

I VOTED!

Volume 26, Number 2, Summer 2019

The
New York
Society
Library

Books & People

IN THIS ISSUE



A Special Donor Reception
PAGE 4



Bookmarks
PAGE 7

One More Picture

PAGE 8

Library Members Jones and Brannan Fight for the Vote

Natalie A. Naylor, Hofstra University Professor Emerita
Harriet Shapiro, Head of Exhibitions

Rosalie Jones campaigned for suffrage by horse and wagon, automobile, and airplane, but she won her fame as a suffragist by leading pilgrimages on foot. She hiked from New York City to Albany in December 1912 to publicize the cause, then walked from Newark to Washington, D.C., where she joined the women's suffrage parade on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in March 1913.

Born in 1883 to wealth and privilege in New York City, Jones grew up in her family's townhouse at 116 West 72nd Street and a country home in Cold Spring Harbor on Long Island. She was a debutante and socialite who, in travels abroad in 1910, encountered the militant British suffrage movement. Jones first spoke for suffrage in 1911 at open-air street meetings in Roslyn and at the corner of Broadway and Wall Street in Manhattan. In May 1912, she toured Long Island with Elizabeth Freeman, an English suffragette, doing what the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* described as "press agenting" for suffrage.

A few months later, Jones had the audacious idea of hiking to Albany in December. Six representatives of the city's suffrage organizations signed a petition that she would deliver to the newly elected governor. Appropriating military titles for her "Army of the Hudson," Jones appointed herself the "General" and named, as second in command, "Colonel" Ida Craft from Brooklyn. Lavinia Dock, who had been a nurse, became the "Surgeon General." The three stalwarts walked more than 150 miles, accompanied for short distances by other suffragists. All along the route they gave speeches and distributed suffrage literature. They encountered rain, sleet, slush, and blizzards. The accompanying male "war correspondents"



The exhibition *Women Get the Vote* is open to the public in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery through August 30.

Right: "I Voted" sticker from the November 2017 elections, showing Rosalie Jones.

Greetings from the Head Librarian

Summer is here, but that doesn't mean we—or you—are slowing down. Our building is busier than ever, and as I've mentioned in prior communications, we have been actively looking at ways to carve out more member space. As a result, I'm pleased to announce that over the summer we will be returning my office on the Third Floor to member use. Library Controller Lawi Kibet and I will be relocating to a temporary space on the Fourth Floor. This move is the first in a larger plan we're evaluating to create additional workspaces for members, and we plan to share it with all of you later in the year.

In other building news, we are waiting on approvals from the city to replace our fire alarm system, as well as our sidewalk. These two projects may get underway as soon as this summer. We'll update you as soon as we have more concrete plans, so please read the monthly e-news and check our website for regular updates.

And finally! We have begun rolling out membership cards to everyone age nine and older. As previously announced (see my 6/3/19 blog post and my Fall 2018 *Books & People* column), new members will receive cards upon joining, and current members will receive theirs at renewal. However, if you'd like yours sooner, just let me or any staff member know. We hope you'll love them—and that you'll discover what is truly special about the design.

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have questions. Enjoy the summer. Happy reading!



Library Members Jones and Brannan Fight for the Vote continued



The Huntington Historical Society, Huntington, NY.

Rosalie Jones (left) and Elisabeth Freeman on their 1912 tour of Long Island. Their yellow "Votes for Women" wagon listed the names of states that had granted women suffrage.

(who traveled in automobiles) wrote articles that appeared in newspapers throughout the nation, providing free advertising for suffrage. General Jones became a celebrity.

Before reaching Albany, the General announced a second hike, to the nation's capital. Her now larger Army wore brown pilgrim capes for this pilgrimage. They arrived in Washington to join the large suffrage parade, but the organizers, embarrassed by Jones' undignified tactics and jealous of her popularity, relegated "Rosalie's martyrs" to the end of the parade.

