

# NOTES



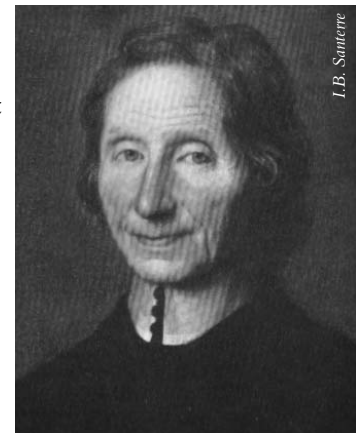
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4, SEPTEMBER 2002

## EXHIBITION FROM THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

An exhibition of rare books from two of the Library's special collections will open in October in the exhibition space outside the Members' Room. The collection of the Reverend John Sharpe (1680-c. 1722), an advocate for public libraries, contains scholarly and theological works from Tertullian (c. 160-230) to Nicolas Malebranche (1638-1715). The Sharaff/Sze Collection, from the bequest of Oscar-winning costume designer Irene Sharaff (1910-1993) and artist and writer Mai-Mai Sze (1910-1992), includes art books from the twentieth century by Paul Klee and Henry Moore.

### *Conversations chrétiennes* (1676), Nicolas Malebranche

"The mind is, as it were, between God and body...between that which can make it perfect and happy and that which can make it unhappy and imperfect. When it discovers some truth or sees things as they are in themselves, it sees things in God's ideas, i.e., with a clear and distinct perception of what represents them.... Thus, when the mind knows the truth, it is united to God..."



J.B. Sautere

Father Malebranche



Paul Klee in his studio at the Weimar Bauhaus, 1925

### *Pädagogisches skizzenbuch* (*Pedagogical Sketch-Book*) (1944), Paul Klee

(Felix Klee:) "At the Bauhaus we were completely isolated from the rest of the world; even if from 1923 on, people would come to see our exhibitions, it was mainly to poke fun at them....[Klee] had only a small circle of enthusiastic followers, those who could understand him. Not everyone could."

## CALENDAR

Reading Groups and Technology Workshops are listed on page 4. To receive the monthly Children's Events Calendar, call the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230.

<p><b>HOPE COOKE</b> TOUR OF <b>BROOKLYN HEIGHTS</b> September 22, 1:30 P.M.</p>	<p><b>NEW YORK IS</b> <b>BOOK COUNTRY</b> September 29, 12:00-5:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>JIM DALE</b> HIGHLIGHTS FROM <i>HARRY POTTER</i> October 22, 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>ROBERT D. RICHARDSON JR.</b> <b>THE CAT IN THE LIBRARY: WILLIAM JAMES</b> <b>ON THE NATURE OF CONSCIOUSNESS</b> October 29, 5:30 P.M.</p>
<p><b>NORMAN GEORGE</b> <b>"THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO"</b> <b>AND OTHER STORIES</b> October 30, 6:30 P.M.</p>	<p><b>JIM LEHRER</b> <i>NO CERTAIN REST</i> November 7, 6:30 P.M.</p>	<p><b>PAULA DANZIGER</b> <b>WRITING AND LOVING IT</b> November 21, 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>SUSAN CHEEVER</b> <b>AMERICAN BLOOMSBURY</b> December 4, 6:30 P.M.</p>

**WALKING TOUR**

**HOPE COOKE**

**BROOKLYN HEIGHTS: VICTORIAN BASTION**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 (RAIN DATE OCTOBER 6), 1:30 P.M.**



*Brooklyn's City Hall*

Brooklynite Hope Cooke will lead a walking tour of some of the borough's most beautiful and historic areas. Cooke is a notable urban historian and the author of a history guidebook, *Seeing New York* (Temple University Press, 1995). This tour is \$10 for Library members and their guests. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) for registration and meeting place.

"Brooklyn's City Hall (now Borough Hall), built after Brooklyn became a chartered city, showed off the town's hard-won independence from Manhattan."

--*Seeing New York*

**NEW YORK IS BOOK COUNTRY, 2002**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2002, 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.**

**ALONG FIFTH AVENUE BETWEEN 48TH AND 57TH STREETS**

This street festival for book lovers is now in its 24th year. These member-authors will be at the Library's booth between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m. See *The New York Times* on September 29 for details on other booths and activities.



