

# Books & People

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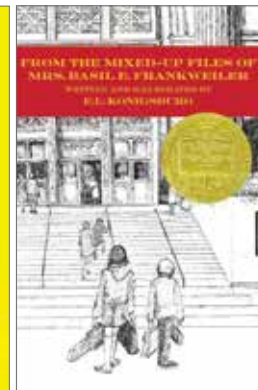
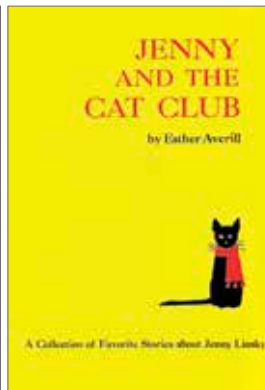
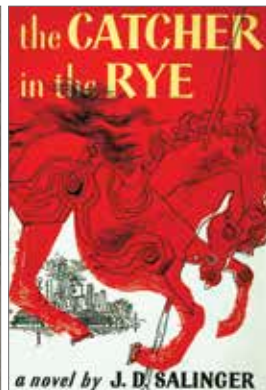
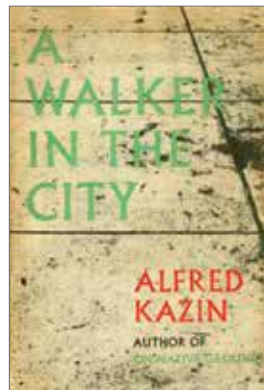
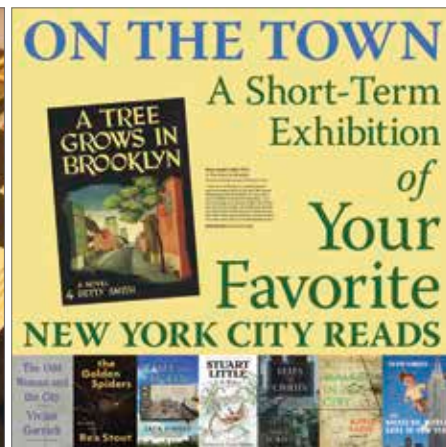
# On the Town: Your Favorite New York City Reads

Open to the public September 20 – December 31

It's become a new tradition to showcase a short-term exhibition of members' favorite books in our collection. This year we received a wide range of submissions from members writing in with their favorite New York City reads—*The Power Broker* by Robert Caro, *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems, and *The Odd Woman and the City* by Vivian Gornick were just a few of the selections that came through our electronic portals. Fiction or nonfiction, adult or children's books, the choices reveal the genuine hold New York City has on our members. And, of course, we honor each year's best books about the city with our **New York City Book Awards**.

## New Membership Categories

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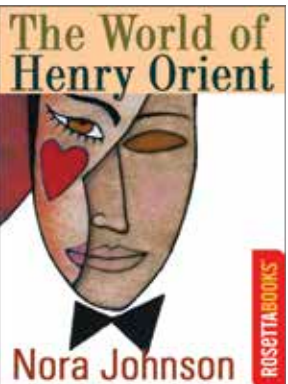
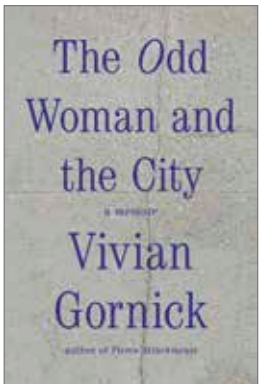
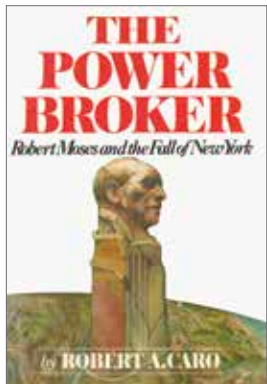
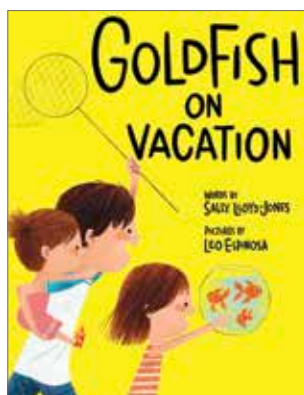
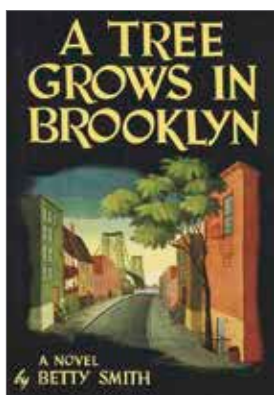