General Jones also engaged in many other suffrage activities: marching in New York City parades, touring New York state by automobile, enlisting airplanes, organizing "Suffrage Schools," and campaigning in New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, and Montana. While an effective publicist and popular speaker for suffrage, General Jones was an independent maverick, outspoken and determined. She could be a martinet (some called her "Generalissimo") and she even clashed at times with her faithful Colonel Craft.

Rosalie Jones was a member of the New York Society Library. Longtime librarian Marion King wrote in her 1954 *Books and People* that the 1914 memoir of English suffrage leader Emmeline Pankhurst was "bought at the behest of our ebullient member who, having led the suffragists' foot march to Albany, was thereafter known around town as General Jones."

Rosalie Jones was active in suffrage for only five years, but in addition to publicizing the cause and bringing new vitality to the movement, she pioneered the still-popular form of political activism of walking to the seat of government. Nonetheless, she has been absent from most suffrage histories.

Commemorating the 2017 centennial of New York women winning the vote, Rosalie Jones was depicted (but not identified) on "I Voted" stickers distributed in the November 2017 election (though not in New York City). Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that for the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment the state would erect memorials to two suffragists—Sojourner Truth in Ulster County and Rosalie Jones on Long Island. The militant maverick with audacious tactics and a talent for publicity during her meteoric suffrage career will finally receive recognition with her statue in front of the Cold Spring Harbor Public Library. [Natalie A. Naylor](#) 

At ten o'clock on January 10, 1917 twelve women emerged from Suffrage Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and marched across Lafayette Square to the White House. They proceeded slowly, carrying the purple, white, and gold banners of the National Woman's Party. Among them was Library member Eunice Dana Brannan, a committed suffragist now stepping into the pages of history.

In *Books and People*, librarian Marion King described Brannan: "as icily dignified a lady as ever came up our stairs." She was the daughter of Charles Dana, founder of the *New York Sun* and a trusted counselor of President Lincoln. Her husband was Dr. John Winters Brannan, the president of the Board of Trustees of Bellevue Hospital. Brannan's own credentials were impressive. She was an advisor to suffrage leader Harriot Stanton Blatch and state chair of the New York branch of the National Woman's Party. On that January day, Brannan and the other suffragists were heading to the White House in an attempt to force President Wilson to support the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote. It was an uphill battle. "What will you do, Mr. President, for one-half the people of this nation?" one of the banners read. For the next eighteen months the silent sentinels, as they were called, stood during the rain and the heat in front of the White House gates. The president silently doffed his hat as he passed through the gates. But he offered no encouragement.

The fight for women's right to vote had begun nearly seventy years earlier in 1848, at the first Women's Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Progress towards the elusive goal of women's enfranchisement had been sidelined by the Civil War and, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, slowed down by acrimonious infighting. But now the cause was gaining fresh strength; an army of American women were marching into the very cracks and crannies of the nation's psyche to fight for the right to vote. The time had come.

On July 14, 1917 (Bastille Day), Brannan and a group of suffragists were arrested for picketing the White House. In a D.C. courtroom, a judge sentenced Brannan and a group of other suffragists to sixty days at the Occoquan workhouse in Lorton, Virginia on the charge of "obstructing traffic." A Dickensian prison, Occoquan was characterized by unsanitary conditions filled with vermin, rats, a brutish warden, and filthy open toilets. Brannan spent three days at Occoquan—her term was shortened, it was said, after a high-ranking husband complained to the president.

