

# CIRCUMSPICE

City College Library of The City University of New York

no.63 (n.s.) Fall 2001

## *The Evolution of an Ethnic Community: Dominican-Americans in Upper Manhattan*

**A**cknowledging that the Dominican community represents one of the largest Latino immigrant groups in the United States and the fastest growing ethnic minority in New York City, the library and the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute have created *The Evolution of an Ethnic Community: Dominican-Americans in Upper Manhattan*, an exhibit that runs through November 15, 2001 in the library's Atrium.

### **A Bit of History**

Dominicans began leaving the Dominican Republic and settling in this country, especially in New York, in the mid-nineteenth century. This migration remained sporadic and gradual until 1961, when it began to grow into a massive exodus. The assassination in 1961 of dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, who had kept a tight grip on emigration, removed a major barrier for people who wished to leave their homeland. The turmoil of a civil war in 1965 and the United States military invasion that ensued further exacerbated people's desire to leave home. The Immigration Act of 1965 passed



Dominican-American Day Parade, 1985

Rhadamés Morales

by Congress during the Johnson administration increased the possibility for Dominicans to get visas. Since then, the rate of immigration has continued unabated, leading to the emergence of Dominican-Americans as a visible New York community.

Scheduled to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month, *Evolution* documents the growth of the Dominican community in the United States, specifically in the Washington Heights area. It looks at the life of these New Yorkers and their American experience over the five decades since 1950:

- 1960s: The Initial Push.
- 1970s: The Early Formation of a Community.
- 1980s: Cultural Activism.
- 1990s: Rise in Visibility with Political Awakening.
- 2000s: An Established Ethnic Community.

### **Exhibit Items**

Featured items include a number of black-and-white photographs donated to the Dominican Studies Institute by Josefina Baez, a Dominican-American writer, arts teacher, and dancer. These

images compiled by Ms. Baez are part of *Dominicaras Dominicosas*, an exhibit organized by Latinarte, an artists' organization promoting Latino arts and culture, featuring the work of such photographers as Richard Powell, Onorio Perez, and Rhadamés Morales. The exhibit also contains current photographs of key places in Washington Heights, featuring various Dominican-American businesses, cultural centers, marketplaces, and recreational sites. The documentary, "A Golpe de Guira y Tambora," produced and directed by Maxy Domingo-Sosa, about the social, cultural, and economic development of the Dominican community is also on display.

United States Census maps denoting the ethnic composition of Manhattan for the period 1950-2000 based upon data files compiled by Prof. Andrew A. Beveridge of Queens College are displayed through the generosity of *The New York Times*.



Members of LA 21 División Performing

Debra L. Rothenberg

(Continued on p. 7)

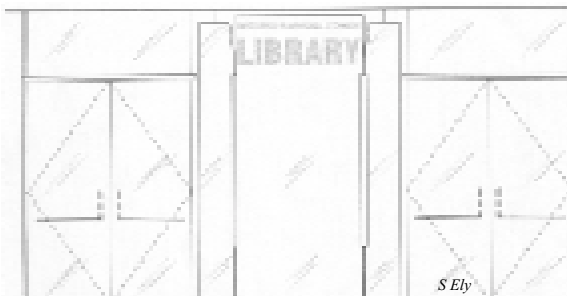




## From The Desk Of The Chief Librarian

### And Inconvenience for All...

**T**hree major projects due to start in Cohen Library shortly will drive us all nuts for months to come. We are slated for a new entrance to the library, replacing the doors off the rotunda; total renovation of the library's four elevators; and replacement of the atrium skylight.



### New Entrance

The first project on the calendar, the new library entrance doors, will be the shortest of the three projects, forcing us all to enter and exit the library from the first floor of the NAC during construction. The contract for the job has been awarded to Compusite, and the doors are being fabricated now. The doors should be delivered sometime around December 7, and installation will take two weeks after that because more sprinkler heads

have to be added to the system as well.

