**NOTES**

**Volume 12, Number 2, Spring 2005**

**THE NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS 2004**

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<th><strong>Special Citation of Merit</strong></th>
<th><strong>Book Awards Ceremony</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Arcadia Publishing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, May 4,</strong></td>
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<td>for the <em>Images of America</em> Series</td>
<td><strong>5:30 P.M., Members’ Room</strong></td>
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Arcadia Publishing has done noble work by publishing more than a score of intensely focused local history titles for New York City alone (thousands nationwide). Who else would publish books on the East Bronx, on New York’s harbor defenses, and on Long Island City, and keep them in print and widely available? The Arcadia titles give voice to smaller topics and smaller neighborhoods that are far beneath the typical publishing radar, and we are pleased to honor that effort. —Christopher Gray

**FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN**

Dear Members,

The head of operations at the New York Society Library has traditionally been referred to as “The Librarian.” There are, in fact, ten full- and part-time professional librarians who work at the Library. They, and other members of the staff—their working at Circulation, in particular—know well the Library, its members, and its collections. To acknowledge, and effectively harness, this valuable resource, a revolving team of Library staff members—including “The Librarian”—will offer assistance at the Reference Desk (to the right of Circulation). We plan to staff this desk on an ongoing basis during the Library’s busiest hours. Please drop by with inquiries relating to your literary or research interests—or just to say hello.

Charles Cronin

**CALENDAR**

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<th>April 6</th>
<th>April 12</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 P.M., Members’ Room</td>
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<td><strong>Edith Kunhardt Davis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Susan Nagel</strong> on <em>Mistress of the Elgin Marbles</em></td>
<td><strong>Russell Shorto</strong> on <em>The Island at the Center of the World</em></td>
<td><strong>Book Awards Ceremony</strong></td>
<td><strong>John Hollanders: New Poems</strong></td>
<td><strong>Carol Weston</strong> on <em>Melanie in Manhattan</em></td>
<td><strong>Elfen Feldman</strong> on <em>Anne Frank in America</em></td>
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- Registration is required for all events. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. Listed fees may be paid at the door.
- Children’s events information is on page 5. To receive the monthly preschool program calendar, contact the Events Office. To receive technology news and articles electronically, send an e-mail to webmaster@nysoclib.org.
Russell Shorto

The Island at the Center of the World

Wednesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Temple Israel, 112 East 75th Street

“The settlement...was founded by the Dutch, who called it New Netherland, but half of its residents were from elsewhere....Its muddy lanes and waterfront were prowled by a Babel of peoples—Norwegians, Germans, Italians, Jews, Africans (slaves and free), Walloons, Bohemians, Munseys, Montauks, Mohawks, and many others—all living on the rim of empire, struggling to find a way of being together, searching for a balance between chaos and order, liberty and oppression....It was Manhattan, in other words, right from the start: a place unlike any other, either in the North American colonies or anywhere else.”

Most New Yorkers are unaware of the history of Dutch Manhattan that lies beneath their feet and in previously unknown archives, but Russell Shorto’s The Island at the Center of the World brings this important and long-ignored world to life. Drawing on Charles Gehring’s recent translations from 17th-century Dutch, Shorto uncovers a unique historical city whose influences have shaped its modern successor. Walter Isaacson calls the book “both a triumph of scholarship and a rollicking narrative...an exciting drama about the roots of America’s freedoms.” Shorto is the author of two previous histories, Gospel Truth and Saints and Madmen.

John Hollander

New Poems

Tuesday, May 10, 6:00 p.m., Members’ Room

“...Better
That we see through ourselves,
through our very
Seeing itself, the better to live with
(Save in opacities of talk of them),
The indivisibility of our
Transparency of body and the mind’s
Complicating, fragile reflectiveness.”

—from “Picture Window”
SUSAN NAGEL

**MISTRESS OF THE ELGIN MARBLES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS’ ROOM**

“Constantinople was in a state of titillation. Everyone wanted to know this young woman, so adored by her husband that he threw tradition to the wind for her, and so immediately esteemed by the Grand Vizier that he indulged himself with a shockingly close look at this young beauty. Letters flew back to Europe about this thrilling new arrival, and this was just the beginning.”

