

KELLY WRITERS HOUSE



2017 ANNUAL





Dear Friends of the Writers House,

C O N T E N T S

HIGHLIGHTS 4

FELLOWS 10

CREATIVE VENTURES 13

DIGITAL PROJECTS 14

OUTREACH 16

INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS,
AND MENTORSHIPS 18

FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE 20

Each year we wonder if we've finally reached our capacity for taking on big new projects. There's only so much space, only seven days in the week, and only so much we can ask of our tireless staff. But something always comes along that's just too exciting to pass up — a sparkling student proposal, a technical innovation, an unexpected opportunity — and so we discover the room to grow.

One such opportunity came along this summer. After years of dreaming about it, we finally launched a residential summer program for high school students. Twenty high school juniors and seniors came from all over the country to spend ten days at 3805 Locust Walk doing quintessential KWH things: hanging out on the porch, reading on the green couch, baking cookies in the kitchen, and writing, writing, writing. And thanks to the generosity of Maury Povich (C'62), we were able to offer more than half of the students financial assistance to attend this rigorous, rewarding program.

This is what KWH is all about: people coming together to enact big ideas.

Members of our Planning Committee led the way in many new initiatives this year. Maya Arthur (C'18), winner of the 2016–17 Kerry Prize, founded “Radical Tea,” an ongoing zine workshop and discussion group designed to nurture political awareness. Grad students Orchid Tierney (G'19) and Ariel Resnikoff (G'20) released the first issue of *Supplement*, a massive venture that brought together dozens of poets and artists. Our community partnerships developer Rachel Zolf, with help from Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice and the LGBT Center, launched “transcribez,” a writing group for trans and gender-nonconforming youth.

In the pages of this annual, you'll read about some of these people and projects. The Highlights section (pp. 4–12) details some of our public programming, which focused now more than ever on journalistic truth-telling, activism, and student engagement. Our Digital Projects section (pp. 14–15) reflects on innovative media supported by KWH. News of community resources and projects that reach beyond the campus can be found in the Outreach pages (pp. 16–17). Our Internships, Apprenticeships, and Mentorships section (pp. 18–19) also looks far beyond Penn to student opportunities around the country. Finally, the last pages of the annual name all of the Friends of the Writers House, without whom this project simply would not exist.

Last year's twentieth anniversary reminded us that KWH is made by the people who spend time here, people who have changed how visitors are welcomed and stories are told. And we remain grateful 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. With help from all of you, we can continue taking on breakthrough projects we never could have imagined when KWH was founded in 1995!

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

Text: Lily Applebaum, R.J. Bernocco, Arielle Brousse, Zach Carduner, Al Filreis, Emily Harnett, Jamie-Lee Josselyn, Alli Katz, Jessica Lowenthal, Kenna O'Rourke, Meg Pendoley, Rachel Zolf

Photography: Maura Reilly-Ulmanek, Amanda Silberling, Mary Osunlana, Jacob Kind, Lisa Liu, Al Filreis, KWH Staff

Design: Zach Carduner

Al
Al Filreis
Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English

Jessica
Jessica Lowenthal
Director

HIGHLIGHTS



The Writers House hosted **132** public programs this year, including student-run open mic nights, lunchtime discussions with visiting journalists, poetry and fiction readings, live radio shows, art openings, interactive webcasts, food festivals, multimedia presentations, and more.

MULTIMEDIA PRACTICE

Words like “poetry” and “performance” hardly begin to describe the work of longtime collaborators **Pierre Joris** and **Nicole Peyrafitte**, who visited KWH as part of the Multilingual Poetics series curated by **Ariel Resnikoff** (GR’20). Their multigenre appearance at KWH included music, spoken word, critical theory, media, and culinary demonstration, all informed by “domopoetics,” a term coined by Peyrafitte to describe the pair’s collaborative, domestic-creative-experimental mode. References to Orpheus and the Sumerians shared space with discussions of bodies and Ingmar Bergman in a memorable presentation that traversed the mythological, cultural, and intensely personal. For the finale, a trio of students entered the Arts Café whisking cream in metal bowls, providing rhythmic accompaniment to a cacophonous rendition of “La Vie en rose.” In true domopoetic fashion,

attendees enjoyed the finished whipped cream over crepes made by Peyrafitte and students in Ariel’s writing seminar.

