

NOTES



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THE NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS

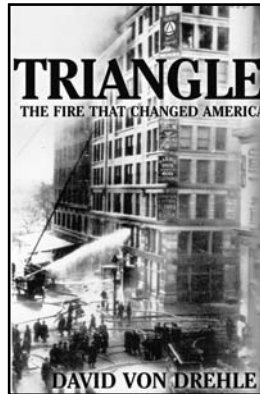
BOOK OF THE YEAR

TRIANGLE: THE FIRE THAT CHANGED AMERICA

David Von Drehle

(Atlantic Monthly Press)

"Urban history at its best: vivid, compelling, meticulously researched. It also provides heartening evidence...that great good can come from appalling tragedy." —Geoffrey Ward



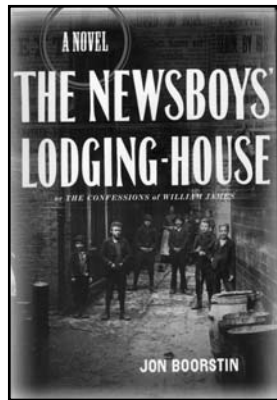
BOOK AWARDS

CEREMONY

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28,
5:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**

The New York City Book Awards are given to current authors who have captured the essence of New York City. This year's jury members are Constance Rogers Roosevelt, chair; Barbara Cohen, Jules Cohn, Hope Cooke, Joan K. Davidson, Roger Pasquier, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Jonathan Rosen, Daniel M. Rossner, Geoffrey Ward, and Wendy Wasserstein.

These and other awards will be presented at a ceremony and reception honoring the award-winning authors and their publishers. Library members are invited, but space is limited. Contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org by April 23 to place a reservation.



AWARD FOR

HISTORICAL FICTION

*THE NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE OR
THE CONFESSIONS OF WILLIAM JAMES*

Jon Boorstin

(Viking Press)

"An ambitious and innovative reconstruction...a vivid picture of the roughest and most cultivated aspects of New York in the 1870s." —Roger Pasquier

AWARD FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

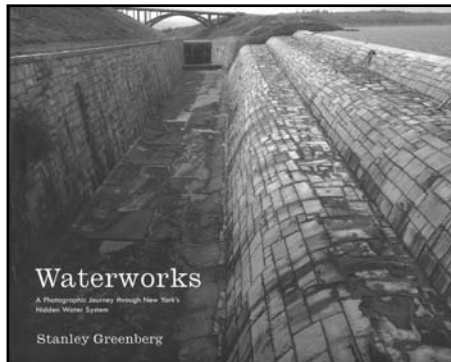
WATERWORKS:

*A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH
NEW YORK'S HIDDEN WATER SYSTEM*

Stanley Greenberg

(Princeton Architectural Press)

"Brings to light the rough beauty of the industrial structure without which we would have no water—and reminds us of New York's marvelous complexity." —Joan K. Davidson



CALENDAR

March 24 6:00 P.M.	March 29 6:00 P.M.	April 7 6:30 P.M.	April 15 6:00 P.M.	May 4 6:00 P.M.	May 5 6:00 P.M.	May 18 6:00 P.M.
GALWAY KINNELL on WHITMAN AND DICKINSON	AN EVENING WITH JONATHAN FRANZEN	Temple Israel ERICA JONG on <i>SAPPHO'S LEAP</i>	NIMET HABACHY on LORENZO DA PONTE	LOIS METZGER on ANNE FRANK	RECITAL of SONGS BY LIBRARY MEMBERS	KARL KIRCHWEY POETRY READING

- ❖ *Registration is required for all events. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. All events take place in the Members' Room unless otherwise stated.*
- ❖ *To receive technology news and articles electronically, send an e-mail to webmaster@nysoclib.org. To receive the monthly Children's Events Calendar, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.*

250TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON: LIBRARY LECTURES

Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door.
To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

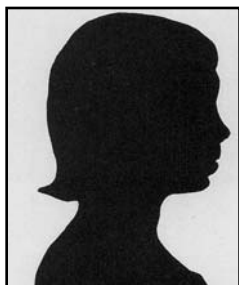
GALWAY KINNELL

THE FATHER AND MOTHER OF AMERICAN POETRY

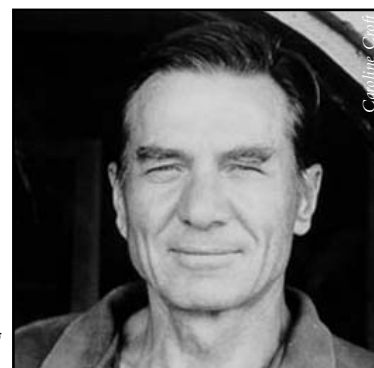
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM



"Under Whitman's spell...it seemed it might be possible to say everything in poetry." —The Essential Whitman
"Dickinson tells how it is to be a human being in a particular moment, in compressed, hard, blazingly vivid poems." —Kinnell in an interview



Kirkus Reviews calls Galway Kinnell "one of America's national treasures." Winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, former state poet of Vermont, and Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Creative Writing at New York University, Kinnell is one of the country's foremost voices in poetry. His recent collections include *When One Has Lived a Long Time Alone* and *Imperfect Thirst*.

