

# NOTES



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1, WINTER 2006

## STAFF CHANGE

Head Librarian Charles Cronin announced his resignation effective as of January 9, 2006. The trustees thank him for his work over the past year, particularly in connection with the renovation work that is now well underway, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

The trustees are pleased to announce that Mark Bartlett has been appointed Interim Head Librarian, effective immediately, pending a search for a new Head Librarian, which is expected to get underway in the new year. Mark has been the Head of Cataloging since he joined the Library almost two years ago. He holds a B.A. with Honors in English and German from the University of New Brunswick and a Masters in Library and Information Studies from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He joined the Library from the Arizona State University Law Library in Tempe, where he was Associate Librarian and Head of Technical Services. The trustees are grateful for Mark's willingness to step into this position and look forward to his expanding the good relationships he has already developed with the staff and many of our members.



Mark Bartlett

## THE RENOVATION

The Library has completed a major portion of Phase I of the renovation. At this writing, the cleaning of the building's façade is being completed. An additional water-spray treatment is being applied in an effort to remove the carbon build-up on the exterior cornice. We expect the scaffolding to come down by the end of January, at which point a handsome new awning will be erected. Windows on all floors have been repaired and repainted and are now fully operable. New brass handles will be installed shortly.

Prospective contractors are submitting proposals for the Library's new main elevator. Elevator-shaft construction will begin as soon as a contractor has been chosen. The construction involved with the new elevator will cause some disruption on a floor-by-floor basis, but we do not anticipate any severe inconvenience for members. We expect to have the new elevator cab—complete with the original paneling—ready to be installed by early summer. The new elevator will be noticeably faster than the existing one and will be code compliant.

The Library has engaged an interior designer to choose new furniture and fixtures for the Members' Room, the principal lavatories, and elsewhere in the Library, in keeping with the building's historic tone. A lighting designer will be working in tandem with the interior designer to improve lighting in public spaces and in the circulation workroom behind the front desk. For updates on Phase I work, please consult the Library website, [www.nysodib.org/renovation\\_update.html](http://www.nysodib.org/renovation_update.html).



Staff members Susan Chan, Patrick Rayner, Linnea Savapoulas, and Janet Howard in the main elevator, pre-renovation.

## CALENDAR

January 25 7:00 P.M., Temple Israel HAZEL ROWLEY ON TÊTE-À-TÊTE	February 3, 4:00 P.M., Members' Room ALL IN THE FAMILY WITH JULES AND KATE FEIFFER	February 7 6:30 P.M., Members' Room BARBARA GOLDSMITH ON MARIE CURIE	February 22 7:00 P.M., Members' Room THE LAST OF MRS. LINCOLN	March 15 7:00 P.M., Temple Israel ROBERT A. CARO ON MASTER OF THE SENATE
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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](mailto:events@nysoclib.org). Listed fees may be paid at the door.
- ◆ For events at the Library beginning after 5:00 P.M. Wednesdays, the building will close at 5:00 P.M. and reopen thirty minutes prior to the program, for security reasons.

**LIBRARY LECTURE**

◆ Registration is required. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

**BARBARA GOLDSMITH**

**OBSESSIVE GENIUS: THE INNER LIFE OF MARIE CURIE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

\$10 PER PERSON



Dobner Institute

The most famous woman scientist of all time, Marie Curie has streets named after her and appears on the sixty-franc note, but she is generally thought to have been remote, impersonal, and obsessed with her work. To some extent she cultivated a melancholy, distant image to add drama to the publicity over her research; moreover, her personal and scientific notes and papers have been locked away since her death because they were still radioactive. Now biographer Barbara Goldsmith has been able to get beneath the image to the brilliant woman who discovered radium and paved the way for modern atomic knowledge, through access to Curie's diaries, letters, and workbooks, and interviews with her family. Her book *Obsessive Genius* shows not only a scientist utterly intent on her work, but also a woman ahead of her time forced to battle the sexism and hypocrisy of the French scientific community and public. A



Gasper Tringale

former Library trustee, Ms. Goldsmith is also the author of the acclaimed *Other Powers: The Age of Suffrage, Spiritualism, and the Scandalous Victoria Woodhull*.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

◆ Registration is required. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or [events@nysoclib.org](mailto:events@nysoclib.org).

