

On the Docket for the
General Meeting
Thursday, September 20, 2007

Photography Real Close and Way Back to the Future

With Fred Kahn and Ned Otter

This evening we will have two very different topics, and two speakers: Fred Kahn and Ned Otter.

Close-Up Photography

Our own Fred Kahn knows a lot about photography; in fact he a pro. He will talk about close-up photography. When Fred first suggested this topic for a meeting I replied, "Oh you mean stamps and coins."

"Yes," he said, "but much more."

Here is a quote from an article Fred wrote: "By looking closer you will find many interesting and beautiful subjects and perhaps some interesting detail that has been previously overlooked." So what is close-up photography? There is no official definition, but further on Fred writes, "Basically a close-up photograph is one in which the subject dominates the image by filling up the majority of the frame."

OK, now we jump from stamps and coins to portraits. The lens can be inches from the subject or quite far away with a long lens. Few people react well to someone standing 18 inches away to get a close-up image of their face. Hence the popularity of a class of very useful lenses called "Portrait Lenses." These allow you to fill the frame with a head and shoulders from a comfortable 8 or 10 feet away.

Or consider sports photographers who use very long telephoto lenses to get extreme action photos, with great close-up detail, from very far away. Each of these situations has its own special technical considerations in order to achieve optimal results: lighting, ISO (we used to say *film speed*), color balance, lens opening, shutter speed, and of course which camera and which lens.

Many cameras will work, but some will work better; and changing some user-controlled variables will greatly improve the results.

Fred Kahn is a professional photographer who is very willing to share his years of knowledge to improve your photos. Here is his overview of this meeting and the following class:

Photographing the Minds of Men and Other Small Objects: An introduction to close-up photography

Fred will demonstrate how to use "The Power of The Pixel" to help make your close-up images of people and products easier to take.

Follow-Up Class

On Saturday, September 29, Fred will be teaching a follow-up class on this topic. This will go into much more detail than is possible in the General Meeting. For details, see page 3 or <http://www.nypceducation.org/CourseDetail.cfm?CourseID=439>.

Photos from the Past

Ned Otter's father, Robert, was a commercial photographer in the 60s and 70s. In a kind of busman's holiday, he enjoyed taking photos of the Greenwich Village area. He seldom printed the shots but always saved the negatives.

His son recognized that these shots had historical and sentimental value to many people who lived in the area. Thus, he decided to get high quality scans of his father's negatives. Because the negatives were irreplaceable, he did not want to trust them to a lab. Ned wanted very high quality scans, so he rented time, at \$200 per hour, in a service bureau and did the scans himself.

more...

Inside NYPC



Volume 14 issue 8
September 2007

General Meeting Info

- When:** Thursday, September 20, 2007
- Where:** PS 41, 116 West 11th Street
(Just West of 6th Avenue)
- Schedule:** 6:00pm Doors Open
6:30pm Announcements/Q&A
7:00pm Fred Kahn
8:15pm Ned Otter
- Subway:** A,B,C,D,E,F,Q,V to West 4th St
1,2,3,9,L to 14th St @7th Ave
(check with MTA)
- Path:** Take 33rd St line to 9th St Sta

NYPC's General Meetings are free and open to the public. To check on the NYPC General Meeting or get up-to-the-minute details on speakers, go to <http://www.nypc.org>.

Next he assembled a high quality digital darkroom, and learned a lot about digital printing.

He has been showing and selling his father's photos; you can see them at our meeting, and on Ned's website, <http://www.robertotter.com>. Ned has written descriptions of the scenes on the backs of the photos. Often this has involved some historical detective work such as dating an image by clothes, the cars, or other clues. Do you remember when there were pushcarts on Bleeker street? Or when Balducci's was located at the start of Greenwich Avenue, or when cars could drive through Washington Square Park?

