KELLY WRITERS HOUSE





































2014 ANNVAL





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decades of programming, we've amassed nearly 1,000 signed books in our library, each a reminder of a talented writer's visit. It would take a year to listen to all the recordings we've made, audio files and video footage of nearly every reader who has ever stood at our podium. Our Robinson Press archive houses hundreds of broadsides, commemorating a decade of collaborative printwork at the Common Press. We like to think that the experimental quality of the Writers House as an idea — now tested over time, across a number of student generations — nicely befits our mania for preserving evidence of what we do every day in multiple formats.

Experiment, yes, and be sure to archive it. That is

one of our mantras.

In celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Kelly Writers House this year, we spent a great deal of time reviewing the fantastic materials mentioned above, and of course much more: memorabilia in archival boxes, carefully preserved early magazines, "vintage" KWH t-shirts — and photos. Thousands and thousands of photos, taken by staff and friends and visitors throughout KWH history. Photos fill baskets, scrapbooks, and collages in all our shared spaces. They help tell the stories of all the imaginative, intrepid people who have made the Writers House a home.

On May 13th and 14th of alumni weekend, we gathered several generations of these Writers House peoples to reminisce about KWH history and to celebrate twenty years of writing, radical thinking, poetic experiment, and home-cooked meals. It was a beautiful reminder of how this space is made by the people who spend time here, people who have left their mark in the way visitors are welcomed and stories are told.

We're thankful for everyone who has helped make the Writers House possible along the way, including the Office of the Provost, alumni, students, faculty, Penn parents, Philadelphians, and Friends of the Writers House from all over the world. Our archive is full of expressions of gratitude to these people and entities — indeed every recording of every KWH event begins and ends with thanks. We are a venturesome but also always a grateful lot.

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee, thank *you* too for everything you have done to help build and sustain and preserve this community!

Al Filreis

Al Filreis Faculty Director Kelly Professor of English

Jessica Lowenthal



but you can always, in some way, come home again.





The Writers House is my first chosen family, and I'm proud to say that I chose wisely.



It was a spinning wheel of new journals, new faces, new newness. Purposeful connection at the very beginning of the era of permanent connection.



that's the poem.

The fumbling that goes on before the

Shawn Walker tells Ben Friedlander first House visitor, that all his poems are about war and love: that's the poem

Because there is no other place on Earth like the Writers House: that's the poem.

Bickering over who takes out the garbage, volunteering to bake day in day out, haggling over the photocopier: that's the

Establish a literary utopia, Students for a Poetic Society: Steal This House!

In the Bush years, Rachel Blau DuPlessis declares "We've lost the Republic." Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge says nonchalantly: "Humans have had a good run. Maybe it's time to

The leftover notes years later, the segmented audio, the half-remembered conversations: that's the poem.

The printed matter, the hand-stapled ephemera, the Philly Talks spilling from room to room: that's the poem.

How long can this last? How long can any poem last? Like a Bob Dylan built out of bricks, how can this House reinvent itself

The poem is the House the electrically networked House the rows of chairs the radio dial the barely audible whispers of Cecilia Vicuna I can still hear in this room the hundreds of thousands of sound files only a computer could love the dropping leaflets of Jena Osman I still see on this

Sitting with Kerry Sherin Wright next to Kenneth Koch, then Susan Sontag, then John Ashbery: that's the poem.

Al Filreis's 88 class, forcing you to take sides on poetic history; Louis Cabri calls it a "dialectical machine": that's the poem.

The leaky roof, the free lunches, the snooping around to see who's in, the lingering in Jessica Lowenthal's office, the way Kristen Gallagher sways when she listens to you: that's the poem.

I've seen the best poets in America and some of my best friends stand in this room.

The poem that exists only in notes, the poem you wanted to write but never wrote, the poem you only read once, the poem beneath the poem and above and beyond the poem, the mind and the senses after the poem: that's the poem.

The time it took you to sit here and listen to 20 people reminisce just for fun: that's the poem and that's the house.

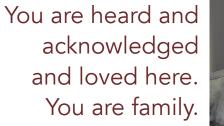
The Kelly Writers House was a pivotal part of my journey. This is a transformative, life-changing place.





NECESSARY CONDITION FOR ALL THE THINGS WE **CANNOT RECORD.**













WRITERS WITHOUT **BORDERS: REINA** MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ

We welcomed acclaimed Cuban poet Reina María Rodríguez, along with her long-time translator and collaborator, Kristin Dykstra, as part of our Writers Without Borders series, which is generously supported by the Seth Ginns International Fund. Charles Bernstein introduced the pair, noting Rodríguez's distinctively open, genre-defying poetics. To kick off the bilingual conversation and reading, Dykstra presented a slideshow of Rodríguez's family and home in Cuba, where Rodríguez has cultivated a renowned literary space in her rooftop apartment. Rodríguez followed by reading poems, interspersed with anecdotes about her home and community (she prefaced one poem with a story about friends who worry about her termite-troubled roof). With Dykstra translating, Rodríguez answered audience questions about Cuba and the relationship between her nationality and her poetry. "I like to think that it doesn't matter what corner, what neighborhood, what country I'm from," she told us. "No matter what, I would still be a poet."

JOURNALISM PITCH NIGHT

In the fall, students in **Sam Apple**'s Creative Ventures-sponsored Entrepreneurial Journalism class dreamed up ideas for journalism-based startups. At the end of the semester, they pitched their projects before a panel of expert judges, who had to select one for the grand prize: \$7,500 in seed funding. A number of the students focused on how journalism can facilitate social and political engagement. One student designed a platform that would make it possible to search a database of police videos filmed by citizens. Another student proposed a site on which citizens could track the official positions of political candidates running for local office in districts across the country. After the pitches were complete, the judges spent thirty minutes agonizing before settling on Sound Check, an innovative platform designed by Nico Carrino (C'18) that encourages concertgoers to review and share media from live performances, so that music lovers can decide which bands are worth paying to see.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURVIVOR

We came together in November to memorialize the late **Terrence Des Pres** and mark the fortieth anniversary of his groundbreaking book The Survivor: An Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps. KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis, who was Des Pres's student at Colgate University in the mid-1970s, has carried on his mentor's legacy for the past thirty years by teaching a course on representations of the Holocaust every other autumn in our Arts Café. In honor of his mentor, Al convened a panel of experts on genocide, survivorship, and witness — including film critic Annette Insdorf; Rabbi Joseph Polak, himself a child survivor of the Holocaust; and Peter Balakian, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry — for remembrances of Des Pres as a teacher, writer,

CELEBRATION OF JULIA BLOCH

We gathered on a beautiful evening in September to celebrate Julia Bloch (GR'11) as the new director of Penn's

Creative Writing Program. It was a momentous occasion — Julia is the third-ever director of Creative Writing at Penn — and Julia's colleagues, friends, and admirers, including current and former students, crowded into the Arts Café to congratulate and welcome her. When she took her place at the podium to read from her newly published, California-inflected poetry books, Valley Fever and Hollywood Forever, she was met with dozens of images of her own face staring back at her: pink, yellow, and orange commemorative "Julia" pins, lovingly crafted by KWH staff (it was "a little intense," she admitted). The reading focused on themes of transit and transition and how distance affects human relationships. One of Julia's poems, "The Byronic Woman," was also available at the event as a special letterpress broadside, handset by a team of students led by Virginia Seymour (C'16).

Ten years of the Common Press



On the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth, we launched a letterpress studio with partners in Penn Libraries and the School of Design. Ten years later, The Common Press, as it has come to be known, houses two Vandercook presses, an 1847 Hoe Washington Hand Press, and many trays of moveable type. The studio introduces students to the traditional art of letterpress and encourages them to collaborate with printmakers, artists, and other writers interested in getting inky.

The Common Press is about "more than printing," as founding press member David Comberg put it during a symposium in April that marked the tenth anniversary of the project. "It's about research and learning through making, improvisation, and collaboration — it's slow, messy, and unpredictable, requiring patience, experimentation, and a 'let's see what happens' approach."

This "let's see what happens" approach has been central to KWH

work at the Common Press, particularly for student-driven projects created through The Robinson Press, our Common Press imprint, named by Penn alumna Nina Robinson Vitow (C'70, WG'76) in honor of her parents. This year our letterpress team, led by Andrew Beal, experimented with metal type and its constraints. To create a visual element for a winterthemed poster, **Juan Cabrera** (C'17) made "snow" out of falling Fs and Os; when we ran out of metal ampersands, **Gabriel Ojeda-Sague** (C'16) penciled freehand letterforms on a Terrance Hayes broadside.

Henry Steinberg (C'13), a Robinson Press veteran who also spoke at the tenth anniversary event, described the freedom and camaraderie he discovered working at the press: "I got to ask a lot of questions and was given the freedom to find those answers by myself and with collaborators — my peers, poets, and even the press itself."





John Baer political journalist, Philadelphia Daily New

Matt Bai national political columnis

Buzz Bissinger (C'76)

Jessica Goodman (C'12) digital news editor, Entertainment Weekl

David Borgenicht (C'90) editor, Quirk Books

Fred Bowen (C'75)
sports columnist, Washinaton Po

Stephen Fried (C'79)

investigative journalist

Karen Heller features writer, Washington Post

Damon Linker senior correspondent. The Week

David Maraniss

longform nonfiction writer

Molly Petrilla (C'06) freelance writer and editor

Maria Popova (C'07) founder, Brain Pickings

Jonathan Tasini strategist, organizer, and activist

Todd VanDerWerff

culture editor, Vox Media

Steven Volk investigative journalist

Paul Waldman
columnist. The American Prospect

Sheila Weller

magazine journalist

BILLIE HOLIDAY IN PHILADELPHIA

Billie Holiday didn't live in Philadelphia long, but "Lady Day" left her mark here. Organized by Alli Katz, this year's Bernheimer **Symposium** considered Holiday's time in this city, with help from two of her eminent biographers: **John Szwed**, who wrote *Billie* Holiday: The Musician and the Myth, and Farah **Jasmine Griffin**, author of *If You Can't Be* Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday. On a rainy, cool night, perfect for recreating the intimate atmosphere that Griffin said "feels right for her," the two former Penn professors shared Philadelphia stories about the legendary musician. Griffin, a Philadelphia native, remembered hearing about Holiday's exploits from her parents. Szwed described a local club that hosted Holiday regularly, though the owner lamented that "every time she appeared there was a fight." Both offered their perspectives on the singer's skill and legacy: Szwed commented on Holiday's remarkable musicality, down to the structure and rhythm of her voice, and Griffin praised Holiday as a coalescing force that brought extraordinary musicians together.

BRODSKY GALLERY

In November the **Brodsky Gallery** opened "The Limner," a show of works by **Sinéad Cahill**. Cahill is a Philadelphia-based artist and PAFA graduate who uses stone lithography and fabric to construct pillowy sculptures, badges, and quilts. Curated by **Connie Yu** (C'17), the show included idiosyncratic Girl Scout-style badges for true-to-life post-college

achievements (clearing a drain, using the last drop of shampoo, and getting along with challenging roommates). Cahill's presentation about the evolution of her work, such as the transformation of simple line drawings into other, more complicated forms, gave us insight into her process. Her "simple" drawings are, as she put it, "not about what they are but instead about what they become." The Brodsky Gallery, which is managed by chief curator **Lily Applebaum** (C'12) and supported by a generous gift from Michael Brodsky (W'88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C'89), also exhibited a collection of works responding to the mandate from the Black Power movement to "organize your own" community against racism, curated by **Daniel Tucker**, and an interactive, student-led presentation of found texts and images, organized by Gina DeCagna (C'16) as part of her extraordinary Symbiosis Project, an ongoing set of experiments undertaken by artists and writers working in collaboration.

