



2022 ANNUAL





# DEAR FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE,

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It has been great to be back on campus and to reintroduce our community to the pleasures and possibilities of in-person activities at the Writers House.

We hosted more than one hundred in-person public events at the Writers House this past year, many of them produced in the Arts Café, with its robust (and whisper-quiet) air handling, fantastic sound system, flexible theatrical lighting, and the capacity to livestream with a few simple clicks. We’ve never been more grateful for the top-to-bottom renovation of the old front parlor, which was completed in 2019. The Arts Café is welcoming, tech-forward, and ready for all the possibilities our community can imagine.

People gathered in the garden for shared meals, including a once-in-a-lifetime dinner cooked by chef Gabrielle Hamilton, who joined us for a reunion of the 2020–2021 Fellows Seminar. The Wexler Studio reopened for special recordings and podcasts, including the long-running podcast *PoemTalk*, which returned to the studio to record its 176th episode. Students rediscovered the second-floor Lipson Student Project Space as an ideal spot for craft projects, magazine production, free printing, and occasional naps. And our seminar rooms once again welcomed people for workshops, community-led writing exchange groups, knitting circles, editorial meetings, alumni visitors, and late-night discussions.

You can read about some of these activities in the pages of this *Annual*, though there’s never enough space to describe it all. The Event Highlights section on pages 4–8 showcases a handful of public readings and conversations, including our inaugural Friedman Fiction Program, which

featured the eminent novelist Alice McDermott. On pages 8–9, we reflect on the remarkable impact of the Creative Ventures Project, which has been an engine of innovation at the KWH for a decade. The Digital Projects section on pages 12–13 describes a suite of interrelated online ventures that help us build and sustain a community of Writers House people stretching far beyond Philadelphia. We’re especially proud to note that ModPo — our beloved free and open online course about modern and contemporary poetry — also turns ten this year.

Finally, in the last section of the *Annual*, where we name all of the Friends of the Writers House, without whom the Writers House simply would not exist, we announce our campaign to support the Kelly Writers House far into the future. The Possibility Fund (pages 32–33), to which anyone can contribute, will help ensure the permanence and sustainability of the Writers House and its creative community. We want our House of Possibility to exist for many generations to come. We hope you will want to help!

As always, we are grateful to the many, many generous people and organizations who contribute to the life of the Kelly Writers House, including the Office of the Provost, alumni, students, faculty, ModPo participants, Penn parents, Philadelphians, and Friends of the Writers House from all over the world. On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee, we say thank you for everything you bring to this community.

  
**Al Filreis**  
Faculty Director  
Kelly Professor of English

  
**Jessica Lowenthal**  
Director





# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A fifteen-hour marathon reading of *Kafka on the Shore*. More than a dozen poetry readings. A showcase of honors thesis projects by graduating Creative Writing majors. You can find recordings of these events and thousands more on our website, stretching all the way back to the spring of 1996 with “Writing a Community,” one of our earliest recorded events.

## TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

► Our highly anticipated inaugural **Friedman Fiction Program** featured National Book Award winner **Alice McDermott**, who read an excerpt from an as-yet-untitled new novel — an evocative scene set in 1963 Saigon. Given the vast amount of writing and analysis about 1963, McDermott approached her story with a mixture of “fear and trepidation,” but was determined, nevertheless, to make something new. To capture what she called the “tactile” experience of American women in Saigon in 1963, the smell and feel of it, the clothing, the daily texture, McDermott read memoirs by corporate and military wives, whose experiences informed her writing. The resulting book — a rich, character-driven, epistolary novel — deftly presents a “woman’s version of a fraught and complicated time in our history” and manages a fresh take by focusing on minute experiential detail, beautifully rendered. Faculty Director **Al Filreis**, who led a conversation with McDermott about her work, guided the conversation toward the craft of fiction. He invited McDermott to comment on advice to young writers from her book *What About the Baby*. If readers need something — a detail, some history — just *tell* them, McDermott said: “tell us what we need to know and get on with your story.”

## THE LAST WORD

► On a sweltering night early in the fall semester, **Marc Anthony Richardson** and **Vi Khi Nao** read excerpts from their boundary-pushing new works for our **Cheryl J. Family Fiction Program**, a series made possible by **Cheryl J. Family** (C’91) that showcases up-and-coming fiction writers. We gathered in part to celebrate the release of Richardson’s experimental novel *Messiahs*, which features a pair of unnamed protagonists in a romantic relationship. The powerful work grapples with the meaning of justice and punishment, and the lasting impacts of incarceration. Richardson explained his process: “Get everything on the page and then trim until it’s right.” About the ending of his novel, he said: “I didn’t know what I was going to do until the very last word was written.” Nao, who came with small sticker versions of her many book covers, read from a soon-to-be-published play and bits of short fiction and poetry, concluding with a microexcerpt from *Fish in Exile*. “It was overrated,” she said, reading the one-liner with a hilarious, deadpan delivery. Everyone laughed in disagreement — the reading was, in fact, fantastic.

## THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY

► Co-sponsored by Penn’s Creative Writing Program, our annual **Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction** featured a star-studded showcase of writers — **Piyali Bhattacharya**, **Ariel Delgado Dixon**, **Stephanie Feldman**, **Carmen Maria Machado**, **Sara Nović**, and **Asali Solomon** — all members of The Claw, a Philadelphia-based collective of women and nonbinary writers who are “making Philly a lit hotbed,” according to our good friends at *Philadelphia Magazine*. The event was packed — full of writers and readers, many of them in town for the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) conference. KWH director **Jessica Lowenthal** (G’07) took the opportunity to brag about fiction writing in Philadelphia when she welcomed people to the standing-room-only event. Event emcee **Carmen Maria Machado** followed up with praise for the benefits of writing and working in community, a founding principle of The Claw and also of the Kelly Writers House. This was a fitting frame for our annual Lucid Program, which each year honors the memory of **Bob Lucid**, who helped dream up the KWH as an engine for building community.



## CELEBRATING SAM APPLE

► We celebrated **Sam Apple** twice this year: as our **Beltran Family Teaching Award** winner, an honor he received after nomination from students, and for the publication of his new nonfiction book, *Ravenous: Otto Warburg, the Nazis, and the Search for the Cancer-Diet Connection*. Apple’s exploration of Warburg’s life and scientific work under the Nazi regime — part science reporting, part biography, part mystery — provides an astonishing account of how an eccentric, gay, Jewish scientist despised by the Nazis escaped extermination. In a lively discussion with the audience gathered in the Writers House garden, including many admiring students who came to cheer him on, Apple described the mystery of Warburg’s survival and summarized the groundbreaking cancer research that helped keep him alive. The event was sponsored by **Gary Wexler** and **Nina Wexler**, who established a fund at the KWH to support programs that explore Jewish life and culture.

## WRITING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

► Our Arts at Homecoming event, sponsored by the **Lucy F. DeMarco Fund for Youth Literature**, featured two YA writers: **Zachary Sergi** (C’10), author of the interactive novel *Major Detours*, and **Jennifer Yu** (C’16), author of *Four Weeks, Five People* and *Imagine Us Happy*. KWH Director **Jessica Lowenthal** (G’07) moderated a conversation with Sergi and Yu about the ways they approach writing for young adults. Yu, who writes compellingly about teens struggling with mental illness, said that the formative topics of young adulthood, such as crushes and parent conflict, deserve serious treatment. Sergi agreed and noted that there’s often a “feeling of discovery” that motivates writing for young adults and helps define the genre. The event concluded with Yu’s advice for aspiring writers: “find welcoming spaces — including the Kelly Writers House — with other creative people to bounce ideas off of, to encourage each other, and to hold each other accountable.”



► Find video recordings of these and other KWH events on our web calendar ([writing.upenn.edu/wh/calendar](https://writing.upenn.edu/wh/calendar)) and YouTube channel ([youtube.com/kellywritershouse](https://youtube.com/kellywritershouse)).

## JAPANESE BREAKFAST IN THE HOUSE

► When word got out about the impending visit of **Michelle Zauner** — author of the heartrending memoir *Crying in H-Mart* and lead vocalist of the indie band Japanese Breakfast — we had to figure out a plan for packing in extra chairs. Zauner’s connections to Philly’s creative writing scene made this event, our sixteenth annual **Blutt Songwriting Symposium**, a special homecoming. It was also a lovefest for college writing classes. Zauner praised her mentors in Bryn Mawr’s Creative Writing Program: “I would not be the writer I am today without that program and without **Daniel Torday**, specifically, and the care and generosity he brings to his class.” Penn Creative Writing instructor **Anthony DeCurtis**, who hosted the event, led a revelatory discussion with Zauner and invited her to perform a few songs, including “Kokomo, IN,” from *Jubilee*, her third studio album. Our **Blutt Songwriting Symposium** was sponsored by **Margo Krody Blutt** and **Mitchell J. Blutt** (C’78, M’82, L’84, Trustee 1998–2008), who generously endowed the series in 2006.







## GENERATION PANDEMIC

► Near the end of the fall semester, **Alan Jinich** (C'22) and **Max Strickberger** (C'22) presented materials and findings from their “Generation Pandemic” project — an archive of interviews with young adults about the impact of the pandemic on their lives. Jinich and Strickberger conducted over eighty in-person interviews during an epic road trip across twenty-three states and 7,300 miles. To help ensure geographic and socioeconomic diversity in their project, the intrepid pair used Social Explorer, a demographic mapping tool, to plot their route. “We were looking for different kinds of places, big cities, tiny towns,” Jinich explained in a *Penn Today* interview, “places with racial, ethnic, political, and religious diversity.” Interview subjects included an overworked pharmacy tech worried about mishaps with medication, a member of the Navajo Nation who witnessed near-daily funerals, and the first person to contract COVID-19 in a small Utah community. In the discussion at the KWH moderated by project advisor **Chris Mustazza** (GEng'07, LPS'15, GR'19), Jinich and Strickberger described how they arranged and conducted interviews, including some of the more challenging aspects, such as convincing strangers to speak with them about deeply personal experiences.

## INAUGURAL LIU PROGRAM

► In April we celebrated *Tea with Ms. Tanzania*, the extraordinary first novel of **Fayyaz Vellani**, a much beloved instructor in Penn's Critical Writing Program. The reading was the inaugural event in our newly endowed **Liu Program Series**, an annual series of events sponsored by **Betty Liu** (C'95) that is dedicated to writing about immigrant experience, border crossing, and the struggles and challenges of displacement. Vellani read three excerpts from his new novel, including a contemplative scene about a Black photojournalist in London sent to cover protests in the wake of a police shooting. Event host **Sara Byala** led a conversation with Vellani about the book, which touched upon themes of nostalgia, longing, and the pain of homecoming. “Going home again is fraught with disappointment,” Vellani said. They talked about lighter subjects, too, such as how fashion (“feather earrings and slingbacks”) can contribute to character development and how to make writing about geography “not boring.” Vellani surprised and delighted his friends and fans with a lovely a cappella rendition of “Malaika,” a traditional Tanzanian love song.

## HALAL IF YOU HEAR ME

► Supported by a grant from the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation, poet **Husnaa Haajarah Hashim** (C'22) curated two events featuring poets from the anthology *Halal If You Hear Me*, a collection of writing that explores the diversity of Muslim experience. For the first event in the series, poets **Safia Elhillo** and **Angel Nafis** joined Hashim for a presentation of their work, followed by a conversation about their individual writing practices. To mark the special occasion, audience members received free copies of *Halal If You Hear Me* — which was edited by Elhillo — and select titles by each poet. The second event was held on Zoom, where **Ladan Osman** joined Hashim for a reading and discussion. After the reading, Osman and Hashim spoke about ways to approach genre and disciplinary boundaries. Osman emphasized the importance of process, experiment, and discovery in artistic practice: “There's value in being an amateur in something,” she said. Their conversation also touched on institutional hardships young Black writers face, and Hashim asked Osman for advice. “Hold onto your humanity,” Ladan offered. “Being tethered inside of cooperation instead of competition will yield a lot more... it'll light the way behind you and ahead of you.”

## CREATIVE WRITING THESIS READING

► A celebratory in-person event in April gave graduating Creative Writing majors an opportunity to share excerpts from their honors thesis projects — long-form creative literary works in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, screenwriting, and hybrid genres. This year's crop of capstone projects included pandemic narratives, transnational reflections on immigration and difference, childhood portraits, and experimental poetic investigations into material culture. Creative Writing Director **Julia Bloch** (GR'11) and faculty advisors introduced eight thesis writers: **Jamie Albrecht** (C'22), **Mehek Boparai** (C'22), **Alexander Sully Burns** (C'22), **Saranya Das Sharma** (C'22), **Quinn Gruber** (C'22), **Lulu Lipman** (C'22), **Laiqa Shariff** (C'22), and **Max Strickberger** (C'22).



## PERFORMING SCIENCE

► Members of the Excelano Project, Penn's spoken word performance group, invited **Franny Choi** to perform for this year's **Caroline Rothstein Oral Poetry Program**, an annual event endowed by **Nancy Rothstein** (CW'75) and **Steven Rothstein** (C'06), who got her start as a performance poet at Penn. Choi read several pieces from “Soft Science,” a series of Turing-test-inspired poems informed by artificial intelligence and automation that investigate identity and consciousness. Excelano Project co-presidents **Ollie Dupuy** (C'23) and **Maressa Park** (C'22) led a conversation with Choi, in part about her interest in science and how having a “beginner's mind” in technological topics might spark creative response. “I'm excited to introduce some of these concepts, which are still new to me,” Choi explained. Audience members kept up a robust discussion for the duration of the reading and conversation using Zoom's chat function.

# BRODSKY GALLERY

The Brodsky Gallery is an art installation space integrated into the first floor of the Kelly Writers House, endowed by **Michael Brodsky** (W'88) and **Heidi Hookman Brodsky** (C'89). The Brodsky Gallery presented three fantastic shows this year, including art by students.

► **Rema Hort** (C'23) and **Jessica Lowenthal** (G'07) dreamed up a pandemic-ready show for the fall: an outdoor installation of birdhouses decorated by KWH community members. More than thirty artists answered our open call to make or embellish a birdhouse, including **Quinn Gruber** (C'22), who used wood glue and binder clips to rig up a double house, and **Amy Krimm** (C'23), whose intricate multicolored clay work mimicked embroidery.

► We opened the spring semester with *Late for Revision*, a series of small-scale graphite drawings by **Jennifer Wroblewski** (C'94) that explore “the space between drawing and writing.” Artist **Etty Yaniv** led a conversation with Wroblewski about asemic writing, the similarities and differences between drawing and writing, and the concept of “revision.”

► For our final gallery show of the year, Assistant Program Coordinator **Heidi Kalloo** curated *Black Radical Comics*, a show of comics by **Ben Passmore**, a Philadelphia-based Eisner award-winning artist and activist. On display were two of Passmore's comics, *City of Brotherly Riots*, which documents summer 2020 protests in Philadelphia, and *The Great Debate*, which reimagines a 1959 debate between Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Williams.



## We welcomed alumni to the KWH — as mentors, featured readers, workshop leaders, editors, and teachers.

► **Wendy Bach** (C'91) chatted with Al Filreis about the complex issues raised in her book *Prosecuting Poverty, Criminalizing Care*, an investigation of the fallout from a narcotics law that disproportionately affected poor women.