Interesting Article

Ned's work caught the eye of a *New York Times* writer, Bernice Yeung, who wrote a very nice article about the project, Neighborhood Report: Greenwich Village: Peddling Images Of a Lost City. The article was published on August 13th, 2007. If you are a Times Select subscriber you can search for the title or

author. Or if you have a NY Public library card, copy and paste this long link into your browser to see the article. You will need to enter your library card number.

http://find.galegroup.com/itx/retrieve.do?contentSet=IAC-Documents&resultLifeType=RESULT_LIST&qrySerId=Local%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28TX%2CNone%2C14%29%22Robert+Otter%22%24&sgHitCountType=None&inPS=true&sort=DateDescend&searchType=BasicSearchForm&tabID=T004&prodId=SPN.SP00&searchId=R2¤tPosition=2&userGroupName=nypc&docId=A149414806&docType=IAC

Back to the Future

This really looks way back to the 60s and ahead into the digital age. Robert Otter would really be amazed at what his son has done with his busman's holiday, and you will be too. *By William Ginsberg, program@nypc.org*

In Memoriam: Claire Chase

Claire Chase, a long-time member and leader of NYP C, died on June 22.

Claire served as NYP C treasurer, founded the Paradox SIG, leading it throughout its existence, and continued as Chair of the Access SIG until mid-2006. She did not confine her support of NYP C to her SIG activities, but consistently promoted both our group and user groups in general. She was an ardent advocate for the importance of SIGs and served as SIG Chair Representative for many years. While a SIG leader, she never missed one of the quarterly SIG Chair meetings. She was outspoken and dynamic, and NYP C owes her a debt of gratitude for her many contributions to the group. She will be greatly missed.

Her numerous professional activities included serving as Director of Micro-computer Systems for New York City's Finance Department. After retiring from that position she worked as a database management consultant. She coauthored an early (1988) book on *Using Microsoft Word*.

In addition to her activities with NYP C, she was passionate about women's rights and civil rights and participated in CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and the Manhattan Women's Political Caucus.

The family has requested that those wishing to honor her memory send a contribution to the American Civil Liberties Union, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

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pres@nypc.org

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vp@nypc.org

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laura@hookbuilt.com
Ashod Kassabian (Streaming Media)
streaming@earthlink.net

This newsletter produced in Ventura. Design by Allison Moore/Database recipes by Robert Leuze.

NYPC Classes

To register or to request specific classes, e-mail classes@nypceducation.org, phone 212-643-7005, x2, or go to <http://www.nypceducation.org>, where you can find complete descriptions under Courses.

Prices below are for NYPC members; if you are not a member, please add registration fee of \$10.

⇒ Special Topics in Using Microsoft Word

For those who use Microsoft Word but want to go beyond the basics:

Advanced Formatting: Learn to use tables to format text with perfect alignment. Automate document formatting with Styles and Templates. Your documents will look better and be more consistent.

Efficient Letters: Learn how to use Mail Merge, AutoText and AutoCorrect, and simple Macros.

Working with Long Documents: Covers Master Documents and Subdocuments, Bookmarks and Cross-references, Table of Contents, Index; Collaborative writing/editing

Tuesday evenings, September 11 (Formatting), 18 (Efficient), 25 (Long), 6:00-9:00pm

Hands-on, \$39 each class (\$33 each if taking more than one)

⇒ The Wacom: Choosing & Using a Tablet

A digitizing tablet adds ease and fluidity to your computing. It increases the accuracy of selections and gives much finer control over brush and pen tools. The Wacom Tablet is easy to use, but new users often find difficulties in set-up and configuration. This class will help! In the first session you will learn how to install the tablet and configure it to your working style. The instructor also will discuss how to choose the best version for your needs. In session two, you will learn how to use it to increase your efficiency with Photoshop. Taught by Terry Tolvo, Photoshop and Illustrator expert. Terry purchased her first Wacom in 1989 to use with Adobe Illustrator and soon discovered that it helped her wrists as well. She no longer uses a mouse, and considers the tablet “the best thing I ever bought” for her computer.

