

Events SPRING 2017



Exhibition

Special Events

Performances

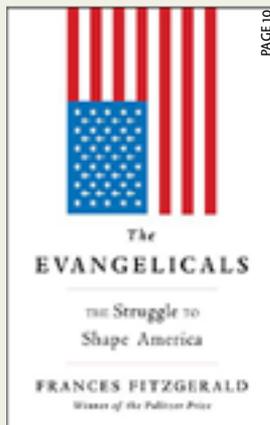
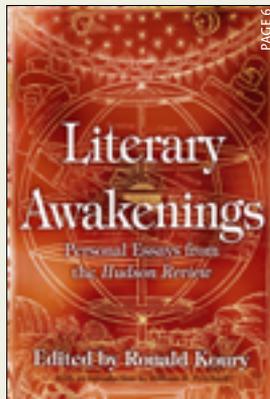
Lectures

Seminars

The Writing Life

Children's and
YA Events

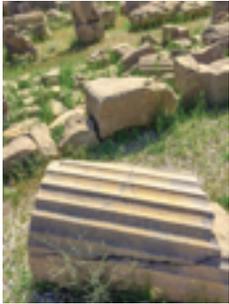
Registration



EXHIBITION

Broken Beauty

Ruins of the Ancient World



**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
THROUGH
AUGUST 31, 2017**

The Assunta, Ignazio,
Ada and Romano Peluso
Exhibition Gallery

Free of charge

This compelling exhibition focuses on the Library's holdings of books devoted to historic sites in the Middle East and beyond. It was the 2015 bombing of the Temple of Baalshamin in the Syrian city of Palmyra that compelled a look within the Library's walls at our collection on the subject. Today, with many of these sites increasingly at risk, narratives by travelers from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries assume ever greater importance to historians, archaeologists, and concerned citizens everywhere. These legendary places' broken beauty—so described by the English writer Rose Macaulay—reminds us of the fragility of monumental ruins and of the value of written records preserved here at the Library.

THIS EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY THE THOMAS E. DEWEY FUND, THE HAZEN POLSKY FOUNDATION, AND BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF SUSAN GOODSTEIN LERNER.

AWARDS CEREMONY



**FOR MEMBERS
AND GUESTS**

**Wednesday, May 3
refreshments 6:00 PM
presentation 6:30 PM**

Members' Room

Free of charge; advance
registration required

The New York City Book Awards 2016

The New York Society Library's New York City Book Awards, established in 1996, honor books of literary quality or historical importance that, in the opinion of the selection committee, evoke the spirit or enhance appreciation of New York City.

The jury for 2016-2017 is chaired by Warren Wechsler and includes Bianca Calabresi, Barbara Cohen, Ellen Feldman, Ella Foshay, Karl E. Meyer, Janice P. Nimura, Stephen Raphael, Peter Salwen, and Richard Snow.

Watch our website for a list of the award winners, plus more information about the ceremony and presenters.

At left: Presenter James Atlas and honoree Roger Angell at the 2016 awards ceremony. *Photo by Karen Smul.*

**THE 2016-2017 NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN
BY ELLEN M. ISEMAN.**

LITERARY
MAGAZINE
SALON



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, April 13
refreshments 6:00 PM
presentation 6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

Digging Through The Fat and *Guernica: A Magazine of Global Arts and Politics*

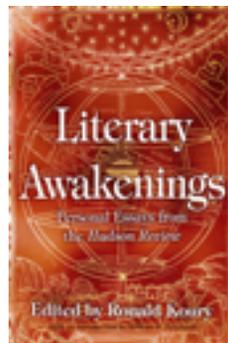
Join us for a special evening of refreshments, conversations, readings, video, and more in our annual evening showcasing great literary magazines.

Digging Through The Fat | *ripping out the heart* began as a call for literary action. We showcase prose, poetry, and visual arts from emerging and established creative folks throughout the year. We hold two reading periods: poetry in the Spring/Summer and fiction in the Fall/Winter. We also periodically publish personal essays, interviews, reviews, and links to published works. Our mission is to nurture a diverse community of artists, writers, poets, photographers, and publishers.

