



5 May 09
 Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m.
LEE WOODRUFF
PERFECTLY, IMPERFECT
 (Random House, \$25)
 Following her memoir about her husband Bob's injury while covering the Iraq war, Woodruff, a *Good Morning, America* commentator, here turns to the lighter side of life, offering wise and humorous anecdotes about raising teenagers, growing older, and embracing the chaos of daily life.

6 May 09
 Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
AYELET WALDMAN (W/JUDITH WARNER)
BAD MOTHER
 (Broadway, \$24.95)
 The modern mother can't win, says the witty Ms. Waldman, mystery writer, novelist, and essayist. "If you work, you're neglectful; if you stay home, you're smothering. If you discipline, you're buying them a spot on the shrink's couch; if you let them run wild, they will be into drugs by seventh grade."

7 May 09
 Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m.
RUTH REICHL
NOT BECOMING MY MOTHER
 (Penguin Press, \$19.95)
 Typical of an upper middle-class American woman at mid-century, Reichl's mother acquiesced in community norms but was unhappy and bitter as a result. When she married at age thirty, Miriam left the bookstore she'd started and became a wife and mother. Reichl has studied her mother's letters and diaries, embracing an opportunity to understand her better.

8 May 09
 Friday, May 8, 7 p.m.
CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY
LOSING MUM AND PUP
 (Twelve, \$24.99)
 A departure from his humorous novels, Buckley's latest book is a memoir of his parents, William F. Buckley and Patricia Taylor Buckley. Each was larger than life, and together they were formidable. Their son's memories of them are sometimes harsh, but also full of wit and warmth.

9 May 09
 Saturday, May 9, 1 p.m.
JAY TAYLOR
THE GENERALISSIMO
 (Harvard Univ., \$35)
 Amazingly, there has never been a full biography of the pivotal 20th-century figure Chiang Kai-shek. Taylor, who served with the U.S. Foreign Service in China and is now a fellow at Harvard's Fairbanks Center, offers a carefully wrought portrait of a contradictory man and an assessment of his impact on China.

9 May 09
 Saturday, May 9, 6 p.m.
MARSHALL JON FISHER
A TERRIBLE SPLENDOR
 (Crown, \$25)
 The 1937 Davis Cup match between the world's top two players, American Don Budge and Germany's Baron Gottfried von Cramm, ran to five sets. More than a tremendous athletic spectacle, the contest tapped pre-war political tensions and, though not known at the time, dramatized von Cramm's increasingly desperate efforts to stay one step ahead of the Gestapo.

10 May 09
 Sunday, May 10, 3 p.m.
AVIVA KEMPNER
YOO-HOO, MRS. GOLDBERG
Special for Mother's Day. Kempner's film looks at the life of Gertrude Berg, who pioneered the family-based sitcom format with the 1930s radio show, *The Goldbergs*, which she wrote, directed, and starred in, and which later became a TV show. Berg also took a stand against McCarthyism, refusing to fire her black listed co-star, Philip Loeb. *We will be showing a 15-minute clip of the film; full-length premiere will be at the Avalon Theatre in July.*

11 May 09
 Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
MICHAEL ERIC DYSON
CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
 (Basic Civitas, \$19.95)
 Dyson, University Professor of Sociology at Georgetown, has collected some of his provocative essays about American, particularly African-American, life and culture, including pieces on race and the presidency. His sparkling presentations are highlights of Politics and Prose's author series.

12 May 09
 Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m.
RICHARD N. HAASS
WAR OF NECESSITY, WAR OF CHOICE
 (Simon & Schuster, \$27)
 Haass, Director of Policy Planning in the State Department under Colin Powell, reflects on the wars that the United States has conducted in Iraq. The 1991 Iraq war was necessary to stop Saddam Hussein in Kuwait, but the 2003 war was unwarranted—the United States had other viable policy options—and in addition was poorly executed.