STAND-UPS SIT DOWN

Thanks to the generosity of **Haim Handwerker** and **Jamie Handwerker** (C'83), we launched a new annual series featuring stand-up comedians, hosted by TV comedy writer (and proud Penn alumnus) **Lew Schneider** (C'83). For the inaugural **Stand-Ups Sit Down** event, Schneider was joined by comedians **Amy Miller** and **Jonathan Katz** for a hilarious and revealing discussion of the comedy business. Miller, who tours comedy clubs nationwide and currently reigns as Portland's Funniest Person,





admitted that moving to comedy full time had her in a panic: "I'm like, what am I doing this for?" Katz agreed: the jump into comedy can be daunting. "I went into comedy because I had no other skills," he joked. With over thirty years of comedic experience (including the Emmy-winning TV show *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist*), Katz has certainly made good use of his only skill. Schneider turned the conversation to the perks of the job, making a pitch for its pleasures: "The joy of stand-up is watching the comedian getting the audience to think the way the comedian wants them to. Once you've done that, you can say anything you want."

BEASTS OF NO NATION

Nigerian-born novelist and medical doctor Uzodinma lweala visited KWH for our Writers Without Borders series to discuss his first book, Beasts of No Nation, the story of a child soldier in an unnamed African country. Iweala's reading led audience members through a brutal battle between prisoners of war and rebel forces. Told from the perspective of a child who finds himself "just standing there shaking shaking, crying crying, and looking looking," the novel, through its first-person perspective and vivid language, moves toward Iweala's goal: to "close down the space between the person reading, the character, and the events happening." Iweala's visit to KWH was made possible by the Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers, and the Wharton Social Impact Initiative.

LIVE AT THE WRITERS HOUSE

The cutting-edge Afrofuturist collective Metropolarity opened this season of LIVE at the Writers House, our longstanding WXPN radio program that showcases emerging writers and musicians from around the region. Metropolarity's frequent collaborator Moor Mother Goddess performed two songs whose electric tones intertwined with the imagined futures of the writers. This was the first season of LIVE produced almost entirely in-house, with our student staff recording and mixing the show, and producer **Alli Katz** taking over as host from beloved radio personality Michaela Majoun, who retired at the end of last year. Alli's idiosyncratic tone worked well with the mix of featured LIVE guests: writers from **TireFire Readings** (including series co-founder Sarah Rose Etter and organizer Jaime Fountain), art critics from ArtBlog and The St. Claire, and members of Keepers of the Culture, a group of storytellers working in the African tradition who joined the show as part of the citywide reading program One Book, One Philadelphia. A special showcase of student talent included **Dalton** Kamish (C'16), Amanda Silberling (C'18), Jennifer Yu (C'16), Maggie Lily (UArts'17), eighth-grader Mahalia Hensey, and singersongwriter Kyra Schulman (C'18). As always, fantastic musicians played short sets for each episode, including Sunny Ali, tinmouth, and City Love. Creative Ventures assistant Maya **Arthur** (C'18) served throughout the year as talent scout and scriptwriter.

Alumni visitors

Stephen Fried (C'79) curated an eye-opening info session about careers in journalism and new media, featuring a panel of alumni writers and editors: David Borgenicht (C'90) of Quirk Books, Jessica Goodman (C'12) of Entertainment Weekly, and Maria Popova (C'07), founder of the website Brain Pickings.

For our annual **7-Up** program, Wexler Studio Coordinator **Zach Carduner** (C'13) revisited his adolescence through a seven-minute presentation about Nirvana's hit single "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

Computational artist and poet **Nick Montfort** (GR'07) unveiled some of his process through scrolling text and code displayed on screen.

We love **Buzz Bissinger** (C'76). Our former Fellow (who also taught a journalism class this fall) came back to have a great talk with **Beth Kephart** (C'82) about language, memory, and returning to familiar themes.

Newly named managing editor of *Jacket2* **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) joined the lineup for **Whenever We Feel Like It**, reading a short story that decontextualized cliché, making it strange again.

For the annual **Writing About TV** series, **Josh Herren** (C'13) took us deep into the world of *Real Housewives*, while **Dr. Mara Gordon** (C'08, M'15) told us about watching *Grey's Anatomy* in Southern Tanzania.



Fiction writers in the House

This year's **Cheryl J. Family Fiction** writer **Julia Elliott** specializes in the weird, the creepy, and the morbid. At KWH she read from her debut novel about a biologically enhanced taxidermist.

Asali Solomon told us she had the title for *Disgruntled* before she had a plot. In the novel, protagonist Kenya Curtis grows up about a mile west of KWH. Her story is a compelling coming-of-age tale about race, family, and the city of brotherly love.

Jay Kirk introduced Daniel Torday as an "insanely good" teacher and masterful storyteller. Torday talked about his writing process, and also about publishing practices, revealing, for instance, that *The New Yorker* factchecks its fiction.

Our 2014 ArtsEdge resident **Naomi Jackson** returned to KWH to read from the work she spent her residency writing: *The Star Side of Bird Hill*, a novel about two sisters transplanted from Brooklyn to Barbados.

Acclaimed Philadelphia author **Robin Black** joined us for a lunch program hosted by **Karen Rile**. "I'm not a big believer in the idea that humiliation is helpful," she said of the revision process. "You want to have people read your work who keep you excited about your work."

Jacob Gardenswartz (C'18) praised his former teacher Michelle Adelman in an introduction that described the lasting impact of her instruction and support. Adelman read from her first novel *Piece of Mind*.

"The remarkable thing about J. Robert Lennon's writing is not just that it's consistently good, but that it's consistently good in so many different ways," says Sam Apple, who introduced him. Lennon read outrageously funny stories from his collection See You in Paradise.

This year's Lucid Fiction Program reader Joan Wickersham works in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. This formally flexible writing, according to Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), who introduced her, "handles how we handle the wreckage of life."



POVICH PROGRAM: MATT BAI & DICK POLMAN

Two seasoned political journalists — Matt Bai, national political columnist for Yahoo! News, and Dick Polman, Povich Writer-in-Residence at CPCW and political columnist for WHYY/Newsworks — joined us for a lunchtime conversation about old and new media platforms, political journalism, and the current presidential election. Bai was forthcoming about his recent transition from writing traditional longform features for The New York Times Magazine to writing columns online for Yahoo! News. He described the welcome expansion of audiences, perspectives, and news sources enabled by new media and suggested that only older print publications are fixated on the supremacy of print. "There isn't a whole lot of difference anymore between the old platforms and the new," he said. When the two politics junkies discussed the upcoming presidential election, they made a pitch for journalists to pursue alternative election stories. Bai advised young journalists to "start with a question, not an answer," and to "look away from where everyone is looking."

BLUTT SYMPOSIUM: NATALIE MERCHANT

Singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant began the ninth annual Blutt Singer-Songwriter Symposium with a spare and stirring rendition of "Motherland," accompanied by guitarist Erik Della Penna. "Where in hell can you go," she sang, unamplified and undistorted, "far from the things that you know." The intimate performance was followed by a warm and open conversation with Merchant, moderated by the inimitable Anthony DeCurtis. They spoke about her early influences, her process, and her goals as a songwriter and performer. "We were



gleaners," she said of her early years singing and writing with 10,000 Maniacs, "working class kids in a small rust-belt town." Her music was pulled from the things she saw around her; even the title of her first album, *Human Conflict Number Five*, was taken from a book she found in a thrift store. Why does she do it? "That intimate exchange that an artist can have with a viewer or a listener is profound. So I think I want to move people in some way, make them more aware of their humanity and their connection to each other."

FEMINISM/S: WOMEN IN ROCK AND POP

"For a long time, there wasn't the visibility of women in music," said Cynthia Schemmer, moderator of **Shifting the Gaze**, a panel discussion of women in rock and pop. As moderator, the managing editor of She Shreds magazine didn't hold back on her hard-hitting questions about the experiences of female musicians. Panelists described encountering misogyny in the industry and the merits (and shortcomings) of women-only spaces. They also traded notes about how the music industry has changed. The stellar group represented different aspects of music performance and production: Camae Ayewa, performer of genre-bending music under the name Moor Mother; Fran Blanche, founder of Frantone Electronics; Diane Foglizzo, program director of Girls Rock Philly and member of the band Trophy Wife; and Maria Raha, author of Cinderella's Big Score: Women of the Punk and Indie Underground. The event, supported by our Fund for Feminist Projects, was the brainchild of sophomore Amanda Silberling (C'18), who was inspired by her own forays into Philly's musical community as a journalist and photographer.



EDITING A CAMPUS NEWSPAPER

For this year's Applebaum Editors and Publishers program, faculty member **Dick Polman** convened a group of college newspaper editors for a discussion of campus journalism. Panelists included Lauren Feiner (C'17) of The Daily Pennsylvanian (Penn), Anna Mazarakis of The Daily Princetonian (Princeton), **Justin Roczniak** of *The Triangle* (Drexel), and Shannon Sweeney of The Daily Collegian (Penn State). Polman confessed that he learned most of what he knows about journalism as a campus editor many years ago. The panelists agreed that their current experiences are invaluable: college newspapers are incubators where students learn to balance competing interests and concerns, such as the potential conflicts between an independent press and university administration. The student editors also suggested that the most exciting (and trickiest) change since Polman's campus journalism days was the shift from print to online publishing. Feiner noted that online publishing expands the audience to include alumni and university donors, which can raise the stakes for campus-specific news coverage. The news cycle is quicker, too: The Daily Collegian even developed an app to send push notifications to students' phones. But even with these changes, Mazarakis said, a student editor's biggest challenge is likely the same as it was thirty years ago: churning out a fresh paper every day.

Creative Venture project highlights

Creative Ventures, funded with extraordinary generosity by **Marc Wolpow** (C'80) and **Robin Wolpow**, encourages our community members to explore innovative modes of teaching, learning, and making. At its core, the project emphasizes entrepreneurial creativity by seeking out and supporting fresh ideas.



REAL ARTS @ PENN Rolling Stone editor and Creative Writing faculty member Anthony DeCurtis connected Penn students to the world of art and culture beyond Penn through a series of special guests including Rahimeh Andalibian, Ada Calhoun, Ursula Cary, Alex Koppelman (C'05), Kevin Powell, and Julia Rubin.

Mapping with Light Using animations of light moving through space, Tess Paoletta (C'16) created images of the otherwise "unseeable" Omega Centauri, a globular cluster of stars 17,000 light years away.

Sonic Poetry Musician Andrew Whiteman (of the popular Canadian band Broken Social Scene) and filmmaker Adrienne Amato used a sampling workstation and found materials to create an immersive audio-visual performance.

THOREAU HATES MUSEUMS Morgan Library curator Christine Nelson talked about the tension between preserving historic materials and making them accessible. Of preparing Thoreau's bicentenary exhibition, she said, "Here I am putting under glass things that shouldn't be under glass."

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS Students produced remarkable publications, including *Stamped*, an adventurous travel magazine combining journalism and travelogue; *Symbiosis*, a project pairing visual artists with writers to produce multidisciplinary work; and *Impact*, a publication focused on social justice and progressive causes.

TV WRITING Arielle Port (C'16) led production on the TV show Classless, a raucous Penn-based send-up of campus culture. Dylan Leahy (C'16) convened a group to discuss the idea of the "real" in TV, including Maya Arthur (C'18), who spoke about the nuances of reality cooking competitions, and professor Rahul Mukherjee, who presented on *The Office* as a neoliberal workplace.

CITY PLANNING POETICS For the inaugural program in Davy Knittle's City Planning Poetics series — a project that matches poets and city planners — poet Jena Osman and PennDesign professor Amy Hillier spoke about the role of mapping in their work.





With the help of Penn alumni, parents, and faculty — and the extraordinary work of **R.J. Bernocco** (G'12) and **Mingo Reynolds** of the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing — RealArts@Penn provides professional guidance, networking opportunities, and realworld job experience for students interested in pursuing arts-related careers. Through mentorships, apprenticeships, and support for internships, RealArts connects students to the resources they need to begin their professional lives.

