

NOTES



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4, FALL 2005

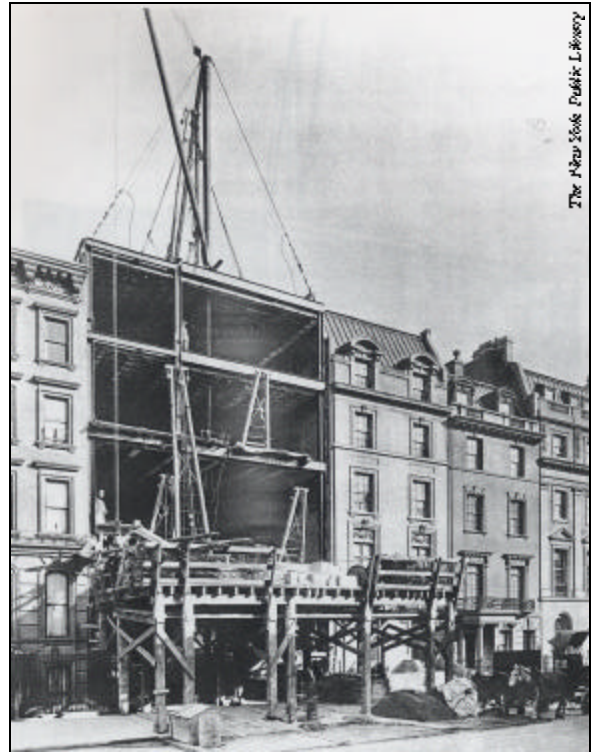
FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN: THE RENOVATION

As many of you are aware from my remarks in the previous *Library Notes*, the Library is beginning work on Phase I of our renovation. This work will include replacing the main (east) elevator, restoring the building's façade, and refurbishing selected interior spaces, including the second-floor restrooms. As with all this work, we will provide as much advance notice of it as possible, on our website and in notices posted at the Library.

We have begun to solicit bids for the elevator and façade projects. We anticipate the façade work taking the better part of two months. It will involve placing scaffolding on the sidewalk at the front of the building and some minor disruption of interior activities because of work on the windows that must be done from inside. We do not think this work will disturb Library members and staff to the extent that Library services will be significantly affected. We will pack and store decorative items like porcelains and paintings, but the book collections and access to them should not be detrimentally affected by any of the Phase I work.

The centerpiece of Phase I is the reconstruction of the elevator, which involves building a new cab, installing new stops on the sixth floor and Stack Level 3, and adding a mechanical space on the roof of the building. Elevator projects like this typically take six months or so to complete, and we hope to have work on ours fully underway this fall. We expect the interior refurbishment begin before or at the same time as the elevator overhaul. This refurbishment will improve the appearance and functionality of public, member, and staff areas of the Library. Naturally, it will involve certain temporary relocations of activities in various locations, including the Members' Room, Reference Room, and Whitridge Room.

For updates on Phase I work, please consult the Library website, www.nysoclib.org/renovation_update.html, or follow the instructions from the main Library phone number, 212-288-6900.



The Rogers House under construction in 1917. It was converted for use by the Library in 1937.

CALENDAR

September ? 7:00 P.M., Temple Israel CORNEL WEST ON GOD KNOWS WHAT	October 19 6:30 P.M., Members' Room FRANCINE DU PLESSIX GRAY ON THEM	November 10 6:30 P.M., Members' Room BRIAN SELZNICK: IMAGINATION TO THE PAGE	November 17 7:00 P.M., Temple Israel EDMUND MORRIS ON BEETHOVEN	December 7 6:30 P.M., Members' Room JONATHAN AMES ON THE EXTRA MAN	September 28, October 5, October 12 6:30 P.M., Whitridge Room DAVID REYNOLDS: CONVERSATIONS ON WALT WHITMAN
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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.**

THE 2005-2006 AUTHOR SERIES

- ❖ *Author Series lectures are 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.*

EDMUND MORRIS

BEETHOVEN: THE UNIVERSAL COMPOSER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.