Founded online in 2004, *Guernica* is an award-winning magazine focused on the intersection of arts and politics. We publish memoir, reporting, interviews, commentary, poetry, fiction, and multimedia journalism exploring identity, conflict, culture, justice, science, and beyond. With contributors from every continent and at every stage of their careers, we are a home for singular voices, incisive ideas, and critical questions.

THE WRITING LIFE EVENTS IN 2017 ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN
BY JENNY LAWRENCE.

PANEL
AND RECEPTION



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, May 11
refreshments 6:00 PM
presentation 6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

The Hudson Review

Literary Awakenings: Personal Essays from the Hudson Review

Syracuse University Press, February 2017

This panel celebrates the publication of *Literary Awakenings: Personal Essays from the Hudson Review*, edited by Ronald Koury, the magazine's Managing Editor since 1985. During the past thirty years, the editors of the *Hudson Review* observed a trend among the best literary essayists and reviewers to couch their criticism in a highly personal manner as opposed to the theoretical, technocratic work being produced in other venues. The *Hudson Review* became a home for this kind of accessible, memoirist writing. This anthology, introduced by William H. Pritchard, collects 18 such essay/memoirs. These diverse contributions unite in the joy of appreciation, the pleasures of engaging with literature.

Following opening remarks by *Hudson Review* Editor Paula Deitz, Mr. Koury will introduce the panel: the moderator, Prof. Pritchard, along with three of the essayists.

William H. Pritchard, moderator, first appeared in the *Hudson Review* in Summer 1967 and became an Advisory Editor of the magazine in 1973. His published criticism includes critical and biographical studies of Robert Frost, Randall Jarrell, Wyndham Lewis, and John Updike. He is the Henry Clay Folger Professor of English, Emeritus, at Amherst College.

Susan Balée's *Flannery O'Connor, Literary Prophet of the South* (1994) was the first biography of the Southern writer.

Andrew Motion, the United Kingdom Poet Laureate 1999–2009, is the Homewood Professor of the Arts in the Writing Seminars program at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author most recently of *Coming in to Land: Selected Poems 1975–2015*.

Igor Webb is the author of *Rereading the Nineteenth Century: Studies in the Old Criticism from Austen to Lawrence* (2010). He is a Professor and the Director of Creative Writing at Adelphi University.

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE HUDSON REVIEW. THE WRITING LIFE EVENTS
IN 2017 ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY JENNY LAWRENCE.

PERFORMANCE

The Eleventh Hour

A new play by Cathy Tempelsman.
directed by Marc Vietor



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, May 8
6:00 PM

Location to be announced

\$35 per person; advance
registration required

This performance will last
approximately two hours.

The Eleventh Hour tells the true story of a deeply contentious investigation into the treatment of American soldiers in the First World War.

Helen Adams, a young woman from Boston, seeks the truth about her brother’s demotion and unlikely death on the final day of combat in 1918. She asks help of her canny Congressman, Alvan T. Fuller, who at first seems more interested in his lucrative new automobile dealership. He pulls the 66th Congress into highly partisan hearings into U.S. war policy—just as a victorious President Woodrow Wilson prepares his reelection bid. But as the mystery of Helen’s brother deepens, it demands the most difficult question: Are we ever allowed to say that a soldier died in vain?

This spring marks the centennial of America’s entry into World War I, the country’s first major overseas engagement. The Great War set the stage for the world as we know it, from the intense debate about internationalism to the problems of modern warfare: entrenched, interminable, inconclusive. *The Eleventh Hour* combines fictional characters with real figures of the period and text from the hearings to revisit the history from a new and poignant angle.

The Eleventh Hour will be presented as a full-cast staged reading under the direction of Marc Vietor (Red Bull Theater’s *The School for Scandal*).