APPRENTICESHIPS: PROFESSIONAL WRITING, dEMYSTIFIED

For the tenth consecutive year, the **Bassini Apprenticeship Program** matched Penn students with professional writers affiliated with Penn's Creative Writing program, giving students firsthand experience in the day-to-day pleasures and difficulties of working on long-term professional writing projects.



Maya Arthur (C'18) and Divya Ramesh (C'16) apprenticed with poet and scholar Rachel Zolf. The team met weekly, along with KWH outreach assistant Camara Brown (C'17), to develop creative writing workshops for underserved Philadelphia communities, including LGBTQ youth, children in foster care, and incarcerated women.



Hannah Judd (C'17) apprenticed with Herman Beavers, who is working on a poem sequence following characters in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Hannah scoured newspaper archives for stories, ads, and editorials about the lives of black people in Southern Ohio in the late-nineteenth century.



Elizabeth Richardson (C'17) and Kaitlin Moore (C'18) apprenticed with author and teacher Lorene Cary (C'78, G'78). They assisted with the launch of SafeKidsStories, a community- and web-based project that helps Philadelphians, especially youth, "see safety, peace, and nonviolence with the clarity and imagination with which we now see danger."

ALUMNI MENTORS: tHE rOAD tO L.A.

The RealArts@Penn Mentorship Program helps students explore potential post-graduation careers by matching undergraduates seeking guidance with Penn alumni who work in creative and arts-related fields. Important mentoring relationships develop through informal lunches, small gatherings at the Writers House, Skype sessions, and one-on-one conversations.

As a special initiative this year, RealArts@Penn project directors **R.J. Bernocco** (G'12) and **Mingo Reynolds** introduced a mentorship series called the **Road to L.A.** designed specifically for seniors who plan to work in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles after graduation.

Throughout the spring semester, enthusiastic students met with Penn alumni and parents working as writers, directors, producers, agents, and management professionals.

These generous mentors — including filmmaker Jon Avnet (C'71), TV writer and producer Lew Schneider (C'83), and talent agents Alan Berger and Adam Friedman (C'11) — offered advice and guidance about everything from landing a first job to navigating the notoriously complicated L.A. freeways. The Road to L.A. program put students in touch with a vibrant L.A. alumni community, and also with each other, helping to build the networks they'll need for future success.

Internships teach students about careers and foster connections with professionals, but when students can't afford to take an unpaid internship, they lose out on those advantages. We are trying to remedy that flaw in the internship system.

The RealArts@Penn Internship Prize program — newly established this year — helps level the playing field by offering assistance to talented and ambitious students who have secured unpaid but worthwhile internship opportunities. Thanks to this new program, RealArts supported student internships at 266 W 25 St Gallery, Broadway Video, *Guernica* Magazine, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Logo TV, Mom + Pop Music, Oscilloscope Productions, Vintage League Music / GroundUP Music, and Rhino Records.

TEALARTS@PENN PRESENTS

Grammy award-winning *Rolling Stone* contributing editor **Anthony DeCurtis** helps shrink the distance between students and stardom by engaging culture creators in dialogue about their work.



"When we connect, we heal," said Rahimeh
Andalibian during the discussion of her achingly beautiful memoir about family and loss, *The*Rose Hotel. Andalibian, a psychologist and writer born in Iran now living in midtown New York, established an immediate connection with the Arts Café audience by inviting everyone to move in close.

It was in the library that **Kevin Powell**, at age eleven, discovered Hemingway's *For Whom* the Bell Tolls. "If this is what a writer does," he thought, "I want to be a writer." Now an acclaimed journalist and author of twelve books, Powell urged us all to read. "If you're a writer," he said, "you should be reading voraciously all the time."



Journalist **Ada Calhoun** discussed her most recent book, *St. Mark's Is Dead*. The book traces a history of St. Mark's Place, the "hippest street in America," a street that "has provided generation after generation with a mystical flash of belonging."



PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

In summer 2016, the RealArts@Penn Internships Program offered substantive and personally tailored internships at twenty-one leading art and culture institutions. Students gained unparalleled access to filmmakers, curators, journalists, editors, and other creative professionals.

Print and Publication

Downtown Bookworks Inc. SARAH EISLER (C'17)

Flathead Beacon AMANDA RUBANO (C'17)

The Philadelphia Inquirer TAYLOR HOSKING (C'17)

Philadelphia Magazine DAVID MURRELL (C'17)

ESTHER YOON (C'17)

Pitchfork Media COREY SMITH-WEST (C'16)

McSweeney's and The Believer MAURA REILLY-ULMANEK (C'17)

Museums

Philadelphia Museum of Art JOYA MANDEL-ASSAEL (C'17)

Morgan Library and Museum HANNAH JUDD (C'17)
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art SIYONA RAVI (C'17)

The Jewish Museum MATTHEW EISENBERG (W'18)

Entertainment and Performing Arts

Shore Fire Media MARK PARASKEVAS (C'17)

20TH Century Fox BLAKE PITTELL (C'17)

Brooklyn Films NINA ZHANG (C'17)

David Stern and Stuart Gibbs, Writers NATHANIEL MCLEOD (C'17)

Di Novi Pictures NOLAN BOYER (C'17)
Focus Features DANIEL KAHANA (C'17)

Grandview MATTHEW CARDONICK (C'16)

Management 360 TIMOTHY BLOOM (C'17)

JENNIFER SCHOFIELD (C'17)

Tremolo Productions TYLER BURKE (C'17)

Viacom Catalyst: Creative + Strategy HARLEY GEFFNER (C'17)

1812 Productions SYDNEY RODRIGUEZ (W'18)

SPECIAL THANKS

Funding from generous Penn alumni and parents makes it possible to support the internships and infrastructure of the RealArts@Penn project. Supporters include Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73), Armyan Bernstein and Christine Meleo Bernstein, Paul Burger and Ossi Burger, the Cape Branch Foundation, Bonnie Eisler (C'79) and Cliff Eisler (C'79), Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung, Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and Kirsten Wittenborn, Marc Wolpow (W'80) and Robin Wolpow, and two anonymous donors.

DIGITAL PROJECTS



wexler STUDIO

Now in its second year of operation, the **Wexler Studio** serves as a focal point of creativity at the Writers House, a place for studentproduced audio experiments, PennSound recordings, new and ongoing podcasts, interviews with writers, new music by budding singer-songwriters, and more. Potential uses for the studio are nearly unlimited.

Wexler Studio Coordinator Zach Carduner (C'13) and his team engineer, mix, and master all of the studio's new content, which this year included an entire audiobook production of Black Ice by Lorene Cary (C'78, G'78), readings by students of Kenneth Goldsmith and Beth **Kephart** (C'82), and a series of videos for ModPo, the massive open online course on modern and contemporary American poetry, led by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis.

The Wexler staff gain practical experience working with professional-grade recording equipment and software, and the wide variety in studio production often allows individual

staff members to claim projects that match their own interests. Kaitlin Moore (C'18), a Shakespeare performer, worked with emeritus Penn professor **John Richetti** to record a selection of dramatic Shakespearean readings. Adelaide Powell (C'19), a contributing writer for film criticism blog The Penn Moviegoer, helped record and edit the Moviegoer podcast hosted by Brad Pettigrew (C'17) and Nikhil Venkatesa (C'17). Nick Seymour (C'19), with his background in video and theatrical production, filmed and edited two-dozen testimonials for the 2015 RealArts@Penn internships. And poet Carlos Price-Sanchez (C'19) edited a series of ModPo videos in which he also participated as a teaching assistant.

Wexler staff members are encouraged to pursue personal projects during studio downtime as well: Ari Lewis (C'18) worked on her mixtage, 20 BARZ, and Tyler Burke (C'17) directed and edited footage of his improv comedy troupe.

Over the course of several weeks, Lorene Cary recorded an audiobook version of her memoir, Black Ice, which is now available in its entirety for free on iTunes. Lily Applebaum (C'12) and Max McKenna (C'10) used the recording as supplemental material for their online alumni

Julia Bloch (GR'11) sat down with poet CAConrad to discuss Conrad's process-based ECODEVIANCE: (Soma)tics for the Future Wilderness. The interview, which features several readings from the book, is available on Jacket2 and Conrad's PennSound

DoubleSpeak magazine (doublespeakmagazine.com), led by Meg Pendoley (C'16), recorded three podcasts exploring the process of translation, featuring Ayla Fudala (C'16), Kristen Kelly (C'16), and Michaela Kotziers (C'17).

Joseph Massey read sublimely minimal poetry from four of his collections: Areas of Fog, At the Point, To Keep Time, and Illocality. You can find a full tracklisting on Massey's PennSound author page.

With help from James Spranger, multimedia artist Sophia Le Fraga performed three pieces, each incorporating visual elements, such as a Gchat conversation set against a backdrop of current events and cat pictures.



Internationally renowned online poetics journal Jacket2 (jacket2.org) thrived this year with the support of a team of student editorial assistants, whose work is vital to the J2 project.

Each year Jacket2 teaches students the work of editing an academic journal, including proofreading, copyediting, and design. The students reported to former editorial assistant and newly appointed J2 managing editor, Kenna O'Rourke (C'15), who was excited to nerd out full time with the student editorial team about Chicago Manual of Style proofreading minutiae. Powered by snack-filled meetings and an obsession with detail, the Jacket2 student staffers assisted in the publication of numerous reviews and several large features, including a book-length collection of articles about conceptual poetry.

Al Filreis Publisher

Jessica Lowenthal Associate Publisher

Julia Bloch, Michael S. Hennessey Editors

Kenna O'Rourke Managing Editor

Sarah Dowling International Editor

Michelle Taransky Reviews Editor

Katie L. Price Interviews Edito

Danny Snelson Reissues Editor

Steve McLaughlin Podcast Editor

Pam Brown Associate Editor Susan Landers, Michael Nardone Assistant Editors

Ann Vickery Contributing Editor

John Tranter Founding Editor

tley, Gina DeCagna, Muriel Editorial Assistants

Chris Martin Technical Directo Chris Mustazza Technical Advisor



PoemTalk

PoemTalk is the longest-running ongoing podcast about poetry. For each monthly episode, host and producer Al Filreis invites three friends from the world of poetry to join him in our Wexler Studio for a thirty-minute conversation about one poem. Taken all together, the PoemTalk collection serves as an alt-syllabus for poetry readers and teachers — a conversation-by-conversation series of close readings across modern and contemporary poetry. Tens of thousands of people worldwide subscribe via iTunes or download the podcast from its dual home at Jacket2 and The Poetry Foundation. Founded in 2007, PoemTalk celebrated its one-hundredth episode this year with a special recording in the Arts Café, featuring seven former PoemTalk guests, including Steve McLaughlin (C'08), who recalled episodes on Rodrigo Toscano and Sharon Mesmer; Tracie Morris, who discussed performative aspects of Nathaniel Mackey and Anne Waldman; Herman Beavers, who worked through the relationship between race and radicalism in Vachel Lindsay and Muriel Rukeyser; and Charles Bernstein, who described the power of form in the

work of Helen Adam and Will Alexander.

ModPo

For the fourth consecutive year, Al Filreis offered his massive open online course Modern & Contemporary Poetry, or "ModPo" as it's commonly called, welcoming over 36,000 new and returning students to the study of poetry. Thanks to the continuing involvement of the core group of TAs and the tech wizardry provided by Chris Martin (LPS'15) and Zach Carduner (C'13), this session of ModPo was more interactive than ever. Students from across the globe convened regular meet-ups, and a stalwart group of local ModPo students and Community TAs gathered weekly for webcasts hosted at the Kelly Writers House. Among the Philadelphia regulars was ModPo student Michael Boshes, who sketched each webcast session. The ever-expanding ModPo universe now includes supplemental videos on ModPoPLUS, crowdsourced close reading videos submitted by groups of ModPo students worldwide, and a Teacher Resource Center, managed by erica kaufman, which aims to support the teaching of poetry in all settings.

