

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE:

In the weeks leading up to the stunningly popular “Revolution Girl Style Again,” a panel discussion of the 1990s riot grrrl movement organized by Grace Ambrose (C’11) for her Kerry Prize project, we knew we had something special on our hands. Grace’s proposal galvanized groups from Penn and all over the city — the Creative Writing program, the Music department, Girls Rock Philly, the Rotunda, the Penn Council of Undergraduate Women — all of whom signed on immediately as co-sponsors. Within days of announcing the event, our guest list hit overflow capacity, so Grace arranged an off-site simulcast of the talk at the nearby Rotunda, which served as the venue for the second part of her project: a charity rock concert that raised record-breaking funds for Girls Rock Philly. When Kathleen Hanna, a panelist for the program and member of the rock band Bikini Kill, walked through our doors, the House filled with the sort of ecstasy normally reserved for venues ten times our size.

Never-before-seen programs such as this — student-organized hybrid events drawing in enthusiastic crowds — continue to define the potential of the Writers House, fifteen years after its founding. Students always push us into new programming territory, and this is one of the things we love most about our democratic, bottom-up structure. Members of our “Hub” volunteer planning committee continually renew this project with their adventurous ideas.

Of course, we couldn’t have gone a decade and a half without building up some traditions, and in 2010–11 we revisited, as we do each year, some of the tried-and-true things that make us an institution. In January we set logs ablaze in our fireplace for a very snowy Mind of Winter program, which allows us, each year, to chase away winter doldrums with poems and soup. Our seventh annual Seven-Up featured seven people (including seven year-old twins!) speaking for seven minutes each, quite appropriately, about the number seven. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee was with us for two days as a Kelly Writers House Fellow, part of the combination seminar and reading series made possible by Paul Kelly (C’62, WG’64, Trustee 1997–present) that brings three eminent writers to our space each spring.

Just as with the Fellows series, our best projects continue to benefit from the help of generous friends across the country. This year Penn alumnus Maury Povich (C’62) endowed our entire journalism series, ensuring its continuation into the future. The newly funded Wexler Family Series allowed us to give a unifying identity to KWH projects and programs that focus on Jewish literature, life, and culture. Through an endowment that supports our kitchen, the Kane-Wallace family guaranteed that we can nourish visitors to the Writers House for years to come. Donors and “Friends of the Writers House” supported KWH in all kinds of ways — from soup (quite literally) to permanent endowments that will sustain us into the future.

We are proud that the heart of Writers House is, above all, our tradition of collaboration. And while this spirit permeates our nineteenth-century cottage on Locust Walk, our partners are ever further flung — around the city, region, and now the world. We joined with our in-house poetry group, Suppose an Eyes, and the Philadelphia Festival of Fine Arts in creating “Nothing Elegant,” our tribute to early twentieth-century Paris art salons. Our Writers Without Borders series reached new heights of cultural and poetic exchange with two exciting events in particular: a day of translation and conversation with a delegation of ten poets from Wuhan, China; and a conference on Canadian experimental poetry, co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Poets House in New York, and the Canadian Council on the Arts.

Anyone who has spent time in this cozy space knows that the Kelly Writers House is in fact an actual house, and like any house it serves as a home to ideas, projects, ways of life, and (of course) people. Thank you for everything you do to ensure that we remain one of the most eclectic and unique homes in Philadelphia!

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee,



Jessica Lowenthal
Director



Al Filreis
Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English



PEOPLE

THE HUB

Members of our energetic “Hub” — the volunteer planning committee that keeps our idea-machine humming — filled the House with the results of their creative efforts and capacious projects: celebratory tributes to favorite authors; hand-crafted decorations and costumes; reading groups, writing groups, print and media work; and food of all kinds. Plenty of Hub members practically lived in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, cooking up delicious treats: **Grace Ambrose** (C’11), **Trisha Low** (C’11), **Colleen Quinlan** (C’12), **Chaia Werger** (C’11), **Jess Bergman** (C’14), and **Hannah White** (C’14) worked alongside **Erin Gautsche** (CGS’06) to invent and reinvent fantastic Writers House receptions. **Allison Wattenbarger** (C’14) dethroned our reigning cookie champion **Sarah Arkebauer** (C’11) with her decadent sea-salt and chocolate cookies. **Lindsey Todd** (C’12) made most of her meals here, re-purposing all available leftovers into gourmet triumphs. Other Hub members — **Zach Carduner** (C’13), **Callie Ward** (C’13), **Emily Harnett** (C’13), and **Amaris Cuchanski** (C’12) among them — camped out upstairs in the Pub room, taking advantage of the Cooper Shoulberg computers that we keep loaded up with the newest digital editing software. In addition to cooking, eating, and hanging out, Hub members also took lead roles in all kinds of initiatives. **Kelly Diamond** (C’13) — with help from many others including **Jack Solowey** (C’13) — launched “Classless,” an outrageous sitcom that involved at least 40 students directing, shooting, writing, producing, and acting in the show. **Sarah Arkebauer** (C’11) and **Michelle Taransky**, the dynamic duo that brought us last year’s production of the poetry play *The Alps*, teamed up again, this time to conceive an interactive “Oulipolooza,” a celebration of “potential literature” inspired by the French *Oulipo* (an innovative poetry movement). Audience members were invited

to don sparkly hats, each embellished with the name of a favorite French experimentalist, and then treated to expert explorations of all things Oulipian. Panelist **Jean-Michel Rabaté** entertained **Alice Godfrey** — our Director’s daughter — with various hat tricks and winks, while teams of chef-technicians followed Sarah’s careful recipes for a constraint-based reception (no foods with the letter e allowed). With similarly ambitious detail and care, **Max McKenna** (C’10) organized a marathon reading of the modernist classic *Mrs Dalloway*, with all the stylish, Woolfian-details in place for an extraordinarily amusing soirée: pink cakes and toffee, high tea and flowers, and Hub members who dressed for the occasion (including **Erin Gautsche**, who topped her turn-of-the-century costume with a feathered and birded hat). When it came time to gussy up the Writers House for his Junior Fellows presentation, **Thomson Guster** (C’10) took an anti-decorative, deconstructive approach. Replacing our antique chairs with broken furniture and adding layers of noise and manufactured grime, Thomson re-created the spirit of an underground punk show for the release of *Heat Map #9*, his fictional/nonfictional music magazine. Many were involved at KWH thanks to **Michelle Taransky**, who invited Hub members to read their work for “We All Feel Like It,” an offshoot of her popular ongoing poetry series, “Whenever We Feel Like It.” Audience members came out in droves to celebrate the creative talents of **Trisha Low** (C’11), **Henry Steinberg** (C’13), **Leo Genji Amino** (C’10), **Amaris Cuchanski** (C’12), **Allyson Even** (C’13), **Florentina Dragulescu** (C’12), **Gareth Glaser** (C’11), **John Bang** (C’13), **Pimprapee Thungkasemvithana** (C’13), **Valeria Tsygankova** (C’11), **Violette Carb** (C’11), **Kirsten Saracini** (C’11), **Richard Thomson** (C’13), **Molly O’Neill** (LPS’11), **Kristen Martin** (C’11), **Keri Taub** (C’12), **Mckenzie Harper** (C’12), and **Asher Lewis** (C’04).



STAFF

At any hour of the day you can find one of our staff members slicing veggies for a reception spread, uploading videos of recent readings to our website, composing *Oulipo*-inspired stories (they told an endlessly changing story about a guy on SEPTA), designing a calendar or t-shirt, writing code for the webpage of a new programming series, debating poetry, tidying up our classrooms or dining room, greeting guests, crafting decorations for an event, or filling the House with the mouth-watering smell of vegan chili simmering in a kettle. This year our ever-more-talented and -specialized student staff included Webmasters **Jillian Blazejewski** (C'11), **Zach Burchill** (C'14), **Zach Carduner** (C'13), and **Arielle Pardes** (C'14); Green Initiatives Coordinator **Jenny Chen** (C'14); Outreach Coordinators **Allyson Even** (C'13) and **Allison Wattenbarger** (C'14); *Jacket2* Editorial Assistants **Emily Orrson** (C'13) and **Rivka Fogel** (C'11); Program Assistants **Zoë Dare-Attanasio** (C'10), **Jessica Bergman** (C'14), **Emily Harnett** (C'13), **Ali Kriegsman** (C'13), **Sarah Schwab** (C'14), **Chaia Werger** (C'11), and **Hannah White** (C'14); Purchasing Librarians **Andrea Amanullah** (C'12) and **Erin Peraza** (C'14); Archivist **Violette Carb** (C'11); Calendar Designer **Anastasiya Shekhtman** (C'14); Assistant to the Assistant to the Director **Kate Herzlin** (C'14); Media Editors **Florentina Dragulescu** (C'12), **James La Marre** (C'11), and **Callie Ward** (C'13); Development Assistant and *Jacket2* Editorial Assistant **Sarah Arkebauer** (C'11); Project Assistants **Kristen Martin** (C'11) and **Molly O'Neill** (LPS'11); Sous-Chef **Lindsey Todd** (C'12); Flickr Wrangler **Gwen Lewis** (C'14); YouTube Editor **Amaris Cuchanski** (C'12); and 2011 Summer Interns **Alexa Bryn** (C'13), **Henry Steinberg** (C'13), and **Richard Thomson** (C'13). Our non-student staff included Administrative Assistants **Max McKenna** (C'10) and **Peter Schwarz** (CGS'04, LPS'08), Program Associates **Allison Harris** and **Adrian Khactu** (GAS'12), Assistant to the Faculty Director **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), Assistant Director for Development **Arielle Brousse** (C'07, SW'12), Assistant to the Director **Michelle Taransky**, Program Coordinator **Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06), Director **Jessica Lowenthal** (G'07), and Faculty Director **Al Filreis**. Additionally, a posse of staffers, undergrads, alumni, graduate students, and others worked to coordinate the launch and continuing editorial work of *Jacket2*, including **Leo Amino**, **Lily Applebaum**, **Sarah Arkebauer**, **Kiley Bense**, **Julia Bloch**, **Ann Dixon**, **Sarah Dowling**, **Gordon Faylor**, **Al Filreis**, **Rivka Fogel**, **Michael Hennessey**, **Mark Lindsay**, **Jessica Lowenthal**, **Peter Manda**, **Steve McLaughlin**, **Chris Mustazza**, **Michael Nardone**, **Tahneer Oksman**, **Emily Orrson**, **Katie Price**, **Danny Snelson**, and **Michelle Taransky**.