**PAMELA CLARKE  
KEOGH**  
author of  
*Jackiestyle*

**ALAN FURST**  
author of  
*Blood of Victory*



**DONALD SPOTO**  
author of  
*Reluctant Saint: the Life  
of Francis of Assisi*

**DORIS ORGEL**  
author of  
*The Devil in Vienna*



**NANCY WINSLOW  
PARKER**  
author of  
*Land Ho!*

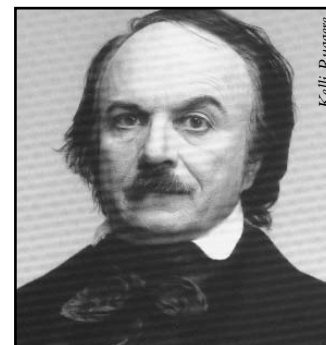
**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**NORMAN GEORGE AS EDGAR ALLAN POE**

**"THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO" AND OTHER STORIES**

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

Edgar Allan Poe lectured at the New York Society Library in February 1848. Now, in a one-time repeat engagement, he returns with some of his best-loved horror stories. Actor Norman George, celebrated by the *New York Times* as "the nearest thing to Poe in the flesh," will observe the coming of Halloween with readings including "The Cask of Amontillado" and "The Raven." Mr. George has played Poe in four television documentaries and around the country in his one-man show *Poe Alone*. This program is \$15 for members and guests. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register.



*Norman George as Edgar Allan Poe*

**2002-2003 AUTHOR SERIES**

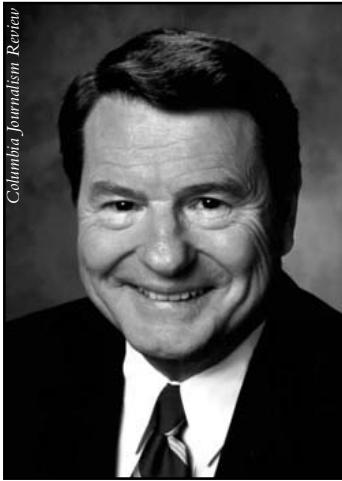
The Author Series is presented by the Library in cooperation with Channel 13/WNET.

**JIM LEHRER**

**AUTHOR OF *NO CERTAIN REST***

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 6:30 P.M.**

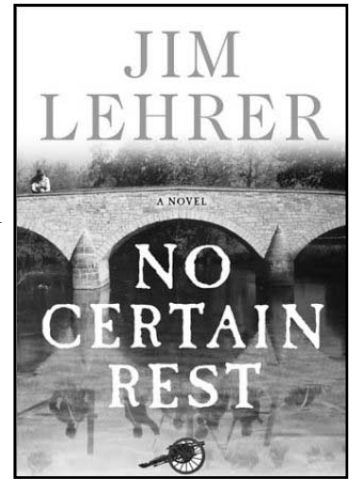
**TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET**



Columbia Journalism Review

Jim Lehrer's thirteenth novel, *No Certain Rest* tells the story of a Parks Department archaeologist who discovers a long-buried secret about a death on the battlefield of Antietam. Reviewers have said, "Lehrer's style is fluid and fast moving; he skillfully develops suspense surrounding a compelling ethical dilemma." In this lecture Lehrer will discuss the writing of the novel and its contrasts of historical and present conflicts.

Jim Lehrer is the anchor and executive editor of *Newshour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS. His past works of fiction include *The Special Prisoner* and *Purple Dots*. This lecture is free for Library members and guests. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register.



**SUSAN CHEEVER**

**AMERICAN BLOOMSBURY: LOUISA MAY ALCOTT AND HER CIRCLE**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 6:30 P.M.**

**TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET**



ros/nyschools.org

While writing the introduction to the 2001 Modern Library edition of *Little Women*, Susan Cheever fell in love with the intellectual ferment of Concord, Massachusetts in the 1840s and 1850s. There, the home where Louisa May Alcott grew up was the haven for a brilliant group of friends, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville. Now Ms. Cheever is turning her talents to a collective biography of the "American Bloomsbury," Louisa May Alcott's intellectual circle.