FEMINIST JOURNALISM NOW

Jezebel founder **Anna Holmes**, Penn professor **Salamishah Tillet**, and student journalists **Taylor Hosking** (C’17) and **Rebecca Tan** (C’19) weighed in on their definitions of “journalist,” “rigor,” and “mainstream” for this year’s Applebaum Editors and Publishers panel. Creative Writing director **Julia Bloch** moderated the discussion, which focused on feminist publishing and media. Holmes expressed discomfort about the commodification of gender politics — what she called “‘you go girl’ type advertising” or “skim-milk feminism” — and Hosking noted the shift to “feminist” marketing in large publications like *Teen Vogue*. Tan asked her fellow panelists how to balance empathy and skepticism as a female reporter, citing recent examples of reporting

about sexual assault on college campuses. Each of the panelists considered the pros and cons of feminism in the Internet age, from the rise of bloggers of color to the problematic confessionals of *xoJane*. In the Q and A session, Tillet discussed Beyoncé’s feminist evolution, as well as the shift in terminology from Black feminism to intersectional feminism. All of the participants spoke thoughtfully on what Hosking termed “insist[ing] upon your own humanity” in a complex field.





Check out videos, photos, and more from all of our past events and programming at: writing.upenn.edu/wh/calendar.

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

KWH hosted many events this year sponsored by our partners in Penn's Creative Writing Program, who are committed to introducing students to contemporary writers through public readings, class visits, informal meetups, and cross-campus collaborations.

- ▶ "Writing and Science," a panel discussion at KWH led by faculty members **Michelle Taransky** and **Sam Apple**, began with a weighty question: what is the role of the writer in critiquing science? Climate writer **Eli Kintisch** and poet **Marcella Durand** did their best to answer, offering insight about empirical versus emotional truth and the role of creative works in advancing science.
- ▶ The conditions for this year's Creative Writing honors thesis reading, as Creative Writing director **Julia Bloch** pointed out, were cosmically right: Mercury was in retrograde and there was a new moon in Taurus. Student readers included thesis prize-winners **Hannah Judd** (C'17), **Pallavi Wakharkar** (C'17), and **Connie Yu** (C'17).
- ▶ An ambitious, multipart visit by Toronto-based poet-critic **Trish Salah** brought together different constituencies across Penn and Philadelphia. Activities included a PennSound podcast recording, a workshop in our transcribez series, a lecture on trans literature, and a reading downtown.
- ▶ Hopeful writers packed the Arts Café for a special panel on finding an agent, featuring Penn instructors **Beth Kephart** and **Carmen Machado**, novelists **Stephanie Feldman** and **Sara Sligar** (GR'19), and agent **Josh Getzler** (C'90) — a crowd of panelists that required our extra-long table extensions. Panelists talked about the "beauty contest" of author wooing, the "rom-com" of finding a good agent, and the "cramp in the stomach" that a good pitch will give a reader.
- ▶ Novelist **Nicole Dennis-Benn**, who taught a free workshop at KWH this fall, read from her prize-winning debut *Here Comes the Sun*, speaking eloquently about the "postcolonial scars" of her home country, Jamaica. Brief but vivid glimpses of her characters Delores, Margot, and Thandi illustrated Jamaica's colorism and class politics.

ON FICTION AND TASTYKAKES

Our Cheryl J. Family Fiction Series reader **Alexandra Kleeman** shared strange, unsettling, and experimental work from her collection of short stories *Intimations* during her November visit to KWH. Kleeman, who also wrote the wildly popular novel *You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine*, offered advice about transitioning from short fiction to longer works. "With a short story," she said, "it is possible to get as close to perfect as you yourself can make it. You can get down to the sentence level, the word level, get every little molecule in place. If you do that with a novel you're going to drive yourself crazy." The night ended on a sugar rush: Kleeman's novel features a processed, sugary treat called TastyKakes — similar, though not identical, to the famous Philly confection — so we decided to bake our own: towers of cake weighed down with pastel marshmallows, chocolate, icing, and sprinkles.

A POET'S CENTURY

It was an honor to welcome **Naomi Replansky** for a reading of her work and a conversation about twentieth-century poetry. Replansky was uniquely prepared for such a discussion: the ninety-nine-year-old poet, who worked with Bertolt Brecht and once met Gertrude Stein, published her first work in *Poetry* magazine in 1934. The editor who accepted her poems was the founding editor of that key modernist magazine, Harriet Monroe herself. Faculty director **Al Filreis** spoke with Replansky about those crucial literary relationships, as well as feminism, Jewish antifascist organizing, modernism, and survival. (When Al asked for advice on navigating tough times, Replansky replied: "Survive.") "In twenty years of Writers House programs," Al reflected, "there have been just five or six that truly rise to the level of unreproducibly legendary, and Naomi's visit was certainly one of those. Unforgettable!"

Cindia Huang (C'17), **Amanda Silberling** (C'18), and others helped craft a giant cardboard and cellophane whale in the Student Projects Space for our marathon reading of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. (The whale was so big, we had to dismantle it to bring it downstairs).





