

## An Embarrassment of Riches

New York's Bibliography Week

Tad Boehmer

We bibliophiles should count ourselves extremely fortunate to have so many events of bookish interest that regularly punctuate our calendars. There are scores of lecture series, courses, conferences, exhibitions, symposia, workshops, book fairs, and other gatherings keeping us plugged into the book world, reenergizing us as collectors, scholars, and professionals. These widen and strengthen our bibliographic communities, drawing greater attention to our field and encouraging investigations into topics both familiar and unexplored.

But few annual events are as important for the bibliophilic community as New York's Bibliography Week, which this year ran from January 24 through 28. Having had the good fortune of being able to attend for the fourth year running, I will present below a report on the events of the week, as well as some notes on side trips and other attractions that I trust will appeal to my fellow Caxton Club members. I hope this will encourage those who have not yet made the pilgrimage to exercise every effort to participate in Bibliography Week in the near future.

The dates of Bibliography Week are dictated by the bylaws of the Grolier club; their annual meeting falls on the fourth Thursday in January. Other organizations in turn set their gatherings around this date, and since there is significant overlap among the membership of these groups, it is quite convenient for those who are able to attend. Though the Grolier Club releases the only official list of Bibliography Week events, many of those listed have entirely different organizers and sponsors.



On display at Columbia University Library January 24 were items from their recent Ellery Queen show and their new Harper's Publisher show.

This year, it was rain rather than snow that became the theme of the week, though past years almost called for mountaineering equipment to summit the curbside snow piles left by the city's plows.

In past years, I had been based at a friend's apartment on West 58th Street, just a short walk from the Grolier Club, but this time I relocated to East 17th Street, near Union Square. I arrived on Sunday, and had some time to get acquainted with the unfamiliar neighborhood. Part of the fun of Bibliography Week is in exploring the

city, and while the diversity of official events encourages movement around Manhattan, I always enjoy augmenting this with my own itineraries. I soon became acquainted with the nearby Old Town Bar, founded in 1892 and boasting many original fittings, including what is claimed to be New York's oldest dumbwaiter, and Breads Bakery, recommended to me by my host, a food editor and lifelong New Yorker.

I had neglected to register for the first event of Bibliography Week, which quickly sold out. This was a round table discussion at the Grolier on the Marquis de Lafayette and his role as an antislavery advocate, and was tied in with an exhibition at the club on that subject. Tuesday evening traditionally sees a lecture uptown at the Columbia College Library, and this year Professor Meredith McGill of Rutgers gave a talk entitled "Harper's and the Place of Poetry in Antebellum American Publishing." This too was arranged in conjunction with an exhibition, this time at Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, marking the bicentennial of Harper & Brothers.

Professor McGill presented a strong argument that students of poetry should also be students of print history. She examined the history of Harpers in relation to the history of American poetry, concluding that literary critics and historians have too long neglected periodical form and format, preferring instead to focus on first editions and holograph manuscripts. Encouraging scholars to "read against the grain," she argued that literary criticism has a good deal to gain by paying better attention to

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# CAXTONIAN

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early periodicals and anthologies. The talk was followed by a lively reception at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, where those in attendance could take in the exhibition.

Mirjam Foot, professor at University College, London, and renowned author and scholar of the history of book-binding, gave a lecture at the Grolier the following afternoon on “Collecting Modern Design Bindings: What and Why?” In this intriguing presentation, Professor Foot acknowledged that the term “collector” is far too narrow to describe many fine-binding enthusiasts, and instead proposed a new taxonomy encompassing four categories. These include squirrels, who want to possess everything; owls, who desire only what is special or different; bees, who seek order and system; and cats, who treasure only what is beautiful. Professor Foot went on to present four collector

profiles, examining the objects of their desire and their collecting philosophies, concluding that all four represent hybrid elements of her bibliopegic

bestiary.