2 Wednesdays, September 12, 19, 1:00-4:00pm

Hands-on, \$69

⇒ System/File Recovery with Knoppix

Your system has crashed and won't boot. You think it's only a boot problem, but how do you recover your data? How do you recover your system, if it's possible at all?

The answer may be Knoppix. Knoppix is a live bootable CD, allowing you to boot your system into Linux without installing Linux onto your hard drive, and test drive, or even do real work with your booted Knoppix system. Knoppix can read your Windows drives and recover data. It can read the Windows registry, and can even repair corrupted Windows files. Want to know how? Register for this NYPC Knoppix class! Class includes an overview of Knoppix, some insight into how Linux works, and practical experience with using the Knoppix disc to access Windows on the hard drive.

\$69 price includes CD with Knoppix

Sundays, September 16, 23, 1:30-4:30pm

Partially hands-on, \$69

⇒ Create Professional Presentations with PowerPoint

Learn how to use Microsoft PowerPoint to create effective presentations. This software tool enables you to present information and data as a slide show with consistent backgrounds, images, and fonts. In this course you will learn how to create, format, and edit informative slides, incorporating not only text and charts, but also images, sound effects and video. In addition to the technical aspects of using the software, we will also offer some advice on arranging your information to increase slide effectiveness.

2 Monday mornings, September 17, 24, 10:00am-1:00pm
Hands-on, \$69

⇒ Find That File...Adventures in the Folder Jungle

Have you ever saved a file, then forgotten where you put it? Or needed to copy several unrelated files to a diskette for a friend? File and Disk management in Windows is easy when you know how. Course emphasizes Windows XP. Tell registrar if you use a different Windows version.

Thursday, September 20, 9:30am-12:30pm

Hands-on, \$29

⇒ Manage Your Digital Photos

Has your digital camera led to a proliferation of image files on your hard drive, to the point where you cannot find the ones you want? Learn some techniques and software for managing them.

Thursday, September 20, 1:00-5:00pm

Four hours, mostly hands-on, \$45

⇒ Mastering Your Digital Camera Controls

With their wealth of controls and menu options, digital cameras can bewilder even the most experienced photographer. The user can change not only aperture and shutter speed, but also ISO, white balance, automatic program, and more. In this class we'll learn how to take advantage of the many camera options to take better photos.

- Please tell registrar your camera model when you register
- Plan to bring your manual to class

Monday, Wednesday, September 24, 26, 2:00-5:00pm

2 sessions, Hands-on with your camera, \$59

⇒ Photographing the Minds of Men and Other Small Objects: An introduction to close-up photography

Learn how take close-up images of people and objects with a minimum of hassle. How to maximize depth-of-field, make good use of lighting techniques, shoot great product shots for ebay and web sales and much more.

A special \$25.00 course for the NYPC 25th anniversary. Limited seating; pre-registration is required.

Saturday, September 29, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

⇒ Beyond Google: Advanced Internet Searching

Google is great, but sometimes it's overwhelming to get 100,000 hits! This course will look at alternatives to Google, meta search engines, clustering search engines, topic-specific searchers, and alternative ways to visualize results. We'll also look at directories (and when to use them), RSS feeds, and other ways to supplement search engines when you're seeking specific information on the web. Please bring some topics on which you'd like to search.

Sunday, September 30, 2:00-5:00pm

Hands-on, \$39

⇒ Smarter Surfing

A series of classes to help you make the most of your time on the World Wide Web:

Boss Your Browser: how to select the best Browser for your needs and use it more effectively: Monday, October 1

Safer Surfing: how to protect data and computer while going from site to site: Tuesday, October 2

Saving Your Tracks: how to save the results of your online research: Wednesday, October 3