Architect Stephen Ely's drawings seen here capture the sense of the style of the doors, but really can't adequately show that the entire entrance is **glass**. While this new glass entry will dramatically increase the visibility of the library from the rotunda, it will also allow more light into the rotunda itself.

### Elevators

I'm sure all of you know how well the four library elevators function (or not, which is more likely the case). They have been problematic from the day they were installed, and the time has finally come to fix them. The proposal calls for two cars to be worked on at one

time and the project is expected to take 14 months to complete. Keeping the other cars running while the first two are being renovated will be an ongoing challenge to the Mainco technicians.

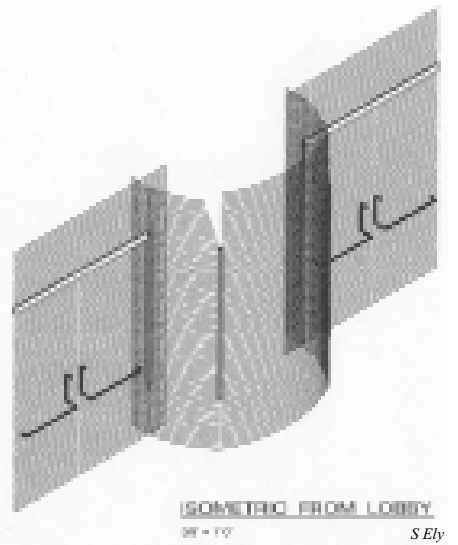
The bid opening for the project was originally scheduled for September 11 in Midtown. Due to the catastrophic events of the day, it was moved to September 24 in Albany, and Continental was the winning bidder. Once the contract is awarded, it usually takes about three months for work to begin. So you will probably return from winter recess to find this project under way.

### Atrium Skylight

Perhaps you've noticed that, every time it rains, our trashcans all migrate to the areas under the skylight to catch the water from myriad drips. These leaks have stained the carpet, caused the paint on the upper walls to peel and metal cabinets to rust, and leaked into rooms that abut the Atrium. This, too, is slated for correction. The entire skylight will be

replaced with modular units touted to be more leak resistant and easier to replace if problems arise in the future.

Naturally, we must be able to operate during this project without putting anyone in danger, so a temporary ceiling will be



erected just above the large globe lights on the west side wall, reducing the ceiling height from seven floors to two. Above that, three temporary work platforms will be erected at the fifth, sixth and seventh-floor levels. This project will go out to bid in December, with a projected starting time of June 2002. It is expected to take nine months to complete, and you should be able to watch its progress from the fourth floor study area on the Amsterdam Avenue side of the Atrium, and from elevator lobby windows.

Comments, suggestions and feedback regarding the library's services are always welcome and should be addressed to me by calling x7271, sending email to [prgcc@scisun.sci.ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:prgcc@scisun.sci.ccny.cuny.edu), or by dropping by NAC 5/333 (Cohen Library).

Pamela Gillespie



### LIBRARY PHONE NUMBERS

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Chief Librarian            | 650-7271    |
| Archives                   | 650-7609    |
| Circulation                | 650-7155    |
| Reference                  | 650-7611-12 |
| Architecture               | 650-8768    |
| Music                      | 650-7174    |
| Science/Engineering        | 650-8246    |
| iMedia                     | 650-6708    |
| Slide Library/Architecture | 650-8754    |
| Slide Library/Art          | 650-7175    |

## Spotlight on Staff

Kicking off this occasional column about the City College Library staff, *CircumSpice* invites you to meet Joe and Tony.

Responsible for support services to users of the library's Assistive Technologies Laboratory on Cohen's third floor, Joe Ciccone and Tony Mirabella each bring a lifetime of experience in successfully coping with new experiences and constantly changing technologies. While they help those in need of assistive technology, Joe and Tony can teach a lot to all of us.