The only official extra-Manhattan event on the schedule was an open house event (they called it the Fine Press Salon) at the Booklyn in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, on Thursday. I once again missed out on this opportunity, but I did end up exploring some of the borough’s bookish offerings later in the week. The same day, Grolier Club director Eric Holzenberg led a tour of his exhibition, “For Art’s Sake: The Aesthetic Movement in Print & Beyond,” in the club’s second floor gallery. Though I did not attend the tour, I did walk through the show on my own, and was impressed by the thoughtful assemblage of

*Eric Holzenberg describes his collection.*



*McSorley's, one of two claimed-to-be-oldest bars in the city.*

photo/Tad Boehmer



photo/Robert McCamant

books, prints, ephemera, and realia, including some items I had never before encountered related to Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Patience*.

Members of the Grolier Club gathered on Thursday evening a few blocks across 60th at the Metropolitan Club for their 133rd annual meeting and dinner. Not yet a member myself, I cannot shed any light on the secret events of that night; instead I headed to the Broadhurst Theatre to see a fabulous production of Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur's *The Front Page*, with a remarkable cast, including John Goodman, John Slattery, Nathan Lane, Holland Taylor, and Robert Morse. Despite requiring binoculars to watch the action from my perch in the balcony, I enjoyed every hilarious moment of this tribute to the Chicago newspaper world of the 1920s.

Friday saw one of the highlights of the week – the annual meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America (BSA) at the Grolier Club. To open the proceedings, three “new scholars” presented their papers. Michaël Roy spoke on how the slave narrative *The Life and Adventures of Charles Ball* (1836) was co-opted, edited, and censored by abolitionists, gradually being “emptied of substance” as it reached a wider audience. Marissa Nicosia presented an intriguing paper on the printing of plays during the theater ban in 1640s and 1650s London. This “paper stage,” she argued, has been too often neglected by historians of the English book market during that period. Megan Peiser addressed the society on how review periodicals were read and searched by readers in 18th- and 19th-century England, discussing how the searching of today's digital surrogates is not far removed from the bibliographical practices of the past.

Following the new scholar papers, the annual business meeting began, and the standing-room-only main hall was the scene of a very special ceremony. Three

honorary memberships were conferred upon BSA members who have “performed exemplary service to the field of bibliography.” These included R. Dyke Benjamin, longtime BSA treasurer and chair of the audit committee; Roger Stoddard, scholar and former curator of rare books at Harvard; and Don Krummel, bibliographer, professor, and Caxton Club



*The Grolier Club (the darker brown building with three windows per floor) is now wrapped by a new building (still under construction) to which it sold its air rights for what was reported to be about \$7 million.*

member, who was lauded by the society as an “insightful and loyal mentor,” and who thanked his students in his acceptance speech, saying, “They taught me that information is trivia until it becomes knowledge.”

Ann Blair, professor of history at Harvard, gave the annual address, “A Bibliographical Approach to Information: Afterthoughts on *Too Much to Know*,” following up on her 2010 book, which bore

the subtitle, “Managing Scholarly Information Before the Modern Age.” One of Dr. Blair's particular fascinations is the work of sixteenth-century bibliographer and naturalist Conrad Gessner, whose many indexes, compilations, and editions of classical authors she has scoured in her analysis of Gessner's desire to recover lost texts. Dr. Blair closed by calling for a systematic

cataloging of these paratexts in the works of Gessner and others, in an attempt to reveal hidden authors and their forgotten works.

At the New York Academy of Medicine, Anthony Grafton of Princeton University gave a lecture on Saturday morning on “How a Colonial Family Read: The Winthrops and Their Books.” Dr. Grafton is one of my heroes in the world of books and bibliography, so I was especially excited to attend his talk. Dr. Grafton and some of his students have spent the last several years tracking down books from the libraries of four generations of men and women in the Winthrop family, among whom was John Winthrop, the founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Through this project, these researchers have revealed a “transgenerational reading community” whose members interacted with their books, their life events, and other members of their family via inscriptions and marginalia. Grafton left the audience with the memorable pronouncement: “Historians know one thing; librarians know a lot.”

