

Events WINTER 2017

The
New York
Society
Library

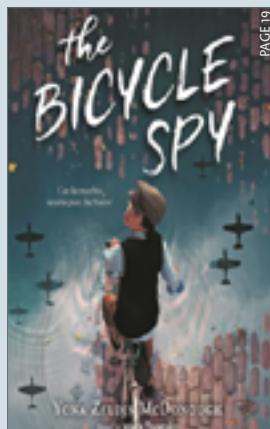
[Special Events](#)

[Lectures](#)

[Seminars](#)

[The Writing Life](#)

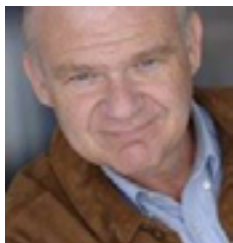
[Children's and
YA Events](#)



SPECIAL EVENT

Uptown at Night

An Evening of Humorous Storytelling and Comedy



The storytelling and comedy scene in New York City is a source of endless creativity. Not quite under the radar, it's bubbling up on small storytelling stages and in feisty comedy venues, primarily located in the far reaches of Manhattan and beyond. Join us as we bring to the Members' Room a delightful roster of storytellers and comic actors with fresh, funny observations of our life and times.

Michael Arkin began his impressive acting career performing theater on the streets of his native Brooklyn as a member of Everyman Co. With a BA in Theater from Wesleyan, he has played principal roles on TV (*Law & Order*), in film (*Fatal Attraction*) and on stages across the U.S. Active in actors' organizations, he has served on the National Board of the Screen Actors Guild.

Carmen Maria Machado is a writer whose humorous stories and commentary have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, the *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and was awarded a Yaddo fellowship, among others. Machado's debut short story collection, *Her Body and Other Parties*, is forthcoming in 2017 from Graywolf Press.

Nancy McCabe-Kelly and **Bruce Jarchow**, improv comedic actors, met performing at Chicago's famed Second City. Jarchow's film and TV appearances include *Seinfeld*, *Coach*, and *Continental Divide*. The couple's latest production, *Been There, Still There*, was performed in New York and in Chicago, where they received *TimeOut's* Critic's Choice award for being "funny, tender and funny again."

Additional performers will be announced.

Uptown at Night presents live storytelling and comedy 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 frequently reads her humorous short stories at Live from the Library.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday, January 31
refreshments 6:00 PM
presentation 6:30 PM

Members' Room
\$20 per person; advance
registration required

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

CONVERSATION

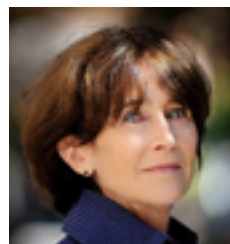
Elliot Ackerman and Roxana Robinson

Dark at the Crossing

Knopf, January 2017



Haris Abadi is a man in search of a cause. An Arab American with a conflicted past, he is now in Turkey, attempting to cross into Syria and join the fight against Bashar al-Assad's regime. But he is robbed before he can make it and is taken in by Amir, a charismatic Syrian refugee and former revolutionary, and Amir's wife, Daphne, a sophisticated beauty haunted by grief. As it becomes clear that Daphne is also desperate to return to Syria, Haris's choices become ever more wrenching: Whose side is he really on? Is he a true radical or simply a pragmatist? And will he be able to bring meaning to a life of increasing frustration and helplessness? Told with compassion and a deft hand, Elliot Ackerman's *Dark at the Crossing* is an exploration of loss, of second chances, and of why we choose to believe—a trenchantly observed novel of raw urgency and power.



Elliot Ackerman, author of the critically acclaimed novel *Green on Blue*, is based out of Istanbul, where he has covered the Syrian Civil War since 2013. His writings have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, the *New Republic*, and the *New York Times Magazine*, among other publications, and his stories have been included in *The Best American Short Stories*. He is both a former White House Fellow and Marine, and served five tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan where he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart.

In this event, Mr. Ackerman appears in conversation with **Roxana Robinson**. Ms. Robinson is the author of five novels, most recently *Sparta*; three short story collections; and the biography *Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life*. Her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, and *Best American Short Stories*, among other publications. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Ms. Robinson teaches in Hunter College's master of fine arts program and is president of the Authors Guild.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, February 2
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

PANEL

New York: Scene of the Crime



Three acclaimed mystery writers discuss New York City as a setting for crime fiction, historical or present-day.