**T.E.S.T. THEATER COMPANY**

**THE LAST OF MRS. LINCOLN: A PLAY BY JAMES PRIDEAUX**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 7:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

\$20 PER PERSON



Library of Congress

Historians have often recognized Mary Todd Lincoln as America's first "first lady" in the modern sense. This play, by turns tragic and hilarious, follows the Lincoln family from the weeks after Abraham Lincoln's assassination to Mrs. Lincoln's death 17 years later. The fierce divisions and blistering passions of post-Civil War America, as well as the ever-changing influence of women in the halls of American power, are made profoundly personal in this highly accurate account of an extraordinary family. In triumph, in tragedy, against financial difficulty and accusations of madness, Mrs. Lincoln emerged as an indomitable woman who refused to surrender her spirit and dignity and found the strength to reconstruct herself as her beloved country struggled to do the same.

*Mary Todd Lincoln* T.E.S.T. is a repertory company of New York actors and directors. Their productions, which feature pivotal people and moments in history, are widely seen at schools, libraries, and other educational institutions throughout the tri-state area. This performance of *The Last of Mrs. Lincoln* will be followed by a discussion period with the actors and director about the characters and the era.



*A scene from The Last of Mrs. Lincoln*

**THE 2005-2006 AUTHOR SERIES**

- ◆ Author Series lectures are free of charge, but registration is required.
- ◆ To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

**HAZEL ROWLEY**

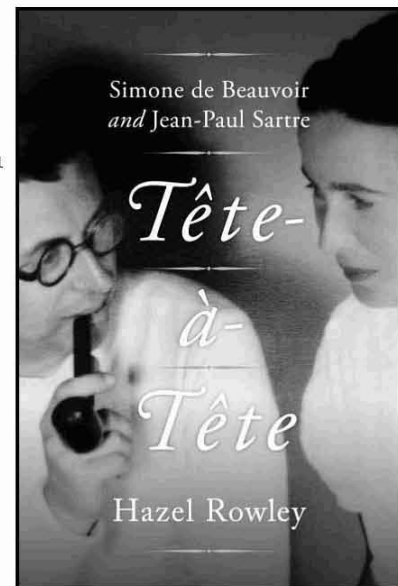
**TÊTE-À-TÊTE: SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR AND JEAN-PAUL SARTRE**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET



One of the world's legendary couples, Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre had an intense intellectual relationship and a controversial romantic one that continues to intrigue philosophers and non-philosophers alike. Their dedication to freedom of thought and criticism of society led to scandalous affairs, passions, and heartbreaks even while the pair produced such essential works as *The Second Sex* (de Beauvoir) and *Being and Nothingness* (Sartre). Ms. Rowley's *Tête-à-Tête*, the first dual biography of these 20th-century giants, shows them in both their brilliance and their decadence. *Library Journal* says, "...this wonderfully crafted narrative presents the complicated lives of these two strong-willed intellectuals and their numerous lovers, companions,



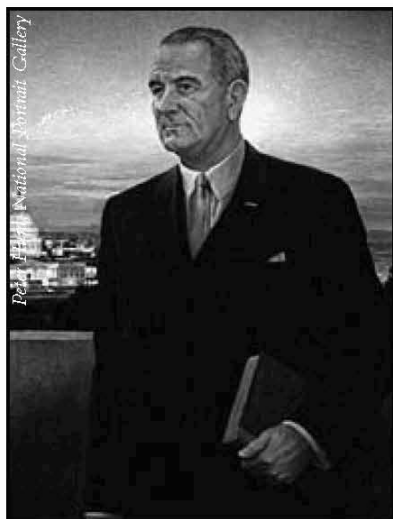
friends, concerns, and passions in a way that enthralls like a novel but clearly imparts the force of reality."