ALUMNI VISITORS

- ▶ Deputy managing editor of *ProPublica* and Pulitzer Prize winner **Eric Umansky** (C'00) spoke to an audience of students and concerned citizens about the very real threats facing investigative journalists in the challenging landscape of American politics.
- ▶ Reading English translations of work originally written in German, Yiddish, and Russian, poet-translators **Ariel Resnikoff** (GR'20) and **Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach** (GR'19) joined 2016–17 Junior Fellow **Nick Defina** (C'16) for a multilingual presentation that capped off his year of thinking and writing about literary translation.
- ▶ Co-sponsored by *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize, and the Creative Writing Program, a panel of alumni

described career opportunities in publishing, journalism, and digital media. The inimitable **Stephen Fried** (C'79) hosted the standing-room-only session with **Maria Popova** (C'07), **Jessica Goodman** (C'12), and **David Borgenicht** (C'90).



THE POLITICS OF JOURNALISM

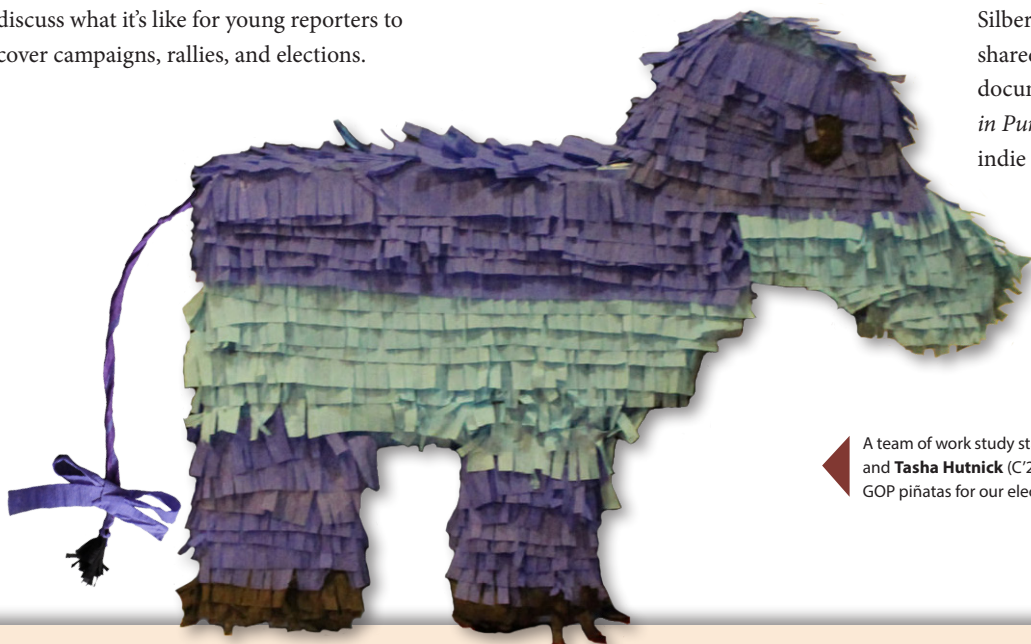
Journalist **Dick Polman**, backed by the Sylvia W. Kauders Fund and the Povich Journalism Program Fund, helped us navigate this year's tumultuous political climate. Dick curated a number of programs focused on the presidential election and the media's role in the national conversation, featuring hardworking and hardhitting journalists including **Uri Friedman** (*The Atlantic*), **Kathleen Parker** (*Washington Post*), **Jack Shafer** (*Politico*), **Andrew Rosenthal** (*New York Times Op-Eds*), and Penn alumni **Eric Umansky** (*ProPublica*) and **Matt Flegenheimer** (*The New York Times*). For our annual Alumni Day event, Dick convened a lively panel, with **Jim Newell** (C'07) of *Slate* and **Emily Schultheis** (C'11) of *CBS Interactive*, to discuss what it's like for young reporters to cover campaigns, rallies, and elections.

FICTION-WRITING FRIENDS

Here at KWH, we know that our friends and co-workers are brimming with talent, so it was particularly exciting to host a joint reading by **Emma Eisenberg**, CPCW front-desk person extraordinaire, and **Sam Allingham**, former KWH administrative assistant. Emma shared a piece from her novel-in-progress (or "novel-thing," as she put it). Sam read from his short-story collection *The Great American Songbook*, which includes the titular story about Rodgers and Hart originally published as a hand-printed chapbook by **Henry Steinberg** (C'13) as part of **Karen Rile's** 2013–14 Beltran Teaching Award project.