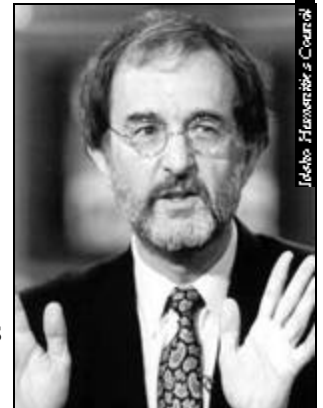
TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET



“Power is the morality of outstanding men, and it is my morality too.” —Ludwig van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven lived up to his own words, making himself famous by sheer force of ambition, character, and imagination. He began his career as a child prodigy in a powdered wig. Within ten years he had become a fiercely innovative artist, celebrated throughout Europe for a creative fecundity unparalleled in the history of music. When he died at age 56, an estimated 20,000 mourners attended his funeral. *Beethoven: The Universal Composer* is both an elegant survey of Beethoven scholarship and a moving account of the composer’s life, informed by the author’s 40-year study of the man and his music.

Edmund Morris is the author of three bestselling biographies, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, *Dutch: A Memoir of Ronald Reagan*, and *Theodore Rex*, and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1980 for *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*. He is also a classically trained pianist and will illustrate his discussion of Beethoven’s life with selections from his compositions.



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.

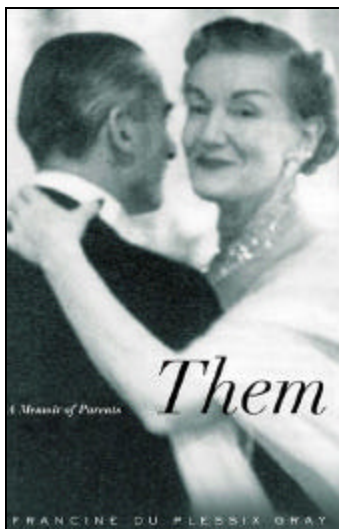
FRANCINE DU PLESSIX GRAY

THEM: A MEMOIR OF PARENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

"My mother enjoyed claiming direct descent from Genghis Khan. Having asserted that one eighth of her blood was Tartar and only seven eighths of it 'ordinary Russian,' with a panache that no one else could have pulled off she proceeded to drop a few names in the chronology of our lineage: Kublai Khan, Tamerlane, and then the great Mogul monarch Babur, from whose favorite Kirghiz concubine my great-grandmother was descended, and voila!, our ancestry was established."

Francine du Plessix Gray has authored numerous books of fiction and nonfiction including *Simone Weil*, *At Home with the Marquis de Sade*, *Rage and Fire*, and *Soviet Women*. *Them* is a portrait of Gray's mother and stepfather, who fled war-torn Europe to become the center of New York's high society. "The inside story of the Liberman ménage is more addictive than any *Vanity Fair* exclusive," says *Publishers Weekly*. "Gray is such a fine writer, her family story reads like a novel of early 20th-century bohemianism gone corporate." This event is \$10 per person for members and their guests.



JONATHAN AMES

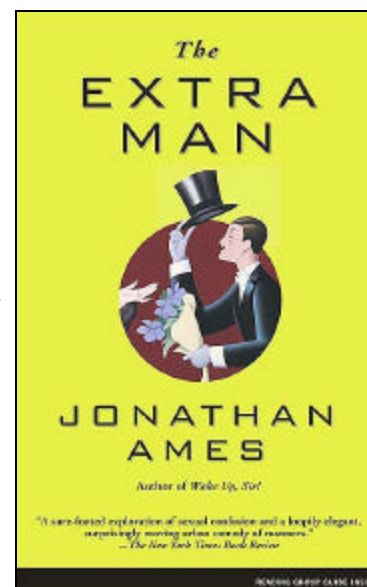
THE EXTRA MAN AND WAKE UP, SIR!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

"For the flap copy on my last novel, I had the audacity to pronounce that I was one of America's most talented young writers. My mother read that and was very proud, pointing it out to me. I then said to her, 'I wrote that.' But she was still proud; she probably didn't believe that I wrote it." —from *What's Not to Love?*

Jonathan Ames has caused a literary sensation with his hilarious novels *The Extra Man* and *Wake Up, Sir!*, as well as his nonfiction volumes *What's Not to Love* and *My Less Than Secret Life*. *Publishers Weekly* calls him "a winning storyteller and a consummate, albeit exceedingly eccentric, entertainer." He is the winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship and is a frequent guest on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. He also teaches writing in the graduate departments of Columbia University and The New School.