Lyndsay Faye is the author of five critically acclaimed books: *Dust and Shadow*; *The Gods of Gotham*, which was nominated for an Edgar for Best Novel; *Seven for a Secret*; *The Fatal Flame*; and *Jane Steele*.

Stefanie Pintoff's first novel, *In the Shadow of Gotham*, won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel of 2009 and earned nominations for the Anthony, Macavity, and Agatha awards. *In the Shadow of Gotham* introduced turn-of-the-century New York Police Detective Simon Ziele, who appeared again in *A Curtain Falls* (2010) and *Secret of the White Rose* (2011). Stefanie launched the Eve Rossi series of thrillers in 2015 with *Hostage Taker*, a Barry Award nominee for Best Thriller. The second Eve Rossi novel, *City on Edge*, was published in November 2016.



Radha Vatsal grew up in Mumbai, India, and came to the United States to attend boarding school when she was sixteen. She has stayed here ever since. Her fascination with the 1910s began when she studied women filmmakers and action-film heroines of silent cinema at Duke University, where she earned her Ph.D. from the English Department. Her first novel, *A Front Page Affair*, was published by Sourcebooks Landmark in May 2016.

Discussion will be moderated by **Linda Landrigan**, editor in chief of *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*.

Mystery Writers of America is the oldest and most prominent organization for writers of crime fiction and other professionals in the field. It presents the prestigious Edgar Awards each year to the most deserving works in the mystery field. The organization also monitors legal developments affecting writers and promotes networking and professional development. The New York chapter serves writers and readers in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. See www.mwamy.org for more information.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, February 16
refreshments 6:00 PM
presentation 6:30 PM

Members' Room

Free of charge; advance registration required

This event will last approximately 90 minutes.

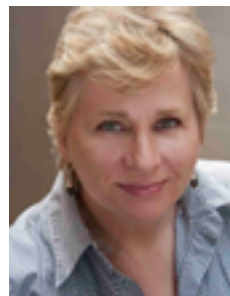
THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED WITH MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA NEW YORK.

LECTURE

Donna Kaz

Act Like a Feminist Artist: A Guerrilla Girl Unmasks

UN/MASKED published by Skyhorse Publishing, November 2016



Ever wonder what it's like to be a feminist masked avenger? Donna Kaz, *aka* Aphra Behn, shares her experiences as a feminist activist for gender parity in the performing art world for 20 years as a member of the Guerrilla Girls. Her journey to feminist artist began when she moved to New York City to pursue a career in theater and got sidetracked in a three-year violent relationship with a famous actor. Always an outsider, she took one step further into invisibility and became a Guerrilla Girl, a feminist activist who never appears in public without wearing a rubber gorilla mask and who uses the name of a dead woman artist to provoke change. As the Guerrilla Girl Aphra Behn, she created comedic art and theater that blasted the blatant sexism of the theater world while proving feminists are funny at the same time. "Act Like A Feminist Artist" discusses the posters, protests, fax blitzes, speak outs, and street theater actions created by the Girls, coupled with passages of Aphra's new memoir, *UN/MASKED: Memoirs of a Guerrilla Girl On Tour*. Get the inside scoop from a woman-turned-survivor-turned-radical feminist who takes off her mask and, by merging her identities, reveals all.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, January 26
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

Poet essayist, and author Katha Pollitt calls *UN/MASKED* "A vivid memoir of an eager, energetic woman of the theatre confronting sexism in love and art. It's also a rare first-hand account of life inside the famed Guerrilla Girls, those gorilla-masked artists and performers who made feminist protest daring, original and fun."

Donna Kaz is a multigenre writer and the author of *Performing Tribute 9/11*; *The Wanderer*; *Waiting*; *Food, the Musical*; and *JOAN*, voted Best Production of 2000 by the Scranton Times. Her alter ego, Aphra Behn, is a performer, a playwright, a producer, and the artistic director of Guerrilla Girls On Tour! They both live in New York City.