Cathy Tempelsman’s first full-length work, *A Most Dangerous Woman*, based on the remarkable life of George Eliot, was a finalist for the Terrence McNally New Play Award (given to an American work that “celebrates the transformative power of art”) and the Francesca Primus Playwriting Prize, and had its world premiere at Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, directed by Richard Maltby, Jr. A work in progress, *The Eleventh Hour* had an initial reading at Luna Stage in New Jersey in January 2017.

PERFORMANCE

Sehnsucht

by Sarah Blush



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday, June 20
6:30 PM

Members’ Room

\$25 per person; advance
registration required

The implicit message of “Make America Great Again” and paleo dieting is the same: we used to know how to live right, and things would be better if we lived that way again. *Sehnsucht* is a play about our preoccupation with the past and the impact of propping it up.

The play begins with a group of siblings wistfully reminiscing about when they were cavemen. We learn that this is just one of the attractions inside an audacious resort, a literal relic of a bygone era profiting from its recipients’ desire to escape the present and take refuge in some elusive past. The play then visits an imagined empire with no recorded history (inspired by the 19th-century Chinese Dowager Empress Cixi) and Sigmund Freud’s huge collection of historical artifacts.

The title is an untranslatable German word expressing the nostalgia we can feel for a time or place we never actually experienced. Knowing how we’re “supposed” to live supposedly offers clues for how to feel better, happier, more satisfied—contemporary society’s constant refrain. As modern life increases in rapidity and technology, there’s a longing to understand what behavior, if any, is essentially human. We peer into history, trying to figure out when we were most ourselves. *Sehnsucht* questions to what extent this longing can be comforting, paralyzing, and even sinister.

Sehnsucht is conceived and directed by Sarah Blush and produced by Rachel Christiansen in collaboration with Brian Bock, Georgia King, and Michael Norton. It will be presented as a full-cast reading, with an audience talkback following.

Sarah Blush is a New York-based director and writer. Her original work includes *Power Couple* (Ars Nova ANT Fest), *My Favorite Character Was the Talking Vase* (HERE), and *Still Life With Apples* (Dixon Place). Ms. Blush is a Julie Taymor World Theater Fellowship Semifinalist, a New Georges Affiliated Artist, and a member of The Habitat’s Directors Playground. B.F.A. NYU (Experimental Theatre Wing; Playwrights Horizons Theater School).

THIS EVENT IS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY ALEXANDER SANGER IN HONOR OF JEANNETTE WATSON SANGER.

LECTURE

Daphne Merkin

This Close to Happy: A Reckoning with Depression

Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, February 2017

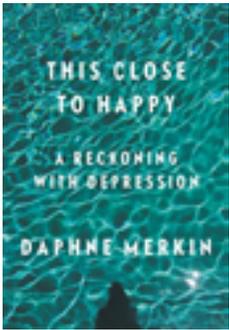


This Close to Happy is the rare, vividly personal account of what it feels like to suffer from clinical depression, written from a woman's perspective and informed by an acute understanding of the implications of this disease over a lifetime.

Taking off from essays on depression she has written for the *New Yorker* and the *New York Times Magazine*, Daphne Merkin casts her eye back to her beginnings to try to sort out the root causes of her affliction. She recounts the travails of growing up in a large, affluent family where there was a paucity of love and of basics such as food and clothing despite the presence of a chauffeur and a cook. She goes on to recount her early hospitalization for depression in poignant detail, as well as her complex relationship with her mercurial, withholding mother.

Along the way Merkin also discusses her early, redemptive love of reading and gradual emergence as a writer. She eventually married, had a child, and suffered severe postpartum depression, for which she was again hospitalized. Merkin also discusses her visits to various therapists and psychopharmacologists, which enables her to probe the causes of depression and its various treatments. The book ends in the present, where the writer has learned how to navigate her depression, if not "cure" it, after a third hospitalization in the wake of her mother's death.