► **Julia Bloch** (GR'11) joined Maxe Crandall and Larissa Lai for a round-robin reunion reading hosted by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis.

► **Carlos Decena** (C'94) shared excerpts from his forthcoming work *Circuits of the Sacred: Faggotology in the Black Latinx Caribbean*, a project that blends memoir, ethnography, fiction, and critical analysis.

► Podcast fans flocked to the KWH on Alumni Day for a blockbuster lineup of alumni podcasters: **Nate Chinen** (C'97), **Taylor Hosking** (C'17), **Naomi Shavin** (C'14), and **Yowei Shaw** (C'10), with moderator **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05).

► **Stephen Fried** (C'79) convened a group of alumni journalists — **Jean Chatzky** (C'86), **Madeleine Ngo** (C'20), and **Rebecca Tan** (C'19) — for a lively discussion with students about careers in journalism and new media.

► Journalist-turned-YA-author **Jessica Goodman** (C'12) spoke with **Anthony DeCurtis** about how she works cross-genre as a novelist and a journalist.

► We celebrated the perseverance of two Heled Travel Grant winners: **Grace Leahy** (C'20), who chronicled the pandemic-driven disruptions to her original plan, and **Ian McCormack** (C'21), who toured abandoned psychiatric hospitals after a yearlong delay.

► Penn alumni joined us for an annual fundraiser in support of the KWH, held this year in memory of **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–2021). Featured presenters included **Skye Lucas** (C'21), who interned at the *Flathead Beacon*,

and **Hillary Reinsberg** (C'11), editor in chief of *The Infatuation* and *Zagat*.

► **Jamila Medley** (G'13, LPS'15) interviewed **Andrew Zitcer** (C'00, GCP'04, CGS'07) about his new book *Practicing Cooperation: Mutual Aid Beyond Capitalism*. “This book feels like a very personal manifestation of my own values,” said Zitcer, who was a founding member of our Planning Committee.

► In a conversation with **Anthony DeCurtis**, **Clayton Neuman** (C'05) described his work at the intersection between innovative arts — including game design — and marketing.

► **Dan Rottenberg** (C'64) shared excerpts from his twelfth book, *The Education of a Journalist: My Seventy Years on the Frontiers of Free Speech*, including a section detailing his time at Penn.

► **Lew Schneider** (C'83) emceed another hilarious installation of “Stand-Ups Sit Down,” an annual stand-up comedy colloquium. Schneider, who has hosted the program since its inception, jokingly suggested a new title for the series: “Killing the patient — when you start dissecting comedy you run the risk of really ruining it.”

► **Zachary Sergi** (C'10) and **Jennifer Yu** (C'16) paired up for a special Arts at Homecoming event sponsored by our Lucy F. DeMarco Fund for Youth Literature, a discussion about the pleasures and challenges of writing fiction for young adults.

► Fashion critic **Rachel Seville Tashjian** (C'11), founder of the innovative newsletter *Opulent Tips*, joined **Anthony DeCurtis** for a conversation about the ways fashion coverage has changed over time.

► Our Applebaum Editors and Publishers series welcomed mode-breaking indie publisher **Cindy Spiegel** (C'82) for a discussion hosted by **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) about what it's like to build an independent publishing company.

► Artist **Jennifer Wroblewski** (C'94) — featured in our Brodsky Gallery — described her drawing process in a conversation with artist **Etty Yaniv**: “There's something that happens when you have a pencil and a sheet of paper: the thinking follows the contact.”





## TEN YEARS OF CREATIVE VENTURES

**Creative Ventures** launched in October 2011 with two events: our first ever Edible Books Party, a punny celebration of books and food, followed two weeks later by “Re:activism,” a citywide game that explored Philadelphia’s history of activism and public protest, developed collaboratively with colleagues from the Institute of Contemporary Art and Penn’s Urban Studies Department.

These back-to-back events — creative, playful, interdisciplinary, ambitious, and community-oriented happenings — set the stage for what has become a transformational project at the Kelly Writers House. Supported for a decade with extraordinary generosity by **Marc Wolpow** (W’80) and **Robin Wolpow**, Creative Ventures has become a remarkable engine of innovation at the KWH.

Even a short partial list of the dozens and dozens of innovators and creative people who have visited the KWH thanks to Creative Ventures is astonishing. New Orleans city planner **Kristina Ford** brought designers, planners, and activists together to discuss the challenges of city planning in the aftermath of disaster. Architectural conservator **Jessica Baumert** met with students to describe the community engagement process that helped transform West Philly’s historic Woodlands cemetery into a vital community resource. Novelist **Naomi Jackson** led a free, multiweek writing workshop for women of color. **Andrew Whiteman** of the indie band Broken Social Scene tested the technical capacity of our old, pre-renovation

Arts Café when he performed a multimedia reinterpretation of Alice Notley’s *In the Pines*. Novelist **Siri Hustvedt** joined psychoanalysts, psychologists, and critics for a discussion of literature and psychoanalysis.

Creative Ventures has also enabled the Writers House to participate in a number of major, collaborative initiatives — projects that have brought people together in rewarding and sometimes challenging ways for interdisciplinary learning. Take for example **Sam Apple**’s Entrepreneurial Journalism course, a unique in-curriculum class offered through the Creative Writing Program that encouraged students to develop new media platforms. Creative Ventures made it possible to award seed funding at the end of the course to help launch the most viable ideas. Or the **ArtsEdge Residency Project**, a six-year partnership with Penn’s Facilities and Real Estate Services that offered yearlong residencies for emerging writers and artists. Creative Ventures made it possible for emerging artists to live and work in Philadelphia and contribute to the life of the Writers House, with presentations, workshops, and demonstrations of their practice for the benefit of the KWH community.

And Creative Ventures has helped our community make so many things! Gallons of chili for annual chili cook-offs, thousands of custom pinback buttons, a giant whale wrapped in cellophane, a non-alcoholic Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster, a recreation of the

feast from *Spirited Away*, food descending a staircase, hundreds of paper cats and fish (some of which are peppered throughout this *Annual*), and a whole bunch of T-shirts.

But the core of Creative Ventures has been to serve as an incubator and support system for a steady stream of intellectually adventurous student-led initiatives. **Jenny Chen** (C’14) organized a literary bike tour of Philadelphia. **Tess Paoletta** (C’16) created otherworldly images of Omega Centauri, an “unseeable” cluster of stars seventeen thousand light years away. **Justin Sheen** (C’17) traveled to the northernmost point in the US. **Amanda Silberling** (C’18) went on tour with the band Leggy to create a documentary about women in punk. **Kaitlin Moore** (C’18) tested astrophotography equipment in New Zealand. **Davy Knittle** (GR’20) launched an interdisciplinary series about poetry and the built environment. **Josephine Chen** (C’22) explored Chinese culinary heritage by recreating recipes from *The Story of the Stone*. **Eva Lewis** (C’22) organized a team of field researchers in Chicago to canvas residents about their access to resources. And the list goes on and on — with projects in film, photography, printwork, gaming, mapmaking, art criticism, sustainability, furniture reclamation, design, and more, all proposed and enacted by students.



## 2021–2022 CREATIVE VENTURES HIGHLIGHTS

► Our marathon reading of *Kafka on the Shore* clocked in at just over fifteen hours, with seventy readers pitching in to complete the monumental task. **Devdyuti Paul** (C’25) designed a commemorative T-shirt for the event, **Heidi Kalloo** planned a scrumptious menu, **Zach Carduner** (C’13) cooked up a big pot of udon, and a bunch of Hub members led by **Simran Arora** (GFA’23) worked collaboratively to decorate a couple hundred paper cutouts of cats and fish.

► **Eleanor Shemtov** (C’22) and the team of *t-art* magazine curated an exhibition at University City Arts League, “Resilience: Art & Design in Times of Uncertainty.” Several pieces from the show appeared in the magazine’s stunning second issue.

► For Penn Climate Week, **Lily Applebaum** (C’12) led a conversation about food insecurity with **Tonii Hicks** of the People’s Kitchen, a collaborative of chefs, students,

and community gardeners; **Quinn Gruber** (C’22) and **Victoria Garcia** (C’23) chatted with local artists **Anuj Shrestha** and **Erik Ruin** about artmaking as activism.

► Throughout the year, **Anthony DeCurtis** invited creative people to describe their work, including Bongos frontman **Richard Barone**, AMC Game Development VP **Clayton Neuman** (C’05), fashion critic **Rachel Seville Tashjian** (C’11), and journalist/YA writer **Jessica Goodman** (C’12).

► **Dahlia Li** (GR’27) convened two interactive sessions with dancers **Ogemdi Ude** and **John Maria Gutierrez** for *Dance and the Poetics of Diaspora*, a series that explores movement as a means for thinking about displacement, colonialism, and cultural histories.

► **Ethan Plae** (GR’28) and **Rebecca Liu** concluded their Time Sensitive reading

series with a thought-provoking talk by **Denise Ferriera da Silva**, director of the Social Justice Institute at the University of British Columbia.

► Cooperative economy advocate **Jamila Medley** (G’13, LPS’15) led a conversation with founding Hub member **Andrew Zitcer** (C’00, GCP’04, CGS’07) about cooperation as an antidote to inequality, based on Zitcer’s book, *Practicing Cooperation: Mutual Aid Beyond Capitalism*.

► Led by **Farah Sayed** (C’23), the people of *Equilibria* magazine encouraged creative exchange between and among writers and artists.

► Members of the Fiber Arts Circle, organized by **Husnaa Haajarah Hashim** (C’22), convened weekly for informal crafting sessions and occasional field trips to Wild Hand, a Mount Airy yarn shop.

## ★ 2022 CREATIVE VENTURES CAPITAL PRIZES ★

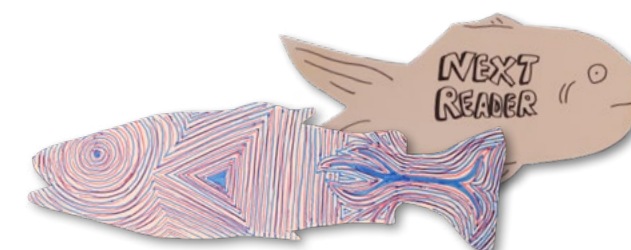
**Creative Ventures awarded four prizes in spring 2022 to support these innovative projects and ideas proposed by students:**

**Hope Brindle** (C’22): a summerlong Dungeons & Dragons campaign

**Timetheus Tirrell** (C’24): the Divulge Alliance, a youth-led social justice start-up

**lexi welch** (GFA’23): documenting lost lesbian spaces

**Amanda Xu** (C’22): a podcast about “greenwashing” in business







# FELLOWS

There’s nothing quite like the **Kelly Writers House Fellows Program**, in which a combination of seminar classes and public events make every avid reader’s literary dreams come true. Imagine sitting next to your literary hero at an intimate dinner party. Or chatting with an eminent novelist over coffee and bagels. Or joining a learning community of writers and readers, eager to talk with you about contemporary writing practices.

Supported annually since 1999 by the late and much missed **Paul Kelly** (C’62, WG’64), the Kelly Writers House Fellows Program makes all this and more possible, enabling members of our community to interact with some of the greatest living authors of our time. At the center of the program is the **Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar**, a unique Penn class held at the KWH, where seminar students work collaboratively to learn about three eminent writers and then welcome those writers to join them for a series of conversations, events, and meals.

Our 2021–2022 Kelly Writers House Fellows were novelist **Amitav Ghosh**, poet and performance artist **Caroline Bergvall**, and

memoirist, broadcaster, and sports columnist **Doug Glanville** (ENG’93).

In preparing to meet **Amitav Ghosh**, whose complex narratives explore national identity, colonialism, and climate change, students in the Fellows Seminar spent time discussing the responsibilities of the writer as witness. Conversation turned often to the importance of writing about the environment, as well as the role of individual accountability in relation to large-scale disaster. For many students, Ghosh’s work

“[Ghosh] reminds us that the time to sort our values is now.”  
— **Mehek Boparai** (C’22)

seemed an urgent call to action: “He reminds us that the time to sort our values is now,” **Mehek Boparai** (C’22) said.

The class tackled similar themes — the role of ecocriticism in creative work, the role of the writer as an advocate for change — when they launched into the work of **Caroline Bergvall**, a poet and performer who experiments with sound, media, and visual art in her work. **Chelsey Zhu** (C’22) noted

that reading Ghosh and Bergvall back-to-back expanded her ability to discuss language in relation to migration. **Mehek Boparai** (C’22), **Kaliyah Dorsey** (C’22), and **Sruthi Srinivas** (C’23) invited classmates to consider Bergvall’s experimental uses of language, media, and performance, which demonstrate how form and delivery can be as evocative as content.

The final Fellow of the semester was **Doug Glanville** (ENG’93), whose experience as a Major League Baseball player informs his incisive commentary and analysis about sports and culture. Students were inspired by Glanville’s open and honest writing about personal experience, issues of access and opportunity in sports, and the lessons we can learn from the baseball field. Graduating seniors found Glanville’s memoir *The Game From Where I Stand* particularly compelling, especially the sections about coping with major life transitions. When he joined the class for a freewheeling discussion of his work, Glanville encouraged the group to welcome transitions as opportunities for positive change.



## IN MEMORY OF PAUL KELLY

“In 1999 Paul Kelly proposed the creation of an annual series of three major programs, connected to an undergraduate course to be held inside the Writers House, that would feature extended visits by eminent writers. This became the Kelly Writers House Fellows program, which Paul and Nancy Kelly funded with a generous grant each year. The Fellows program is about creating surprising intellectual intimacy, a sense of connectedness aligned with the feel of the old house itself, between students and writers so famous that the students could not have imagined the freedom to ask them difficult questions and receive thoughtful, honest answers. Kelly Writers House Fellows has been an experiment in creating a learning community that starts with the student and extends to an eminence, rather than the other way around. This idea is vintage Paul Kelly.” — Al Filreis

Thank you to the many generous friends who gave gifts to the Writers House in memory of **Paul Kelly** (C’62, WG’64, Trustee 1997–2021), including Gilbert Adair, Anne Berry, Giovanna Bianco, Debjani Chatterjee, Michael Cohn, Rebecca Entel, Victoria Feng, Jacqueline Friedland, Jody Girgenti, Eric Hart and Adrienne Yost Hart, Waverly Huang, Peter Kussell, Lynn Marsden-Atlass, Catherine McCredie, Dolores Minakakis, Alexandra Mindlin, Cory Newman, Lisa Niver, Bret Pearlman and Marion Pearlman, Miriam Peskowitz, Cindy Savett, Lexi Spector, David Steinberg, Paul Vinelli, Yankau Wong, Yixuan Wu, Patricia Yoder, and an anonymous friend.