13 May 09
 Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
COLSON WHITEHEAD
SAG HARBOR
 (Doubleday, \$24.95)
 Drawing on his own experiences growing up, the talented Whitehead centers his novel on a youngster named Benji who, each summer, catches up with his friends in a Long Island town where he feels comfortable; by contrast, during the academic year he's one of the few African-Americans at his Manhattan prep school.

14 May 09
 Thursday, May 14, 7 p.m.
GEORGE PELECANOS
THE WAY HOME
 (Little, Brown, \$24.99)
 Hailed by the Associated Press as "one of the most literary of America's crime writers," Pelecanos shows his gifts for storytelling and complex characters in his latest novel, which opens with a father leaving his son at a Washington-area juvenile prison. Ten years later, seemingly reformed, the son is inadvertently involved in a burglary.

15 May 09
 Friday, May 15, 7 p.m.
MICHAEL POLLAN
IN DEFENSE OF FOOD
 (Penguin, \$15)
 "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." So begins Pollan's reconsideration of our eating habits. Decrying the traditional western diet as harmful, wasteful, and dangerous, the author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* presents his case against processed foods and in favor of simpler fare.

16 May 09
 Saturday, May 16, 1 p.m.
ALLIS RADOSH AND RONALD RADOSH
A SAFE HAVEN
 (HarperCollins, \$27.99)
 Under the leadership of President Truman, who acted against strong opposition from the State and Defense departments, among others, the United States was the first nation officially to recognize the state of Israel. The Radoshes' history examines the events that led to the momentous decision of May 14, 1948.

16 May 09
 Saturday, May 16, 6 p.m.
DAVID O. STEWART
IMPEACHED
 (Simon & Schuster, \$27)
 The author of *The Summer of 1787* here chronicles the 1868 impeachment trial of Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson. Stewart challenges the traditional view of Johnson as the heir to Lincoln's legacy of equality, arguing that Johnson's incompetence and racism forced many freed slaves into a brutal form of agricultural peonage across the South.

17 May 09
 Sunday, May 17, 1 p.m.
JULIE GREENE
THE CANAL BUILDERS
 (Penguin Press, \$30)
 A professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park, Greene presents the previously overlooked story of the construction of the Panama Canal. Without the tens of thousands of workers from the U.S., Italy, and the West Indies, the project's astounding engineering and technology would have meant little. But building the Canal involved a host of labor struggles and political tensions as well.

17 May 09
 Sunday, May 17, 5 p.m.
PROF. SIBELAN FORRESTER
SWARTHMORE LECTURE
Prof. Sibelan Forrester, Professor of Russian and Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature at Swarthmore. During the last years of the Cold War, deadly serious Soviet dissidents like Aleksander Solzhenitsyn were well known in the West, but what about those who used humor to question repressive political systems, the absurdities of the Period of Stagnation, and the stultifying sameness of Socialist Realism? Professor Forrester will discuss Ilf and Petrov's *The Twelve Chairs*, Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita*, and Kundera's *The Joke*. *This event is organized by the Swarthmore Alumni Book Group and is open to the public.*

18 May 09
 Monday, May 18, 7 p.m.
COLM TOIBIN
BROOKLYN
 (Scribner, \$25)
 Toibin follows his brilliant, sad short stories (*Mothers and Sons*) with a charming novel about an Irish immigrant to America who, after struggling for a foothold in the Brooklyn of the early twentieth century, returns to Ireland to help her mother. There, trapped by her indecision and passivity, she has to choose between her new American husband and her would-be Irish lover.

19 May 09
 Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m.
BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY
FINGERPRINTS OF GOD
 (Riverhead, \$26.95)
 Hagerty has interviewed a wide range of scientists to investigate how spirituality affects us physically. She looks at the brain functions of Carmelite nuns and Buddhist monks, the efficacy of prayer in healing, and her own experiences with Christian Science.