Each class held 2:00-5:00pm

Hands-on, \$39 each or \$33 each if you sign up for more than one

NYPC Meetings, Seminars/Classes & Other Events September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Genealogy	5 WACOM (2) (D) Palm Pilot Visual Basic	6 Enterprise Windows	7	8
9	10 Access TechTips	11 Photoshop (D) Excel MS Exchange Java:ODK WORD: Format	12 WACOM (1)(D)	13 Rosh Hashanah Java Gen'l Meeting	14 Rosh Hashanah	15
16 KNOPPIX (1)	17 POWERPOINT (D) Ventura	18 WORD: Mail merge Investment	19 WACOM (2) Speech Recognition	20 NYPC General Meeting FILE Mgt (D) PHOTO Mgt (D)	21	22 Yom Kippur
23 KNOPPIX (2)	24 POWERPOINT (D) CAMERA CONTROLS (D) Photog/Graph Adv Tech & Tech	25 Photoshop (D) WORD: Long Docs NYPC Board Mtg	26 CAMERA CONTROLS (D) Cell Phones/Wireless	27 MetaStock	28 Succoth	29 Succoth Close-up PHOTOGRAPHY
30 BEYOND GOOGLE	October 1 SMARTER SURFING: Browser (D) TechTips Access	2 SMARTER SURFING: Online Safety (D) Genealogy	3 SMARTER SURFING: Tracking Research (D) Palm Pilot Visual Basic	4 Enterprise Windows C++/Java Gen Mtg	5	6

Calendar Legend

Plain = SIG Meeting *Italic = Other Meetings*
Bold = NYPC Class *Italics = Special Event*

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. Sometimes there are last minute changes, so please check our online calendar by going to <http://www.nypc.org> and clicking on Meetings and Events. If the SIG meeting you want to attend is not listed, contact the SIG chair, or check our web page, www.nypc.org. See page 3 for Seminars/Classes. See pages 5 and 6 for SIG meetings.

Location Legend PS41 116 West 11th Street, west of 6th Avenue MS Microsoft, 1290 6th Ave. (51st/52nd Str), 6th Flr
 NYPC NYPC Office, Hotel New Yorker, 481 8th Ave, Suite 550

SIG Directory

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. Find detailed information about most SIG meetings by going to the Events Calendar via the NYPC website, www.nypc.org, and clicking on the SIG of interest. Details appear in a pop-up. Updates—changes, cancellations, or specific topics to replace TBA—are announced here. If we have your e-mail address, we will also send you occasional meeting updates and reminders.

AXS Access

Linda Ewen, LindaEwen@nyc.rr.com
Monday, September 10th, 6:30 PM
 Location: MS
 Interesting Access websites

ACC Accounting/QuickBooks

Len Ginsburg, LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net
On hiatus. E-mail Len if interested.

ATT Advanced Technologies and Techniques

Jessie Shereff, shereff@cs.nyu.edu
Monday, September 24th, 6:30 PM
 Location: MS
 General discussion of PC technology

ADB Alpha Database

Barry Rochford, brochford1@comcast.net
Next meeting October 10th, 6:00 PM

BEG Beginners SIG

*On hiatus. Contact Mary Ginsburg,
lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net, if interested*

LUG DeLUGE (Desktop Linux Users Group)

<http://www.delugeny.org>. Mark Halegua,
phantom21@mindspring.com
Next meeting Thursday, October 11th
 Topic: VirtualBox

EMB Embedded Systems

Lee Thalblum, lee_t@bigfoot.com
On hiatus. Contact leader with interest

EWN Enterprise Windows

<http://nyewin.org>
 Stephen Goodwin, srg@winny.com; Tony
 Iams, tony@dhbrown.com
Thursday, September 6th, 6:00 PM
 Location: MS
 Topic TBA

EXC Excel

Al Vachris, Alfred.vachris@gmail.com
Tuesday, September 11th, 6:00 PM
 Location: MS
 William DeCastro: Application of Array in Excel

EXG Microsoft Exchange

Ben Serebin, exchangeug@reefsolutions.com
<http://www.nyexug.com>
Tuesday, September 11th, 6:00 PM
 Location: MS
 Teneros' Application Continuity Appliance
 (for high availability) for Exchange