**ROBERT A. CARO**

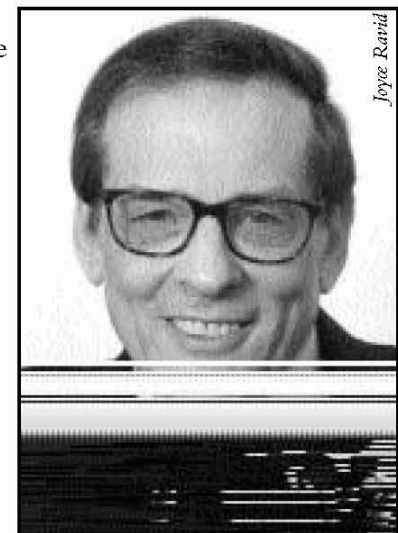
**THE YEARS OF LYNDON JOHNSON: MASTER OF THE SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET



For his biographies of Robert Moses and Lyndon Johnson, Robert A. Caro has twice won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, twice won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Best Nonfiction Book of the Year, and has won virtually every other major literary honor. *The Power Broker* was chosen by the Modern Library as one of the hundred greatest nonfiction books of the twentieth century. In *Master of the Senate*, Lyndon Johnson uses his incomparable political genius to bend Senators to his will and to ram to passage the first civil rights bill in a century. The *Times* (London) calls *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* "A masterpiece . . . Robert Caro has written one of the truly great political biographies of the modern age."





## LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE FOURTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

**Submission deadline April 10**

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. Writers in grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit a short story, essay, or poem with a New York City theme. Prizes will be presented in four age categories in both prose and poetry, with the winning entries chosen by authors Dave Johnson, Robert Quackenbush, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk.

All submissions are subject to the competition rules, which are available at the circulation desk, on the web at [www.nysodib.org](http://www.nysodib.org), or by mail by calling 212-288-6900 x230. Entrants must be children or grandchildren of Library members, or students at a member school. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 7 or hand-delivered to the Library by April 10. Watch this space for announcements of the awards ceremony and the winning entries.



*Students from a member school turn in their 2005 entries*

### PROJECT CICERO 2006

**Book collection at the Library**

**March 1 through 8**

Project Cicero is now in its sixth year of bringing new and gently used children's books to the under-served classrooms of New York City. Last year over 125,000 books were distributed, and this year should be even more successful. To donate books, look for the boxes in the entry hall March 1-8 or call the Project Cicero mailbox at 212-288-6900 x511. More information about the book drive and a wish list of titles is available at [www.projectcicero.org](http://www.projectcicero.org).



### MEET STAFF MEMBERS

In addition to Mark Bartlett, introduced on page 1, the following staff members joined the Library in 2004 and 2005, and due to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and other newsworthy items, they have never been introduced in this newsletter. Feel free to say hello the next time you're in the Library.

**Keren Fleshler, Cataloguer.** Keren began at the Library in November of 2004. She studied literature and is currently pursuing a Masters in Library and Information Science at Long Island University's Palmer School. She has worked in a variety of museums and libraries, most recently the New York Center for the Book. Keren always looks forward to getting a first look at new books being added to the collection.



**Thomas Meaney, Administrator.** Thomas joined the Library staff in October 2005, where he serves as the Head Librarian's assistant and staff administrator. Thomas received a BA in Classics from the University of Chicago. He is a published writer, with book reviews in *Commentary*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and most recently the *Wall Street Journal*. Thomas enjoys reading history and looks forward to getting to know the Library and its membership.

**George Muñoz, Conservator.** A graduate of London's Camberwell College masters program in conservation, George served an apprenticeship in the art in Barnes, England and has also spent three summers doing conservation work in a medieval seminary library in Montefiascone, Italy. Here, he is responsible for conservation and repair treatments of the Library's regular stack books and our rare book and map collection. He can usually be found surrounded by paper, glue, old books and tools in the fourth-floor bindery. More about George's activities is included on pages 5 and 6.



## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

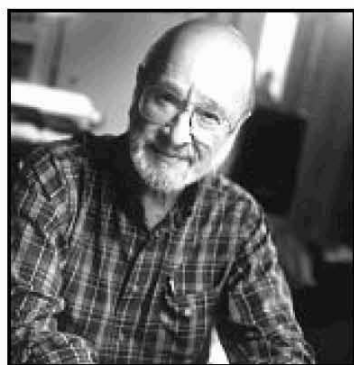
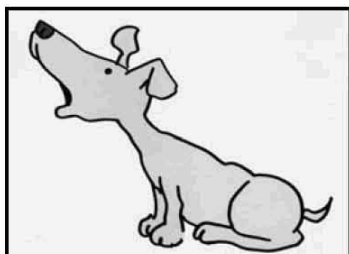
- ❖ Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door. To register for programs, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or [carrie@nysoclib.org](mailto:carrie@nysoclib.org).
- ❖ To receive the monthly preschool program calendar, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900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