In the early nineteenth century, Scots heiress Mary Nisbet became famous as the wife and ally of the Earl of Elgin, ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. She was not only instrumental in diplomacy but in the controversial acquisition for the British government of the Elgin marbles. Her marriage and her life, however, ended in scandal and disgrace. Susan Nagel’s biography of this extraordinary woman has been called “required reading for anyone interested in cultural history, as well as the art of biography,” by *Booklist*. *Publishers Weekly* writes that it is “a sympathetic and emotionally charged portrait...[written] with insight and compassion yet without sentimentality.” Susan Nagel teaches at Marymount Manhattan College and writes for many publications. This event is $10 for Library members and their guests.

ELLEN FELDMAN

**ANNE FRANK IN AMERICA**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS’ ROOM**

“You’ve known for a long time that my greatest wish is to be a journalist, and later on, a famous writer. We’ll have to wait and see if these grand illusions (or delusions!) will ever come true, but up to now I’ve had no lack of topics. In any case, after the war I’d like to publish a book called The Secret Annex. It remains to be seen whether I’ll succeed, but my diary can serve as the basis.”

—from *The Diary of a Young Girl*, the Definitive Edition, translated by Susan Massotty

In the half-century since Anne Frank’s diary was published, it has become an international phenomenon, translated into fifty-five languages and selling more than twenty-four million copies. But why did this coming-of-age journal of an adolescent girl capture the world’s imagination while scores of others which survived have gone unnoticed? Why were the publication of the book and the production of the play and movie based on it shadowed by bitterness and the strange elevation of the character of Anne’s father Otto? In this lecture Ellen Feldman will tell the gripping story of the life in publication of this powerful and vivid document. Feldman is the author of the new novel *The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank*, as well as *Lucy* and many other works of fiction and nonfiction. This event is $10 for members and their guests.
READING GROUPS

Books of Three Continents with Carol Rial

THURSDAYS, MARCH 24, APRIL 28, AND MAY 19, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Carol Rial returns with a new reading group that will visit China, Afghanistan, and Kenya with a survey of books straddling the line between fiction and nonfiction. Carol Rial is a professor, writer, and writing coach.

March 24

Balzac and the Little Chinese

Seamstress by Dai Sijie

ISBN 0385722206

April 28

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini

ISBN 0385660073

May 18

Out of Africa

by Isak Dinesen

ISBN 0679724753

Books to Be Discussed

Happily Ever After? with Nancy Newman

TUESDAYS, MARCH 29, APRIL 19, AND MAY 24, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Benjamin Disraeli said, “It destroys one’s nerves to be amiable every day to the same human being.” In this new reading group, author Nancy Newman will lead discussions of the very different perspectives on love and marriage presented in three contemporary novels.

March 29

Little Children

by Tom Perrotta

ISBN 0312315732

April 19

The Dangerous Husband

by Jane Shapiro

ISBN 0316782653

May 24

Brick Lane

by Monica Ali

ISBN 0743243315

Books to Be Discussed

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

The Young Writers Awards 2005

DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 11

Young writers in grades 3 through 12 may still enter the 2005 Young Writers Awards competition. Entries in poetry and prose must be postmarked by April 8 or delivered to the Library by April 11. For more information, see the guidelines, available on the Library’s website (www.nysoclib.org/kids/young_writers.html), at the circulation desk, or by mail by calling 212-288-6900 x230.

New Project Cicero Website

Book Distribution to Teachers: March 12 and 13

Thanks are due to everyone who donated books, money, or time to this year’s book drive. For more information on the project and updates on its substantial impact, visit the new Project Cicero website at www.projectcicero.org.

Books In Print Now Accessible Through Library Website

The Library is pleased to announce a new electronic reference work accessible both from the Library and from home for registered users. Bowker’s Books In Print is the premiere reference for exact, current listings of almost all books published in the United States. In addition to publication information, the online version includes full-text reviews from Publishers Weekly, Choice, Library Journal, Booklist, and more, and citations for reviews in other periodicals. Various searching and browsing options are available, and users can create and e-mail personal bibliographies. Users can also send an e-mail request that the Library purchase a title.