In this event, Mr. Ames will read from *Wake Up, Sir!* and *The Extra Man* and talk about the influence of British novels, especially the work of P.G. Wodehouse, on these two books. He will also discuss the ongoing process of adapting these books as screenplays. There is a \$10 per-person fee.



WORKSHOPS

- ❖ *Registration is required for workshops. Contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.*
- ❖ *These free workshops take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes unless stated otherwise.*
- ❖ *For more information on all classes being offered, visit www.nysoclib.org/tech/index.html.*

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

COMPUTER BOOT CAMP ♦ TAUGHT BY PAUL BURLEY
FOR BEGINNERS ♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10:00 A.M.

Boot up your knowledge with a hands-on course that includes using the mouse, opening programs, searching the Library catalogue, and using Internet Explorer. This class will last until all participants feel comfortable.

BUYING A COMPUTER ♦ TAUGHT BY PAUL BURLEY
FOR BEGINNERS AND NEAR-BEGINNERS ♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2:00 P.M.

This new class will present the basics of purchasing a desktop, laptop, monitor, printer, and other peripherals.

MICROSOFT WORD I ♦ TAUGHT BY PAUL BURLEY
FOR WORD BEGINNERS ♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 10:00 A.M.

MICROSOFT WORD II ♦ TAUGHT BY PAUL BURLEY
FOR THOSE WITH SOME WORD EXPERIENCE ♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2:00 P.M.

PC CLEANUP ♦ TAUGHT BY INGRID RICHTER
FOR EXPERIENCED USERS ♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 11:00 A.M.

SEARCH ENGINES ♦ TAUGHT BY INGRID RICHTER
FOR EXPERIENCED USERS ♦ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2:00 P.M.

Learn how to use many of the major Internet search engines to find more accurate results. This new class will also cover some advanced features of the Google search engine.

DIGITAL IMAGING ♦ TAUGHT BY INGRID RICHTER
FOR EXPERIENCED USERS ♦ TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2:00 P.M.

ONLINE CATALOGUE/ONLINE RESOURCES ♦ TAUGHT BY KEREN FLESHLER
FOR ALL ♦ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2:00 P.M.

Search for Library materials and learn advanced features such as online holds and renewals. This class will also cover use of the Library's remote databases (such as Proquest-*New York Times*, *Patron Books in Print*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*) at the Library and at home.

BOOK WORKSHOPS

HOME BOOK MAINTENANCE ♦ TAUGHT BY GEORGE MUÑOZ
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 11:00 A.M.

Library binder George Muñoz will focus on the overlooked area of book maintenance, including proper handling, cleaning, and basic repair techniques.

UNCOMMON BOOKS IN THE NYSL COLLECTION ♦ TAUGHT BY AREVIG CAPRIELIAN
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1:00 P.M.

Rare Books Librarian Arevig Caprielian will introduce a selection of rarities and oddities in the Library collection and give an overview of our old and new treasures.

REFERENCE BOOKS AT THE NYSL ♦ TAUGHT BY MARK BARTLETT
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 11:00 A.M.

Head of Cataloguing Mark Bartlett will survey types of specialized reference books (encyclopedias, indexes, guides to literature, handbooks, and more), how and where to find them, and how to use them.



CHILDREN'S EVENT

- ❖ **Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door. To register for this program, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or carrie@nysoclib.org.**
- ❖ **To receive the monthly preschool program calendar, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.**

IMAGINATION TO THE PAGE:

THE CREATIVE PROCESS OF BRIAN SELZNICK

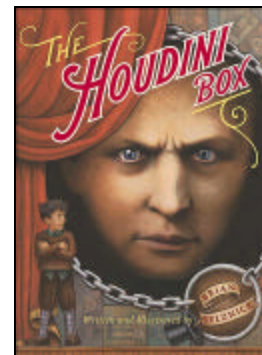
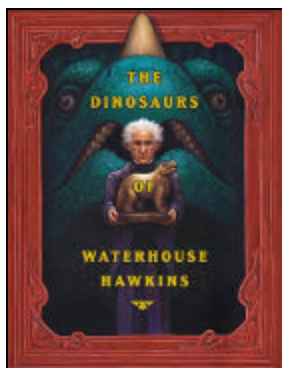
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

FOR SECOND GRADE AND OLDER

"Back at home, Victor locked himself in the closet under the staircase, the cupboard in the kitchen, and his grandmother's trunk, nine more times. How he hoped Houdini would write him quickly!" —from *The Houdini Box*