ALUMNI

The Arts Café holds 60 people comfortably, 75 if we pack in extra chairs, so our open-door policy for Alumni Day presented quite a challenge this year. How would we accommodate the more than 125 people who RSVP'd to see **Jennifer Egan** (C'85) read from her Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Visit from the Goon Squad*? And what about the scores of alumni and friends who'd simply stop by to listen in? How would everyone fit? It turns out there's something magical about the space inside the Writers House, especially on Alumni Day: friends consent to share chairs, folks find seats in the living room or dining room or Karlan Family Alcove, there's a rustle of shuffling and adjusting, and then soon — without much trouble, even — everyone has a seat. The generosity of Writers House alumni astounds us. In

addition to sharing seats for an SRO event, KWH alumni give back in so many ways, often by leading workshops and talks to help guide aspiring student writers. **Suzanne Maynard Miller** (C'89) visited twice this year, first for a staged reading of her work for our 15 year anniversary Homecoming, and then, again, to lead a workshop for aspiring playwrights. **Marilyn Johnson** (C'76) guided semester-long writing projects for the winners of the CPCW Literary Journalism Fellowship, two students who produced publishable, long-form literary essays. And a panel of alumni journalists — **Galina Espinoza** (C'91), **Stephen Fried** (C'79), **Eliot Kaplan** (C'78), **Melody Joy Kramer** (C'06), and **Randall Lane** (C'90) — convened to offer career advice to an overflow crowd of student writers and editors. We invited other alumni to describe their career paths: **Stephanie Sherman** (C'03) shared the story of "Elsewhere," a living museum and education laboratory she founded, set within a former thrift store in Greensboro, NC. Her talk — part of our emergent Creative Ventures project — inspired several of us to fantasize about road trips south. **Nina Godiwalla** (WG'06) visited to talk about her experience at Morgan Stanley, which she chronicled in a memoir, best described as *The Devil Wears Prada* of investment banking. Other alumni pitched in to help get things done: **Tahneer Oksman** (C'01), **Peter Manda** (G'89), and **Leo Genji Amino** (C'10) volunteered as editorial assistants for *Jacket2* and helped ready material for publication in the magazine. **Beth Warshaw-Duncan** (C'01) helped produce LIVE at the Writers House, our collaborative radio show with WXPB. **Janine Catalano** (C'06), **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), **Beth Kephart** (C'82), **Myra Lotto** (C'99, G'12), **Chris Mustazza** (SEAS'07), and **David Roberts** (W'84) led online book groups. And, of course, we invited plenty of alumni to share their creative work, too, including **Sam Donsky** (C'07), **Lee Huttner** (C'10), **Alicia Oltuski** (C'06, G'06), **Eric Umanski** (C'00), **Thomson Guster** (C'10), **Asher Lewis** (C'04), **Max McKenna** (C'10), **Arielle Brousse** (C'07), **Peter Schwarz** (CGS'04, LPS'08) and **Kerry Sherin Wright** (C'87).



THIS PAGE: **Jen Green** (C'09) and **Ken Karlan** (W'75, PAR'14, PAR'09) enjoy **Alumni Weekend Open House** at KWH. OPPOSITE PAGE: Visitors and members of the **Hub** mingle after a program in the Arts Café.



THIS PAGE: **Jenny Chen** (C'14) prepares cilantro for a reception; **Grace Ambrose** (C'11) shows off a t-shirt featuring the moustachioed face of **James LaMarre** (C'11) during the **End of Year Hub Party**. NEXT PAGE, from top to bottom: 2010–11 ArtsEdge Resident **Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz**; Behrman Scholar **Florentina Dragulescu** (C'12); Caterfino Scholar **Kristen Martin** (C'11), Literary Journalism Fellowship winner **Kimberly Eisler** (C'11); and Behrman Scholar **Rivka Fogel** (C'11).

HUB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In honor of our 15th anniversary, we queried Writers House Hub alumni for updates about their current writing lives. Here are excerpts from some of their responses.

AUDREY BETH STEIN (C'97) I am the author of a memoir, *Map*, which is a Lambda Literary Award Finalist, and a two-time national prizewinner in the David Dornstein Memorial Short Story Contest (both times for stories which I started while at Penn). Penn was huge in my development as a writer: classes with Karen Rile and Lorene Cary in particular helped me explore and find my voice, and the birth of the Writers House brought community and a sense of home I'd been missing in the city environment of West Philadelphia.

TALI ARONSKY (C'97) I was a member of the original group of students that claimed the old chaplain's home on Locust Walk and turned it into the Writers House. I remember all those early conversations about the house: What would we call the space? What were we — and it — all about? At the time I remember feeling uncomfortable with calling myself a writer. I was an English major, yes, but hadn't thought of myself as a writer. I went on to become a journalist, working as a broadcast producer at CBS News in all three media — radio, television, and the Internet. Later, I joined mayor Michael Bloomberg's press corps, working as director of communications and marketing for NYC's department of consumer affairs.

DAN FISHBACK (C'03) I'm a full-time playwright, performance artist and singer/songwriter. In fact, my life hasn't changed very much in the seven years since I graduated and moved to New York. I'm still organizing events, still begging people to come to my events, still talking in front of groups of people, still awkwardly encountering my literary heroes on a regular basis, still navigating communities of artists and thinkers. In 2009, when the *Village Voice* called my play *You Will Experience Silence* "sassier and more fun than *Angels in America*," I immediately forwarded the review to Al, as though I was still in the Writers House Fellows seminar and had found an interesting article about Tony Kushner.

DANNY GOLDSTEIN (C'08) After graduating from Penn, I took an internship with a large public relations agency in New York, where I practiced PR for a number of technology corporations. After that, I went into a "rotational program" at HarperCollins and spent some time doing book publicity and marketing. I took a job in the William Morrow Editorial department last June and have been an editorial assistant since that time. The job involves everything from scheduling meetings to editing books and designing book covers. I was a Program Assistant during my time at KWH and my best memory of KWH is sitting down to soup with everyone at Mind of Winter and listening to Wallace Stevens. KWH is so wonderful because it's rare to find a place that is so supportive of young (and older) writers. I can't think of anywhere else where someone can sit down with other great thinkers and writers and really talk about writing — not just the mechanics of it, but what it means to write — without any kind of presumption looming.

AICHLÉE BUSHNELL (C'09) After Penn, I moved to California to attend the MFA program in poetry at Mills College in Oakland. In addition to grad school, I've been working for the last several months as a copywriter for *Zazzle*, a tech start-up in Silicon Valley, so I do huge amounts of writing everyday. I've been really lucky to meet lots of great people in the Bay Area, and I'm thankful that I had Penn and the Writers House to help me make it here. My experience doing work-study as Community Outreach Coordinator at KWH, particularly working with the Brave Star Collective, was one of the most rewarding and formative experiences of my whole college career. In fact, once I finish writing my thesis, a series of epistolary poems involving Sally Hemings, I have plans to revive the seedling idea of the Brave Star literacy outreach project and use it to start a non-profit.

Visit our website for more:

writing.upenn.edu/wh/archival/events/fifteenth/

ARTSEdge RESIDENT:**CRISTIN O'KEEFE APTOWICZ**

ArtsEdge is a residency project designed to encourage the careers of emergent writers. The one-year residency — a collaborative project we run with Penn's **Facilities and Real Estate Services** — includes a subsidized apartment, studio space in the AIR Space artistic nexus on 40th Street, and close affiliation with Penn's writing communities. This year's resident, **Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz**, a spoken-word poet whose books include *Words in Your Face: A Guided Tour Through Twenty Years of the New York City Poetry Slam*, used her year-long residency to conduct research for a book on Thomas Dent Mütter, the founder of Philly's infamous Mütter Museum. Cristin and her partner **Shappy Seasholtz** (the self-described "visiting poet's poet" and chief of the National Nerd Poetry Slam) became vibrant, ever-hilarious active members of our community. In addition to dropping by most of our Hub events, Cristin and Shappy challenged us to a chili throw-down in the fall (with a pot of Cristin's pumpkin chili coming in close second to **Jessica Lowenthal's** traditional beef). In the spring, Cristin presented some of her Mütter research, for which we concocted a ghoulish reception: eyeball cupcakes, Jell-Oed specimen cups, and crunchy chocolate bones.

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

We are proud to provide learning opportunities and financial support for aspiring and emergent writers. Hands-on mentorship projects, such as the **Bassini Apprenticeships**, the **RealArts@Penn Internships**, and the **Nora Magid Mentorship Prize**, offer students real-world experiences working side-by-side with professional writers, editors, arts administrators, and business people at a variety of cultural institutions. Other prizes, awards, and scholarships, such as the **Heled Travel Grant**, the **Kerry Prize**, the **Goldstein Award**, the **CPCW Literary Journalism Fellowship**, the **Junior Fellows Prize**, the **Caterfino Scholarship** and the **Behrman Scholarship**, encourage ambitious writing projects, by offering support for research trips, supplies, or — more simply — time to think and write. It is the generosity of alumni, parents, and Friends of the Writers House that makes it possible for us to recognize and support talented student writers, including this year's award recipients:

- Jessica Yu (C'11) *Bassini Apprenticeship*
- Katie Sanders (C'12) *Bassini Apprenticeship*
- Rivka Fogel (C'11) *Behrman Scholar*
- Florentina Dragulescu (C'12) *Behrman Scholar*
- Kristen Martin (C'11) *Caterfino Scholar*
- Kimberly Eisler (C'11) *Literary Journalism Fellowship*
- Maggie McGrath (C'11) *Literary Journalism Fellowship*
- Ned Eisenberg (C'11) *Heled Travel Grant*
- Thomson Guster (C'10) *Junior Fellows Prize*
- Grace Ambrose (C'11) *Kerry Prize*
- Matt Flegenhemier (C'11) *Nora Magid Mentorship Prize*
- Jared McDonald (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*
- Jessica Goodman (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*
- Jamie Napoli (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*
- Katie Siegel (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*
- Jessica Penzias (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*
- Jessica Sutro (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*
- Victor Gamez (C'12) *RealArts@Penn intern*



KWH: How was the Writers House part of your Penn experience? What are some of your most memorable Writers House moments?

Trisha Low: I think it's pretty indicative that in answering this question now, I'm wondering what's an appropriate enough story to tell! Which is to say, it was a place of comfort and support, but also a challenging space, where antagonisms and everyday disagreements were formative at the level of personal ideologies (even if said 'ideology' involves the words 'best chocolate chip cookie'). The Writers House has been without a doubt the most important part of my Penn experience, not only as a place where I hung out with friends, ate leftover food, or attended some of the best poetry readings I've ever been to, but as a place that believes in you and your capacity to do exactly what you want — and provides the resources for you to do so. I learned that if I didn't like something, I could change it, just so long as I started moving, and that failure and discomfort can be the best way to learn, as long as you think about how and why. Most importantly, though, the Writers House was the place I discovered a love for poetry and poetics, and the place that allowed me to learn through conversations with its inhabitants, not only professors and students

INTERVIEW WITH TRISHA LOW (C'11) AND GRACE AMBROSE (C'11)

KWH: You each won the Kerry Prize. Will you describe your projects? What did the KP allow you to do?

