

The New York Society Library

The Writing Life Daytime Talk Series 2009 - present

SUMMARY

WINTER/SPRING 2009

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
PUBLISHING 101	CHRIS EVANS, STACKPOLE BOOKS	JANUARY
THE SCREENWRITING LIFE	WILLIAM FINKELSTEIN	FEBRUARY
THE MARKET FOR LITERARY MAGAZINES	ROB CASPER (<i>JUBILAT</i>) KAREN GISONNY (LIBRARIAN, NYPL) ED PARK (<i>THE BELIEVER</i>)	MARCH
MARKETING AND PUBLICITY	ELLEN FELDMAN, MODERATOR ANDREW CORBIN, MODERATOR	APRIL
POETRY AND THE BLENDING OF VOICES	BRIAN BARTLETT, POET	MAY

FALL 2009

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
THE CHANGING FACE OF THE NEWS	LIZ ROBBINS, <i>THE NEW YORK TIMES</i> SCOTT COHEN, <i>THE NY DAILY NEWS</i>	OCTOBER
DEALING WITH PERMISSIONS & COPYRIGHT	ANITA FORE, THE AUTHORS GUILD DEBBIE RABINA, PRATT INSTITUTE	NOVEMBER
SELF PUBLISHING 101	DAVID CARNOY, CNET REVIEWS & AUTHOR OF <i>KNIFE MUSIC</i>	DECEMBER

WINTER/SPRING 2010

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
UNDERSTANDING PRINT AND DIGITAL PIRACY	MARIA DANZILO, WILEY & SONS PATRICK MURPHY, WILEY & SONS	JANUARY
WORKING WITH AN EDITOR	SUSAN DALSIMER, INDEPENDENT EDITORS GROUP BRUCE FRANKEL, AUTHOR OF <i>WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE?</i>	FEBRUARY
THE GOOGLE BOOK SETTLEMENT	JAN CONSTANTINE, THE AUTHORS GUILD	MARCH
SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR WRITERS	GRETCHEN RUBIN, AUTHOR OF <i>THE HAPPINESS PROJECT</i>	APRIL

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TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
WRITING YOUR LIFE: A MEMOIR WORKSHOP	SALLIE BINGHAM	NOVEMBER (2 DAYS)
BEYOND THE BOOK TOUR: MARKETING YOUR BOOK	GILDA SQUIRE, GILDA SQUIRE MEDIA RELATIONS	DECEMBER

WINTER/SPRING 2011

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
FINDING A LITERARY AGENT	ELISABETH WEED, THE WEED LITERARY AGENCY SHARON BOWERS, THE MILLER AGENCY ZOE PAGNAMENTA, THE ZOE PAGNAMENTA AGENCY	JANUARY
THE SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL WRITING GROUP	KATHARINE DAVIS	FEBRUARY
THE AUTHOR'S GUIDE TO BOOK CONTRACTS	ANITA FORE, THE AUTHORS GUILD	MARCH
JOURNALING FOR WRITERS	HILARY HAMANN	APRIL

FALL 2011

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
SHORT STORY WRITING WORKSHOP	SALLIE BINGHAM	OCTOBER (2 DAYS)
GIVING AND RECEIVING CRITIQUES	LORRAINE BODGER	NOVEMBER
ORGANIZING YOUR NOTES	GAYLE FELDMAN, MODERATOR	DECEMBER

WINTER 2012

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
THE A-B-C'S OF E-BOOK PUBLISHING	JOHN SNYDER, AUTHOR OF <i>HILL OF BEANS</i> JOSHUA TALLENT, E-BOOK ARCHITECTS PARNELL HALL, AUTHOR	JANUARY
BLURB IS A VERB! ADVENTURES (+MISADVENTURES) IN BOOK PUBLICITY	SARAH PINNEO, AUTHOR	FEBRUARY
CLOSE READING: READING LIKE A WRITER	DYLAN LANDIS	MARCH

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FALL 2012

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
WRITERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA	ADAM MACLEAN, LIFESTYLE CONSULTANT CHRISTINA RUGGIERI, SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIST	OCTOBER
KNOCK, KNOCK. WHO'S THERE?: THE DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF FICTIONAL CHARACTERS	HILMA WOLITZER	NOVEMBER
WRITING FOR MAGAZINES	LUCY KAYLIN, DEPUTY EDITOR, O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE	DECEMBER

WINTER 2013

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
FIRST THINGS FIRST: AN EDITOR LOOKS AT BEGINNINGS	WALTER BODE	JANUARY
TRUTHS ABOUT LATE LIFE CREATIVITY	MOLLY PEACOCK	MARCH