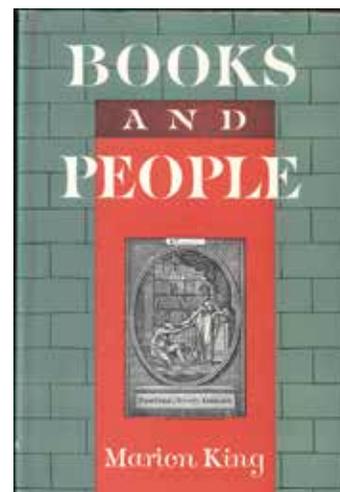
Four months later, on November 10, Brannan was again arrested along with forty-one other women, this time for protesting the imprisonment of suffrage leader Alice Paul, on a hunger strike at Occoquan. At her trial Brannan told the judge, "the responsibility for an agitation like ours against injustice rests with those who deny justice, not those who demand it." At Occoquan Brannan endured the infamous "night of terror." Guards seized, threatened, and threw the suffragists to the ground. They "kept up an uproar, shouting, banging the iron doors, clanging bars," Brannan wrote in an affidavit. It was, she said, "a scene of the utmost disturbance." When she called out to a woman collapsed on the floor, one of the prison superintendents shouted, "Not another word from your mouth, or I will handcuff you, gag you and put you in a strait jacket." The threat of violence continued through the night. During the trial Brannan collapsed and had to be removed from the courtroom.

On December 16, 1918, Brannan was once more in the public eye, marching with the suffragists to the Lafayette Monument. One by one the women consigned the president's speeches to the flames of a burning cauldron. The pageantry was purposely dramatic. The suffragists wanted action, not words. At this juncture Eunice Dana Brannan disappears from the public arena. But like so many women across the country she did her part.

Two years later, on August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote, was signed into law. [Harriet Shapiro](#) 



Courtesy of the Library of Congress



The New York Society Library



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

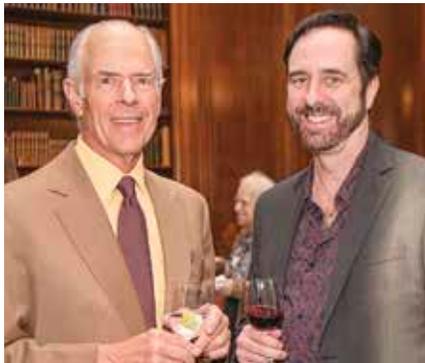


Courtesy of the Library of Congress

From Top: Ida Craft and Rosalie Jones, 1912 Albany hike; 1954 *Books and People*; Alison Turnbull Hopkins and Eunice Dana Brannan carry their prison chairs, as was the workhouse custom; Eunice Dana Brannan, in an undated portrait

A Special Donor Reception

The Library expressed its sincere gratitude to those who donated \$1,000 or more in 2018. The reception on April 1 featured rarely exhibited treasures from our Special Collections. *Photos by Karen Smul*



Above: Sydney LeBlanc, Adrienne Ingram, Diana Altman, Jeannette Watson Sanger; David Mallison, Ellen Feldman, Carol Collins Malone; Below: Ella Foshay, Alix Lombardo; Rick Malone, Bill Connington

The New York City Book Awards

Our annual New York City Book Awards were celebrated on May 1. The winners are Victoria Johnson for *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*; Stephen L. Carter for *Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster*; Philip Ashforth Coppola, Ezra Bookman, and Jeremy Workman for *One-Track Mind: Drawing the New York Subway*; Elizabeth Acevedo for *The Poet X*; and Karina Yan Glaser for *The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden*. The Hornblower Award for a first book went to Albert Samaha for *Never Ran, Never Will: Boyhood and Football in a Changing American Inner City*. *Photos by Karen Smul*



Trustee and Book Awards sponsor Ellen M. Iseman; winning author Albert Samaha with his certificate; winning author Karina Yan Glaser and award presenter Janice P. Nimura; presenter Geeta Tewari with Leah Carter, who did research for *Invisible* and accepted its award on behalf of Stephen L. Carter.

THE 2018-2019 NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS WERE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY ELLEN M. ISEMAN.