The opening on September 20 was a celebration of the books and our city, both joyous and inspiring. Nibbles laid out in the wood-paneled Members' Room—surrounded by portraits of

distinguished New Yorkers—were urban-inspired too—bagels with lox and cream cheese, and black-and-white cookies.

Both Library members and nonmembers are welcome to visit the exhibition in the Assunta, Ignazio, Ada and Romano Peluso Exhibition Gallery during Library hours.

*On the Town* can be accessed on the front page of the Library website. Click on Recommended Books for a electronic tour of the exhibition. Or visit *City Readers*, also accessible on the front page of our website. Happy reading!



# Greetings from the Head Librarian

Since I became Head Librarian a little over 3 years ago, I've been inviting small groups of members to join me for coffee and conversation, and I continue to value all the one-on-one exchanges I have with many of you at the Reference Desk, at events, and in the elevator. All our staff members, especially the Circulation Department, are also eager listeners and problem solvers. We are always interested to hear how you think we're doing and what we could be doing better.

In addition, two years ago, a committee of staff and trustees developed a survey which we used to gather a more comprehensive and unfettered picture of our service to members. We were relieved to discover that there were no significant issues. But you did tell us about small procedural irritations, provide helpful suggestions for improvement, and pass on ideas for new programs and services.

Some of your suggestions are easy to implement, and others take more time and consideration. We've already increased the speed and reliability of the wi-fi, added features to the website to make joining, renewing, and registering for events more user-friendly, and increased occasions to connect with your fellow members, like Teatime, Happy Hour, and "meet your next book club" events. Here's what's new and what we're working on:

- ❖ In September, we launched the e-membership category, a new, lower-cost membership for those primarily interested in our electronic resource offerings: e-books, digital magazines, audiobooks, and electronic databases.
- ❖ We now offer \$20 Day Passes for those who want to try out the Library before joining, and guest passes are available for those who want to give a unique and inexpensive gift to a fellow bibliophile. Note that—ever conscious of the increased use of the Library—we have limited the number of these passes that can be redeemed in a day.
- ❖ Speaking of space issues, we know that the Hornblower Room is getting more crowded, especially midday Mondays through Wednesdays. When we identify that the Hornblower Room is close to full, Circulation staff are proactively redirecting members to less-used places to work and study,

and we are currently investigating both short-term and long-range possibilities for increasing member space.

- ❖ We will begin issuing membership cards to all members age nine and older in 2019. While we know that many of you will welcome cards as an improvement in the Library check-in and the book check-out process, we also know that some of you like things just the way they are. So if you don't want or need a membership card, just let us know. Membership card or not, we will continue to greet you by name and with the friendly welcome you have come to expect.
- ❖ The membership card project has an added benefit in that members will be able to check in and check out books under their own name rather than that of their spouse or partner or parent.
- ❖ We heard you when you told us that the household membership requirement that has been in place for many years was not only unusual, but unfair. It provided the impetus we needed to review and develop a new membership structure. Beginning January 1, 2019, we are launching new membership categories that will allow you to choose a category that works best for your situation at renewal time.
- ❖ As many of you know, financial realities have compelled us to raise rates every other year for some time, and unfortunately, this year is no different. Membership fees cover only 25% of our operating costs (the remaining 50% comes from our endowment and 25% from contributions), and expenses for building upkeep, staff, and electronic resources, in particular, continue to rise steadily. At less than a dollar a day for a family, we believe that our membership fees are still exceptionally reasonable for all that the Library offers. And with our new category structure, two-person households will pay the same fee they have since 2017.