### Joe Ciccone

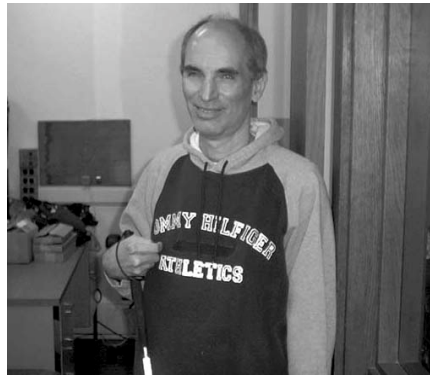
A CCNY alumnus ('67, economics), Joe also earned a master's in special education from the college in 1974. He had entered CCNY after attending PS 90 and Grover Cleveland High School in Queens. Almost totally blind from birth due to complications when he and his twin brother were delivered prematurely, Joe gradually lost what little residual vision remained.

His employment at City began in 1975 when he was called by the program director of the then disabled students program, "who knew me and my abilities." Joe provided City's blind students with skills training, counseling, and help with support services. When his federal funding ran out in 1979, he worked for the New York Philanthropic League with severely disabled clients, returning to the college in 1982 where he continued his previous work, although now under the Department of Student Affairs. In 1999 his part-time line was eliminated and he was hired by the Cohen Library as well as by the Music Department in Shepard Hall, where he fixes and tunes pianos, records concerts, and does "whatever needs to be done."

A quiet determination radiates from Joe and it's not hard to imagine his deciding early on to work his way around his problem. With the help of skilled assistance, he learned to get around a city often bewildering to those with perfect

sight. Seeing Joe emerge from the subway at 145<sup>th</sup> and St. Nicholas Avenue after more than an hour of commuting by bus and train is inspiring. The tapping of his cane sometimes alerts you to his presence. While he's perfectly capable of getting to the campus on his own, he welcomes with a smile the offer of a friendly arm and the collegiality of a walk up the hill. Articulate, informed, and humorous, he makes the walk a highlight.

Of course, Joe knows eight or nine other combinations of subway and bus routes should he need to modify his travel as he did on September 11 when he



Joe Ciccone

guided a blind student from the college to their homes in a city that had temporarily suspended its subway service.

Joe is on call five mornings a week for the library's laboratory that he set up with Tony and Rick Uttich, Chief of Public Services. Joe is thoroughly familiar with that lab's specially equipped computers, as he uses much of the same software at home. His computer there — that he built from parts — is equipped with a speech synthesizer that reads his email to him in addition to other documents that he scans in.

Spending his free time is not hard for this guy. When he's not listening to classical music, burning CDs for himself and friends, and building computers alone or with Tony, he may be trouble shooting friends' and clients' computers.

### Public Transit Fans

A huge fan of public transit—subways and trains, however, not buses, believing them to be less environmentally friendly — Joe says that subways are "a near perfect form of transportation." It is his love of rail transit that prompted his friendship with Tony whom he met through a mutual friend aware of their fascination with rail travel.

### Tony Mirabella

About two years ago Joe put Tony together with Rick who hired Tony also as a college assistant responsible for support services in the lab and for general computer trouble shooting anywhere in the college's library divisions. Tony, though "legally blind" due to dead optical nerve tissues, has 20/400 vision. He commutes daily from the Bronx on the No. 5 from Pelham Parkway switching to the No. 2 and then to the M100 bus to CCNY. The trip takes 45 minutes to an hour each way— time Tony puts to good use reading. His reading material is weighted towards rail travel and he's constantly adding to his book collection. He recommends Stan Fischler's *The Subway; a Trip Through Time on New York's Rapid Transit* (J & M Productions II, 1997) for a good read about New York's subways.

His reading vision is good enough to allow him to dispense with glasses (they wouldn't help him anyway) although he must hold reading material only inches from his eyes. This elicits occasional comments like "why don't you get glasses?" which Tony handles as best he can, although he wishes he didn't have to. When working on computers, he uses a monocular (a vision aid for one eye) to enlarge the screen's text. His biggest problem is distance — he uses a second large monocular to compensate which gives him a 10-fold magnification over a 30 degree area. His general "walking" area of vision is 100 degrees as opposed to the typical 180 degrees.

