



## The Post-Standard

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## FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

Dear Educators,

On behalf of The Friends of the Central Library (FOCL) and the Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series, I would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 2006-2007 series. The Friends of the Central Library have made a limited number of tickets for each lecture available for **students and one educator from local high schools** to use. Please see below for information on student tickets. We have also put together a student essay contest to accompany each lecture. All lectures are held at the Civic Center in downtown Syracuse and begin at 7:30 p.m.

### **Student Tickets:**

A limited number of complimentary student tickets are available for all lectures.

- For the first lecture, by Joyce Carol Oates, please contact Marcia Hayden-Horan, FOCL board member, at [marrhh@twcny.rr.com](mailto:marrhh@twcny.rr.com), by September 26.
- For all other lectures, ticket requests should be made through Marcia at the above email address or Len Fonte, FOCL board member, at [lfonte@twcny.rr.com](mailto:lfonte@twcny.rr.com). Requests should be made by the deadlines stated below.

### **The Post-Standard Essay Contest:**

The essay contest topics are attached. Essays must be no longer than 500 words and should be typed. Essays must include student's name, school, grade and home phone number. One student essay winner will be selected for each lecture. The winner receives three tickets to the lecture for the student and two guests and a signed copy of one of the author's books to be presented at the lecture. The winning essay and student's photo will be published in The Post-Standard the week of the lecture. The winner will also be given the opportunity to ask the first question during the author's Q & A portion of the lecture.

I hope that you and your students take advantage of this wonderful opportunity by learning about the authors, writing essays and attending the lectures.

Sincerely,

Taylor Atseff, Community Relations  
The Post-Standard  
P.O. Box 4915  
Syracuse, NY 13221-4915  
470-2121

## 2006-07 Rosamond Gifford Lecture Schedule

<u>Writer</u>	<u>Lecture Date</u>	<u>Essays Due</u>	<u>Deadline to request tickets</u>
Joyce Carol Oates	Oct. 2, 2006	Sept. 19	Sept. 26
John Feinstein	Nov. 1, 2006	Oct. 17	Oct. 25
Barbara Ehrenreich	Dec. 6, 2006	Nov. 21	Nov. 29
Jonathan Safran Foer	March 14, 2007	Feb. 27	March 7
Azar Nafisi	April 12, 2007	March 28	April 5
Norman Mailer & John Buffalo Mailer	May 10, 2007	April 25	May 3

### **ROSAMOND GIFFORD LECTURE SERIES & THE POST-STANDARD STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST TOPICS**

(500 Word Maximum, typed)

#### **High School Essay Topics**

Each year, Friends of the Central Library and *The Post-Standard* sponsor an essay contest in which local high school students may submit essays. Contest winners receive complimentary tickets to attend that particular writer's lecture and are acknowledged before that evening's audience and in *The Post-Standard*. Essay winners get the opportunity to ask the first question during the Q&A portion of the lecture and have their essay and photo published in *The Post-Standard*. Essays must be 500 words or fewer, typed and must include the student's name, home phone number, school, grade and teacher's name.

#### **Joyce Carol Oates – Lecture Date: October 3, 2006 Essays Due: Sept. 19**

Joyce Carol Oates often writes of the struggle to become one's own person. That struggle might encompass relationships with parents, the environment, or peers. Write an essay describing a personal struggle.

#### **John Feinstein – Lecture Date: November 1, 2006 Essays Due: October 17**

John Feinstein takes readers behind the scenes of several different sports. Choose a sporting event and write an inside account as either a player or spectator. (Your work may be fictional.)

#### **Barbara Ehrenreich – Lecture Date: December 6, 2006 Essays Due: November 21**

*The New York Times* called Barbara Ehrenreich "our premier reporter on the underside of capitalism." Many high school students work in the same kinds of entry-level jobs Ehrenreich writes about in *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. Describe an experience working as one of the invisible "outcasts." (Your work may be fictional.)

#### **Jonathan Safran Foer – Lecture Date: March 14, 2007 Essays Due: February 27**

Jonathan Safran Foer attended Princeton University, where a class with Joyce Carol Oates made him think about a writing career. Oates encouraged Foer by telling him he had a "very strong and promising talent." Foer went on to publish his first novel, *Everything is Illuminated*, which won wide critical acclaim. How has a teacher changed your life in a positive way?

#### **Azar Nafisi – Lecture Date: April 12, 2007 Essays Due: March 28**

In *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Azar Nafisi writes of teaching literature secretly in a culture which forbids doing it openly. She has said, "I think if a civilization or culture does not take its own works of literature seriously, it goes downhill. You need imagination in order to imagine a future that doesn't exist." Tell about one work of literature that has sparked your imagination.

#### **Norman Mailer & John Buffalo Mailer – Lecture Date: May 10, 2007 Essays Due: April 25**

Norman Mailer is quoted as saying, "Wisdom is ready to reach us from the most unexpected quarters." Both Norman Mailer and John Buffalo Mailer have acknowledged learning from each other. What have you learned from a parent, and what have you taught a parent?

**Submit Essays to:  
The Post-Standard  
Attn: Taylor Atseff  
PO Box 4915  
Syracuse, NY 13221  
Fax: 470-6090**