## CELEBRATING FELLOWS 1999–PRESENT

Edward Albee	Saidiya Hartman
Dorothy Allison	Lyn Hejinian
Hilton Als	Susan Howe
Laurie Anderson	Erica Hunt
Roger Angell	June Jordan
Rae Armantrout	John Keene
John Ashbery	Jamaica Kincaid
Paul Auster	Wayne Koestenbaum
Maria Bamford	Tony Kushner
Russell Banks	Nathaniel Mackey
John Barth	Janet Malcolm
Caroline Bergvall	Bernadette Mayer
Walter Bernstein	John McPhee
Mei-mei Berssenbrugge	James Alan McPherson
Buzz Bissinger	David Milch
Charles M. Blow	Erin Moure
T.C. Boyle	Eileen Myles
Rosanne Cash	Joyce Carol Oates
Susan Cheever	Cynthia Ozick
Robert Coover	Grace Paley
Robert Creeley	Marjorie Perloff
Michael Cunningham	Joan Retallack
Lydia Davis	Jason Reynolds
Samuel Delany	Adrienne Rich
Joan Didion	Jerome Rothenberg
E.L. Doctorow	Lynne Sharon Schwartz
Karen Finley	David Sedaris
Richard Ford	Ron Silliman
Ian Frazier	Susan Sontag
Charles Fuller	Art Spiegelman
Rodrigo García	Gay Talese
Doug Glanville	Anne Waldman
Amitav Ghosh	Matthew Weiner
Mary Gordon	John Edgar Wideman
Jessica Hagedorn	Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris
Donald Hall	
Gabrielle Hamilton	



Devon Inman (LPS’22) helped 2020–2021 Fellow Gabrielle Hamilton cook up a special meal for a reunion of the 2020–2021 Fellows Seminar. Inman also worked with Amanda Shulman (C’15) and the team from Her Place Supper Club to treat our 2021–2022 Fellows to spectacular meals prepped in the Writers House kitchen.





# DIGITAL PROJECTS



► The brilliant and amazing poet **Laynie Browne** joined the KWH staff as the coordinator of “ModPo,” our free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry led by **Al Filreis** and a team of dedicated teaching assistants. Starting in September, the ModPo team hosted weekly interactive webcasts — broadcast live from our Arts Café — that allowed students and teaching assistants from all over the world to participate in lively, real-time conversations about the course materials (via phone, Twitter, Facebook, Coursera forums, and socially distanced in-person discussion). Tech wizards **Zach Carduner** (C’13) and **Chris Martin** managed the complex, multiplatform configuration of the webcasts — and were especially relieved to return to the Arts Café and its sophisticated streaming tools.

Thanks to a special gift from longtime ModPo supporter **Chris Forman**, we’ve continued to work on an ambitious database to organize ModPo’s sprawling collection of discussions, performances, and readings. Many people pitched in to help catalog and tag thousands of entries in the archive, including **Nicole Braun**, **Camara Brown** (C’17), **Ali Castleman** (C’13), **Mandana Chaffa** (W’87), **Sophia DuRose** (C’21), and **Max McKenna** (C’10). And video editors **Makena Deveraux** (C’23) and **Paul Burke** produced a steady flow of new content to add to ModPo’s vast — and growing — collection.

Sign up for ModPo at [modpo.org](http://modpo.org).



## alumni online book groups

► **Al Filreis** convened our first ever Alumni Online Book Group back in January 2000, with a month-long discussion of short stories by Saul Bellow and Mary McCarthy. The program was a spin-off of Alumverse, an online poetry discussion group of more than 150 alumni that was conducted entirely via email from January to June 1996. The idea was simple, though perhaps unusual for its time: anyone with an email address could participate in this learning community. The project has been generously supported since 2006 by **David Roberts** (C’84), a book group participant and leader.

This year, **David Roberts** (C’84) and **Al Filreis** teamed up to develop an entirely new kind of book group: a series of four ninety-minute seminar-style discussions on Zoom, each focusing on one remarkable short story. The basic principles of openness and accessibility remained the same, but we wanted to take advantage of new tools. We also organized the old-style, email-based groups as well. **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05) convened a group of high school students to talk about memoirs by faculty in Penn’s Creative Writing Program. **Kate Levin** (GR’95) and **Laura Zinn Fromm** led a session about *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett. And **Ronald Metellus** led a timely conversation via email about Zoom, online media, and our digital present, using the film *Eighth Grade* to launch the discussion.

Do you want to join an online book group? Visit [writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/groups/bookgroups](http://writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/groups/bookgroups) to read about the latest offerings.



► Students learn audio engineering and production in the Wexler Studio, an innovative space for podcasts, interviews, and audio experiments of all kinds.

Students in **Jay Kirk**’s Experimental Nonfiction course rotated through the studio in teams, recording a series of interviews and conversations about their work.

**Chelsey Zhu** (C’22) recorded material for her fledgling podcast *Love in College*, which takes a nuanced look at the dating stories of young adults.

**Jerry Cai** (C’24) conducted two interviews for the Penn Undergraduate Biotech Society podcast: one with Penn chemistry professor **Thomas Mallouk** about clean energy, and one with digital health entrepreneur **Denise Silber** on the future of virtual reality in medical practice.

You can find *Love in College* and the PUBS Podcast wherever you listen to podcasts, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Play.



► Launched in 2005 by **Charles Bernstein** and **Al Filreis**, PennSound is the world’s largest online archive of recorded poetry. The site houses more than sixty thousand recordings of poets reading their own poems, many of them produced, segmented, or edited by students at the KWH under the guidance of PennSound’s managing editor **Zach Carduner** (C’13). Co-director **Chris Mustazza** helps coordinate many of PennSound’s special acquisitions, and editor **Mike Hennessey** publishes PennSound Daily, a newsfeed highlighting additions to the site.

A series of massive digitization projects kept the PennSound staff busy this year. **Leah Baxter** (C’21) and **Chelsey Zhu** (C’22) processed a collection of cassette tapes donated by **Simon Pettet** and **Ben Tripp**, including significant readings from the St. Mark’s Poetry Project. **Alex Moon** (C’24) worked on a set of UC San Diego recordings provided by Michael Davidson. **Yiwei Chai** (C’21) worked on the website, managing the addition of hundreds of links to recordings housed by the Library of Congress. And **Wes Matthews** (C’23) segmented multiple full-length readings into individual poems, including readings by Doug Kearney, Amiri Baraka, and Diane di Prima.

We produced several PennSound recordings right here at the KWH. Poet **Matvei Yankelevich** joined **Kevin Platt**, **Al Filreis**, and **Ahmad Almallah** for a discussion of Yankelevich’s latest book, filmed before an audience of students in our Arts Café. And **John Richetti** visited the Wexler Studio to record poems by T. S. Eliot, in a special daylong session engineered by our newest media staffer, **Paul Burke**.

Explore the archive:  
[writing.upenn.edu/pennsound](http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound)



► A collaboration of the Kelly Writers House, *Jacket2*, PennSound, and the Poetry Foundation, *PoemTalk* is a monthly roundtable discussion of poems from the PennSound collection moderated by KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis** and edited by Wexler Studio Coordinator **Zach Carduner** (C’13). After an extended series of Zoom rooms and distanced Arts Café sessions, *PoemTalk* finally returned to live recording in the Wexler Studio, with two episodes slated to be released in fall 2022: PoemTalk #176, featuring a conversation with **Carlos Decena**, **Dagmawi Woubshet**, and **Abdulhamit Arvas** about John Ashbery’s “Some Trees”; and PoemTalk #177, with **Eric Falci**, **Charles Bernstein**, and **Julia Bloch** (GR’11) on two poems by Maggie O’Sullivan.



► We rely on a stellar team of students to help us produce *Jacket2* ([jacket2.org](http://jacket2.org)), which publishes essays and commentary about contemporary poetry and houses several podcasts, including *PoemTalk*. With guidance from J2 editors **Julia Bloch** (GR’11) and **Kenna O’Rourke** (C’15), our dream team group of editorial assistants — **Gabriela Portillo Alvarado** (C’23), **Quinn Gruber** (C’22), **Kendall Owens** (C’23), and **Sof Sears** (C’23) — worked on a sprawling assemblage of writing about EcoSomatics, a feature on Peruvian poet Roger Santiváñez, and a conversation among women poets of color celebrating second books. Along with editor **Mike Hennessey**, graduate student **Knar Gavin** (GR’26) pitched in as a developmental editor, helping J2 authors refine their essays for publication.

## RECENT POEMTALK EPISODES

- 163** DAPHNE MARLATT’S “STEVESTON, B.C.”
- 164** LESLIE SCALAPINO’S “‘CAN’T’ IS ‘NIGHT’”
- 165** STEPHEN COLLIS’S “YES I DO WANT TO PUNCH”
- 166** CECILIA VICUÑA’S “COLLIDING AND NOT COLLIDING AT THE SAME TIME”
- 167** MYUNG MI KIM’S “AND SING WE”
- 168** JAYNE CORTEZ’S “SHE GOT HE GOT”
- 169** GEORGE QUASHA’S “SELF FAST” AND “THAT MUSIC RAZORS THROUGH”
- 170** DIANE DI PRIMA’S “REVOLUTIONARY LETTERS”
- 171** EUGENE OSTASHEVSKY’S “LANGUAGE” AND “THE ANATOMY OF MONOTONY”
- 172** HARRYETTE MULLEN’S “DIM LADY” AND “SLEEPING WITH THE DICTIONARY”
- 173** DIVYA VICTOR’S “CURB”
- 174** SAWAKO NAKAYASU’S SOME GIRLS WALK INTO THE COUNTRY THEY ARE FROM

[jacket2.org/content/poem-talk](http://jacket2.org/content/poem-talk)







Led by **R.J. Bernocco** (LPS'11, G'13) and **Mingo Reynolds** (LPS'22) in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing, RealArts@Penn supports arts-related programming, robust mentorship and apprenticeship programs, and a suite of paid summer internships at partner organizations around the country.

## RealArts@Penn Internships

RealArts@Penn offers paid summer internships, unparalleled industry access, mentorship, and real-world experience for creative students interested in pursuing arts-related careers. In summer 2022, we awarded eighteen unique opportunities:

1812 Productions	<b>Daniel Scanlon</b> (C'25)
Artists First	<b>Charlie Ross</b> (C'23)
Brooklyn Films	<b>Michele Gross</b> (C'22), Blaze Bernstein Intern
FilmNation	<b>Aalia Rasheed</b> (C'23)
Flathead Beacon	<b>Denali Sagner</b> (C'22)
Grandview	<b>Morgan Singer</b> (C'23)
Hillman Grad Productions	<b>Mahailya Hinsey</b> (C'23), Norma Grace Miller Intern
Library of Congress	<b>Liam Phillips</b> (C'24), Linn Intern
McSweeney's	<b>Abigail Walker</b> (C'23)
Morgan Library and Museum	<b>Lauren Davis</b> (C'24), Eisler Intern
Mountain Path Entertainment	<b>Andrew Kim</b> (C'23)
Philadelphia Magazine	<b>Kayla Cotter</b> (C'25)
Pitchfork	<b>Jane Bua</b> (C'22)
Spiegel & Grau	<b>Nathalie Marquez</b> (C'23)
Stern & Gibbs, Writers	<b>Lilian Liu</b> (C'24)
Tremolo Productions	<b>Maya Pratt</b> (C'23), Ginns Intern
ViacomCBS Catalyst	<b>Ashna Yakoob</b> (C'23)
Warner Brothers Theatre Ventures	<b>Zoe Goldstein</b> (C'23)



## Supporting RealArts@Penn Internships

A major gift from **Nina Rosborough** (C'14), **Robin Wolpow**, and **Marc Wolpow** (W'80) funded twelve summer internships this year. We also owe special thanks to friends who have endowed individual internships in the RealArts@Penn program, including **Gideon Bernstein** and **Jeanne Pepper Bernstein** and a community of friends, **Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler** (C'79) and **Clifford R. Eisler** (W'79), **Seth Ginns** (C'00) and **Jane Ginns**, **Missy Linn** (NU'91) and **Eric Linn** (W'92), and **Cheryl K. Nakao-Miller** (W'81) and **Jimmy Miller**. Additional support for RealArts@Penn Internships this year came from **Susanna Porter** (CW'75).



## Bassini Apprentices

The **Bassini Apprenticeship Program**, now in its eighteenth year, matches Penn undergrads with professional writers affiliated with Penn's Creative Writing Program, giving young writers firsthand experience in the day-to-day pleasures and difficulties of working on long-term professional writing projects. The Bassini Program supported two apprenticeships in 2021–2022. **Teresa Xie** (C'22) worked with music critic **Anthony DeCurtis** on a pair of projects — one on John Mellencamp, the other on the Steve Miller Band. **Fatma Omar** (C'23) assisted fiction writer **Piyali Bhattacharya** with writing projects related to food culture and healthcare in immigrant communities. The Bassini Apprenticeship Program would not be possible without the generous support of **Reina Marin** (CW'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73).

## Povich RealArts Internship Prizes

Endowed by **Maury Povich** (C'62), Povich RealArts Internship Prizes enable students to accept unique summer internship opportunities. We awarded thirteen **Povich Internship Prizes** in the summer of 2022:

<b>Brandon Anaya</b> (C'24)	Outfest
<b>Trinity Arsenault</b> (C'22)	#VoteThatJawn
<b>Paola Camacho</b> (C'24)	3PS Studios
<b>Caylen David</b> (C'23)	United Talent Agency
<b>Sonali Deliwala</b> (C'22)	#VoteThatJawn
<b>Bernadette Hodges</b> (C'23)	the Cincinnati Enquirer
<b>Avery Givens Nardone</b> (LPS'23)	The Center for Emerging Visual Artists
<b>Quinn Gruber</b> (C'22)	Zoeglossia
<b>Iris Lee</b> (C'24)	HumanID
<b>Margarita Matta</b> (C'25)	Touchstone Gallery
<b>Henry McDevitt-Bayless</b> (C'23)	All Ages Productions
<b>Ericka Perez</b> (C'22)	Warner Music Group
<b>Nia Robinson</b> (W'22)	Get Lifted Film Co.



## RealArts@Penn Alumni Mentorship Program

The **Alumni Mentorship Program** helps undergrads connect with alumni to learn about potential career paths. Informal meetings throughout the year allow important relationships and networks to develop, including among the participating students who form bonds with one another as they learn about opportunities for creative people.

In the fall semester, the Alumni Mentorship Program arranged meetings with alumni working in publishing, editing, journalism, and related fields, including **Zachary Sergi** (C'10), **Amanda Silberling** (C'18), **Caryn Karmatz Rudy** (C'92), **Joe Pinsker** (C'13), **Jacob Gardenswartz** (C'18, LPS'18), **Alex Stern** (C'15), **Randi Epstein** (C'84), **Susanna Porter** (CW'75), **Jean Chatzky** (C'86), and **Cindy Spiegel** (C'82). In spring, students met with alumni working in the entertainment industry. Participating mentors included **Matt Rosler** (C'95), **Ariana Jackson** (C'03), **Randi Michel** (C'91), **Tim Bloom** (C'17), **Allison Friedman** (C'09), **Jason Horwitch** (W'93), **Ari Elan Lewis** (C'18), **Mark Rizzo** (C'92), and **Lew Schneider** (C'83).

The Alumni Mentorship Program was supported this year by a lead gift from **Leslie Dezer Salmon** (W'92) and **Ricardo Salmon** (W'93), and a community of Writers House Friends who contributed to our Real Arts Program Fund (see page 19).

Are you an alum with a great career story to tell? Are you a student seeking mentorship? Drop us a line at [realarts@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:realarts@writing.upenn.edu) to express your interest.