PENNSOUND

In 2005, professors Al Filreis and Charles Bernstein co-founded PennSound with a single goal in mind: to provide a free, online poetry archive, whose contents would be openly available to anybody for educational and noncommercial use. Eleven years later, Al and Charles, along with Michael Hennessey, Steve McLaughlin (C'08), and Chris Mustazza (GEN'07, LPS'15, GR'19), have transformed the free archive into an international resource. As the world's largest free online collection of poetry recordings, PennSound has become a touchstone in the field of digital humanities.

PennSound's success lies in the fact that it remains faithful to its original mission: whether they were made on wax cylinders or aluminum platters in the 1930s, or on someone's iPhone in

2016, PennSound's recordings are all available for free in MP3 format. From Helen Adam to Louis Zukofsky, PennSound's collection includes more than 44,000 audio and video files, accessed by over one million visitors, with six million downloads or streams every year.

Charles Bernstein & Al Filreis Directors

Chris Mustazza Associate Director

Christopher J. Martin Technical Director

Zach Carduner Managing Editor

Steve McLaughlin Podcast Director, Senior Editor

Danny Snelson & Kenneth Goldsmith Senior Editors

Chris Funkhouser & A.L. Nielsen Contributing Editors

John MacDermott Technical Advisor





KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS



from what tree



am i waiting



The Kelly Writers House Fellows Program enables Penn students to interact with some of the greatest living authors of our time in the intimate setting of our cozy house.

Supported generously since 1999 by Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64), the Fellows program invites three eminent authors for intensive, two-day visits in the spring semester: heady discussions in the Arts Café, conversation-based public events, and special meals lovingly prepared and hosted by students in the associated Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar. This year's Fellows were speculative fiction writer Samuel R. Delany, experimental poet and memoirist Eileen Myles, and Emmy-winning Mad Men creator Matthew Weiner.



- : FELLOWS:
- : SEMINAR:

To prep for intense class visits with our visiting Fellows, students in the Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar, led by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis, read thousands of pages by Samuel Delany and Eileen Myles, including Delany's massive 800-page novel *Dhalgren* and every word of Eileen Myles's book of new and selected poems, I Must Be Living Twice. They watched all seven seasons (over seventy-two hours!) of Matthew Weiner's Mad Men. And they completed individual research projects to add historical, literary, and personal contexts to the assigned course materials. Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'16) presented on the 1969 Stonewall Riots to help make sense of the violence in Delany's Hogg; Sammy Krouse (C'18) went deep into The Sopranos, reporting to the group about connections between Weiner's two most memorable shows; and Meg **Pendoley** (C'16) looked into the history of the St. Mark's Poetry Project, where Myles worked as artistic director in the 1980s. Three students in the seminar — Amanda Silberling (C'18), Kaitlin Moore (C'18), and Becca Lambright (C'19) — were selected to write formal introductions, which distilled the work of the class into personal, reflective essays that helped frame each Fellow's public reading at KWH.



THE (HAND-) PRINTED WORD

As special gifts for each Fellow, Robinson Press artist Henry Steinberg (C'13) designed and printed three beautiful broadsides, with help from Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'16) and Fellows coordinator Lily Applebaum (C'12). For Samuel Delany, they selected the opening lines of *Dhalgren* — "to wound the autumnal city. So howled out for the world to give him a name" — and printed them against a gorgeous swath of orange and yellow ink. The print for Weiner featured ominous stage directions from the *Mad Men* pilot "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," paired with incongruous retro-mod pink shapes that would not have been out of place in Roger Sterling's office. Eileen Myles signed Lily Applebaum's print of "What Tree Am I Waiting" with a personalized flourish — a hand-drawn lily.

"DOES ANYONE WANT TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING?"



The largest, most highly anticipated components of the Fellows program are the events: packed readings on Monday nights, followed by interview-style conversations on Tuesday mornings. Our small space, stuffed as full as possible with rickety wooden chairs, draws our Fellows to speak candidly, from one writer to many others. The feel of space also encourages the Fellows to open up about their writing processes, personal histories, and everyday lives.

"Does anyone want to talk about anything?" **Samuel Delany** asked, after reading a revised excerpt from *Dark Reflections*. Then he invited his Temple University colleague **Jena Osman** to comment on his revisions, giving her credit for their origin. The writerly exchange confirmed Delany's generosity toward his readers and colleagues — and also delighted the assembled fans who were given a close-up glimpse of Delany's revision process.



Al Filreis and Eileen Myles opened their conversation about her work with a discussion of trauma and repetition, about the ways in which a fundamental traumatic experience can affect a writer's narrative choices. Myles described the recurrence of her father's death, for example: "At various points I would think: oh, no, am I going to write about *that* again?" but she'd nevertheless repeat the story "again and again and again." The conversation touched upon formal repetition as well: "Certain words like 'girl' and 'lady' I sort of love to use because I hate them so much," Myles said. "It makes sense, ultimately, to keep repeating them."

Matthew Weiner joined collaborative close readings of several scenes from *Mad Men*, touching on the complex topics explored in the award-winning series, including masculinity, parenting, mortality, and grief. Weiner revealed that more than a few iconic *Mad Men* scenes are based on his own childhood experiences, including a painful scene focused on the death of Sally's grandfather Gene, who, like Weiner's own grandfather Max Hoffman, died in a candy store. Weiner fielded audience questions — about Don Draper's relationship with women, about the show's representation of black people and the death of Martin Luther King Jr. — with candid assessment of TV's role in representing history and culture.

Don has a hand on each of their heads as they sleep. He looks up to the doorway where Betty now leans in her peignoir, smiling at the scene of domestic bliss. Don looks away to the window. We follow his gaze as we,

EXT. IDYLLIC TWO-STORY COLONIAL HOUSE

DISSOLVE TO:

We pull back from the dimly lit window.

The rain has stopped. Another car
pulls in next door. A man gets out
and heads in. Houses stretch in the
distance.

FADE OUT.

-- 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes,' MAD MEN



It's a tradition for Fellows Seminar students to scour each Fellow's work for food references and then serve the writers their own words:

For **Samuel Delany**: Spam and mayo sandwiches, served on bread with hand-cut holes, derived from a surreal scene in Delany's *Dhalgren*, the labyrinthine novel about navigating apocalyptic and urban ruin.

For **Eileen Myles**: Pizza, from the poem "Triangles of Power": "Got a slice / burned the roof / of my mouth. / Knew I would / it was / delicious."

For **Matthew Weiner**: Hershey's chocolate bars, to recall Don Draper's feverish ad pitch — a momentous event in the series, signaling Don's decline and emotional unraveling.

Check out our entire archive of Fellows recordings online at WRITING.UPENN.EDU/WH/PEOPLE/FELLOWS

OUTREACH



RECRUITING PROMISING WRITERS TO PENN

CPCW's associate director for recruitment, **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), led our efforts this year to find the next generation of community members. She visited schools and organizations across the country in search of promising writers, met with prospective students on campus, reached out to award-winning high schoolers and their teachers by email, and coordinated teams of Penn students and alumni volunteers who assisted in this work.

Current Penn students eagerly joined Jamie-Lee in her efforts. Recruitment assistants Peter LaBerge (C'17) and Lauren Shapiro (C'16) kept meticulous spreadsheets, corresponded with prospective students, and showed off KWH to visiting families. Other KWH volunteers, including Maya Arthur (C'18), Cole Bauer (C'19), Camara **Brown** (C'17), Lauren Feiner (C'17), James Fisher (C'19), Alina Grabowski (C'16), Becca Lambright (C'19), and Darby Levin (C'19), helped out during Quaker Days, when scores of prospective Penn students flocked to KWH. Izzy Lopez (C'19) and Becca Lambright (C'19) even accompanied Jamie-Lee on recruitment visits to high schools in Massachusetts and Ohio.

Alumni did their part as well. Ninth-grade teacher **Allyson Even** (C'13) traveled to KWH with her students all the way from Brownsville, TX to give them an early glimpse of a college writing life. **Mark Maas** (C'73) kept his eye out for promising young writers in New York



City, as did **Kristen Martin** (C'11) and **Sarah Arkebauer** (C'11), who represented KWH at
a Girls Write Now college fair. **Victoria Ford**(C'15) joined Jamie-Lee for a recruitment
visit to her alma mater, the South Carolina
Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.
And **Lindsey Palmer** (C'05) coordinated a visit
for Jamie-Lee to New Explorations in Science
Technology and Mathematics (NEST+M).



We want great writing students to come to Penn. Our goal is to locate and recruit the most promising writers we can, including students who would not otherwise consider Penn, due to their socioeconomic status, their lack of familial support or college guidance, or other complicating factors. We are deeply grateful to everyone in our community who has rallied around this work.

SPOTLIGHT: WRITING A LIFE

One Friday morning each month, the first floor of Kelly Writers House fills with people seeking a path to well-being through the written word. They're all patients of Penn's award-winning **Abramson Cancer Center**, and whether they're in remission or undergoing active treatment, they find camaraderie and compassion in **Writing A Life**, a workshop collaboration between KWH and the Abramson Center. Participants gather in the Arts Café for therapeutic creative writing exercises led

by faculty member **Deborah Burnham** (G'76 GR'89), with help from **Arielle Brousse** (C'07, SPP'12) and **Rachel Zolf**. Workshop members share their writing and experiences with one another, building a network of shared support. One participant, **Ginger Brodie**, described the power of the program in an interview with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*: "I saw pieces of myself in other people's words. And I began to gather myself together, somehow stronger."







Camara Brown (C'17) Urban Studies/English Chicago, IL

First contact with KWH? I connected with Writers House alumna Caroline Rothstein (C'06), a fellow Chicago native and spoken word poet.

What do you write? I write poetry. I am member of Penn's premier performance poetry group, The Excelano Project.

How have you changed as a writer? My writing has become more sound-based, less risk-averse, and more willing to scare, instead of comfort, my readers.

Favorite KWH experience *Muscular Music* by Terrance Hayes was the first book of poetry I ever read all the way through. My copy is covered with notes, underlines, and small poems along the pages. When Hayes came to the Writers House and read from *How to Be Drawn*, I sat in the third row and was more engaged than I had ever been in any class. I loved every moment of his reading.



Peter LaBerge (C'17) Creative Writing/ Consumer Psychology Stamford, CT

First contact with KWH? Jamie-Lee emailed me because of two national-level Scholastic Art & Writing Awards I received in my junior year of high school.

What do you write? I write predominantly poetry, but also fiction and nonfiction. I am also the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Adroit Journal*, as well as the director of the annual *Adroit Journal* Summer Mentorship Program.

How have you changed as a writer? I never thought I would see two poetry books of mine acquired by the Library of Congress and on bookshelves before I graduated! Also, through advising from members of the KWH community and alumni network, I have grown *The Adroit Journal's* recognition and reputability by leaps and bounds.

Favorite KWH experience It's a tie between hosting a reading celebrating *The Adroit Journal* in the Arts Café (as a freshman!) and giving Terrance Hayes a high five.



Becca Lambright (C'19) Creative Writing Cleveland, OH

First contact with KWH? I learned about the Writers House on the campus Arts & Culture tour and Jamie-Lee visited my high school during the fall of my senior year. **What do you write?** I focus on poetry and creative nonfiction, and I am poetry editor for the magazine *Symbiosis* and I write for the all-female comedy group, Bloomers.

How have you changed as a writer? I've become so self-aware in my writing since coming to Penn. The writing community here is so talented and knowledgeable that I find myself constantly looking for ways to better my own writing and writing process because I'm surrounded by such amazing work and people.

Favorite KWH experience One of my favorite poets, Eileen Myles, came to visit the Writers House Fellows seminar and at one point my professor, Al Filreis, volunteered me to ask her a question. I got so nervous that I blurted out "I think I'm in love with you!"



