

**If You Paid in Full or Made a Percentage Co-Payment for Brand Name Prescription Drugs You Could Get a Payment**

[Click Here - www.AWPClassActions.com](http://www.AWPClassActions.com)

HOME / A&E / BOOKS SHELF LIFE

## A fighting chance



Gossip columnists linked Don Budge, whom they dubbed "the Romeo of tennis," to actress Olivia de Havilland romantically. (Jeff Budge)

By Jan Gardner  
April 26, 2009

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Single Page](#) | [Yahoo! Buzz](#) | [ShareThis](#) Text size - +

The Davis Cup match on July 20, 1937 was a contest of epic proportions. It was America against Germany, democracy against fascism. Millions around the world listened on the radio as Don Budge, a working-class player from Oakland, Calif., faced Gottfried von Cramm, an aristocrat under surveillance by the Gestapo. Von Cramm was a closeted homosexual who refused to join the Nazi Party or even defend Adolf Hitler. But winning the Davis Cup, he thought, just might save his life.

**Discuss**  
COMMENTS (1)

In "A Terrible Splendor" (Crown), Marshall Jon Fisher, who lives in the Berkshires, offers richly detailed portraits as the story moves from one nail-biting set to the next against a backdrop of improbably high personal and political stakes.

The Nazi threat is central to another new book, this one a novel by veteran Boston newspaperman Peter Lucas, whose reporting assignments have taken him to trouble spots all over the world. He has drawn on his trips to Albania, his parents' homeland, to write "Balkan Caesar" (Aberdeen Bay). It is a fictionalized account of a band of US soldiers - including an Albanian-speaking officer from Boston - who volunteer to join the battle against the Nazis in the

ADVERTISEMENT

**Celebrity Series of Boston**  
Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

**ALVIN AILEY**  
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**APRIL 28-May 3** The Opera House (BOSTON)

### INSIDE BOSTON.COM

#### PARTY PHOTOS



The Seen: Diane Lane in the hub and locals out on the town

#### 7 WAYS TO AVOID SWINE FLU



A breakdown of symptoms, and ways to prevent swine flu

#### HACKERS DELIGHT



A history of MIT pranks

#### THE STREAK



Let the good times roll: Look

**If You Paid in Full or Made a Percentage Co-Payment for Brand Name Prescription Drugs You Could Get a Payment**

[Click Here - www.AWPClassActions.com](http://www.AWPClassActions.com)

rugged mountains of Albania.

Poet's corner

In 1923, Edna St. Vincent Millay, a flamboyant denizen of Greenwich Village, became the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. Two years later, Millay and her husband bought an old farmhouse they called Steepletop in Austerlitz, N.Y., on the Massachusetts border. She lived there until her death 25 years later. Millay had a writing cabin, lush gardens, and room to entertain fellow writers and friends.

Over the years, the house - containing her library and many possessions - fell into disrepair. The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society is spearheading the effort to restore Steepletop, a national historic landmark, and open it to the public. Linda and Phil Halpern, poetry lovers who own Brook Farm Inn in Lenox, are hosting a fund-raiser at 3 p.m. on May 16. Peter Bergman, the society's executive director, will read from Millay's work and talk about her life. Tickets are \$20.

At the Athenaeum

Anne Fadiman, whose collection of essays, "Ex Libris," touches on matters of book etiquette as well as the union of her library with her husband's, will give a free talk at 6 p.m. May 5 at the Boston Athenaeum. Fadiman's first book, "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down," which examined the gulf between a Hmong family with an epileptic child and the American healthcare system, is now required reading at some schools.

Formerly editor of The American Scholar, Fadiman teaches at Yale, where she is the inaugural Francis Writer in Residence, the university's first endowed appointment in nonfiction writing. Reservations are required (617-720-7600).

Coming out

- "A Failure of Capitalism: The Crisis of '08 and the Descent into Depression," by Richard A. Posner (Harvard University)
- "Echoes of a University Presidency: Selected Speeches," by J. Donald Monan (Linden Lane)
- "Sag Harbor," by Colson Whitehead (Doubleday)

Pick of the week

Kathryn Fabiani of RJ Julia Booksellers in Madison, Conn., recommends "Genesis" by Bernard Beckett (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt): "In a futuristic society, the survivors of a devastating worldwide plague live on an isolated and heavily defended island. This short novel is a stunning and original combination of philosophy, history, suspense, and technology, with an ending that will take your breath away."

Jan Gardner can be reached at JanLGardner@yahoo.com. ■

© Copyright 2009 Globe Newspaper Company.

back at 11 straight Sox wins

PLUS...

Blogs | Games | Podcasts | Puzzles | Personals | Movie listings | Classifieds | Globe Magazine

MOST E-MAILED

1. Inside the baby mind
2. Hackers delight -- A history of MIT pranks
3. Glendon declines Notre Dame award
4. Catholic mag: Lets discuss married priests
5. More in US switch religious affiliations
6. Beware: This game is infectious
7. Drug makers see new wave in multiple sclerosis care

RECOMMENDED SEARCHES

- Lotteries
- Horoscope
- Crossword puzzle
- The Green Blog
- Immunologist
- Seasonal storage

ABOUT THIS LIST

READER COMMENTS (1)

POWERED BY Pluck



schultpe wrote:

Thank you for your article on A TERRIBLE SPLENDOR and BALKAN CAESAR. I am aware of the Don Budge story, but look forward to reading this new book, as well as the one on the Albanian resistance. Those interested in the period might want to check out my new novel, THE FUHRER VIRUS. It is a fictional