(Continued on p. 4)

## Spotlight ...

*(Continued from p.3)***Tony Mirabella**

In the library Tony is a welcome arrival when he appears to deal with any of the myriad computer glitches that seem to hit non-stop. Rick assigns him daily to help anxious staff get their computers up and running. Tony says that “usually you get an instinct as to what’s wrong — you can tell what’s up.”

Being a computer technician means “you never stop learning,” according to Tony. Intrigued by computers since his early years at New York’s Laval School for the Blind, Tony attended the Career Blazers Learning Center after high school to earn his A+ certification and his Microsoft certified professional status. The latter certifies Tony for servicing and installing NT workstations and servers. Studying on his own, he learned to do the same for workstations and servers running MS 2000. He’s eager to tackle the intricacies of the new Windows XP operating system.

In his free time, when he’s not working on upgrading his computer skills, you’ll find him riding the rails seven to ten hours weekly, perhaps taking digital pictures of subway yards or train improvements or just checking out route changes. When not in transit, he may be working on his web site “Train Buff Headquarters” at [www.angelfire.com/ny2/subways](http://www.angelfire.com/ny2/subways). Tony’s an active user also of the online bulletin board, “SubTalk” at [www.nycsubway.org](http://www.nycsubway.org).

Tony and Joe are great friends and can often be heard talking on the “phone patch” that Joe improvised—an interface

between a telephone line and a transceiver operating via an antenna that Joe installed on the science building’s roof 10 years ago. Tony recalled his first meeting with Joe— fittingly enough for these transit fans— “on the old south-bound Franklin Avenue shuttle.”

If you spot these two library staffers around campus and have a computer or subway question, you couldn’t do better that asking Joe or Tony.

See the Assistive Technologies Laboratory’s home page at:  
[www.cuny.cuny.edu/library/assistive.html](http://www.cuny.cuny.edu/library/assistive.html)

**Library Hosts Fulbright Scholar**

The libraries of City College have had the pleasure of hosting a Fulbright Scholar this semester. Sandrine Gropp of Paris, France, has been studying library instruction in the academic libraries of the United States. Sandrine hopes to incorporate styles and techniques in instruction at the University of Paris 1 where she is the Head of the Political Science and Law Collection and the Head of the Law and Economics Branch Library.

**Sandrine Gropp**

The collaboration between Ms. Gropp and the CCNY librarians has been beneficial to all. According to Sandrine, “Working for two months at City College Library not only gave me new ideas, but also allowed me to get a critical eye on my professional standards in library instruction as well as other aspects of library work.”

**From the Information Desk...**

The electronic revolution of the past decade has had a profound effect on both users and staff members of the CCNY libraries. While the early predictions of a “paperless society” have yet to be realized, academic library research advances toward a computer-dominated environment. The conversion of the card catalog to a database began our personal electronic revolution. Now, many paper indices used in libraries for generations have gone electronic; many journals and books are available via computer. The academic community has reached the stage where, while still embracing paper text, we openly welcome the advances of the Digital Age.

Researchers using the key databases available at CCNY should be aware of a new web page linked to the City College Libraries home page at [www.cuny.cuny.edu/library](http://www.cuny.cuny.edu/library). Using the “Quick links to selected resources” icon brings the researcher to *The Libraries of The City College of New York Licensed Resources* at [www.cuny.cuny.edu/library/Menu.html](http://www.cuny.cuny.edu/library/Menu.html). This page combines an enormous array of databases available for research. Full-text journals, books and newspapers, E-books, catalogs, a photo archive, and indexes are all available to members of the CCNY community. With 51 databases, subject specialists are sure to find materials in their areas. The titles are varied and include general databases like *EbscoHost Premier* and *Lexis-Nexis* as well as subject databases like *Ei Engineering Village* and *RILM Music Index*.