Daphne Merkin, a former staff writer for the *New Yorker*, is a regular contributor to *Elle*. Her writing frequently appears in the *New York Times*, *Bookforum*, *Departures*, *Travel & Leisure*, *W*, *Vogue*, and other publications. Merkin has taught writing at the 92nd Street Y, Marymount, and Hunter College.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, April 5
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

LECTURE

Frances FitzGerald

The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America

Simon & Schuster, April 2017

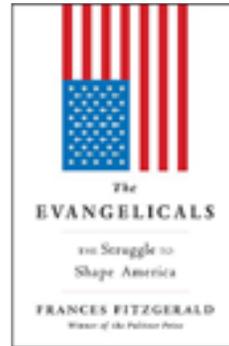


This groundbreaking book from Pulitzer Prize–winning historian Frances FitzGerald is the first to tell the powerful, dramatic story of the evangelical movement in America—from the Puritan era to the 2016 presidential election.

The evangelical movement began in the revivals of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, known in America as the Great Awakenings. A populist rebellion against the established churches, it became the dominant religious force in the country. During the nineteenth century white evangelicals split apart dramatically, first North versus South, and then at the end of the century, modernist versus fundamentalist. After World War II, revivalist preacher Billy Graham tried to gather all Protestants under his big tent, but the civil rights movement and the social revolution of the Sixties drove them apart again. By the 1980s Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and other televangelists had formed the Christian right. Protesting abortion and gay rights, they led the South into the Republican Party. For thirty-five years they were the sole voice of evangelicals to be heard nationally, but eventually a younger generation proposed a broader agenda of issues including climate change, gender equality, and immigration reform.

Evangelicals have in many ways defined the nation. They have shaped our culture and our politics. Frances FitzGerald's narrative of this distinctively American movement is a major work of history, piecing together the centuries-long story for the first time.

Frances FitzGerald is the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Bancroft Prize, and a prize from the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the author of *Fire in the Lake: the Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam*; *America Revised: History School Books in the Twentieth Century*; *Cities on a Hill: A Journey through Contemporary American Cultures*; *Way Out in the Blue: Reagan, Star Wars and the End of the Cold War*; and *Vietnam: Spirits of the Earth*. She has written for the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *Nation*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Esquire*.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, April 10
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

Christina Amato

The Monumental World of Miniature Books



Clearly, miniature books are small. For many, they are merely a curious, albeit adorable, footnote in book history. For some, they are baffling, seemingly designed to frustrate the farsighted and stymie the butterfingers. For many more, they are endlessly fascinating treasures. Many are marvels of craftsmanship that invite intimate perusal and reward close attention.

To add to their appeal, miniature books have a colorful history. They have served as showpieces of printers and bookbinders' skills, sometimes with tragic results, and as elaborate examples of monarchs' wealth. Their inherent portability and concealability have made them ideal vessels for propaganda, subversive ideas, and titillating tales. They have been cleverly employed for stories both for and by children, and have provided solace as personal prayer books. Not to mention that a miniature book has been to the moon.

Christina Amato has worked as the book conservator at the New York Society Library since 2016. She holds a Diploma of Bookbinding from the North Bennet Street School in Boston and has worked in many prestigious conservation labs for the past ten years. She is also an award-winning creator of miniature books, which she writes, illustrates, and binds in her free time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, April 17
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required



Terry McDonell

The Accidental Life: An Editor's Notes on Writing and Writers

Knopf, August 2016

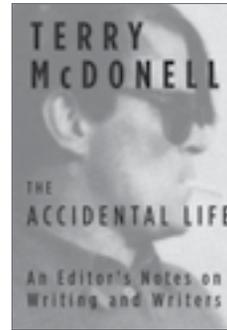


You might not know Terry McDonell, but you certainly know his work: he has served as top editor for *Outside*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, and *Sports Illustrated*, among others. In this revealing memoir, McDonell talks about what really happens when editors and writers work with deadlines ticking (or drinks on the bar). His stories about the people and personalities he's known are both heartbreaking and bitingly funny—playing “acid golf” with Hunter S. Thompson, practicing brinkmanship with David Carr and Steve Jobs, working the European fashion scene with Liz Tilberis, or pitching TV pilots with Richard Price.