Trisha Low: I felt like although there were (and still are!) many strong women at the Writers House talking about feminism and feminist issues, there hadn't been very much programming specifically around these ideas — so I thought I'd take the initiative to apply for the Kerry Prize and do some relevant programming that would bring our kitchen table discourse into the public. Having done some letterpress work with Erin Gautsche and the 15th Room (now Robinson) Press, I worked on a collaborative KWH publication that combined letterpressing, zine culture, and Hub responses to the impossible, but much debated question of what it means to be a woman. Reversing the historical and literary construction of women, we drew on the aesthetic of eighteenth-century pornography, Surrealism and punk culture, producing a book object entitled *Live Paper Dolls* that I felt expressed the joys and pains of being a woman scored upon the body of the page — 'the art of the beautiful and of the still more difficult art of living.' Finally, we had an interactive panel discussion of the book with four fabulous feminists — riot grrrl Allison Harris, Sadie Stein of jezebel.com and grad students Julia Bloch and Katie Price — which I felt turned into a truly wonderful dialogue around issues raised by the book infused with community spirit.

Grace Ambrose: A year later, and in many ways taking cues from the conversation Trisha helped start with her project, I was able to bring together four awe-inspiring women: Sara Marcus, author of the critically acclaimed *Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution*; Katy Otto, musician, activist and founder of Exotic Fever Records; Beth Warshaw-Duncan (C'01), founder and Executive Director of Girls Rock Philly; and Kathleen Hanna, member of Bikini Kill and Le Tigre and a legendary riot grrrl herself. Sara moderated a thought provoking and dynamic discussion about the legacy of riot grrrl (a 90s feminist punk movement) and the need for continued and sustained activist work today.



at Penn, but members of the Philadelphia poetry community. And because of that, what I'll most remember are the little things — swinging my feet over the kitchen counter as I debated the feminist ethics of pornography, running right into real live members of my thesis bibliography as I was making a fool of myself with best friends, trash-talking Republicans as I unleashed my superior knife skills on a bundle of herbs.

Grace Ambrose: At my work we've been talking a lot about the concept of "third place" recently — not your home, not your work, but that place that you go to relax, to be productive, to pass the time. The Writers House was that place for me; if more than a day passed by without me sticking my head in the door, something was amiss. I discovered that I was interested in contemporary poetry here, but that I was more interested in how to write nonfiction creatively. That I really like making cookies but I like eating them more. I remember being moved to tears by CA Conrad's reading at the *Book of Frank* release party; wrestling with a chocolate fountain more times than I care to remember; participating for the first time in an exhibition of visual art as an artist and meeting not one, but three of my heroes in the span of six months: Patti Smith, Kathleen Hanna and Karen Finley.

KWH: What advice do you have for incoming freshmen about opportunities at Penn or Writers House?

Trisha Low: Be brave, stand your ground, don't be afraid to speak up but always, always, keep an open mind. Remember that not everything's going to work for you, but that's why you try everything first. Come by and talk to us, eat pizza at a Hub meeting, do homework at the kitchen table, and take your time figuring out what's really important to you. The Writers House is there as a space that allows you to do that in a comfortable environment full of embodied stimulants (and we don't just mean the weird cinnamon coffee). It's there to support you and any project you might want to do (especially the crazy ones), just so long as you can justify it passionately. We probably already love you; you just don't know it yet. And if you make a mean cookie, we're definitely open to bribes.

Grace Ambrose: Try a place three, four, five times before you write it off. And then, once you find something you like, try something else! There are so many opportunities here at Penn that it isn't fair to yourself to settle for the first thing you like. Smiling will go a long way. At the Writers House, don't be afraid to get in the mix right away. Strike up a conversation, ask someone to bake brownies with you, ask Erin what you can do to help in the kitchen, even if you're not working. Put yourself out there and you will be welcomed with open arms.



NEW INITIATIVES



JOURNALISM PROGRAMMING: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

On Tuesday, April 5, we celebrated journalistic writing at Penn. We invited **Dick Polman**, **Paul Hendrickson**, **Anthony DeCurtis** and **Avery Rome** to lead a wide-open discussion on the future of journalism. **Al Filreis** moderated what turned out to be — perhaps not surprisingly — a very lively conversation (a recording is available on our website, and is a do-not-miss viewing experience).

This event was the occasion we chose to celebrate the extraordinarily generous donation made by **Maury Povich** (C'62) and his wife **Connie Chung** in support of journalism at the Writers House. Maury's gift to Kelly Writers House (a \$1 million endowment) will now support all journalism programs and events at the House forever: *The Povich Fund for Journalism Programs at the Kelly Writers House*.

Maury and Connie were of course our guests of honor on April 5 — and in fact both participated actively in the discussion. But the evening's pleasure went well beyond the serious discussion about journalism's future in the age of crowd-sourcing and digital formats. At a reception and a dinner, we gave our students (Creative Writing majors focusing on journalistic writing, participants in the new Journalism Minor, *Daily Pennsylvanian* reporters and editors) a chance to speak with Maury and Connie and to thank them.

Maury's first donation created the endowment that supports the position held by **Dick Polman**, the national political correspondent (formerly of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*) whose daily blog is read by tens of thousands. Dick teaches two journalistic writing courses each semester, and joins **Paul Hendrickson**, **Peter Tarr**, **Rick Nichols**, **Beth Kephart** (C'82), **Anthony DeCurtis** and others in



an expanding curriculum that particularly emphasizes long-form nonfiction, cultural criticism, documentary writing, and creative nonfiction. The new gift complements the first by providing funding to the Writers House to invite writers of journalistic nonfiction to 3805 Locust Walk, where they can meet with our students and faculty in a mode of informal give-and-take.

JACKET2:**AN ONLINE MAGAZINE OF POETRY AND POETICS**

Jacket magazine was one of the first all-online magazines anywhere — and certainly the most well known and respected in the world of poetry and poetics. Founded and edited by poet **John Tranter** in Australia, it published 40 huge issues between 1997 and 2010. As he prepared the 40th issue, Tranter realized that it was time to move on, and he hoped to find at least a safe home for the web archive of the magazine (consisting by then of material the equivalent, in length, of tens of thousands of pages). He contacted our Faculty Director, **Al Filreis**, to express the hope that the Writers House might be able to copy the files and maintain an archive — and maybe, just possibly, the people of the Writers House would want to continue publishing the magazine in some form.

Al convened a group of Writers House-affiliated people — faculty, students, staff and alumni — to discuss the prospects of bringing *Jacket* to Penn. What emerged from these discussions, and further exchanges with John Tranter, is *Jacket2*. It's *Jacket* but with all the 2.0 interoperabilities of the newest web technology. *Jacket2* launched with fanfare in April 2011 and already thousands of readers worldwide have enjoyed its articles, reviews, interviews, features, "reissues" of old hard-to-find poetry materials, translations, and commentaries.

In and around the Writers House, *Jacket2* provides a means for us to teach editing, proofreading, design, reviewing practices, archiving, and web publishing. A number of KWH-affiliated students work as editorial assistants and rightly take pride in the beauty and accuracy of new *J2* material being published nearly every day.



Visit *Jacket2* at jacket2.org. And join us in thanking **Harry Groome** (C'63) for helping to make the magazine possible through a generously endowed fund.

FEMINISM/S

For the 2010 Writers House program celebrating **Trisha Low's** (C'11) Kerry Prize-winning collaborative work *Live Paper Dolls*, we convened a panel of women to discuss zine culture, the riot grrrl aesthetic, cultural representations of gender, women in publishing, and more. Excited and charged up after the program, several people continued the conversation on the Writers House porch, talking late into the night, reluctant to let the discussion end. They — and we — loved this program and wanted more. Over email in the coming days and weeks, the group kept talking and planning, and soon they'd formed an advisory board and created a new Writers House series. By one definition (the series has many), **Feminism/s** is an interdisciplinary project exploring how art, criticism, political action, and community-building can create structural and cultural solutions to gender hierarchies. In its first year the series has sponsored or co-sponsored eight amazing programs. "Revolution Girl Style Again," a conversation/show/fundraiser featuring a panel of riot grrrl experts, was conceived and organized by Feminism/s advisory board member **Grace Ambrose** (C'11) for the 2011 Kerry Prize program, a perfect follow-up and complement to Trisha's coalition-building precursor. Other Feminism/s projects allowed us



TOP: Grillmaster **Max McKenna** (C'10) crafts little morsels of delight for the **End of Year Hub Party**. BOTTOM: **Sarah Arkebauer** (C'11) and **Michelle Taransky**.

to meet and learn from many of our feminist role models, including experimental writer and lawyer **Vanessa Place**, performance artist **Karen Finley**, poets **Eileen Myles** and **Rachel Blau DuPlessis**, visual artist **Susan Bee**, editors from *Make/Shift* magazine, and **Leeway award winners** committed to arts and social change. The success of the Feminism/s project has been astounding — and we are pleased to announce that the series will continue well into the future, thanks to an anonymous donor who created an endowment fund to support all kinds of feminist projects at Writers House.

PROGRAM & PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BOK VISITING AUTHORS SERIES

Each year, the Office of the Provost sponsors a series of events around a theme chosen by faculty, staff, and students. We participated in this year's theme — an exploration of water in all its manifestations — through our commemoration of the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Four poets, each intimately connected with New Orleans, shared moving work about the storm and its aftermath. Later in the year, we celebrated the wide world of nerd-dom (and slam poetry) at a book release party for *Spoken Nerd Revolution*, a collection of uproarious poems packed with references to 80s sci-fi and videogames, the Chupacabra, and the peculiar thought experiment that is zombie stand-up, by self-proclaimed “that nerd,” **Shappy Seasholtz**. Taken together, the Katrina program and the celebration of all things nerdy demonstrate the incredible variety of programming enabled by the **Bok Visiting Authors Series**. Generously endowed by **Roxanne** and **Scott Bok** (C’81, W’81, L’84, Trustee 2005–present), the Bok Series showcases writers from every genre and generation, from all over the country and sometimes further. Thanks to the Bok fund, we had journalist **Rebecca Traister** join us for a conversation about her book, *Big Girls Don’t Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women*, an incisive look at how the 2008 presidential election opened up conversations about gender, race, and feminism across the political spectrum. Senior political editor at the *Huffington Post*, **Howard Fineman**, conducted a three-part mini-seminar, culminating in a public talk about (new) media and democracy. And **Al Filreis** convened a remarkable gathering of eleven poets to help mark the 50th anniversary of books published in 1960, seminal work by Frank O’Hara, Gwendolyn Brooks, John Cage, Barbara Guest, Larry Eigner, and Jackson Mac Low. Each poet presented a 500-word critical commentary or retrospective review, which we later published as a special feature in *Jacket2*. We are grateful to Scott and Roxanne Bok for their incredible generosity, which allowed us to do all this and more.