## The Friend Fellows Project, 2021–2022

The Friend Fellows Project enables semester-time internships that allow students to explore potential careers during the academic year. Thanks to the generosity of **Bill Friend**, **Linda Friend**, **Nina Friend** (C'16), and the **Harris Family Foundation**, we supported five special learning opportunities in editing, journalism, and arts administration:

- **Alex Butler**, an undergrad from Albion College, joined the KWH staff for a semester to learn about nonprofit arts administration.
- **Beatrice Forman** (C'22) interned at *Billy Penn*, where she now works full-time as the site's first deputy editor and oversees a cohort of freelancers and interns as they build their skills.
- **Knar Gavin** (GR'26) worked with authors and scholars at *Jacket2* to develop and refine their essays for publication.
- **Quinn Gruber** (C'22) interned in the acquisitions department of Penn Press, where they learned how academic books are acquired, edited, and published.
- **Catherine Liu** (C'23) used her skills in art, design, and videography at the Teachers Institute of Philadelphia (TIP), where she helped promote TIP to Philadelphia teachers.





# YOUTH WRITING PROJECTS

## Summer Workshop for Young Writers

On a muggy July evening, twenty high school students gathered in the KWH garden for the first meeting of our **Summer Workshop for Young Writers**, an intensive ten-day residential writing program. They came from all over — from as close as the Philly suburbs and as far as South Korea — to undertake an intensive writing journey together. Thanks to generous support from **Maury Povich** (C’62) and **Connie Chung**, who endowed the Summer Workshop in 2021, many students attended the program entirely free of charge, and over half received financial assistance to make it possible for them to come.

The group convened at the KWH every morning for memoir workshops led by Summer Workshop director **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05), followed by a rotating series of one-off afternoon craft sessions. **Isaac Essex** (C’20) encouraged students to consider found language as a source for new writing. **Heidi Kalloo** introduced everyone to Twine, an online tool for creating interactive fiction. **Alli Katz**

led a session on comics and cartooning. **Davy Knittle** (GR’20) proposed strategies for writing about place. **Izzy Lopez** (C’19) described ways to incorporate fairytale and myth into memoir. **Kristen Martin** (C’11) covered food writing as personal narrative. **Kaitlin Moore** (C’18) challenged workshopppers to address urgent environmental concerns in their writing. **Karen Rile** (C’80) led a session on narrative collage. **Jesse Schwartz** (C’15) introduced a close reading exercise to encourage close reading as a way to approach writing. And **Michelle Taransky** inspired the group to seek out poetry everywhere.

The writing work was intense — but there was time for other kinds of exploration too, including a trek to South Street with a stop at the Magic Gardens, visits to the Common Press to learn about letterpress printing from **Mary Tasillo**, and a special info session organized by **Penn Admissions**.

Lots of people pitched in to help make the Summer Workshop a success. Our core Summer

Workshop staff — **David Marchino** (C’16), **Jesse Schwartz** (C’15), and **Wes Matthews** (C’23) — worked side-by-side with **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05) to maintain an open and welcoming atmosphere. Resident Advisors **Jacqueline Friskey** (C’22) and **Anaya Wells** (GSE’22) kept everything running smoothly in the dorms (arranged with assistance from the people of Penn Hospitality Services, including **Jaliah Ali**). **Andrew Beal** and **Julia Morales** sorted out the business side of things. And with help from summer interns, **Alli Katz** and **Heidi Kalloo** kept everyone in the program well fed.

At the end of the ten-day program, after intensive writing, revising, and discussion, workshopppers gathered all together once more for a final celebratory reading. Their performance was live streamed with help from KWH tech manager **Zach Carduner** (C’13) to families and friends all over the world, including some of the amazing high school teachers and writing mentors who pointed these students in our direction.



## Frost Valley residential summer camp

► Four Penn students interned at Frost Valley, a six-thousand-acre camping, conference, and environmental center in the high peaks region of the Catskill Mountains of New York State. Frost Valley offers a residential summer camp for children from a diversity of backgrounds and familial contexts, many of them away from home for the very first time. Over the course of nine weeks, our Writers House-affiliated Frost Valley interns lived and worked at the camp and experienced the importance of teaching creative expression in informal, dramatic settings, well beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. **Pranav Mishra** (C’24) worked with the development and marketing team, learning about nonprofit institutional storytelling and public engagement. **Rebekah Donnell** (C’24), **Erica Messics** (C’22), and **Keemia Sarafpour** (C’25) taught specialty classes including creative writing and theater arts as part of the “creative play” program team. These special internships at Frost Valley were supported by several Writers House funds this year, including the Sayet-Rosenberg Endowed Fund for Young Writers, the Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund, and the Esther T. Saxon Term Fund.



## transcribez

► **Seamone Farries**, **noor ibn najam**, and **Mariya Oneby** facilitated **transcribez**, a writing workshop for trans and nonbinary youth that offers a safe and welcoming space for writing and discussion. Monthly meetings of transcribez took place on Zoom and featured workshops led by guest writers, including **Nadia A.**, **Kai Brookins**, **Marshall Green**, **Jamal Jones**, and **Casey Rocheteau**. KWH Outreach Assistant **Ollie Dupuy** (C’23) helped with these special sessions by designing eye-catching fliers and promoting meetings on social media. transcribez was made possible thanks to support from **Jerilyn Perman** (C’91) and **Brian Perman** (W’90), who have sponsored writing initiatives for youth at the KWH for more than twenty years.

## Cosmic Writers

► Students from the Revolution School visited the Writers House for a workshop on historical fantasy, led by KWH Outreach Assistant **Rowana Miller** (C’22). After an improv warm-up, students developed fantastical stories based on historical figures they’d studied in school. Their resulting tales included a magical culinary history and a story about what might have happened if Rosa Parks had been Medusa. The workshop was held in collaboration with Cosmic Writers, a 2022 President’s Engagement Prize-winning creative writing education nonprofit that grew out of Miller’s work at the KWH.

## PROSPECTIVE PENN STUDENTS

Are you a prospective Penn student who’d like to learn about creative writing at Penn? We are eager to meet you! We’d love to correspond with you by email and Zoom, or to meet you at the Writers House to show you around.

There’s a chance, too, we’ll come to you.

**Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05), who leads our efforts to engage with high school writers, traveled to many schools and writing programs this year to meet with student writers in their hometowns, thanks to **Alan Hartman** (C’87) and **Kim Hartman**, who established an endowed fund to help us meet and recruit young writers.

Recruitment visits this year included trips to the Young Dallas–Fort Worth Writers in Texas; the Orange County School of the Arts in California; Benjamin N. Cardozo High School’s Gateway Institute in Queens, New York; the Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Baltimore, Maryland; and the Hathaway Brown School’s Osborne Writing Center in Cleveland, Ohio. We had some online meetings and info sessions too — with the Opportunity Network, *The Adroit Journal*, and WriteGirl.

Lots of people helped spread the word about the KWH and thanks to their collective efforts we engaged with over five hundred prospective Penn students this year. **Dylan Fritz** (C’25) and **David Marchino** (C’16) met with students and their families at the KWH. **Peter LaBerge** (C’17) connected with prospective students remotely, serving as an alumni ambassador for our learning community. A network of high school teachers and writing mentors directed their students toward Penn and the KWH, along with colleagues in Penn Admissions, including **Crissy Iglesias** and student tour guides. And our fantastic new **Student Recruitment and Access Fund** — established by the Hartman family — sustained all of these efforts and more.

Are you a high school writer Interested in joining next year’s Summer Workshop for Young Writers? Find out more online: [writing.upenn.edu/wh/summer](https://writing.upenn.edu/wh/summer)





# SUPPORTING KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

Everything we do at the Kelly Writers House depends on the generosity of loyal supporters. **Thank you**, Friends, for investing your time, energy, ideas, and resources into this project.

## INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND MENTORSHIPS

**Anand-Priya Family Apprenticeship Endowed Fund** ► The Anand-Priya Family Apprenticeship Fund supports a summer apprenticeship at the Writers House in arts administration or digital media production. Our inaugural Anand-Priya Apprentice Andrés González-Bonillas (C’23) honed his HTML skills while working on the KWH website. *Endowed in 2021 by Anand Balasubrahmanyam (ENG’94, W’94).*

**Bassini Apprenticeship Endowed Fund** ► The Bassini Apprenticeship Program pairs undergraduates with professional writers for in-depth collaborative work on special writing projects. The Bassini Program supported two apprenticeships this year: Teresa Xie (C’22), who worked with music critic Anthony DeCurtis, and Fatma Omar (C’23), who assisted fiction writer Piyali Bhattacharya. *Endowed in 2007 by Advisory Board member Reina Marin (C’72, GED’72) and Emilio Bassini (C’71, W’71, WG’73).*

**Blaze Bernstein Memorial Endowed Fund** ► Established in memory of Blaze Bernstein, an extraordinary young writer and much loved member of the KWH community, this fund supports an LA-based RealArts@Penn Internship and food-centered programs at the KWH. Thanks to the Blaze Fund, Michele Gross (C’22) interned at Brooklyn Films in summer 2022. The fund

also enabled several special meals at the KWH throughout the year, including an unforgettable dinner cooked by NY chef Gabrielle Hamilton. *Founded in 2018 with a lead gift and ongoing support from Gideon Bernstein and Advisory Board member Jeanne Pepper Bernstein, with additional support this year from Peter Burke, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05) and Aaron Marcus, and James Newswanger (C’82, GED’90, GR’95).*

**Caryn Karmatz Rudy and Lee Rudy Endowed Fund for Student Internships and Opportunities** ► The Karmatz Rudy Internship Fund provides funding for student internships in editing, publishing, or writing. We look forward to announcing the first Karmatz Rudy Intern in 2022–2023. *Endowed in 2021 by Advisory Board member Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C’92) and Lee Rudy (C’92).*

**Debbie Duenes Kay Student Editor Internship Fund** ► The Debbie Duenes Kay Student Editor Internship Fund provides financial support for Penn students to gain experience with professional editing practices in print and digital media. In 2021–2022, the fund supported the work of Kendall Owens (C’23), who served as an editorial assistant for Jacketz magazine. *Supported annually since 2019 by Debbie Duenes Kay (C’95).*

**Eisler Endowed Internship Fund** ► The Eisler Internship Fund supports one RealArts@Penn Internship each summer, making possible an internship in an arts organization or creative industry. Thanks to the Eisler Fund, Lauren Davis (C’24) interned at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York. *Endowed in 2011 by Advisory Board member Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C’79) and Clifford R. Eisler (C’79).*

**Elissa Caterfino Mandel Internship Endowed Fund** ► The Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed Internship Fund supports student internships in magazine editing. This year our Caterfino Mandel Intern was Gabriela Portillo Alvarado (C’23), who served as an editorial assistant for our own Jacketz magazine. *Endowed in 2011 by Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C’83).*

**Ginns RealArts Internship Endowed Fund** ► The Ginns Internship Fund supports one RealArts@Penn Internship each summer, making possible an internship in an arts organization or creative industry. In summer 2022, the Ginns Fund supported Maya Pratt (C’23) who worked at Tremolo Productions in LA. *Endowed in 2019 by Seth Ginns (C’00) and Jane Ginns.*

**Kate Levin Community Outreach Internship Endowed Fund** ► The Levin Community Outreach



Internship Fund allows students to participate in writing-based community service efforts. Ollie Dupuy (C’23) assisted transcribez, a writing group for trans and nonbinary youth. Rowana Miller (C’22) — founder of Cosmic Writers — led a workshop at the KWH for writers from the Revolution School. *Endowed in 2012 by Advisory Board member Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro.*

**Missy and Eric Linn RealArts Internship Endowed Fund** ► The Linn RealArts endowment supports one RealArts@Penn Internship each summer, making possible an internship in an arts organization or creative industry. Linn Intern Liam Phillips (C’23) spent the summer of 2022 in Washington, DC, interning at the Library of Congress. *Endowed in 2020 by Eric Linn (W’92) and Missy Bechler Linn (NU’91).*

**Lipson Fellows for Studio Production Endowed Fund** ► Lipson Fellows develop expertise in digital editing and production by working in the Wexler Studio of the Writers House. Our inaugural Lipson Fellows — Henry McDevitt-Bayless (C’23), Alex Moon (C’24), and Helena Muñoz (C’25) — helped us get our onsite production up and running again after a year of online-only programming. *Endowed in 2021 by Advisory Board member Howard A. Lipson (W’86).*

**Maury Povich RealArts Internship Prize Fund** ► The Povich Prize Fund helps make internship opportunities accessible by supporting students who have secured unpaid or modestly paid internships at cultural institutions, arts organizations, or creative companies. The fund supported thirteen students in the summer of 2022, enabling one-of-a-kind opportunities in journalism, film production, and civic engagement. *Endowed in 2016 by Advisory Board member Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung.*

**Norma Grace Miller RealArts Internship Fund** ► The Miller Internship Fund supports one RealArts@Penn Internship each summer, making possible an internship in an arts organization or creative industry. In summer 2021, the Miller



Fund supported Mahailya Hinsey (C’23), who interned with Hillman Grad Productions in LA. *Endowed in 2019 by Cheryl K. Nakao-Miller (W’81) and Jimmy Miller.*

**RealArts Internship Fund** ► RealArts@Penn helps students make meaningful connections beyond the university, particularly through paid summer internships at arts organizations and cultural institutions. Thanks to strong partnerships cultivated with alumni and friends, RealArts@Penn awarded eighteen internships in the summer of 2022, twelve of which were supported through the RealArts@Penn Internship Fund, including opportunities at the Flathead Beacon in Montana, McSweeney’s in San Francisco, and 1812 Productions in Philadelphia. *Funded with a major gift from Nina Rosborough (C’14), Robin Wolpaw, and Marc Wolpaw (W’80), with additional support from Susanna Porter (CW’75).*

**RealArts Program Fund** ► Anyone can contribute to the RealArts Program Fund, which supports the core mission of the RealArts@Penn project: mentoring undergraduates. With the help of this fund, we create a series of informal opportunities for undergraduates to meet with alumni working in creative fields. *Funded with a special gift from Advisory Board member Leslie Dezer Salmon (W’92) and Ricardo Salmon (W’93), with additional support from Rhosean Asmah (C’20), Stephanie Barron (C’18), Katie Behrman (C’15), Carolina Beltran (C’15), Gina DeCagna (C’16), Matthew Eisenberg (W’18), Jessica Goodman (C’12), Lexi Lieberman (C’20), Kevin McMullin (C’09), Jessica Penzias (C’12), and anonymous donors.*

**The Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Apprenticeship Endowed Fund** ► The Weber Apprentice Fund supports the work of an undergrad at the KWH, where they learn specialized skills associated with running a busy arts hub. Our inaugural 2021–2022 Weber Apprentice was Favor Idika (C’23), who worked with our development and finance team. *Endowed in 2021 by Advisory Board member Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber.*



## FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

We thank the following Friends for their generous support of the Kelly Writers House in 2021–2022:

