



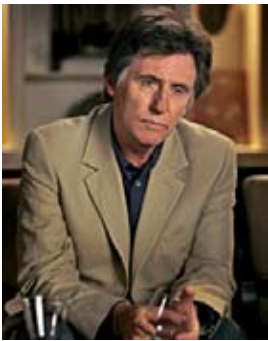
the PS8 PTA
PROUDLY
PRESENTS

— the FIRST ANNUAL —

Night to Celebrate Reading

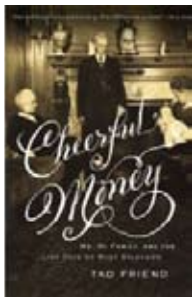
— Thursday, November 19, from 7-9 pm —

Umbrage Gallery, 111 Front Street, No 208, DUMBO

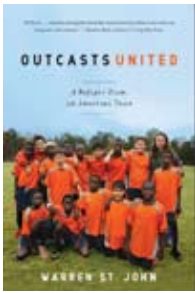


GABRIEL JAMES BYRNE is an Irish actor, film director, film producer, writer, and audiobook narrator. His acting career began in the Focus Theatre before he joined London's Royal Court Theatre in 1979. Byrne's screen debut came in the Irish soap opera *The Riordans* and the spin-off show *Bracken*. The actor has now starred in over 35 feature films, such as *The Usual Suspects*, *Miller's Crossing* and *Stigmata*, in addition to writing two. Byrne's producing credits include the Academy Award-nominated *In the Name of the Father*. Currently, he is receiving much critical acclaim for his role as Dr. Paul Weston in the HBO drama *In Treatment*. In November 2004, Byrne was appointed a UNICEF Ireland Ambassador. He received the Honorary Patronage of the University Philosophical Society, of Trinity College, Dublin on February 20, 2007. He was awarded an honorary degree in late 2007 by the National University of Ireland, Galway, in recognition of Byrne's "outstanding contribution to Irish and international film."

— Reading Begins, Part I, 7 to 8 PM —



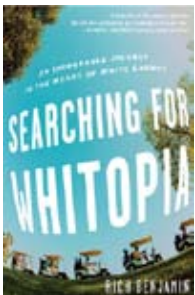
TAD FRIEND will read from his memoir, *Cheerful Money: Me, My Family, and the Last Days of Wasp Splendor*. Friend grew up in Buffalo, NY, and Swarthmore, PA (his father was the president of the college), went to Harvard and got a job at Steve Brill's *The American Lawyer* out of school. Next came stints at *Spy*, *Esquire*, *Vogue*, *New York*, and *Outside*, before landing at *The New Yorker* in 1998. Currently Friend is a staff writer there where he writes the magazine's "Letter from California." One of Friend's most resonant pieces for *The New Yorker* was "The Playhouse," an intimate look at his mother, Elizabeth Pierson Friend. Out of that came the idea to write a book for Little, Brown on his family and WASPs, with a focus on the themes of ambivalence and dissatisfaction. Prior to *The New Yorker*, he wrote regularly for *Outside*, *New York*, and *Esquire*, and wrote travel stories from all seven continents. He is the author of *Lost in Mongolia: Travels in Hollywood and Other Foreign Lands*, (2001), a collection of his articles. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Amanda Hesser, and their children, Walker and Addie. For more information, please visit www.newyorker.com.



WARREN ST. JOHN will read from *Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town*. St. John is a reporter for *The New York Times* and has written for *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, the *New York Observer*, and *Wired*. St. John is the author of the National Bestseller *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Road Trip into the Heart of Fan Mania*. The book explores the phenomenon of sports fandom and chronicles the Alabama Crimson Tide's 1999 season by following the team in an RV, telling the stories of similarly devoted fans he met during the season. *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer* was named one of *Sports Illustrated's* best books of the year, and ranked number one on *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* list of the best books ever written about collegiate athletics. His book, *Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, An American Town*, is the story of a team of refugee boys, the remarkable woman who coaches them, and the town where they live, a once-sleepy southern hamlet that has been upended by the process of refugee resettlement. St. John was born in Birmingham, Alabama and attended The Altamont School and later Columbia University in New York City, where he now lives with his wife, Nicole, and their son. For more details, please visit www.outcastsunited.com and www.rammerjammeryellowhammer.com.



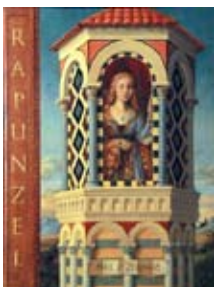
MELISSA MILGROM will read from her forthcoming novel, *Still Life: Adventures in Taxidermy* (due out in March 2010) for which she's already received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*. She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Travel and Leisure*, and *Metropolis*, among other publications. She has also produced radio segments for Public Radio International's Studio 360. She holds a master's degree in American studies from the University of Pennsylvania and lives in New York City with her husband and two daughters: one who just graduated PS8 and now attends middle school and another currently in second grade at PS8. For more details, please visit www.melissamilgrom.com.



