

An aerial photograph of a New York City street scene. A large brick building with a rooftop garden is the central focus. The garden has various plants and a small structure. The street below has cars and a fire lane. The overall scene is urban and vibrant.

Presented by

**TimeOut**  
New York

**Produced by the New York Literary Roundtable**

**74 Events • 48 Venues • 5 Boroughs  
3 Weeks • 1 Festival**

**Lit Fest 2003: Home**

**October 23–November 13**



**“Griots! Poets! Balladeers! Karaoke! Rap! Fiction! Memoir! Live stories! Essays! One-page plays! Deep truths! Bald-faced lies! All addressing the notion of “Home.” Fifty-one literary presenters in all five boroughs have teamed up with hundreds of artists to create a vibrant literary festival as gritty, witty and sexy as the city in which we live. All the programs, all the venues are here. Visit early, visit often, visit any one of us or visit us all—and find a true home away from home.”**

**—New York Literary Roundtable**

## October 23

### Jhumpa Lahiri

Center for Jewish History. 6:30pm.  
\$12, \$7 members, \$5 students.  
Lahiri (author of *Interpreter of Maladies*) reads from her revelatory new novel *The Namesake: A Novel*.

### Writers Come Home

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one drink minimum).  
Sundry writers from the 26-year history of the Cornelia Street Café return to their roots.  
Curated by Robin Hirsch and Angelo Verga.

### “Home” as a thing with feathers that perches in the soul...—An homage to Emily Dickinson

Chez LaRoe. 7pm. \$10.  
LAMIA INK! presents an evening of Performance Flash Fiction, songs, and one page plays.

### Edgar Allan Poe—Great New York Writers in Great New York Places

Masonic Hall. 6:30pm. \$30.  
Readings from the new Library of America volume. Co-sponsored by the City of New York Parks & Recreation and the Merchant's House Museum.

### Maggie Estep, Amanda Stern, and Nelly Reifler

Housing Works Used Book Café. 7 pm. **Free**  
The city as Home: Fiction by Maggie Estep, Amanda Stern, and Nelly Reifler. Presented by Soft Skull Press.

## October 24

### Feature Film and Discussion: *Strangers*

Asia Society. 7pm. \$10, \$7 members, \$5 students.  
Dir. Ramin Bahrani. 2000. 83 mins. Fresh out of college in the U.S., Kaveh's first trip to Iran uncovers startling family secrets.

### Ned Rorem 100th Birthday Celebration

Miller Theatre. 8pm. \$20.  
The New York Festival of Song performs Rorem's "Evidence of Things Not Seen," a setting of 36 poems by 24 poets, including Baudelaire, Frost, Hughes, Whitman and Wordsworth.

### Family Stories: *Belgrade*

The Point CDC Theater. 8pm. \$10.  
A production of a four-character play by Biljana Srbljanovic about children who play at being adults.

### Getting Home

Shortwave Independent Co-op Book Shop. 2pm. **Free**  
Craig Clevenger reads from *The Contortionists Handbook* and Wendy Dale avoids prison at Shortwave.

## October 25

### Dr. Elizabeth Nunez: Booksigning

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. 6pm. **Free**  
The author signs her book *When Rocks Dance*.

### Home: Afro-Caribbean Writers

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Curated by Martine Dominique.

### Queens is a home away from home

Forest Hills Branch, Queens Borough Public Library. 2pm. **Free**  
Warren Lehrer and Judith Sloan share their experiences traveling the world in their own Queens backyard and reflect on an often paradoxical America.

### Urban Word NYC

Last Saturday Slam  
Bowery Poetry Club. 1–3pm. \$5 adults, \$3 teens, Free to performers (teens are allowed to enter the contest). First come, first served.

## October 26

### Cultural Circle Conference 2003–Caribbean Literature: Celebrating The Sweetness of Home

Schomburg Center. 12:00–5pm. \$40.  
African Voices hosts this conference on career opportunities for writers and artists, and the influence Caribbean writers have made to American literature.

### You Can't Go Home Again

Barbes. 6pm. **Free**  
Readings by Nelly Reifler, Beth Bosworth, Lisa Shea and Abigail Thomas.

## October 27

### The Brooklyn Rail presents: Home

Galapagos Art Space. 7pm. \$10.  
In conjunction with Poets & Writers, the Brooklyn Rail presents poets Frances Richard and Monica de la Torre and novelist Donald Breckinridge reading about 'home.'