LECTURE

Christopher Rothko

Mark Rothko: From the Inside Out

Yale University Press, November 2015

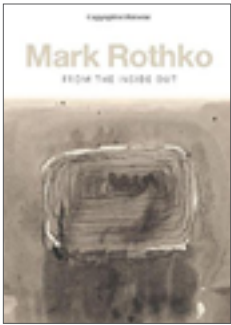


Mark Rothko (1903–1970), world-renowned icon of Abstract Expressionism, is rediscovered in this wholly original examination of his art and life written by his son. Synthesizing rigorous critique with personal anecdotes, Christopher, the younger of the artist’s two children, offers a unique perspective on this modern master.

Christopher Rothko draws on an intimate knowledge of the artworks to present eighteen essays that look closely at the paintings and explore the ways in which they foster a profound connection between viewer and artist through form, color, and scale. The prominent commissions for the Rothko Chapel in Houston and the Seagram Building murals in New York receive extended treatment, as do many of the lesser-known and underappreciated aspects of Rothko’s oeuvre, including reassessments of his late dark canvases and his formidable body of works on paper. The author also discusses the artist’s writings of the 1930s and 1940s, the significance of music to the artist, and our enduring struggles with visual abstraction in the contemporary era. Finally, Christopher Rothko writes movingly about his role as the artist’s son, his commonalities with his father, and the terms of the relationship they forged during the writer’s childhood.

Mark Rothko: From the Inside Out is a thoughtful reexamination of the legendary artist, serving as a passionate introduction for readers new to his work and offering a fresh perspective to those who know it well.

Christopher Rothko, a writer and psychologist, chairs the Board of Directors of the Rothko Chapel, Houston, and is actively involved in managing the Rothko legacy by organizing and presenting exhibitions of his father’s work around the globe.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, February 6
6:30 PM

Members’ Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

LECTURE

Ian W. Toll

The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944

W.W. Norton and Co., September 2015



This masterful history encompasses the heart of the Pacific War—the period between mid-1942 and mid-1944—when parallel Allied counteroffensives north and south of the equator washed over Japan’s far-flung island empire like a “conquering tide,” concluding with Japan’s irreversible strategic defeat in the Marianas. It was the largest, bloodiest, most costly, most technically innovative and logistically complicated amphibious war in history, and it fostered bitter interservice rivalries, leaving wounds that even victory could not heal.

Often overlooked, these are the years and fights that decided the Pacific War. Ian W. Toll’s battle scenes—in the air, at sea, and in the jungles—are simply riveting. He also takes the reader into the wartime councils in Washington and Tokyo where politics and strategy often collided, and into the struggle to mobilize wartime production, which was the secret of Allied victory. Brilliantly researched, the narrative is propelled and colored by firsthand accounts—letters, diaries, debriefings, and memoirs—that are the raw material of the telling details, shrewd judgment, and penetrating insight of this magisterial history.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, February 22
6:30 PM

Members’ Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

This volume—continuing the “marvelously readable dramatic narrative” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) of *Pacific Crucible*—marks the second installment of the Pacific War Trilogy, which will stand as the first history of the entire Pacific War to be published in at least twenty-five years.

Ian W. Toll is the author of *Pacific Crucible* and *Six Frigates*, winner of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award and the William E. Colby Award.

LECTURE

Laurence Bergreen

Casanova: The World of a Seductive Genius

Simon & Schuster, November 2016



Today, “Casanova” is a synonym for “great lover,” yet the real story of this remarkable figure is little known. Giacomo Casanova was raised by his maternal grandmother, an illiterate peasant. His birthplace, Venice, was a republic in decline, reputedly the most debauched city in Europe. Casanova would add to its reputation. Over the course of his lifetime, he claimed to have seduced more than 100 women, among them married women, young women in convents, girls just barely in their teens, and his own illegitimate daughter.



Casanova came of age in a Venice filled with spies and informers. Naturally brilliant, he was intellectually curious and read forbidden books, for which he was jailed. He staged a dramatic escape from Venice’s notorious prison, the only person known to have done so. Fleeing to France, he invented the national lottery that still exists to this day. He crisscrossed Europe, landing for a while in St. Petersburg, where he was admitted to the court of Catherine the Great. He corresponded with Voltaire and met Mozart and Lorenzo da Ponte—assisting them as they composed the timeless opera *Don Giovanni*. And he wrote what many consider the greatest memoir of the era, the 12-volume *Story of My Life*.

