

2008/2009

ROCHESTER  
*Arts & Lectures*

Our 20th Anniversary Season





R O C H E S T E R  
*Arts & Lectures*

2008/2009 Series of Uncommon Voices

Sponsored by Nazareth College and The University of Rochester Medical Center

*Jonathan Safran Foer*



Thursday, October 2, 2008

Underwritten by

**Barbara and John Lovenheim**

A “certified wunderkind,” according to *Time* magazine, novelist Jonathan Safran Foer became an international sensation with the publication of his first novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*, which garnered fervent praise from critics including John Updike, Joyce

Carol Oates, and Salman Rushdie, among others. “Every page is illuminated,” raved Jeffrey Eugenides. It was named the “Book of the Year” by the *Los Angeles Times* and won several literary prizes, including the National Jewish Book Award and The Guardian First Book Award. It was adapted into a feature film starring Elijah Wood in 2005. Foer’s second novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, shows the same bold narrative choices, linguistic acrobatics and virtuosic storytelling. A celebrity in the literary world, Foer entered the realm of academia as a visiting professor at Yale University in the spring of 2008.

*Kim Edwards*



Thursday, November 6, 2008

Underwritten by

**Thomson Reuters**

Kim Edwards’ tragic and powerful debut novel, *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter*, was a publishing sensation which skyrocketed to the coveted #1 position on *The New York Times*’ bestseller list. Prior to that

breakaway hit, Edwards had been an established short story writer of clear distinction. Her stories have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Zoetrope*, *Story*, and *The Paris Review*, and she has been honored with both a National Magazine Award for Excellence in Fiction and a Pushcart Prize. Her collection of short stories, *The Secrets of a Fire King*, was short-listed for the PEN/Hemingway Award. A Texas native raised in Skaneateles, Edwards credits her five years teaching English in Southeast Asia with giving her the freedom and clarity needed to focus on writing. “The chatter of everyday life fell away,” she says, “and it allowed me to listen more fully to the stories I wanted to tell.”

*Joseph J. Ellis*



Thursday, December 11, 2008

Underwritten by

**OcuSight Eye Care Center**

One of the world’s most esteemed scholars of American history, Joseph J. Ellis won the Pulitzer Prize in History for his book, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, and the National Book Award for his book, *American Sphinx: The Character of*

*Thomas Jefferson*. His most recent title, *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic*, is both an examination of political creativity during the founding era and a compelling, beautifully written book. “Ellis is a storyteller, and a superb one too,” says *The New York Review of Books*. He has been a featured commentator on CSPAN, CNN, and the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. He is the Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College, where his popular courses include an examination of American foreign policy since 1898.

*Maureen Corrigan*



Thursday, March 5, 2009

Underwritten by

**Catherine B. Carlson**

Maureen Corrigan’s charming, impassioned memoir, *Leave Me Alone, I’m Reading: Finding and Losing Myself in Books*, is a celebration of her lifelong love affair with the written word. In it, Corrigan, one of America’s best-

loved book critics, intersperses intimate scenes from her personal history along with scholarly essays, a guided tour of her favorite tomes, and her irresistible wit: Susan Isaacs, she tells us, is “Jane Austen with a schmear.” Corrigan has been the book critic for NPR’s Peabody Award-winning radio program, “Fresh Air,” for nearly 20 years. She is also a columnist for *The Washington Post* and a regular contributor to *Newsday*. Critic in residence and a lecturer in the Georgetown University’s Department of English, she is an expert in 19th-century British literature and women’s literature.



# Robert Mankoff



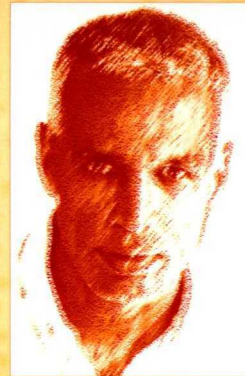
Thursday, April 16, 2009

Underwritten by  
**Parkleigh**

Cartoonist Robert Mankoff, *The New Yorker's* cartoon editor since 1997, has created some of the magazine's most popular cartoons, including this classic, featuring a businessman on the phone: "No,

*Thursday's out. How about never – is never good for you?"* Mankoff is the author of the book, *The Naked Cartoonist: A New Way to Enhance Your Creativity*, and the editor of several collections, including *The New Yorker Book of Business Cartoons*, *The New Yorker Book of Literary Cartoons*, and *The New Yorker Book of Political Cartoons*. Mankoff also founded The Cartoon Bank ([www.cartoonbank.com](http://www.cartoonbank.com)), a licensing, syndication, and archive business which is now the world's largest computerized archive of magazine cartoons. The Paula and Edwin Sidman Fellow in the Arts at the University of Michigan, he teaches in a collaborative program of the psychology and humanities departments devoted to the psychology of humor.

