

## FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN

It has really been a marvelous year at the Library. This issue's photo spread casts a backward glance on a spring full of great events and community spirit. Photographer Karen Smul captured fine pictures of many evenings, including the Young Writers' Awards, the New York City Book Awards, and our third annual New Members Party. The Writing Life series continued to grow this past year. With the generous support of Jenny Lawrence, we hosted our second Literary Magazine Salon, hosted by Sally Dawidoff. It was a stellar evening profiling two periodicals, *BOMB* and *Electric Literature*.

At the 243<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of shareholders and trustees in April, we congratulated Steve McGuirl and Marie Honan on ten years of service to the patrons of the Society Library. Steve, our Head of Acquisitions, is responsible for a yearly budget of \$137,000 and is skilled at enhancing our collection. Our list of electronic resources has more than doubled during Steve's tenure, with *JSTOR*, the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and *Project MUSE* being the three most popular databases in 2010. Marie Honan, Circulation Assistant and coordinator of our rotating book sale, is well known at the desk as one of the best at reader's advisory, always ready with some new mystery or literary fiction titles to recommend to you. Congratulations, Steve and Marie!



Mark Bartlett with Steve McGuirl and Marie Honan  
at the 2011 Annual Meeting

I was thrilled by the three evenings related to the new exhibition in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery, *Writing the Garden: Books from the Collections of The New York Society Library and Elizabeth Barlow Rogers*. The exhibition opening was a festive evening attended by over 100 Library members, guests, and friends of the Foundation for Landscape Studies. We also hosted lectures and book signings by Andrea Wulf on her new *Founding Gardeners* and Lynden Miller on *Parks, Plants, and People*. Visitors to the exhibition have been arriving steadily, and member response has been positive. It is no surprise that as soon as one exhibition is in place, preliminary work begins on the the next. I am excited to announce that the 2012 exhibition is tentatively entitled *Edith Wharton's New York City*. Harriet Shapiro will curate the exhibition, which honors the 150th anniversary of this great writer's birth and reveals in greater detail the role of the city in her life and work. Wharton's father, George Frederic Jones (1820-1882) was a shareholder, and early research shows that the family, including Edith, borrowed books from our stacks. If by any chance you are a collector of Wharton books and materials, I would be happy to hear from you at 212-288-6900 x201 or [mbartlett@nysoclib.org](mailto:mbartlett@nysoclib.org). This summer I am looking forward to reading Wharton's great memoir *A Backward Glance* (1934), as well as exploring some of her novels and ghost stories, the latter quite new to me.



New member Sargent Collier visited the Library in May with his mother, Elizabeth Hollister Mills. I was pleased to learn that Sarge's great-great-uncle was Lewis Spencer Morris, a Library trustee 1920 to 1944 and Chairman from 1930 until his death. Sarge and his family are also descendants of another important person in the Library's history, William Alexander (Lord Stirling). Above right is a lovely miniature of this Society Library founder, who lived from 1726 to 1783.

I hope you have a peaceful summer and enjoy many hours of reading.

*Mark Bartlett*

Mark Bartlett  
Head Librarian



## SOME SUMMER READING FROM LIBRARY STAFF

If you need a good general read for the beach or the plane, try one of these recommendations.

*Good Boy, Emerald Girl* by Yiyun Li (Random House, 2010) and *The Meagre Tarmac* by Clark Blaise (Biblioasis, 2011). Two masters of the short story I'm looking forward to spending some more time with this summer are Yiyun Li and Clark Blaise, two writers you may not yet know but certainly should. Li's latest collection *Good Boy, Emerald Girl* and Blaise's brand-new book *The Meagre Tarmac* will not be far from my side the next few weeks. The summer is a perfect time for simmering into a short story. If I only had a hammock in my back yard.... (Mark Bartlett, Head Librarian)