### African Voices present Long Journey Home

Langston Hughes Library. 6pm. **Free**  
Spoken word artists Layding Kaliba, Sydnee Stewart, Danny Simmons and Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie reflect on home from the African-American experience. Co-sponsored by Poets & Writers.

## October 28

### Poems of Place: A Reading and Conversation with April Bernard

Baruch College, The Newman Conference Center, 7th Fl. 5:45pm. **Free**

Poets & Writers co-sponsors this reading by Bernard from her newest collection, *Swan Electric*.

### Mistaken Identities

Storage Art Space. 7pm. **Free**  
The Bronx Writers Center and the Literary Freedom Project present poets Oscar Bermeo, Lynne Procope and Patrick Rosal examine the tenuous connections between the native cultures of their parents and their own American identities.

### Language is the Homeland: Basque Writers and Songs

The Kitchen. 7pm. \$10.  
Radical voices from a culture without a country. With poet Kirmen Uribe, translator Elizabeth Macklin, musician Mikel Urdangarin, and historian Mark Kurlansky (*Salt: A World History*, *The Basque History of the World*).

### Playwrights on the Edge

Jackson Heights Branch, Queens Borough Public Library. 2pm. **Free**  
Immigrants Theater Project presents panel discussion with Latino writers and playwrights whose works address the immigrant experience. In Spanish.

### Dysfunction at Home

Three Lives Bookstore. 7pm. **Free**  
Matthew Sharpe reads from *The Sleeping Father*.

### Phillip Lopate On the Town

Teachers & Writers Collaborative. 7:30pm. **Free**  
Phillip Lopate will read selected essays about New York from his new book *Getting Personal: Selected Writings* and from his forthcoming history of the New York waterfront.

### Karaoke + Poetry = Fun: The KPF All-Star Show

Bowery Poetry Club. 9:30pm, \$6  
Daniel Nester's singing school series offers the best singer-poets from its past 13 installments: Todd Colby, Regie Cabico, Jennifer Knox, and others attempt at verse and vibrato. Presented by Unpleasant Event Schedule.

## October 29

### Fence Magazine & Books Benefit Play-Reading

Dactyl Foundation. 7–10pm. \$35.  
A benefit reading of Joyelle McSweeney's verse play *The Commandrine*.

### The Happy Ending Reading Series

Happy Ending. 8pm. **Free**  
Topic: Home on the edge. Host Amanda Stern welcomes authors Brock Clarke, Hannah Tinti and Alix Ohlin, and the band Unpleasant Event Schedule.

## October 30

### The Poetry Society of America Presents:

### New York Poets Read at Home

Tishman Auditorium, The New School. 7:30pm.  
\$7, \$5 for PSA members and students.  
Description: Readings by Charles Bernstein, Anselm Berrigan, Kimiko Hahn, D. Nurse, Sekou Sundiata, Monica de la Torre.

### Home and Exile, Politics and Poetry: A Conversation with Eliot Weinberger and Bei Dao

Poets House. 7pm. \$7, Free for members.  
Cultural critic Eliot Weinberger and poet Bei Dao discuss the ways in which poetry can respond to cultural and political disenfranchisement, and to exile from one's own home. Bei Dao will also read from his poetry.

## October 31

### A Home for Politics

Shortwave Independent Co-op Book Shop. 2pm. **Free**  
Stephen Elliot hosts Ben Greenman, Paul LaFarge and Tsaurah Litsky reading from MacAdam-Cage's new anthology *Politically Inspired*.

## November 1

### “Shelter”

The Asian American Writers' Workshop. 7pm.  
\$7 suggested donation.  
“Shelter” features commissioned works from two photographers, seven poets and musicians who will present their interpretations of the meaning of shelter. Closing event in a three-day national festival of Asian American Poetry.

### Poetry Reading: Longing for Home

China Institute. 2–4pm. **Free**  
Ben Wang will read and lecture in Mandarin selected classical Chinese poems.

### Ziryab New York: Arab-American Writers

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Curated by Nada Taib & Ramzi Moufarez.

### Harlem Lost and Found: Author Lectures

Museum of the City of New York (see times below). **Free** w/ suggested admission \$7, \$4 members, seniors and students.  
12:30pm—*Harlem: Lost and Found* with Michael Henry Adams.  
2pm—*The Queen of Harlem* with Brian Keith Jackson.  
3pm—*Hunting in Harlem* with Mat Johnson.