(Daniel Rembert)

(Beowulf Sheehan)

RICH BENJAMIN will be reading from his book titled, *Searching for Whitopia: An Improbable Journey to the Heart of White America*. Benjamin is Senior Fellow at Demos, a nonpartisan national think tank. Barbara Ehrenreich calls the book "a daring feat of 21st Century exploration that will have you laughing and shuddering at the same time." Benjamin's social and political commentary is featured on television, on NPR and Fox radio, in major newspapers and magazines, and in scholarly venues. He holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. from Stanford. Please visit him at www.richbenjamin.com.

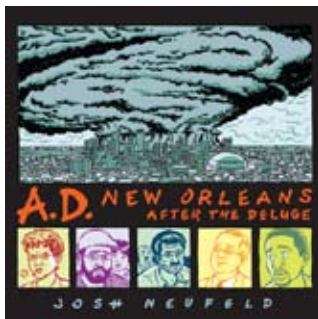


PAUL O. ZELINSKY will speak about his retelling of *Rapunzel*, which received the 1998 Caldecott Medal. Zelinsky has also received three Caldecott Honors, for *Swamp Angel*, *Rumpelstiltskin* and *Hansel and Gretel*, and numerous other awards for his illustrations. He is the creator of the best-selling mechanical book *The Wheels on the Bus*. Zelinsky grew up in Illinois, received a B.A. from Yale College and an M.F.A. in painting from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, and has lived in Brooklyn Heights for thirty-two years. He is recognized as one of the most inventive and critically successful artists in children's literature. His wife Deborah Hallen taught at P.S. 8 until her retirement, and their two grown daughters also attended P.S. 8. For more details on Zelinsky's books, please visit www.paulozelinsky.com.



JANICE EIDUS will read from her most recent novel, *The War of the Rosens*. She has won numerous awards for her writing, including two O. Henry Prizes. Her other books include the short story collections, *The Celibacy Club* and *Vito Loves Geraldine*, and the novel, *Urban Bliss*. Her fiction and nonfiction appear in such anthologies as *The Oxford Book of Jewish Stories*; *Desire: Women Write About Wanting*; and, *110 Stories: New York Writes After September 11*, and also in leading journals including *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, and *The Forward*. Her forthcoming novel is *The Last Jewish Virgin*. She and her family moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn two years ago, and now divide their time between Brooklyn and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Please visit her at www.janiceeidus.com.

— Reading Continues, Part II, 8 to 9 PM —

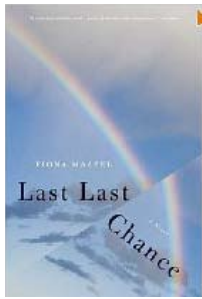


(Seth Kushner)

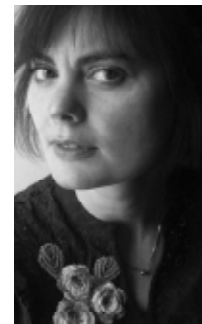
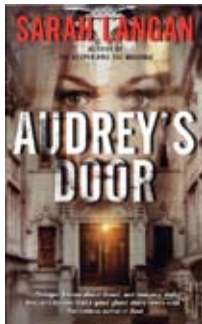
JOSH NEUFELD will speak about *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*. He is a cartoonist and illustrator. Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, he spent three weeks as an American Red Cross volunteer in Biloxi, Mississippi. The blog entries he kept about that experience turned into a self-published book, *Katrina Came Calling*, which in turn led to *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*, a nonfiction story of Katrina and its effects on the city from the individual perspectives of seven real-life Crescent City residents. Neufeld works primarily in the realm of nonfiction comics. He won the Xeric Award for his graphic travelogue *A Few Perfect Hours (and Other Stories from Southeast Asia & Central Europe)*. His work has been featured in *The Vagabonds*, *Keyhole*, and *Titans of Finance*, as well as in numerous comics anthologies, newspapers, magazines, and literary journals. He is a longtime artist for Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor*, and his art has been exhibited in gallery and museum shows in the United States and Europe. Neufeld's next project is a comic book-style exploration of the future of media with NPR "On the Media" co-host Brooke Gladstone. Their book, titled *The Influencing Machine*, is due from W.W. Norton in 2010. Neufeld lives in Brooklyn, with his wife, the writer Sari Wilson, and their daughter. For more details, please visit www.JoshComix.com, www.smithmag.net/afterthedeluge and 4-eyez.livejournal.com.