FALL 2013

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
HOW TO WRITE A BOOK PROPOSAL	LORRAINE BODGER	OCTOBER
ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING IN 2013	JONATHAN LYONS, CURTIS BROWN, LTD.	NOVEMBER
PLOTTING A PAGE TURNER	HALLIE EPHRON	DECEMBER

WINTER 2014

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR BOOK	CARY BARBOR, BOOKS AND AUTHORS	JANUARY
UNBLOCKING CREATIVITY	SIDNEY STARK PAUL PITCOFF	FEBRUARY
WAVES OF THE MIND: RHYTHMS IN PROSE-WRITING	RICHARD COHEN	MARCH

FALL 2014

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED: USING FAMILY LETTERS IN MEMOIR	SALLIE BINGHAM	OCTOBER
WRITER'S BLOCK: COMING UNGLUED AND GETTING UNSTUCK	LORRIE BODGER	NOVEMBER
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION		DECEMBER

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WINTER 2015

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
WRITING RESIDENCIES: A JUROR PROVIDES A SNEAK PEAK	ERICA OBEY	JANUARY
WRITING CONTESTS 101	ERIKA DREIFUS	FEBRUARY
FROM PAGE TO SCREEN WITH HEYWOOD GOULD	HEYWOOD GOULD	MARCH

FALL 2015

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
SELLING THE STORY: FINDING IT, WRITING IT, MAKING IT PAY	GERALD ESKENAZI	OCTOBER
WHAT IS YOUR BOOK ABOUT? *^&?	VICTORIA SKURNICK	NOVEMBER
THE WRITER SPEAKS: HOW TO GIVE A GREAT READING	DONNA KAZ	DECEMBER

WINTER 2016

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
WHAT'S SO FUNNY? HOW TO WRITE A HUMOR PIECE	JENNY ALLEN	JANUARY
POINT OF VIEW—WHAT'S THE POINT?	WALTER BODE	FEBRUARY
THE END	LORRIE BODGER & BETSY CARTER	MARCH
POEMS, POEMS, POEMS	ESTHER COHEN	APRIL

FALL 2016

TALK	PRESENTER	MONTH
COFFEE & CONVERSATION	CAROLYN WATERS	OCTOBER
WHAT IF?	ESTHER COHEN	NOVEMBER
CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING	RACHEL HOROWITZ	DECEMBER

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DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS

Publishing 101 with Chris Evans

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

A publishing insider shares his experiences in the book world and the qualities that get a manuscript noticed or relegated to the slush pile.

Library member **Chris Evans** has edited history, military history, and current affairs books for Random House/Ballantine/Del Ray and now works for Stackpole Books. His first novel, *A Darkness Forged in Fire*, was published by Simon & Schuster in July 2008.

The Screenwriting Life with William Finkelstein

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Library member **William Finkelstein** is an Emmy Award-winning producer and screenwriter of the television dramas *L.A. Law*, *Law and Order*, *Brooklyn South*, *Murder One*, and *NYPD Blue*, and a former attorney. In this talk he will share how he moved from practicing law to writing for hit legal and crime dramas and what it takes to be a screenwriter today.

The Market for Literary Magazines

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

A distinguished panel discusses the state of the literary magazine market and how the Internet is changing the landscape of independent press publishing.

Rob Casper is the Programs Director at the Poetry Society of America, publisher of the poetry journal *jubilat*, and co-founder of the *jubilat* reading series.

Karen Gisonny is the Helen B. Bernstein Librarian for Periodicals and Journals at the New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Library and the host of the reading series *Periodically Speaking: Literary Magazine Editors Introduce Emerging Writers*.

Library member **Ed Park** is the founding editor of the literary magazine *The Believer* and the author of the novel *Personal Days*, published by Random House in 2008.

Marketing and Publicity

Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

A panel of veteran authors and publishing insiders lead a discussion on the new realities of book marketing and publicity today and share practical advice on what authors can and need to do for themselves.

Poetry and the Blending of Voices

Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Poet Brian Bartlett reads from his most recent collection, *The Watchmaker's Table*, and talks about his experiments blending his voice with those of others in glosas, haiku sequences, sonnets about teaching, and found poems. He supplements his reading and commentary with a display of source books and documents for the found poems and recorded fragments of guitar music improvised for the haiku.