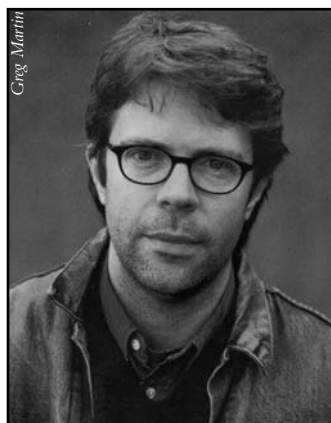


In this lecture, Kinnell—also the editor of *The Essential Whitman*—will discuss the importance of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson and their influence on succeeding generations of poets. This lecture is \$10 for Library members and their guests.

JONATHAN FRANZEN

AN EVENING WITH JONATHAN FRANZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

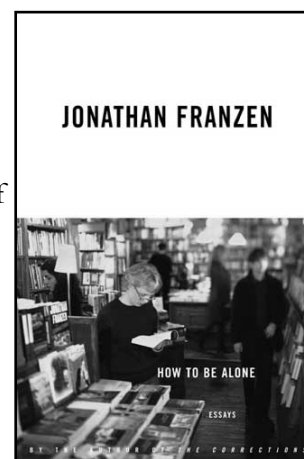


"The novelist has more and more to say to readers who have less and less time to read: Where to find the energy to engage with a culture in crisis when the crisis consists in the impossibility of engaging with the culture?"

—How to Be Alone

The author of the National Book Award-winning *The Corrections*, Jonathan Franzen has become a voice for our time. The *New York Times Book Review* praises his "wordplay worthy of Nabokov," "tiny, revelatory gestures," and "magically precise images," and says, "If you don't end up liking each one of Franzen's people, you probably just don't like people." In this informal lecture, Franzen will talk about the writing life and the power of his chosen genre, the social novel, bringing to bear the same keen vision and strong opinions that shaped *The Corrections* and his book of essays, *How to Be Alone*.

This event is \$10 for members and guests.



250TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHILDREN'S OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1:00-4:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

MEMBERS' OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2:00-5:00 P.M., THROUGHOUT LIBRARY BUILDING

The Library plans a festive weekend with a colonial New York theme commemorating our founding in April 1754. The Children's Open House will feature music, games, and crafts for members aged four and up; the adult Open House will include readings from and by notable members, along with quizzes, food, music, and special appearances by historical figures. More details will be available in the 250th Anniversary Open House invitation, coming soon.

250TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON: LIBRARY LECTURES

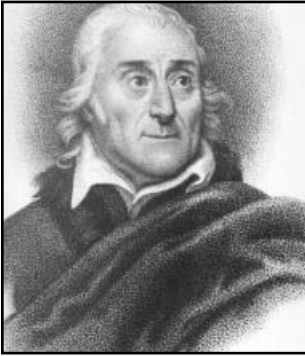
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NIMET HABACHY

STORY INCREDIBLE BUT TRUE: THE WORLD OF LORENZO DA PONTE

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

"As you know, I replied, 'musical drama is in such a degraded state in our country that a fellow would have to have courage indeed to embrace such a career.'" —Lorenzo Da Ponte's Memoirs



Poet, priest, gambler, grocer, and professor, Lorenzo Da Ponte was one of the most engaging personalities in modern history. Although most famous as court poet for Vienna's Italian theater and for his three libretti for Mozart (*Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan Tutte* and *Don Giovanni*), Da Ponte was also the founder of Italian studies in America and a Library member.

Nimet Habachy, host of WQXR FM's popular "New York at Night" show, is a longtime devotee of Da Ponte lore and has travelled across Europe in his footsteps. This program is \$10 for members and their guests.