A figure straight out of a Henry Fielding novel—erotic, brilliant, impulsive, and desperate for recognition—Casanova was a self-destructive genius. This witty, roisterous biography exposes his astonishing life in rich, intimate detail. At the same time, it is a dazzling portrait of eighteenth-century Europe from serving girls to kings and courtiers. Esteemed biographer Laurence Bergreen brings a sensual world vividly alive in this irresistible book.

Laurence Bergreen is an award-winning biographer and historian. His books have been translated into twenty-five languages worldwide. Among his works are biographies of Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, Ferdinand Magellan, Louis Armstrong, Al Capone, and Irving Berlin.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, February 27
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

LECTURE

Brad Gooch

Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love

HarperCollins, January 2017



Photo by Dominique Nabokov

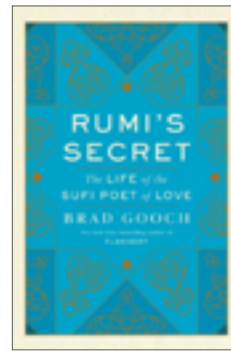
The *New York Times* bestselling biographer of Flannery O'Connor and Frank O'Hara delivers the first popular book on the life of the revered medieval Persian poet Rumi.

Ecstatic love poems of Rumi, a poet and Sufi mystic born over eight centuries ago, are beloved by millions of readers around the world. He has been compared to Shakespeare for his outpouring of creativity and to Saint Francis of Assisi for his spiritual wisdom. Yet his life has long remained the stuff of legend rather than intimate knowledge.

In this breakthrough biography, Brad Gooch brilliantly brings to life the man and puts a face to the name Rumi, vividly coloring in his time and place. The map of Rumi's life stretched over 2,500 miles. Gooch traces this epic journey from his birthplace in Central Asia to Konya, Turkey, where his family settled after displacement by Mongol terror. Pivotal was the disruptive appearance of Shams of Tabriz, who taught him to whirl and transformed him from a respectable Muslim preacher into a poet and mystic. Their vital connection as teacher and pupil, friend and beloved, is one of the world's greatest spiritual love stories. When Shams disappeared, Rumi coped with the pain of separation by composing joyous poems of reunion, both human and divine.

Ambitious, bold, and beautifully written, *Rumi's Secret* reveals the unfolding of Rumi's devotion to a “religion of love,” remarkable in his own time and made even more relevant for the twenty-first century by this compelling account.

Brad Gooch is the author of the acclaimed biographies *City Poet: The Life and Times of Frank O'Hara* and *Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor*, as well as *Smash Cut: A Memoir of Howard & Art in the '70s and '80s*, other nonfiction, and three novels. The recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Guggenheim fellowships, he earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University and is professor of English at William Paterson University.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, March 15
6:30 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

LECTURE

Susan Quinn

Eleanor and Hick: The Love Affair That Shaped a First Lady

Penguin Press, September 2016



In 1932, as her husband assumed the presidency, Eleanor Roosevelt entered the claustrophobic, duty-bound existence of the First Lady with dread. By that time, she had put her deep disappointment in her marriage behind her and developed an independent life—now threatened by the public role she would be forced to play. A lifeline came to her in the form of a feisty campaign reporter for the Associated Press: Lorena Hickok. Over the next thirty years, until Eleanor’s death, the two women carried on an extraordinary relationship: They were, at different points, lovers, confidantes, professional advisors, and caring friends.



These fiercely compassionate women inspired each other to right the wrongs of their turbulent era. During the Depression, Hick reported from the nation’s poorest areas for the WPA, and Eleanor used these reports to lobby her husband for New Deal programs. When Eleanor’s tenure as First Lady ended with FDR’s death, Hick pushed her to continue to use her popularity for good—advice Eleanor took by leading the UN’s postwar Human Rights Commission. At every turn, the bond these women shared was grounded in their determination to better their troubled world.