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Brian Bartlett is the author of five collections and four chapbooks of poems and is the recipient of the 2004 Atlantic Poetry Prize. Since 1990, he has taught creative writing and literature at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Changing Face of the News

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 10:00 a.m. (Members Room)

There's no question that the internet has had an overwhelming impact on the way the news is reported. Is the age of print journalism over? What's next in news coverage? A panel of distinguished journalists and news professionals will talk about where the industry is headed and how they and their organizations have adapted to the new paradigm in news coverage.

with: **Liz Robbins**, Reporter, Online Breaking News Division, *New York Times*

Scott Cohen, Executive Editor, NYDailyNews.com

Dealing with Permissions and Copyright

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

When do you need copyright permission? How do you go about finding copyright holders? What are the legal ramifications around copyright protections? If you're looking to use someone else's text or photographs or art in your work or have had questions about such usage in the past, join us for a discussion that is sure to illuminate.

with: **Anita Fore**, Director of Legal Services, The Authors Guild

Debbie Rabina, Assistant Professor, Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science

Self Publishing 101

Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

When **David Carnoy**, Executive Editor of CNET Reviews/CBS Interactive wrote his book *Knife Music*, he tried to go the traditional route. Against the advice of his agent, he began researching and evaluating self publishing sites and related blogs and customer testimonials. David will join us to talk about what you need to know if you are thinking about self publishing.

Understanding Print and Digital Piracy

Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

This talk is an important primer for writers on the right to protect copyrighted works. Our panelists will discuss what's at stake, what writers must know, and will present the self help tools that writers need to stop infringement of their work.

with **Maria Danzilo**, Legal Director, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Patrick Murphy, Senior Enforcement Officer, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Working with an Editor

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

Get the most of the relationship with your editor! Join us for an enlightening discussion of the objectives and value of the book editing process and how best to resolve issues over the title, cover art, blurbs, publicity, and of course, content.

with **Susan Dalsimer**, editor, The Independent Editors Group

Bruce Frankel, author of *What Should I Do with the Rest of My Life? True Stories of Finding Success, Passion and New Meaning in the Second Half of Life*

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The Google Book Settlement

Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

Jan Constantine, General Counsel and Assistant Director of The Authors Guild will discuss the origin and outcomes of the ground breaking class action copyright infringement lawsuit against Google and describe the purpose and workings of the Book Rights Registry, the entity formed as a result of the settlement.

Social Networking for Writers

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:00 a.m. (Members Room)

Twitter, Facebook, blogs and other social media are increasingly critical tools in the marketing and publicity for books. Learn how you can utilize the power of the social web to connect with your audience and spread the word. **Gretchen Rubin**, author of the new book *The Happiness Project* as well as the popular blog of the same name, will talk about her experience using social media to develop a devoted following and interest in her new book.

Writing Your Life: A Memoir Workshop

Tuesday, November 9 and Thursday, November 11, 2010 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

Sallie Bingham is the author of *Passion and Prejudice: A Family Memoir*, and is currently writing its sequel. Her other well-known work includes six novels, the short story collections *Transgressions* and *Red Car*, and numerous plays including *A Dangerous Personality*.

In this workshop created especially for the Library and The Writing Life, Ms. Bingham will address setting memoir in its historical context, creating art rather than rant, and the pleasures and pitfalls of turning one's life into prose.

Beyond the Book Tour: Marketing Your Book

Tuesday, December 14, 2010 10:00 a.m. (Whitridge Room)

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

Finding a Literary Agent

Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 10:00a.m. (Members Room)

You've finished your book...now you need a literary agent. And you thought the hard part was over! Our distinguished panel of literary agents tells us how they find their clients and what writers should and shouldn't do to get their attention.

with: **Elisabeth Weed** of The Weed Literary Agency

Sharon Bowers of The Miller Agency

Zoe Pagnamenta of The Zoe Pagnamenta Agency

The Secrets of a Successful Writing Group

Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

What makes a writing group successful? How can you ensure you get the most out of your own writing group?

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Katharine Davis, author of the novels *A Slender Thread* and the award winning *East Hope*, shares the manifesto that ensured the success of her own longtime writing group and discusses the benefits of both giving and receiving critiques.

The Author's Guide to Book Contracts

Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

Do you understand all the nuances of your book contract? Does your agreement give you the protections you need and the control you want over how your book is published?

Anita Fore, Director of Legal Services at The Authors Guild, will explain the common clauses found in an author contract and provide critical tips for negotiating with agents and publishers.

Journaling for Writers

Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

Writers such as Annie Dillard, Marguerite Duras, Stephen King, and Edmund Wilson have all kept journals for both personal and professional reasons. Through readings and a discussion, learn how journaling can benefit your own writing and discover tips and exercises for getting the most out of the experience.

Hilary Hamann is the author of the cult classic *Anthropology of an American Girl*, which was independently published and subsequently reissued by Spiegel and Grau in 2010.

Short Story Writing Workshop

Tuesday, Oct 11 & 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

In this 2 day workshop, acclaimed writer Sallie Bingham will discuss the art of the short story and will share writing tips and exercises to help members develop and improve their own work.