### DB Leonard: Bring It On Home

Poets House Children's Room. 11am–1pm. **Free**  
Poet and songwriter DB Leonard plays guitar, while poems are read invoking the meaning of home. For ages 4–10.

### Meet Author Ai-Cheng Liu

Flushing Library. 6pm. **Free**  
Author Ai-Cheng Liu presents her views on how one Chinese writer reflects the culture and social situation of the US through her work. In Mandarin.



## November 2

### Hebrew Jam—Poetry and Jazz from Israel

Center for Jewish History. 6pm. **FREE**  
Presented by the American Sephardi Federation.

### Jazzoetry Joins In Celebrating HOME

Sistas' Place. 4–7pm. \$5 suggested donation, \$15 includes dinner.  
Louis Reyes Rivera & The Jazzoets, along with special guests and open mic, will feature a special tribute to the African Diaspora, and how the longing for home has impacted upon African, Caribbean and African American cultures.

### Poe As Parlor Music

New-York Historical Society. 2pm. \$15.  
Poe's poems from the Library of America's *Edgar Allan Poe—Poems and Poetics*, ed. Richard Wilbur, are recited and sung by Metropolitan Opera sopranos Charlotte Philley and Deborah Saverance.

### Frequency with David Trinidad and Jeffrey Conway

Shortwave Independent Co-op Book Shop. 2–3pm. **FREE**  
A reading from David Trinidad's *Plasticville* and Jeffrey Conway's *Phoebe 2002: An Essay in Verse*.

## November 3

### Robbie Conal

Revolution Books. 6pm. **FREE**  
Akashic Books presents a book discussion & signing with guerrilla poster artist, Robbie Conal, author of *Artburn*.

### Shirley Hazzard and Jan Morris

The Unterberg Poetry Center. 8pm. \$16.  
Novelist Shirley Hazzard and travel writer Jan Morris have made the world their home, and make readers at home in the world, in their highly acclaimed work.

## November 5

### Little Gray Book Lecture No. 23: BROOKLINE—The Town That Has Everything (and at the Same Time Has Nothing)

Galapagos Art Space. 8pm. \$5.  
John Hodgman welcomes Patrick Borelli, Danzy Senna, Sarah Vowell, and others in a discussion of one American hometown which, like all home towns, is simultaneously the most interesting and the most boring place on earth.

### Jonathan Lethem in conversation with Phillip Lopate

Celeste Bartos Forum, New York Public Library, Humanities and Social Sciences Library. 6:30pm. \$10, \$7  
Library friends and conservator's Award-winning author Jonathan Lethem talks to essayist and fellow Brooklynite Phillip Lopate about his new novel, *The Fortress of Solitude*.

### Tom Sleigh: The Dreamhouse

Teachers & Writers Collaborative. 7:30pm. **FREE**  
Tom Sleigh will read selected essays from a work-in-progress which traces his family history through the lens of 20th and 21st century architecture.

### We Have Always Lived in a Castle

Cornelia Street Café. 6–8pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Writers Room members Lawrence Block, Lori Fischer and Coleman Hough read from their works.

### Poets in Residence

Florence Gould Hall, French Institute/Alliance Française. 7pm. \$10–15.  
The Academy of American Poets presents a reading by its Chancellors: Frank Bidart, Lucille Clifton, Galway Kinnell, Philip Levine, Heather McHugh, James Tate, and Rosanna Warren.

## November 6

### Fourteen Female Voices From Brazil

The Americas Society. 6pm. **FREE**  
Editor Elzbieta Szoka presents Myriam Campello, Helena Parente Cunha and Conceicao Evaristo. With Host Publications.

### Writing Home: A Special Presentation of Selected Shorts

Great Hall of the Cooper Union. 6:30pm. \$20, \$15 seniors and students.  
Actors Kate Burton, Stephen Colbert and Keir Dullea read stories about home from the works of Sherman Alexie, Ray Bradbury, and Dorothy Thomas. Produced by Symphony Space.

### Home & Exile: A Talk with Andre Aciman & Ilan Stavans

JCC in Manhattan. 7:30pm. \$8  
Two leading contemporary memoirists with Sephardic-Jewish roots explore their visions of “home” in a special reading and discussion.

### New (York) Stories

Teachers & Writers Collaborative. 7pm. **FREE**  
Local luminaries join NYC high school students and creative writing teachers to read from New York Stories, New York Writers and other urban wordings.