FLA Flash

Jeff Frankel, webjff1967@aol.com
On hiatus
E-mail leader with interest

GFH Genealogy

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~metrony/>
 David Kleiman, roots@heritagemuse.com
Tuesday, September 4th, 6:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Family Tree Maker 2008: Pros & Cons

HRD Hardware

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/hugnypc>
 Kevin Raguette, Rags6600@hotmail.com
Watch online calendar for date/topic
 Location: NYPC

NET Internet

Tony Holley, tholley@citytech.cuny.edu;
 Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net
On hiatus; contact leaders with interest

INV Investment

Phyllis Pawlovsky, PGP106@cs.com. SIG
 follows the investment principles of the
 National Association of Investment Corp.
Tuesday, September 18th, 6:15 PM
 Location: MS
 Getting Rich with DRIPs

JAV Java: Gen'l Mtg

<http://www.nycjava.net>
 See also our Yahoo group: nycjava.org
 Dario Laverde, dario@nycjava.net
Thursday, September 13th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Inyoung Cho from Sun Microsystems: Java
 Scripting: Java FX/Script and JRuby

CSG Java: Java Study Groups

Dario Laverde, dario@nycjava.net
Thursday, September 20th, 6:30 PM
 Open House for all Java study groups

CSG JAVA: Object Data Knowledge Management

Carlos Jerome, cjinterf@panix.com
Tuesday, September 11, 5:30-7:45 PM
 Location: Contact leader
 Continuing development of constituent
 directory & communication systems

LNK LINUX

We hope to resume this SIG soon. If
 interested, e-mail nypc@nypceducation.org

MAK Adventures with Make Magazine

We hope to resume this SIG. If interested,
 e-mail nypc@nypceducation.org

MKT Marketing

Murray Strelitz, Grace Lee, marketing@nypc.org
 Date TBA
 Location: NYPC

MTA MetaStock

Al Kinzinger, Jr., bigaljr@attglobal.net
Thursday, September 27th, 7:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

BRD NYPC Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 25th, 6:30 PM
 Members are welcome to attend, but we'd like
 to know ahead. Please e-mail pres@nypc.org.

GEN NYPC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 20th, 6:00 PM
 Location: PS 41, 116 W. 11th
 Photography Real Close and Way Back to the
 Future

PDA Palm Pilot

<http://nypc.org/palm.htm>. Ted Cohn, Grace
 Lee, nypcpda@yahoo.com,
TedCohn@earthlink.net
Wednesday, September 5th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Open questions, answers, discussion

PRL Perl Seminar NY

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/perlsemny>
 James E. Keenan, jkeen@verizon.net
 Alex Gill, ag@tkwx.us
Next meeting October 16
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

PHO Photoshop

http://www.hookbuilt.com/nypc/photoshop_sig.html;
 Laura Balsam, nypc@hookbuilt.com
Tuesdays, September 11th, 25th, 1:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 9/11: TBA & John Milisenda
 9/25: TBA
 Join us at 11:45 AM in the TickTock for
 socializing prior to the meeting.

PHT Photography & Graphics

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net;
 Tony Holley, tholley@citytech.cuny.edu
Monday, September 24th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Vacation photo "show and tell."
 Picasa

SIG Directory, continued

SPR Speech Recognition

http://www.out-loud.com Laura Miner,
76233.3413@compuserve.com; Leftonred
Atanycorner, vp@nypc.org
Wednesday, September 19th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Knowbrainer Software & Free Online Forum

PAS TechTips (formerly Computer Passport)

Kathy Petrucci, kathypetrucci@hotmail.com;
Michael Ostrowe, mjoostrowe@earthlink.net
Monday, September 10th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

VP1 Ventura

Allison Moore, amoore@nyc.rr.com
Monday, September 17th, 7:00 PM
Location: NYPC
Page tags

BAS Visual Basic

David Kulick, dgkulick@hotmail.com
http://72.229.163.212/nypcvb/
Wednesday, September 5th, 6:15 PM
Location: MS
LINQ: our first look at VS2008