20 May 09
 Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m.
DAVID IGNATIUS
THE INCREMENT
 (W.W. Norton, \$26.95)
 The latest novel from the award-winning *Washington Post* columnist is set in Iran and involves Washington politics, the Iranian nuclear weapons program, and CIA spies—a wonderful concoction of clandestine chicanery.

21 May 09
 Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.
PHILIP LOPATE
NOTES ON SONTAG
 (Princeton Univ., \$19.95)
 In essays as rich and multifaceted as those of his subject, Lopate reflects on Susan Sontag's life and work. He both praises and criticizes her writing, disagreeing with her, for instance, on whether her fiction or her essays constitute her greatest achievement. Lopate, who was acquainted with Sontag, also reminisces about this strong writer who was unique and yet very much a person of her time.

22 May 09
 Friday, May 22, 7 p.m.
RAY RAPHAEL
FOUNDERS
 (The New Press, \$35)
 Focusing on figures pivotal in the American revolutionary period but nearly forgotten today, Raphael's latest history looks at a soldier in Washington's army, a village blacksmith, a slave owner and his abolitionist son, and Mercy Warren, among others, to flesh out our view of the years between 1761 and 1791.

26 May 09
 Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
EDUARDO GALEANO
MIRRORS
 (Nation Books, \$26.95)
 In this wide-ranging world history, the Uruguayan author of *Open Veins of Latin America* makes old stories new by telling them from perspectives previously overlooked. Here is the White House from the point of view of the black men who built it, and the New World as seen not by European explorers but by its first populations.

27 May 09
 Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
JAMES RESTON, JR.
DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH
 (Penguin Press, \$29.95)
 Reston's bestselling *Dogs of God* and *Warriors of God* established his expertise in the historic battles between Islam and Christendom. Now Reston recounts the 16th-century clash between the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and Turkish Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, who were simultaneously struggling with domestic uprisings.

28 May 09
 Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m.
MICHAEL MALONE
THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE SKY
 (Sourcebooks Landmark, \$24.99)
 This powerful novel from the author of *Handling Sin* explores the strength and flexibility of family. Annie, a Navy pilot, was abandoned by her con-artist father when she was seven. He renews contact on her 26th birthday to tell her he's dying and to ask for a favor, in return for which he'll reveal the name of her mother.

30 May 09
 Saturday, May 30, 1 p.m.
SELIG KAINER
BROTHERS IN EXILE
 (Scarith, \$36)
 Join us to celebrate Cleveland Park author Selig Kainer's new novel based on the lives of two of Germany's literary lions, Thomas and Heinrich Mann. Nigel Hamilton, biographer of JFK and the Mann brothers, says that "Kainer's intricate fictional journey is a *bildungsroman* at once tender, profound, epic and original. Enjoy!"

Children's Events

1 May 09
 Friday, May 1, 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.
Signing only
KATY KELLY
MELONHEAD
 (Delacorte, \$12.99)
 Adam "Melonhead" Melon is always attracting trouble—especially when he and Sam find a pet snake on Capitol Hill. As they contemplate a science-fair invention, hilarious family scenes ensue over custody of the snake. *Ages 7-10.*

2 May 09
 Saturday, May 2, 3 p.m.
Signing only
BRIAN FLOCA
MOONSHOT
 (Richard Jackson Books, \$17.99)
 Floca tells the story of the historic 1969 Apollo 11 flight to the Moon in simple, vivid terms. His fluid, detailed drawings of the spacecraft and astronauts will delight and inspire future scientists and explorers. *Ages 4-7.*

5 May 09
 Tuesday, May 5, 10:30 a.m.
JACKIE URBANOVIC
DUCK AND COVER
 (HarperCollins, \$17.99)
 Irene always cares for stray animals, but when Harold, a large green alligator, shows up needing refuge from the Zoo police, the other animals are frightened. Max (*Duck at the Door*), remembering his days all alone in the world, gets everyone to help Harold until a permanent home can be found. *Ages 4-8.*

5 May 09
 Tuesday, May 5, 4-5 p.m.
BOOK LAUNCH PARTY
THE LAST OLYMPIAN: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 5
 (Hyperion, \$17.99)
 Join us to celebrate the publication of Rick Riordan's final Percy Jackson adventure, *The Last Olympian*. Test your knowledge of Greek mythology with our trivia contest—you might even win a prize! Look for details in our weekly email.