Sallie Bingham published her first novel with Houghton Mifflin in 1961. Since then she has published four collections of short stories, including her latest, *Mending*; four novels and a memoir. She was Book Editor for The Courier-Journal in Louisville and has been a director of the National Book Critics Circle. She is the founder of The Kentucky Foundation for Women.

Giving and Receiving Critiques

Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

Thoughtful, constructive critiques help writers improve their work. Inappropriate attacks or comments based on personal preference do not. Through lecture, discussion, and on-the-spot exercises, writer and editor Lorraine Bodger will share her secrets for giving crits that are respectful, supportive, and focused on the writer's intentions and the quality of the writing. On the flip side, you'll learn how to listen to difficult critiques, evaluate them, and make them work for you.

Lorraine Bodger has been a private editor for more than fifteen years, critiquing and editing literary fiction, mysteries, memoirs, biography, and other nonfiction. Though fiction is her first love, Lorraine has published more than thirty nonfiction books about food, cooking, crafts, relationships, and friendship. She knows what it's like to be edited—and that has made her a better editor.

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Organizing Your Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

Are your notes and references in hopeless disarray? Are you constantly looking for the right literal and digital file folder? In this moderated discussion forum, meet other member writers to talk about strategies for managing volumes of collected notes and references. Bring your own tips and tricks to share.

The A-B-C's of E-Book Publishing

Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Members' Room

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

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

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

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

Blurb is a Verb! Adventures (+Misadventures) in Book Publicity

Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

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

Sarah writes about food, family and fiction from Hanover, NH. Her forthcoming novel *Julia's Child* (Penguin, Feb2012) has been hailed as "a witty, well plotted fiction debut" by Publishers Weekly. She is also the co-author of *The Ski House Cookbook* (Clarkson Potter 2007).

Close Reading: The Craft of Reading Fiction Like a Writer

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Whitridge Room

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

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

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

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Writers and Social Media

Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

In this talk, two social media experts will discuss how writers can build their brand using digital marketing. Learn how search engine optimization (SEO) and simple tweaks to your website, blog, Twitter feed, and Facebook page can generate traffic to improve your visibility among agents, publishers, and your target audience and increase book sales.

Christina Ruggieri is a Digital Marketing Strategist who has developed digital campaigns for Joan Didion, Anna Quindlen, Thomas Friedman, and Nora Ephron, among many others.

Adam MacLean is a lifestyle & social media consultant who ghost-writes several Facebook and Twitter feeds for high-profile individuals.

Knock, knock. Who's there?: The discovery and development of fictional characters with Hilma Wolitzer

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Hilma Wolitzer likes to read and write character-driven novels. In this talk on the craft of writing, she will discuss how characters are found and how they evolve, in her own work and in others.

Hilma Wolitzer is an award winning writer and teacher and the author of 9 books of fiction, 4 books for young readers and the essential writer's guide *The Company of Writers: Fiction Workshops and Thoughts on The Writing Life*. Her most recent novel *An Available Man*, displays her extraordinary gift for character with Edward Schuyler, the grieving widower who finds love later in life despite the comical intervention of his well meaning friends and family.

Writing for Magazines with Lucy Kaylin

Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

What kinds of content are magazines looking for? How can you get the attention of magazine editors? A veteran magazine editor will join us to talk about how to identify potential topics, pitch your work, submit articles or essays for consideration, and to discuss what to do once your work is accepted or rejected.

Lucy Kaylin is currently the Deputy Editor at *O, the Oprah Magazine*, winner of last year's National Magazine Award for General Excellence, and has worked as a writer and editor at *Vogue*, *GQ*, and *Marie Claire*. She is also the author of the books *For the Love of God* about the decline of Catholic nuns in America, and *The Perfect Stranger* about the complicated relationship between mothers and nannies.

First Things First: An Editor Looks at Beginnings with Walter Bode

Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Rightly or wrongly, readers fix a gimlet eye on beginnings, as do writers, aware of the myriad rules, warnings, and dictates about what to do or not to do. This discussion will look at some classic and not-so-

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classic examples, explore how they affect the reader, and examine the purpose and dynamics of a book's first words.

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.

Truths About Late Life Creativity from the Life of Mary Delany with Molly Peacock **Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

When Mary Granville Pendarves Delany invented the art of collage in 1772, she was 72 years old. How did it happen that a woman in her eighth decade invented a brand new art form? We will track instances of creativity in Delany's life, since she first cut silhouettes as a child through the succeeding decades of her life, and we'll discover some truths about the imaginative life as a person grows—and grows old. It's been said that Delany would have come to her artwork earlier if certain obstacles had not been in her way. Not so! Some things take living long enough to do.