Gilbert Adair, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Maya Afilalo  
Eric Albert  
Murray Anderson, in memory of Richard Weil  
Alonna Anspach  
Myrna Zeitlin Asher and Howard Asher  
Rhosean Asmah  
Sarah Auerbach  
Dexter Bailey  
Sylva Baker  
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Stephanie Banks  
Stephanie Barron  
Berni Barta  
Sean Basinski  
Ian Bauer and Joy Bauer  
Erica Baum  
Donald Beetham  
Jay Begun, in honor of Al Filreis  
Katie Behrman  
Carolina Beltran  
David Bender  
Evelyn Bender  
Jose Luis Benitez  
Carol Clampett Bergere  
Matthew Bernstein  
Carole Bernstein and John Prendergast  
Anne Berry, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Cara Bertron  
Giovanna Bianco, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Adam Birnbaum  
Daniel Blas and Ilana Teicher Blas  
Simone Blaser  
Julia Bloch and Rachel Zolf  
Lawrence Blum  
Kathleen Matson Blurock  
Michael Boshes  
Nancy Bowen  
David Boyko  
Jay Brecker  
Julie Bright and Daniel Stewart  
Laynie Browne



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Ingrid Bruck, in honor of Al Filreis  
Peter Burke  
Beth Burrell  
Marcia Camino, in memory of Michael Mason  
Margaret Susan Camp, in honor of Ms. Margarita Matta  
Lucinda Carlson and Timothy Carlson  
Thomas Carroll  
John Carroll and Rachael Paz  
Lorene Cary  
Kathleen Casey  
Nora Castle, in memory of Zeke Reiser  
Janine Catalano  
M.C. Catanese  
Ilana Cember, in memory of Richard Weil  
Sandra Chaff  
Mandana Chaffa  
Debjani Chatterjee, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Ken Chen  
Michelle Cheng  
Alexia Chororos  
Laurie Churchman  
Dorcy Siegel Clark  
Harris Cohen  
Michael Cohn, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Mary Collins  
Michael Colson  
Joyce Cook  
Robert Cort and Rosalie Swedlin  
Randall Couch  
Ann Courter, in memory of Richard Weil  
David Cowen  
David Cox, in memory of Richard Weil  
Eamonn Coyle  
Benjamin Craine  
Gabriel Crane  
David Crawford  
John Creedon  
Michael Cullina  
Jacob Cytryn  
Rachel Dalton, in honor of Al Filreis and Jamie-Lee Josselyn  
Lawrence Dark and Alice Elliott Dark  
Michael Davidson  
Laura De Bernardi  
Elizanda de la Sota  
Gina DeCagna  
James DeGrassi, in memory of Richard Weil  
Stanley DelGozo Sabre  
Denise Devine  
James Diamond and Linda Diamond  
Lance Donaldson-Evans and Mary Donaldson-Evans  
Richard Donze  
Cindy Dorfman  
Annette Dorsky  
Christopher Drajem



AWARDS AND PRIZES

**Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award Endowed Fund** ► Every year an outstanding teacher develops a special event or project at the KWH as the recipient of the Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award. Sam Apple, our 2021–2022 Beltran Award winner, gathered a talented group of writers to celebrate the art of “noticing as a writer.” *Endowed in 2012 by John Paul Beltran and Lina Beltran.*

**The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Endowed Fund** ► The Kerry Prize honors the literary communitarianism of Kerry Sherin Wright, the first director of the KWH. For his 2022–2023 Kerry Prize project, Ted Davis (C’24) will investigate everyday language use. *Supported annually by the KWH community since 2003 and endowed in 2021 with a lead gift by Faculty Director Al Filreis. Additional gifts this year from Sheriza Baksh (C’07), Megan Bly (C’00) and Scott Wunsch, Lawrence Dark (C’81) and Alice Elliott Dark, Jessica Lowenthal (G’07) and Ryan Godfrey, and Deborah Miller and Stanley Strickberger.*

**Leslie Dezer Salmon and Ricardo Salmon Junior Fellows Prize Endowed Fund** ► The Salmon Junior Fellows Endowment makes permanent the Junior Fellows Prize, a long-running prize that encourages young alumni to stay deeply connected to the KWH community and to develop their own creative work post-graduation. We look forward to announcing our inaugural Salmon Junior Fellow in 2022–2023. *Endowed in 2022 by Advisory Board member Leslie Dezer Salmon (W’92) and Ricardo Salmon (W’93).*

**Michael Goldstein and Danielle Goldstein Endowed Prize** ► The Goldstein Prize supports excellent writing projects proposed by undergraduates. We selected two Goldstein Prize winners in the spring of 2022: Husnaa Haajarah Hashim (C’22) for an interdisciplinary collage



project, and Mahir Sudad (C’23) for a fictionalized account of his travels in India. *Endowed in 2010 by Michael Goldstein and Danielle Goldstein.*

**Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic Nonfiction** ► The 2021–2022 Parker Prize, which honors excellence in student journalism, went to Alan Jinich (C’22) for “You never get that smell off your clothes,” a multimedia piece about two cattle sorters in Texas and their work as essential workers during the pandemic. *Endowed in 2011 by Bret Parker (C’90) and Katharine Parker.*

**Terry B. Heled Travel and Research Grant Endowed Fund** ► Thanks to the Heled Grant, which enables students to undertake significant travel-based research and writing projects, Drew Basile (C’23) will recreate Goethe’s Italian tour and Sof Sears (C’23) will study the “death culture” of Paris. *Endowed in 2007 by Advisory Board member Mali Heled Kinberg (C’95, G’95) in memory of her mother Terry B. Heled, with a renewal gift in 2022.*

**Universe in Verse Prize Term Fund** ► The Universe in Verse Prize celebrates and encourages the writing of poetry about or using science. The inaugural prize, awarded in the spring of 2022, went to Mehrin Masud-Elias (GR’15, LPS’20) for a project that will explore climate change by staging a poetic intervention on a UN climate report. *Established in 2022 by Maria Popova (C’07).*



PROJECTS

**Anonymous Digital Poetries Endowed Fund** ► This fund supports our efforts to archive, preserve, and make poetry and poetic resources freely available. In 2021–2022, the Anonymous Digital Poetries Endowed Fund supported three interrelated projects: *PoemTalk*, a popular podcast hosted by Faculty Director Al Filreis; PennSound, a vast online archive of poets reading their own work; and ModPo, a free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry. *Endowed in 2022 by an anonymous donor.*

**The Brodsky Gallery Endowed Fund** ► The Brodsky Gallery Fund enables the work of the Brodsky Gallery, an art installation space integrated with the first floor of the KWH. Brodsky Gallery shows this season included small-scale graphite drawings by Jennifer Wroblewski (C’94), documentary comics by activist Ben Passmore, and colorful birdhouses embellished by KWH community members. *Endowed in 2010 by Michael Brodsky (W’88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C’89)*

**CPCW/PMA Seminar Fund** ► In the yearlong CPCW/PMA Seminar, a collaboration with the Philadelphia Museum of Art, students engage with visual art through critical and creative writing, while learning firsthand the processes of making, curating, and funding art. Taught by Kenny Goldsmith, the 2021–2022 seminar explored Walter Benjamin’s *The Arcades Project*. The course culminated in a beautiful hardbound collection of student writing, co-published by CPCW and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. *Supported this year by Matthew Abess (C’08) and Taylor Abess.*

**The Creative Ventures Fund** ► The Creative Ventures Fund is a robust fund that enables KWH community members to pursue their most ambitious creative projects and ideas. The fund supported an extraordinary range of activities and happenings this year: public conversations and performances, print projects, art installations, interdisciplinary research, climate



justice work, online gaming, and more. Creative Ventures curators and practitioners included Anthony DeCurtis, who hosted a series of public conversations with musicians and culture critics; Farrah Rahaman (GFA’21, SPP’21, GR’29), who led a communal research project documenting the life of Trinidadian activist Claudia Jones; and Eleanor Shemtov (C’22), who launched the second issue of *t-art*, a magazine of art and technology. *Supported annually since 2011 with a special gift from Nina Rosborough (C’14), Robin Wolpow, and Marc Wolpow (W’80).*

**Endowed Fund for Feminist Projects** ► The Fund for Feminist Projects supports projects that focus on gender, sexuality, and feminist thought. In 2021–2022, the fund sponsored a reading by Carlos Decena (C’95), the publication of *Quake* magazine, and a prize to Sof Sears (C’23) for a film about girlhood. *Endowed in 2010 by an anonymous donor.*

**The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress Endowed Fund** ► Through the Robinson Press, students discover and explore print culture in the Common Press studio, with guidance from press manager Mary Tasillo. Newly reopened after COVID-related closure, the press held drop-in public printing days and created dozens of broadsides and postcards for KWH events, many of them designed by students. *Endowed in 2010 by Nina Robinson Vitow (CW’70, WG’76) in memory of her parents Herman Robinson and Jeanne Robinson.*

**Kelly Writers House Fellows Fund** ► The Kelly Writers House Fellows Program enables undergraduate writers to interact with eminent writers they greatly admire. At the center of the project is a unique undergraduate seminar taught by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis. 2021–2022 KWH Fellows were poet/performance artist Caroline Bergvall, fiction writer Amitav Ghosh, and memoirist/sportswriter Doug Glanville (ENG’93). *Supported annually from 1999 to 2021 by the late Paul Kelly (C’62, WG’64, Trustee 1997–2021).*

FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Kendall Dudley  
Matthew Eisenberg  
Jay Elias  
Melissa Enns, in honor of Al Filreis  
Rebecca Entel, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Daniel Evans  
Mary Farrell  
Robert Faunce  
Walt Fellman  
Victoria Feng, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Catherine Fisher Field  
Jean Findlay  
David Fishback and Barbara Fishback  
Marni Fogelson-Teel and Joseph Teel  
Peggy Fox  
Abigail Fradkin, in memory of Richard Weil  
Stewart Friedman  
Liza Fuchs  
Lise Funderburg  
Greg Gallagher  
John Gallagher  
Mark Gallagher  
Lisa Geiszler  
Kari Gerber  
John Giannotti, in memory of Mr. Oran Giannotti  
Elizabeth Gibson, in memory of Dr. Arthur Goldwyn  
Mr. and Mrs. Gies, in memory of Richard Weil  
Emily Gilman, in memory of Richard Weil  
Joseph Glantz  
David Goetke  
Nancy Golding and Robert Hartheimer Golding  
Ken Goldman  
David Goldwyn and Julie Goldwyn  
Jessica Goodman  
Marnie Gordon and Adam Frank  
Madhukar Govindaraju  
Charles Granatir, in honor of Al Filreis  
Richard Graves  
David Green  
Jennifer Green, in memory of Joan Didion  
Augusta Greenbaum  
Elisa Greenbaum and Clint Greenbaum, in honor of Al Filreis  
Alison Greenberg  
Lawrence Greenspun  
Jennifer Gwartz  
Katherine Haegele  
Benjamin Hand, in memory of Richard Weil  
Siobhan Hansen  
Caroline Harris  
Eric Hart and Adrienne Yost Hart, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Alyssa Haywoode  
Dina Hellerstein  
Michael Herzlin, in honor of Bob Schieffer  
Norman Hirsch, in memory of Richard Weil  
Sandra Hoffen, in memory of Richard Weil





# WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Thank you to the Friends of the Writers House whose total giving puts them in the William Carlos Williams Circle:

Matthew Algeo  
Nathalie Anderson  
Derek Arthur  
Eileen Baird  
Charles Bernstein and Susan Bee Laufer  
Ronna Wineberg Blaser, in honor of Simone Blaser  
Rachel Blau DuPlessis  
Scott Blum and Joanne Blum  
Megan Bly and Scott Wunsch  
Mary Brauer-Cox  
Ellen Brooks and Marshall Cohen  
Jackie Brousse and Denis Brousse  
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Lenny Cassuto  
Robin Cohn  
Rev. Blayne Charles Colmore  
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Jayson Crair and Jill Crair  
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Ben Fountain and Sharon Fountain  
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Jeffrey Hunt and Cynthia Hunt  
Lee Huttner  
Michael Hyde  
Carolyn Anne Jacobson and Erik Simpson  
Alexa Jervis, in memory of Richard Weil  
Kathe Jervis and Robert Jervis, in memory of Richard Weil  
Teresa Jones, in memory of author David T. Jones  
Frederick Kaskel and Phyllis Kaskel  
Adam Kaufman  
Edward Kelly  
Janice Kimenhour  
Sabrina Kleier-Morgenstern and Robert Morgenstern  
Scott Wallace Kraft and Nadine Van der Velde  
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Melissa Levy and Paul Levy  
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Elaine Maimon and Mort Maimon, in memory of Robert Lucid  
Melody Marcus  
Ilana Miller  
Michael Miller  
Suzanne Miller  
Nick Montfort  
Alan Nadel and Karen Nadel, in honor of Al Filreis  
Panna Naik  
Elinor Sharon Nathanson  
James Newswanger, in honor of Blaze Bernstein  
Alicia Oltuski and Uri Oltuski  
Neil Plakcy

Dick Polman, in honor of Elise Vider  
Michael Rauch  
Jason Resnick  
Maria Rieders  
Matthew Rosenbaum  
Karen Sternhell Rosenberg  
Jeffrey Rosenstock, in memory of Beryl Rosenstock  
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Matthew Selman  
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John Shea and Karen Hurvitz Shea  
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Paul Silverman and Sue Silverman  
David Simon and Simone Simon  
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Yoni Slonim and Rifki Zable  
Sarena Snider  
Barry Solar and Judith Solar  
Joanne Soslow and Anthony Soslow  
William Speer  
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Thomas Staudter  
Janet Miller Stier and Byron Stier  
Ann Strong  
David Sweet  
John Thomas and Barbara Thomas  
Barbara Tilley  
Tony and Mary Toups, in honor of Peyton Toups  
Jane Treuhaft  
Ellen Umansky and David Gutman  
David Wallace  
Laura Walsh  
Timothy Waples  
Darius Weil, in memory of Richard Weil  
Zarine Weil, in memory of Richard Weil  
Liliane Weissberg  
Sam Whyte  
Eleanor Wilner



**Online Projects Fund** ► The Online Projects Fund supports “ModPo,” our free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry. In 2021–2022, the fund allowed us to hire Ali Castleman (C’13) and Jason Zuzga (GR’16), who served as ModPo TAs this season. *Funded annually since 2019 by an anonymous donor.*

**The Richard and Lucy Cook Endowed Fund for Digital Ventures** ► The Richard and Lucy Cook Fund supports “ModPo,” our free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry. In 2021–2022, the Cook Fund enabled the work of teaching assistant Knar Gavin (GR’26). *Established in 2021 by Lucy (Oh) Cook (C’95) and Dr. Richard Cook.*

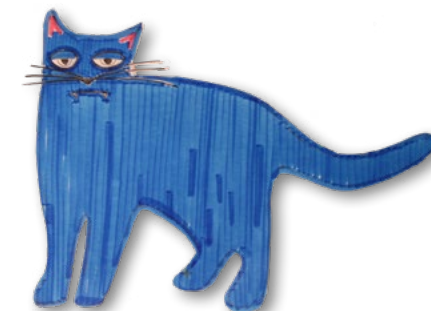
**Student Initiatives Fund** ► The Student Initiatives Fund fuels a wide range of creative projects and ventures. This year, among other things, the fund supported a “Bad Poetry Night,” organized by Alex Moon (C’24) and Mahailya Hinsey (C’23), and a series of “Friday Fun Days” with games, crafts, and writing activities. The Student Initiatives Fund also paid admission fees for ten students to attend the annual conference of AWP,



the Association of Writers & Writing Programs. *Supported annually by the Writers House Community, with special gifts this year from Tony and Mary Toups, in honor of Peyton Toups; and Cheryl Wold and Paul Wennberg.*

**Writers House Journal Endowment Fund** ► The Writers House Journal Endowment Fund supports *Jacket2*, an international magazine of poetry and poetics housed at the KWH. At *Jacket2*, student editorial assistants learn editorial practice from professional editors Kenna O’Rourke (C’15) and Julia Bloch (GR’11). *Endowed in 2000 by an anonymous donor.*

**Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowed Fund for the Literary Journalism Magazine** ► The Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund nurtures journalistic talent by making possible the publication of substantial nonfiction writing by Penn students. In 2021–2022, the fund supported the activities of the Moviegoer, a student-led film magazine that hosted a series of talks by film critics. *Endowed in 2006 by Judith Zarin and Gerald Rosenfeld.*



## IN MEMORY OF RICHARD WEIL

A special thanks to the many friends who supported the Writers House this year in memory of Richard Weil, who was a beloved ModPo participant: Murray Anderson, Ilana Cember, Ann Courter, David Cox, James DeGrassi, Abigail Fradkin, Mr. and Mrs. Gies, Emily Gilman, Benjamin Hand, Norman Hirsch, Sandra Hoffen, Laura Honsberger, Karen Hunter, Beth Isaacs, Jessica Isaacs, Alexa Jervis, Kathe Jervis and Robert Jervis, Steven Jervis, Carrie Kalina, Alexander Lippitt, Jr., Jordan Martin, Pam Meyerson, Janis Michael, David Phelps, Neel Rai, Dominic Randolph, Alisa Ray, Diane Redleaf, Linda Rubin, Vinati Sukhdev and Pavan Sukhdev, Christine Trevino, Laurie Volz, Jana Waterworth, Darius Weil, Zarine Weil, and James Wiard.