Jacqueline Uy (C'19) Political Science Los Angeles, CA

First contact with KWH? The second semester of my junior year, Jamie-Lee presented at WriteGirl, an extracurricular program I was involved in.

What do you write? I've mostly been involved in *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, the campus newspaper, as well as *IMPACT*, the social justice magazine.

How have you changed as a writer? I've become more disciplined in the way that I write. In college, especially with my major, I've had to write a ton of essays and that's really affected how I write creatively in the sense that my pieces are more structured than they were before.

Favorite KWH experience: It's definitely been the Speakeasies. They're a nice break from all the business of college life. It's a time where everyone can gather around and be creative without worrying about anything else.

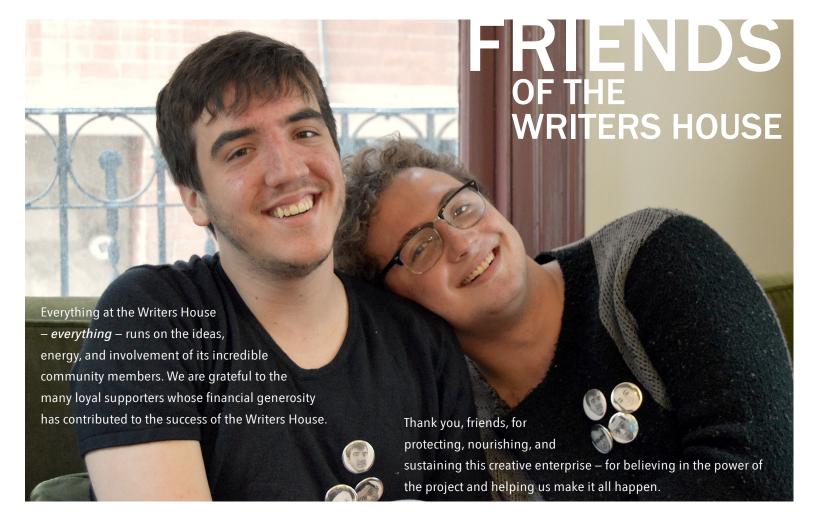
WRITING OUTREACH

Our writing outreach efforts received a boost this year when poet **Rachel Zolf** started in January as our Community Partnerships Developer. She immediately joined forces with **Camara Brown** (C'17), our Levin Outreach Coordinator, to support our existing writing outreach projects and build new ones.

Rachel and Camara worked with **Write On**, our undergraduate-led creative writing program for **Henry C. Lea Elementary** students, to help strengthen the curriculum and our partnership with the school. They also worked with Bassini Apprentices **Maya Arthur** (C'18) and **Divya Ramesh** (C'16) to research and develop writing workshops for specific communities in Philadelphia. As a result, we are excited to be starting a creative writing workshop for trans and gender-nonconforming youth in the fall. Camara and Rachel will also co-facilitate a creative writing workshop for women in the Federal Detention Center in downtown Philly.

Our outreach team supported and strengthened Writing a Life, our partnership with Penn's Abramson Cancer Center through which cancer survivors come to KWH to write and share their stories in a safe space facilitated by faculty member **Deb Burnham** (G'76, GR'89). We sent Penn students to work with Mentor for Philly, Mighty Writers, and the **Petey Greene Program** to tutor high school students and work with them on their college application essays. Camara even rounded up some of her colleagues in **Excelano**, Penn's fabulous spoken word group, to lead a workshop on the theme of courage for the Young Men's Initiative at Philadelphia Futures, an organization that supports firstgeneration college-bound students.

Other writing outreach initiatives undertaken by KWHers included a mentoring project organized by Dan Spinelli (C'18) at Samuel Powel Elementary, and a series of workshops about the college application process facilitated by Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) in partnership with Ivy in Your Backyard, the Penn Early Exploration Program, Philadelphia Futures, Steppingstone Scholars, Emmaus High School, and the Alabama School of Fine Arts.



Bassini Apprenticeship Fund The Bassini Apprenticeship Fund enables us to pair students with professional writers associated with Penn's writing programs. By working alongside their mentors, apprentices gain invaluable firsthand experience in the real work of a writing career. In this tenth year of the program, students apprenticed with Herman Beavers, Lorene Cary, and Rachel Zolf. Endowed by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, Kate Levin Community Outreach Internship W'71, WG'73).

Eisler Endowed Internship Fund The Eisler Internship Fund enables us to pay awards to students for competitive (but unpaid or modestly paid) internships at cultural institutions, so that students, regardless of financial circumstance, can pursue careerspecific learning opportunities. In summer 2016, the Eisler Fund made it possible for Hannah Judd (C'17) to intern at the Morgan

INTERNSHIPS, **APPRENTICESHIPS** & MENTORSHIPS

Library and Museum in New York. *Endowed by* Bonnie Eisler (C'79) and Cliff Eisler (C'79).

Fund This fund permanently endows our Outreach Coordinator Internship, through which a student organizes ongoing community service efforts. Two students shared this role in 2015-16: Camara Brown (C'17), who worked closely with Community Partnerships Developer Rachel Zolf to develop new writing outreach workshops for underserved communities, and Dan Spinelli (C'18), who organized a mentoring project at a local elementary school. *Endowed by* Kate Levin (GR'96).

RealArts@Penn Internship Funds RealArts@ Penn is a project designed to help some of Penn's most creative students make meaningful connections beyond the university, particularly through paid summer internships at leading art and culture institutions. Thanks to strong partnerships cultivated by Mingo Reynolds and R.J. Bernocco (G'12) with alumni and friends at 20th Century Fox, Pitchfork Media, Focus Features, Viacom, The Jewish Museum, and elsewhere, RealArts@Penn sponsored twentythree interns during the summer of 2016. Supported by the RealArts Internship Fund with gifts from Dirk Wittenborn (C'72), Marc Wolpow (W'80) and Robin Wolpow, and the Cape Branch Foundation; the Paul and Ossi Burger RealArts@ Penn Internship Fund, established by Paul Burger (W'76) and Ossi Burger; the Bernstein Family RealArts Internship Term Fund, established by Armyan Bernstein and Christine Meleo Bernstein; and two anonymous donors.







Beltran Family Teaching and Award Fund The

AWARDS & PRIZES Beltran Family Teaching

and Mentorship Award allows us to honor an outstanding teacher at Penn. In addition to a cash prize, the award recipient receives a grant to develop a KWH program in keeping with the teacher's innovative work. This year's honoree was Beth Kephart, whose program "Home as Heart, and Hearth" gathered a group of writers, including Beth's current and former students, to ruminate on the notion of "home," what it is, and how it is created. Special event presentations included an audio collage recorded in the Wexler Studio and a booklet printed for the occasion. Endowed by Penn parents John Paul Beltran and Lina Beltran.

Terry B. Heled Travel and Research Grant Fund

The Heled Travel Grant enables a student to travel and conduct research for a significant writing project. This year's prize recipient, Kristen Kelly (C'16), researched the stories of early Chinese American immigrants to San Francisco after she inherited boxes of photographs and documents from her late grandmother that detailed her family's immigration from Guangdong Province. Endowed by Mali Heled Kinberg (C'80) in memory of her mother Terry B. Heled.

Michael and Danielle Goldstein Endowed **Prize** This fund awards a prize to an outstanding KWH-affiliated student in need of support for writing-centered projects. We named two

recipients this year for summer projects: Camara Brown (C'17),

who conducted research into sites of African American history; and James Fisher (C'19), who taught writing to middle-school students in New York. Endowed by Penn parents Michael and Danielle Goldstein.

Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic **Nonfiction** The Parker Prize celebrates excellence in student nonfiction writing, especially longform journalism. Dan Spinelli (C'18) won this year's prize for "Maintenance Mayhem," a thoroughly researched four-part investigative series about ongoing building maintenance issues at Penn. "It's not a sexy issue," wrote judge Molly Eichel "but the writer really looks at every angle of this issue and how it affects the students who live on campus." Endowed by Bret (C'90) and Katharine Parker.

The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Fund The Kerry Prize, established to honor the literary communitarianism of our first director, Kerry Sherin Wright, is awarded annually to a Hub member who proposes a project aligned with Kerry's capacious vision. Maya Arthur (C'18) will be using the prize funds this year to create a zine library at Kelly Writers House. Supported annually by the KWH community, with special gift this year from Lucy Cook (C'95), and from Maggie Katz Cordish (C'99) and Reed Cordish.

TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & OPEN-ENDED SUPPORT

Wallace Kitchen Fund The Kane-Wallace Kitchen Fund honors the centrality of our kitchen, which is a place for ridiculously good food, late-night conversations fueled by abundant coffee, and study sessions around the old green table. It's a true working kitchen, where students experiment with new recipes or remind themselves of home by recreating family favorites. And like most kitchens, it's the heart of our house, where people gather to share in the warmth of community. *Endowed by Ed Kane*

(C'71, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace.

Faculty Director's Discretionary Fund This fund enables Faculty Director Al Filreis to seek out, encourage, and invest in talent and ideas. This year Al helped several students afford summer internships, including Chloe Shakin, who accepted a Digital Communications Internship in the Philadelphia Mayor's

office. The fund also supported ModPo's Teaching Resource Center and contributed to the film Driving Not Knowing produced by Dylan Hansen-Fliedner (C'14) and Dane Mainella (C'14), among many other endeavors. Supported by Matt Abess (C'08) and Taylor Abess, Jon Avnet (C'71) and Barbara Avnet, Alexis Brunswick (C'04), Reuben Daniels (W'91), Anthony DeCurtis, Charles Goldman (C'90, W'90), Caroline Soo Hyun Kim (in honor of Veronica Chambers), Robert Shepard (C'83 G'83) and Bob Numerof (CGS'83), Lee Rudy (C'92) and Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C'92), Marcy Schneider (C'88) and Jeff Schneider (C'88), Mark Sherman (C'95) and Rachel Sherman (C'95), Larry Stoller and Melissa Stoller, and Richard Williams (C'63; in memory of CK Williams).

Student Initiatives Fund After two decades of celebrating student ingenuity, creativity, and drive, this year the Kelly Writers House finally established the Student Initiatives Fund — a pool of seed money to which anyone can contribute, and which supports creative projects and enterprises dreamed up and driven by

our students. Supported annually by the KWH community, with special gifts this year from Penn parents Howard and Cami Gordon, and Richard and Robbie Levin.

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 Cooper Shoulberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Student Projects Space, where undergraduates depend on computers for design projects, magazine production, and more. Endowed by Overbrook High School classmates of Alice Cooper Shoulberg.

Nir-Braufman Term Fund at Kelly Writers House We are committed to making our vast digital resources freely available to anyone, anywhere. The Nir-Braufman Fund provides annual support for the suite of interrelated digital projects that help us sustain such expansive reach. Projects include Jacket2, our online journal of contemporary poetry and poetics with readers in over two hundred countries; PennSound, the largest online collection of free, downloadable digital recordings in the world; PennSound Radio, which provides streaming content 24/7; and PoemTalk, a scintillating monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis in collaboration with the Poetry Foundation. Through these projects, students receive valuable experience in digital editing and engineering, proofreading and copyediting, web design, archival research, and more. Funded by Daniel Nir (C'82, W'82) and Jill Braufman.

Through this flexible fund we 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-driven projects. This year the Gordon Walls fund helped stock our annual Hub Thanksgiving with turkey and all the fixings. Supported by Gordon Lane Bond (C'06) and Sunny Bond.

Gordon Walls '38 Creative Ventures Fund

Kelly Writers House Fellows Fund PROJECTS

The Kelly Writers House Fellows project enables undergraduate

writers to interact with eminent writers they admire, through seminar-style discussions in the Arts Café, home-cooked meals in our dining room, and freewheeling public conversations that range across the entirety of each visiting Fellow's career. The experience is transformative for students in the Fellows seminar and visiting Fellows alike. This year's Fellows were experimental science fiction writer Samuel R. Delany, television writer and *Mad Men* creator Matthew Weiner, and poet Eileen Myles. Supported annually by Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present).

