Gore Vidal to Appear at Library Gala in May

On Tuesday, May 4, Gore Vidal will be the guest of honor at the Library's Annual Gala Dinner. A highly reputed speaker, he is known for his wit and great expressiveness. Mr. Vidal, a winner of the National Book Award, is the widely acclaimed author of novels, essays, short stories, screenplays and stage plays, and a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. The Boston Globe noted that “he is our greatest living man of letters.” Please call Anne Lechardier for details: 01 53 59 12 67.

Film Premiere Kicks Off Author Series

On Wednesday, February 17, at 8:00 p.m., the Library will premiere “Edith Wharton: the Sense of Harmony,” the English version of Elizabeth Lennard’s film about Edith Wharton. Wharton’s biographers are the critical guides in the 56-minute documentary, which uses rare film footage to illustrate her life and literature.

Art Exhibit by Natacha Garance

Beginning in late April, the Library will host an exhibit by artist Natacha Garance. The drawings were done from Natacha’s collections of flowers, leaves and fruits. Natacha, who lives in Paris, received a graphic design degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and attended the San Francisco Academy of Art. Please join us to celebrate this beautiful exhibit at a vernissage on Friday, April 30, from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The evening will include classical flute and piano music played by Eric and Theresa Dégardin.

Thank You to Our Donors

The Director, staff and Trustees of the Library would like to thank all those who gave generously to the Annual Fundraising Drive, making it our most successful in recent years. We would like to thank, in particular, The Felix and Elizabeth Rohatyn Foundation and the Gogel Family.

The Library also appreciates the in-kind gifts it has received: A television, VCR, and mobile audio-visual stand from Donna Zilkha Krisel Eight Pentium computers from IBM
**BEST SELLERS IN THE LIBRARY!**

*(A selection from The New York Times Book Review Best Sellers List, January 17, 1999)*

**A Man in Full,** by Tom Wolfe. Life in Atlanta on the cusp of the millennium, as Old South values collide with a new world.

**The Poisonwood Bible,** by Barbara Kingsolver. Five female characters, a missionary’s family, run this novel set in the Belgian Congo during that country’s fight for independence.

**Memoirs of a Geisha,** by Arthur Golden. The life of a young woman growing up in Kyoto who has to rely on her intelligence and courage to survive.

**Bag of Bones,** by Stephen King. A series of terrifying events befalls a best-selling novelist who hasn’t written a book in nine years after his wife’s sudden death.

**Charming Billy,** by Alice McDermott. At a party to celebrate a man’s memory, many secrets of the past come to life.

**Rainbow Six,** by Tom Clancy. John Clark, head of foreign international task force, investigates terrorism in Switzerland, Germany and Spain.

**Angels Flight,** by Michael Connell. Harry Bosch, a detective with the LAPD, investigates a murder of a lawyer whom the police hated.

**KIDS' PAGE**

**Story Hour for 3- to 5-year-olds.** Children are invited to come to the library every Wednesday from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. to enjoy stories, poems, songs, filmstrips and puppets. Parents are welcome to join.

**Mother Goose Lap-sit for 1- to 3-year-olds.** These monthly story times offer a great chance for you and your toddler to join other English-speaking young ones in rhymes, stories, songs and fun. Be sure to join us from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays February 25, March 11, April 27 and May 25.

**EYEWITNESS GUIDES**

*Learn about history, geography and science with interesting and fun facts from this discovery series of books for children aged 8 to 11.*

**Special Saturday Programs for 7- to 10-year-olds.** These special programs will be geared to 7- to 10-year-old children, but all young readers are welcome.

**APRIL IS POETRY MONTH**

Are you a poet and you don’t yet know it? Or are you looking for a new venue to share your work? We will be setting up shop in the Kids’ Room. Everyone is welcome to share their poems. So come on down, write a poem and post it on the board for others to enjoy.

**PoeTstory Workshops**

For 8- to 12-year-olds.

Mark your calendars for two special poetry workshops, Saturday, April 11, 11:00 a.m. to noon and Wednesday, April 16, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Participants will hear and talk about various kinds of poetry, learn fun and imaginative ways to get their creativity going, and write their own poems.

**Please sign up by contacting Nancy at 615 55 92 10 or come into the Library and sign up.**

**SCBWJ**

ALP members benefit from a special discount at the April 1999 children’s literature conference, *Crossing Creative Boundaries.* For registration information please contact SCBWI-France, tel: 31 47 57 51 or visit the site at: www.members.zope.com/SCBWI/
Welcome to Gertrude and Ernest

If you want to look up a phone number in the U.S., read the latest issue of The New York Times, find an annual report on a company, or research your family tree, you should meet Gertrude and Ernest, our new public access Internet workstations in the lobby of the Library.

Access is easy: you just have to have a valid membership or day user pass and can then sign up in the logbook kept at the reference desk. The Reference Department has developed a user-friendly menu with carefully chosen links to sites on the Internet providing information on government agencies, companies, law, health, genealogy, literature, and more. Links are constantly being added to help you find the information you need. If you are a complete novice, the Reference Librarian will be happy to help.

Free Internet Classes

Members can sign up for FREE Internet classes on basic navigation skills and using the web for research. Classes will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 3  6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 4  10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 6  10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 11  10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 13  10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

To sign up please call Andrea Delumeau at 01 53 59 12 62. As space is limited, please be sure to sign up early.

On the Road with the ALP Director

In October, Library Director Kay Rader attended the International Affairs Banquet at the University of Maryland. Kay was named co-recipient of the 1998 International Alumna of the Year Award.

At the invitation of Library members Tom McClay and Bob Crane, Kay attended the 17th Annual Key West Literary Seminar in January. This year's seminar focused on the American novel and was held in the historic San Carlos Institute. Dedicated to the preservation of Cuban cultural heritage, the institute houses a library of books and historical documents related to Cuba and the Florida Keys.

At the Key West seminar were (clockwise from center) Joseph Heller (with Kay Rader), Mrs. John Steinbeck, Philip Caputo, Peter Matthiessen, Alison Lurie and Ann Beattie (with the ALP Ex Libris), and Harry Mathews. Also attending were John Edgar Wideman, Jamaica Kincaid, Joyce Carol Oates, E.L. Doctorow, and many others.