Molly Peacock is a widely anthologized poet, essayist and creative nonfiction writer. In addition to *The Paper Garden: Mrs. Delany Begins Her Life's Work at 72*, she has published six books of poetry, a memoir called *Paradise, Piece By Piece* and *How To Read A Poem and Start A Poetry Circle*. She is the editor of a collection of creative non-fiction, *The Private I: Privacy in a Public World*, the co-editor of *Poetry in Motion: One Hundred Poems from the Subways and Buses*, and one of the creators of New York's Poetry in Motion program.

How to Write a Book Proposal **Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

You have a great idea for a new book. If you want to publish it, you must write a book proposal that will convince an agent (and then an editor) to take on your great idea. But the prospect of writing the proposal is even more daunting than the prospect of writing the actual book. Where do you begin? What do you include? In this talk you'll find out what does and doesn't go into a truly professional nonfiction book proposal. PLUS: the best way for fiction writers to present their work to agents.

Lorraine Bodger is the author of more than thirty nonfiction books, all of which required proposals. She's also a fiction writer, private editor, and producer of many book proposals for other writers.

Electronic Publishing in 2013 **Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

In this talk, literary agent and publishing attorney Jonathan Lyons will shine a light on the electronic publishing landscape today. Learn about the genres and subjects that are selling best in electronic form as well as the issues surrounding ebook publishing with a traditional publisher. He'll also discuss options and issues with self-publishing, explain why and when to move from self-publishing to traditional publishing, and ponder the future of both.

Jonathan Lyons is a literary agent at Curtis Brown, Ltd. He represents a select list of authors of biographies, history, science, pop culture, sports, general narrative non-fiction, mysteries, thrillers,

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science fiction and fantasy, and young adult fiction, in addition to serving as subagent in the United States for several agencies in the UK. Having previously run translation rights at McIntosh & Otis and Folio Literary Management, Jonathan currently oversees Curtis Brown's translation rights department. Jonathan is also a licensed publishing attorney, a member of The Authors Guild, and a member of the Contracts Committee of the Association of Authors' Representatives, Inc.

Plotting a Page Turner with Hallie Ephron **Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

For a novel to be a page turner, it doesn't have to feature a serial killer or ticking time bombs or car chases. It does need characters who the reader cares about and a story that unfolds and builds forward momentum. In this talk, Hallie Ephron will reveal the secrets to giving a story and scene structure, tension, and a viewpoint to build that forward momentum, and to putting your characters in the driver's seat.

Hallie Ephron is the author of eight novels. Her most recent, *There Was an Old Woman*, was a bestseller. Her award-winning *Never Tell A Lie* was made into a movie for the Lifetime Movie Network. She's been nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, and Mary Higgins Clark awards multiple times. Her work has been called "unputdownable" (Laura Lippman), "unsettling" (Seattle Times), "richly atmospheric" and "Hitchcockian" (USA Today), and "deliciously creepy" (Publisher's weekly). Her book on mystery writing was nominated for Edgar and Anthony awards. Hallie also reviews crime fiction for the *Boston Globe*.

How to Talk About Your Book with Cary Barbor **Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

You've poured yourself into your writing and at long last, you hold your book in your hand. But your work's not done yet: now you need to publicize the book. The task is distasteful to many writers, but can be learned like any skill. We'll discuss how you can get comfortable talking about your book so readers will seek it out and we'll listen to some samples of successful and less-successful interviews. Topics will include differences among broadcast, print, blog, live and edited interviews, and how best to prepare for each; what to wear and how to use your voice; how to interest your audience but leave them wanting more; and gaffes to avoid.

Cary Barbor is the host and producer of [Books and Authors](#), a podcast that features intelligent, candid conversations with authors about their new books. She hosted her own author interview show, BookTalk, on SiriusXM. A seasoned arts producer, Cary has worked on such public radio shows as The Leonard Lopate Show and Studio 360. Her fiction and nonfiction have been published widely in such publications as New York magazine, *Salon*, *More*, and many others. She recently completed a writing residency at Vermont Studio Center, where she finished her first novel.

Unblocking Creativity **Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

Writers must tangle with creativity every day regardless of whether they pick up a pen, pencil, or keyboard. The craft of writing is more readily taught than the spark of creativity ignited. Writing associates Sidney Stark and Paul Pitcoff lead a discussion about methods for unblocking through the experiences of masters in the arts and sciences.