The Young Writers Awards

On May 20 the Library hosted the seventeenth annual Young Writers Awards ceremony. This festive celebration honors excellent writing by students in the Library community. This year's competition included nearly 250 entries, with 16 winners and honorable mentions awarded by our longtime judges: Dave Johnson, Robert Quackenbush, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk. We invite you to read this year's winning words at tinyurl.com/YWANYSL. Be sure to take note of the young writers' names, for you may find them on books in the Library's stacks one day. *Photo by Karen Smul*

Winners:

- Mia DiPasquale, *Screens* (3rd-4th Grade Poetry)
- Logan Fleissig, *Don't Count Me Out* (3rd-4th Grade Prose)
- Adam Ripp, *A Shoah Memory* (5th-6th Grade Poetry)
- Francesca Burnett, *Cottage by the River* (5th-6th Grade Prose)
- Julia Miyasaka, *The Seed Within You* (7th-8th Grade Poetry)
- Jai Glazer, *Caravan* (7th-8th Grade Prose)
- Maeve Brennan, *Searching for Birch Trees in Brooklyn* (9th-12th Grade Poetry)

Honorable Mentions:

- Hugo Khandalavala, *ground* (3rd-4th Grade Poetry)
- Felicity Strauss, *The Duplicate* (3rd-4th Grade Prose)
- Hannah Bahn, *Winter Morning* (5th-6th Grade Poetry)
- Raana Thacker, *Las Fallas* (5th-6th Grade Poetry)
- Sabina Cherner, *Iron Souls* (5th-6th Grade Prose)
- Samara Choudhury, *Morningside* (7th-8th Grade Poetry)
- Eliza Reed, *Beneath the Clouded Sky* (7th-8th Grade Poetry)
- Julia Miyasaka, *The Girl in the Mirror* (7th-8th Grade Prose)
- Isabella Diminich, *Plátanos* (9th-12th Grade Poetry)



THE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY JEANETTE SARKISIAN WAGNER.

The Goodhue Society

On May 15 members who have included the Library in their estate plans were recognized at a celebration in their honor. William J. Dean, Chair of the Goodhue Society, welcomed the guests, and Library trustee and friend Jenny Lawrence spoke about her involvement in the creation of the Library's newsletters and 250th anniversary history. *Photos by Karen Smul*



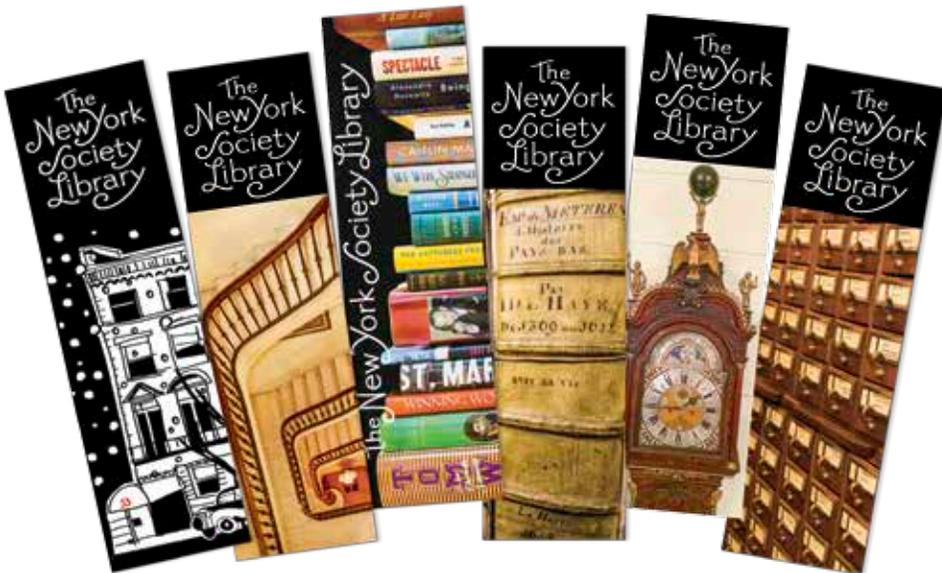
Speaker Jenny Lawrence; Lucienne and Claude Bloch, Carol Collins Malone, William J. Dean; Joel Rubin and Mark Barron

New Members Party

Members who joined since June of 2018 were welcomed to the Library at a gathering on June 3. After a greeting from our newest trustee, Liaquat Ahamed, members toured the Conservation Studio, Special Collections, the Hornblower Room, and the Children's Library. *Photos by Karen Smul*



Above: Speaker Liaquat Ahamed; guests listening to his remarks; Head of Systems Syed Rasool, Audrey Rapoport-Martiak, and Angela Rapoport.
Below: Conservator Christina Amato in the Conservation Studio; Special Collections Librarian Barbara Bieck shows guests a historic ledger in the rare book reading room; Nicholas Farnham with Gratzia Montesi.