BETH FELDMAN will read from her humor anthology entitled, *See Mom Run: Side-Splitting Essays from the World's Most Harried Blogging Moms*. Feldman is the founder of Role Mommy, an online community and events company dedicated to inspiring, entertaining and empowering today's busy moms to pursue their passion while raising a family. She is a former television network executive who pole-vaulted off the corporate ladder to become the president of her own PR consulting agency, as well as the host of Blog Talk Radio's brand new Role Mommy Radio network. Beth is the co-author of *Peeing in Peace: Tales & Tips for Type A Moms*, and is a contributor to the new bestseller *True Mom Confessions*. For more details, please visit www.rolemommy.com. **LIZ GUMBINNER** is a contributor to *See Mom Run* and is the voice behind the popular blog Mom-101 (www.mom-101.com) which has been featured in *The New York Times* and on NPR, and called "funny some of the time" by an enthusiastic anonymous commenter. Liz's essays appear in a number of anthologies including *True Mom Confessions* and *Sleep is for the Weak*, and publications *Brain, Child* and *Time Out Kids*. She's also the publisher of the design + shopping site CoolMomPicks.com. Liz lives in Brooklyn Heights with her partner and their two daughters.

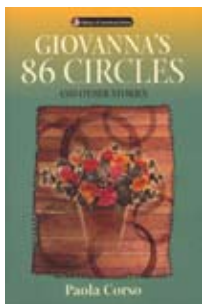


FIONA MAAZEL will read from *Last Last Chance: A Novel*, that was named *Time Out New York* Best Book of the Year. She is a 2008 National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” honoree, winner of the Bard Fiction Prize for 2009, and in 2005, she was awarded a Lannan Literary Fellowship. Maazel was born in Cleveland and is a writer and freelance editor. Her work has appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *Tin House*, *Bomb*, *The Mississippi Review*, *The Village Voice*, *The Boston Book Review* and on salon.com. Maazel’s first novel, *Last Last Chance*, was published in March 2008 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. It tells the story of Lucy Clark, a drug addict with a complicated family and a difficult life. *The New York Times* said of the book: “*Last Last Chance* isn’t your average novel, thanks in no small part to Maazel’s funny, lacerating prose.” Maazel lives in Brooklyn and is working on her next novel. For more details, please visit www.lastlastchance.com.

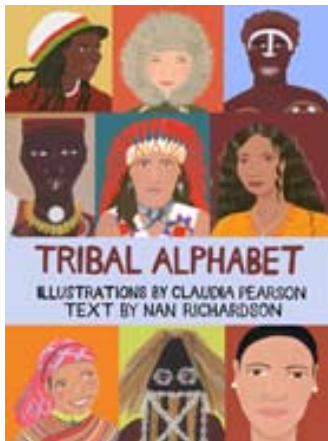


(JT Petty)

SARAH LANGAN will read from *Audrey's Door*. Her first novel *The Keeper* (2006), was a *New York Times* Editor’s Pick. Her second novel, *The Missing* (2007), won the Bram Stoker Award for outstanding novel, was a *Publishers Weekly* favorite book of the year, and an IHG outstanding novel nominee. *The New York Times Book Review* recently compared her to Mary Shelley, extolling *The Missing*’s “mournful end-of-the-world narrative,” and her “vision of a society perishing from within, exhausted by its own excesses.” Her third novel, *Audrey's Door* is about a woman who moves into a haunted apartment building on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Langan is currently at work on her fourth novel, *Empty Houses*. She has published a dozen short stories and several essays. She’s a half a thesis short of a master’s degree in environmental toxicology from New York University. Langan lives in Brooklyn, with her husband, screenwriter/director/children’s book author J. T. Petty, and daughter, Clementine. They have a house rabbit named Lorraine, who hates her vegetables. Please visit her at www.sarahlangan.com



PAOLA CORSO will read from her short story collection titled, *Giovanna's 86 Circles and Other Stories*. She is an award-winning fiction writer, poet, and essayist whose honors include a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship in poetry, the Sherwood Anderson Fiction Award, The Jerome Lowell DeJur Award for Creative Writing. She was also the recipient of the Alice and Irwin Stark Short Fiction Prize from The City College of New York where she earned her master’s degree in creative writing. She published two collections of poems, *Death by Renaissance* and *A Proper Burial*, and is the co-editor of a special issue of *Politics of Water: A Confluence of Women's Voices in International Feminist Journal of Politics*. In addition to her master’s in creative writing, she holds a master’s in public administration from San Francisco State University. A native of Pittsburgh, she now lives in Brooklyn with playwright Michael Winks and sons, Giona and Mario. Please visit her at www.paolacorso.com.