The week's festivities closed in typical fashion – with the annual meeting of the American Printing History Association (APHA) in the tapestry-bedecked Trustees' Room of the 42nd Street branch of the New York Public Library.

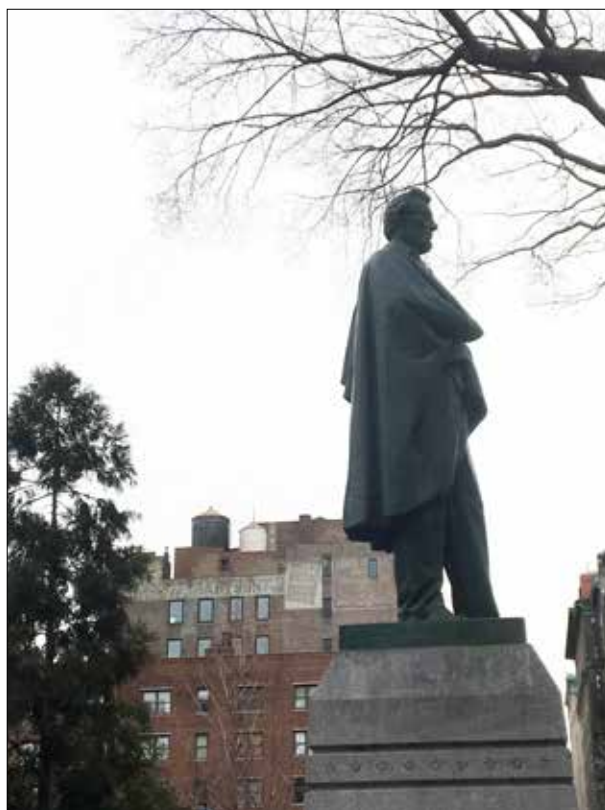
Along with reports on the year's activities and future initiatives, the highlight of the meeting is always the presentation of the Individual and Institutional Awards. The former went to Lisa Unger Baskin, whose unparalleled collection of items related to “women at work” in the book trade and book production she has opened to scholars for many years, and which was recently acquired by the Sallie Bingham

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Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University. In her acceptance speech, she refuted the claim that the involvement of women in the book trades was unconventional, and presented many examples of the hands of women in the production of books from the 15th century onward. The Institutional Award was given to the United States Government Publishing Office, and was accepted by George Barnum, the agency's historian and president of APHA's Chesapeake chapter. Barnum described how the GPO, which operates the world's largest printing plant, has evolved over its 156-year history.

Though the official events of Bibliography Week were over, I was able to stay on a few more days and indulge my desire to roam the city further. Many of my destinations were chosen after consulting the excellent blog "Jeremiah's Vanishing New York," which alerts its readers to big changes in the city's landscape – sadly, this often means the closing of a beloved family-run restaurant or business. I like to plan my itineraries around visits to these places, as well as to others that tie into my interests in architecture, design, and books.

Of course, New York has no shortage of excellent book dealers, many of whom can accommodate visiting collectors, often with a prior appointment, though my budget and areas of interest limit me for now to new and secondhand bookstores. Book lovers can never go wrong with a visit to the Strand and its famed 18 miles of volumes. I like to explore the lower levels, collect what catches my eye, and take the elevator to the rare books department, where I do some more browsing, especially in their "books on books" section, then find a comfortable chair (hard to find downstairs) to look over my potential purchases. Other recommendations include Melville House, overlooking the East River on the Brooklyn



Lincoln and a ghost sign at Union Square.

side; Three Lives & Company in the West Village, which recently lived up to its name by surviving a threat of closure; and Freebird Books, a new discovery in Park Slope, Brooklyn, specializing in the history and

Winter lights welcome at Columbia University.



culture of the city. To this list I should add Westsider Books, the Argosy Book Store, and Carnegie Hill Books. Zine lovers will find a haven on Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where comic book seller Desert Island and alternative print mecca Quimby's (their first location is still going strong in Chicago's Wicker Park) stand next door to each other.