YOUR VERY FAVORITE TRAVEL READS A Short-Term Exhibition

Armchair traveler or inveterate adventurer, send us your favorite travel book for a Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery display later this year.

Send your suggestion to SmallExhibit@nysoclib.org by Monday, August 5 with a sentence or two on why you love it and why it should be better known. The book must be in our collections. Members' names will appear with their submissions.

Watch our newsletter and website for more on upcoming exhibitions.



If you spend any time at the Library at all, you've likely encountered this friendly face at the Circulation Desk. At our most recent Annual Meeting, on April 23 we celebrated Linnea Holman Savapoulas' 40 years as an anchor at the front desk of the Library. Linnea joined the staff in 1979 when Mark Piel was the new Head Librarian and circulation was recorded on handwritten cards. She's offered her talents and good cheer through expansions of the staff and the building, the shift to computerized catalog and circulation processes, the start of Library events, our 250th anniversary celebration, and so much more. Happy anniversary, Linnea!



Linnea with her colleague and friend Janet Howard (55 years of service at the Library!).





53 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10075

T. 212.288.6900

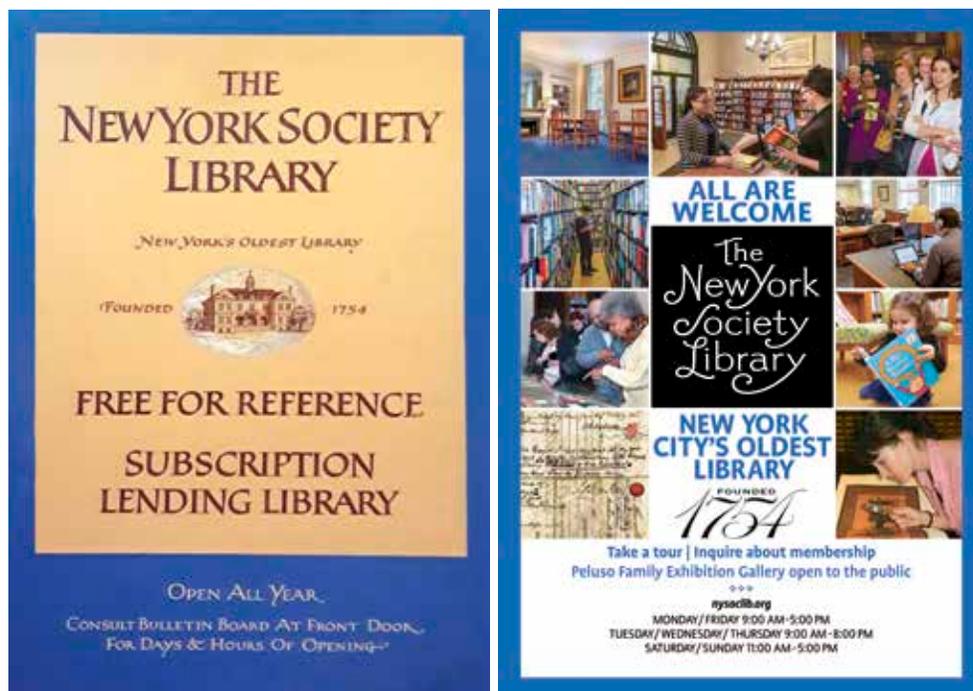
F. 212.744.5832

nysoclib.org



This newsletter is available
in electronic form at
nysoclib.org/about/newsletters

One More Picture



The outside sign: In 1937 when 53 East 79th Street first became the Library, and today.