Here, too, is an expert's practical advice on how to recruit—and keep—high-profile talent; what makes a compelling lede; how to translate online traffic into dollars; how, in whatever format, on whatever platform, a good editor really works; and what it takes to write well. Taking us from the raucous days of New Journalism to today's digital landscape, McDonell argues that the need for clear storytelling from trustworthy news sources has never been stronger.

Jeffrey Eugenides says, “Every time I run into Terry, I think how great it would be to have dinner with him. Hear about the writers he's known and edited over the years, what the magazine business was like back then, how it's changed and where it's going, inside info about Edward Abbey, Jim Harrison, Annie Proulx, old New York, and the Swimsuit issue. That dinner is this book.”

Terry McDonell has won numerous awards for his editorial work at magazines and websites. He is also a novelist and poet and has written and produced for film and television. In 2012 he was inducted into the American Society of Magazine Editors' Hall of Fame. He is the president of the board of the *Paris Review* Foundation and serves on the Board of Overseers of the *Columbia Journalism Review*.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, April 26
6:30 PM

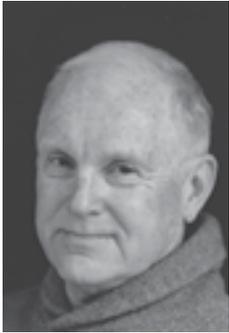
Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

LECTURE

Gray Brechin

New York City and the Living New Deal

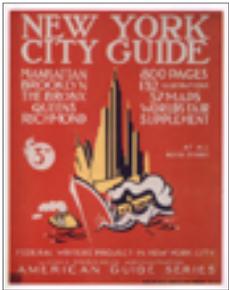


New Deal agencies radically transformed New York City as they worked to end the Great Depression. They did so by putting legions of unemployed New Yorkers back to work, and in the process they saved millions from destitution and despair while improving the lives of unwitting generations to follow. Few today realize the ubiquity of New Deal public works or how indispensable they are to the functioning of the city.

The Living New Deal is a crowdsourced online project conducting the first comprehensive inventory of New Deal public works in the United States and its territories. Its website—livingnewdeal.org—has become an essential resource for researchers of this fascinating period, when those whom President Franklin Roosevelt recruited for his administration envisioned government as a means of helping all citizens, not just those who could afford to buy it.

New York City not only made the Roosevelt family fortune but was also a vital voting block for the Democratic Party. Despite a mutual antipathy between Robert Moses and President Roosevelt, New Deal agencies bestowed a wealth of public works on the five boroughs, including bridges, tunnels, sewers, airports, landmarks restored, schools, colleges, art works, public housing, and a magnificent park system. The Living New Deal's new map showcases a sampling of over a thousand projects in the city. Like a lost civilization rediscovered, thousands more remain to be found.

Dr. Gray Brechin is an award-winning writer and historical geographer whose book *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* spent sixteen weeks on the *San Francisco Chronicle's* bestseller list. He is the founder and Project Scholar of the Living New Deal and is proud to be working with a nationwide team of research associates directed by Professor Emeritus Richard Walker.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, May 18
6:30 PM

The Museum of the
City of New York
1220 Fifth Avenue
at 103rd Street

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED WITH THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

LECTURE

Roz Chast

Theories of Everything, and Much, Much More: An Evening with New Yorker Cartoonist and Author Roz Chast



Roz Chast has loved drawing cartoons since she was a child growing up in Brooklyn. Since joining the *New Yorker* as a cartoonist almost 40 years ago, she has established herself as one of our greatest artistic chroniclers of the anxieties, superstitions, furies, and surreal imaginings of modern life. David Remnick, the magazine's editor, has called her “the magazine's only certifiable genius.”