After a long day of bookstore hopping, seek out refreshment at Pete's or McSorley's, both of which claim to be the oldest bar in the city. The latter is the focus of a memorable short story by Joseph Mitchell, which is essential reading before entering that shrine to Old New York. For dinner, my coworker and fellow Caxton member Adam Doskey and I revisited two old favorites, El Quijote and

Keens Steakhouse, the second of which is packed to the gills with Victorian playbills and other theatrical ephemera.

The list goes on, of course, but as a final tip, I must mention Bowne & Co. Stationers, a letterpress printer that should tempt any lover of print down to their lower Manhattan shop in the South Street Seaport, filled with 19th-century equipment. After a visit to their store and print shop, I wandered the streets of the seaport, where I indulged my love of fading painted signs advertising long-vanished products and businesses.

I always leave the week energized through my interactions and discussions with fellow bibliophiles, and my encounters with some of the major figures in the field. Mark your calendars for next year's Bibliography Week, which runs from 22 through 27 January 2018. It's not to be missed.

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photo/Ted Boehmer

photo/Robert McCamant

# Frank Schier, 1954-2017, a Remembrance

This page has been corrected after printing; printed copies do not match it.

John P. Chalmers

Frank Schier (1964-2017) was brought to the Caxton Club for his first meeting by his teacher and mentor, Peter J. Stanlis (Caxton 1992-2011) in 2006 and in September, he became a member. (Richard Lamm) seconded. His enthusiasm for the Club was sparked by Stanlis, of course, but Frank brought his own flint and steel wherever he chose to go. As Stanlis's student he studied American literature, and naturally the poetry of Robert Frost. His publications were numerous, including poetry, prose, and journalism. A book of poetry, *Splitting Hairs*, came out in 1982.

He died of cancer on January 17 at the tender age of 63.

In 1992 the old Rockford monthly *North End Times* was up for sale and Stanlis partnered with Frank to acquire it. Frank renamed it the *Rock River Times* and changed it into a weekly. He made it a force in the Rockford community and a vehicle for his own activism. Today it continues, the publisher is Josh Johnson.

Passion for the health and preservation of the Rock River were central and Frank's pockets were usually full of literature about the river when he came to Chicago. His participation in the river preservation



project culminated in the adoption of the Rock River into the National Water Trail System of the National Park Service by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, on April 4, 2013. The Water Trail designation provides protections for the river's 320-mile length running through eleven counties from Fond du Lac and Dodge in Wiscon-

sin to the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Illinois.

Schier was cofounder of the Rockford Area Music Industry awards and cofounder of the Angela Rushford Children's Organ Donation Fund. He received a black belt in Shotokan karate in 1986 and became a Reiki master in 2010.

In organizing some of the details of Peter Stanlis's funeral service, Frank laid out a display of many of the books from Stanlis's working library. Here were the marked-up texts, the Norton anthologies and much else that Stanlis used to teach and inspire several generations of students at the University of Michigan and Rockford College. These books were part of Stanlis's legacy to Frank Schier and became a part of his 3,000-plus-volume library.

At the Club, Schier famously supported the annual Caxton Revels auction, especially the live-auction portion of those festivities. He often required the assistance of friends to exit the Newberry with his acquisitions. In spite of his nonresident status he was a frequent diner at Club meetings. He recruited another Rockfordian, Jan Figa (Caxton 2012) then the library director at Rockford College.

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<https://rockfordadvocate.com/benefit-planned-for-rockford-newsmen-frank-schier-40711/>



## The Caxton Club Is On the Move to the Newly Opened American Writers Museum

WHEN: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

WHERE: American Writers Museum, 180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago

TIME: 5:30 to 8:30 pm

AFTER HOURS ACCESS, GUIDED TOUR, PRESENTATIONS  
RECEPTION WITH WINES AND HEAVY APPETIZERS.