A member recently shared with me a line from the introduction to poet Susan Howe's book *The Birth-Mark*, in which she writes "I go to libraries because they are the ocean." Indeed, the sea is a great metaphor for the riches and mystery to be found in libraries. As we expand the possibilities for what our Library offers and how we serve our members, I want to continue to hear from you. Please stop by. My door is always open.



Carolyn Waters

## NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

<b>E-MEMBERSHIP</b>	For one person. Includes access to all remote electronic resources and 10 building visits/year. No print book circulation privileges.	<b>\$100</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	For one person. Includes all benefits of membership, including 10 print/audio books at a time.	<b>\$270</b>
<b>DUAL</b>	For two people at a single address. Includes all benefits of membership, including 20 print/audio books at a time.	<b>\$335</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>	For more than two people at a single address. Includes all benefits of membership, including 30 print/audio books at a time.	<b>\$350</b>

# A Bibliographer Encounters a Damaged Book: David Gilson and the NYSL's 1816 Philadelphia *Emma* by Juliette Wells

In April 1975, an Englishman named David Gilson made his first-ever journey to New York. Though he visited the Metropolitan Museum and the Frick, his chief purpose was an appointment at The New York Society Library. Gilson had been at work for nearly a decade on a comprehensive bibliography of Jane Austen, to replace Geoffrey Keynes's *Jane Austen: A Bibliography* (1929). Gilson was especially keen to uncover information concerning an Austen edition about which Keynes had not known: Mathew Carey's 1816 Philadelphia publication of *Emma*, the first Austen novel printed in North America. Only three copies of this two-volume American *Emma* were then known to exist; two were owned by private collectors and one by the NYSL. On his American tour, Gilson eagerly examined each copy, beginning in Baltimore at the home of Alberta Burke, an internationally respected (though self-taught) expert on Austen bibliography with whom Gilson had corresponded for several years.<sup>1</sup>

In a letter to Mrs. Burke, Gilson reported his time with the NYSL's *Emma* as follows: "On Monday 24th I went first to the New York Society Library (also on E. 79th Street) to see their much worn copy of the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma*."<sup>2</sup> In his *A Bibliography of Jane Austen*, first published in 1982, Gilson described the NYSL's *Emma* as having "spines decayed and broken, pages much worn and decayed throughout, parts of many pages missing."<sup>3</sup> [figure 1] Gilson noted, too, the original owner of this copy, which explains the volumes' extremely poor condition: James Hammond's Circulating Library in Newport, Rhode Island, which touted itself as "the Largest Circulating Library in New England," with "over 8000 vols."

Careful though Gilson was in his *Bibliography* to account for the external physical condition of the NYSL's *Emma*, he made no mention of the marginalia penciled by anonymous readers into the second volume. These American responses to *Emma* first came to public view in 2015, as part of the NYSL's exhibit titled "Readers Make Their Mark: Annotated Books at the New York Society Library." In an accompanying blog post about the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma*, exhibit co-curator Madeline McMahon highlighted the importance of comments "by an ordinary reader, for a book about ordinary life."

I first saw these annotations on a January 2014 visit to the NYSL, as I was beginning research into Austen's early publication and reception in America. From Gilson's *Bibliography*, I knew to expect very damaged volumes. But the penciled responses to reading *Emma* came as a total, and a wonderful, surprise. "I wonder who likes this book," reads one plaintive annotation. Most delightfully, a chart at the end of the novel assigns adjectives to Austen's characters, beginning as follows: "Mr. Knightley \_\_\_ tolerable. Emma \_\_\_ intolerable."

In my book *Reading Austen in America* (2017), I fully transcribe the annotations in the NYSL's *Emma* and consider their importance, especially in relation to the "Opinions of Emma" that Austen herself collected from family and friends. These vivid, unvarnished comments by everyday American readers are enjoyed by everyone, I've found, especially students who don't especially like *Emma* themselves!