WMM Web Design for the 21st Century

On hiatus

WFI Cell Phones/Wireless

Ted Cohn, TedCohn@earthlink.net
Wednesday, September 26th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

XML XML/Web Services

Mahesh Chhatlani, nypcxml@hotmail.com
Contact leader for information

Other Organizations

NPC Non-Profit Computing

John L. German, 212-759-2368
Includes:

JOB Career Development Group

Wednesdays, September 12, 26, 5:00 PM
Location: West-Park Presbyterian Church at
86th and Amsterdam
Facilitators include:
Susan Werbin, 212-799-6111
Mort Trachtenberg, 212-769-TRAC

Meetings at Microsoft

Security procedures at Microsoft have become tighter. As always, a photo ID is imperative.

In addition, be sure that your name is on the SIG Chair's attendee list.

Thanks to Our Hosts!

The following company provides space for many of our meetings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Microsoft




I Want to Join NYPC

Name: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____ E-mail: _____
 Phone: (day) _____ (eve) _____

Membership: One Year - \$45 Two Years - \$80 Three Years - \$120 Student - \$35
 Family One Year - \$60 Two Years - \$105 Three Years - \$160

Add'l Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 New membership Renewal - Member number _____

Payment: Check enclosed (payable to Gotham NYPC) Visa, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX
 Card number _____ Exp date _____
 Billing address (if different from above) _____
 Computing Interests: _____

If a gift: Name of giver: _____
 Send gift certificate to: Giver Recipient

Please send completed application with payment to **NYPC Membership, 481 Eighth Avenue - B25, New York, NY 10001**.
 NYPC is a non-profit education organization run by volunteers. It may take up to six weeks to fully process a membership.



★

NYPC participates in Macy's Shop for a Cause Day

★

Saturday, October 13th, 2007
9:00 am to 10:00 pm

Any Macy's Store...but we encourage you to shop at Macy's Herald Square and then drop in to visit the NYPC office.

What is Shop for a Cause?

This one-day shopping event is another way for Macy's to give back to our community through support of local non-profit organizations. On *Shop for a Cause Day*, customers have an opportunity to support NYPC while receiving special discounts as they shop. How does this benefit NYPC?

We are selling \$5 shopping passes to the event. NYPC keeps every penny of the proceeds from every shopping pass that we sell, thus enhancing our ability to serve computer users and learners.

Your purchase of a shopping pass supports NYPC while entitling you to such extraordinary discounts as:

- ▶ 20% off regular, sale and clearance items in most departments
- ▶ 10% off regular, sale and clearance furniture, mattresses and rugs

You may purchase shopping passes for you and your friends at a SIG or General Meeting, or at the NYPC Office. (Call first: 212-643-7005.) Or purchase via PayPal by going to our special Macy's Shop for a Cause webpage, <http://www.nypceducation.org/Shop>. Or use form on page 8. We'll then mail you the passes.

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Order Your Shop for a Cause Pass(es), usable all day at Macy's, Saturday, October 13

For a \$5 donation, you receive a pass for substantial discounts off most purchases and a chance to win a \$500 shopping spree. NYPC keeps 100% of proceeds from the \$5 shopping passes. Purchase some as gifts, as well as for yourself.

To receive pass(es) by mail, use this form or purchase online at www.nypceducation.org/Shop with PayPal or credit card. Please allow enough time for us to mail them to you.

Or purchase at a SIG or General Meeting, or in the NYPC office (please phone 212-643-7005 first).

Or order via mail using this form:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone: _____

Number of passes ordered: _____ Payment: Check Visa, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX

Card number _____ Exp date _____

Billing address (if different from above) _____

Please send completed form with payment to **NYPC Membership, 481 Eighth Avenue-B25, New York, NY 10001**

Plan to stop in the NYPC office—just a block away—for refreshments before or after your shopping.



<http://www.nypc.org>

Directory of NYPC Supporters

Please support these merchants who have chosen to support NYPC! Dollar signs (\$) indicate supporters offering discounts or extras to NYPC members. Present your membership card (or newsletter with membership number) to use discounts.