Brian Selznick became interested in both art and dinosaurs when he was very young. These interests came together in his illustrations for Barbara Kerley's *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*, a Caldecott Honor book that brings to life the surprising story of a nineteenth-century dinosaur modeler. Selznick has also illustrated *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* and Andrew Clements' popular chapter books, including *Frindle*. Selznick both wrote and illustrated *The Houdini Box*, which won the Texas Bluebonnet Award and the Rhode Island Children's Book Award, and *The Boy of a Thousand Faces*, an offbeat tale of a monster-movie fanatic. His most recent publication, *Walt Whitman: Words for America* (with Barbara Kerley), was chosen as an American Library Association Notable Book.

In this event Selznick will share how he writes, researches, and illustrates his books, and talk about his travels, including an exciting visit to Waterhouse Hawkins' dinosaurs in England. There is a \$5 per-person fee.



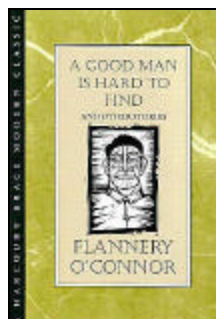
READING GROUP

- ❖ **Reading groups are free of charge, but space is very limited. Register with the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.**

NINE SHORT STORIES: CLASSIC, CONTEMPORARY, AND NEW INTERNATIONAL WITH CAROL RIAL

THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 29, NOVEMBER 3, AND DECEMBER 1, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

In this new reading group, Carol Rial will lead discussion of three provocative selections of short stories. Rial is a professor, writer, and writing coach. The stories for sessions two and three *only* will be distributed to registrants.



Classic Short Stories, September 29

James Baldwin: "Sonny's Blues"

Flannery O'Connor: "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

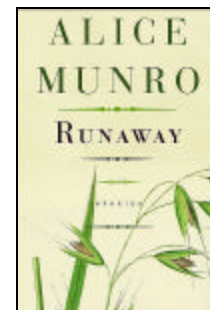
Franz Kafka: "A Hunger Artist"

Contemporary Short Stories, November 3

will include Alice Munro: "Runaway"

New International Short Stories, December 1

will include Ma Jin: "The Abandoner"



CONVERSATIONS ON GREAT BOOKS

- ❖ **Registration is required. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.**
- ❖ **There is a charge of \$75 per person for the full series.**

DAVID S. REYNOLDS

WALT WHITMAN: VOICE OF AMERICA

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 20, OCTOBER 27, AND NOVEMBER 3, 6:30 P.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

*“O the joy of my spirit—it is uncaged—it darts like lightning!
It is not enough to have this globe or a certain time,
I will have thousands of globes and all time.”*

—from *Leaves of Grass*

“Whitman’s self-promotion, though at times tactless, was for a good cause. He was right when he insisted that America needed his poetry. American still needs his poetry.”

—David S. Reynolds in *The Boston Globe*

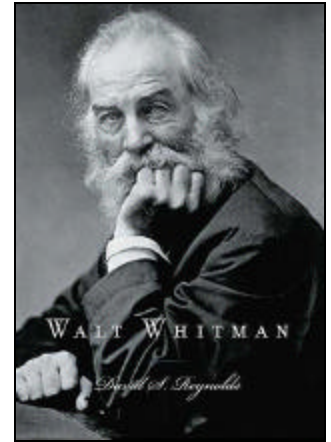


One hundred and fifty years ago, in July 1855, Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass* was first advertised for sale. Although few copies of the first printing were sold (“It was tragic—the fate of those books,” Whitman wrote) and the critical reception was negative (one reviewer said the author “must be some escaped lunatic”), American literature would never be the same.

The Library joins the celebration of this literary anniversary with a unique series of Conversations led by Whitman expert David S. Reynolds. Reynolds is the author of *Walt Whitman’s America: A Cultural Biography*, which won the Bancroft Prize and the Ambassador Book Award and was named a *New York Times*

“Notable Book of the Year.” He has also explored Whitman’s era in *Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville*, and most recently a new biography of Whitman for the Oxford *Lives and Legacies* series. He is Distinguished Professor of American Literature and American Studies at Baruch College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York.

A list of suggested readings for the three sessions will be available for registrants.



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

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

53 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021