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Sidney Stark inaugurated *The Unblocked Creativity Workshop* in the summer of 2013. She is the author of a blog called [The Unblocked! Writer](#) with a following of over 3,000 readers, and has just finished her second novel, *Certain Liberties*. **Paul Pitcoff** has published numerous articles and a book, *Beyond the Foster Care System*, as well as having producing award-winning documentary films. He has just finished his memoir, *Homeland Insecurity*.

Waves of the Mind: Rhythms in Prose-Writing with Richard Cohen **Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

Virginia Woolf wrote, “Style is a very simple matter; it is all rhythm. Once you get that, you can’t use the wrong words.” When literature was principally oral, rhythm was even more obvious a quality, but since the advent of print, the art of ‘tacit reading aloud’—being aware of the rhythm of the prose, even silently—has remained. Writers and readers have long agreed that the rhythm of prose is inseparable from its power to convey. In this talk, Richard Cohen will discuss what makes good rhythm, the actual rhythms useful to improve one’s own writing, and the pieces of advice and tricks of the trade offered by writers of the past, from Aristotle and Flaubert to contemporary writing manuals.

Richard Cohen is the author of *Chasing the Sun: The Epic Story of the Star That Gives Us Life* (Random House, 2010) and *By The Sword: A History of Gladiators, Musketeers, Samurai, Swashbucklers and Olympic Champions* (Random House, 2002). He is a visiting professor in Creative Writing at the University of Kingston upon Thames, on the editorial board of *Lapham’s Quarterly*, and writes frequently for publications such as the *Times* (London), the *New York Times*, *Bloomberg News*, and most London newspapers. He is currently writing a history of historians.

You Have Everything You Need: Using Family Letters in Memoir with Sallie Bingham **Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

When we come into possession of family letters, we may initially not know what to do with them. Sallie Bingham will discuss using techniques of fiction and research to both use and transcend the purely personal.

Sallie Bingham is the author of *The Blue Box: Three Lives in Letters* (Sarabande, 2014), about a collection of letters from long forgotten relatives found in the top of her mother’s closet after she died. She is also the author of the memoir *Passion and Prejudice*, as well as six novels, the short story collections *Mending*, *Transgressions* and *Red Car*, several collections of poetry, and numerous plays. She is working on a biography of Doris Duke.

Writer's Block: Coming Unglued and Getting Unstuck **Tuesday, November 11, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room**

You can’t get into your writing, you can’t type a word—you panic! You’ve got writer’s block! Whoa, hold your horses: Genuine, long-lasting “writer’s block” is dire but uncommon. What feels like *blocked* is almost always *stuck*, and *stuck* is a much less dire (and much more common) condition. So don’t come unglued when you can’t write; there’s a very good chance that your condition is temporary, and there are effective ways to help yourself get unstuck. Lorrie Bodger will spell out what writer’s block is and *isn’t*, why or *if* you have it, and most important, how you can begin solving the *stuck* problem right away.

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Lorrie Bodger, author of more than thirty books, teaches writers, does private editing, and writes a twice-weekly blog for writers and readers, called *The Book Under Her Bed*, at www.thebookunderherbed.com. She's been stuck more than once.

Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 9, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

The Writing Life Daytime Talk Series turns seven years old in January! Join your fellow member writers for morning coffee, light bites and conversation. Come prepared to discuss ideas for future daytime talks.

Writing Residencies: A Juror Provides a Sneak Peak

Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Last year, Erica Obey was invited to serve as a juror for the Woodstock/Byrdcliffe Guild's Artists in Residence program. In this talk, she will discuss the selection process, covering everything from the broad issues of evaluating applications both subjectively and objectively, to the specifics of the software platform used. This talk is aimed toward writers who are interested in applying to such programs, as well as those who have already participated in such programs and would like to share their own experiences.

Erica Obey is the author of a mystery novel, *Back to the Garden*, as well as scholarly work on female folklorists of the nineteenth century. She holds an M.A. in Creative Writing from City College and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from C.U.N.Y., as well as an undergraduate degree from Yale. She currently teaches courses on mystery fiction and Arthurian romance at Fordham University.

Writing Contests 101

Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Advertisements for writing contests and competitions abound in the magazines, newsletters, and listservs familiar to so many writers. Why might writers pursue these opportunities, and how can we evaluate these offerings for their potential to contribute to our writing lives? We'll talk about awards for works-in-progress, unpublished manuscripts, and published books. Depending on group interest, we'll expand beyond contests proper to cover grants, scholarships, fellowships, and residencies.

Erika Dreifus writes prose and poetry. She is the author of *Quiet Americans: Stories* (Last Light Studio, 2011), which was an American Library Association/Sophie Brody Medal Honor Title for outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. She is the editor and publisher of *The Practicing Writer*, a popular e-newsletter for poets, fictionists, and writers of creative nonfiction. Learn more at www.erikadreifus.com and follow Erika on Twitter @ErikaDreifus.