NAN RICHARDSON & CLAUDIA PEARSON, writer and illustrator of *A Tribal Alphabet*. **NAN RICHARDSON** has worked as an editor, writer, and curator for over twenty years, on nearly two hundred book titles, at Aperture, Random House, and Chanticleer Press, as well as with museums and small publishers in the United States and Europe, including DIA, The Renaissance Society, The Milwaukee Art Museum, the Musee d'Orsay, and The Victoria and Albert. She founded an artistic, socially conscious, and photojournalism-oriented publishing company called Umbrage Editions (formerly a packager known as Umbra and specializing in visual books) in 1991, and has published nearly seventy books under the imprint. Among the recent titles are: *Pandemic: Facing Aids*, *Anthony Fry, Speak Truth to Power*, *Louise Dahl Wolfe: A Retrospective*, *Blood and Honey: A Balkan War Journal*, *RFK Funeral Train*, *Havana: The Revolutionary Moment*, and *Raising The Bar: New Horizons in Disability Sport*. Richardson has written for a variety of periodicals including *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *The Boston Review of Books*, *Stern*, *Granta*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Allure*, *Interview*, *Art News*, *Artforum*, *Art & Auction*, *Art and Antiques*, *Art in America*, *Journal of Art*, and the *Mother Jones*. She is the former editor of Aperture and has lectured and taught widely on photography and bookmaking. She lives in New York City with her husband Andrew Karsch, a film producer and children. **CLAUDIA PEARSON** graduated with First Class Honors in Graphic Design in the UK in 1992. Disenchanted with typography she went on to work with some of the leading animation companies in London (on Beatrix Potter series and other familiar tales) and to travel around the world. She moved to New York in 1994, represented first by Art Department now with Traffic NYC. Her eclectic editorial work has included commissions for *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Elle*, *Elle UK*, *Elle Decor*, *Flaunt*, *GQ*, *Marie Claire*, *New Yorker*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, *Travel & Leisure*, *TV Guide*, *World of Interiors*, Chronicle Books, Clarkson N. Potter, Simon & Schuster. She also does Corporate and Design work for, among others, Comedy Central, Emmanuel Ungaro, Knoll, Lane Bryant, Neiman Marcus, Redken. Calvin Klein and Razorfish/Avenue A. BDDP, Opts, Pentagram, Tweeds/Hanover Direct, Werner Design Works (for Target). She is married to a South African musician and has two young children. *Tribal Alphabet* is her first book, and along with Richardson, they were the winners of the Stuart Brent Multicultural Award for Outstanding Children's Literature and the Independent Publishers Moonbeam Award. For more details, please visit www.umbragegallery.com and www.umbragebooks.com.



(Andreas von Lintel)

ARTHUR PHILLIPS will read from *The Song is You: A Novel*. Phillips was born in Minneapolis in 1969 and educated at Harvard. He has been a child actor, a jazz musician, a speechwriter, a dimly failed entrepreneur, and a five-time Jeopardy! champion. His first novel, *Prague*, a national bestseller, was named a *New York Times* Notable Book, and received *The Los Angeles Times*/Art Seidenbaum Award for best first novel. His second novel, *The Egyptologist*, was a national and international bestseller, and was on more than a dozen "Best of 2004" lists. *Angelica*, his third novel, was a national bestseller and made *The Washington Post* best fiction of 2007. His work has been translated into twenty-five languages. *The Song Is You* is his fourth novel. He lives in New York with his wife and two sons. For more details, please visit www.arthurphillips.info.

*Donated copies of the following books are available for sale.
— All proceeds go to the PTA of PS8. —*

JONATHAN AMES

The Alcoholic (signed copy)

STEPHEN ELLIOTT

The Adderall Diaries: A Memoir of Moods, Masochism and Murder

VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN & MIKE ALBO

The Underminer: The Best Friend Who Casually Destroys Your Life (signed copies)

JULIE SALAMON

*Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape,
Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids* (signed copies)

DAVID SAMUELS

The Runner (signed copies)
Only Love Can Break Your Heart (signed copies)

AMY SOHN

Prospect Park West (signed copies)

*The PS8 PTA is enormously grateful to the following businesses
and individuals who made Night to Celebrate Reading possible.*

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PS8 Parent Nan Richardson of
Umbrage Editions and Umbrage Gallery
Two Trees for the additional reading space

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Blue Ribbon Brooklyn
Foragers Market
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PUBLISHERS

Graywolf Press
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Pantheon
Picador
Plain White Press
Random House
Simon & Schuster

SOUND

Craig Burd of American High Definition

**AND OF COURSE, ALL OF THE PARENTS
WHO HAVE HELPED OUT, AND THE
WONDERFUL AND TALENTED AUTHORS
LISTED IN THIS PROGRAM WHO HAVE
GENEROUSLY GIVEN OF THEIR TIME AND
TALENT TOWARD THIS SPECIAL EVENT
TO BENEFIT PS 8.**