The link to Books In Print is located in the Library’s online catalogue under “Remote Resources” at the bottom of the main search page.
Carole Weston

**Melanie in Manhattan**

**Thursday, May 12, 6:00 p.m., Members’ Room**

For third grade and older

“The Statue of Liberty is pretty, but not pretty—pretty. More like: proud. But not show-offy proud. Dignified proud. As though she knows she’s done the exact right thing, welcoming new people to America. It feels like she is even welcoming us back home from our trip to Spain.”

Celebrate the publication of the fourth novel in the popular Melanie Martin series with author Carole Weston. Known as a “Dear Abby” for the younger set, Weston’s Girltalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You is a modern classic for teens, and her “Dear Carol” column in Girls’ Life magazine has been popular for over ten years. Weston’s recent work has traced the coming of age of winning heroine and diarist Melanie Martin, eleven, through Melanie’s travels to Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain. This time, the globetrotting New York family stays home and Melanie learns all about Manhattan—and also that it can be pretty tricky to like two boys at one time. Kirkus Reviews calls Melanie in Manhattan “a thoroughly enjoyable pre-teen insider’s view of the island...realistically expressed...Fun. Fun. Fun.” At this event, Weston will read from Melanie in Manhattan, talk about writing from ideas to rejection, revisions, and publication, and reveal the real stories behind her hilarious characters. She will also sign her books, which will be sold at the event. There is a $5 per-person fee.

Edith Kunhardt Davis

**Pat the Bunny Turns Sixty: The Bunny That Went Global**

**Wednesday, April 6, 6:00 p.m., Members’ Room**

For adults

In 1940, Dorothy Kunhardt created a little book for her daughter, Edith. The book, Pat the Bunny, started a new trend in children’s writing and has since become one of most popular children’s books of all time, selling over six million copies. Barbara Bader, in American Picture Books, speaks of Kunhardt’s “noble nonsense that, like Lear’s, could be at once ridiculous and poignant.”

Edith Kunhardt Davis has followed in her mother’s footsteps, authoring over sixty-five children’s books and illustrating sixteen. Some of her work has built on Dorothy Kunhardt’s model with immensely popular sequels such as Pat the Cat and Pat the Puppy; her other books include I’m Going to Be a Police Officer, Pompeii—Buried Alive!, and Honest Abe, which was honored by the New York Times in 1998. Using slides, Davis will discuss Dorothy Kunhardt’s career as a pioneering author and educator, and show the impact of Pat the Bunny and similar books in the history of children’s literature and the understanding of children’s development. This program, which is free for members and guests, is for adults interested in children’s books and publishing.
**TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS**

Learn new skills and explore the Library with Technology Workshops taught by staff members Ingrid Richter and Paul Burley. All workshops take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes, except where noted. The classes are free, but registration is required; contact 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13</strong></td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>Introduction to the Online Catalogue with Paul Burley</td>
<td>Paul Burley</td>
<td>Search for Library materials by author, title, subject, and keywords, and learn advanced features such as online holds and renewals and the use of remote databases at the Library and at home.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Basic Computer Boot Camp with Paul Burley (New Class)</td>
<td>Paul Burley</td>
<td>Beginners can boot up their knowledge with a hands-on course that includes use of the mouse, opening programs, searching the Library catalogue, and finding an Internet address. This class will last until all participants feel comfortable with the material.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20</strong></td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>Introduction to the Internet with Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>Participants will learn about connecting to the Internet, protecting against viruses and spyware, using search engines and e-mail, and mastering other practical Internet tasks.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Introduction to Microsoft Word with Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>This class covers opening, saving, and renaming text files, formatting documents, and converting documents to and from other text-editing programs.</td>
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<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27</strong></td>
<td>10:00 A.M.</td>
<td>PC Clean-Up and Tuning with Ingrid Richter (New Class)</td>
<td>Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>The class will discuss ways to clean and speed up a home computer without adding new hardware. Points to be covered include removing old or unnecessary programs, updating virus definitions and scans, and defragmenting the hard drive.</td>
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<td>2:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Digital Imaging with Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>Ingrid Richter</td>
<td>This class introduces digital cameras and scanners and copying images from the Internet. Popular image-editing software, including Microsoft Paint, Microsoft Photo Editor, and Adobe Photoshop, will be demonstrated.</td>
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*Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at [www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org).*

**THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY**

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