From Page to Screen with Heywood Gould

Tuesday, March 10, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

In this talk, an acclaimed screenwriter will tell us how to adapt your novel or work of nonfiction into a screenplay. He'll discuss how to change prose into image, emphasize the cinematic aspects of your work, and transmute key expository passages into dramatic moments. He'll talk about the need to create a

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narrative structure, prune non-essential elements, and distill cinema dialogue from your prose. Most importantly, how to protect the voice so that your *Portrait of a Lady* doesn't become *The Philadelphia Story*.

Heywood Gould is the author of eight novels, among them *Cocktail*, *Fort Apache the Bronx* and *Double Bang*, which he adapted for the screen and directed. He was a Hammett finalist for *Leading Lady* and *Greenlight for Murder* and his novel *Serial Killer's Daughter* has been optioned for a film. He has written nine movies, including *Fort Apache*, *Boys From Brazil* and the cult classic *Rolling Thunder*, which he rewrote. He has directed four of his own screenplays, including *Mistrial*, and *Trial by Jury*

Selling the Story: Finding It, Writing It, Making it Pay

Tuesday, October 13, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Free of Charge; Registration Required

From accidentally coming across the Swiss Army Knife factory, to fishing for piranha in the Amazon, Gerald Eskenazi has learned that there are stories everywhere. You just have to know who's interested in paying for them--and to recognize the story when you see it. He will discuss the often-difficult terrain writers have in getting something published and how you can prepare for the journey--as well as how to craft a story pitch that often is as important as the story itself.

Gerald Eskenazi had one of the longest and most productive careers in the history of *The New York Times*--8,000 bylines (second-highest in the paper's history), to go with 16 books. He wrote about a variety of subjects as a sportswriter. In retirement he has free-lanced extensively, especially in the field of travel-writing. A member of three halls of fame, his works also have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *New York Magazine*.

What is Your Book About?*&?

Tuesday, November 10, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Free of Charge; Registration Required

Trying to find an agent has become as tricky as trying to find a publisher, and a good query letter is essential. This means that writers have to find an intelligent and concise way to present their writing in a paragraph or two, and to do it in a way that is neither too filled with bravado (Oprah will adore this book!) nor too self-abnegating (I'm sure you're much too busy to pay any attention to this, but...), sounds commercial and worthy of literary attention, and doesn't go on for more than a paragraph or two. The best books can be ruined by a bad pitch; and a great pitch can make any agent read at least a few pages of something god-awful. Doing this well is a skill that is quite separate from writing a good book, and, luckily, it can be learned.

Victoria Skurnick is an agent at the Levine, Greenberg, Rostan Agency. Before that she was editor-in-chief of The Book-of-the-Month Club, senior editor at St. Martin's Press, Advertising Director of Holt, Rinehart & Winston, and co-author of seven novels written under the pseudonym Cynthia Victor. She represents both nonfiction and fiction, and among her clients are Senator Tom Daschle, Alice LaPlante, Susan Elia MacNeal, Harry Dolan and Kermit Roosevelt.

The Writer Speaks: How To Give a Great Reading

Tuesday, December 8, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room

Free of Charge; Registration Required

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You are confident as a writer but when someone asks you to read your work aloud your voice squeaks, you speed up and your words lose all color. More and more authors are required to read from their work at book events and open mics. Reading your own work is a great way to connect with and engage a new audience of readers. If you want to simply get better at reading your work aloud in your writing workshop or are booked to give public readings, Donna Kaz will share tips and techniques to use to read your work so the audience hears every word and loves it.

Donna Kaz is a multi-genre writer and theatre artist who has been a featured reader at the Festival of Language, Pulse Poetry Slam, Carpo, Uncle Mo's and Wordstock. She recently received an Ian MacMillan award in nonfiction, a Boundary Stone Films screenwriting award and a residency from the Mesa Refuge. Her memoir, *UN/MASKED*, is scheduled to be published by Skyhorse in October of 2016.

What's So Funny? How to Write a Humor Piece

Tuesday, January 12, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room
Free of Charge; Registration Required

Humor is all around us, every minute—that wee annoyance, or strange interaction, or the person on line in front of you at the post office. The hard part, as with any writing, is finding the courage to do it. In this talk, writer and performer Jenny Allen will discuss the humor writers she loves and how to approach writing a humor piece.

Jenny Allen's humor pieces have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *More*, and other magazines, and in anthologies including *The 50 Funniest American Writers* (edited by Andy Borowitz). A collection of her pieces will be published in 2017 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Sarah Crichton Books). Jenny is the writer and performer of *I Got Sick Then I Got Better*, which debuted at New York Theatre Workshop and which has been seen around the country. She is also a contributing storyteller for the *MOTH*.