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

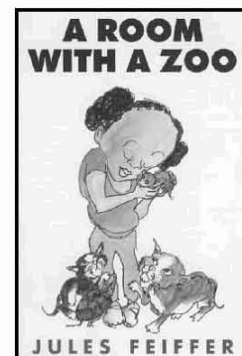
#### JULES AND KATE FEIFFER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 4:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM  
FOR KINDERGARTEN AND OLDER

\$5 PER PERSON



Jules Feiffer is one of America's most important editorial cartoonists as well as a playwright, novelist, screenwriter, and illustrator. Since 1993, he has crafted a brilliant new career writing for children, with books such as *Bark*, *George*, *The House Across the Street*, and the new *A Room With a Zoo*. His works have been selected by *Publishers Weekly* and the New York Public Library as outstanding children's books, while in other fields his honors include an Academy Award for an animated short film and the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning. In this event, he will narrate and draw episodes from his picture books and illustrate a new story created by participants. Joining him will be his daughter, filmmaker Kate Feiffer, who will introduce her new book *Double Pink* and talk about growing up in a writing family.



### YOUNG WRITERS' WORKSHOP

#### PLAYWRITING WITH ROB ACKERMAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 4:00-5:30 P.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

FOR GRADES FOUR TO SIX; \$10 PER PERSON

In this ongoing series, young writers can explore different genres with notable authors.

In this workshop, playwright Rob Ackerman will share the elements of playwriting and guide participants in writing their own scenes. Mr. Ackerman's play *Origin of the Species* was made into an award-winning independent film, and his play *Tabletop* enjoyed a very successful Off-Broadway run that received a 2001 Drama Desk Award. His latest play, *Disconnect*, was chosen as the centerpiece of the Working Theater's 25th anniversary season.



### BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP

#### WITH LIBRARY CONSERVATOR GEORGE MUÑOZ

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 4:00-5:30 P.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

FOR THIRD GRADE AND OLDER; \$5 MATERIALS FEE PER PERSON



Library conservator George Muñoz will talk about his art and teach a classic bookbinding technique. Participants will use colorful paper and real bookbinding tools to create individualized books to take home.

Mr. Muñoz studied book conservation in London and has also performed conservation work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the picture at left, he demonstrates a bookbinding technique at the Library's 250<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration on April 17, 2004.

Adult assistance is recommended for this program.



## INSIDE THE LIBRARY

### INTRODUCING THE *TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

The Library now offers members remote access to the *Times Literary Supplement Centenary Archive* through our website, [www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org). Indexed and searchable from 1902 through 1990 (with additional years forthcoming), the archive lets users search for book authors, titles, and contributor names and see articles as facsimiles of the original issues. The search for contributors is a particularly exciting feature considering that, until 1974, articles and reviews in the *TLS* were almost always published anonymously. The compilers did extensive research to reveal the writers of pieces prior to 1974, and they include some of the most esteemed names in 20th-century literature. A search for T.S. Eliot retrieves 98 pieces—letters, reviews, articles—from 1919 to 1962, while Virginia Woolf has 332 contributor credits. We hope this will be a valuable resource for researchers and for all lovers of literature.



### AN HISTORIC BEQUEST

In November, the Library received a generous bequest from the estate of Joseph Chamberlain Furnas, a notable historian and a member from 1983 until his death earlier this year. Mr. Furnas was the author of three volumes of popular American history: *The Americans: A Social History of the United States, 1587-1914*, *Great Times: An Informal Social History of the United States, 1914-1929*, and *Stormy Weather: Crosslights on the 1930s, an Informal Social History of the United States 1929-1941*. His other works include major biographies of Fanny Kemble and Robert Louis Stevenson. The Library holds fourteen of his books. We are proud to have played a part in his intellectual life and grateful for the support that will help us, in turn, aid other readers and writers.



### BOOKS TO BIND?

Library Conservator George Muñoz (introduced on page 4) offers his bookbinding services to members owning old or rare volumes in need of repair. For an estimate or to set up an appointment, contact George at 212-288-6900 x249 or [bindery@nysoclib.org](mailto:bindery@nysoclib.org).

◆ 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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New York, NY 10021