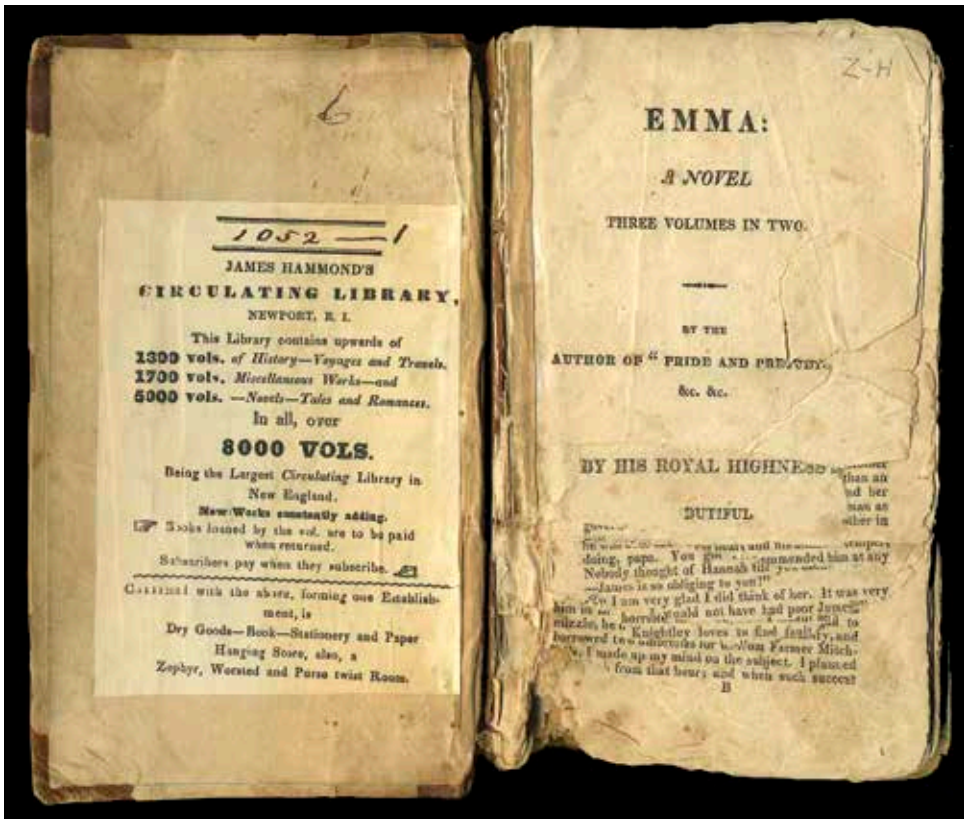
Could Gilson have overlooked these annotations on his 1975 visit to the NYSL? His examinations of historic copies were generally very thorough. Possibly, however, the near-destroyed state of this copy convinced him that there was no need to turn every page, especially of the second volume. Gilson's own preference, as a collector, was to restore and beautify damaged volumes, as can be seen from the work he commissioned on a newly emerged fourth copy of the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma* that he acquired in the 1980s. [figure 2]

David Gilson died in 2014. Since then, I've discovered fifth and sixth copies of the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma* and have uncovered many details about its publication, along with other stories of Austen's readers in early America. I wish I could have shared all of these with him—beginning with the comments of the circulating-library patrons who were unimpressed by *Emma*.

<sup>1</sup> Goucher College Library, to which Mrs. Burke bequeathed her Austen collection, has made the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma* available in an open-access digital edition, at <[www.emmainamerica.org](http://www.emmainamerica.org)>.

<sup>2</sup> David J. Gilson to Alberta H. Burke, 2 May 1975, Alberta H. and Henry G. Burke Alberta H. and Henry G. Burke papers and Jane Austen research collection, MS 0020/11/22, Special Collections and Archives, Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> David J. Gilson, *A Bibliography of Jane Austen*, new edn (New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 1997), 101.



On January 29, 2019, *Women Get the Vote: A Historic Look at the Nineteenth Amendment* will open in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery. The exhibition will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment by Congress on June 4, 1919. Congress ratified the Amendment the following year. What had seemed impossible to achieve in the early years of the suffrage movement was now the law of the land. The exhibition closes on August 30, 2019.