19 May 09
 Tuesday, May 19, 10:30 a.m.
AMY KROUSE ROSENTHAL
DUCK! RABBIT!
 (Chronicle, \$16.99)
 This book's clever illustration is a visual puzzle: the picture can look like a duck with a white bill or like a rabbit with long ears folded straight back. Each scene can be interpreted either way—it all depends on how you look at it! *Ages 4-8.*

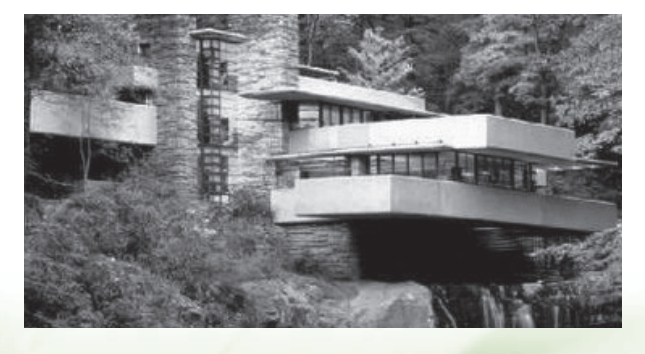
20 May 09
 Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI
SHADOWLAND
Book III of the Brotherhood of the Conch
 (Roaring Brook Press, \$17.95)
 When Anand's magic conch is stolen, the lush Silver Valley becomes a barren desert. Anand and Nisha, his best friend, must travel to the Shadowland to recapture the conch and restore the Silver Valley. Divakaruni's elegant writing transforms India, her childhood home, to a rich land of fantasy. *Ages 10-13.*

Politics and Prose Fallingwater

The annual P&P trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater will take place on Saturday, June 20. The day trip costs \$105, which covers the bus ride through scenic Western Maryland and the Laurel Highlands, and a tour of the house. We leave at 8 a.m. and return at about 8 p.m. For more information or to register, call the store at 202-364-1919 or email cdawson@politics-prose.com.

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Gearing up for summer traveling? Planning a fall trip? We have an excellent selection of travel guides and we will offer them at 20% off for members during the entire merry month of May.



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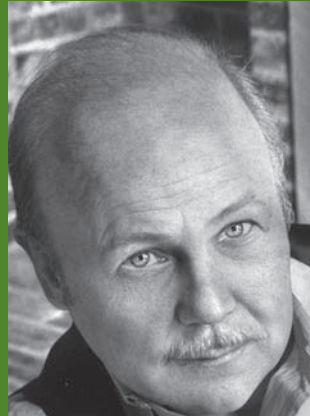
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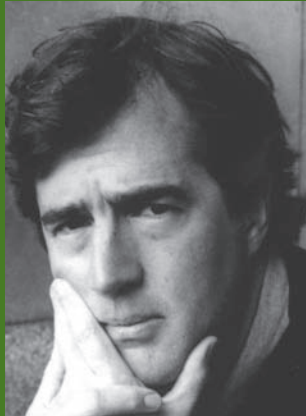
MONDAY, MAY 18, 7 P.M.

COLM TÓIBÍN



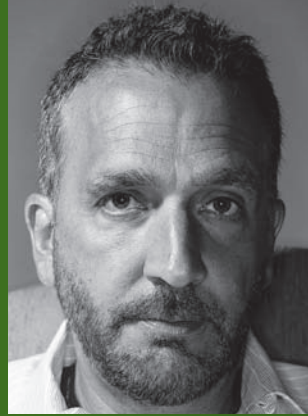
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 7 P.M.

MICHAEL MALONE



MONDAY, MAY 4, 7 P.M.