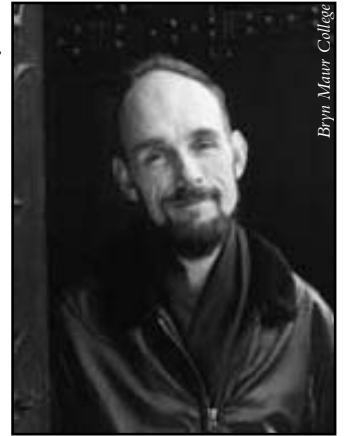
KARL KIRCHWEY

SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

*"...I was writing, the anxiety of language upon me, experience now and then breaking through the linked dance of symbols, as if somebody had just come into the room with a news bulletin from the radio, events far away."
—"November 22, 1963"*

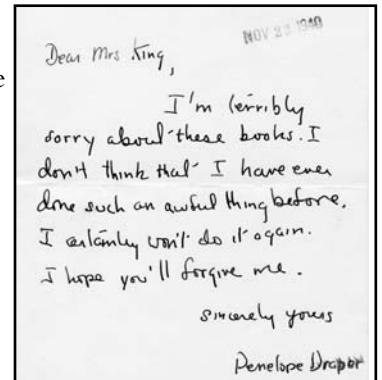
Karl Kirchwey is the author of a play in verse, numerous translations, and four poetry collections, most recently *At the Palace of Jove*. His keen descriptive skill and emotional power have been praised by the Poetry Society of America and the Paris Review. In addition to his accomplishments as a poet, Kirchwey is also an advocate for the art as the director of creative writing and associate professor in the arts at Bryn Mawr College and the former director of the 92nd Street Y Unterberg Poetry Center. In this event he will read his own poems in the company of works by other poets who have inspired and influenced him. This event is \$10 for members and their guests.



ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR COPY?

More than 700 members have requested copies of the free commemorative book, *The New York Society Library: 250 Years*. The book includes essays on the history of the Library and the city, excerpts from 250 years of publications and correspondence, and tributes from current members. If you have not yet reserved a copy, you can send back the card included in the November 2003 *Library Notes*, or contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. Books will be available for pickup in May.



CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door.

To register, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or carrie@nysoclib.org.

LOIS METZGER

YOURS, ANNE: THE LIFE OF ANNE FRANK

FOR FOURTH GRADE AND OLDER

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM



"Margot and I started packing our most important belongings into a school bag. The first thing I stuck in was this diary...Preoccupied by the thought of going into hiding, I stuck the craziest things into the bag, but I'm not sorry. Memories mean more to me than dresses." —from *The Diary of Anne Frank*

For her thirteenth birthday, Anne Frank's parents gave her a small plaid diary that she named "Kitty." More than fifty years later, this diary has become one of the most widely read books of all time. For many, Anne Frank's diary is the doorway to understanding the events of her time—an accessible narrator for an unbelievable period.

Frank's diary, however, does not tell the entire story. Lois Metzger's *Yours, Anne: The Life of Anne Frank* fills in vital information from Anne's birth to her death, creating a lively new perspective on the beloved diary. Metzger is the author of the novels *Barry's Sister*, which *Publishers Weekly* called "masterfully written and well researched," and *Missing Girls*, which critics have called "hauntingly real." Her fiction and nonfiction have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Omni*, and *The Nation*.

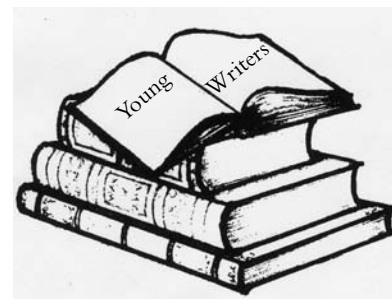


YOUNG WRITERS' WORKSHOP

In this ongoing series, young writers in grades four through six are invited to join notable writers in exploring different genres. There is a \$10 per session fee. All sessions take place from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. in the Whitridge Room.

POETRY WITH DAVE JOHNSON * THURSDAY, APRIL 22

This workshop will celebrate National Poetry Month with poet and playwright Dave Johnson, author of *Marble Shoot*. He will lead a discussion of contemporary poetry and encourage participants to write their own.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS: GREAT BOOKS FOR BOYS

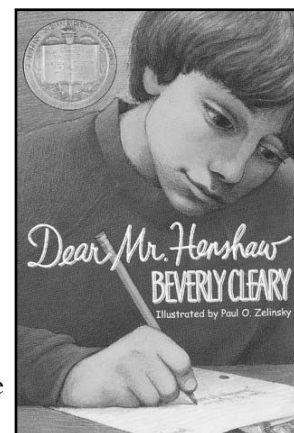
DEAR MR. HENSHAW BY BEVERLY CLEARY

FOR PARENTS AND THEIR SONS IN GRADES THREE THROUGH FIVE

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 5:30-7:00 P.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Leigh Botts has been author Boyd Henshaw's number one fan ever since he was in second grade. Now in sixth grade, Leigh lives with his mother and is the new kid at school. He's lonely, troubled by the absence of his father, a cross-country trucker, and angry because a mysterious thief steals from his lunchbag. Then Leigh's teacher assigns a letter-writing project. Naturally Leigh chooses to write to Mr. Henshaw, whose surprising answer changes Leigh's life. This young adult classic won the 1984 Newbery Medal.