## November 7

### Belladonna\*: Veronica Corpuz, Michelle Naka Pierce & Anne Tardos

Bluestockings Bookstore. 7pm.  
\$10 suggested donation.  
In epistolary-bridged distance, the radical of quotidian Pierce, Corpuz and Tardos enter language in a tense and supportive home.

### Home: Pink Pony Poetry

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Curated by Jackie Sheeler.

### Little Houses at Home

Pratt Center for Continuing and Professional Studies. 7–9pm. **FREE**  
Council of Literary Magazines and Presses presents small press editors reading on home.

## November 8

### Home: Italian-American Writers Association

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Curated by Gil Fagiani & Maria Lisella.

### From Griot to Rapper: Bringing Our Poetic Roots Home

Bowery Poetry Club 7–9pm, \$15.  
Lit Noire presents a poetry concert featuring poetic all-stars Abiodun Oyewole (The Last Poets), Rha Goddess, Willie Perdomo and others.

### Meet the Author: Patrick Lemoine

Central Library, Queens Borough Public Library. 2pm. **FREE**.  
Haitian writer Patrick Lemoine tells of his years spent in a prison in Haiti under dictatorship of Duvalier. In French.

## November 9

### Amos Oz—Readings and Reflections

Center for Jewish History. 7pm.  
\$25, \$15 members.  
Presented by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

### Center Pieces

Strivers Lounge and Café. 3pm.  
\$5 suggested donation.  
Readings from new work by Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center writers.

## November 10

### Wendy Fairey Reads from Full House

Brooklyn College Student Center. 1:40–2:55pm. **FREE**  
Wendy Fairey reads from *Full House*, her new book of stories.

### One Story Houses

Arlene Grocery. 6:30–8pm. **FREE**  
Cocktail hour and reading featuring Martha Witt and a discounted cocktail of her choice—the Caipiroska. Reading to be followed by a house of cards building contest.

### HOME: Poets from other countries living in NYC

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Rattapallax and Cornelia Street Café present this reading by poets from other countries traveling or living in the US. Robert Minninnick, Pascale Petit, Isabelle Balot, and Flavia Rocha will read. Co-sponsored by Poets & Writers.

### Reading Between A & B presents an Evening with Soft Skull Press

11th Street Bar. 8pm. **FREE**  
Presenting their special brand of established and emerging poetry, in conjunction with Soft Skull Press.

## November 11

### Home: Storytelling

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Curated by Barbara Aliprantis.

### HomoText

Bluestockings. 7pm. \$5 or TDF.  
Dixon Place's monthly series of lesbian and gay literature, curated by Kevin Wolfe. Featuring Alexander Chee (*Edinburgh*) and T. Cole Rachel (*Surviving the Moment of Impact*).

## November 12

### Hoppla! Such is Life—the Roaring Twenties in Berlin

Center for Jewish History. 7pm.  
\$20, \$15 members.  
Presented by the Leo Baeck.

### Home: Russian-American Writers

Cornelia Street Café. 6pm.  
\$6 (one-drink minimum).  
Curated by Andrey Gritsman.

### Colson Whitehead interviewed by Dean Olsher

Celeste Bartos Forum, New York Public Library, Humanities and Social Sciences Library. 6:30pm. \$10, \$7 Library Friends and Conservators.  
Author and MacArthur Fellow Colson Whitehead talks to Dean Olsher, host of Public Radio International's “The Next Big Thing,” about *The Colossus of New York*, a newly published collection of essays.

### Home's Lights: Poetry Reading

Dongan Hills Branch Library, Staten Island Public Library. 3:30pm. **FREE**  
Poets & Writers sponsors a poetry reading based on the theme of home. Poets and guests include Jim Tolan, Marguerite Rivas, Allan Douglas Colman, and Ellen Aug Lytle.

### Norman Manea with Leonard Lopate

Queens College Music Building. 7pm. \$10  
Norman Manea (*The Hooligan's Return*) reads from his work followed by an interview Leonard Lopate.

## November 13

### Mark Doty: Open House Reading

Teachers & Writers Collaborative. 7:30pm. **FREE**  
Mark Doty will share the stage with contributors to his recent anthology, *Open House: Writers Redefine Home*. A book party and reception follow.

### “Fragile Dwellings”

Great Hall of the Cooper Union. 6pm. **FREE**  
Photographs by Margaret Morton.