When using the *Licensed Resources* page, you will notice that in front of each database entry is a lavender box indicating access from a CCNY IP address. Those databases with the “green house” icon are available off campus, using your Library I.D. barcode number (type number with no spaces). If access is denied using your barcode, please stop by the circulation desk in any of our four libraries and update your record.

*(Continued on p. 5)*

From the info...

(Continued from p. 4)

An example of the wealth of information available to the CCNY community from this site is the latest database added to our collection: *EBSCO Host*. When using this database, the researcher can combine the search of eleven separate databases into one. The databases are *Academic Search Premier* (with 3,200 full-text scholarly journals), *Business Source Premier* (with 2,280 full-text scholarly business journals), *CINAHL* (with 1,200 health science journals indexed), *ERIC* (with 980 educational journals and *ERIC* documents), *PsycInfo 1887-Current* (with 1,700 journals indexed), *Econlit* (with 450 international Journals indexed), *Health Source: Nursing: Academic Edition* (with 520 scholarly full-text journals), *Business Wire News* (with international business wires full text), *USP DI Volume II* (with patient-oriented drug information for the lay person), *Medline* (with abstracts of 4,000 biomedical journals), and *MasterFILE Premier* (with 1,880 full-text periodicals).

Upon selecting databases, the user may then limit the search to both full-text and peer-reviewed articles. The final result is a single combined search. One may save to disk, print, or email the search or any of the items that have the full-text icon at the end of the citation.

Tools like *EbscoHost* have changed the face of academic research. Searches that once took hours of research may take seconds. Most importantly, the definition of what is a library now includes research done in the luxury of your home or office. Through your computer, thousands of periodical titles are available 24/7. Exhaustive searches on subjects are realistic without being overwhelming.

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Collection Development  
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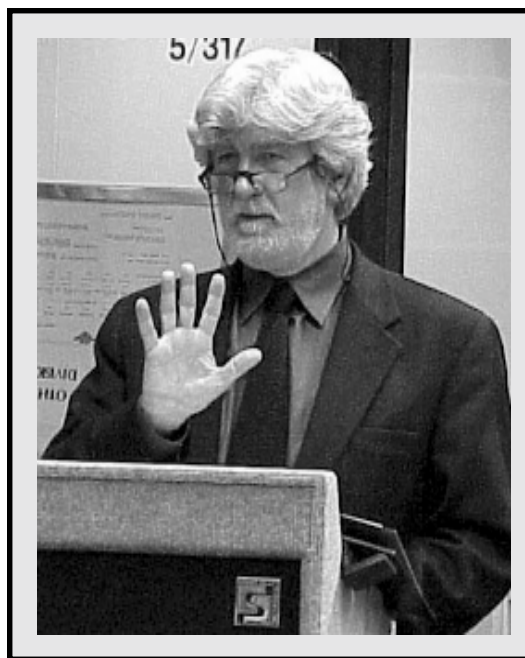
## Stanley Plumly

At the 4th Annual William Matthews Memorial Reading in the Library's Archives, listeners spent an enjoyable hour in May with noted

picture of time spent together. Their closeness continued until Matthews' abrupt, untimely death as Plumly was "coming to New York City to go out to dinner with him after his Thursday class."

Further honoring Matthews, Plumly has co-edited *The Poetry Blues: Essays and Interviews* which features prose works by Matthews. Plumly noted during the reading that, "Bill published forever... and was profoundly committed to fair play," publishing much of his output in "little magazines to keep them supported," work which could easily have appeared in the *New Yorker* and other prestigious venues.