To honor these historic events, Women Get the Vote will showcase the literature and archival material in the Library's collection that illuminate the lengthy suffrage crusade. The exhibition will also focus on two important suffragists who were Library members: Mrs. John Winters Brennan, jailed after demonstrating in front of the White House on July 14, 1917, and shareholder Rosalie Gardiner Jones, known in the press as "General Jones."

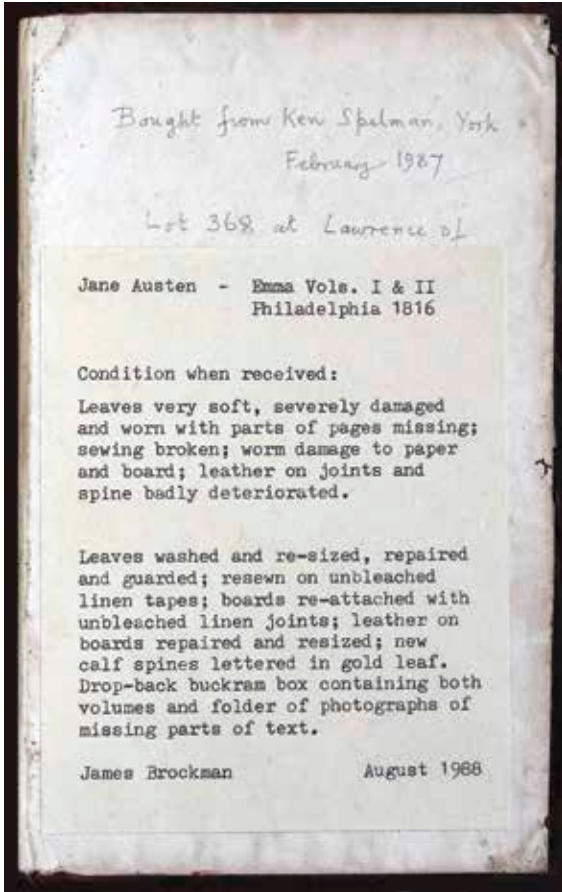


Figure 1: Opening of volume one of the NYSL copy of the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma*, showing the Hammond Library label and the damaged opening pages.

Figure 2: Pastedown at the back of volume two of Gilson's copy of the 1816 Philadelphia *Emma*, showing his penciled annotations concerning its purchase and typewritten notes from the book's restorer. Courtesy King's College Library, University of Cambridge.



Juliette Wells is the Elizabeth Conolly Todd Distinguished Professor of English at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the author of two books on Austen's reception, *Reading Austen in America* (2017) and *Everybody's Jane: Austen in the Popular Imagination* (2011), both from Bloomsbury Academic. For Penguin Classics, she created two-hundredth-anniversary annotated editions of Austen's novels *Emma* (2015) and *Persuasion* (2017).

Please note that accompanying the exhibition in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery will be a one-night display of MEMBERS' LOANS having to do with the suffrage movement.

We encourage you to look in closets, cupboards, and attic trunks for suffrage memorabilia, including posters, banners, pins, books, photographs and letters. Blow off the dust and bring them to us.

To arrange for the loan, please contact Harriet Shapiro, Head of Exhibitions. She can be reached at [hshapiro@nysoclib.org](mailto:hshapiro@nysoclib.org) or at 212-288-6900 x221.



# Five Years Since Our Makeover

In 2013 the third floor closed for five months, during which the entire floor was renovated. The Children's Library reopened in October 2013 vastly improved, the most important change being the expansion of the space into the building's light well. This seemingly magical expansion created our beloved picture book room. The extra room has generously allowed our collection to grow over the past five years and provided plenty of space for young members and their families to do homework, play, and read. We invite you to visit the Children's Library and bask in the significant improvements, from expanded seating to the volume of books and our variety of events.

## What's New with YA?

Are you a teen, or perhaps an adult who likes to read Young Adult books? Well, you'll be pleased to learn that our ever burgeoning Young Adult-High School (YA-HS) collection was recently relocated to a more prominent spot in the front of Stack 9. Established in 2015 thanks to a generous donation from beloved author Richard Peck, this upper branch of the Children's Library now has three whole book bays devoted to housing its popular books. Please note that you can still find our newest additions in the lobby.