The Brodsky Gallery Fund The Brodsky Gallery Fund supports the work of young art curators, who select, hang, and showcase works by visual artists. With assistance from Connie Yu (C'17), lead curator Lily Applebaum (C'12) put up four shows this year, including "The Limner," a collection of works by local fabric artist and stone lithographer Sinéad Cahill. Endowed by Michael Brodsky (W'88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C'89).

The Clearman Cottage Residency The Clearman Cottage Residency provides young writers with uninterrupted writing time in an idyllic setting — a waterfront guest cottage in Washington — so that they can make substantial progress on a significant writing project. The second annual weeklong residency was awarded to fiction writer Maya Afilalo (C'16), who used the retreat to work on a coming-of-age novel about a young soccer player. Supported annually by Buzz Bissinger (C'76) and Lisa Smith.

Writers House Journal Endowment Fund

The Writers House Journal Endowment Fund supports the infrastructure and maintenance of our internationally renowned online journal of modern and contemporary poetry and poetics, *Jacket2*. Updated daily with reviews, scholarship, commentary, and interviews, *Jacket2* is a premier literary resource for its global audience. *Endowed by Harry Groome* (C'63).

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress
Fund Through the Robinson Press, students
discover and explore print culture. Led by
alumnus Henry Steinberg (C'13) and KWH
staffer Andrew Beal, with assistance from Maya
Arthur (C'18), Lily Applebaum (C'12), Juan
Cabrera (C'17), Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'16),
Kenna O'Rourke (C'15), Maura Reilly-Ulmanek
(C'17), Virginia Seymour (C'16), and Connie
Yu (C'17), Robinson Press projects include

broadsides, postcards, maps, handsewn books, and more. Endowed by Nina Robinson Vitow

(CW'70, WG'76) in memory of her parents Herman and Jeanne Robinson.

Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowment for Literary Journalism Magazine The Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund nurtures student journalistic talent by making possible the publication of *Filament*, a magazine that features substantial longform nonfiction pieces by Penn students. This year, after a period of publishing exclusively online, *Filament* produced print editions, including handmade zines. *Endowed by Penn parents Judith Zarin and Gerald Rosenfeld*.

The Creative Ventures Fund The Creative Ventures project enables Penn's most creative students and faculty to pursue ambitious ideas, especially those that emphasize innovation, discovery, and imagination. The Creative Ventures Fund made possible a range of projects this year, including a panel discussion on psychoanalytics and writing in the case of Anne Sexton, and an evening of sonic poetry and visual improvisation with musician-poet Andrew Whiteman and filmmaker Adrienne Amato. Creative Ventures also supports a number of Creative Capital Grants for students to pursue special projects; this year Tess Paoletta (C'16) used one such grant to conduct an immersive demonstration of deep-space imaging based on data from the Dark Energy Survey. Supported annually by Marc Wolpow (W'80) and Robin Wolpow.

CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund Every other year, we partner with museums, including the ICA and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, to offer a unique year-long undergraduate course, sponsored by the CPCW/Museum Seminar Fund. Led by conceptual artist and poet Kenneth Goldsmith, this year's students of "Writing Through Culture and Art" examined the Christopher Knowles retrospective exhibit at the ICA. They focused on how the study of disability and neurodiversity has helped us understand art, literature, and music. In the second term of the year-long seminar, they partnered with the PMA's Modern Art section to "write through" the entire catalogue of the museum's holdings. The class culminated in a paper-bound publication written by students and designed by Jane Treuhaft, a combination of what they learned from Knowles' art practice applied inventively to the vast collections of the PMA. Funded annually by Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation



We thank the following
Friends for their generous
support of the Writers House:

Jill Abbott; Alyson Adler; Frederick Adler; Matthew Algeo; Nathalie Anderson; Anonymous (in memory of Michael Unglo); Alonna Anspach; Max Apple and Talya Fishman; Derek Arthur; John Ashbery; Sarah Auerbach; Herman and Madeline Axelrod; Sylva Baker; Magdalena Ball; Dennis and Debbie Barone; Berni Barta; Elissa Bassini and Jeremy Pick; Shumita Basu; Joy and Ian Bauer; Dorothy Beardsley; Herman Beavers and Lisa James-Beavers; Nadine Becker and Daniel Shapiro (in honor of Lauren Shapiro); Susie and Art Becker-Weidman (in honor of their granddaughter Ella Grinshpan); Susan Bee and Charles Bernstein; Donald Beetham; Jay Begun; Craig Behrenfeld; Mary Behrman; Andrew Bellon; Evelyn Bender; Mary Kay Benz (in memory of Ruth Ann Donnelly); Barry Berger; Ed and Jen Bergman; Jess Bergman; Bill Berkson; Leonard Bernstein; Matt Bernstein; Cara Bertron; Daniel Blas; Ronna Wineberg Blaser; Howard Blum; Lawrence Blum; Margo and Mitch Blutt; Megan Bly; Scott and Roxanne Bok; Robert Boucher; William Boyd; Neal Braun and Anne Flick; Steve Brauntuch; Barbara Bravo; Jay Brecker; Isaac Brooks; Ellen Brooks and Robert Cohen; Jackee and Denis Brousse; Deborah Brown; Jacqueline Brown (in honor of Matthew Weiner and in memory of Lorn Brown); Marc and Betsy Brown; Orran and Ellen Brown; Laynie Browne and Brad Davidson; Ann and David Brownlee; Alexis Brunswick; Robert Brylawski; Nathalie Burg; Beth Burrell; Cordelia Calvert; Lynn Carroll; John Carroll and Rachael Paz; Lenny Cassuto; Diane Castiglioni; Ali Castleman and Nancy Ruskin; Philip Catalano; MC Catanese; Sandra Chaff; Mandana Chaffa; Stanley and Peggy Chodorow; Portia Choi; Sam Choi; Leah and Peter Cianfrani; Carol Shlifer Clapp; Deborah Clark; Margie Clough; Sara Coelho; Charles Cohen; Wendy Shiekman Cohen; Gail Spiegel Cohen, DMD (in honor of Stephanie A. Cohen C'13 and Jonathan D. Cohen C'09); Mary Collins; Blayney Colmore; Julia Cook; Randall Couch; Dave Cowen; William Craddock; Pam and Mike Crane; Gerry Croft; Heidi Croft; Susan Croll and Paul Monasevitch; Michael Cullina; Joyce Cummings; Vincent Curren and Julie Preis; Janet Cutler; Rebecca Dalzell; Barbara Daniels; Mark and Cynthia Davidson; Colleen Davis; Hannah Davis; Anthony DeCurtis; Tom Devaney and Amy Sadao; Paul Deveney; Denise L. Devine; Linda Diamond; Thea Diamond and David Howey; Franklin Dines and Lynn Arost; Greg and Lysa Djanikian; Adam Dolgins;



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we seek out and engage talented young writers.

Half of the gift supports the work of CPCW's

associate director of recruitment, Jamie-Lee

Josselyn (C'05), who recruits promising writers

to Penn, while the other half funds an internship

for a KWH-affiliated student to teach creative

writing to children during the summer. 2016

Sayet-Rosenberg Intern Kaitlin Moore (C'19)

taught boys and girls aged 8-15 at Frost Valley

YMCA's summer camp. Endowed by Harry

Rosenberg (W'79) and Laurie Sayet.





Sayet-Rosenberg Fund for Young Writers With support from the Sayet-Rosenberg Fund

OUTREACH / **BEYOND THE CAMPUS**

peers and mentors. Supported annually by Jerilyn Perman (C'91) and Brian

Perman (W'90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon.



KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund Since the launch of our Alumni Online Book Groups in 2000, we've hosted more than ninety

> discussions for alumni, Penn parents, and our extended Penn family. Group leaders this year organized robust discussions on a diverse range of topics and texts, including food writing, Penn professor Lorene Cary's memoir Black Ice, and a trio of short stories by Guy de Maupassant, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and John Cheever. Supported annually by David Roberts (W'84).

moderator-led online book



Esther T. Saxon Term Fund The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts, particularly programs and projects for kids in local elementary schools, many of which are under-resourced and in need of enrichment programs. The cornerstone of these efforts is Write On, a student-led literacy project that engages students from nearby Lea Elementary in playful creative writing exercises with

Digital Poetries Fund Our Digital Poetries Fund allows us to make our vast digital resources freely available to anyone, anywhere. The fund pays for staff and equipment to support PennSound, the largest online collection of free digital poetry recordings in the world; PoemTalk, a monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis and co-sponsored by the Poetry Foundation; Jacket2, the premier online resource for critical and scholarly writing about poetry; and ModPo, our MOOC on modern and contemporary poetry taught by Al Filreis and a team of TAs, which — as it grows and evolves — includes a number of meetups and special webcasts to engage new audiences. Supported annually by the KWH community, with special support from David Roberts (W'84), Ricardo Salmon (W'93) and Leslie Dezer (W'92), two anonymous donors, and Stuart Applebaum, who made his gift in honor of Lily Applebaum (C'12).

Student Recruitment and Access Fund We want to show stellar high-school writers particularly those who believe Penn is beyond their reach financially, geographically, or otherwise — that a Penn education is possible. CPCW's associate director of recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), works tirelessly to identify such prospective students and recruit them to Penn. Anyone can make a gift to the Access Fund to help make this work possible; if you are interested in improving access for underprivileged or geographically isolated students, please contact Arielle Brousse at brousse@writing.upenn.edu or Jamie-Lee Josselyn at jjossely@writing.upenn.edu. Supported annually by the KWH community. Special gifts this year from Joan Kim (C'97), Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75), and Lynn Strother (CW'72).



Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund Through the Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund we host conversations with editors and publishers we admire - the

people who curate, refine, and disseminate the writing we read and enjoy. This year, the Applebaum Fund sponsored a panel discussion with editors of college newspapers from Penn, Princeton, Penn State, and Drexel, moderated by our own Dick Polman. Endowed by Irwyn Applebaum (C'75) and Lucy Applebaum.

Blutt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund It's riveting when Rolling Stone editor Anthony DeCurtis interviews a rock legend for an audience of fifty in our Arts Café - and that's just what the Blutt Fund makes possible. This year's symposium featured alternative folk star and lyricist Natalie Merchant. Endowed by Mitchell Blutt (C'78, M'82, L'84, Trustee 1998-2008) and Margo Blutt.

Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund The Bok Fund enables us to celebrate the full range of contemporary writing at KWH by

SUPPORT FOR EVENTS

allowing us to pay honoraria to a remarkable number of poets, novelists, translators, essayists, and screenwriters year after year. This year's series

visitors included, among many others, firsttime novelist Michelle Adelman, experimental fiction writer Doug Nufer, and activist poet Rodrigo Toscano. The fund also supported a celebration of the life and work of poet C.K. Williams (C'59), with readings and talks by an extraordinary lineup of friends and admirers, including Daisy Fried, Jorie Graham, Edward Hirsch, Catherine Mauger-Williams, Alicia Ostriker, Susan Wheeler, and former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. Endowed by Roxanne Bok (C'81) and Scott Bok (C'81, W'81, L'84, *Trustee 2005–present).*

Lucy F. DeMarco Fund for Youth Literature Established in memory of Lucy F. DeMarco, a preschool educator and voracious reader, this fund supports programs engaging with children's and young adult literature. Endowed by Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C'88).

WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Matthew and Taylor Abess; Sarah Arkebauer; Greg Barron and Sarah Murphy; Rick, Lynn, and Alexa Barsky; Gordon and Sunny Bond; Eric Brotman; Lucy Cook; Maggie Katz Cordish and Reed Cordish; Bob and Marcia D'Augustine (in honor of Allie D'Augustine); Lee and George Doty; Ted and Judy Goldsmith; Todd and Stacy Gorelick; Neil and Monice Grabowski; Harry and Lyn Groome; Adam Groothuis; Halpern Foundation Charitable Trust; Steve and Jane Heumann; Ryan and Sara Rabold Hinkle; George Johnson; Joan Kim; Jean-Marie and Richard Kneeley; Deborah and Jon Laberge; David and Caroline Lee; Richard and Robbie Levin; Jenny Libien (in memory of Sasi Suwan); Frederick and Elizabeth Muller; Susie Orman Schnall; Mr. Pancks' Fund; Marjorie Perloff; John, Lori, and Hillary Reinsberg; Lee Rierson and Hadley Davis Rierson; Risa Rosenthal Green and Michael Green; Eric Rosof and Clare Bell; Susan Small Savitsky; Mark and Rachel Sherman; Steve and Miriam Sosnick; Lynn Strother; David Sussman; Sally and John Van Doren; Dan and Jill Wallen; Richard Weil; and Andy Wolk.

Robin Ebenstein; George Economou and Rochelle Owens; Andrew and Ricki Eisenstein; Carol Elias; Melissa Enns; Jane and Leonard Epstein; Ellen Ervin; Daniel Evans; Elizabeth Fader; Anne Fahey; Michelle Falkoff; Steven Fama; Robert Faunce; Harvey Feldman; William Fenrich; Catherine Field; Al Filreis; Sam and Lois Filreis; Jean Findlay; Joseph Finston; David and Barbara Fishback; Marjorie Fiterman; Deborah Fitzgerald Correll; Luellen Fletcher; Elicia Ford; Jenny Ford; Sallie Foster; Ben and Sharon Fountain; Peggy Fox; Peggy Franck; Adam Frank and Marnie Gordon; Alan and Arlene Freedman; Jacqueline Friedland; Liza Fuchs; Lise Funderburg; Roy Gainsburg; Greg Gallagher; Kristen Gallagher; Mark and Pamela Gallagher; Alana Galloway; Jenny Garcia; Steven and Teresa Tong Gee; Daniela Genin; Kari Gerber; Nadia Ghent; David Gillespie; Seamus and Mary Ann Gilson; Pepi Ginsberg; Jody Girgenti; Joann Girsh; Lenore Gittis; David Glancey and Alice Reyes; Kim Glaser; Daniel and Lyssa Goldberg; Noah Golden-Krasner; Sylvia and Cookie Goldfarb; Arthur Goldwyn; Susan Golumb; Mack Goode; Mark Gordon and Aldo Buono; Jack Gorman; David Green; Pat Green; Augusta Greenbaum; Deborah Greenberg and Michael Winnick; Rabbi Lisa S. Greene; Adele Aron Greenspun; Bruce and Karyn Greenwald; Angel Guzman; Susan Guzzo; Jennifer Gwartz; Agnes Haijer; Alexandra Halpern; Marie Hannye-Scurato; Liz Hanrahan; William J. Harris; Lothar and Cornelia Haselberger; Stephen Healy; Emily Heller; Steven and Thomas Heller; Paul and Ceil Hendrickson; Shelley Herbert; Janneck Herre; Lauren Herrmann; Ed and Susan Hoffman; Lisa Hoffstein; Brian and Sara Holland; Peter and Lynn Holstein; Rebecca Hubert Williams; Jerry Huncosky and Patti Candelari; Jeff and Cindy Hunt; Virgil Huston; Michael Hyde; Jeffrey Ingber; SE Ingraham; Lina Insana: David Isser: Diane Jacobs: Ed Jacobson: Carolyn Jacobson and Erik Simpson; Leigh Jacoby; Lynn Jerath; Helen Sewell Johnson; David T. and Teresa C. Jones; Debra Josephson; Jeffrey David Jubelirer; Betti Kahn and Bill Conrad; Sally Kaplan; Megan Karlan; Richard and Kathy Katz; Adam Kaufman; Jeffrey and Carol Kaufman; Donald Keim; Edward Kelly; Andrew Kevorkian; Caroline Soo Hyun Kim (in honor of Veronica Chambers); Liliana Kim; Janice Kimenhour; John Kingston; Samantha Kleier Forbes; Clifford Klein; Henry and Marcy Klein; Morton and Barbara Klein; Jody Rosen Knower; 23 Ruth Konigsberg; Rena and Joshua Kopelman;

Lance Donaldson-Evans; Debra Donnally; Paula and Howard Donsky; Charles Downey; Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof; Andrew Dulberg; Rachel Blau Duplessis; Philip Eager and Mimi Calter; Breck Eagle;

Chocolate chip cookie endowment

When Sarah Arkebauer (C'11) was a work-study student at KWH, she'd spend her down time in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen perfecting her chocolate chip cookie recipe and challenging friends to cookie throw-downs. She often joked: "When is the Writers House chocolate chip cookie endowment coming?" We laughed at the idea. Wouldn't that be nice?

Fast-forward five years: Sarah made her vision a reality. She gave us a call, sent us a gift for our general endowment, and established the Arkebauer Cookie Fund. Kelly Writers House now has a permanent pool of funding that will each year yield funds sufficient to purchase cookie supplies for future generations of culinary

Making things possible at Kelly Writers House really is this simple. Sarah's gift, which goes to our general endowment, supports an initiative that our students are already interested in; she has simply provided the capital to make it happen.

You, too, can make something happen at

Kelly Writers House. Gifts of any size are welcome to our general endowment and to many of our other special projects. To hear more about how you can help, contact Arielle Brousse (C'07, SPP'12), our assistant director for development, at brousse@writing.upenn.edu or (215) 573-4844.





Fund for Feminist Projects Through engaging and sometimes challenging programming, the student-led Feminism/s series explores how writing, art, criticism, and other political acts can enact social change. Events this year included a reading by award-winning local novelist Asali Solomon, who shared passages from her book, Disgruntled; and an evening with Ariel Levy, staff writer at The New Yorker. Endowed by an anonymous donor.



Chervl J. Family Fund for Fiction Programming The Cheryl J. Family Fund sponsors an annual reading by an up-and-coming novelist. This year, we hosted Julia Elliott, author of the celebrated short story collection The Wilds and the speculative fiction novel The New and Improved Romie Family (C'91).

Sylvia W. Kauders Fund The Kauders Fund allows us to arrange a series of intimate lunch programs, typically featuring writers of nonfiction. This year's Kauders series included visits by Tom Ferrick, founder of news site Metropolis, and Patrick Kerkstra, editor of Philadelphia Magazine. Endowed by Sylvia Kauders (CW'42).

Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer The Levin Endowed Fund enables our program coordinator to plan a program that engages her most creative impulses. For this year's Bernheimer Symposium program, we invited

The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual

two scholars — Yale anthropologist John Szwed and Columbia Comparative Literature professor Farah Jasmine Griffin — to reflect on the time that legendary blues artist Billie Holiday spent living in Philadelphia. Endowed by Kate Levin (GR'96) in memory of much-beloved Comp Lit professor Charles Bernheimer.





The Bob Lucid Memorial Fund Robert "Bob" Lucid was a visionary teacher and mentor whose pedagogy helped inspire and structure our literary community. Friends of the Writers House established this fund in his memory, to support an annual fiction program that pays tribute to Bob as a continuing inspiration. This year's Lucid program featured Joan Wickersham, whose most recent book, The News from Spain, was named one of the year's best fiction picks by NPR and The San Francisco Chronicle. Endowed by Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75) and Ed Kane (C'71, Trustee 1996-2000).

Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund The single largest programming gift in Writers House history, the Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund permanently endows our nonfiction programming, a range of events that includes readings, craft talks, and mentor meetings with journalists, memoirists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Among the Povich series highlights this year were talks with Pulitzer finalist and Washington Post features writer Karen Heller; Yahoo! national

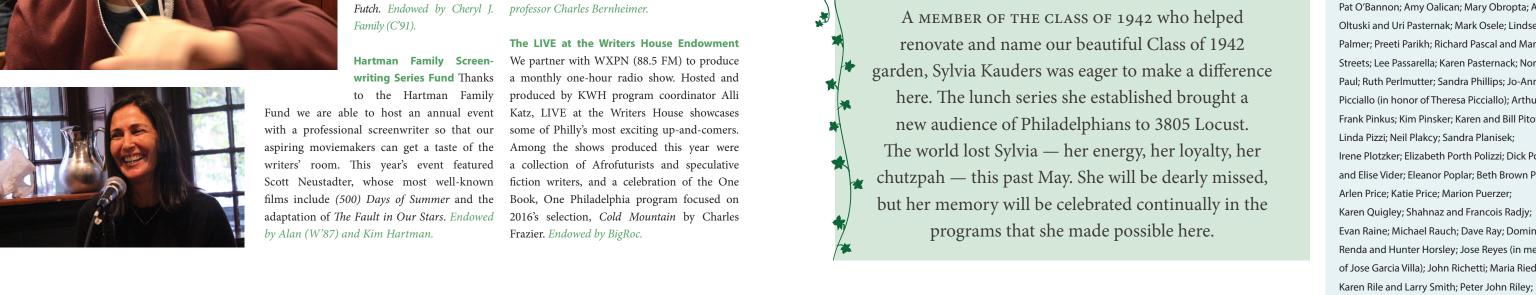
political columnist Matt Bai; and Vox culture editor Todd VanDerWerff. Endowed by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.

The Caroline Rothstein Fund in Support of Oral Poetry Through the Rothstein Fund we explore the oral tradition of poetry in its many forms — performance poetry, sound poetry, spoken word, and more. This year, the Rothstein Fund sponsored performances by Quraysh Ali Lansana and José Olivarez, two poets from the new Breakbeat Poets anthology. Endowed by Penn parents Nancy (CW'75) and Steven Rothstein in honor of their daughter Caroline Rothstein (C'06).

Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Fund We honor the memory of Eva and Leo Sussman — beloved grandparents of Daniel Morse - with an annual poetry program. Introduced by Charles Bernstein, this year's Sussman Program featured Patricia Spears Jones, a poet who has been active in New York's poetry scene for thirty years. Endowed by Penn parents Daniel and Miriam Morse in memory of Eva and Leo Sussman.

Nancy Kuhl; Beth Kwon; James and Susan La Marre; Pauline and Sherman Labovitz; Teresa Leo; Ruth Lepson; Lynn Levin; Kate Levin and Robin Shapiro; Wendy and Richard Levine (in honor of Alexandra Levine, C'12); Michelle Levister; Elena and Ken Levitan; Edward Levitt; Ford and Cindy Shmerler Levy; Joanne Lichtman; Paul and Karen Milhoua Lightfoot; Russel Like; Caren Lissner; Ronald Litman; Jessica Lowenthal and Ryan Godfrey; Virginia Lucas; Kenneth Lum; Elizabeth Lynch; Michael and Julie Lynch; Tom MacDonald; Jennifer Machiaverna; Tracy Mack; Gloria MacKay; Marcela Madrid; Elaine Maimon; John Majane; Pat Malay; Dea Mallin; John and Joan Mandryk; Claire Marcus; Alan Margolis; Sara Mark; Lynn Marsden-Atlass; Randi Marshall; Sydne, Matthew, and Abby Marshall (in memory of Leon H. Chazanow); Mary Ellen Martin; Marcia and Sarah Martinez-Helfman; Carol and Roger Masch; Kathleen Matson; Donald Matzkin; Greg Maughan; Barbara Maynard; Cecile Mazzucco-Than, Ph.D.; Murray McComas; Dr. Peter McCranie; Margaret McDonald; Andrew McGhie; Jesse McKendry; Anne and Joseph McKenna; Max McKenna; Kevin and Holly McLaughlin; Tammy McLeod; John Meehan; Jon Mejia; Daniel Menaker; Leslie and Jeffrey Mendell; Julie Merberg and son Morris Katz; Gerald Miller; Ilana Miller; Michael Miller; Seara Moon-Park; Kimberly Morel; Corey Morenz; Joli Brian Morgan; Wynne Morrison; Ken Morrow; Panna Naik; Sarah Eisen Nanus; Dabney Narvaez; Julie Naslund; Elinor Nathanson (in honor of Al Filreis); Cory Newman; David Newman and Gayle Shulman; Deirdre Newman and Hester Griffin; Alexander Newmark; Phoebe Nir; John Noonan; Jim Nooney; Margaret Norton; Loren Noveck (in memory of Sasi Suwan); Jane Nugent; Robert Numerof and Bob Shepard; Pat O'Bannon; Amy Oalican; Mary Obropta; Alicia Oltuski and Uri Pasternak; Mark Osele; Lindsey Palmer; Preeti Parikh; Richard Pascal and Mary Streets; Lee Passarella; Karen Pasternack; Norma Paul: Ruth Perlmutter: Sandra Phillips: Jo-Ann Picciallo (in honor of Theresa Picciallo); Arthur Pier Frank Pinkus; Kim Pinsker; Karen and Bill Pitofsky; Linda Pizzi; Neil Plakcy; Sandra Planisek; Irene Plotzker; Elizabeth Porth Polizzi; Dick Polmar and Elise Vider; Eleanor Poplar; Beth Brown Preston; Arlen Price; Katie Price; Marion Puerzer; Karen Quigley; Shahnaz and Francois Radjy; Evan Raine; Michael Rauch; Dave Ray; Dominique Renda and Hunter Horsley; Jose Reyes (in memory of Jose Garcia Villa); John Richetti; Maria Rieders; Karen Rile and Larry Smith; Peter John Riley; Roopika Risam; Andrew Robinson; 25