Point of View—What's the Point?

Tuesday, February 9, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room
Free of Charge; Registration Required

Hoariest of all writerly topics perhaps, point of view is the air that a novel breathes, all too easily polluted. Recent novels have been written from a point of view ranging from feloniously unreliable to wantonly unpredictable, providing writers some nifty tools and seductive traps as well. In this talk, a distinguished editor looks beyond the divisions by pronoun toward the narrative dynamics of POV, and scavenges classics and contemporaries from Trollope to Gillian Flynn in the hunt for uses and abuses.

Walter Bode has been in book publishing for three decades and now works independently. Books he has edited have won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, the Casey Award for Best Sports Book, the Lambda Award for Best Fiction, the Whitbread Award for Biography, and the Gold Dagger for Best Mystery Novel.

The End

Tuesday, March 8, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room
Free of Charge; Registration Required

Writing the novel/short story/essay is the easy part. Knowing when to stop is where the trouble begins. End at a dramatic moment? A resolution moment? A foreshadowing-the-future moment? An

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everything's-going-to-be-okay moment? Or just toss in the towel when you've exhausted yourself or your characters?

Two writers, with dozens of books and articles and even more years of editing between them, interview each other about how to recognize the finish line when you come to it, and what to do when you get there.

Lorrie Bodger, author of more than thirty books, teaches writers, does private editing, has written a blog called "The Book Under Her Bed," and has arrived at the end of her novel. Again. **Betsy Carter** has published one memoir and three novels. She has just completed her fourth. Before that, she was a magazine editor and writer at *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, *Harper's Bazaar* and founding editor and editor-in-chief of *New York Woman*.

Poems Poems Poems

Tuesday, April 12, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room
Free of Charge; Registration Required

For national poetry month, together we will read and write poems –(ours, other people's) and answer these questions: What is a poem? Why should we read them? How do we write them? If we write them already, why do we write them.. Then we'll read out loud together.

Esther Cohen's poems and pieces have appeared in the *New York Times*, NPR, and on the radio show *On Being*. She's the author of five books, and this April will publish a new book of poems, *I'm Getting Older* (Pleasure Boat Press.) She is The Facebook Poet, and posts a poem a day at esthercohen.com.

The Writing Life at NYSL

Tuesday, October 11, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room
Free of Charge; Registration Required

Join Head Librarian **Carolyn Waters** for coffee and conversation and learn about the various services the Library provides to writers. Did you know the Library offers an interlibrary loan service? Did you know that our membership in the Metro New York Library Council gives members access to dozens of other area libraries normally closed to the general public? Have you used our extensive collection of electronic resources? Join us to kick off the fall Writing Life season.

What If?

Tuesday, November 8, 10:00 A.M., Whitridge Room
Free of Charge; Registration Required

It's election day, and the new year 5777 on the Jewish calendar.
Let's celebrate both by writing. We will write whatever
we can: what we think, what we feel, what we imagine, what we fear,
knowing writing is a way to tell ourselves, and each other, what we know.

Esther Cohen's poems and pieces have appeared in the *New York Times*, NPR, and on the radio show *On Being*. She's the author of five books, including her latest book of poems, *I'm Getting Older* (Pleasure Boat Press.) She is The Facebook Poet, and posts a poem a day at esthercohen.com.

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Children's Publishing with Rachel Horowitz

Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 AM, Whitridge Room

Children's publishing is the fastest-growing niche in the publishing marketplace, increasing by more than 40% in the last decade. The largest market is books for children aged 5-8, but 80% of all Young Adult books sold are purchased by adults. At this talk, learn more about this exciting market and chat with an expert on children's book trends. Ms. Horowitz will talk about the newest trends for 2017-2018 and provide an insider's look at the book industry and the makings of a bestseller. She will also discuss the correlation between children's books and the entertainment industry: almost every bestselling series on the New York Times top ten series list has been adapted for film, from Harry Potter and Diary of a Wimpy Kid to The Maze Runner and Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. Ms. Horowitz will talk about how a book-to-film deal works, with real-time examples of books that are set to change the publishing landscape in the years to come.

Rachel Horowitz worked for fifteen years at Scholastic Inc, the world's largest children's book publisher, and she's currently the Children's Literary Scout with Maria Campbell Associates. She scouts books for nineteen leading publishers around the world, looking for bestsellers to publish in translation, often 1-2 years before they are published. She also scouts for Warner Brothers for feature film and TV, and for New Line Cinema for film.