# LitFest2003:Locations

**11th Street Bar**

510 E 11th St between Ave A and Ave B (917-214-2551)

**92nd St Y, The Utenberg Poetry Center**

1395 Lexington Ave at 92nd St (212-415-5500)

**Arlene Grocery**

95 Stanton St between Ludlow and Orchard Sts (212-358-1633)

**Asia Society and Museum**

725 Park Ave at 70th St (212-517-ASIA)

**The Asian American Writers' Workshop**

16 W 32nd St between Fifth Ave and Broadway, Suite 10A (212-494-0061)

**Barbes**

376 9th St at Sixth Ave, Park Slope, Brooklyn (718-643-1599)

**Bluestockings Bookstore**

172 Allen St between Stanton and Rivington Sts (212-777-6028)

**Bowery Poetry Club**

308 Bowery at Bleecker St (212-614-0505)

**Bronx Writers' Center**

261 E 134th St, Westchester Square, Bronx (718-409-1265)

**Brooklyn College Student**

Center Campus Rd and E 27th St, Flatbush, Brooklyn (718-951-5847)

**Center for Jewish History**

16 W 15th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (917-606-8200)

**China Institute**

125 E 65th St between Lexington and Park Aves (212-744-8181 x145)

**Chez LaRoe**

303 Park Ave South at 23rd St (212-978-4413)

**The Cooper Union, Great Hall**

7 E 7th St between Second and Third Aves (212-279-4200)

**Cornelia Street Café**

29 Cornelia St between Bleecker and W 4th Sts (212-989-9319)

**Dactyl Foundation**

64 Grand St between West Broadway and Wooster St (212-674-0199)

**Florence Gould Hall, French Institute/Alliance Francaise**

55 E 59th St (212-355-6160)

**Galapagos Art and Performance Space**

70 North 6th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-384-4586)

**Granta Books**

85 E 4th St between Second and Third Aves 2nd floor (212-505-3360)

**Happy Ending**

302 Broome St at Forsyth St (212-254-9628)

**Housing Works**

126 Crosby St between Houston and Prince Sts (212-334-3324)

**Jewish Community Center in Manhattan**

334 Amsterdam Ave at 76th St (646-505-5708)

**The Kitchen**

512 W 19th St at 10th Ave (212-255-5793 x11)

**Masonic Hall**

71 W 23rd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-360-1378)

**Miller Theatre**

2960 Broadway at 116th St (on the Columbia campus) (212-854-7799)

**Museum of the City of New York**

1220 Fifth Ave at 103rd St (212-534-1672)

**The New School, Tishman Auditorium**

66 W 12 St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-254-9628)

**New York Public Library****Humanities and Social Sciences Library**

Fifth Ave at 42nd St (212-930-0571)

**Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**

515 Malcolm X Blvd (Lenox Ave) at 135th St (212-865-2982)

**The Point CDC Theater**

940 Garrison Ave, Hunts Point, Bronx (718-542-4139)

**Poets House and Poets House Children Room**

72 Spring St between Crosby and Lafayette Sts, 2nd floor (212-431-7920)

**Pratt Center for Continuing and Professional Studies**

144 W 14th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves, Room 213 (212-741-9110)

**Queens Borough Public Library****Central Library**

89-11 Merrick Blvd between 89th and 90th Aves, Jamaica, Queens (718-990-0896)

**Flushing Library**

41-17 Main St between 41st Rd and 41st Ave, Flushing, Queens (718-661-1223)

**Forest Hills Branch**

108-19 71st Ave at Queens Blvd, Forest Hills, Queens (718-268-7934)

**Jackson Heights**

35-51 81st St between 35th and 37th Aves, Jackson Heights, Queens (718-899-2500)

**Langston Hughes Library**

100-01 Northern Blvd at 100th St, Corona, Queens (718-651-1100)

**Queens College Music Building**

65-30 Kissena Blvd at Jewel Ave, Flushing, Queens (718-997-4646)

**Revolution Books**

9 W 19th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-691-3345)

**Soft Skull Shortwave Bookstore**

71 Bond St at State St, Boerum Hill, Brooklyn (718-643-1599)

**Sistas' Place**

456 Nostrand Ave at Jefferson Ave (718-398-1766)

**Staten Island Public Library, Dongan Hills Branch**

1617 Richmond Rd between Liberty and Seaview Aves, Staten Island (718-351-1444)

**Strivers Lounge and Café**

2611 Frederick Douglass Blvd at 140th St (212-491-4422)

**Teachers & Writers Collaborative**

5 Union Sq West between 14th and 15th Sts, 7th floor (212-691-6590)

**Three Lives Bookstore**

154 W 10th St at Waverly Pl (212-741-2069)