Jim and Nina Korsh; Lyn Kremer; Chris Kriesen;



WRITERS HOUSE ₩ROAD

A few times a year, we take Writers
House talent on the road to share the
accomplishments of our community
members with far-flung friends. The
generous hosts who open their living rooms
and galleries for these literary salons help
us to recreate the warmth and atmosphere
of a KWH event, affirming that Kelly Writers
House is more than just what happens
within the walls of 3805 Locust.

This past September, Kelly Writers House went bicoastal when Bruce Resnikoff (W'79) and Claudia Berman hosted a literary salon in their Beverly Hills home.

The living room overflowed with Southern California friends eager to reconnect with their Kelly Writers House compatriots.

In November, thanks to the ongoing generosity of Susan and Louis Meisel, we gathered over one hundred New York-area friends for the 14th annual Writers House New York at the famous Louis K. Meisel Gallery. The event featured readings and heartfelt testimonial by students, alumni, and faculty, including Buzz Bissinger (C'76).

And in May, Penn parents John and Sally Van Doren opened the doors of their Upper East Side art gallery to an intimate group of friends and community members old and new, including longtime supporter and Advisory Board member Maury Povich (C'62), and a prospective student who rushed uptown straight from her field hockey game to join us.



The Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Fund The Weber Fund allows us to explore the art of clear business writing through an annual symposium that celebrates a journalist who writes about finance and economics. Our seventh annual Weber Symposium featured Felix Salmon, commentator on economics and senior editor at Fusion. Endowed by Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber.

The Wexler Fund for Programs at the Kelly Writers House The Wexler Fund supports all kinds of projects, so that students and others may think creatively about what can happen in our space. The fund sponsored visits by poet Terrance Hayes (in collaboration with the Center for Africana Studies), novelist John Hough, and poet Jerome Rothenberg, along with several student-led readings, including an end-of-year showcase of work by The Body Electric. Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler.

Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture Thanks to the Wexler Family Fund, which helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture, this year we hosted poet,

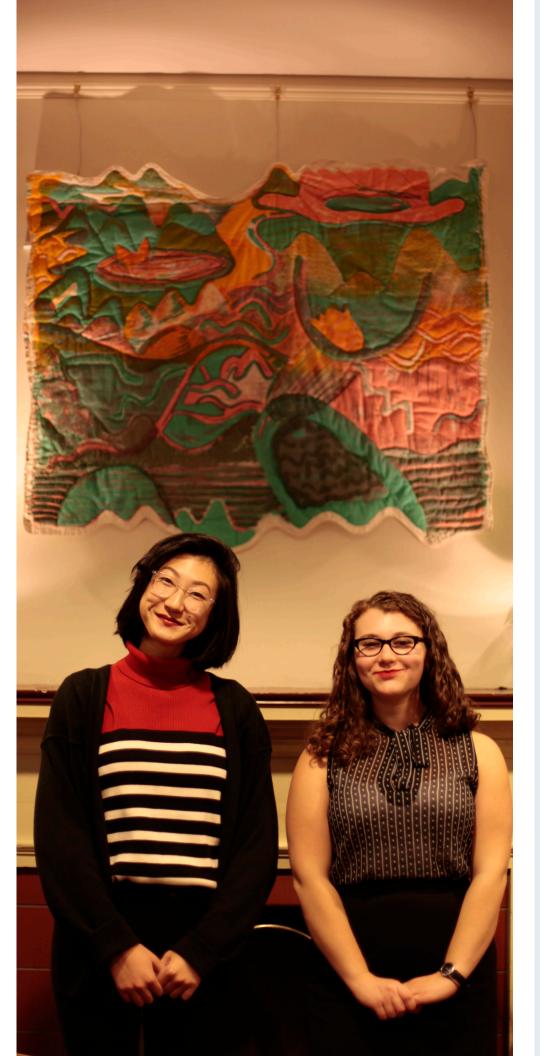


translator, and former MacArthur Fellow Peter Cole, and writer and lawyer Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, whose memoir *Bending Toward the Sun* explores how the memory of the Holocaust has become a legacy passed down from her mother — a survivor — to her and her daughter. The fund also helped us host an historic gathering in honor of the late Terrence Des Pres, a scholar of genocide and survivorship. *Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler*.

Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers Thanks to the financial support of our Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers, we can offer globally minded programming with international scope and appeal. Our Writers Without Borders series this year included a reading by Cuban poet Reina María Rodríguez, who visited with her translator Kristin Dykstra, and a conversation with Pakistani American novelist and playwright Ayad Akhtar, who discussed his Pulitzer-prize-winning play Disgraced with Penn faculty member Fariha Khan. The Ginns Fund was also instrumental in allowing us to honor the late Terrence Des Pres, with a symposium on genocide. Funded annually by Seth Ginns (C'00).



Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum; Stuart Applebaum (in honor of Lily Applebaum); Jon and Barbara Avnet; Armyan Bernstein and Christine Meleo Bernstein: Martin and Barbara Bienenstock: David Biro and Daniella Vitale; Black Heart Foundation; Elissa Caterfino Mandel; Gary and Lois Kohn Claar; Reuben Daniels; Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve; Cheryl Family and Ken Saji; Christopher Forman; Rob and Christine Friedman; Marlene and Alan Gilbert; Seth and Jane Ginns; Charles Goldman; Howard and Cambria Gordon; Hank and Carol Herman (in honor of Henry's 45th reunion): Marty Wallace and Ed Kane; Paul and Nancy Kelly; R. May Lee; Leight Foundation, Inc.; Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan; Ed and Marian Mulé; Dan Nir and Jill Braufman; Ilene and Art Penn; Brian and Jerilyn Perman; Maury Povich and Connie Chung; Wendy and Brett Prager; Bruce and Claudia Resnikoff; David and Deborah Roberts; Nancy Rothstein; Lee and Caryn Karmatz Rudy; Ricardo and Leslie Salmon; Marcy and Jeffrey Schneider; Jeffrey and Alexa Schwarz; Patty and Howard Silverstein; Adam Sokoloff and Susan Drossman; Ken Stein; Melissa and Larry Stoller; Philip and Jane Weingold; Paul Williams; Dirk and Kirsten Wittenborn; and Marc and Robin Wolpow.



Joyce and Steven Robinson; Richard Rofman; Peter Rogers; Matthew Rosenbaum; Karen Rosenberg; Emily Rosenfeld; Beryl Rosenstock; Jeffrey Rothbard; Caroline Rothstein; Dan Rottenberg; Patrick Ryan; Andrea Sachs Otto C'96; Harry Saffren; Laura Sanchez and Hal Broderson: Howard and Joan Sandick; Phil Sandick and Ariel Djanikian; Ann Margaret Sandin (in memory of Sasi Suwan); Michael and Ellen Sandler: Robert Sandler: Cindv Savett; Jonathan Saxon; Nina Schafer; James Schaffer; Karin Schaller and John Puckett; Susan Scheid; Rebecca Schnipper and Jacob Ohnouna; Dan Schorr; Susan Schwendener; Mary Scott; Matthew Selman; Lexa Shallcross; Helene Shavin; Mark and Marla Shavin; Jean Shen; Karen Sher; Patricia Sheykholeslami; Debbie and Sydney Shiffman; Genevieve Shore; Gina Signorella-Arlen; Richard and Mary Siller; Ron Silliman; Janet Heettner and Peter Silverman; Karen Silverman; Paul and Sue Silverman (in honor of Emma Silverman); Caroline M. Simon; David and Barbara Simon; Elaine Simon and David Crawford; Harry Simons; David Skeel; David Slarskey; Jonathan Slonim and Rifki Zable; Eleanor Smagarinsky; Kirby Smith; Roland Smith; Stacey Snider and Gary Jones; Zoe Snyder and parents; Judith and Barry Solar; Jordan and Melissa Sonnenblick C'91; Massimo Soranzio; Bill Speer; Nick Spitzer; Jane and Harris Steinberg; Eugene Stelzig; Eric Stern and Hannah Stutzman; Janet and Byron Stier; Eric and Rebecca Stone; Eileen Ryan Streight NU'64; Ann Strong; David Sweet; Stanimir Takov; Michael Tarnow; Peter Tarr; Elaine Terranova; Barbara and John Thomas; Barbara Tilley; Alex Tokar; Sherefiah Tomlinson; Nova Tower and Lauraine Deppe; Jane Treuhaft; David Ulin; Ellen Umansky and David Gutman; Georgia Van Cleve; Nenette Villaverde; John and Lucy Vosmek; Vijay and Ruta Wakharkar; Laura Walsh; Tim Waples and Anne Lambert; Emily Wasserman; Caroline Waxler; Meredith Weber; Laurie and Matthew Weingarten; Carole Weinheim Karsch ED'59 GED'78; Carly Weinreb; Sharon Weinstein; David Weiss and Maureen Cowie; Liliane Weissberg; Anne Wellner de Veer; Beth and Jeff White (in honor of Hannah White); Wendy and Larry White; Margaret Lehr Whitford; Jessica and Ken Wilan; Richard Williams (in memory of CK Williams); Eleanor Wilner Weinberg; Jerald Winakur; Kimberly Winnick; Flaura Winston; Michelle Wish; Elaine Y. Wong; Dave Worrell (in honor of Gina DeCagna); Charles Wright; Holly York; Henry and Judith Zachs; Harvey and Judy Zalesne; Nancy and Jay Zises; and Michael Zuckerman.

Become a Friend of the Writers House

Free Readings and workshops by contemporary writers. Coffee percolating in the kitchen. Conversations in the garden. Online archives of live performances by eminent authors. Internships and awards that let students explore their professional and personal passions — and opportunities for them to share what they've learned with each other. All of these things and more are funded through the annual donations of the many Friends of the Writers House.

The Kelly Writers House seeks assistance from its community members to help us with what people in the fundraising world call "term support" — small- and mid-sized donations that offset the costs of our programs in the immediate and near future.

Will you help us protect and sustain the Writers House project? Choose a level of support and send a check, and we will list you among the Friends of the Writers House. Your gift will be acknowledged in our electronic *Annual*, which is available on our website at *writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/friends.php*. If you want to remain anonymous, that's fine; you can also request that we publicize your gift in honor, or in memory, of others.

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For more information about the specific programs and projects at the Writers House, please visit our website:

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



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