Ms. Cheever is well known as a *Newsday* columnist and author whose books include *Doctors and Women* and *Note Found in a Bottle*. She is a past

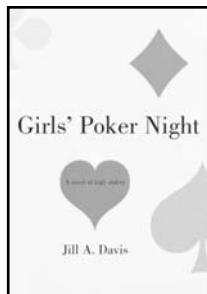
nominee for the National Book Critics Circle award and a co-winner of the Pulitzer Prize. In her Author Series lecture, Ms. Cheever will discuss the process of researching this lively piece of history and her interpretation of the bonds among the members of Alcott's circle. The lecture is free for Library members and guests. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register.



www.umol.com

## READING GROUPS

**NOTE: Reading groups are free of charge, but space is very limited. Registrations will ONLY be accepted in the order of calling beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 10. Leave a message at (212) 288-6900 x230.**



### FICTION IMITATING LIFE WITH JILL DAVIS

**WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 9, NOVEMBER 6, AND DECEMBER 11, 11:00 A.M.**

**WHITRIDGE ROOM**

A former newspaper columnist and writer for *The Late Show with David Letterman*, Jill Davis is the author most recently of a “semi-autobiographical” novel, *Girls’ Poker Night*. This reading group will focus on the often thin line between fiction and autobiography. The first session will address Tobias Wolff’s *This Boy’s Life*, with the second and third books to be chosen by participants.

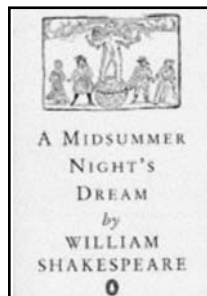


### THE ETHNIC HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY WITH ANTHONY GRONOWICZ

**WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 23, AND NOVEMBER 20, 11:00 A.M.**

**WHITRIDGE ROOM**

Melting pot or gorgeous mosaic? New York City is the most vibrantly diverse city on the planet. From Europe and Africa from the 17th to the 19th centuries and from Latin America and Asia in the 20th century, New York City has always drawn a brilliant mix of peoples and cultures. The group will examine this process through a study of documents from its many ethnicities. Anthony Gronowicz, now leading his third Library reading group, is the author of *Race and Class Politics in New York City Before the Civil War*. He teaches at the City University of New York.



### CLASSICS OF THE BARD WITH DONALD McDONOUGH

**THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 3, NOVEMBER 7, AND DECEMBER 12, 11:00 A.M.**

**WHITRIDGE ROOM**

For beauty of language, dramatic impact, and depth of theme, none has ever surpassed William Shakespeare. Donald McDonough, a noted expert on English medieval and Renaissance literature who has taught these subjects around the world, will lead discussions of three of the bard's best-loved plays. The first session will cover *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; the second and third plays will be chosen by participants.

## TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

ONLINE DATABASES	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS	INTERMEDIATE COMPUTERS	INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET	INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT WORD	LITERARY RESOURCES ON THE WEB	CREATING A WEB PAGE
Saturday October 5 11:00 A.M.	Thursday October 10 1:30 P.M.	Friday October 11 11:00 A.M.	Saturday October 12 11:00 A.M.	<i>New Class</i> Thursday October 17 11:00 A.M.	<i>New Class</i> Friday October 18 11:00 A.M.	Saturday October 19 11:00 A.M.

Staff members Ingrid Richter, Paul Burley, and Steve Baumholtz continue these popular free classes. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register. All workshops meet in the Whitridge Room and last approximately 90 minutes.

**CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES**

**JIM DALE**

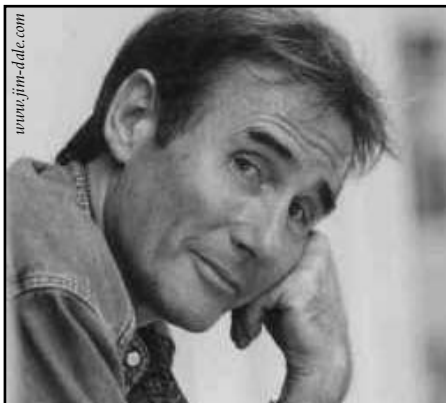
**HIGHLIGHTS FROM *HARRY POTTER***

**FIRST GRADE AND OLDER**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**

Master storyteller Jim Dale will share his favorite moments from J.K. Rowling's award-winning *Harry Potter* series. Dale's audiobook renditions of the novels, in an inimitable style involving 127 different character voices, have garnered Grammy Awards and nominations. Called "the toast of Broadway" by the *New York Times* for his Tony Award-winning role in the musical *Barnum*, Dale is active as an actor, comedian, singer and songwriter.

