



**October 3, 2011:** “Building an Internet Platform.” Guest speakers were Carol Fitzgerald, who runs the online company Authors on the Web, Oline Eaton, the Social Networking chair for Biographers International and author of the blog “Finding Jackie,” and Kate Buford, the author of *Burt Lancaster: An American Life* and *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe*. The presenters discussed different online resources a biographer can use to promote her work. The session was organized and moderated by Dona Munker.

**October 17, 2011:** Dona Munker gave WWWL’s fall 2011 **Works-in-Progress Lecture** at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her talk, titled “Sara Bard Field, Poet and Radical Suffragist: Parsing the Heart,” addressed the detective work needed to reconstruct and depict the emotional experience of Sara Bard Field, a radical suffragist and poet, and address the larger implications of using an interpretive approach in scholarly biography. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Leon Levy Center for Biography, Center for the Study of Women and Society, Humanities Center, MA Program in Liberal Arts, and the PhD Programs in English and History.

**November 7, 2011:** Guest speaker Erica Armstrong Dunbar, author of *A Fragile Freedom: African American Women and Emancipation in the Antebellum City*, discussed her current book project, *Never Caught: The Life of Ona Judge Staines*. Judge Staines was a woman who was one of George Washington’s slaves and escaped. The session was organized and moderated by Carla L. Peterson.

**December 5, 2011:** “Essential Transgressions.” Guest speaker Debby Applegate, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Most Famous Man in America: The Life of Henry Ward Beecher*, discussed how to keep the story going, or at least not lose narrative momentum, when you have a lot of historical background to introduce. The session was organized and moderated by Nancy Rubin Stuart.

**January 9, 2012:** “The Biography I Did Not Write: Thinking about Biography as a Reciprocal Relationship.” Seminar member Laurie Lisle, author of *Portrait of an Artist: A Biography of Georgia O’Keeffe*, addressed when to take on or give up a biographical project and the questions to ask when making those decisions. The session was organized by Suzanne Wasserman and moderated by Carol Ascher.

**February 6, 2012:** “Nuts and Bolts: A Hands-On Problem-Solving Session.” Three seminar members discussed important practical problems facing biographers. Betty Caroli addressed filing and research, Rebecca Fraser addressed final revisions, and Barbara McManus addressed citing sources. Victoria Olsen organized and moderated the session.

**February 27, 2012:** Patricia Valenti gave the spring 2012 **Dorothy O. Helly Works-in-Progress Lecture** at the CUNY Graduate Center. She discussed how the often permeable boundaries between life and art affect work on the second volume of her *Sophia Peabody Hawthorne: A Life*. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Leon Levy Center for Biography, the Center for the Study of Women and Society, and the English and History departments.

**March 5, 2012:** “The Challenge of Writing Biography for Young Readers.” Guest speaker Tonya Bolden, author of biographies for children on W.E.B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, and George Washington Carver, discussed writing for adolescents and teenagers and the considerations she takes into account for this audience. The session was organized by Sydney Ladensohn Stern and moderated by Jane Maher.

**April 2, 2012:** “Researching Generations of a Family.” Seminar members Carla Peterson, author of *Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York City*, and Sallie Bingham, author of *Passion and Prejudice*, discussed the process, challenges, and effects of researching and writing about one’s own family. This session was organized by Kathy Chamberlain and moderated by Alix Kates Shulman.

**May 7, 2012:** Seminar members Kate Culkin, writing about Ellen Tucker Emerson, and Barbara Fisher, writing about Alice (Trix) Macdonald Kipling, presented on the choices they face to do justice to their subjects and attract readers to appreciate their lives. They both sought advice on how to highlight the lives of women associated with more famous men. The session was organized and moderated by Dorothy O. Helly.

**June 8, 2012:** The seminar, for the second year, held a luncheon, with guest speaker Carolyn Burke, author of *No Regrets: The Life of Edith Piaf*. Jill Norgren and Sydney Stern organized the event.