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Bob Holman  
Laura Honsberger, in memory of Richard Weil  
Claudia Horwitz  
Elsie Howard, in honor of Al Filreis  
Waverly Huang, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Karen Hunter, in memory of Richard Weil  
Michael Hurst  
Virgil Huston  
Patrick Hyland  
Adam Ingber and Rebekah Ingber  
Lina Insana  
Beth Isaacs, in memory of Richard Weil  
Jessica Isaacs, in memory of Richard Weil  
Hilal Isler  
Alexander Jacobs  
Leigh Jacoby  
Robert Jaffe  
Kari Jensen and Thomas Hitch  
Steven Jervis, in memory of Richard Weil  
Jeffrey Jubelirer  
Betti Kahn  
Carrie Kalina, in memory of Richard Weil  
Eddie Kamarauskas, in memory of Mr. Aldo Jones  
John Kamholz  
Emily Kaplan  
Eric Karlan, in honor of Al Filres  
Carole Karsch and Samuel Karsch  
Ronald Keeperman  
Susan Kerr  
Valerie Kort Kieffer, in honor of Stacey Gillis Weber  
Leslie King, in honor of Kaitlin Moore  
John Kingston  
Betsy Klausman and Michael Klausman  
Clifford Klein and Linda Reisz  
Jody Rosen Knower  
Ruth Davis Konigsberg  
Nina Korsh and James Korsh  
Rene Kozloff and Lou Kozloff  
Stephen Krewson and Stina Krewson, in honor of Stephen Krewson (2010) and Susannah Krewson (2011)  
Chris Kriesen  
Maira Kuo  
Peter Kussell, in memory of Paul Kelly  
James La Marre IV  
Peter LaBerge  
Judith Lagana and Anthony Lagana  
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Scott Lanman  
Gerry Lantz  
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Lexi Lieberman  
Ruth Lindeborg



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Alexander Lippitt, Jr., in memory of Richard Weil  
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Vijayalaxmi Maddali  
John Mandryk and Joan Mandryk  
Alan Margolis  
Stephen Marmon  
Lynn Marsden-Atlass, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Jordan Martin, in memory of Richard Weil  
Mark Marziale  
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Luke Mazur  
Cecile Mazzucco-Than  
Edson McClellan  
Catherine McCredie, in honor of Al Filreis and in memory of Paul Kelly  
Margaret McDonald  
Andrew McGhie and Anne McGhie  
Holly McLaughlin and Kevin McLaughlin  
Kevin McMullin  
John Meehan  
Loren Mendell  
Marcie Merz  
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Gerald Miller and Harriet Miller  
Joelle Silverman Miller and John Miller  
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Alexandra Mindlin, in memory of Paul Kelly  
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Cory Newman, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Lisa Niver, in memory of Paul Kelly  
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Jacob Ohnouna and Rachel Schnipper  
Michaela Oldfield  
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Deborah Paisner  
Lindsey Palmer  
Katerina Papazissi  
Josephine Park  
Erica Parrot  
Ashlee Paxton-Turner  
Lynn Pedersen



FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT

**The Possibility Endowed Fund** ► Established in honor of Al Filreis, the founding Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, the Possibility Endowed Fund supports all the activities of the Writers House. Its capaciousness reflects the founding principles of the Writers House as a House of Possibility: a place for intellectually adventurous initiatives, collaborative work, and a learner-centered approach. Anyone can contribute to the Possibility Fund in any amount to help ensure the permanence and sustainability of the Writers House. *Launched in 2022.*

**Alice Cooper Shoulberg Scholarship Endowed Fund for the Support of Student Creative Writing** ► A remarkable student who graduated from Penn’s College for Women in 1955, Alice Cooper Shoulberg went on to a brilliant career as a Philadelphia public school teacher. Established in her memory, the Cooper Shoulberg Fund supports the technology in our Student Projects Space that students use for print and design projects. *Endowed in 1998 by Overbrook High School classmates of Alice Cooper Shoulberg.*

**The Along Fund** ► Taking its name from *Report From Part One* by Gwendolyn Brooks, the Along



Fund was established to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Writers House and its community. The Along Fund supports all kinds of activities, people, and projects at the Writers House, providing unrestricted funding to meet the ongoing and emergent needs of our community. *Endowed in 2021 by Advisory Board member Irwyn Applebaum (C’75) and Lucy Applebaum.*

**Anonymous Endowed Fund** ► The Anonymous Endowed Fund provides foundational support for the activities and projects of the Writers House and its community, helping to build a healthy financial base for years to come. *Endowed in 2014 by an anonymous donor.*

**Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund** ► This flexible fund, to which anyone can contribute, enables KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis to seek out, encourage, and invest in talent and ideas. The fund enabled several people to take on special projects this year: Arielle Stanger (C’24) accepted an internship at the Artists Association of Nantucket Gallery, Tanya Syngle (W’22) started research toward a book about the KWH, Julia Bloch (GR’11) organized a series of PennSound podcast recordings, and members of the ModPo team traveled to New York to film offsite. *Supported in 2021–2022 by Megan Bly (C’00) and Scott Wunsch, Alexis Brunswick (C’04), Mark Dalton (W’83) in honor of Mr. Alfred Dalton, Joseph Fidanque, Jr. (W’62), Advisory Board member Reina Marin (CW’72, GED’72), Michael Miller (W’78), Sharon Paul (C’90) and Brian Paul (W’90), Neil S. Plakcy (C’79), Irene Plotzker (CW’73) and Richard Plotzker (C’73, FEL’90), Barry Savits (M’59), Mark Sherman (C’95) and Rachel Sherman (C’95), Melissa Stoller and Lawrence Stoller, Richard Williams (C’63) in memory of C. K. Williams, and an anonymous donor.*

**Faculty Director Endowed Fund** ► The Faculty Director Endowed Fund helps ensure the permanence and stability of the Writers House by providing unrestricted support for *everything we do.*



This extraordinary fund encourages the Faculty Director of the Writers House to direct support precisely where it is most needed, to seek out and encourage new student initiatives, to develop projects and programs that meet current needs, and to nurture the innovative ideas and dreams of the KWH community. *Endowed in 2021 by an anonymous donor.*

**Gordon Walls ’38 Creative Ventures Fund** ► This flexible fund supports the activities of the Writers House Hub, whose members constantly revitalize the KWH with fresh ideas. This year, the Gordon Walls Fund helped us bring back our in-person end-of-year Hub party, with BBQ for all (including our vegan friends) and special green honor cords for graduating seniors. *Supported annually by Gordon Lane Bond (C’06) and Sunny Bond, in memory of Gordon Walls.*

**Hartman Dining Room Endowment** ► In the Hartman Dining Room, we host memorable meals with visiting writers, writing workshops, zine-making sessions, study group meetings, and gatherings of all kinds. In 2021–2022, we gladly welcomed the return of shared meals throughout the year. *Endowed in 2017 by Kim Hartman and Advisory Board member Alan Hartman (W’87).*

**Kane-Wallace Kitchen Endowed Fund** ► The Kane-Wallace Kitchen is the scene of late-night baking adventures, informal meet-ups and study sessions, and prep for more than one hundred receptions each year. Special kitchen activities this year included a series of dinners cooked by Amanda Shulman (C’15), Devon Inman (LPS’22), and the good people of Her Place Supper Club. *Endowed in 2010 by Ed Kane (C’71, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace.*

**The Kelly Writers House Endowment** ► The Writers House Endowment helps ensure that our community of students, writers, and readers will find a home here forever. *Supported in 2021–2022 by*



*Arthur Butcher (C’92) and Elizabeth Butcher, Jenny Garcia (C’93) and Domingo Garcia, and Kari Gerber (C’06); with additional special gifts in memory of beloved ModPo participant Richard Weil, from Murray Anderson, Ilana Cember, Ann Courter, David Cox, James DeGrassi, Abigail Fradkin, Mr. and Mrs. Gies, Emily Gilman, Benjamin Hand, Norman Hirsch, Sandra Hoffen, Laura Honsberger, Karen Hunter, Beth Isaacs, Jessica Isaacs, Kathe Jervis and Robert Jervis, Steven Jervis, Alexa Jervis (G’99, GR’01), Carrie Kalina, Alexander Lippitt, Jr., Jordan Martin, Pam Meyerson, Janis Michael, David Phelps, Neel Rai, Dominic Randolph, Alisa Ray, Diane Redleaf, Linda Rubin, Vinati Sukhdev and Pavan Sukhdev, Christine Trevino, Laurie Volz, Jana Waterworth, Darius Weil, Zarine Weil, and James Wiard.*

**Levin Kelly Writers House Endowment** ► The Levin Kelly Writers House Endowment supports the stability and permanence of this special place by providing unrestricted funding for the activities of the Writers House and its community. *Endowed in 2020 by Advisory Board member Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro.*



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Jess Penzias  
Katy Perlman, in honor of Al Filreis  
Miriam Peskowitz, in memory of Paul Kelly  
David Phelps, in memory of Richard Weil  
James Piccarello  
Noah Pink  
Irene Plotzker and Richard Plotzker  
Fred Pond  
Eleanor Poplar  
Rolf Potts  
Julia Powers  
Beth Brown Preston  
C.J. Prince  
Jennifer Prior  
Jennifer Proga  
Marion Puerzer  
Neel Rai, in memory of Richard Weil  
Dominic Randolph, in memory of Richard Weil  
Alisa Ray, in memory of Richard Weil  
Diane Redleaf, in memory of Richard Weil  
Evelyn Reilly  
Dominique Renda-Horsley  
Sharlyn Rhee, in memory of Allen Grossman  
John Richetti  
Nola Ridl  
Roopika Risam  
Margaret Roark  
Linda Roller  
Avery Rome  
Joel Ronkin and Shari Ronkin  
Marilyn Rosen  
Jonathan Rosenberg  
Valerie Ross  
Michael Rotgin and Erin Rotgin  
Jeffrey Rothbard and Susan Rothbard  
Caroline Rothstein  
Linda Rubin, in memory of Richard Weil  
Laura Rush  
Patrick Ryan  
Harry William Saffren  
Danilo Anonuevo San Jose  
Phil Sandick  
A. Margaret Sandin, in memory of Ms. Sasi Suwan  
Barbara Sandler and Robert Sandler  
Ira Sasowsky, in honor of Al Filreis  
Barry Savits  
Nina Schafer  
Jeffrey Schiffner  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Lois Segel, in memory of Milton Segel  
Linda Shalom  
Fatemeh Shams Esmaeili, in honor of Baktash Abtin  
Sherry Shu  
Gina Signorella-Arlen  
Richard Siller, in memory of Mary Siller  
Ron Silliman





# EMILY DICKINSON CIRCLE

Thank you to the Friends of the Writers House whose total giving puts them in the Emily Dickinson Circle:

Matthew Abess and Taylor Abess  
Liaquat Ahamed  
Irwyn Applebaum and Lucy Applebaum  
Stuart Applebaum, in honor of Lily Applebaum  
Sharon Schieffer Baird and Bill Baird  
Anand Balasubrahmanyam and Priya Viswanathan  
Dennis Barone and Debbie Barone  
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Arthur Butcher and Elizabeth Butcher  
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Tercero Fidanque III and Vicky Fidanque  
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Al Filreis and Jane Treuhaft  
Christopher Forman and Margaret Forman  
Bill Friend, Linda Friend, Nina Friend, and the  
Harris Family Foundation  
Roy Gainsburg, in honor of Al Filreis  
Jenny Garcia and Domingo Garcia  
Seth Ginns and Jane Ginns  
Jody Girenti, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Theodore Goldsmith and Judith Goldsmith  
Neil Grabowski and Monice Grabowski

Harry Groome and Evelyn Groome  
Adam Groothuis  
David Gross-Loh and Christine Gross-Loh  
Alex Halpern  
Kim Hartman and Alan Hartman  
Janet Heettner and Peter Silverman  
Steven Heller and Tom Heller  
Hank Herman and Carol Herman  
Stephen Heumann and Jane Heumann  
Diane Jacobs  
Edward Jacobson  
Alexandra Jaffe  
Tom Janover and Sarah Janover  
Ed Kane and Marty Wallace  
Sally Grueskin Kaplan  
Richard Katz and Kathy Silver Katz  
Carol Kaufman and Jeffrey Kaufman  
Deborah Kay and Scott Kay  
Donald Keim  
Mali Heled Kinberg  
Jean-Marie Kneeleay and Richard Kneeleay, in honor  
of Al Filreis  
Rena Cohen Kopelman and Joshua Kopelman  
Deborah LaBerge and Jon LaBerge, in honor of  
Peter LaBerge  
Laurie Legum  
Kate Levin and Robin Shapiro  
Michelle Levister, in honor of Al Filreis  
Cindy Shmerler Levy, Ford Levy, and Max Levy  
Missy Linn and Eric Linn  
Howie Lipson  
Betty Liu  
Jeff Lotman and Therese Lotman  
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Catherine Nicholls  
Margaretta Noonan and Jack Noonan  
Mark Osele  
Brian Paul and Sharon Paul  
Bret Pearlman and Marion Pearlman, in memory  
of Paul Kelly  
Arthur Penn and Ilene Penn  
Bob Perelman and Frances Shaw  
Marjorie Perloff  
Jerilyn Perman and Brian Perman