WE'RE HERE, WE'RE PRESENT

Founded by **Amanda Silberling** (C'18) in 2015 and supported by our Fund for Feminist Projects, the Shifting the Gaze series provides a platform for conversations about gender and equity in music. January's installment of Shifting the Gaze had revolutionary punk rocker **Alice Bag** and filmmaker Silberling wrestling with heavy material in their discussion on the history of punk. Bag talked about her experience as a young Chicana musician coming up in the LA scene and the challenge of keeping punk true to its radical roots. Recalling a difficult childhood, she said, "it wasn't until I found punk that I truly felt I had a voice." Her first show convinced her that "a feeling of connectedness, of community, was the thing that would change the world." Silberling, who toured with Bag last summer, shared clips from her behind-the-scenes documentary *We're Here, We're Present: Women in Punk*, featuring Bag and the Ohio-based indie punk band Leggy.



A team of work study staffers, helmed by **Nick Seymour** (C'19) and **Tasha Hutnick** (C'20), handcrafted a set of Democrat and GOP piñatas for our election returns viewing party.

► **Tahneer Oksman** (C'01), in conversation with CPCW instructor **Karen Rile**, grappled with questions about feminism, Jewish identity, and comics as a literary form: What does it mean to be Jewish without belief? Can stereotypes be constructively used in comics?

► The Brodsky Gallery showcased work by interdisciplinary artist **Liz Barr** (C'16), who uses familiar shapewear and cosmetic products to reveal the gendered body as a sculpture we make and mold.

► In the wake of racist attacks against students in November, social worker and feminist writer **Feminista Jones** (C'02) led a conversation about the history of protest on campus and the power and responsibility of

privilege. Jones challenged student leaders to collaborate and consider the tangible impact their groups could have on Black students' lives.



AFGHAN VOICES

“Writing is a gift, not a crime,” wrote editor **Pari** in her introduction to *Washing the Dust from Our Hearts*, an anthology of poetry and prose by women in the Afghan Women’s Writing Project (AWWP). “It is time to celebrate our victory over silence and celebrate our voices,” she urged. To honor and amplify these important Afghan voices, poet and Creative Writing faculty member **Laynie Browne** brought KWH community members together to present work from the anthology. Read aloud by students, scholars, and poets (including two writers from the AWWP project), women’s stories rang out in the Arts Café, revealing fraught histories and hope for a different future. One essay from the collection, read by **Becca Lambright** (C’19), described reading and writing as transformative practices: “Yesterday my sister’s dream was to read the book. Today she is in the library. Tomorrow she will write the book.” A poem read by Philadelphia Poet Laureate **Yolanda Wisher** emphasized storytelling as a means of survival: “If I fail to tell my stories of struggle / I will lose myself.”



POETRY IN THE HOUSE

- **Ross Gay**, our 2016–17 Sussman Poetry reader, shared poems rooted in an “unabashed gratitude” for fruit trees, growing things, and good dirt. He brought with him poems that, while in no way “easy,” did ease some November fear and fatigue with lines that called for connectivity — to the earth and one another.
- **Aleksandr Skidan**, the “crown prince of Russian avant-garde poetry,” joined us for a reading and conversation that touched upon intergenerational approaches to translation, the intersection of astrophysics and poetry, and delayed ruptures in consciousness brought about by trauma.
- To celebrate the launch of *Supplement*, a new annual anthology of poetry and visual art founded by **Orchid Tierney** (GR’19) and **Ariel Resnikoff** (GR’20), we gathered over twenty poets for a flash reading.
- “It has been a shitty and magical year,” **Bhanu Kapil** announced before reading poems about diaspora and institutional trauma. “It’s so wretched to be the poet,” she said. Poet **Lucas de Lima** helped Kapil “convert” from person to poet by carefully pouring tea over her head. “In an ideal world,” de Lima declared, “everyone would be reading Bhanu Kapil.”
- On an unseasonably warm February night, we welcomed two poets laureate: Philadelphia Poet Laureate **Yolanda Wisher** and Youth Poet Laureate **Otter Jung-Allen**, who read poems about self-love, black-eyed peas, third-grade violin recitals, and slow evenings in West Philadelphia.
- “I do not mind having an accent at all,” **Li Zhimin** declared during his October reading of his book *Zhongalish*. Zhimin prompted laughs from the lunch crowd when he challenged Western linguistic authority, reading poems about English curse words, Emily Dickinson, and taunting his old English teacher.
- Co-sponsored by Penn’s **Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations**, students and faculty united to “un-ban” poetry, reading poems in Arabic, Persian, and English by writers from countries included in the Trump administration’s Muslim ban.

COMMUNAL POEM-MAKING

2016–17 Beltran Teaching Award recipient **Laynie Browne** arranged for a two-part visit by Chilean poet-artist **Cecilia Vicuña**. In an afternoon workshop, a small group of student poets — including **Carlos Price-Sanchez** (C’18), **Becca Lambricht** (C’19), **Mary Osunlana** (C’20), and **Connie Yu** (C’17) — drew together along the edges of a large communal sheet of paper and practiced sounding, listening, writing, stitching, and reading to create a collaborative work of charcoal and colored thread. In the evening, Vicuña offered an improvisational and interactive public performance that included movement, film, conversation, and silence. Browne noted that the visit reminded her of the urgency and connectivity of poetry.