FICTION PROGRAMMING

Nowhere else in Philly can you get so close to some of the best rookie and veteran novelists and story-writers — such as Nigerian writer (and *New Yorker* favorite) **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**, Pulitzer Prize-winning Penn alumna **Jennifer Egan** (C’85), and up-and-coming phenom **Sanaë Lemoine** (C’11), all of whom read from our podium this year. For our annual **Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction**, named for beloved Penn professor **Robert “Bob” Lucid**, favorite fiction teacher **Max Apple** invited his good friend, jack-of-all-writing-trades **Phillip Lopate** to visit us. Phillip shared work that was both poignant and funny, answered our questions about his writing, and stayed for a spicy Thai dinner with students and teachers in the dining room. The **Wexler Family Fund**, generously supported by **Gary** and **Nina Wexler**, helped us bring the imaginative **Joseph Skibell**, who sang a song (accompanied by his tiny acoustic guitar), in which he named himself “the very model of a modern major novelist,” before reading from *A Curable Romantic*, his new novel about Jewish mysticism and psychoanalysis, in which Freud makes an appearance. In March, breakout star of the year, **Karen Russell**, returned to KWH (she last visited in 2008) — perhaps as much for **Erin Gautsche’s** lasagna as for the annual **Cheryl J. Family Fiction Program**, during which she read from her critically acclaimed first novel *Swamplandia!* Other debut novelists gracing our podium this year were **Sam Munson**, whose dark and hilarious book about high



Lily Applebaum (C’12), coordinator of the **Brodsky Gallery**, here pictured taking refuge from the chaos of the **Heat Map #9 party**.

school stoner Addison Schacht prompted the Jewish Short Story Club to plan a munchie-themed reception, and **Richard C. Morais**, who joined us for an Indian-themed lunch inspired by his delicious book, *The Hundred-Foot Journey*, about a young Indian chef.

BRODSKY GALLERY

Rather than let our walls go bare, we’ve always preferred to adorn them with original artwork, selected by student curators who convert our downstairs rooms into a traditional (though never predictable) art gallery. This year our gallery underwent both a change of name and a change of staff. The newly christened **Brodsky Gallery** opened in September with four undergrads at its helm: **Harry Tenzer** (C’11) and **Sara Richter** (C’13) served as curators, **Pimrapee Thungkasemvathana** (C’13) and **Henry Steinberg** (C’13) created original posters to promote each show, and **Lily Applebaum** (C’12) coordinated the entire project, pitching in as curator, too. Despite changes, the gallery continued to explore innovative intersections between writing and visual art. Lily curated two shows of visual work by poets: photography by **Linh Dinh** selected from his photo-blog “State of the Union,” an online chronicle of these economic times; and Letraset work by **Derek Beaulieu**, whose visual art uses techniques drawn from graphic design, fine art, and conceptual writing. The gallery maintained its tradition of collaboration: with help from the **Feminism/s** series and the **Wexler Family Fund**, it featured a retrospective of work by New York artist **Susan Bee**. Responding deeply to Bee’s work, **Al Filreis** purchased a painting to hang in his Writers House office. Two more shows rounded out the Brodsky season: Harry Tenzer and Sara Richter co-curated spectacular exhibitions of paintings by Brooklyn-based artists **Jim Gaylord** and **Hiroyuki Nakamura**. (Harry served as art-handler as well, driving the large-scale works back and forth from Brooklyn in a U-Haul.) Thanks to everyone’s continuing interest in the visual arts, and to the generosity of **Michael** (W’88) and **Heidi Brodsky** (C’89) who have endowed the project, the Brodsky Gallery will be a permanent part of Writers House happenings.

THE BERNHEIMER SYMPOSIUM

Established in memory of Comparative Literature teacher and scholar **Charles Bernheimer** by Writers House Advisory Board member **Kate Levin** (GAS'96), the **Bernheimer Symposium** is organized each year by the Writers House Program Coordinator. This year's symposium featured **Judy Wicks**, owner and founder of Philadelphia's 25-year-old White Dog Café, and a national leader in the local living economies movement. Judy's numerous awards, including the James Beard Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year in 2005 and the Philadelphia Sustainability Awards Life Time Achievement in 2007, are awe-inspiring, and her work in Philadelphia is legendary. We were honored to welcome Judy for a discussion about locally-sourced food, the changing landscape of University City, and ethical, sustainable business practices — and to hear about the stories behind her co-authored cookbook, *The White Dog Café Cookbook: Multicultural Recipes and Tales of Adventure from Philadelphia's Revolutionary Restaurant*. To celebrate Judy properly, we feasted on a lunch prepared from classic White Dog recipes, including curried apple bisque with minted yogurt, Cuban black bean soup, toasted brioche with ham and Brie, and spinach and fennel salad with curried pears and Gorgonzola.

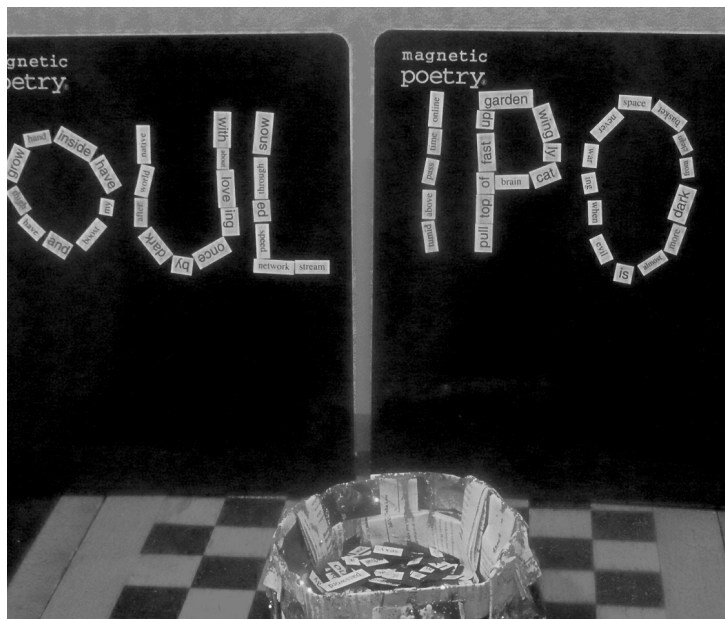
MARATHON READING

We took the doors off their hinges (figuratively, of course) for our fifth annual **Marathon Reading**, which featured for the first time a non-American, female writer (plus Yorkshire puddings!). Nearly fifty students, staffers, Hub members, Penn faculty, and Philadelphians took turns reading aloud Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, kicked

off properly by **Litty Paxton**, the director of Penn's Women's Center (and a Brit, to boot). Published in 1925, *Mrs Dalloway* is widely considered a classic work of modernist literature. Taking place one hot day in June, just five years after Armistice, it tells the story of Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway as she prepares to throw a party that evening, at which all of London high society, she hopes, will be in attendance. For six hours and forty minutes in February, we followed this day in Clarissa's life, snacking on dishes mentioned in the book (prepared by diligent staffers and volunteers): pink cakes, chicken casserole, toffee, and tea. Flowers and fashionable hats rounded out our recreation of Woolf's floral and fluid London.

LUNCH WITH RUTH GRUBER

When 99-year-old **Ruth Gruber** entered the Arts Café on an afternoon last April, a hush fell upon the crowd. As Ms. Gruber made her way to the front of the room, everyone seemed overcome by a feeling of profound respect for the award-winning photojournalist, who had witnessed some of the darkest and most definitive moments of the twentieth century. In a gripping interview conducted by **Al Filreis**, Ms. Gruber related but a sample of the many highlights of her eight-decade-long career, including her firsthand experience, as a young exchange student, of the rise of Nazi Germany, which she would go on to write about when she returned home. This historic lunchtime talk was made possible by KWH Advisory Board members and Penn parents **Reina Marin Bassini** (C'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73), who also came down from New York with their children to help us welcome the legendary Ms. Gruber to Penn.



TOP: **Shappy Seasholtz**, the self-described "Visiting Poet's Poet," performing at the **Spoken Nerd Revolution**. LEFT: Playing with word magnets at **Oulipolooza**, a program in celebration of the French **Oulipo** (*Ouvroir de littérature potentielle*/workshop of potential literature).



THE WEXLER FAMILY SERIES:

JEWISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

This year we inaugurated a series of programming which brought together new and old audiences under the umbrella of Jewish life and culture. Generously supported by Penn parents **Gary and Nina Wexler** through the **Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture**, the series sparked conversations around the reception table about Jewish identity and storytelling and the present and future of Jewish writing. Beloved Penn professor **Max Apple** kicked off the series with an invitation to fellow novelist **Joseph Skibell**, who read from his newest book, *A Curable Romantic*. With the help of *Zeek* magazine (a publication that seeks to build a bridge between religious and secular cultures to create a vital, inclusive Judaism), we featured four Jewish poets at different stages of their (vastly divergent) careers to highlight the diversity of approaches in contemporary practice: Penn undergrad **Rivka Fogel** (C'11), New Yorker **Jessica Greenbaum**, Israeli poet and scholar **Shahar Bram**, and Penn professor **Bob Perelman**. Bob practically stole the show when he read from a hilarious essay that calculated the Jewishness of his writing as inversely proportional to how un-Jewish it seemed. Modern Hebrew literature professor **Nili Gold** (who attended the reading) later confirmed Bob's findings: that, she told him, was *very* Jewish. The **Brodsky Gallery** helped us host visual artist and designer **Susan Bee**, whose work focuses on intersections of identity, gender roles, and secular Jewish culture. Bee discussed her work and career, describing — among other things — her numerous collaborations with Jewish poets including Charles Bernstein, Susan Howe, Johanna Drucker and Jerome Rothenberg, and giving eager audience members a rare glimpse into her personal upbringing. The Wexler Family series culminated with a reading by **Sam Munson** from his debut novel, *The November Criminals*, which includes lush and comic descriptions of growing up Jewish in urban Washington, DC. Munson was introduced by his college classmate **Michelle Taransky**, who worked with **Kate Herzlin** (C'14) on a reception featuring munchies pulled from the pages of Munson's book: pancakes, candy cigarettes, fried eggs, hamburgers, and a bucket of fried chicken.