Ms. Chast is the author of *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant*, a *New York Times* Best Book of the Year (2014). Using handwritten text, drawings, photographs and wit, this graphic work chronicles her relationship with her aging parents with tenderness and candor. In addition to many books for adults, she is the author of numerous children's books, including collaborations with Steve Martin and Calvin Trillin. Her latest book, *Going into Town: A Sort-of Guide to the City (NYC)*, comes out in October.

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, she has received honorary degrees from Pratt Institute, the Art Institute of Boston, and Dartmouth, among others. In 2013, she was inducted as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2015, she received the Heinz Award for her body of work which brings “wry humor and wit to some of our most profound everyday anxieties...she offers empathy and courage to confront them head on.”

Uptown at Night presents comedy and humorous storytelling on the Upper East Side. It is a collaboration of Sydney LeBlanc, a writer, and Mickey Murray, a producer. Ms. Murray began her career in TV, working with the Johnny Carson and Dick Cavett shows. Ms. LeBlanc's work has been published by W.W. Norton and the *New York Times*; she frequently reads her humorous short stories at Live from the Library.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, May 24
refreshments 6:00 PM
presentation 6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED WITH UPTOWN AT NIGHT.

EXHIBITION
LECTURE

Daniel T. Potts

Ancient Iran in the Mediaeval, Renaissance, and Early Modern Consciousness of Europe: The Printed Word, the Graven Image, the Learned Traveller, and the Stage



Long before archaeological excavations began to reveal the magnificence of the ruins at Persepolis, Ancient Iran was an object of enormous interest in the West. This early curiosity about pre-Islamic Iranian antiquity, particularly the Achaemenid Persian, Parthian (or Arsacid) and Sasanian empires, is captured in hundreds of books, beginning with those that contained editions of the major Classical sources containing data on ancient Iran, and moving on to eyewitness accounts by travellers, often accompanied by engravings illustrating Persepolis and other important monuments in the region. Concurrently, there appeared all over Europe plays and operas centering on the lives and deeds of Cyrus the Great, Darius, Xerxes and other ancient Iranian monarchs which added a human dimension to those written accounts of the Persian court and engravings of palaces and tombs that circulated ever more widely across Europe from the late 15th through the 18th centuries.



This lecture is presented in connection with our exhibition *Broken Beauty: Ruins of the Ancient World*. Additional related books from the Library's Special Collections will be on display for this evening only.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, June 1
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

Daniel T. Potts is Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology and History at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW), New York University. He is a specialist in the archaeology and early history of Iran, Mesopotamia, and the Arabian peninsula. He is the founding editor of the journal *Arabian Archaeology & Epigraphy*; a Corresponding Member of the Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente; and a Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute. He has excavated at sites in Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. His latest book is a new edition of *The Archaeology of Elam: Formation and Transformation of an Ancient Iranian State* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). His previous book *Nomadism in Iran: From Antiquity to the Modern Era*, published by Oxford University Press in 2014, was awarded an Honorable Mention in the 2015 PROSE Awards.

CONVERSATION

Save the Date

Alexandra Horowitz In Conversation



Save the date for a scintillating evening of conversation about nonfiction writing and the art of observation. Full details on this event will be posted soon on our website.

Alexandra Horowitz is the author of the new *Being a Dog: Following the Dog Into a World of Smell*, the bestselling *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know*, and *On Looking: A Walker's Guide to the Art of Observation*. She teaches psychology, animal behavior, and canine cognition at Barnard College, Columbia University.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, June 14
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

New Members: Save the Date!

If you joined the Library since June 2016, you'll be receiving an invitation to our next New Members Party, Monday, June 5, 6:00 PM. We hope to see you then.

NATIONAL
POETRY MONTH



Love Poetry: A Celebration

with Wendy Power Spielmann and James Kraft

Lovers of poetry, join us to celebrate the poetry of love during National Poetry Month. Multilingualist Wendy Power Spielmann and beloved Library seminar leader James Kraft give dramatic and humorous readings of verses from ancient Egypt, Greece, and China through the Renaissance to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries—from Horace to Emily Dickinson to Cole Porter (*shown at left*).

