
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All members of the Academy are cordially invited to participate in any listed event, as space allows. Special notices are sent to Fellows who reside in areas where specific meetings are held. This feature of the *Bulletin* informs all members of upcoming events, not only in their own regions but also in locations they may plan to visit. A list of forthcoming events appears on the back cover.

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

1868th Stated Meeting—Cambridge

"A Tribute to Herman Feshbach and Victor Weisskopf" by
Carl Kaysen, MIT

Communication: "Nuclear Terror: Ambling Toward Apocalypse"

Speaker: **Steven Weinberg**, University of Texas, Austin

At the March Stated Meeting in Cambridge, the Academy will honor two of its past presidents: Herman Feshbach (1982–86) and Victor Weisskopf (1976–79). The tribute will be presented by Carl Kaysen, David W. Skinner Professor of Political Economy Emeritus at MIT.

Throughout their careers, both Herman and Viki worked to control the spread of nuclear arms, to foster East-West cooperation, and to champion scientific freedom around the world. They brought their deep concern with these issues to the Academy's studies on international security and to its efforts to advance productive nongovernmental exchange with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The speaker on this special occasion will be Steven Weinberg, professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Texas, Austin. Weinberg is founder and director of the Theory Research Group at Texas, where he holds the Josey Regental Chair of Science. His research has spanned a broad range of topics in quantum field theory, elementary particle physics, and cosmology.

Weinberg has received numerous awards, including the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics, the National Medal of Science, and the Cresson Medal of the Franklin Institute. In addition to his well-known treatise *Gravitation and Cosmology*, he has written several books for the general reader, including *The First Three Minutes* (translated into twenty-two languages) and, most recently, *Facing Up: Science and Its Cultural Adversaries*, in which he considers the culture, philosophy, history, and politics of science. He is also a contributor to the *New York Review of Books*. Weinberg has been a Fellow of the Academy since 1968.

The evening will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program at 6:15.

For reservations, contact Sheri Bugbee (phone: 617-576-5032; e-mail: sbugbee@amacad.org).

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Joint Meeting of the Academy and the Boston Athenaeum

Location: Boston Athenaeum

Communication: "How to Read a Diary"

Speaker: **Patricia Meyer Spacks**, University of Virginia

On April 10 the President of the Academy, Patricia Meyer Spacks, will address the second annual joint meeting of the Academy and the Boston Athenaeum. The topic of her talk is "How to Read a Diary."

As Spacks explains, "It's not hard to understand why people enjoy reading diaries of the famous: in order to get an inside glimpse of exceptional lives. Nor is it difficult to know why Boswell's *London Journal* was a best-seller: good stories, bawdy bits. Pepys provides similar appeal; Virginia Woolf's diaries supply mini-essays on the literary life; one can multiply examples. But what is the attraction of diaries that offer only records of uneventful and undistinguished lives? Two such diaries, kept over long spans of time by eighteenth-century writers unknown except for their daily accounts, provide

test cases for assessing the interest of what might be called 'hidden narratives.' The writers, an American Quaker woman living in Philadelphia and an English country clergyman, both lived through the years of the American War for Independence, although neither makes that war a primary subject for reflection. Investigation of these diaries reveals techniques for analyzing and appreciating the superficially unappealing and demonstrates the rewards of analysis."

The Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English at the University of Virginia, Spacks is an authority on eighteenth-century English literature. She has written on the poets and novelists of the time in such books as *The Poetry of Vision* and *Desire and Truth*. She has also authored books and essays on cultural as well as literary subjects, including adolescence, boredom, gossip, and women writers from the eighteenth century to the present. Her new book, *Privacy: Concealing the Eighteenth-Century Self*, will be published this spring by the University of Chicago Press. Spacks is chair of the board of directors of the American Council of Learned Societies and a trustee of the National Humanities Center.

The program will begin at 6 p.m. at the Boston Athenaeum, 10½ Beacon Street, Boston. Seating is limited.

For reservations, contact Sheri Bugbee (phone: 617-576-5032; e-mail: sbugbee@amacad.org).