CELEBRATING NORA MAGID

Nora Magid was an extraordinarily gifted and giving teacher of nonfiction writing at Penn from the mid-1970s until her death in 1991. During those years, she nurtured an astounding number of students — now fondly called the “Nora-ites” — many of whom went on to top jobs in magazines, newspapers, and book publishing. As we do most years, we celebrated what must be called Magid-style mentorship at a Writers House program. “Careers in Journalism and New Media: What you need to know to get a real job in print or broadcast journalism, book publishing, new media, and beyond” brought together a knowledgeable panel of five Penn alumni, **Galina Espinoza** (C'91), **Stephen Fried** (C'79), **Eliot Kaplan** (C'78), **Melody Joy Kramer** (C'06), and **Randall Lane** (C'90), who have held every job in the business, at such outlets as NPR, *GQ*, *The Daily Beast*, and *Forbes*. Aspiring writers and editors packed the room to get guidance about the ever-changing media landscape. The **Nora Magid Mentorship Prize**, which co-sponsored the panel along with the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, is an initiative of the Nora-ites: a prize awarded annually to a Penn senior who shows talent and promise as a journalist, writer, or editor of nonfiction. This year's winner was **Matt Flegenheimer** (C'11), who, in his time at Penn, went from being an editor at the *Daily Pennsylvanian*

to a regular contributor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Matt will receive a stipend for traveling to magazine headquarters, newspaper offices, and publishing houses in New York and elsewhere to develop professional contacts with the Magid community and their colleagues.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

Our outreach efforts, supported by the **Esther T. Saxon Fund**, are varied and continually changing to meet the needs of our neighborhood. But one thing remains central: we want to encourage and celebrate writers at every stage of their development. Our student Outreach Coordinator **Allyson Even** (C'13) affirmed these objectives in an article about her outreach work published in *The Notebook*: “the KWH hopes to encourage students of every level to write, to affirm that what they have to say matters, and to celebrate their accomplishments.” To sustain this positive, celebratory mission, we maintain several outreach initiatives. *The Blacktop*, an online literary magazine for and by kids founded and edited by Allyson Even, allows us to promote the work of the city's youngest writers. Our ongoing literacy project “Write On!” pairs Penn student coaches with elementary students from two neighborhood schools. And this year, Allyson (with help from **Michelle Taransky** and a team of student volunteers) developed and launched WriteCorp, a traveling teaching project modeled on writers-in-the-schools programs such as Teachers & Writers Collaborative and WITS. WriteCorp members are Penn undergrads trained in writing education, who travel to classrooms throughout the city. To honor the good work of student writers and the dedicated commitment of our writing coaches and outreach participants, we celebrated the best writing in *The Blacktop* as this year's **Caroline Rothstein Oral Poetry program**. “The Best of The Blacktop” invited poets **Scott Beal**, **Sharon Wiedman**, **Shappy Seasholtz**, **Michelle Taransky**, **Richard Thomson** (C'13), and **Hannah Van Sciver** (C'14) to lead performance workshops at KWH for some of the area's best middle and high school writers.



Outreach Coordinator **Allyson Even** (C'13).

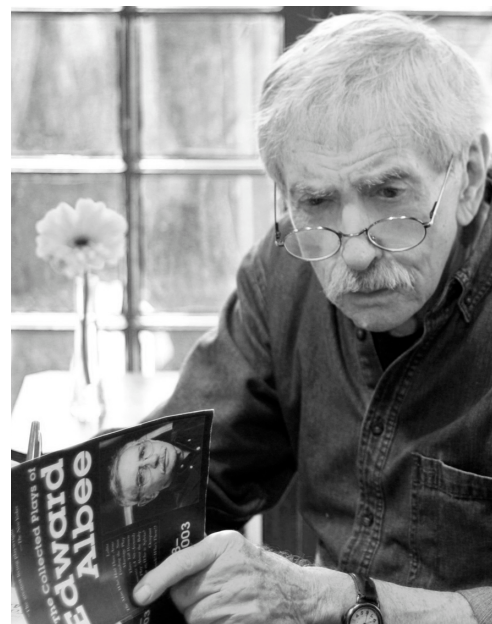
KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS

The **Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar** taught by **Al Filreis** was intense this year (it usually is!). Having read and discussed the work and lengthy careers of our three Fellows, seminar students prepared for each two-day visit by compiling lists of questions and discussion topics (as well as the occasional question or topic to avoid). The students also collaborated on gifts for each fellow — a Robinson Press broadside for **Marjorie Perloff**, kitchen supplies to be sent to the writers' retreat founded by **Edward Albee**, and a donation to Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House in honor of **Susan Cheever**, whose study of and devotion to Alcott's writing our students found profoundly affecting. Most importantly, as is often the case at KWH, everyone concerned themselves with what each Fellow would eat over the course of the visit. Students put together special Fellows-themed snacks — that is, menus consisting of food from the writer's own books — for each class session. They served Susan Cheever rooster-shaped lollipops, a Dragon Roll, and squash pie; Edward Albee marveled over hard-boiled spinach (is there such a thing?), hamburgers, and peaches; and Marjorie Perloff was greeted with a spread of Viennese pastries and cakes with a side of Jell-O. If that wasn't enough, our own **Myra Lotto** (C'96, GR'06), along with a fleet of volunteers, prepared and served a home-cooked Asian-inspired dinner for each Fellow.

Public readings by Cheever, Albee, and Perloff had the House busting at the seams. Extraordinary Fellows Coordinator **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) gracefully managed the overflow seating and — with help from staffers **Molly O'Neill** (LPS'11) and **Kristen Martin** (C'11) — she accounted for all the complicated details required to make these visits seem effortless (RSVP lists, chair rentals, special catering orders, extra staff and volunteers, and all the rest).

Each Fellows visit concluded with an hour-long Tuesday morning interview and conversation over brunch moderated by Al Filreis in the Arts Café, with audiences of knowledgeable students and readers — including some participating via webcast. Following her visit, Susan Cheever remarked, "An amazing visit at the Writers House. All these years I've been working in the dark — they showed me how to switch on the lights. Go there." This is perfect evidence that the Writers House Fellows Program, funded by annual grants from **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present), enables sustained, meaningful and, indeed, inspiring contact between members of our community and writers of great accomplishment.

FROM BOTTOM LEFT TO TOP RIGHT: 2011 Fellows **Marjorie Perloff**, **Susan Cheever**, and **Edward Albee**; Kelly Writers House Director and Fellows Seminar Professor, **Al Filreis**.



SUPPORTING THE WRITERS HOUSE

WRITERS HOUSE ON THE ROAD

Every year we venture beyond Philadelphia to share Writers House talent with out-of-town friends. It's Writers House — spirited conversations, inventive writing, and good food — but on the road.

2010 marked the ninth consecutive year **Susan** and **Louis Meisel** sponsored a "Writers House New York" event at the Louis K. Meisel Gallery in SoHo. The popular program serves as a benefit in support of the **Kelly Writers House Young and Emerging Writers Fund**, so our generous hosts pull out all the stops to throw a fabulous party for nearly 100 guests. Each year, we bring the intimacy of our Arts Café to the sleek and spacious Meisel gallery, giving New Yorkers a taste of KWH a little closer to home, and allowing them to hear firsthand about the programs and opportunities they support with their contributions. Featured readers this year included veteran *Washington Post* journalist and Penn professor **Paul Hendrickson**; feminist poet **Julia Bloch** (GR'11); playwright and medievalist **Lee Huttner** (C'10); food writer and memoirist **Kristen Martin** (C'11); and our Community Outreach Coordinator, memoirist **Allyson Even** (C'13). Before the end of the evening, **Al Filreis** led everyone in a discussion of the poem that hangs in the entryway to the Writers House: Emily Dickinson's "I Dwell in Possibility."

In September, **Reina Marin Bassini** (C'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73) hosted a small gathering in their Upper East Side home, a unique event that took the form of a Fellows seminar. Participants read **Susan Cheever's** *American Bloomsbury* before the event, then participated in a candid conversation with Ms. Cheever herself, moderated by Al Filreis.

Later in the year, longtime friend of the Writers House **Judith Zarin** (PAR'09) welcomed guests into her beautiful Greenwich Village home for another night of lively chatter and eclectic readings. **Molly O'Neill** (LPS'11) read from a personal essay about the history of her tattoos; **Lauren Lipsay** (C'11) shared an article about the life (and death) of fashion designer Alexander McQueen; **Michelle Taransky** read from her award-winning first collection of poetry; **James LaMarre** (C'11) presented selections from his senior thesis, a hand-printed chapbook about his relationship with his grandmother; and **Sam Apple** knocked it out of the park with a bittersweet piece about, of all things, an animatronic James Brown doll. Guests were enthralled by the performances — nearly moved to tears one moment and laughing with abandon the next — and left with a better sense of the creativity and boldness of the people who make Writers House what it is.



ENDOWMENT GIFTS

A grant from **Paul Kelly** in 1997 allowed us to prepare this cozy nineteenth-century cottage for twenty-first-century forms of creativity and innovation. Paul's continuing faith in our community and his substantial investment in the KWH project via major term gifts have helped us to establish incredible programs here — free-form, vibrant, and intellectually charged projects that activate a true literary communitarianism at Penn and throughout Philadelphia. Generous “Friends of the Writers House” join with Paul each year to fund our projects from season to season. After a decade and a half, our literary reputation is solid.

Now our next phase: *permanence*.

Our endowment campaign seeks to secure the long-term life of the Kelly Writers House by establishing permanent funding for the heart of our mission, our programs. We want to safeguard the future of the House, gift by gift, so that generations of students to come will benefit from this one-of-a-kind project.

Endowment gifts, such as those that perennially provide support for an annual event, allow us, one gift at a time, to progress toward our goal. There are numerous opportunities for endowment: support of specific projects such as publications and new student initiatives; naming the rooms that host our presentations, workshops, and seminars; and naming and supporting the Directorship. Some donors choose to remain anonymous; others recognize family members, former professors, or friends by naming endowments in their honor. These are indelible tributes, gifts that provide enduring impact on our House and lasting memorials for loved ones.

If you want to find out more about endowment opportunities, contact our Assistant Director for Development, **Arielle Brousse** (C'07) at brousse@writing.upenn.edu or (215) 746-POEM.

We have been lucky to receive generous endowment gifts from alumni, parents, and friends. We are grateful for their enthusiasm and encouragement and pleased to describe their gifts here:



BASSINI APPRENTICESHIPS FUND: A generous grant from **Reina Marin Bassini** (C'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73) allows us to host writing apprenticeships for two or three student writers through the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. Paired with a faculty mentor affiliated with Penn's writing programs, each apprentice works on a project that is at the heart of the mentor's work as a practicing writer and/or as member of a professional writing community. The apprenticeship is not an “independent study,” nor a time for the student to write a creative or critical thesis; the goal of the program is to feature advanced problem-solving of the sort writers face when they take on a major project: an in-depth consideration of actual writing practices and an introduction to one of the great variety of writing-related projects working writers undertake. This year, **Katie Sanders** (C'11) apprenticed with **Stephen Fried** and worked with him on proposals for two books, one an historical narrative set on the east coast, the other a more contemporary crime narrative. **Jessica Yu** (C'11) apprenticed with **Paul Hendrickson** and helped with the numerous tasks involved in the process of preparing Hendrickson's forthcoming *Hemingway's Boat* for publication, including fact-checking and proofing of galleys.