SEBASTIAN BARRY



THURSDAY, MAY 14, 7 P.M.

GEORGE PELECANOS



May 2009 Events Calendar

May brings us more prose than politics. We feature new novels by Colm Tóibín, Colson Whitehead, George Pelecanos, and David Ignatius, and the paperback publication of Sebastian Barry's Booker-nominated *The Secret Scripture*. We have memoirs by Ruth Reichl and Christopher Buckley, and the paperback publication of Michael Pollan's *In Defense of Food*. All this and more...



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 7 P.M.

COLSON WHITEHEAD



THURSDAY, MAY 7, 7 P.M.

RUTH REICHL

ALI A. ALLAWI Friday, May 1, 7 p.m.
ALI ALLAWI
THE CRISIS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION
(Yale Univ., \$27.50)
The former minister of defense and finance in Iraq's postwar governments argues that Western imperialism disrupted the evolution of Islamic society. He calls for restoring the balance between "rights and duties," and concludes that Islamic civilization cannot survive without the vital spirituality that underpinned it in the past.

2 Saturday, May 2, 1 p.m.
WAYNE L. HORVITZ
WHAT'S THE BEEF
(Univ. Press of America, \$39)
Horvitz, a highly respected leader in management-labor relations, reviews his sixty-year career, during which he mediated longshore and coal strikes, as well as a labor dispute at the Metropolitan Opera. A gifted, colorful storyteller, Horvitz also served in the Carter Administration as the nation's top mediator.

2 Saturday, May 2, 6 p.m.
PAUL CHAAT SMITH
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT INDIANS IS WRONG
(Univ. of Minnesota, \$21.95)
With dry wit and brutal honesty, this memoir and social critique confronts the difficulty of representing the Native American experience. Smith charts his own coming-of-age in American suburbia, his political radicalism in the 1970s, and his current position as associate curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

3 Sunday, May 3, 1 p.m.
TRACY SUGARMAN
WE HAD SNEAKERS, THEY HAD GUNS
(Syracuse Univ., \$34.95)
As he did in *My War: A Love Story in Letters and Drawings*, Sugarman combines narrative with pictures to record historic moments in his life. This moving record of his participation in the 1964 and '65 Mississippi Summers attests to the dedication of the Civil Rights workers and the scary times, but also reminds us how the country has changed.

3 Sunday, May 3, 5 p.m.
KIRSTIN DOWNEY
THE WOMAN BEHIND THE NEW DEAL
(Nan A. Talese, \$35)
Downey, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, formerly with *The Washington Post*, presents her biography of Frances Perkins, who became the first female cabinet member when FDR appointed her Secretary of Labor in 1933. Perkins, a politically savvy progressive, was the architect of unemployment insurance, minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, and Social Security.

4 Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.
SEBASTIAN BARRY
THE SECRET SCRIPTURE
(Penguin, \$15)
Short-listed for the Booker Prize, Barry's novel combines Irish history, psychological complexity, and strong plot to tell the story of Roseanne McNulty, 100 years old and the resident of a mental asylum for some 60 years, though there is nothing wrong with her mind.

Book Groups

P & P book groups meet monthly, and are free and open to the public. Book group titles are 20% off for attendees. Read the book and join us!

- **Capital James Joyce Club** (1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/7: *Ulysses* Chapter 7, by Joyce
- **Classics** (1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/4: *The Odyssey* (Book 1-12), by Homer
- **Daytime** (3rd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.)
5/20: *Praisesong for the Widow*, by Marshall
- **Evening Fiction** (2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/13: *American Woman*, by Choi
- **Fascinating History** (4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/28: *Washington DC, Politics & Place*, by Ozer
- **Futurist** (1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/6: *Blue Covenant*, by Barlow
- **Knitter's Circle**
(1st & 3rd Thurs., 2 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/7, 5/13, 5/21, 5/27: No reading required
- **Poetry** (4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/26:
• **Public Affairs** (4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/25: *Two Trillion Dollar Meltdown*, by Morris
- **Science Fiction & Fantasy** (2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.)
5/14: *Replay*, by Grimwood
- **Spanish Language** (3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/19: *Bosque Quemado*, by Brodsky
- **Spirituality** (3rd Sunday, 6 p.m.)
5/17: *Sleeping, Dreaming & Dying*, Dalai Lama
- **Swarthmore** (3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/18:
• **Travel** (1st Tuesday, 7 p.m.)
5/5: *In The Land of Invisible Women*, Ahmed
- **Women's Biography** (2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m.)
5/11: *The Florist's Daughter*, Hampl