CONSULTING SERVICES

❖ ACCOUNTING

LHG Consulting: Leonard Ginsburg
718-828-9547;
LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net
QuickBooks consulting: set-up, training, maintenance. Help with accounting-related problems in computerized bookkeeping. A QuickBooks ProAdvisor.

Metis Group LLC Certified Public Accountants: Steven Fromer, CPA
14 Penn Plaza, Ste 1800, NYC 10122;
212-643-0099x137; fax: 646-304-6312;
SFromer@metisgroupllc.com;
www.metisgroupllc.com

- keeping your taxes to a minimum
- satisfying recordkeeping requirements
- using financial reports for business decisions
- maximizing success in your business \$

❖ COMPUTING SERVICES

FarSight Data Systems: Mark Halegua
718-360-1712; info@farsight-data.com
Providing general computer services for businesses and individuals including repair, network design & setup, hardware & software recommendations, malware eradication, and more.

mister-retail, eBay Education

Specialist: Fred Kahn
misteretail@yahoo.com; 718 263-2041
eBay Trading Assistant trained by eBay. I sell for you or teach you how to do it. Together we can set up your eBay Store. Digital Imaging Specialist: I teach photography too \$

Middle Earth Media: Leftonred Atanycomer
631-793-0930;

middleearthmedia@yahoo.com
•Computer Service & Training
•Wired & Wireless Networks
•Spyware & Virus Removal
•Data Backup & Recovery
Windows, Mac & All Other OS's. Serving large & small businesses & individuals. \$

❖ DATABASE

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709;

Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses achieve success through technology. Clients range from small business owners to Fortune 500 companies. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ INTERNET

Progressive Internet Action, "The Ben & Jerry's of Internet Services"
215 W 91st Street, Suite 57, New York, NY 10024-1336; 212-787-0700;
DickJones@pia.net; <http://www.pia.net>
Full service web solutions. Affordable rates. First-class service. Site design & development, web hosting & e-commerce. Web marketing strategy, Search Engine Marketing, content development. Discounts for Non-profits. \$

❖ PROOFREADING/EDITING

Professional Editing Services
631-422-6804; fax: 631-422-1170;
Claire-M@att.net
Are your Web sites and print materials compromised by poor grammar and spelling errors? Let me make your work successful. Call today for free estimate. \$

❖ TRAINING

Mary Ginsburg
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MaryGinsburg@earthlink.net
Patient training in computing basics, digital imaging (Photoshop and more), and Internet use. Help with advanced Internet

Book Review: *The New Time Travelers: A Journey to the Frontiers of Physics*

by David Toomey (New York: [W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.](http://www.wwnorton.com), 2007)

Most of the reviews printed in *Inside NYPC* feature books about computer hardware or software, often describing how to use a specific application. While reading, with great delight, [The New Time Travelers](#), I wondered whether I could review it for this newsletter. I decided to do so because, like me, many NYPC members enjoy science fiction, which often includes time travel. I also think that many members might be fascinated by both the physics and the science history so deftly expounded in this book.

The Endless Fascination of Time Travel

Many of us have, at some time in our lives, been fascinated by the idea of time travel—of going back to rectify a personal mistake, of going back even further to view (or even influence) a great moment in history, or of venturing forward a century or two to determine whether our planet still exists. As David Toomey discovered, “Theoretical physicists and astrophysicists have given thought—rather serious and protracted thought at that—to the subject that Wells [H. G. Wells in [The Time Machine](#), 1895] had glossed over: the how of traveling through time.”

The Physics of Time Travel

As Toomey explores the investigations of these physicists, he brings life to the process of scientific inquiry: the evolution of ideas, the doubt and critiques of new concepts, the back-and-forth of communication among scientists, and the development of conjectures, hypotheses, and theories. He also accomplishes a most difficult task: making the concepts of [black holes](#), worm holes, cosmic strings, and quanta accessible (more or less) to the reader.