IRWYN AND LUCY APPLEBAUM FUND: Many of our Hub members are the founders and coordinators of publications, the curators of blog projects, the editors and designers of zines and chapbooks, and others hoping to make a career out of ensuring that what gets written still gets read. It is for these students that **Irwyn** (C'75) and **Lucy Applebaum** established the **Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund**, so that we can invite publishers and editors to Writers House for conversations about the business and art of publishing. This year's Applebaum Series brought us editor-in-chief of the *New Yorker*, **David Remnick**. Before a packed room, on an evening last autumn, David shared the story of his rise from young reporter to chief, as well as his thoughts on the potential of digital and new media for both the tradition and business of journalism.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Hub members share refreshments and conversation during the **End of Year Hub Party**. THIS PAGE: Staffers **Emily Harnett** (C'13), **Callie Ward** (C'13), and **Jess Bergman** (C'14) enjoying themselves in the **Class of 1942 Garden**; **Al Filreis** converses with **Trisha Low** (C'11) and her parents, **Check** and **May Low**.

BLUTT SONGWRITING SYMPOSIUM ENDOWED FUND:

Founded by **Mitchell Blatt** (C'78, M'82, L'84) to support an annual songwriting symposium, the Blatt Fund makes it possible for us to host renowned and iconic musicians in our intimate space. This year brought two blockbuster Blatt programs: **Patti Smith** in December, hot off her National Book Award win for her memoir *Just Kids*, followed by **Rufus Wainwright** in March, who spoke to us about love, loss, and fatherhood. Central to the Blatt project: giving students direct access to writers and artists in a setting that fosters true intellectual — and human — exchanges. Penn senior **Grace Ambrose** (C'11) nearly fainted when we invited her to dine with Patti Smith after her performance in the Arts Café. And **James LaMarre** (C'11) has not stopped talking about the coffee break he shared with Rufus Wainwright on the KWH porch.

BOK ENDOWED VISITING WRITERS SERIES FUND: Years ago, **Roxanne** and **Scott Bok** (C'81, W'81, L'84, Trustee 2005–present), members of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, created one of our first (and most robust) endowment funds, a fund that has enabled us to pay honoraria to an exciting roster of writers year after year. This year's Bok visitors included not just novelists, poets, and journalists, but also filmmakers, critics, editors, and others.

THE BRODSKY GALLERY FUND: **Michael** (W'88) and **Heidi Brodsky** (C'89) created this fund to support the student-curated art gallery on the first floor of the Writers House. Brodsky Gallery shows this year included photographs by Vietnamese-born poet **Linh Dinh**, a retrospective by New York painter and designer **Susan Bee**, and paintings by Japanese artist **Hiroyuki Nakamura**.

THE CHERYL J. FAMILY FUND FOR FICTION PROGRAMMING: **Cheryl Family** (C'91), a member of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, established the Cheryl J. Family Fund for Fiction Programming to support an annual program to showcase a young or emerging fiction writer. Our fourth annual program featured **Karen Russell**, author of the acclaimed short story collection *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves* and the novel *Swamplandia!*

TERRY B. HELED TRAVEL AND RESEARCH GRANT FUND: As a way of memorializing her mother, **Terry B. Heled**, and honoring the students of her alma mater in gratitude for the encouragement her own research and writing received while she was at Penn, **Mali Heled Kinberg** (C'95) created this fund to support the cost of summer travel for a student conducting research toward a significant writing project. This year, senior **Ned Eisenberg** used the grant to study the concept of *ukiyo* (the pleasure-seeking urban lifestyle) in Tokyo. Ned presented part of his research project, called “The Cloud over the Floating World,” at a Writers House event in December.

WRITERS HOUSE JOURNAL ENDOWMENT FUND: For many years, this generous endowment gift by Writers House Advisory Board member **Harry Groome** (C'63) supported the publication of *Xconnect*, a nationally distributed literary journal. As of this spring, we've gone international in scope: the fund now supports *Jacket2* (jacket2.org), our online literary journal featuring essays about poetry, reviews of new poetry books, original podcasts (including the ongoing series PoemTalk, hosted by **Al Filreis**), commentaries, and re-issued archival and out-of-print materials.



Rufus Wainwright and Patti Smith were both featured guests made possible by the **Blatt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund**.

KANE-WALLACE KITCHEN FUND: The importance of the kitchen to the Writers House cannot be overstated. Like all great kitchens, its purpose is at once functional and social. Hub members can be found chatting about poetry and philosophy over a cup of herbal tea, while the editors of *Penn Appétit* try out a new recipe for their magazine. But it's also the place where student staffers get a crash-course in catering whenever they prepare cheese and fruit plates for a reception, and where our Program Coordinator **Erin Gautsche** regularly whips up home-cooked four-course meals for distinguished guests. Indeed, so much more than cooking happens in our kitchen. **Ed Kane** (C'71, Trustee 1996–2000) and **Marty Wallace** understood this when they endowed the **Kane-Wallace Kitchen**, and back in September we thanked them — along with their daughter **Ellie Kane** (C'09) who spent a great deal of time in the KWH kitchen — in the best way we knew how: with a feast of favorites from gatherings past. On our sharp new countertop, we cooked up chocolate-chili bread pudding, beet and blue cheese bruschetta, and molasses cookies *à la Lindsey Todd* (C'12) — and Hub members, foodies, and kitchen aficionados alike came to toast Marty and Ed's generosity and the future of our favorite room in the House.

SYLVIA W. KAUDERS FUND: The Kauders series, established by **Sylvia Kauders** (CW'42), allows us to meet informally with memoirists, journalists, and other notable writers of nonfiction who visit the Writers House for memorable conversations over lunch in our dining room and Arts Café. This year, we were thrilled to meet incisive television critic, **David Bianculli**, who joined us for lunch in March. His most recent book, *Dangerously Funny*, looks at the controversial late-60s comedy show, “The Smothers Brothers.”

THE LEVIN ENDOWED FUND FOR AN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN MEMORY OF CHARLES BERNHEIMER: Established in the memory of Comparative Literature teacher and scholar **Charles Bernheimer** by Writers House Advisory Board member **Kate Levin** (GAS'96), the Bernheimer Symposium is organized each year by the Writers House Program Coordinator, who takes the opportunity to think expansively about programming possibilities. This year, the Bernheimer Symposium featured **Judy Wicks**, founder of the White Dog Café and crusader for food justice.

THE LIVE AT THE WRITERS HOUSE ENDOWMENT:

Once a month we host and produce one of our most innovative and perhaps furthest-reaching series, **LIVE at the Writers House**, our radio show for **WXPB 88.5**. Thanks to the support of **BigRoc**, series producer Erin Gautsche is able to bring in half a dozen talented Philadelphians for each show, transforming our Arts Café into a radio studio and broadcasting to cars and kitchens throughout the Delaware Valley. The unique radio format lets us stress the spoken side of the literary arts in each LIVE show, which is hosted by omnipresent public radio personality **Michaela Majoun**, and which always appropriately includes a performance by a local singer-songwriter. This year's shows featured traditional spoken-word works from winners of the First Person Arts Storyslam competition, and from the Excelano Project, Penn's undergrad slam poetry team. We also showcased local food writers, as well as contributors to a new anthology of Philadelphia noir, evoking a Philly-style Dick Tracy radio serial.

THE HERMAN AND JEANNE ROBINSON LETTERPRESS FUND:

Nina Robinson Vitow (CW'70, WG'76) established this fund in honor of her late parents **Herman** and **Jeanne**, in order to support the work of our imprint at Penn's Common Press. The Common Press is a printmaking studio featuring an eighteenth-century letterpress, co-founded with Penn's School of Design and the Rare Books Library. The **Robinson Press** allows students from KWH to create broadsides, posters, and book arts projects, including *Somewhere Out West*, the gorgeous hand-pressed collection of poems by **James LaMarre** (C'11), our Robinson Press coordinator.

THE CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN FUND IN SUPPORT OF ORAL POETRY:

Nancy (CW'75) and **Steven Rothstein** established this fund to support an annual oral poetry program in honor of their daughter, **Caroline Rothstein** (C'06), an active member of the Writers House community who was also a leading voice in spoken-word projects at Penn. This year's Rothstein program was a celebration of *The Blacktop*, an online literary magazine for elementary, middle, and high school students in Philadelphia, founded and edited by Writers House Outreach Coordinator **Allyson Even** (C'13).

THE BOB LUCID MEMORIAL FUND:

Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75) and **Ed Kane** (C'71) established this fund to support an annual fiction program in memory of beloved Penn professor **Robert "Bob" Lucid**. Bob taught at Penn for 32 years until his retirement in 1996, and his visionary spirit and pedagogical utopianism filled the Writers House from its beginning. Our third annual program featured a reading by writer **Phillip Lopate**.

ALICE COOPER SHOULBERG SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF STUDENT CREATIVE WRITING:

A stellar 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 Shoulberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Publications Room, where students depend on computers and software to edit and publish their magazines.

ABOVE: Broad­sides created by the **Robinson Press**.
BELOW: This little bird made a cameo appearance at the **Mrs Dalloway Marathon Reading** perched comfortably atop **Erin Gautsche's** hat.

THE STACEY GILLIS WEBER (W'85) AND JEFFREY

A. WEBER SYMPOSIUM FUND: Established by **Stacey** (W'85) and **Jeff Weber**, the annual Weber Symposium strives to emphasize the importance of clarity in writing about finance and economics by featuring guest speakers whose work reflects this commitment to lucid prose. This year, the second annual installment of the program featured **Andrew Ross Sorkin**, author of *Too Big to Fail*, a gripping exploration of the events that led to our nation's 2008 financial collapse.

THE WEXLER FUND FOR PROGRAMS AT THE KELLY WRITERS HOUSE:

Gary and **Nina Wexler**, Penn parents and members of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, created this unrestricted endowment fund to support all kinds of programs and new student initiatives. The Wexler Fund allows students to think creatively about what can happen in our space.

WEXLER FAMILY ENDOWED FUND FOR PROGRAMS IN JEWISH LIFE AND CULTURE:

This fund, also created by **Gary** and **Nina Wexler**, allows the Kelly Writers House to celebrate the work of Jewish authors and Judaica. The Wexler Family series featured several readers this year, inaugurated in November by novelist **Joseph Skibell**, who read from his latest book *A Curable Romantic*.