FEMINISM & POP CULTURE

For **Jia Tolentino**, good writing is just like good conversation: it depends on “intrigue,” “chemistry,” and “nosiness.” Those writerly joys have buoyed Tolentino throughout her career, first as an editor at the feminist culture websites *The Hairpin* and *Jezebel* and now as a contributing writer at *The New Yorker* online, where she has written about misogyny in presidential debates and the fun of silly films like *A Dog’s Purpose*, among other subjects. In a wide-ranging conversation at KWH with **Emily Harnett** (C’13), Tolentino discussed her experience in so-called “women’s media” and the uneasy relationship of popular culture and feminist politics. Each new subject, she said, is like a mysterious stranger in a bar — someone “you just want to keep talking to.” As the program ended, a number of women writers, educators, and activists in attendance joined Tolentino in a tight-knit circle in the Arts Café, lost in a good conversation of their own.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS



FEBRUARY
MARIA BAMFORD
STAND-UP COMEDIAN, ACTOR



MARCH
NATHANIEL MACKEY
POET, JAZZ SCHOLAR



APRIL
LYDIA DAVIS
FICTION WRITER

Supported generously since 1999 by **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64), the **Kelly Writers House Fellows Program** invites three eminent authors for intensive two-day visits. Undergraduates in the associated Kelly Writers House Seminar spend a full five weeks studying the work of each author.

FELLOWS VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Reversing a more typical classroom dynamic, Maria Bamford asked Fellows Seminar students to describe their own creative projects. Bamford's interest and advice helped set the students at ease in the presence of the comedy icon.
- ▶ Nate Mackey asked cellist **Hannah Judd** (C'17) to join him for an improvisational duet; Hannah played cello while Mackey read a series of poems from his latest poetry book, *Blue Fasa*.
- ▶ During a snack break with Lydia Davis, the Fellows Seminar students re-created a powerful scene from a favorite short story. A brown rice casserole — homemade by **Ashley Stinnett** (C'17) — recalled a similar dish in a Davis story.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Students in the Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar completed special projects to prepare for in-depth conversations with each Fellow.

Maya Arthur (C'18) catalogued Bamford's extensive work as a voice actor with a detailed glossary of her animated characters.

Annie Fang (C'19) took an audio tour of Mackey's PennSound page in order to describe and assess his performance style.

Becca Lambright (C'18) considered the critical reception of Bamford's quirky autobiographical show, *Lady Dynamite*.

Frances Patano (C'17) served as class biographer of Davis and helped everyone distinguish fictional and autobiographical details in the stories.

Pallavi Wakharkar (C'17) presented research about jazz, improvisation, and Dogon cosmology to help contextualize Mackey's ongoing serial poem *Songs of the Andoumboulou*.



LETTERPRESS EPHEMERA

Henry Steinberg (C'13) and **Lily Applebaum** (C'12) crafted beautiful letterpress posters to mark each Fellow's visit. They styled Maria Bamford's poster like a vaudeville broadside, with vintage magic-show iconography. The print of Nate Mackey's "Ghost of a Trance" featured translucent silver ink, only visible from some angles. For Lydia Davis, Steinberg and Applebaum set the story "Suddenly Afraid," whose spelling errors and typographical confusions presented a delightful challenge.



FEEDING OUR FELLOWS

With help from KWH student cooks, chef **Erin Gautsche** cooked seasonal meals to honor each of our visiting Fellows. Her inventive, mostly vegetarian food — including spicy rasam soup with turmeric crouton (for Bamford), radicchio and citrus salad with preserved lemon (for Mackey), and cauliflower steaks with walnuts and capers (for Davis) — delighted everyone, even committed meat-eaters, who raved about Erin's complex flavors.

POETRY IN EXILE

During a visit to KWH in January as part of our Writers Without Borders series, Burmese poet **ko ko thett** spoke with **Charles Bernstein** about writing poetry in exile, the possibilities and problems of translation, and the complicated but pleasurable experience of writing poems in English ("It's like rubber," thett said with admiration). While thett doesn't consider himself a "protest poet," his work often confronts the politics of language. He read from one poem inspired by Bernstein's "The Lie of Art": "I hate language as the weapon of the powerless / I hate weapons as the language of the powerful." Other poems — about exile, history, cities, and bodies — challenged the order and rule of English grammar by subverting its conventions.