Arthur Pier III  
Sandra Planisek  
Maria Popova  
Susanna Porter  
Elizabeth Porth  
Maury Povich and Connie Chung  
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Karen Quigley  
Hillary Reinsberg  
John Reinsberg and Lori Reinsberg  
Claudia Berman and Bruce Resnikoff  
Hadley Rierson and Lee Rierson,  
in honor of Al Filreis  
David Roberts and Debbie Roberts  
Peter Rogers  
Tara Mark Rosenblum  
Jonathan Rosenstein and Darby Golino Rosenstein  
Steven Roth and Marsha Roth  
Daniel Rottenberg and Barbara Rottenberg  
Marc Rovner  
Caryn Karmatz Rudy and Lee Rudy  
Leslie Dezer Salmon and Ricardo Salmon  
Susan Small Savitsky and Gerald Savitsky  
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Mark Sherman and Rachel Sherman  
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Melissa Stoller and Lawrence Stoller  
Eric Stone and Rebecca Zoller  
Lynn Strother  
David Sussman  
Dan Wallen and Jill Wallen  
Robert Warshaw  
Caroline Waxler and Michael Levitt  
Stacey Gillis Weber and Jeffrey Weber  
Wendy White and Lawrence White  
Margaret Lehr Whitford and Thomas Whitford  
Andrew Wolk  
Marc Wolpov and Robin Wolpov,  
and Nina Rosborough  
Robert Charles Wright  
Jan Wyman and Ken Wyman  
Holly York, in honor of ModPo  
Jessica Yu  
Henry Zachs and Judith Zachs  
William Zachs  
Jeanne Zelnick and Gregory Goodman  
and anonymous friends



## OUTREACH / BEYOND THE CAMPUS

**Digital Poetries Fund** ► The Digital Poetries Fund supports several interrelated projects, including PennSound, the world's largest digital archive of poetry; *PoemTalk*, a monthly podcast hosted by Faculty Director Al Filreis; *Jacket2*, an international journal of poetry and poetics; and ModPo, a free online course on modern and contemporary poetry. *Supported annually by the KWH community, with lead gifts this year from Stuart Applebaum in honor of Lily Applebaum (C'12), and Advisory Board member David Roberts (W'84) and Deborah Roberts. Additional gifts from Eric Brotman (C'94), Annette Dorsky, Vijayalaxmi Maddali, Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C'83), Michaela Oldfield, and Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75) and Gerald Savitsky.*

**Kneeleay Digital Ventures Endowed Fund** ► The Kneeleay Digital Ventures Fund supports a Teaching Assistant for ModPo, the free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry led by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis. We named the inimitable Amber Rose Johnson (GR'22) our inaugural Kneeleay TA in the fall of 2021, setting a high bar for years to come. *Endowed in 2021 by Advisory Board member Jean-Marie Kneeleay and Richard J. Kneeleay.*

**KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund** ► Our moderator-led online book groups allow people from all over the world to join lively conversations about books. This year's offerings included a special ten-day session for prospective Penn students led by Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) and a new seminar-style series of Zoom conversations led by David Roberts (W'84) and KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis. *Supported annually since 2009 by Advisory Board member David Roberts (W'84) and Deborah Roberts.*

**Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund** ► For ten days each summer, we welcome a small group of high school writers to our Summer Workshop for Young Writers — an immersive campus experience, with daily writing classes, special field trips around the city, and an introduction to living on a college campus. Thanks to the Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund, more than half the workshop participants receive

financial assistance, and for students of greatest need the program is entirely free of charge. *Endowed in 2021 by Advisory Board member Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.*

**Esther T. Saxon Term Fund** ► The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts for children and youth, including transcribez, a monthly group for trans and nonbinary youth writers. *Supported annually since 2001 by Jerilyn Saxon Perman (C'91) and Brian Perman (W'90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon.*

**Sayet-Rosenberg Endowed Fund for Young Writers** ► The Sayet-Rosenberg Fund supports outreach, teaching, and other work with young writers. In summer 2022, Sayet-Rosenberg Interns Rebekah Donnell (C'24), Erica Messics (C'22), Pranav Mishra (C'24), and Keemia Sarafpour (C'25) joined the staff at the Frost Valley YMCA summer camp. *Endowed in 2011 by Harold L. Rosenberg (W'79) and Dr. Laurie A. Sayet.*

**Student Recruitment and Access Endowed Fund** ► This endowed fund supports our outreach efforts to high school writers all over the country, particularly in regions that are underrepresented at Penn. Our Associate Director of Recruitment and Access, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), visits high schools and youth writing programs throughout the year to introduce prospective students to opportunities at the KWH and Penn. *Endowed in 2021 by Kim Hartman and Advisory Board member Alan Hartman (W'87).*

**Student Recruitment and Access Fund** ► Anyone can support our efforts to recruit high school writers to Penn by contributing to the Student Recruitment and Access Fund. We want high school writers — particularly those who may believe Penn is beyond their reach financially, geographically, or otherwise — to know that a Penn education is possible. *Supported annually by Friends of the Writers House, including John Carroll (C'05) and Rachael Paz (C'05), Advisory Board member Janine Catalano (C'06), Advisory Board member Alex Halpern (C'04), Moira Kuo (C'06), Brett L. Prager (W'88, ENG'88) and Wendy Prager (C'89), and David Sinclair.*



## FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Karen Silverman  
Isabella Simonetti  
David Sinclair  
Rachel Skerritt  
St. John Smith and Kay Barned-Smith  
Jennifer Snead  
Jaeyong So  
Lexi Spector, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Joel Spenadel  
Celina Spiegel  
Dan Spinelli and Laina Spinelli  
Maureen Spisak  
Sandra Stanger and Michael Stanger  
Stephanie Stein  
David Steinberg, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Eugene Stelzig  
Eric Stern and Hannah Stutzman  
Sebastian Stockman  
M. Eileen Streight  
Vinati Sukhdev and Pavan Sukhdev, in memory of  
Richard Weil  
Jane Sussman  
Nancy Tag  
Pamela Takefman and Raphael Cormack  
Elizabeth Tauber  
Molly Tenenbaum  
Elaine Terranova  
Alex Tokar  
Joan Segal Trachtenberg  
Christine Trevino, in memory of Richard Weil  
William Tripp and Nancy Rassiga-Tripp  
Marija Ugrinich  
Renee Unglo, in memory of Michael Unglo  
Graham Urquhart  
Luna Vargas-Chaffa  
James Vaughan and Roberta Vaughan  
Paul Vinelli, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Allyson Volinsky  
Laurie Volz, in memory of Richard Weil  
John Vosmek and Lucy Vosmek  
Jana Waterworth, in memory of Richard Weil  
Jessica Weber  
George Weinbaum and Carol Weinbaum  
Carly Weinreb  
Sharon Weinstein  
Lara Weisberg and Arel Weisberg  
Anne Wellner de Veer  
Dominic Weston  
Beth White and Jeff White, in honor of Mrs.  
Hannah White Reitz  
James Wiard, in memory of Richard Weil  
Jeyarany Wijeyesinghe  
Rebecca Williams  
Richard Williams, in memory of C. K. Williams  
Tyrone Williams  
Jerald Winakur and Lee Robinson  
Christopher Wiss, in memory of Tim Dlugos



# FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Cheryl Wold and Paul Wennberg  
Amanda Wolkin  
Elaine Wong  
Yankau Wong, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Dagmawi Woubshet  
Delores Wright  
Yixuan Wu, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Patricia Yoder, in memory of Paul Kelly  
Len Zangwill  
Ji Zhang  
Michael Zuckerman  
and anonymous friends



## READINGS AND EVENTS

### Blutt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund

► The Blatt Songwriting Fund allows us to invite legendary musicians to the KWH for performances and discussions of their work. This year’s standing-room-only Blatt Program featured Michelle Zauner of Japanese Breakfast. Faculty member Anthony DeCurtis led an in-depth conversation with the rising star, including discussion of her breakout memoir *Crying in H-Mart*. *Endowed in 2006 by Margo Krody Blatt and Mitchell J. Blatt (C’78, M’82, L’84, Trustee 1998–2008).*

### The Bob Lucid Memorial Endowment Fund

► Friends of the Writers House established this fund in memory of Bob Lucid, a visionary teacher who helped inspire and structure our literary community. The 2021–2022 Lucid Program, held in Bob’s honor, featured members of The Claw, a Philly-based writing collective. *Endowed by the KWH community, with lead gifts by Susan Small Savitsky (CW’75) and Ed Kane (C’71, Trustee 1996–2000), with additional support this year from Robert Shepard (G’83, C’83) and Robert Numerof (CGS’83).*

### Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund

► The Bok Fund is a foundational programming fund at the Writers House that sponsors public events and programs in all genres, allowing us to celebrate the full range of contemporary writing. This year’s Bok-sponsored events included a book launch party for Weike Wang’s *Joan is Okay*; a triple-header poetry reading by Julia Bloch (GR’11), Maxe Crandall, and Larissa Lai; and a celebration of John Keats, jointly hosted by English professor Toni Bowers and Penn physician Jason Karlawish. The Bok Fund also supported a discussion about poetry and migration with poet Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon, moderated by Dagmawi Woubshet and co-presented by the Penn Humanities Forum. *Endowed in 1998 by Scott Bok (C’81, W’81, L’84, Trustee 2005–present) and Advisory Board member Roxanne Bok (C’81).*

### The Caroline Rothstein Endowed Fund in

**Support of Oral Poetry** ► The Rothstein Fund allows us to showcase performance poetry, spoken



word, and other forms of oral poetry. Thanks to the Rothstein Fund, Franny Choi joined us in February for a performance and conversation moderated by Excelano leaders Ollie Dupuy (C’23) and Maressa Park (C’22). *Endowed in 2007 by Nancy Rothstein (CW’75) and Steven Rothstein, in honor of their daughter Caroline Rothstein (C’06).*

### Cheryl J. Family Endowed Fund for Fiction

**Programming** ► The Cheryl J. Family Fiction Fund sponsors an annual reading by a young or emerging fiction writer. Our Family Fiction Program featured two up-and-comers this year: Vi Khi Nao and Marc Anthony Richardson, members of Fiction Collective Two, a hub of adventurous, nontraditional fiction. *Endowed in 2006, with a renewal gift in 2021, by Advisory Board member Cheryl J. Family (C’91).*

### Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Endowed Fund

► We honor the memory of Eva and Leo Sussman, beloved grandparents of Daniel Morse, with an annual poetry program. Our 2021–2022 Sussman Poetry Program featured a lively performance by Nuyorican poet Edwin Torres, introduced by Laynie Browne. *Endowed in 2012 by Daniel Morse and Miriam Morse, in memory of Eva and Leo Sussman.*

### Friedman Program for Eminent Fiction Writers

**Fund** ► The Friedman Eminent Fiction Writers Fund supports visits by renowned fiction writers, who share their stories and their expertise with members of the KWH community at public readings and events. Our inaugural Friedman Fiction Writer was the award-winning novelist Alice McDermott, whose *Charming Billy* won the National Book Award. McDermott’s fantastic reading — set in 1960s Vietnam — was followed by a freewheeling conversation moderated by Al Filreis, and a delicious reception that allowed readers and fans to interact with our eminent novelist. *Endowed in 2021.*

### Handwerker Stand-Up Comedy Series Fund

► The Handwerker Fund supports Stand-Ups Sit Down, a celebration of comedy, comedy writing, and comedians. Hosted by Penn funnyman Lew Schneider (C’83), Stand-Ups Sit Down invites a panel of comedians to the KWH for an evening of



storytelling and laughs. Our 2021–2022 program guests were Gary Gulman and Emmy Blotnick. *Supported annually since 2015 by Haim Handwerker and Jamie Handwerker (C’83).*

### Hartman Family Screenwriting Series Endowed

**Fund** ► The Hartman Family Screenwriting Series gives aspiring filmmakers a taste of the writers’ room. This year, the Hartman Fund sponsored a conversation with Slate film critic Dana Stevens, who shared the inside story of her new book about Buster Keaton. *Endowed in 2013 by Kim Hartman and Advisory Board member Alan Hartman (W’87).*

### Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Endowed Fund

► The Applebaum Fund allows us to honor publishers and editors, the people who work behind the scenes to curate, shape, and promote published works. Aspiring editors and publishers met two Applebaum visitors this year: Cindy Spiegel, co-founder of Spiegel & Grau, and John Freeman, executive editor at Knopf. *Endowed in 2008 by Advisory Board member Irwyn Applebaum (C’75) and Lucy Applebaum.*

### The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer

► The Levin Endowed Fund allows the KWH Program Coordinator to plan a special program, held annually in memory of Charles Bernheimer. This year’s Bernheimer Program featured a panel of cartoonists convened by Program Coordinator Alli Katz to talk about drawing for kids and grown-ups. *Endowed in 2007 by Advisory Board member Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro in memory of much-beloved Comp Lit professor Charles Bernheimer.*

**Liu Endowed Program Fund** ► The Liu Endowed Program Fund allows us to honor writing that describes immigrant experiences, transnational or translanguistic exchange, border crossing, and themes related to the challenges of displacement. Our inaugural Liu Program celebrated the release of *Tea with Ms. Tanzania*, a novel by beloved Penn faculty member Fayyaz Vellani. *Endowed in 2021 by Betty Liu (C’95).*



### The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment

► We collaborate with WXPB (88.5 FM) to produce *LIVE at the Writers House*, a monthly one-hour radio show, hosted by Alli Katz and edited by Zach Carduner (C’13). *LIVE’s* 150th episode featured an all-star lineup of graduating seniors, including Jamie Albrecht (C’22), Jessica Bao (C’22), Mehek Boparai (C’22), Rowana Miller (C’22), Erinda Sheno (C’22), and Chelsey Zhu (C’22). *Endowed in 2004 by BigRoc.*

### Lucy F. DeMarco Endowed Fund for Youth

**Literature** ► Established in memory of Lucy F. DeMarco, a preschool educator and voracious reader, this fund supports programs that engage with literature for children and youth. This year, alumni writers Zachary Sergi (C’10) and Jennifer Yu (C’16) talked about their work in YA literature for our Homecoming panel, including a Q&A with questions from young readers themselves. *Endowed in 2016 by Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C’88, W’88) in memory of Lucy F. DeMarco.*

### Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund

► The single largest programming gift in Writers House history, the Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund permanently endows our nonfiction programming, a range of events that includes readings, craft talks, and mentor meetings with journalists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Many journalists shared their expertise this year, including Bob Schieffer, an award-winning journalist whose career has spanned six decades. *Endowed in 2010 by Advisory Board member Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung.*

**Poetry Endowment Fund** ► The Poetry Endowment Fund supports a wide variety of poetic activity, including readings, student writing projects, and collaborations between poets and other artists. Our 2021–2022 Poetry Endowment allowed us to welcome returning KWH favorites erica kaufman and Patricia Smith. *Endowed in 2019 by an anonymous donor.*



### The Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Endowed Fund

► Our annual Weber Symposium celebrates a writer who illuminates the workings of business, finance, and economics. Our 2021–2022 Weber Symposium featured Liaquat Ahamed, author of Pulitzer prize-winning *Lords of Finance*, a spellbinding chronicle of the lead-up to the Great Depression. *Endowed in 2008 and supported annually by Advisory Board member Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber.*

### Sylvia W. Kauders Endowment Fund

► The Kauders Fund allows us to meet writers of nonfiction who visit the KWH for memorable lunchtime conversations. This year the Kauders Fund brought law professor Wendy Bach (C’91) for a conversation about her book *Prosecuting Poverty*, *Criminalizing Care* and poet Timothy Yu for a discussion about Asian diasporic writing. *Endowed in 2007 by Sylvia W. Kauders (CW’42).*