ZARIN/ROSENFELD ENDOWMENT FOR LITERARY JOURNALISM MAGAZINE:

Penn parents **Judith Zarin** and **Gerald Rosenfeld** (PAR'09) created this fund to support a magazine of literary journalism at the Kelly Writers House. *The Green Couch*, a magazine of literary journalism founded by **Eric Karlan** (C'09), is printed each semester through the Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund.

CLASS OF 1999 PARENTS PROJECT: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM — THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE:

In honor of the class of 1999, Penn parents elected to assist with three separate projects: Kelly Writers House, the Ellen and Howard Katz Fitness Center, and Civic House. Their gift demonstrated that Penn parents support the University's emphasis on encouraging creativity, well-being, and social responsibility. Contributions from the **Class of 1999 Parents Project** were directed toward our General Endowment, an all-purpose fund that continues to support program development, student initiatives, and more.



NEW ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Endowment gifts support Writers House projects and people not just for one year, or even one generation, but forever. Some funds, such as the **Eisler Endowed Internship Fund**, the **Kate Levin Community Outreach Award**, the **Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic Nonfiction**, and the **Michael and Danielle Goldstein Endowed Prize**, invest directly in student writing talent by supporting competitive internships and prizes. Other endowments, such as the **Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund** and the **Fund for Feminist Projects**, sustain the programmatic work of Writers House by providing funds to pay for symposia, readings, manuscript exchanges, panel discussions, and other writerly activities. We are delighted to describe these newly established endowment funds here:

EISLER ENDOWED INTERNSHIP FUND: Kelly Writers House Advisory Board member **Bonnie Eisler** (C'79) established this endowment to support students pursuing competitive summer internships at cultural institutions across the country. The fund allows KWH to provide a stipend to students taking unpaid or low-paid internships, so that students can take full advantage of all available learning opportunities, regardless of their financial circumstance.

ELISSA CATERFINO MANDEL ENDOWED INTERNSHIP FUND: Longtime friend of KWH **Elissa Caterfino Mandel** (C'83) set up this endowment fund to support an editorial internship for a student involved with the Writers House. This student will have the opportunity to get hands-on editorial experience with an established publication — a position that will require real, creative, and professional-grade work. This year, the student who earns this internship will get the chance to work with *Jacket2*.

**FUND FOR FEMINIST PROJECTS AT THE KELLY WRITERS HOUSE:**

Gifted by an anonymous donor, this fund will support projects and programs at Kelly Writers House that explore feminism or feminist practice. Through this fund, the Writers House will acknowledge the diversity of feminist activities and approaches (as well as other affiliated movements and issues), which include gender and sexuality studies, political activism, social critique, and celebration. Already, the **Fund for Feminist Projects** has supported a new, interdisciplinary program series, **Feminism/s**, which explores how art, criticism, political action, and community-building can create structural and cultural solutions to gender hierarchies. The series got off to a running start this year with programs featuring editors of *Make/Shift Magazine*, lawyer and poet **Vanessa Place**, and renowned performance artist **Karen Finley**.

MICHAEL AND DANIELLE GOLDSTEIN ENDOWED PRIZE:

The **Michael and Danielle Goldstein Endowed Prize** will provide an award each year to recognize the outstanding writing potential of a current undergraduate student affiliated with the Kelly Writers House. The prize is intended to recognize and encourage individual writing talent and will be awarded competitively. This year, the first Goldstein Award went to poet, WriteCorp member, and Writers House staffer **Andrea Amanullah** (C'12).

KATE LEVIN COMMUNITY OUTREACH INTERNSHIP FUND:

Kate Levin (G'96), a longtime Writers House Advisory Board member, was so moved after hearing Outreach Coordinator **Allyson Even** (C'13) speak at this year's "Writers House New York" event that she gave this gift to permanently endow our student Outreach Coordinator position and guarantee that Allyson's good work can continue. The Writers House Outreach Coordinator manages our ongoing outreach efforts, especially by establishing and maintaining relationships with local elementary schools, middle schools, and child-centered writing projects throughout the city, such as *Mighty Writers*.

MAURY POVICH JOURNALISM PROGRAM FUND:

This extraordinary fund represents the single largest programming gift in Writers House history. Penn alumnus **Maury Povich** (C'62) and his wife **Connie Chung** established this endowment to fund all journalism and journalism-related programs and projects at Writers House. We celebrated this unprecedented gift in April with a panel discussion on the future of journalism, featuring **Avery Rome**, **Paul Hendrickson**, **Anthony DeCurtis**, and **Dick Polman**.

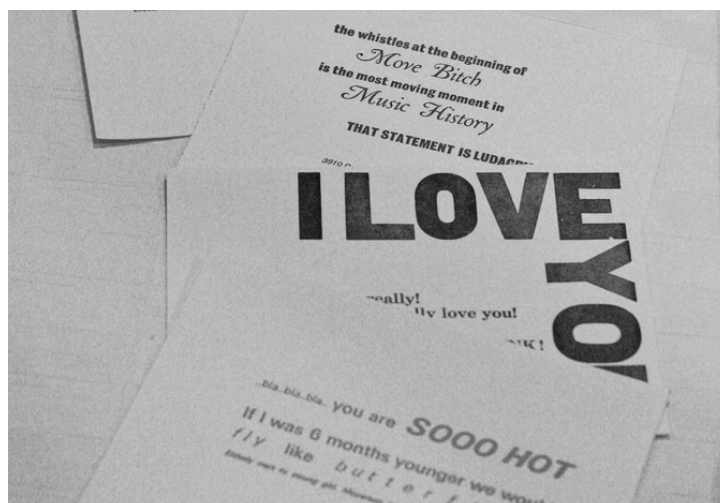
PARKER PRIZE ENDOWED FUND FOR JOURNALISTIC NONFICTION:

Friend of the Writers House and veteran reporter for the *Daily Pennsylvanian* **Bret Parker** (C'90) established this gift to acknowledge the professional-grade work of student reporters. The prize is awarded each spring to a student for an outstanding feature, article, or work of investigative reporting. The first prize was awarded this spring to *Daily Pennsylvanian* sports columnist and *Philadelphia Inquirer* contributor **Matt Flegenheimer** (C'11).

TOP: Graduating senior **Grace Ambrose**'s father **Kevin** (PAR'11) and aunt **Kathleen** at the **Senior Capstone Program**. BOTTOM: Excelano members **Hannah Van Sciver** (C'14) and **Richard Thomson** (C'13) at the *Spoken Nerd Revolution* party.

WRITERS HOUSE ADVISORY BOARD

Jayne Abess (PAR'08), Leonard Abess (W'70, PAR'08), Irwyn Applebaum (C'75, PAR'12), Tali Aronsky (C'97), Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73, PAR'05, PAR'11, PAR'12), Reina Marin Bassini (CW'72, GED'72, PAR'05, PAR'11, PAR'12), Herman Beavers (HOM'96), Scott Bok (C'81, W'81, L'84, Trustee 2005–present), Annalise Carol (C'92), Art Cooperman (PAR'06), Jamie Cooperman (PAR'06), Bonnie Eisler (C'79, PAR'11), Cheryl Family (C'91), Alex Halpern (C'04), Joan Harrison (C'81), Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C'92), Ken Karlan (W'75, PAR'09, PAR'14), Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, PAR'01, Trustee 1997–present), Kate Levin (G'96), Seth Lipsay (WG'86 PAR'11), Susan Meisel, Louis Meisel, Brian Perman (W'90), Jerilyn Perman (C'91), Sheila Raman (GGS'08, LPS'08), David Roberts (W'84, PAR'10), Henry Siegel (C'90), Nina Wexler (PAR'03, PAR'10), and Gary Wexler (PAR'03, PAR'10).



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: More examples of broadsides from the **Robinson Press**; Preparing the reading list for the **Mrs Dalloway Marathon Reading**; **James LaMarre** (C'11) and **Sarah Arkebauer** (C'11).

MATCHING GIFTS

Did you know that many organizations will match the philanthropic interests of their employees? The Writers House would like to thank the following companies who have supported us through their matching gifts programs:

Analect LLC	The Hartford Insurance Group
Arthur Gallagher & Co.	Lockheed Martin
Bank of America	McKinsey and Company
BASF	Merrill Lynch
Citizens Financial	Microsoft
General Electric	Nike
Goldman Sachs	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Google	Random House
Guardian Life Insurance	West Pharmaceutical Services

OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS AND PROJECTS

Term gifts — i.e. donations intended to target immediate and emergent funding needs — give us the financial flexibility to seek out, encourage, and support fresh ideas. We relish new initiatives, and targeted giving allows us to support such projects as they emerge. Term gifts also allow us, quite simply, to sustain existing projects while we actively seek endowment to fund them permanently. We are able to create and sustain many special projects, thanks in part to these gifts:

THE CREATIVE VENTURES FUND: Creative collaborations are central to the Writers House project; at base, we are a place where creative students congregate. A generous gift from **Marc** (W'80, PAR'14) and **Robin Wolpaw** has challenged us to formalize what we already do informally and well: to become a portal for students to discover possibilities for integrating knowledge creatively at Penn. **The Creative Ventures Fund** will allow us to develop and sustain programs, internships, apprenticeships, academic partnerships, projects, and ongoing series that encourage students to explore arts and culture centers at Penn (and beyond); to seek out other creative Penn sites, resources, and academic departments; to become a convening place for faculty across all the schools who study innovation and practice creativity; and to take advantage of our space as the locus for events and programs resulting from creative collaborations.

NIR-BRAUFMAN TERM FUND AT KELLY WRITERS HOUSE: In recognition of the broad scope of what we accomplish at Writers House, **Daniel Nir** (C'82, W'82) and **Jill Braufman** committed to establishing an all-purpose fund to support unfunded KWH projects. The **Nir-Braufman Fund** allows us to direct resources toward our most pressing needs, including PennSound, our unparalleled digital archive of contemporary poetry, and *Jacket2*, our online journal of poetry and poetics.

JUNIOR FELLOWS PROJECT: **Stuart Epstein** (W'84) and **Randi Hutter Epstein** (C'84) have committed to support two years of our ongoing **Junior Fellows Project**, which encourages young alumni to continue their creative work post-graduation. Through Junior Fellows, we help Penn graduates conceive and conduct original artistic projects right here in Philadelphia. Junior Fellows have produced a great spectrum of creative work: **John Carroll** (C'05) mailed poems and texts to people chosen randomly from the phone book. **Roz Plotzker** (C'05) produced a documentary about women living with HIV. **Moir Moody** (C'06) organized a collaborative “scrapbook” of responses to Philadelphia-area historical artifacts. And, this year, Junior Fellow **Thomson Guster** (C'10) published *Heat Map* #9 — a zine comprised of pseudonymous writing about fictional bands.