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 1 p.m. Mark Ozer Washington DC: Politics And Place 5 p.m. Gavin Schmidt and Joshua Wolfe Climate Change	27 7 p.m. Reza Aslan How To Win A Cosmic War	28 1 p.m. <i>Department of Interior</i> 1849 G. Street NW Jean Chatzky The Difference 7 p.m. T.J. Stiles The First Tycoon	29 4:30 p.m. Erin Hunter Warriors: Power Of 3: #6 Sunrise 7 p.m. Vincent Bzdek The Kennedy Legacy	30 10:30 a.m. Kate Feiffer and Jules Feiffer Which Puppy? 7 p.m. Arthur Phillips The Song Is You	1 10:30 a.m. Katy Kelly Melonhead 7 p.m. Ali Allawi The Crisis Of Islamic Civilization	2 1 p.m. Wayne L. Horvitz What's The Beef 3 p.m. Brian Floca - <i>Signing Only</i> Moonshot 6 p.m. Paul Chaat Smith Everything You Know About Indians Is Wrong
3 1 p.m. Katy Kelly - <i>Signing Only</i> Melonhead 1 p.m. Tracy Sugarman We Had Sneakers, They Had Guns 5 p.m. Kirstin Downey The Woman Behind The New Deal	4 7 p.m. Sebastian Barry The Secret Scripture	5 10:30 a.m. Jackie Urbanovic Duck And Cover 4:30 p.m. Rick Riordan Book Launch Party <i>The Last Olympian: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 5</i> 7 p.m. Lee Woodruff Perfectly, Imperfect	6 7 p.m. Ayelet Waldman (W/Judith Warner) Bad Mother	7 7 p.m. Ruth Reichl Not Becoming My Mother	8 7 p.m. Christopher Buckley Losing Mum And Pup	9 1 p.m. Jay Taylor The Generalissimo 6 p.m. Marshall Jon Fisher A Terrible Splendor
10 3 p.m. Mother's Day Aviva Kempner Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg	11 7 p.m. Michael Eric Dyson Can You Hear Me Now?	12 7 p.m. Richard N. Haass War Of Necessity, War Of Choice	13 7 p.m. Colson Whitehead Sag Harbor	14 7 p.m. George Pelecanos The Way Home	15 7 p.m. Michael Pollan In Defense Of Food	16 1 p.m. Ron And Allis Radosh A Safe Haven 6 p.m. David O. Stewart Impeached
17 1 p.m. Julie Greene The Canal Builders 5 p.m. Swarthmore Lecture Prof. Sibelan Forrester	18 7 p.m. Colm Tóibín Brooklyn	19 10:30 a.m. Amy Krouse Rosenthal Duck! Rabbit! 7 p.m. Barbara Bradley Hagerty Fingerprints Of God	20 7 p.m. David Ignatius The Increment 7:30 p.m. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni Shadowland	21 7 p.m. Phillip Lopate Notes On Sontag	22 7 p.m. Ray Raphael Founders	23 <i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>
24 <i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 7 p.m. Eduardo Galeano Mirrors	27 7 p.m. James Reston, Jr. Defenders Of The Faith	28 7 p.m. Michael Malone The Four Corners Of The Sky	29	30 1 p.m. Selig Kainer Brothers In Exile
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May 2009