COST: \$35 inclusive. Reservations are required. Register online at [www.caxtonclub.onefireplace.com](http://www.caxtonclub.onefireplace.com) or by calling 312-266-8825. RSVP by June 11.

# Book- and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by Lisa Pevtzow

(Note: on occasion an exhibit may be delayed or extended; it is always wise to call in advance of a visit.)

**Art Institute of Chicago**, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: **“Robert Frank: Photos Books Films”** (exhibit includes 29 photographs by Frank, drawn from his 2014 artist book, *Partida*), May 11 through August 25. **“Cauleen Smith: Human\_3.0 Reading List”** (Chicago-based artist presents a new canon of literacy through hand-drawn book covers), May 27 through October 29.

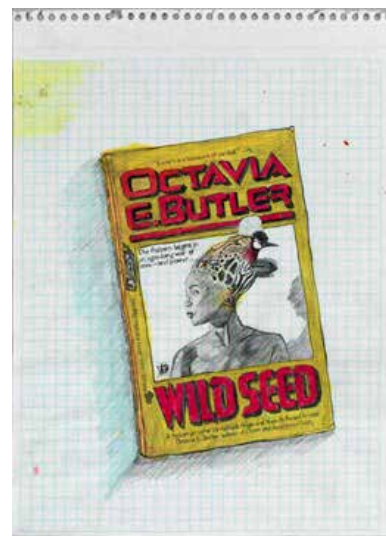
**Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library**, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: **“Botanical Charts: 19th Century Classroom Posters,”** through June 11.

**Chicago Cultural Center**, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: **“Historical F(r)ictions”** (narratives of citizens struggles and protests in Chicago, featuring work by Caxton Club grant winner Jose Resendiz), through May 8. **“Stand Up for Landmarks! Protests, Posters & Pictures”** (images, artifacts, and ephemera relating to saving Chicago landmarks), ongoing.

**Chicago History Museum**, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: **“Chicago Authored”** (works by writers that define the character of Chicago), ongoing.



Art Institute /  
Robert Frank  
ROBERT FRANK. UNTITLED, 2005/14.  
PROMISED GIFT OF RALPH AND NANCY  
SEGALL. © ROBERT FRANK, FROM THE  
BOOK PARTIDA. COURTESY OF PACE/  
MACGILL GALLERY, NEW YORK.



Art Institute /  
Cauleen Smith  
CAULEEN SMITH. WILD SEED, FROM  
HUMAN\_3.0 READING LIST, 2015.  
PROMISED GIFT OF HELEN AND SAM  
ZELL.



Newberry Library / Chicago Calligraphy Collective  
HOMAGE TO BEN SHAHN BY LINDA HANCOCK

**Harold Washington Library Center**, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: **“Called to the Challenge: The Legacy of Harold Washington”** (an overview of Washington’s life and projects as mayor), Harold Washington Exhibit Hall, ninth floor, ongoing.

**Newberry Library**, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090: **“The 31st Juried Exhibition of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective”** (includes handmade artists’ books and broadsides alongside three-dimensional works in a variety of media and styles), through June 14.

**Northern Illinois University Art Museum**, Altgeld Hall, 1425 W. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, 815-753-1936: **“Hand in Hand: The Visual Arts as a Means of Social and Political Propaganda, Protest and Commentary”** (ways artists respond to their social and political landscapes using visual language and hyperbole to critique, valorize, and satirize the events and subjects of their times), through May 20.

**Northwestern University Library**, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: **“Félix González-Torres, Untitled (The End),”** Deering Library (testing institutional assumptions about authorship, viewership, and display practices, including a collection of books on the artist), through May 31. **“Northwestern Remembers the First World War”** (how the war shook the campus, affecting the lives and of faculty and students), through June 16. **“African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean: Culture, Resistance, and Survival”** (aspects of the history, culture, and religion, of people of African ancestry in the region) Herskovits Library of African Studies, continuing.