*Country Matters: The Pleasures and Tribulations of Moving from a Big City to an Old Country Farmhouse* by Michael Korda (HarperCollins, 2001). It started out as a weekend retreat in 1980. But Mr. Korda, former editor-in-chief of Simon and Schuster, and his wife Margaret now reside full time in an old country farmhouse in Dutchess County. His witty vignettes of the denizens of Pleasant Valley, New York, and the joys (and woes) of owning a country home are thoroughly entertaining. And reading the book is the closest you'll come to being invited for the weekend. (Jane Goldstein, Assistant Head Librarian)

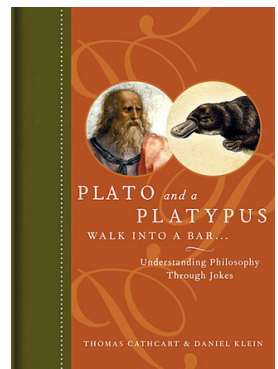
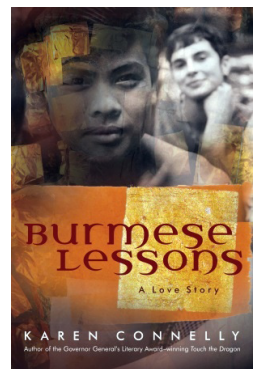
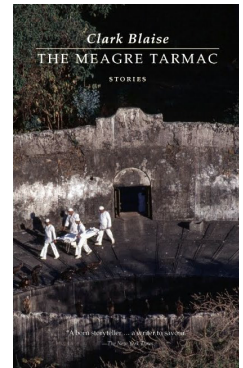
*Burmese Lessons: A True Love Story* by Karen Connelly (Nan A. Talese, 2010). The acclaimed Canadian author of *The Lizard Cage* describes her unlikely relationship with Maung, a Burmese revolutionary exiled in Thailand, and with the country and people he is struggling to liberate. In beautiful prose, it swings from the romance and humor of young love among palm trees and noodle shops to tragedy in refugee-camp hospitals. However exotic the setting or extreme the situation, the human character is a constant. (Sara Holliday, Events Coordinator)

*What Makes Sammy Run?* by Budd Schulberg (Random House, 1941). For those who love a book about Hollywood, I'd recommend Budd Schulberg's classic *What Makes Sammy Run?* The novel follows the machinations of Sammy Glick, an ambitious kid from the Lower East Side who lies, cheats, and backstabs his way to the top of the studio system. Schulberg was most famous as a screenwriter (*On the Waterfront*) and found himself in a fair bit of trouble for exposing the darker side of the industry. It's stylish and well-paced and deserves rediscovery. (Patrick Rayner, Head of Circulation)

*Plato and a Platypus Walk Into a Bar...: Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes* by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein (Abrams Image, 2006). Combine one part comedy and one part philosophy to create a fun, quick, and educational read for the summer—Cathcart and Klein have done just that. The authors provide easy-to-digest descriptions of concepts from Western philosophy such as Existentialism and Ethics paired with laugh-out-loud jokes, both old and new, to demonstrate each topic. So why not add a weighty subject spiced up with a healthy dose of comedy to your summer? You'll get intellectual bragging rights and an arsenal of cocktail party zingers to boot. (Brandi Tambasco, Circulation Assistant)

*Next to Love: A Novel* by Ellen Feldman (Spiegel & Grau, July 26, 2011). Ellen Feldman's upcoming *Next to Love* is a moving, at times heartbreaking story of love and war centering around the lives of 3 women before, during, and after World War II. You know you've just been transported when you read a book and you're sorry it ended—I wish more of the books I read were like that. I could have kept on following the story of these three women, and their children, whom you come to care for as well. It's the characters that draw you along, but the cultural history is fascinating as well. (Carolyn Waters, Acquisitions and Reference Librarian)

*Maine* by J. Courtney Sullivan (Knopf, June 2011). Looking for this year's *The Three Weissmanns of Westport*? Try J. Courtney Sullivan's second novel—an intergenerational drama spanning six decades at a family's summer house. Alternating among the voices of five female protagonists in realistic turns, this is a funny and breezy read that nevertheless packs grudges, addictions, and secrets into the weekend bag of every character. Although *Maine* is best enjoyed with a glass of white wine and sand between your toes, it's a beach book that's a cut more literary than the rest. (Julia Weist, Children's Librarian)



## THE GOODHUE SOCIETY

The Library hosted its annual celebration for members of the bequest society named for one of our most generous benefactors, Sarah Goodhue. A special reception preceded Jonathan Galassi's April 13 lecture on Giacomo Leopardi's *Canti*.