NO LINE BREAKS

This fall marked our second annual No Line Breaks celebration of student prose. Half of the night's talented readers overcame sickness to read in groggy voices at this poetry-free event. **Jeffrey Yang** (C'19) began the reading with two stories: one about driving to the end of the world, the other about a monster named The Lonely. **Sarah Wilson** (C'17) followed with a narrative journalism piece about Mummars in Philly's raucous "Two Street" neighborhood. **Rebecca Tan**'s (C'19) personal essay about her family in Singapore and their preferred *kopi* drinks touched on the ways that family habits bridge vast geographical distance. **Zoe Stoller** (C'18) addressed her reading to the mythical Greek princess Iphigenia, while **Emily Schwartz** (C'19) reflected on the strong female family members who helped shape her. **Peter LaBerge** (C'17) closed out the night with a nonfiction piece about formative experiences on a church camping trip. The program concluded with **Jessica Lowenthal**'s directive for the subsequent reception: "You must eat the cupcakes!"






NONFICTION ROUNDTABLES

Slate columnist and critic-at-large **Stephen Metcalf** brought his hosting skills (made famous on the *Culture Gabfest* podcast) to KWH twice this year for roundtable conversations sponsored by our Povich Journalism Program Fund (see list at right for all of this year's Povich-sponsored visitors). For the first program, Stephen joined **David Grann** (of *The New Yorker*) and faculty director **Al Filreis** to talk about Grann's book *The Lost City of Z*, narrative nonfiction, and the search for giant squid. For the second, Stephen and Al teamed up again, this time to chat with **Wesley Morris**, *New York Times* critic and co-host of the podcast *Still Processing*, about lessons in podcasting, the Trump administration, and the intellectual labor required to be a good critic.

POVICH JOURNALISM PROGRAM VISITORS

- David Borgenicht** (C'90) Quirk Books CEO
- Jessica Goodman** (C'12) *Entertainment Weekly* digital news editor
- David Grann** *New Yorker* staff writer, author of *Lost City of Z*
- Bob Englehart** political cartoonist
- Matt Flegenheimer** (C'11) *New York Times* Metro reporter
- Stephen Fried** (C'79) investigative journalist
- Uri Friedman** *The Atlantic* staff writer
- Jennifer Lin** reporter, author of *Shanghai Faithful*
- Stephen Metcalf** *Slate* critic-at-large
- Wesley Morris** *New York Times* journalist and critic-at-large
- Jim Newell** (C'07) *Slate* staff writer
- Kathleen Parker** *Washington Post* political columnist
- Molly Petrilla** freelance writer and editor
- Maria Popova** (C'07) *Brain Pickings* founder
- Amy Rosenberg** *The Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer
- Andrew Rosenthal** *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist
- Emily Schultheis** (C'11) freelance journalist
- Jack Shafer** *Politico* senior media writer
- Jessica Sidman** *Washingtonian* magazine food editor
- Steve Twomey** Pulitzer Prize winning journalist
- Eric Umansky** (C'00) *ProPublica* deputy managing editor





3m-4:10pm	Sophie Pelosi
4:10-4:20pm	Kelly Ann Laroe
4:20-4:30pm	Amanda Silberling
4:30-4:40pm	Heather Neifert
4:40-4:50pm	Lorrie
4:50-5pm	Maria
5pm-5:10pm	Ma

CREATIVE VENTURES

MULTIMEDIA ARTISTS

New Penn faculty members **Brooke O’Harra** and **Sharon Hayes** joined us for a conversation about interdisciplinary work, the challenges faced by artists who teach, and the pleasures and politics of collaboration. Brooke emphasized the need for compromise in collaborative work, citing her lesbian soap opera, *Room for Cream*. “It took about halfway through the first season to be like, oh, everything I hate, everyone else likes,” she laughed.

CULINARY CREATIVITY

Memorable entries from this year’s annual Edible Books contest included “Infinite Pesto” by **Maya Arthur** (C’18) and “Are You There Pod? It’s Me, Margarine” by the seemingly unbeatable duo of **Maura Reilly-Ulmanek** (C’17) and **Connie Yu** (C’17), who took home several prizes. For another food-focused event, **Maya Arthur** (C’18) and **Michaela Kotziers** (C’17) planned a Valentine’s Day *Chopped*-style chili cook-off. Chili round winners **Hannah Judd** (C’17) and **Nick Seymour** (C’19) sparred in the head-to-head dessert round that followed, using surprise ingredients: donut holes, candy hearts, and canned beets. Hannah’s bread pudding beat out Nick’s croque-en-bouche for a sweet first-place finish.