**Pritzker Military Museum and Library**, 104 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-374-9333: **“Hunting Charlie: Finding the Enemy in the Vietnam War”** (explores U.S. opposition to the war through rarely seen original art pieces), ongoing.

**University of Chicago, Joseph Regenstein Library**, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-8705: **“Tensions in Renaissance Cities”** (interconnected tensions of great capitals from Venice to Mexico City), through June 9.

Send your listings to Lisa Pevtzow at [lisa.pevtzow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisa.pevtzow@sbcglobal.net)

# Caxtonians Collect: Peggy Barber

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Peggy Barber knew that she wanted to be a librarian by sixth grade. Her school library didn't have a librarian, so she volunteered to do shelving and check out books. It didn't take long before she was the librarian. Though they didn't pay her, the sense of power it gave her proved addictive.

She was a California girl, raised in Alhambra, which is south of Pasadena and east of Los Angeles. She went to college, not far away, at the University of California, Riverside, one of the great bargains of the academic world, only \$65 a semester for a very good education. She majored in English, and applied to attend library school thereafter. She ended up far away, at Rutgers in New Brunswick, New

Jersey. (Though very different from southern California, she enjoyed New Brunswick and also had friends who ended up going to Princeton, not far away.)

There followed a brief period when she was actually a librarian, serving the reading public at the Rutgers University Library, the Orange County Public Library, and the San Francisco Public Library.

Soon, however, she became aware of the career possibilities available with the

American Library Association. In 1969 she became director of the Office for Recruitment at the ALA, which did both recruiting for ALA and also helped American libraries with recruitment problems. She published a newsletter, did research in areas of library employment, and developed publicity materials.

In 1974 she moved to the Public Information Office as its director, where she stayed for ten years. She explained, "Libraries have a real problem talking about themselves. Perhaps you've heard of National Library Week. The ALA didn't come up with it. It was the idea of publishers!"

She had a further explanation. "Libraries find themselves awash in the public's passive

positive regard. By that I mean, everybody loves libraries. But a lot of people don't ever visit them or think about them as a part of their lives. We tried to make the point to our members that if you're not supplying a community want and need, nobody is going to pay much attention."

She cited the example of Stamford, Connecticut, which seems to understand how to keep itself in the public eye. Some samples:

- ☞ Every child born in Stamford receives a book.
- ☞ When they're in school, a bus service picks up kindergartners and takes them to the library as often as once a week.
- ☞ When best-sellers have moved out of their period of peak checkouts, they go into a library book shop where they are sold at bargain prices.

- ☞ The library vies with bookstores to bring in



popular writers for its author series. "All this means that Stamford citizens not only think well of their libraries, but also make use of them."

(I asked how she thinks Chicago Public Library is doing, and she was positive. "They know they have to have programs to bring people in, and I think they're doing pretty well at keeping them up despite economic pressures. And Mayor Daley understood the 'anchor' function that neighborhood libraries can provide, so he saw to it that there was money to rebuild and refresh them. Quite a few neighborhood libraries have served to anchor their areas. Libraries can be good investments.")

Barber spent the next 11 years as ALA's associate executive director for development and communications. She supervised a staff of 25, and was kicked further upstairs for her final four years at the ALA, as associate executive director for communications.

But in 2000 it seemed time for a change of pace, so she formed a consulting company (with ALA colleague Linda Wallace) called Library Communication Strategies, Inc. "It was nice to be able to focus more on a few specific projects, instead of having to keep track of the ALA's myriad programs," she explained. And nice to travel more and work at one's own pace, perhaps.

She lives (with a large and friendly dog) in a charming house on a charming block of Fremont. When her late husband first bought

it, it has just gotten over being a neighborhood store. But the neighborhood was changing rapidly, and he saw it as a future home. In the meantime, one of his friends acquired a long bar from a watering hole going out of business, and asked her husband if he could store it in the old storefront while the friend got his furniture business going. It fit perfectly. Before long, her husband bought the bar, which dominates the house and seems to cry out to pull up a stool and have a chat.