*Clockwise from upper left: Goodhue Society Chair and trustee William J. Dean and Jonathan Galassi; Alma Moore and Alice Canick; Michael Nimetz, Paula Offricht and Rita Kramer; Michael Kowal and Harold Zeitlin; Laura Lou Meadows and John Taggart.*

## LITERARY MAGAZINE SALON

On April 28, the Library celebrated the magazines *BOMB* and *Electric Literature* with presentations and readings.

*Left: Host Sally Dawidoff, dressed for the part, discusses the history of literary salons and one of their great patrons, Mabel Dodge. Right: Author Nathan Englander reads from his recent work.*

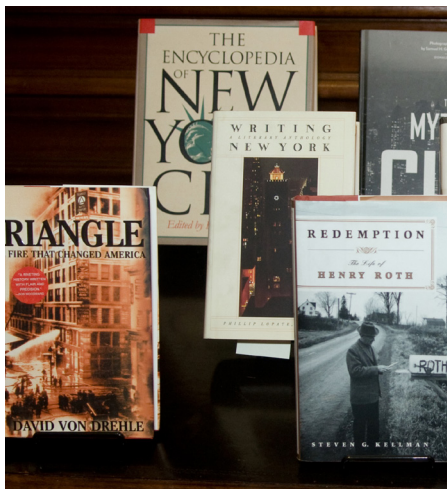


# THE NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2010-2011 New York City Book Awards were given to three books: *Harlem: A Century in Images* by Thelma Golden and The Studio Museum in Harlem; *Two Cents Plain: My Brooklyn Boyhood* by Martin Lemelman; and *Rochdale Village: Robert Moses, 6,000 Families, and New York City's Great Experiment in Integrated Housing* by Peter Eisenstadt. Winning authors were honored on May 4.



Left to right: Book Awards Jury Chair Roger Pasquier with jury member Bobbie Leigh and Claude Bloch; winner Peter Eisenstadt; ceremony host Susan Henshaw Jones, President and Ronay Menschel Director of the Museum of the City of New York; Jenny Lawrence with winner Martin Lemelman; Liz Gwinn and Lauren Haynes of the Studio Museum in Harlem; a display of past years' winners; Jury member Jules Cohn; Arlyne Krum looks at the winning books.



## WRITING THE GARDEN EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION

On May 12, the new exhibition *Writing the Garden: Books from the Collections of The New York Society Library and Elizabeth Barlow Rogers* opened in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery. Guests included Library members and friends of the Foundation for Landscape Studies.



*Above, left to right: Elizabeth Barlow Rogers with Cynthia Zarin and trustee Carol Collins Malone; Henriette Granville Suhr with trustee Susan L. Robbins. At right: Member Barbara Claster looks at the exhibition; Mark Bartlett, Ms. Rogers, and Head of Exhibitions/Co-Curator Harriet Shapiro. Below right: Romano I. Peluso, Mark Bartlett, trustee Ada Peluso.*