The event was jointly sponsored by the Friends of the City College Library and the Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts at CCNY.



poet Stanley Plumly who has seven published collections of poetry to his credit, including *Summer Celestial* and *Out-of-the-Body Travel* nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

A personal friend of Bill Matthews — the late CCNY English professor and widely published poet who died in 1997 — Professor Plumly, a University of Maryland faculty member, made the hour a personal one for all. He noted that he and Matthews grew up in Ohio, and, in fact, both were present at Harry Truman's "Whistle-Stop Tour" there in 1948 although they didn't realize that until years later. They became close friends after each published his first book in the late 1960s.

Plumly read a number of his own poems in a sonorous voice, including two about Matthews — "Our silent guest of honor." These latter works emphasized the men's friendship and the humanity of each in a humorous way, painting a vivid

### Japan Foundation Grant

Each year the Japan Foundation offers grants under its "Library Support Program." The City College Library has been awarded one of these grants for 2001, having requested support to augment our library collections in the areas of Japanese architecture, arts, and literature. The grant, valued at 500,000 Yen, can be either monetary support or a shipment of books. We chose to select books in English in the three subject areas mentioned, and the shipment arrived on campus the week of October 8. The books should reach our shelves by early November, and we are delighted to acknowledge the Japan Foundation's support of our programs.

# Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now!

Monday, April 15, 2002  
5:00 p.m.



## Professor Billy Collins

Poet Laureate of the United States

will give the 5th Annual William Matthews Memorial Reading to open National Library Week at The City College Library.

## Government Documents Librarian Appointed



The City College Library welcomes Grace-Ellen McCrann as Government Documents Librarian. She is not brand new on the block, however, as she's been an adjunct since fall 2000 providing reference service at the Information Desk where she continues to appear.

After earning her MLS from North Carolina Central University, Grace-Ellen worked in a public library and in the State Library of North Carolina where she was involved in the GILS (Government Information

Locator Service) Metadata Project. Immediately prior to joining CCNY, she was the Special Collections Librarian for the New Jersey Historical Society. In her spare time, she writes and edits. Look for her article "The Jersey Blues" in the upcoming *New Jersey Encyclopedia* (Rutgers University Press).

Grace-Ellen is delighted with her new role at City and looks forward to organizing, cataloging, and publicizing the wealth of government document information that the library receives every day. This librarian also plans to put her web and other Internet-related skills to good use in her new role.

## Library Events 2001 - 2004

*Women at City College:  
A Fifty-Year Anniversary*  
November 18, 2001 - February 15, 2002  
Cohen Library Atrium

*Fashion and Surrealism*  
March 15 - June 5, 2002  
Cohen Library Atrium

**5th Annual William Matthews  
Memorial Reading**  
Poet Laureate **Billy Collins**  
April 15, 2002

*The Jazz Age in Paris 1914-1940*  
A SITES/ALA/NEH Exhibition  
January 18 - March 6, 2003  
Cohen Library Atrium

*The Artistry of African Currency*  
A SITES Exhibition  
November 6 - December 19, 2004  
Cohen Library Atrium

## Library Book Sale

Thursday, November 1, 2001

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NAC Rotunda

Hardcover books \$1.00

Paperbacks and Journals \$.50

## Delegation from Shimoda, Japan Visits Cohen Library

On July 18, marking 16 years of annual visits, City College hosted a delegation of 12 visitors from Shimoda, this year led by Mayor Naoki Ishii and his wife. Vice Consuls Takatoshi Mori and Takehiko Wajima from the Consulate General of Japan in New York joined East Asian Studies students and two-dozen members of the City College administration, faculty, and staff in greeting the visitors. This event honored Townsend Harris, the founder of the Free Academy (now City College) and the first American diplomat sent in 1856 to Japan where he was stationed in Shimoda.

Archivist Sydney Van Nort made a presentation illustrated by documents and memorabilia from the Townsend Harris collection. Among the items on display were the American flag made for

Mr. Harris in Japan in 1857 for his presentation to the court of the Shogun in Edo (now Tokyo) to open the official trade treaty negotiations, his diplomatic



Philip J. Carvalho

passport and pouch, and volumes of his journals and letterbooks.