This program is free of charge but space is limited; contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register.



Actor and narrator Jim Dale



*Harry Potter*, by Mary Grand-Pré

**PAULA DANZIGER**

**WRITING AND LOVING IT**

**SECOND GRADE AND OLDER**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**

Paula Danziger decided to be a writer at age seven and since then her enthusiastic observations of children and teenagers have been incorporated into over thirty books, including *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*, *P.S. Longer Letter Later*, and the popular *Amber Brown* and *Matthew Martin* series. Praised by critics and readers for her realistic and sympathetic characters, Ms. Danziger has received a Parent's Choice Award, an International Reading Association - Children's Book Council Award, and many other honors. In this event she will discuss how she became a writer and the process behind some of her most popular books. The program is free for Library members and guests. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register.



Scholastic

**MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK DISCUSSIONS**

Mothers and their daughters are invited to join Children's Librarian Carrie Silberman for a discussion of one of these award-winning books. Please call the Children's Library at (212) 288-6900 x234 to register. Both sessions will take place in the Whitridge Room.

***BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE* BY KATE DICAMILLO**

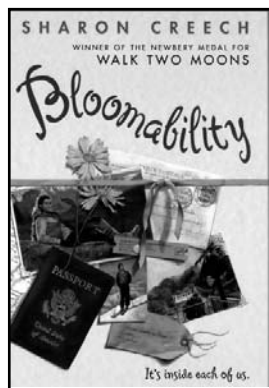
**FOR THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES \* THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Discover the good things that happen to ten-year-old Opal because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie. A Newbery Honor book.

***BLOOMABILITY* BY SHARON CREECH**

**FOR FIFTH - EIGHTH GRADES \* THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Thirteen-year-old Dinnie finds her own ability to bloom when she is sent to a boarding school in Switzerland.



CONVERSATIONS ON GREAT BOOKS

**ROBERT D. RICHARDSON JR.**

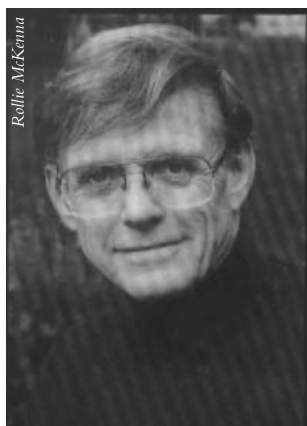
**THE CAT IN THE LIBRARY: WILLIAM JAMES ON THE NATURE OF CONSCIOUSNESS**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 5:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**

As Freud is the great figure associated with the modern, even mischievous, concept of the unconscious, so William James is the great proponent of consciousness as something fluid, evanescent, but above all active. James was a medical doctor, a psychologist, and a philosopher, and his *The Varieties of Religious Experience* is, according to novelist Robert Stone, the most important piece of American prose of the twentieth century.

Robert D. Richardson Jr., author of the intellectual biographies *Thoreau: a Life of the Mind* and *Emerson: the Mind on Fire*, is currently writing a book on William James and his ideas. He is pleased to be returning to the Library, where he led a Conversation on Emerson in 2001.

Recommended reading for participants comprises James' essays collected in *The Will to Believe* and *Talks to Teachers on Psychology*, available in one volume from the Library of America (ISBN 0940450720). This program is \$10 for Library members and their guests. Contact the Events Office at (212) 288-6900 x230 or [sholliday@nysoclib.org](mailto:sholliday@nysoclib.org) to register.



Biographer Robert D. Richardson Jr.



William James (1842-1910), a self-portrait

Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at [www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org), which is updated frequently.

**THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY**

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