# Manil Suri



Thursday, May 7, 2009

Underwritten by  
**Nancy and Alan Cameros**

A native of Mumbai, India, now living in Maryland, Manil Suri received international accolades for his bestselling debut novel, *The Death of Vishnu*, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and for its equally

stunning successor, *The Age of Shiva*. *The New York Times* called his work "sweepingly ambitious, captivating," and "fearless." Both novels are poetic, luminous ruminations on life in contemporary India, richly textured with backdrops woven of Hindu mythology, popular Indian culture, and political upheaval. Suri is also a full professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Maryland, where he specializes in Numerical Analysis, a field of applied mathematics related to the construction of algorithms. He was named a "Person to Watch" by *Time* magazine in 2000 and was honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2004.

*Visiting artists' travel and accommodations for Rochester Arts & Lectures' 2008/2009 Season are Underwritten by  
**Steven G. Schwartz/Wealth Design Services and Alice M. Tariot, MD PC***





“Overall good health is achieved when the needs of both the body and the mind are nurtured. Efforts to enhance both can work in concert to improve a community’s quality of life. Toward that goal, the University of Rochester Medical Center and Strong Health are proud to support Rochester Arts & Lectures and its efforts to enrich the lives of our community’s residents and encourage a lively exchange of ideas. We congratulate Rochester Arts & Lectures

for creating yet another exciting, inspirational lecture series for our community.”

Bradford C. Berk, M.D., Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President of Health Sciences  
CEO, University of Rochester Medical Center  
*Sponsor of Rochester Arts & Lectures*



“For 13 years, Nazareth College has been a proud supporter of Rochester Arts & Lectures and is pleased to once again be a part of bringing an extraordinary lineup of distinguished authors and artists to the community. By exploring diverse ideas and engaging audiences from different walks of life, Rochester Arts & Lectures demonstrates the same goals as Nazareth College: commitment to a life informed by intellectual,

ethical, and aesthetic values and to inspiring dedication to the ideal of service to the community.”

Daan Braveman, President  
Nazareth College  
*Sponsor of Rochester Arts & Lectures*

## 2008/2009 Ticket Information

For Series subscriptions (\$120-\$228), download a ticket ordering form directly from our web site ([www.ArtsandLectures.org](http://www.ArtsandLectures.org)) or call our office to receive a form by mail.

A limited number of standing-room only tickets (\$15) will be made available on the evening of each lecture, beginning at 6:45pm.

All lectures begin at 7:30pm at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street, Rochester. Parking is available at the Sister Cities Garage, 28 North Fitzhugh Street.

We are grateful for the services provided by: Arena's Florist; Book Marshall Productions; Robert C. Grossman/Johnson, Mullan & Brundage, P.C., Attorneys at Law; Max of Eastman Place Restaurant, Wayne McCrossen/Max Printing Service; Lili Schwartz and Ben Agronick/liliandben design + technology; and Suzanne Slack and Victor J. Ciaccia/AVS Quality Textile Printing.

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Producers: Susan Herman and Susan Chekow Lusignan  
House Manager: Jim Malley

Board of Advisors: Lois Camphausen, Susan Kramarsky, Deborah Rothman, Laura J. Sadowski, Steven G. Schwartz, John C. Williams.

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## Special Event!

### *"The Two Susans" Fundraiser*

Thursday, February 5, 2009, 7:30pm  
Strong National Museum of Play, 1 Manhattan Square

**Behind the scenes:** join us for an evening of fond memories from behind the podium! Producers Susan Chekow Lusignan and Susan Herman recount a decade spent producing one of the country's most prestigious literary lecture series. This celebration is a fundraiser held in support of the company's 20th Anniversary Season; all proceeds benefit the programs of Rochester Arts & Lectures. The conversation with "The Two Susans" will be held in the Auditorium; dessert reception to follow. *Please note: all tickets to this event will be general admission (\$20 each), and tickets are only available through Rochester Arts & Lectures.*

## Arts in Education Programs

Underwritten by Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Additional support provided by Rochester Arts & Lectures subscribers.

Our Arts in Education Programs include:

*The Outreach Education Program for High School Students*  
(featuring a special presentation for Monroe County high school students).

*The Encounters with Excellence Scholarship Program*  
(providing 84 Rochester City High School students with reserved, front-row lecture seats, autographed copies of the speakers' books, and admission to post-lecture receptions with the authors).

Thanks to an anonymous donor, each of the 84 Rochester City High School students who attend the lectures in the 2008/2009 Series will also receive a copy of Rochester Arts & Lectures' anthology, *Uncommon Voices: The Best from Rochester Arts & Lectures' Stage*.

## Uncommon Voices:

### *The Best from the Rochester Arts & Lectures' Stage*

This beautiful anthology (\$22) includes lectures by Isabel Allende, John Updike, Oscar Hijuelos, Maya Angelou, Margaret Atwood, Carl Hiaasen, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Carol Shields, Anne Lamott, Frank McCourt, David Maybury-Lewis, and Jane Hirshfield.

*Uncommon Voices* is available directly from Rochester Arts & Lectures; at Parkleigh (215 Park Avenue); Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Pittsford Plaza (3349 Monroe Avenue); the Museum Shop and Cafe at the George Eastman House (900 East Avenue); the Gallery Store at the Memorial Art Gallery (500 University Avenue); and Mercury Posters (1 Sumner Park, just off Monroe Avenue). Proceeds benefit Rochester Arts & Lectures, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