Parents and their sons are invited to join Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman for this free book discussion. To register, please call 212-288-6900 x234 or e-mail carrie@nysoclib.org.





READING GROUPS

❖ Reading groups are free of charge, but space is very limited, and registration is required. To register, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.

PARADISE LOST with DONALD McDONOUGH

TUESDAYS, MARCH 16, APRIL 13, AND MAY 11, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Professor Donald McDonough, who led a reading group on favorite works of Shakespeare in 2002, returns to discuss another of the pillars of Western literature, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. A professor of English at Central Connecticut State University, McDonough specializes in seventeenth-century British literature and has spoken on Milton at conferences around the world. The three sessions will examine Books 1-4, 5-8, and 9-12, respectively.

GLIMPSES OF NEW YORK with CAROL RIAL

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 17, APRIL 14, AND MAY 12, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Teacher and editor Carol Rial, leader of a 2003 reading group on memory and memoir, turns to three books that offer diverse and surprising perspectives on New York City. The group's three sessions will look at Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* (1920), Joseph Mitchell's *The Bottom of the Harbor* (1959), and Colin Whitehead's *The Colossus of New York: A City in Thirteen Parts* (2003).

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS: THE NEW SYSTEM

Technology workshops help members get acquainted with the Library's new computer circulation system (Innovative Interfaces' Millennium) and with personal computers in general. All workshops take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes. The workshops are free, but registration is required; contact 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.



INTRODUCTION TO MILLENNIUM

March 17, 2:00 P.M. * March 18, 10:00 A.M.
March 18, 2:00 P.M.

MILLENNIUM PART TWO

April 29, 10:00 A.M. * April 29, 2:00 P.M.
April 30, 10:00 A.M. * April 30, 2:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS I

May 10, 10:00 A.M.

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD

May 10, 2:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS II

May 11, 2:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET I AND II

May 12, 2:00 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENT

SARA HOLLIDAY with TIMOTHY HEAVNER and GAYDEN WREN

WORDS AND MUSIC: A FESTIVAL OF LIBRARY SONGWRITERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

"A trip to the library/has made a new girl of me/for suddenly I can see/the magic of books!"

—from *She Loves Me*, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick



Not only a haunt for authors, the Library has also been an intellectual home for a number of composers and lyricists. In this special anniversary event, soprano Sara Holliday will bring to life favorite songs by twentieth-century Library members, including Samuel Barber, Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, Sheldon Harnick, Richard Maltby Jr., Harold Rome, and Stephen Sondheim.

A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Holliday made her Off-Broadway debut in 2000 in a musical adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Timothy Heavner will accompany her on the piano, and Gayden Wren, author of *A Most Ingenious Paradox: The Art of Gilbert & Sullivan*, will provide comments and insights on the songwriters' works. This event is free for members and their guests, but registration is required. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

THE 2003-2004 AUTHOR SERIES

Registration is required for all events.

To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

ERICA JONG

SAPPHO'S LEAP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 6:30 P.M., TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET

"Since at every moment of our lives we stand on the brink of eternity, this is as good a place as any to start the story of my life."

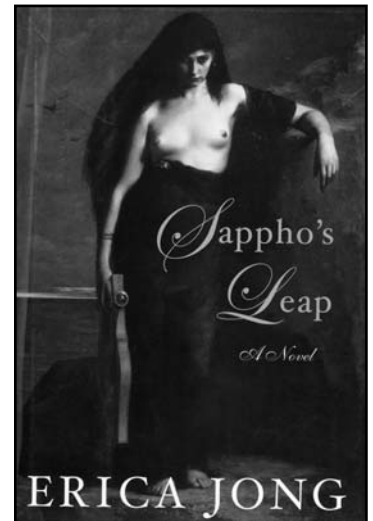


Sappho, born around 630 B.C., was one of the great ancient poets and one of the few female voices known from her time. One of the first poets to write in the intimate first person, she also invented a new standard meter. Plato called her one of the muses, and many later generations of poets have acknowledged the influence of her sensual, melodic poems. This is all the more remarkable given that only fragments of her poems have survived to our century, leaving room for interpretation and speculation.

This challenge is taken up by Erica Jong in *Sappho's Leap*, a novel exploring the great poet's life with the help of new translations of existing fragments and Jong's own poems in her character's style. A fearless, intelligent heroine, Sappho travels from Delphi to Egypt, to the land of the Amazons, and even to the depths of Hades. Susan Cheever comments, "If Odysseus had been a woman, this is the

journey he might have taken." Jong is the acclaimed author of *Fear of Flying* and many other novels and nonfiction works.

The Author Series is co-sponsored by Channel 13/WNET and is made possible by a grant from the Axe-Houghton Foundation. This lecture is free for Library members and their guests.



❖ *Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at www.nysoclib.org.*

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

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