MENTORSHIP SUPPORT: Longtime Friend of the Writers House **Judith Zarin** (PAR'09) knows that one of the best ways to learn about a business is to talk to someone who's already in it. And so Judith has chosen to support our alumni mentorship program, a project that puts Penn students in touch with a growing network of successful alumni writers, editors, publishers, and others in various creative fields. Through our alumni mentorship program, we host informational group lunches that allow casual conversations to develop into meaningful, productive relationships. Students (and alumni too) rave about this project; it gets right to the heart of our mission.



TOP: The youngest member of the Hub, **Alice Godfrey**.
BOTTOM: Project Assistant **Molly O'Neill** (LPS'11).

KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS: Our premier program, funded annually by **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present), allows us each year to invite three eminent and influential contemporary writers to visit the Writers House for two days of intensive discussion about their works. **The Kelly Writers House Fellows program** enacts the core of our mission: through the Fellows project, students and emerging writers have meaningful, one-on-one contact with accomplished authors and critics. This year, the Fellows program sponsored visits by **Susan Cheever**, **Edward Albee**, and **Marjorie Perloff**.

THE KERRY SHERIN WRIGHT PRIZE FUND: We award the **Kerry Prize** each year to honor the extraordinary achievement of **Kerry Sherin Wright**, our beloved director from 1997 to 2003. The prize supports Hub member projects that capture the aesthetic capaciousness that was the hallmark of Kerry's work as Writers House director. The Kerry Prize has supported the writing and taping of an old-fashioned radio play; it has allowed us to commission new work from local authors. Winners of the Kerry prize have even envisioned projects for Writers House that have continued well after the prize year is done, such as the Emergency Poetry series and the Feminism/s project. To support the Kerry Prize (which is funded by anyone who wants to contribute to it) and, indeed, the spirit of literary communitarianism Kerry instilled here, contact Arielle Brousse (brousse@writing.upenn.edu).

GORDON WALLS '38 CREATIVE VENTURES FUND: Thanks to the generosity of the Bond family — **Bill and Sandy Bond** and **Gordon Lane Bond** (C'06) — the **Gordon Walls '38 Creative Ventures Fund** allows us to support fresh initiatives and ideas, especially the creative and sometimes outlandish dreams of our Hub members, who constantly revitalize the KWH project with proposals for new publications, outreach programs, literary celebrations, and other community-led projects.

REALARTS@PENN INTERNSHIP FUNDS: Our RealArts@PENN project sets up (and pays stipends for) summer internships at leading organizations in the arts, this year: MTV Networks, *Rolling Stone* Magazine, Brooklyn Films, *Philadelphia Magazine*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Granary Books, and the screenwriting team of David Stern and Stuart Gibbs. These are highly competitive, substantive internships for creative-minded students. Many generous Penn alumni and faculty — including **David Stern**, **Stuart Gibbs**, **Cheryl Family** (C'92), **Jon Avnet** (C'71), **Anthony DeCurtis**, and **Dick Polman** — lent us their expertise in the real world of the arts and have been vital in helping us make connections at these and other arts organizations. The RealArts@Penn project is supported generously by three funds: the **Paul and Ossi Burger RealArts@PENN Internship Fund**, established by **Paul** (W'76) and **Ossi Burger**; the **RealArts Internship Fund**, created by **Dirk Wittenborn** (C'72) and the **Cape Branch Foundation**; and the **RealArts Fund**, established by **Alan** and **Phyllis Berger**. Together these funds ensure robust internship experiences for talented Penn writers.

ANONYMOUS FAMILY FOUNDATION FUND: Established by a family who wanted their contribution to have a broad and direct impact, this fund supports general operating costs associated with developing and running Writers House projects. We need all kinds of things that fall outside of traditional university budgets — paid summer internships, handmade paper and other art supplies, chairs for our Arts Café, state-of-the-art digital equipment — and this fund allows us to be flexible and responsive in relation to the ever-emerging ideas of our vibrant Planning Committee and the real operational needs of our space.

CPCW/ICA SEMINAR FUND: Supported by **Dirk Wittenborn** (C'72) and the **Cape Branch Foundation**, the **CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund** makes possible an extraordinary yearlong course in collaboration between the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing and the Institute of Contemporary Art. The course is led conceptual artist, poet, and CPCW faculty member **Kenneth Goldsmith**, who was this May a featured guest at “An Evening of Poetry at the White House,” Michelle Obama’s celebration of contemporary American poetry.

SETH GINNS FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL WRITERS: Through this gift, **Seth Ginns** (C'00) supports **Writers Without Borders: The Provost’s International Writers Series**, which brings writers from around the world to our intimate cottage on Locust Walk. This past year’s visitors included Israeli translator and comparative literature professor **Shahar Bram**; a band of 11 Canadian poets for “North of Invention,” a two-day poetry festival; Ukrainian poet and playwright **Arkadii Dragomoshchenko**; and Nigerian novelist **Chimamanda Adichie**.

FACULTY DIRECTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND: This discretionary fund enables Writers House Faculty Director **Al Filreis** to seek out, encourage, and invest in student talents and innovations. **Reina Marin Bassini** (C'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73) and **Jon** (C'71) and **Barbara Avnet** have chosen to support the Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund this year, helping the Writers House in its mission to serve as a creative incubator, where students can develop ambitious writing and art projects.

KWH ALUMNI ONLINE BOOK GROUP TERM FUND: One of the many virtual communities the Writers House created and continues to foster, our **Alumni Online Book Groups Program** has hosted 54 discussion groups since **Al Filreis** conceived of the program in 2000. Our book groups engage members in lively ten-day and month-long discussions of classic (and sometimes controversial) books, such as this year’s discussion of *Lolita*, co-moderated by **Al Filreis** and **David Roberts** (W'84). Some groups are organized around themes, such as the ten-day groups on food writing, led by **Janine Catalano** (C'06), anonymity and the internet, led by **Chris Mustazza** (SEAS'07), and literatures of witness, led by **Beth Kephart** (C'82). Thanks to the generosity of alumnus and Penn parent **David Roberts** (W'84), this year we ran eight book groups for more than 166 participants who conversed through all hours via iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and (now seemingly old-fashioned) desktop computers.

ESTHER T. SAXON TERM FUND: Funded for more than a decade by **Brian** (W'90) and **Jerilyn Perman** (C'91), the **Esther T. Saxon Term Fund** supports our community outreach programs. We are committed to living responsibly as citizens of our West Philadelphia neighborhood, which includes leveraging the resources of the university to encourage writing and literacy among neighborhood schoolchildren. Through the ongoing “Write On!” project, we invite kids from local schools to the Writers House for weekly creative writing games. Through the WriteCorp project, which we piloted on a small-scale this year, we take teams of student writers to classrooms across the city to lead creative writing workshops custom-tailored for individual classroom needs.

RONCA-BAIRD DISCRETIONARY FUND: Generously established by **Jim Ronca** and **Deborah Baird**, this “rainy-day” fund allows us to support exciting new projects and opportunities as they emerge. The **Ronca-Baird Discretionary Fund** could be made available to help fund the travel expenses for a student’s research project. It might help pay for scenic dressing to outfit an underground theater operation. It could help offset the production costs for a student-run TV show. The Ronca-Baird Fund is a flexible fund designed to help us identify and encourage great ideas.

SUPPORTING ART AND POETRY: In honor of his favorite niece’s birthday, **Stuart Applebaum** made a generous gift to support programs dealing with art and poetics and various exciting intersections of the two. This fund has been used to support interdisciplinary programs that coincide with Brodsky Gallery openings, as well as for innovative readings and projects, such as this year’s screening of *Kon Kon* by poet and filmmaker **Cecilia Vicuña**.

KEEPING TALENTED STUDENTS IN-HOUSE: Friend of the Writers House **Daniel Roberts** (C'92) wanted to make a contribution that would have a direct impact on students. His gift supports the work of two of our talented student staffers, allowing us to pay their wages and involve them in the life of the Writers House. The staffers funded by Daniel’s grant are Program Assistant **Emily Harnett** (C'13) and Webmaster/jack-of-all-trades **Zachary Carduner** (C'13). The best way to ensure a vivacious atmosphere at the House is to put talented and engaged people at the helm, and gifts like this one benefit both the individual students and the overall community.

FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Over the last fifteen years, we have demonstrated a successful literary communitarianism, a free-form and open programming model that nurtures the ideas of our community members and helps transform them into inspiring new projects. The success of this model depends upon “Friends of the Writers House” who support our mission. Friends give gifts that help us provide home-cooked meals for our many programs, purchase books for the library, and fund upstart literary projects. Contributions from Friends form the foundation on which we’ve built this House and made it a home to writers of all kinds. Thank you, Friends, for protecting and sustaining this unparalleled creative enterprise:

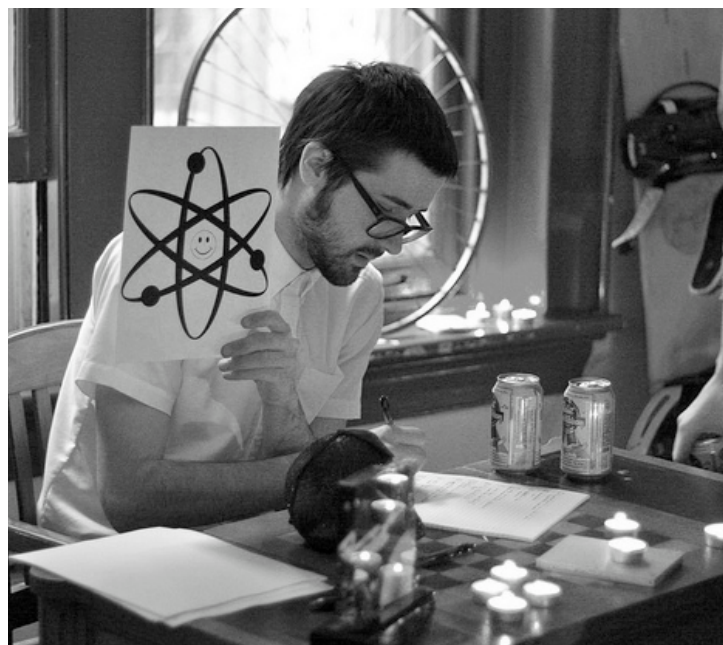
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OPPOSITE PAGE: **Chaia Werger** (C'11) speaks at **Senior Capstone**. THIS PAGE: Temple student **Tyler Antoine** hard at work at the **Heat Map #9** release party.

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