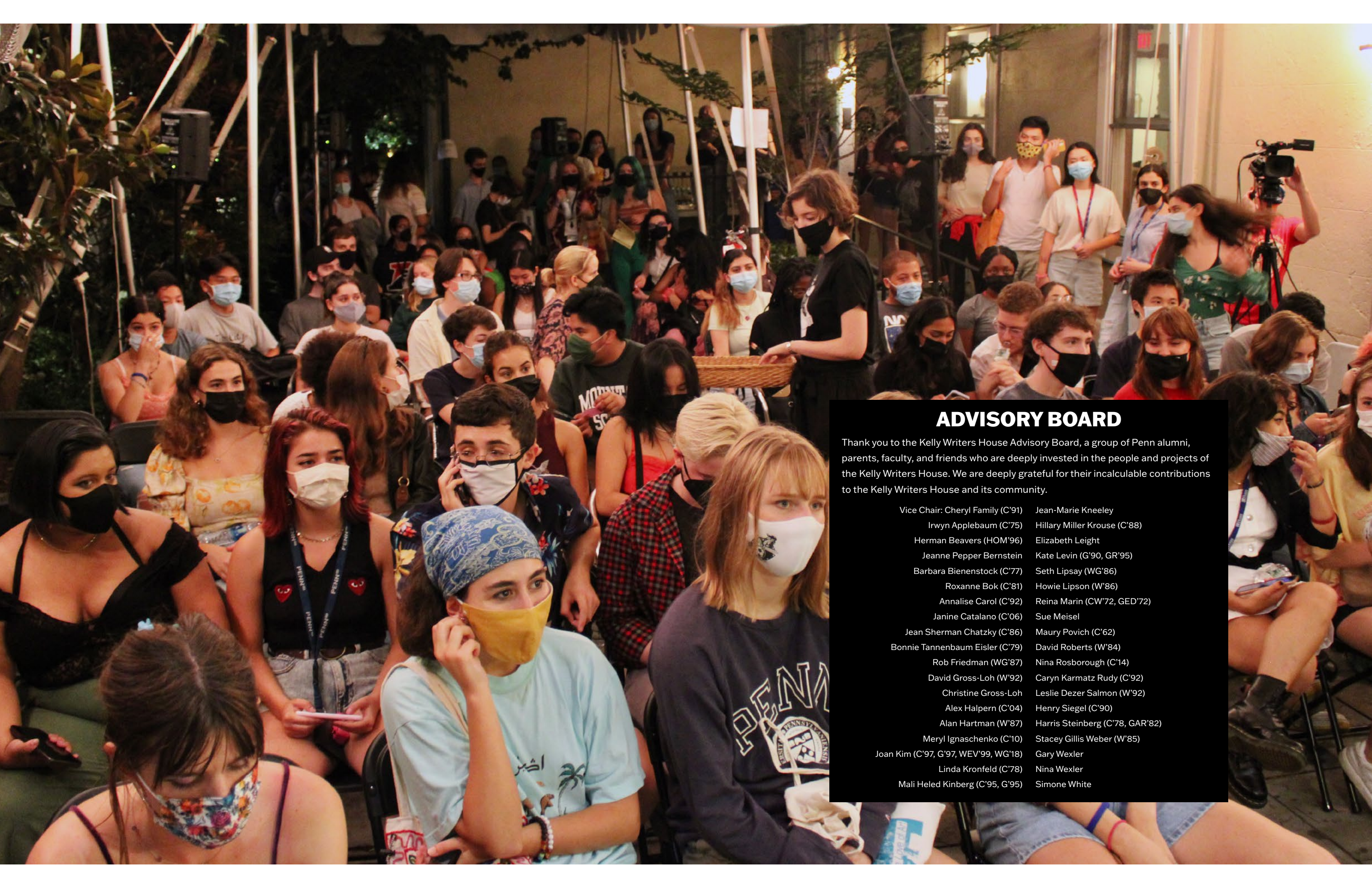
### The Wexler Endowment Fund for Programs

**at the Kelly Writers House** ► The Wexler Fund enables all kinds of creative projects led by KWH community members, including readings, workshops, and podcasts. Events supported by the Wexler Fund this year included a panel of poets responding to Dante Alighieri and a celebration of 1960: *When Art and Literature Confronted the Memory of World War II and Remade the Modern*, the newest book by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis. *Endowed in 2005 by Advisory Board members Gary Wexler and Nina Wexler.*

### Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in

**Jewish Life and Culture** ► The Wexler Family Fund helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture. This year, the fund supported Callie Ward (C’13) in her work as a Teaching Assistant for the course *Representations of the Holocaust*, and a book launch for Sam Apple’s new book, *Ravenous*. *Endowed in 2010 by Advisory Board members Gary Wexler and Nina Wexler.*





## ADVISORY BOARD

Thank you to the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, a group of Penn alumni, parents, faculty, and friends who are deeply invested in the people and projects of the Kelly Writers House. We are deeply grateful for their incalculable contributions to the Kelly Writers House and its community.

Vice Chair: Cheryl Family (C'91)	Jean-Marie Kneeleay
Irwyn Applebaum (C'75)	Hillary Miller Krouse (C'88)
Herman Beavers (HOM'96)	Elizabeth Leight
Jeanne Pepper Bernstein	Kate Levin (G'90, GR'95)
Barbara Bienenstock (C'77)	Seth Lipsay (WG'86)
Roxanne Bok (C'81)	Howie Lipson (W'86)
Annalise Carol (C'92)	Reina Marin (CW'72, GED'72)
Janine Catalano (C'06)	Sue Meisel
Jean Sherman Chatzky (C'86)	Maury Povich (C'62)
Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C'79)	David Roberts (W'84)
Rob Friedman (WG'87)	Nina Rosborough (C'14)
David Gross-Loh (W'92)	Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C'92)
Christine Gross-Loh	Leslie Dezer Salmon (W'92)
Alex Halpern (C'04)	Henry Siegel (C'90)
Alan Hartman (W'87)	Harris Steinberg (C'78, GAR'82)
Meryl Ignaschenko (C'10)	Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85)
Joan Kim (C'97, G'97, WEV'99, WG'18)	Gary Wexler
Linda Kronfeld (C'78)	Nina Wexler
Mali Heled Kinberg (C'95, G'95)	Simone White





# A HOUSE OF POSSIBILITY

## FOUNDED ON POSSIBILITY

**I dwell in Possibility —  
A fairer House than prose —**  
— Emily Dickinson

When the Kelly Writers House was established in 1995, our Planning Committee chose Emily Dickinson’s idea of “Possibility” as a founding principle.

Over twenty-five years later, the Kelly Writers House still thrives on Possibility. Students of all backgrounds come here to test their ideas, explore creative expression, and discover their potential within a nurturing learner-centered community.

## \$10 MILLION ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

We want the Writers House to continue and to ensure that generations of writers can always discover our House of Possibility. So we are launching an endowment campaign to raise \$10 million by May 2026, coinciding with the thirtieth anniversary of Writers House and the intended retirement date of Al Filreis, the founding Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, after forty years as a member of the Penn faculty.

### Will you help us make this House of Possibility permanent?

Anyone can make an impact in our campaign. You can give a gift of any amount to the newly established **Possibility Endowed Fund** to help ensure the future of the KWH.

*We created the Writers House in 1995–96 in order to remind ourselves as students, educators, neighbors, friends, citizens, and supporters of the arts that committed acts of intellectual and aesthetic collaboration are the means by which people best address complex problems, admire beautiful and compelling language, and learn to be responsive to the possibility dwelling in each other. Our model is the poem that is at first seemingly impossible to understand: alone we are stumped, but then we do a collaborative close reading, and finally we realize that meaning, if it is to be powerful, is always co-created. We mean only together.*

— Al Filreis  
Kelly Professor of English  
Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House



## THE POSSIBILITY ENDOWED FUND

Established in honor of Al Filreis, the founding Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, the **Possibility Endowed Fund** supports all the activities of the Writers House. Its capaciousness reflects the founding principles of the Writers House as a House of Possibility: a place for intellectually adventurous initiatives, collaborative work, and a learner-centered approach. Anyone can contribute to the Possibility Fund in any amount to help ensure the permanence and sustainability of the Writers House.

**Already a Friend of the Kelly Writers House?** If you already give an annual gift to the Writers House: thank you! We hope you will consider increasing — even doubling — the amount of your annual support during our campaign. Through the end of our campaign in 2026, any increase to your last annual gift will be invested in the Possibility Fund.

**Looking to do something special?** The Writers House has funding opportunities for major gifts, including naming opportunities for our special programs and projects. To learn more, connect with Andrew Beal, Associate Director of Development and Finance at [abeal@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:abeal@writing.upenn.edu) or 215-573-4846. Details and opportunities can be found at [writing.upenn.edu/wh/possibility](https://writing.upenn.edu/wh/possibility).

Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania  
3805 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150  
215-573-9748  
[writing.upenn.edu/wh](https://writing.upenn.edu/wh)

## Become a Friend of the Kelly Writers House

Join the hundreds of Friends of the Kelly Writers House who, year after year, help sustain the Writers House by donating to our General Gift Fund. During our endowment campaign (from now through May 2026), we ask you to consider doubling your gift to support the Possibility Fund as well.

- Donate online: [writing.upenn.edu/wh/give](https://writing.upenn.edu/wh/give)
- Call us at 215-573-9748
- Contact Andrew Beal, Associate Director of Development and Finance at [abeal@writing.upenn.edu](mailto:abeal@writing.upenn.edu)
- Donate by mail: return this form along with a check or credit card information to:

Kelly Writers House  
University of Pennsylvania  
3805 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150  
Attention: Andrew Beal

**Yes**, double my gift to support the future of the Writers House! Please send half my gift to the Annual Gift Fund and half to the Possibility Endowed Fund.

- ☐ ~~\$2500~~ \$5000  
☐ ~~\$1000~~ \$2000  
☐ ~~\$500~~ \$1000  
☐ ~~\$250~~ \$500  
☐ ~~\$100~~ \$200  
☐ ~~\$40~~ \$80

*Donors of gifts over \$1000 will be recognized in the William Carlos Williams Circle, and over \$2500 will be recognized in the Emily Dickinson Circle.*

Making a gift in another amount? To customize your gift, please indicate the amounts below:

Please send \$\_\_\_\_\_ of my gift to the Kelly Writers House Annual Gift Fund and send \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Possibility Endowed Fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name or another’s as you would like it to appear: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please keep my gift anonymous.

Please make checks payable to “Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania” with “Kelly Writers House” on the memo line.

If you would like to use a credit card, please provide the following information:

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card expiration (MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_







# OUR STAFF

**KELLY WRITERS HOUSE**

**Al Filreis**, Faculty Director  
**Jessica Lowenthal** (G'07), Director  
**Lily Applebaum** (C'12), Assistant to the Faculty Director  
**Victoria Eugenia Arenas** (GFA'23), Development and Finance Assistant  
**Simran Arora** (GFA'23), Senior Program Assistant  
**Leah Baxter** (C'21), Senior Wexler Studio Assistant  
**Andrew Beal**, Associate Director of Development and Finance  
**Laynie Browne**, Modern Poetry Curriculum Specialist  
**Paul Burke**, Audio/Video Assistant  
**Zach Carduner** (C'13), Wexler Studio Coordinator  
**Sophia DuRose** (C'21), Senior Program Assistant  
**Heidi Kalloo**, Assistant Program Coordinator  
**Alli Katz**, Program Coordinator  
**Julia Morales**, Development and Finance Coordinator  
**Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15), *Jacket2* Managing Editor  
**Peter Schwarz** (CGS'04, LPS'08), Administrative Assistant  
**Amber Woodward**, Development and Finance Assistant  
  
**Jamie Albrecht** (C'22), Program Assistant  
**Gabriela Portillo Alvarado** (C'23), Caterfino Editorial Intern for *Jacket2*  
**Joan Bamgboye** (W'25), Purchasing Librarian  
**Alex Butler**, Friend Fellow

**Yiwei Chai** (C'22), Wexler Studio Assistant  
**Andrew Depass** (W'23), Wexler Studio Assistant  
**Rachel Dennis** (C'22), Robinson Press Assistant  
**Makena Deveraux** (C'23), Video Editor  
**Rebekah Donnell** (C'24), Development and Finance Assistant  
**Kaliyah Dorsey** (C'22), Web Assistant  
**Ollie Dupuy** (C'23), Levin Outreach Assistant  
**Dylan Fritz** (C'25), Assistant to the Associate Director for Recruitment  
**Andrés Gonzales-Bonillas** (C'23), Staff Photographer  
**Quinn Gruber** (C'22), *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant  
**Manya Gupta** (C'25), Program Assistant  
**Jenny Ham** (C'25), Web Assistant  
**Husnaa Haajarah Hashim** (C'22), Program Assistant  
**Mahailya Hinsey** (C'23), Program Assistant  
**Favor Idika** (C'23), Weber Development and Finance Assistant  
**Zelda Kellogg** (C'25), Wexler Studio Assistant  
**Wes Matthews** (C'23), PennSound Assistant  
**Henry McDevitt-Bayless** (C'23), Lipson Fellow  
**Rowana Miller** (C'22), Levin Outreach Coordinator  
**Alex Moon** (C'24), Lipson Fellow  
**Helena Muñoz** (C'25), Lipson Fellow  
**Hannah Norman** (C'24), Development and Finance Assistant  
**Rae Norman** (C'24), Program Assistant  
**Kendall Owens** (C'23), Debbie Kay Editorial Intern for *Jacket2*

**Delaney Parks** (C'24), Design Assistant  
**Habib Salim** (C'23), Assistant to the Assistant to the Faculty Director  
**Daniel Scanlon** (C'25), Wexler Studio Assistant  
**Sof Sears** (C'25), *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant  
**Rachel Swym** (C'22) Purchasing Librarian  
**Daniel Trebejo-Ariza** (W'24), Wexler Studio Assistant  
**Niara Urquhart** (C'25), Program Assistant  
**Asha Vincent** (C'25), Design Assistant  
**Chelsey Zhu** (C'22), Wexler Studio Assistant

**CENTER FOR PROGRAMS IN CONTEMPORARY WRITING**  
**R. J. Bernocco** (LPS'11, G'13), Associate Director of RealArts@Penn  
**Julia Bloch** (GR'11), Director of the Creative Writing Program  
**Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), Associate Director for Recruitment and Access  
**David Marchino** (C'16), Office Manager  
**Christopher J. Martin** (LPS'15), Senior IT Support Specialist  
**Mingo Reynolds** (LPS'22), Director of Administration, Director of RealArts@Penn

So many people help make the Kelly Writers House possible. We are especially grateful to the people in the Office of the Provost for everything they do to support us. Thank you, friends!

**TEXT** Andrew Beal, R. J. Bernocco, Julia Bloch, Laynie Browne, Zach Carduner, Sophia DuRose, Al Filreis, Jamie-Lee Josselyn, Heidi Kalloo, Alli Katz, Jessica Lowenthal, Julia Morales, Kenna O'Rourke, Peter Schwarz, Niara Urquhart, and Amber Woodward  
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**CATS & FISH** KWH Hub members  
**DESIGN** Zach Carduner





**Kelly Writers House**  
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**Philadelphia, PA**  
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