

# Catskill High Peaks Festival: Literary Lecture

**Location:** 2nd floor conference room, Hunter Village Square, 7950 Main Street, Village of Hunter

**Presenter:** Amala Levine, Ph.D.

**Reader:** Eric Levine

**New York Council for the Humanities**

*This lecture is supported by a grant from New York Council on the Humanities.*

## **The Modern Spirit and the City:**

### **From Berlin to America in Literature, Music and Film**

**Saturday, August 25, 2012, 1:30-3pm**

Writers, film makers and musicians of the 1920s are fascinated by the beat of the modern city; its energy and rhythm animate their artistic productions. Berlin, New York and Hollywood serve as inspiration and backdrop for social commentary and moral critique. The city is the crucible of the modern experience of life without a transcendent frame.

This lecture focuses on the turbulent '20s in Berlin, the Jazz Age in America, the collaboration of B. Brecht and K. Weill, as well as highlights of the cinema.

### **About the Lectures:**

The lecture is a cross-cultural examination of literary, painterly, musical, or cinematographic expressions of the early 20th century experience of a fully industrialized and mechanized urban civilization.

This lecture complements some the musical programming of this year's High Peaks Festival.

### **Biographical information:**

Amala Levine received her doctorate in Comparative Literature from UCLA in 1978. She has worked academically since 1967 at SMU, UCLA, The University of Alaska, and at New School University (The Graduate Faculty of Social and Political Science/Liberal Studies Committee) in New York throughout the 1990s. Since 2000 she has been teaching, writing and lecturing as a freelance academic in a variety of fields. She is also the founder of The Millbrook Symposium, presenting biannual symposia on subjects of topical interest in today's complex world.