# THE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

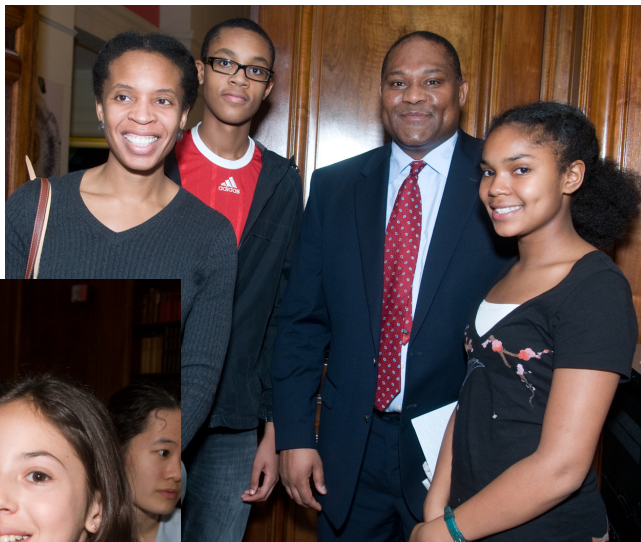
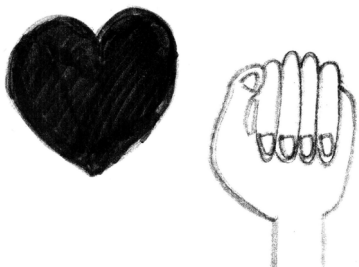
The annual Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by students in the Library community. The 2011 winners and other participants were honored at a ceremony and reception on May 17, which included remarks from author judges Robert Quackenbush, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk. The winning entries can be read at [www.nysoclib.org/kids/ywa/index.html](http://www.nysoclib.org/kids/ywa/index.html).

*Winners:*

- “Days of Night” by Eliza Fawcett
- “Give me a little sweet sustenance...” by Eliza Fawcett
- “Proud” by Katherine Franco
- “My Heart is as Big as My Fist” by Jamie Gelman
- “At Play With Roget: My Friend the Thesaurus” by Gabrielle Herzig
- “Ashboy: A Native American Cinderella Story” by William Henry Tomlinson
- “Koi Pond” by Sarah Yeoh-Wang

*Honorable Mentions:*

- “Down in the Dumps” by Mary Ben Lee Apatoff
- “Rage” by Alana Eiland
- “Divinity” by Emily Gaw
- “Ski Race” by Arthur Potter
- “Cello Concerto: Sir Edward William Elgar: Movement I” by Tess A. Solomon



*Clockwise from above center: Alana Eiland, Honorable Mention, with her family; double winner Eliza Fawcett; the winners, honorable mentions, and judges with Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner and Paul A. Wagner; winner Katherine Franco (right) with her family.*

*Illustrations from “My Heart is as Big as My Fist” by Jamie Gelman*

# THE NEW MEMBERS PARTY

The Library welcomed members who joined in the past year at a party on June 2. After a reception with remarks by Tom Wolfe (a member since 1991), guests embarked on self-guided tours throughout the Library. Several longtime members served as guest hosts for the evening.



*Left to right: Tom Wolfe and host member Rob Ackerman; host member Adrienne Ingram with Franshal and Ronica Kelly; Jean-Pascal and Nancy Simon; David and Kathleen Kinne; Head of Cataloging Laura O'Keefe shows a rare book to Lorraine Bodger; Bryan and Lisa Winter with Linda and Sheldon Levinson.*



THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY  
53 EAST 79TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10075

This newsletter is available  
in electronic form  
at [www.nysoclib.org/notes.html](http://www.nysoclib.org/notes.html)

The New York Society Library

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EXHIBITION BOOK

## NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

*Writing the Garden: A Literary Conversation Across Two Centuries* by landscape historian Elizabeth Barlow Rogers is available for pre-order; just return this form to the Library. Ordered books will be mailed to the address listed when available. Check and credit card transactions will be processed at that time. For full details on the book, see [www.nysoclib.org/exhibitions/writing\\_garden/writing\\_garden\\_order\\_form.html](http://www.nysoclib.org/exhibitions/writing_garden/writing_garden_order_form.html).

The New York Society Library and the Foundation for Landscape Studies in association with David R. Godine, Publisher. Publication date: Fall 2011; Hardcover, \$27.95; Illustrations in full color.

Number of books: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$27.95 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 shipping/handling, first book \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$2.50 each additional copy \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check payable to The New York Society Library, attn. Exhibitions, 53 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075, or include credit card information:

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