This same late-in-life husband provided Barber with a built-in family: she

has six stepkids, 16 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Christmas Eve is usually at the bar on Fremont.

Though she has cut back on her consulting work, she has no intention of cutting it out. "When you cut back, you can concentrate even more on particular issues, and really get to the bottom of what's going on." The message she takes to everyone is the same one she mentioned at the beginning of the interview: any library needs to be doing what its community wants and needs.

She joined the Club in 2013, nominated by Bob Wedgworth and seconded by Wendy Posner.

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## Bookmarks...

**Luncheon: Friday, May 12, Union League Club**  
**Leonard Kniffel:**  
**On "Reading With The Stars"**

Here's a luncheon that celebrates books and libraries as Leonard Kniffel talks about his book *Reading with the Stars*. Kniffel, an author who served as editor-in-chief of *American Libraries*, the magazine of the American Library Association, draws on interviews he has conducted with Barack Obama, Julie Andrews, Jamie Lee Curtis, Bill Gates, Laura Bush, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Mamet, Oprah, and others. His generously illustrated presentation may even include his tale about traveling across Paris in a cab with Olivia de Havilland.

In addition to *Reading With the Stars*, Chicagoan Kniffel has written *Musicals on the Silver Screen* and a memoir titled *A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home*. Join this gifted writer, blogger, storyteller, and speaker for our luncheon in the merry month of May!

*May luncheon: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Luncheon buffet (main dining room on six) opens at 11:30 am; program (in a different room, to be announced) 12:30-1:30. Luncheon is \$32. Reservations or cancellations by noon Wednesday for Friday lunch. Call 312-255-3710 or e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org.*

### Beyond May...

#### JUNE LUNCHEON

This one is a keeper. A lighthouse keeper! Join Caxtonian Donald Terras, author of the award-winning book *The Grosse Point Lighthouse* as he takes us inside the history of the that North Shore landmark. June 9 at the Union League Club.

**Dinner: Wednesday, May 17, Union League Club**  
**Adam Hooks on Printed and Posthumous:**  
**Shakespeare's Monumental Book**

Shakespeare was buried with a spare gravestone inscribed with a curse warning away those tempted to disturb his bones. Seven years later, in 1623, a more elaborate memorial appeared with the first posthumous collection of his texts, *William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies*. This book, now known as the First Folio, has become a monument to the Bard. Although the posthumous nature of the book encourages us to encounter it as a memorial, the texts were published after Shakespeare died, so the volume itself may be seen as a memorial to him. Another way to look at it is as a commercial endeavor of its compilers, editors, printers, and publishers. This talk will contextualize and complicate the narrative the collection presents by explaining why and how the First Folio achieved its fetishized importance, and why we should continue to tell the stories of the other books that comprise Shakespeare's legacy. Adam G. Hooks is an associate professor of English at the University of Iowa. His most recent book is *Selling Shakespeare: Biography, Bibliography, and the Book Trade* (Cambridge, 2016). His current book is a new critical history of Shakespearean authenticity and forgery which will trace the origins of the very idea of "faking" Shakespeare.

*May dinner: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd. The evening will follow this order: Social gathering, 5-6 pm; program, 6 pm; dinner immediately to follow. Drinks, \$7-\$10. Dinner, \$60. Program is free and open to the public. Reservations are required for either the program only or the dinner/program combination. Reservations must be received no later than NOON Monday. Dinner cancellations and no shows made after that time will require payment. To reserve call 312-255- 3710 or e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org.*

#### JUNE DINNER

Anna Chen will offer a "Tribute to Gwendolyn Brooks," highlighting the holdings at the University of Illinois. Attendees will receive a keepsake from the Caxton Club inventory in memory of Ms. Brooks. June 21 at Union League.