The first documented reference to this special 31-star flag made of Japanese silk crepe was read to the audience from

*The Complete Journal of Townsend Harris: First American Consul and Minister to Japan* (Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1959). The entry for Monday, November 23, 1857, reads, "At eight this morning I start on my journey to Yedo. I went on horseback; the morning was very fine, and the idea of the importance of my journey and the success that had crowned my efforts to reach Yedo, gave me a fine flow of spirits. The American Flag was borne before me, and I felt an honest pride in displaying it in this hitherto secluded country."

The flag meant a great deal to this American citizen isolated as he was for months on end. It was the first flag of any foreign nation displayed in Japan since the 17th century.

At the reception greetings and gifts were exchanged, including two copies of the Japanese translation of *Behind the*

*Silken Curtain: The Story of Townsend Harris* (Julian Messner, Inc., 1961) presented by its author, Israel Levine, to Mayor Ishii. The mayor gave several copies of the exhibition catalog, *The Kurofune Art Collection*, from the Ryosenji Treasure Museum to City's Assistant Vice President for Campus Communications Mary Lou Edmondson.

Sydney Van Nort  
sunnyv57@hotmail.com

*The Evolution...*

(Continued from p.1)

The exhibit's opening event on October 10 drew a packed house that included many from the local community. They heard the well-received Dominican-American fiction writer Angie Cruz read from her novel, *Soledad* (Simon and Schuster, 2001), set in Washington Heights. In a first for these readings, all the copies of *Soledad* on hand sold out. Ms. Cruz autographed them and freely shared her thoughts on the writing process with would-be writers during the post-event reception. Prior to that, a rousing performance of traditional Dominican music by La 21 División and Boni Raposo drew even more people into the library's Atrium where they cheered on the performers.

Curated by librarians Sarah Aponte, Prof. Robert Laurich, Prof. Julio Rosario, and Sydney Van Nort, the exhibit is part of the New York City History Festival and New York Archives Week. Additional support has been provided by the Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts at CCNY.

Be sure to view *Evolution* in the Cohen Library Atrium before November 15. For more information please call the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at 212-650-7496.

Sarah Aponte  
aponte@ccny.cuny.edu

Sydney Van Nort



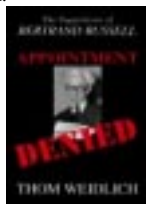
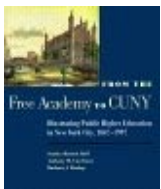
### Support the CCNY Libraries every time you shop at Amazon.com!



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[www.ccny.cuny.edu/library/](http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/library/)

Amazon.com will donate 5% of your purchase to the CCNY Libraries every time you use this link.



The CCNY Libraries recommend two titles in particular:

- ◆ *From the Free Academy to CUNY* by Sandra Shoick Roff, Anthony Cucchiara and Barbara Dunlap
- ◆ *Appointment Denied: The Inquisition of Bertrand Russell* by Thom Weidlich

Both titles deal with the fascinating history of City College and are highly recommended.

Amazon.com will donate 15% of purchases made of these titles when you use our links.

### Donor Honor Roll

The gifts below represent the vital commitment of individuals to the library. Donors of both monetary gifts and collections are listed according to the total amount of their library donations.

#### \$1,000+ (FOUNDER)

Bernard Bernbaum '34  
 David Bushler '56  
 Franklin M. Harold '52  
 Class of 1950 in celebration of  
 their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Jacob Jay Lindenthal  
 Nanice Lund  
 Kathleen Pritchard  
 Josh Weston '50  
 J.A. Yager '24

#### \$500-\$999 (PATRON)

Mary F. Dunham  
 Max Gulack '48  
 Eugene Herscher '47

#### \$250-\$499 (FRIEND)

Bernard Bellush '41  
 Alexander S. Onassis Public  
 Benefit Foundation (USA)  
 Edward Silverman  
 Lawrence A. Weller '49