Deeply researched and told with great warmth, *Eleanor and Hick* is a vivid portrait of love and a revealing look at how an unlikely romance influenced some of the most consequential years in American history. *Eleanor and Hick* has been called “an intimate book, tender and wise” by the *Washington Post* and “relentlessly captivating” by *Kirkus Reviews*.

Susan Quinn is the author of *Furious Improvisation: How the WPA and a Cast of Thousands Made High Art Out of Desperate Times* and *Marie Curie: A Life*, among other books. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Atlantic*, and other publications. She is the former president of PEN New England and lives outside of Boston, Massachusetts.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, March 23
6:30 PM

Members’ Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

LECTURE

Min Jin Lee

with Jeannette Watson Sanger

Pachinko: A Novel

Grand Central Publishing, February 2017



Pachinko follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a tubercular young minister offers to marry her and bring her to Japan.

So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland, caught in the indifferent arc of history. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity.

In this event, Ms. Lee will converse with Library trustee Jeannette Watson Sanger.



Min Jin Lee’s debut novel, *Free Food for Millionaires*, was a Top 10 Novels of the Year for the *Times* of London, NPR’s *Fresh Air*, and *USA Today*. Her short fiction has been featured on NPR’s Selected Shorts. Her writings have appeared in *Condé Nast Traveler*, the *Times* of London, *Vogue*, *Travel+Leisure*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Food & Wine*. Her essays and literary criticism have been anthologized widely. She served as a columnist for the *Chosun Ilbo*, the leading paper of South Korea. From 2007 to 2011 she lived in Tokyo, where she researched and wrote *Pachinko*.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, March 30
6:30 PM

Members’ Room

\$15 per person; advance registration required

SEMINARS

James Kraft

The Tales of Henry James

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Wednesdays

February 8, March 8,
April 5, May 3, and June 7
11:00 AM

Whitridge Room

All five sessions: \$75
(recommended)

Per session: \$15

Advance
registration required

Considered one of the finest American writers, Henry James is also considered a challenging writer. With twenty novels, 112 stories, several books of criticism, and a very important group of letters to the major figures of his time, his body of work represents an achievement unequaled by any other American writer. This five-session seminar will survey the best of his stories, or tales as James called them, and reveal his exceptional qualities as a writer.

A reading list of stories for discussion will be available for registrants.



Nicholas Birns

Parade's End: Ford Madox Ford's Wartime Tetralogy

2017 marks the hundredth anniversary of this country's entrance into the First World War. Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End* tetralogy stands as an unequalled portrayal of the convulsive effects of that war on modern civilization. When one of the war's returning soldiers, Christopher Tietjens, an Edwardian gentleman once settled into the long golden afternoon of the British Empire, finds that its sun is beginning to set, his work and his love life change in dramatic and unexpected ways. The leafy world of the stately homes of England begin to rattle, shake and crumble, along with Tietjens' own increasingly unraveling life. His terrifying calculating wife, his new love, the idealistic feminist Valentine Wannop, and classic cad Major Perowne each add rich dimensions to this exploration of the emerging modern times that will carry Tietjens along with them. Participants will also examine the way in which Tietjens' tangled relationships speak to that era's evolving manners and morals, and the way Ford's own innovative style is itself inflected by the changes it depicts.

Copies of the books for discussion are available for registrants to purchase.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Tuesdays

February 28, March 28,
April 25, and May 23
11:00 AM

Whitridge Room

All four sessions: \$60
(recommended)

Per session: \$15

Advance
registration required

THE WRITING LIFE



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, March 9
6:00 PM

Members' Room

\$15 per person; advance
registration required

Live from the Library

Library members read from their own short stories, novels, poetry, criticism, memoir, and plays. Refreshments and wine will be served.

Reading slots are limited, and readers must be current Library members. To register to read, please contact Carolyn Waters at cwaters@nysoclib.org. Selections are limited to five minutes or less and must be material in progress or newly published work.



FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Tuesdays February 7,
February 14, February 21,
February 28, March 7,
and March 14
6:00 PM

Whitridge Room

\$60 for the series;
advance registration
required

Workshop: The Art (and Craft) of the Ten-Minute Play

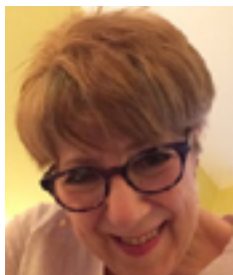
with C.S. Hanson

The Ten-Minute Play workshop is back by popular demand. There's something magical about a ten-minute play. Its characters pull you in, surprise you, engage you in a dramatic struggle. In six sessions, we focus on problem, climax, and resolution. You will write, rewrite, and hear your draft read by actors. Learn how to market your play for competitions and festivals.

C.S. Hanson is an award-winning playwright whose ten-minute play *Stalk Me, Baby* is a favorite on college campuses. Hanson is a four-time finalist for the prestigious Heideman Award. Her most recent short, *Prick Perfect*, was commissioned by and produced at Theater for the New City and is published by Smith and Kraus in *The Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2016*.

Daytime Talk Series

The Art of the Glimpse: Reading and Writing the Contemporary Short Story with Lorrie Bodger



Alice Munro was deemed the “master of the contemporary short story” when she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013. In this talk, author and writing teacher Lorrie Bodger will investigate the short story: How long or how short are they? Can you write both novels and short stories? When and why should you write short stories? And where do you send your stories when you’re ready to try for publication?

Lorrie Bodger is a writing teacher, private editor, and author of more than thirty books. Now that her novel is finished, she’s working on a collection of linked short stories.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Tuesday, January 10
10:00 AM

Whitridge Room

Free of charge; advance
registration required.



Daytime Talk Series

What Good Is an Editor? with Walter Bode

Freelance editors are a motley and sometimes expensive lot. The internet has made them easily accessible, for good or ill, and at the same time made it feasible for writers to publish their own work. In either case, a successful outcome depends on knowing the possibilities and the pitfalls. How can a freelance editor help you and how can you choose one? Walter Bode, who has spent thirty-five years in publishing, fifteen of them as a freelancer, offers suggestions, tips, cautions, and exemplary tales about choosing an editor and making the most of the experience.

Walter Bode has been in book publishing for three decades and was editor-in-chief of Grove Press and a senior editor at Harcourt. Books he has edited have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, and the Whitbread Award, among others.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Tuesday, February 14
10:00 AM

Whitridge Room

Free of charge; advance
registration required.

Daytime Talk Series

New Sectors in Diverse Books with Ann E. Burg and Christine Kendall



We’ve all been told to write what you know. Children’s Lit authors Ann E. Burg and Christine Kendall will discuss how inspiration, perspiration, and no small amount of magic have led them to places and experiences they never would have imagined. They’ll share their thoughts on historical fiction, novels in verse, and, most importantly, writing across and deeper than our differences.

Ann E. Burg was born in Brooklyn and has been writing since early childhood. She is drawn to stories of the disenfranchised and voiceless and finds inspiration in little known or too-soon- forgotten historical incidents. A teacher for ten years, Ann continues to be interested in the challenges children face. She strives to engage readers in stories which will broaden their world view and prepare them for a global society. Her most recent book is *Unbound: A Novel in Verse* which was selected as a New York Public Library 2016 Best Book for Kids.



Christine Kendall studied children’s literature at the Southampton Writers Conference and was named a semi-finalist in the 2014 River Styx Micro-Fiction Contest. Her short stories have appeared in numerous journals and her debut novel, *Riding Chance*, was published by Scholastic in the fall of 2016 and was named a New York Public Library 2016 Best Book for Kids.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Tuesday, March 14
10:00 AM

Whitridge Room

Free of charge; advance
registration required.

THE
WRITING LIFE

Prompt!

with Carol Weston



[Friday, January 13, 11:00 AM](#)

[Friday, February 10, 11:00 AM](#)

[Friday, March 10, 11:00 AM](#)

Get the creative juices flowing in these fun and instructive sessions. Participants will receive a prompt and will have twenty minutes to write freely, after which they are encouraged to share their writing with the group. Use the prompts to jumpstart your writing, generate new ideas, and break out of writing blocks.

Carol Weston is the author of fifteen books including *Ava and Pip*, *Ava and Taco Cat*, *Ava XOX*, *The Diary of Melanie Martin*, and *Girltalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You*. Her new novel *Speed of Life* will be published in April 2017. She is an advice columnist and has used prompts to teach writing at Middlebury College.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Whitridge Room

Register for one
or all sessions

Free of charge; advance
registration required



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.