### 10 New YA-HS Titles to Check Out:

**Acevedo, Elizabeth.** *The Poet X*

**Albertalli, Becky.** *Leah On the Offbeat*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Speak: The Graphic Novel*

**Bagieu, Penelope.** *Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*

**Hutchinson, Shaun David.** *The Apocalypse of Elena Mendoza*

**Ireland, Justina.** *Dread Nation*

**Lee, Mackenzi.** *The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy*

**Stone, Nic.** *Dear Martin*

**Zoboi, Ibi.** *Pride*

**Zusak, Markus.** *Bridge of Clay*



# Celebration of Longtime Members

On October 15th, the Library held its sixth biennial celebration for those who have been Library members for forty years or more. We were pleased to welcome fifty guests. The evening has become a reunion of sorts, including food, drink and lively conversation. After Chair of the Board Carol Collins Malone and Head Librarian Carolyn Waters welcomed everyone, the highlight of the evening was remarks by 52-year member Patricia Bosworth. Ms. Bosworth is an acclaimed journalist, biographer, and a former faculty member of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. She spoke with great enthusiasm about her love of the Library and the time she spends here.

We were also joined by oral historian and documentary film-maker Abbie Reese. She interviewed several people that evening about their Library experiences. If you'd like to participate in the oral history project by sharing your own memories or stories about the Library or would like to support the project financially, please contact Joan Zimmet at [jzimmett@nysoclib.org](mailto:jzimmett@nysoclib.org) or 212-288-6900 x207.

We are grateful for all of our members and thank them for their devotion to the Library.



Above: Patricia Bosworth; Susan Buckley, Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun; Below: Chair of the Board Carol Collins Malone and Reily Hendrickson; Christopher Porterfield and Patricia Bosworth; Elizabeth Winthrop and Susan Whipple Wald



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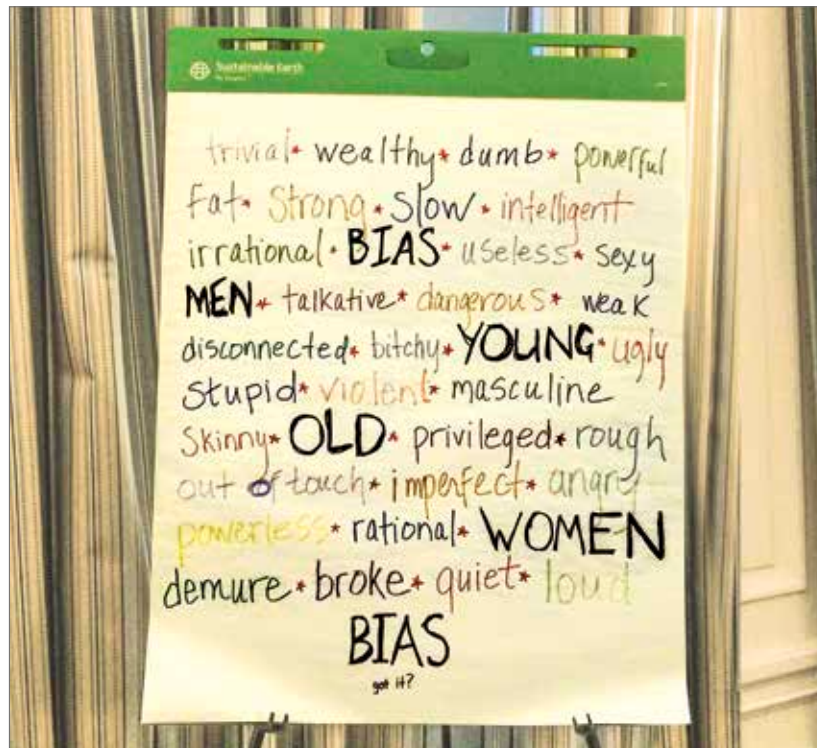
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## One More Picture



Author/activist Donna Kaz led a September 15 workshop, "Turn Your Attitude to Action." Participants talked about communication through signs and graphics and made this sample poster, suggesting that we all carry some biases worth examining.