#### \$150-\$249 (SESQUICENTENNIAL SUPPORTER)

Judy Connorton  
 Jim Cotten  
 Anni Newbeck

#### \$100-\$149 (REGULAR MEMBER)

R. Inez Baker in memory of  
 Leonard Baker '39  
 Christian D. Berger '47  
 Robert A. Laurich  
 Melva Peterson  
 Bernard Sohmer  
 Louis Stein '42  
 Betty Ann & Ralph Zuzolo

#### \$1-\$99 (ASSOCIATE MEMBER)

Harriet Alonso  
 Howard C. Appleman '48  
 Murray S. Blum  
 Barbara J. Dunlap  
 Jay Freeman '60  
 Jan Greenberg  
 Domenico S. Procopio '56  
 Herbert Robinson '37  
 Elizabeth Starcevic  
 David Unger

Wilhelmina Varner  
 Stanley A. Warren '38  
 Louise Wile '69  
 Rosamond L. Wilen  
 Donald H. Young

This Donor Honor Roll lists gifts received by the library between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Please notify Library Development at (212) 650-7271 of any errors or omissions.

### Jazz in the Library

The Cohen Library Atrium swayed to jazz refrains, both literary and musical, on September 19 as the library celebrated New York Is Book Country during “The Ways of Jazz History: A Literary Jam Session.”

Linda Dahl led off the program discussing her latest book, *Morning Glory: A Biography of Mary Lou Williams*, a woman who “played through all the eras of jazz.” Ms. Dahl described her subject’s life in the neighborhood—she lived on Hamilton Terrace—her 1960s campaign to save jazz, her composing and arranging career and her belief in “pain, suffering, healing and jazz.”

Two other jazz greats—the inimitable Billie Holiday and the legendary Duke Ellington—are subjects of recent books by presenters Farah Jasmine Griffin and A.H. Lawrence. Professor Griffin’s *If You Can’t Be Free, Be a Mystery* incorporates biographical material as well as musical criticism. It is an exploration of Billie Holiday as ancestor and of the competing myths about her life. *Duke Ellington and His World* by Lawrence offers a look at one of America’s greatest musical figures. Mr. Lawrence told an anecdote, left out of the final publication, about Duke Ellington’s 1933 trip to England where he met and became friendly with “the Whale,” who sat in on drums with Ellington’s orchestra at parties. “The Whale” was the then Prince of Wales, later Duke of Windsor.

The fourth panelist, Alyn Shipton, a BBC jazz authority, was unable to

attend due to flight problems caused by the September 11 attacks. Chief Librarian Pamela Gillespie read the author’s interview with Eubie Blake, where he discusses his musical influences, from the “Piano Jazz” section of his latest work, *A New History of Jazz*. She followed it with a short portion of Mr. Shipton’s chapter on the “Politicization of Jazz.”

While the authors signed copies of their works for eager purchasers, the Harlem Jazz Ensemble opened its portion of the program with jazz standards: “Falling Leaves,” “Summertime” and “God Bless the Child...,” featuring the gritty vocals of Tamm E Hunt, Brad Leali on alto sax, Cody Moffett on drums, John Benitez on bass and James Weidman on piano. Sonia Robinson, a last-minute addition to the ensemble, provided lively violin accompaniment.

Guest vocalists were brought out of the audience later in the program. Ms. Whitney Marchelle, a performer at the Cotton Club, sang a sultry rendition of “Route 66,” and Ms. Cynthia Holiday, a frequent performer at Decade, offered a soulful rendition of “I’ve Got It Bad and That Ain’t Good.”

Dean Gillespie dedicated the evening’s program to its “angel and guiding spirit” David Earl Jackson, a NYIBC board member who conceived of the literary jam and had planned to moderate the event prior to his sudden death last summer.

This event was co-sponsored by the City College Library, the Harlem Jazz Foundation, the Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts at CCNY, and the CUNY Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean.

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