CHILDREN'S
AND
YOUNG ADULT

Yona Zeldis McDonough

[The Bicycle Spy](#)

For grades 3 and older



Meet Marcel—a French boy who loves riding his bicycle and dreams of racing in the Tour de France—as he takes a stand against injustice in his German-occupied town during World War II. Filled with secret messages, treacherous bike rides, and a dangerous secret about a new friend, *The Bicycle Spy* will keep readers on the edge of their seats! Join author Yona Zeldis McDonough for this interactive event to see and hear how she came to write this suspenseful historical novel and the journey it made from inspiration to finished book.

Yona Zeldis McDonough is the award-winning author of over two dozen books for children, including *The Doll Shop Downstairs*, *Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg*, *Who Was John F. Kennedy?*, *Little Author in the Big Woods: A Biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, and *The Doll with the Yellow Star*.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, January 18
5:30 PM

\$5 per person,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required

CHILDREN'S
AND
YOUNG ADULT

Libba Bray and David Levithan

Young Adult Authors in Conversation

For grades 8 and older



YA Readers! Here's an amazing opportunity to meet YA luminaries Libba Bray and David Levithan. The authors will discuss their writing—past, present, and future—with moderator Jennifer Hubert Swan and the audience. Join us for this afternoon of conversation, readings, and refreshments.

Libba Bray is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Gemma Doyle trilogy, the Michael L. Printz Award-winning *Going Bovine*, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist *Beauty Queens*. Bray's current series, *The Diviners*, reveals the supernatural side of New York City in the 1920s.



David Levithan is a children's book editor at Scholastic and the author of several books for young adults including *Boy Meets Boy*, *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist* (co-authored with Rachel Cohn), *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (co-authored with John Green), and *You Know Me Well* (co-authored with Nina LaCour). Levithan recently received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in young adult literature.

Jennifer Hubert Swan is the Middle School Librarian and Director of Library Services at Little Red School House and Elizabeth Irwin High School. She blogs about teen books at Reading Rants, and has reviewed for the *New York Times Children's Book Review*.

To register, contact 212.288.6900 x234 or ya@nysoclib.org.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sunday, January 29
3:00 PM

Members' Room
Priority in registration
is given to teens.
Parental accompaniment
is not required.

\$5 per person,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required

CHILDREN'S
AND
YOUNG ADULT

Books and Bites

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

For grades 3-5



Ivan is an artistic gorilla who has spent 27 years inside his glass enclosure in a shopping mall. When baby elephant Ruby arrives, everything changes, including the way that Ivan sees his very small world.

Read *The One and Only Ivan* on your own, then join a librarian for a discussion about the book, friendship, bravery, and animal rights. Light snacks will be served.

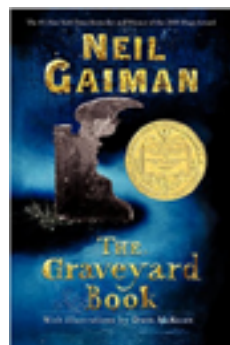
The One and Only Ivan was the 2013 Newbery Award winner and has touched the hearts of thousands of readers, young and old alike.

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

Wednesday, January 11
5:30 PM

Whitridge Room

\$5 per child,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required



Books and Bites

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

For grades 6-8

Growing up is hard to do, especially when you live in a graveyard. Bod learns all he needs to know from the ghosts, vampires, and ghouls that inhabit his unique home. When trouble finds him, he must rise to the occasion and protect himself and all that he holds dear.

Read *The Graveyard Book* on your own, then join a librarian for a discussion about the book, families, growing up, and the spooky things that go bump in the night. Light snacks will be served.

The Graveyard Book was the 2009 Newbery Award winner, and also won the Carnegie Award and the Hugo Award for Best Fantasy Novel.

FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

Wednesday, January 25
5:30 PM

Whitridge Room

\$5 per child,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required

CHILDREN'S
AND
YOUNG ADULT



FOR MEMBERS
AND THEIR GUESTS

Wednesday, February 8
5:30 PM

Whitridge Room

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



FOR MEMBERS
AND THEIR GUESTS

Thursday, February 9
5:30 PM

Whitridge Room

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

Teen Writers' Workshop

Generating the Fantasy Novel with Sarah Porter

For grades 7 and older

In this ongoing series, young writers are invited to join notable authors in exploring different genres.

In our first session exclusively for teens, fantasy author Sarah Porter will guide participants in strategies for writing their own fantasy stories or novels. Through exercises examining the elements of fantasy, world-building, story mapping, and character development, teen writers can expect to leave ready to begin writing their own work of fantasy fiction.

Sarah Porter is a YA author, an artist, and a writing teacher in New York City schools. Her most recent book, *Vassa in the Night*, is a powerful and haunting modern fantasy-fairy tale set in New York City that has received multiple rave reviews.

Making Books by Hand: A Workshop

For grades 3 and older

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.

CHILDREN'S
AND
YOUNG ADULT



FOR MEMBERS
AND THEIR GUESTS

Saturday, February 11
3:00 PM

Whitridge Room

\$5 per child,
payable at the door;
advance registration
required



FOR MEMBERS
AND THEIR GUESTS

Wednesday, February 15
5:30 PM

Whitridge Room

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

LuAnn Adams, Storyteller

Tacky the Penguin and Other Frosty Winter Tales

For ages 2 and older

Warm up at the Library with captivating storyteller LuAnn Adams as she brings wintry adventures and snowy animal tales to life. Audience participation is heartily encouraged!

The *New York Times* says, "The storyteller LuAnn Adams is a bit of an alchemist herself, turning an ordinary room into a fantastical landscape as she relates her vivid tales."

Young Writers' Workshop

Playwriting with Rob Ackerman

For grades 3-7

In this ongoing series, young writers are invited to join notable writers in exploring different genres.

Acclaimed playwright Rob Ackerman will share the fundamental tools of great playwriting and guide participants in writing their own scenes. Children will leave this workshop with the skills to craft their own engaging dialogue.

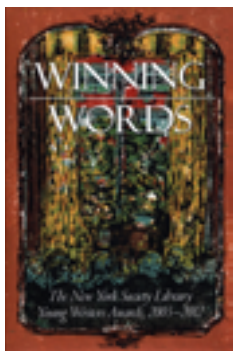
Rob Ackerman's extensive credits include the Drama Desk Award-winner *Tabletop*, *Call Me Waldo*, and *Volleygirls*, "Best of Fest" winner at the 2013 New York Musical Theater Festival.

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

CHILDREN'S
AND
YOUNG ADULT



BOOK COLLECTION
AT THE LIBRARY
MARCH 1-8



FOR CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN
OF MEMBERS AND
STUDENTS OF MEMBER
AND INVITED SCHOOLS

Competition open
January 2-April 3

Project Cicero 2017

Project Cicero is an annual non-profit book drive designed to create and supplement classroom libraries in under-resourced New York City public schools. Since its inception in 2001, Project Cicero has distributed more than 3 million new and gently used books to more than 13,000 New York City classrooms and school libraries, reaching over 550,000 students.

Library members are encouraged to donate new or gently used preschool through high school books in the boxes in the Library's entry hall March 1-8. For more information about Project Cicero's work and the kind of books needed, see projectcicero.org.

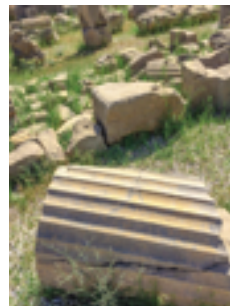
The 15th Annual Young Writers Awards

For grades 3-12

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. Writers in grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit a short story, essay, or poem on a theme of their choice. Prizes will be presented by notable authors for prose and poetry in four age categories.

Competition rules are available at the circulation desk or at nysoclib.org/children/young-writers-awards. Watch this space for the announcement of the winners.

ONGOING
EXHIBITION



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
THROUGH
AUGUST 31, 2017

The Assunta, Ignazio,
Ada and Romano Peluso
Exhibition Gallery
Free of charge

Broken Beauty

Ruins of the Ancient World

This compelling new 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.