

## **Archive of past events**

### **The 2006/7 year-long library theme:**

**Libraries and Danger - A talking tour and slide show of bombed, burned, chained, rejected, and rotting libraries around the world by Wendy Walker and Tom La Farge, novelists and Proteus Gowanus Library Correspondents, Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

The "tour" will encompass libraries endangered by war, politics, thieves, natural disasters, colonial incursions and more idiosyncratic agents of destruction, such as collectors of title pages. We will visit the Library of Alexandria, the Warburg Library, the Holland House Library, the Cotton Library, the Islamic libraries of Timbuktu, Tamegroute, Baghdad, and many more. Also to be discussed are the ways in which libraries are perceived to be dangerous (under the terms of the Patriot Act and local ordinances banning books), and the ways in which that danger has been reified, as in the medieval custom of chaining books. Wendy Walker has created a collection of contemporary "chained books" that are on exhibit and for sale at Proteus Gowanus

**ARLIS – Art Libraries Society of North America, New York meeting and presentation at Proteus Gowanus, November 16.**

### **A Screening by David Gatten - Filmmaker and Guggenheim**

**Fellowship Artist, Sunday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.** Secret History of the Dividing Line, A True Account in Nine Parts, a series of films using the library of William Byrd as a point of departure. At once ghost story, historical romance, and meditation on books, letters, race, land, and labor, Gatten's project, included in the recent Whitney Biennial, uses the largest library of the American Colonies to chronicle the partitioning of landscape, the categorization of knowledge, and the function of libraries as sites of collection and dissemination. Much of William Byrd's library was bought by Thomas Jefferson, who in turn gave his books to the U.S. to form the Library of Congress.

**A screening of films from "The Celestial Library" by artist and filmmaker Jeanne Liotta, Sunday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.,** Jeanne Liotta will screen a selection of made and found slim volumes in 16MM and video on the subjects of landscape, science, and natural philosophy: "hymns to the void, the stars in their courses, the earth under your feet wobbles and drifts." This film series was included in the last Whitney Biennial.

**A talk and slide show by Deirdre Lawrence, Principal Librarian at the Brooklyn Museum Library, Friday, October 27, 7:00 p.m.** Deirdre Lawrence will discuss the early history of the Brooklyn Museum Library

and the 19th century collectors who built its research collections. The presentation will highlight books, photographs, and prints from the collection, and will touch on Walt Whitman's early involvement with the library, and fascination with Egyptian artifacts that became part of the museum collection.

**A slide show and presentation by Rick Prelinger & Megan Shaw**  
**Prelinger of the Prelinger Library:** To Build a Library: An Analog Landscape in Eight Squares, September 5th. Founded by Rick Prelinger and Megan Shaw Prelinger, and based in San Francisco, the Prelinger Library is an access-oriented, image-rich experimental research library of books, printed ephemera, and over 600 periodical titles. It serves readers, artists, scholars and other iconoclastic thinkers and is centered on histories of U.S. regions, culture, industry, landscape, natural history, media, and politics. <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~alysons/library.html>

**Screenings from the Donnell Media Center of the New York Public Library, programmed by filmmaker Jeanne Liotta.** The screenings are a celebration of the public library, and The Donnell Media Center's incredible circulating 16mm film collection:

Sunday, September 17, 7:30 pm, Titles screened reflect the changing attitudes towards the library mission of free culture, access and use in several PSA films produced by libraries themselves in a range of styles representing several decades of the 20th century: Library Services on Staten Island (1940), The Impressionable Years (1953), Seven Readers in Search of an Author (1966), Houston Public Library Commercial (1973), Syntax (1974), A Boy and His Boa (1975)

December 10, Poto and Cabengo, Poto and Cabengo, Director Jean-Pierre Gorin, USA/Germany 1979. A documentary about the six year old twins, Gracie and Ginny Kennedy, who appear to be speaking their own language. Linguists and the media are excited and the girls become stars, until it is revealed that their own language is a pidgin mix of their father's English and their mother's German. Gorin's investigative presence, acting as a counter-balance to the news coverage, gives the film its edge. He presents an unflinching portrait of a fragmented American dream.

**Opening Reception, The Yearlong Interdisciplinary Library Exhibit,** Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**The 2005/6 year-long travel theme:**

**A Reading: Federico Garcia Lorca, presented by Recrossing Brooklyn Ferry/Ad Astra and Le Studio Dramatique M.I.C.S.,** Thursday, July 27. Dominique Borel and Suzanne Khuri will read, in English, from the

poetry, plays and biographies of Federico Garcia Lorca, with Ian Banks on guitar.

**Alfred Tredway White Day, A look at changing currents along the Gowanus Canal**, Sunday, May 7, 3:30 p.m. Using the work of the nineteenth century social visionary, Alfred Tredway White, as a jumping off point, an interdisciplinary group of speakers will look at the area along the Gowanus Canal through a broad cultural lens: historic preservationist Lisa Ackerman, biologist Amy Lesen; author Phillip Lopate; poet Vijay Seshadri; low income housing expert Benjamin Warnke; settlement house fundraiser Sally Yarmolinsky, and composer Ben Yarmolinsky, followed by an oyster and beer bar (a nod to the succulent Gowanus oyster, Brooklyn's first export, enjoyed by Dutch Settlers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century) and an interdisciplinary exhibit and sale of Gowanus related art, artifacts, and books. Proceeds to benefit Brooklyn Community Housing Services.

**Crochet the hyperbolic plane at Proteus Gowanus!** Saturday, March 4, 4 – 6 p.m. Margaret Wertheim, of the Institute For Figuring, a non-profit organization that studies mathematical figurations, will offer a workshop in crocheting the hyperbolic plane, as described in the New York Times, and in numerous other articles <http://theiff.org/press/index.html>. The crochet models were first developed by Cornell mathematician, Daina Taimina, to demonstrate a concept of non-Euclidean space that had stumped mathematicians for centuries. Several of the visually appealing crochet models are on exhibit and for sale at Proteus Gowanus.

**Escape your winter doldrums and travel the world!** Proteus Gowanus invites you to an afternoon of travel-related performances by artists participating in our yearlong Interdisciplinary Travel Exhibit, Saturday, January 28, 12:00 – 6:00. **Ernst Benkert** will stamp and hand out travel tickets from his installation, The Ernst Benkert Travel Desk; have your photograph taken by **Matt Freedman**, in his recreation of The Worst Airplane Ever Invented, the Lockheed XFV-1, as seen in Cabinet Magazine issue #11; travel through molecular space with **Spencer Finch**, as you view his light installation based on the molecular structure of the color black; **Nina Katchadourian** will present a multi-media performance about cultural artifacts that were sent into space; **Charles Goldman**, will perform a live version of American Poem, consisting of all of the place names read at random from a standard AAA road map of the U.S.A. adapted from his 2004 sound recording of the same title; **Sasha Chavchavadze**, will take you on a historical journey through her one-room Cold War museum, The Museum of Matches, an ongoing project at Proteus Gowanus; travel to Cambodia and Laos with **Lance Rutledge**, as you hear his stories and see his artifacts from his frequent travels to Southeast Asia.

**Proteus Gowanus Grand Opening**, November 12, 2005.