WRITING ABOUT TV

Our fourth annual **Writing About TV** program focused on ideas about “home.” **Brad Pettigrew** (C’17) described the incongruity of seeing his hometown on *The Sopranos*, while **Sameer Rao** discussed TV that “hits close to home” — in this case, how representations of violence in *The Shield* resonates in today’s political climate. **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05) and **Molly Eichel** explored ways that TV brought each of their homes together: for Jamie-Lee, through televised sports, for Molly, through *The Simpsons*. **Syra Oritz-Blanes** (C’17) shared how the powerful female characters in *Jane the Virgin* reminded her of her family. And **Tyler Burke** (C’17) recounted his own familial TV story, reading a moving essay about his father, who was a cast member on Fox’s 2001 sitcom *The Tick*.

POETRY AND URBAN SPACE

Davy Knittle’s (GR’20) City Planning Poetics series staged cross-disciplinary conversations about poetry and the built environment. In the fall, planning historian **Francesca Ammon** and poet **Jason Mitchell** traded ideas about the tools that shape our human-made spaces. Springtime brought together poet **Rachel Levitsky** and geographer **Max Andrucki** for a discussion about the ways queer people make space in cities, and the ways cities make queer space.

A YEAR OF DYLAN

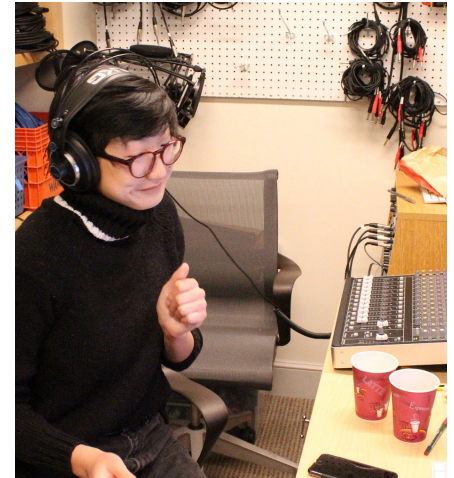
The distinctive tones of Bob Dylan sounded throughout the house many times this year, with three programs focused on Dylan’s stylings, politics, and influence. **Al Filreis** and **Patrick Bredehoft** presided over their fourth convention of “Dylanologists” to discuss a single album, *Highway 61 Revisited*. **Sarah Wilson** (C’17) gathered Philly musicians **Abi Reimold**, **Issie Ivins**, and **Benjamin Gress** to perform favorite Dylan covers in the spirit of political protest. RealArts@Penn impresario **Anthony DeCurtis** convened a second panel of musicians — The Bongos frontman **Richard Barone**, producer-singer-songwriter **Steve Addabbo**, and Guggenheim Fellow winner **Anna Weesner** — to consider Dylan’s recent collection of Great American Songbook tunes, “Triplicate.”

CAPITAL PRIZES

As KWH director **Jessica Lowenthal** put it, Creative Ventures Capital prizes allow students to “fulfill their most interesting ideas.” **Ivana Kohut** (C’18) spent a month in her family’s village in Cuba conducting anthropological research on lullaby traditions. **Justin Sheen** (C’17) spent two weeks writing about Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost point in the US. And **Amanda Silberling** (C’18) went on tour with up-and-coming band Leggy and punk progenitor Alice Bag to create a documentary about women in music.

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.

DIGITAL PROJECTS



JACKET2

► <http://jacket2.org>

Since 2011, KWH has housed the international online poetics journal, *Jacket2*, with crucial help from our student editorial assistants. Each year, *Jacket2* editors teach students the work of editing an academic journal, including proofreading, copyediting, image design, and overseeing website content. Managing editor **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) and editor **Julia Bloch** were pleased to convene monthly editorial meetings featuring snacks, proofreading tips and tricks, and intense preparation for a new edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* (CMOS). At the end of the year we roasted and toasted and bid teary goodbyes to veteran editorial assistant and graduating senior **Mariah Macias** (C'17), who was reluctant to ship her copy of CMOS 16 back with her to California, but happy for her time at J2. Mariah, as well as our editorial assistants **Brianne Alphonso** (C'18), **Meerie Jesuthasan** (C'19), **Amy Stidham** (C'18), and **Connie Yu** (C'17), helped publish a slew of reviews and articles this year, as well as our newly launched Capsule Reviews series.

PENNSOUND

► <http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound>

Twelve years after its inception, PennSound remains faithful to the vision originally set forth by co-founders **Al Filreis** and **Charles Bernstein**. Thanks to their continuing dedication, as well as the talent and efforts of **Zach Carduner** (C'13), **Michael Hennessey**, **Steve McLaughlin** (C'08), **Chris Mustazza** (GEN'07, LPS'15, GR'19), and a team of undergraduate and alumni sound technicians, PennSound is the world's largest collection of free online poetry recordings.

New and rare archival content acquired this year included eighteen CDs with recordings of **Kit Robinson**, three videos of **Robert Creeley**, a massive selection of recordings from the Kootenay School of Writing in Vancouver, and several boxes of physical media digitized by PennSound media assistant **David Satten-Lopez** featuring recordings of the late **Aaron Kramer**.

