAGNER AND PAUL A. WAGNER.

CALENDAR AND REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS.

For any event listed without a blank for the number of spaces, please see individual listings for details on registering. Further registration details are on the following page.

MEMBERSHIP NAME

PHONE

E-MAIL

OF SPACES

- _____ Writing Life Daytime: The A-B-Cs of E-Book Publishing, Tuesday, January 10, 10:00 am, free of charge
- _____ Literary Magazine Salon, Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 pm, \$10
- _____ Author Series: Robert K. Massie, *Catherine the Great*, Thursday, January 19, 6:30 pm, \$10
- _____ Performance: *A Most Dangerous Woman*, Monday, January 23, 6:30 pm, \$20
- _____ Seminar: George W. Martin, *Verdi in America*, Tuesday, January 24, 11:00 am (first of 3 sessions)
- _____ Lecture: Martin Lemelman, *Two Cents Plain*, Thursday, January 26, 6:30 pm, \$10
- _____ Children's Event: Meg Wolitzer, *The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman*, Friday, January 27, 4:00 pm
- _____ Lecture: Loves and Perils of World War II, Wednesday, February 1, 6:30 pm, \$10
- _____ Performance: The Center for Contemporary Opera, *Prima le Parole*, Sunday, February 5, 6:30 pm, \$20
- _____ Seminar: James Kraft, Edith Wharton, Wednesday, February 8, 11:00 am (first of 5 sessions)
- _____ Writing Life Daytime: Blurb is a Verb! Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 am, free of charge
- _____ Performance: Bill Connington and Razors Edge, *Art*, Thursday, February 16, 6:30 pm, \$20
- _____ Lecture: James D. Solomon, *The Conspirator*, Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 pm, \$10
- _____ Children's Event: Rob Ackerman, Young Writers' Playwriting Workshop, Friday, February 24, 3:30 pm
- _____ Lecture: Alexandra Styron, *Reading My Father*, Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 pm, \$10
- _____ Writing Life Daytime: Close Reading, Tuesday, March 13, 10:00 am, free of charge
- _____ Exhibition Opening: *Edith Wharton's New York City: A Backward Glance*, Wednesday, March 14, 6:30-8:00 pm, free of charge
- _____ Children's Event: Jules and Kate Feiffer, *No Go Sleep!*, Thursday, March 15, 4:00 pm



*Edith Wharton's childhood home
on 23rd Street*

CALENDAR AND REGISTRATION CONT.

_____ Seminar: Donald McDonough, *Paradise Lost*, Thursday, March 22, 11:00 am
(first of three sessions)

_____ Lecture: Sally Bedell Smith, *Elizabeth the Queen*, Thursday, March 22, 6:30 pm, \$10

_____ Exhibition Lecture: Hermione Lee, *Edith Wharton*, Tuesday, March 27, 6:30 pm, \$10

_____ TOTAL COST

_____ MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED

_____ PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

_____ CREDIT CARD NUMBER

_____ EXPIRATION DATE

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 Anyone Without a Barcode: Go to www.eventbrite.com, search for the event of your interest, and follow the onscreen instructions. This covers only events that are open to the public.

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, or fax to 212-744-5832.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: No refunds are given, unless the event is canceled or no space becomes available for a waitlisted reservation.

The house opens for each event thirty minutes before the stated start time. Registrants are asked not to arrive for check-in prior to that time.

A seat cannot be guaranteed after an event has begun.

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