Wendy Power Spielmann, a native of Wales, traveled the world as a PanAm purser, then taught Russian, French, and Spanish and served as a German interpreter for the 1980 Winter Olympics. She is a frequent community theater performer.



James Kraft teaches American and English literature at several adult-education centers in the New York City area as well as in upstate New York and Connecticut. He has taught at Andover Academy, the University of Virginia, Université Laval, Quebec City, and Wesleyan University.

**FOR MEMBERS
AND GUESTS**

**Tuesday, April 4
6:00 PM**

Whitridge Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

SEMINAR



Jane Mallison

Jonathan Swift: Master of Satire

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) wrote his own epitaph. Being a man of his times, he wrote it in Latin, but a translation of the opening reads, “Here lies Jonathan Swift, who has gone where savage indignation can no longer lacerate his heart.” In short, only death can give him peace from the spectacle of mankind running mad. The concept of outrage leading to the writing of satire comes from one of Swift’s inspirations: the Roman poet Juvenal, who tells us it’s difficult not to write satire when “indignatio” fills the brain and the heart.

Born of English parents, Swift lived most of his life in Ireland. His indignation overflowed when he reflected on the English treatment of the Irish—and to some extent it boiled up at the spectacle of Irish passivity in the face of oppression. But, from a larger perspective, Swift was always aware that human beings might organize themselves into a confederacy of dunces.

This seminar will start with a number of brief examples of Swift’s range as a writer. These will include two of his satires: the gentle “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift” (What will people say about me after I’m dead?) and the contrastingly fierce “A Modest Proposal” (Let’s eat babies!). Then it’s on to his major work, *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World by Lemuel Gulliver* (1726). Far from being a beguiling fantasy for the young, *Gulliver’s Travels* is a powerful combination of attack and humor that addresses both historical and timeless targets. There are plenty of yahoos—Swift coined the word—around in every century.

A reading list and copies of the items for discussion will be available for registrants to purchase.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Wednesdays

**March 29, April 19, May
31, and June 21
11:00 AM**

Whitridge Room

All four sessions: **\$60**
(recommended)

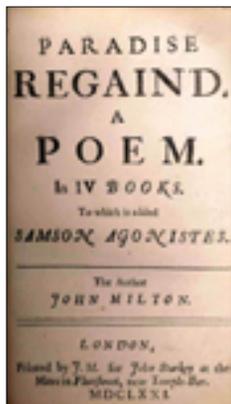
Per session: **\$15**

Advance
registration required

SEMINAR

Donald McDonough

John Milton's *Paradise Regained*



To “justify the ways of God to men,” John Milton wrote *Paradise Lost*, in which the serpent got Eve and Adam exiled from Paradise. His *Paradise Regained* interprets an Old Testament prophecy given to that successful serpent, now identified with Satan: “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.”

When *Paradise Regained* appeared at the bookseller’s stand in 1667 its title appeared in bigger print than *Samson Agonistes*, published with it. Its publisher wanted to capitalize on the reputation of *Paradise Lost*. So did its author: he titled the poem as a sequel and began it by reminding us he had sung of the Old Testament’s “happy garden.”

Tight connections exist between the two poems, and in the later, shorter *Regained*, Satan again begins to “tempt, seduce, allure, terrify, or undermine” another untested opponent. *Paradise Regained* is the story of the conflict, the debate between Satan and the Son.

A reading list and copies of the items for discussion will be available for registrants to purchase.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Tuesdays

April 11 and May 9
11:00 AM

Whitridge Room

Both sessions: \$25
(recommended)

Per session: \$15

Advance
registration required

THE WRITING LIFE



FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Writing Groups

The Library hosts monthly writing groups for fiction, nonfiction, memoir, poetry, and children’s/young adult writers. These groups are intended for writers with at least some experience giving and receiving critique, and a writing sample is required prior to acceptance. Each of the Library’s writing groups is self-governed by its members and the size and meeting protocol is unique to each group.