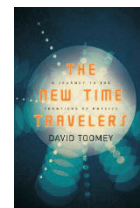
There are many theories of how time travel could occur without violating the laws of physics. Whether based on a wormhole, cosmic string, space warp, or Krasnikov tube, most models of spacetime allow pastward travel only to the moment of a time machine’s construction. All such designs for time machines lie beyond the reach of current technology but might, according to some, be within the realm of possibility for a future generation. Toomey describes these in elegant detail: from Einstein’s general theory of relativity to wormholes and closed timelike curves, to the Everett-DeWitt multiverse, which permits time travel to a past, but in another universe. He uses graphs, analogies, and stories to illustrate these entities and clarify their meaning and their possible role in time travel. His explanations are often ingenious as well as clear.

Toomey points out that most physicists would prefer a world without time machines, which seem to offend the basic concept of causality. Indeed, Stephen Hawking has offered the chronology protection conjecture that the universe protects itself against an effect’s occurring before its cause, i.e.,

that nature will not allow creation of a time machine. Other theoretical physicists, of course, dispute this. Physicists agree, however, that construction of a time machine would require massive amounts of energy, more than we are able to amass and use at this point in time.

One particularly interesting section is the list of seven possible reasons that we have not been visited by travelers from a future, more advanced time. This postulates the existence of time machines constructed by extraterrestrial civilizations long ago, or of naturally occurring time machines. The possible reasons range from ethical prohibitions against time travel to the unflattering possibility that time travellers find our time uninteresting.

This book is mind-stretching and engrossing. It explains concepts whose importance goes beyond the issue of their utility for time travel.



Insight into the Lives and Work of Physicists

Even more engrossing is the story of the physicists themselves. Toomey skillfully interweaves biographical sketches of the physicists with their work. He tells about their meetings, arguments, and collaborations. He describes how these brilliant men do “thought experiments.” (Coming from the world of biology, with its test tubes, slides, and microscopes, I am, frankly, in awe of these thought experiments, which mentally create and manipulate images of infinitely small objects and forces.)

We see in this book such giants as Albert Einstein, Kurt Godel, Kip Thorne, Igor Novikov, Matt Visser, and David Deutsch, in their quest for a greater understanding of the universe. The several photographs enhance the text. The reader should come away from this book with a greater appreciation of how scientists form hypotheses, perform experiments, hold discussions with other scientists, and refine, disprove, publish...thus adding to the world’s body of knowledge.

Resources Beyond the Book

In addition to wonderful writing, this book has a great index, 31 pages of footnotes, an extensive bibliography, and a helpful glossary. It truly enables the reader to delve more deeply into the topic, should she/he wish.

I highly recommend this book, especially if you are at all interested in time travel or the frontiers of astrophysics! It will richly repay the effort you put into reading it.

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NYPC participates in Macy's Shop for a Cause Day

Saturday, October 13

Support NYPC!

Purchase a pass for \$5 which entitles you
to special discounts throughout any Macy's store.

For details and information on obtaining your pass,
see page 7.

Volunteer Opportunity (tentative)

Columbus Avenue Festival
Sunday, September 16

Help NYPC outreach
by volunteering to help at our table.

If you can contribute some time,
please let Volunteer Coordinator Len
Ginsburg know at
LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net

coming attractions

*We've got some great general meetings
coming up...*

Thursday, October 11	Vinyl to CD program postponed from August
Thursday, October 25	Computerized assistive devices for the disabled

Let us know what you'd like to see! Tell us on the eval-
uation forms we pass out at the General Meeting, or
send an e-mail to Bill Ginsberg, program@nypc.org.



Recycle Your 386!

...Or any other electronic waste

When: Sunday, September 9, 8am - 2pm
Where: Union Square North Plaza
SE corner of 17th St. and Broadway
Details: [www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/
recycling/fall2007events.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/recycling/fall2007events.shtml)
See this website for recycling in other boroughs.

(If you have a Pentium 4 or an LCD monitor that
you plan to dispose of, please e-mail
LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net to see if NYPC
can use it.)