Interested Library members should contact Carolyn Waters at cwaters@nysoclib.org for space availability and writing sample requirements.

THE WRITING LIFE EVENTS IN 2017 ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN
BY JENNY LAWRENCE.

YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

The 15th Annual Young Writers Awards

Competition open
through April 3

For grades 3-12

AWARDS CEREMONY
FOR MEMBERS
AND GUESTS

Wednesday, May 17
6:00 PM

Members’ Room

Free of charge; advance
registration required

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. Writers in grades 3 through 12 who are children or grandchildren of members, or students at member or invited schools, are welcome to submit a short story, essay, or poem. Competition rules are available at the circulation desk, in the Children’s Library, or at tinyurl.com/ywa2017.

Award winners and participants are honored at a ceremony and reception. Author judges Robert Quackenbush, Dave Johnson, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk present the awards and offer advice and inspiration for young writers.

THE 2017 YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY
JEANETTE SARKISIAN WAGNER.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT

FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Thursday, March 16
5:30 PM

Whitridge Room

\$15 per child,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required



FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Tuesday, April 25
5:30 PM

\$10 per child,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required

Making Books by Hand: A Workshop

For grades 3 and older

Rescheduled from February 9.

Explore the art of bookmaking with Library Conservator Christina Amato. Participants will make their own unique blank books using traditional materials and techniques.

Adult assistance is recommended.

Young Writers' Workshop

Poetry with Ellen Hagan

For grades 3-7

In this ongoing series, young writers are invited to join notable authors in exploring different genres. For National Poetry Month, poet, performer, and teacher Ellen Hagan will lead a discussion on poetry and teach participants how writers turn ideas into poems. Children will leave this workshop with a broad view of poetry and the inspiration and knowledge to craft their own poems.

Ellen Hagan teaches at West Virginia Wesleyan College and co-leads the Alice Hoffman Young Writer's Retreat at Adelphi University. She is Poetry Chair of the DreamYard Project for Bronx middle-school students and a guest artist at the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts and Cold Spring Harbor Schools. Her poems and essays can be found in the pages of *Creative Nonfiction* and *Underwired Magazine* as well as many anthologies. She has published two poetry collections, *Crowned* and *Hemisphere*. Hagan has performed at The New York International Fringe and Los Angeles Women's Theater Festival.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS ARE GENEROUSLY FUNDED
BY RICHARD PECK.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS



Registration is required
for all events. Please see
individual listings
for details on times,
format, and location.

No refunds are given
for canceled
registrations.

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.

Space is limited. Early registration online
or by phone or email is recommended.

For Children's/Young Adult Events

Contact the Children's Library at children@nysoclib.org
or 212.288.6900 x234. Please make sure children meet the
proper age requirements.

For Adult Events (Members or Nonmembers)

BY EMAIL

Send a detailed message including your membership name or full
name, the events of your interest, and the number in your party to
events@nysoclib.org.

BY PHONE

Call the Events Office at 212.288.6900 x230.

BY MAIL

Complete the order form with your membership name or full
name 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.

For Adult Events (Members Only)

ONLINE AT WWW.NYSOCLIB.ORG

- Log in using your username and password. On the page listing
the event of your interest, click the orange Register button.
- Next to the Reservation Number field, input the number in your
party. In the Reservation Notes field, add any special instructions
for events staff (for instance, to indicate a wheelchair user or to put
the reservation under a name other than your membership name).
- Click the Submit button. You are now registered.
- If you are registering for more than one event, return to the
calendar and complete all registrations before selecting the Pay
Fees button. If you have registered for all your events and wish to
pay in advance, select the Pay Fees button from the confirmation
screen. You will then be able to pay for your registrations using
a major credit card or your PayPal account.