KWH media editor **Lauren Feiner** (C'17) archived a steady stream of Arts Café recordings throughout the year, including readings by visiting poets **Will Alexander**, **Rachel Levitsky**, **Bhanu Kapil**, **Peter Middleton**, **ko ko thett**, and **Tyrone Williams**.

PennSound is also an online home to several contemporary reading series, including the Belladonna* Series and the Segue Series, both out of NYC; and the Cross Cultural Poetics series hosted by poet **Leonard Schwartz** on KAOS-FM out of Olympia, Washington. The newest series archived at PennSound include the Lévy Gorvy Gallery Reading Series from NYC (courtesy of **Sylvia Gorelick**), the Poetry in Conversation series hosted at the Centre for Stories in Perth, Australia (courtesy of **Robert Wood**), and Philadelphia's own Housework at Chapterhouse (courtesy of **Levi Bentley**).



WEXLER STUDIO

The Wexler Studio enables KWH community members to experiment with A/V production and editing. The studio's robust output this year — including podcasts, debut EPs, film dubbing, recordings of poets, author interviews, and a radio play — allowed Wexler staff to hone their production skills and explore a range of approaches to sound engineering and editing.

- **FACULTY COLLABORATIONS** Fellow in Poetics and Poetic Practice **Edwin Torres** worked with drummer **Isaac Silber** (C'14) and cellist **Hannah Judd** (C'17) on a collection of experimental jazz-poetry tracks. Students of **Rose Malague** (Theatre Arts) and **Bruce Lenthall** (History) produced a contemporary adaptation of *War of the Worlds*, the radio play made famous by Orson Welles in 1938.
- **POEMTALK** KWH faculty director Al Filreis recorded ten new episodes of his long-running monthly podcast **PoemTalk**. Episode 109 featured **Siobhan Phillips**, **Emily Harnett** (C'13), and **Joseph Massey** in a discussion of **Kate Colby's** seventy-two-page poem "I Mean," in which, through the repetition of "I mean," "the idea of meaning continuously unfurls," as Massey put it. Episode 117 featured a discussion of **Larissa Lai's** "Nascent Fashion," with Vancouver-based poets, **Daphne Marlatt**, **Colin Browne**, and **Fred Wah**, who stopped by KWH on their US tour.
- **STUDENT PODCASTS** **James Fisher** (C'19) launched "The Kiki," a podcast that explores the Black student experience at Penn. **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) and **Maya Arthur** (C'18) co-hosted "Witching Hour," a lighthearted podcast dedicated to witches and witchery. **Stephanie Hodges** (C'17), **Taylor Hosking** (C'17), and **Joyce Varma** (C'18) made "In the Cut," a series about interesting and overlooked facets of Penn.
- **STUDENT PROJECTS** **Tyler Burke** (C'17) worked on *Tiny Instruments*, a web-based mockumentary miniseries available on YouTube under the channel name "Tiny Instruments." He also served as the recording engineer for fellow senior **Hannah Judd's** debut EP, *Songs to Sing Alone to Yourself*, featuring nine compositions for voice and cello. And power duo Eleven, comprised of **Blue Bookhard** (C'17) and **Karis Stephen** (C'18), with help from violinist **Becca Lambright** (C'19), recorded several tracks, available at [Facebook.com/XI.sounds](https://www.facebook.com/XI.sounds).
- **COMMUNITY USE** The nonpartisan political advocacy group **The Committee of Seventy** relocated their podcast, "20 by Seventy," to the Wexler Studio. And Princeton professor **Susan Stewart** invited a group of Chinese poets and scholars for a tour of the studio that culminated in a hands-on recording session (you can find their work under the Anthologies section at PennSound).



MODPO

► <https://coursera.org/learn/modpo>

Al Filreis and a group of teaching assistants offered the fifth installment of "ModPo," a massive open online course hosted on Coursera.org that welcomed thirty-four thousand new and returning students to the study of modern and contemporary American poetry. Thanks to the involvement of the core group of TAs and the tech innovations developed by **Zach Carduner** (C'13) and **Chris Martin** (LPS'15), this session of ModPo continued to push the boundaries of what's possible in online education. The team hosted weekly live webcasts, including one filmed and produced at Coursera's headquarters

in Mountain View, CA. Students taking English 88 (Al's in-curriculum undergraduate course on modern and contemporary poetry) also participated fully in ModPo online alongside thousands of other students from around the world. The ModPo universe continued to expand through two supplemental, parallel courses within the site, ModPoPLUS — for any ModPo returning student who wants a little more out of each week — and the Teacher Resource Center, curated by poet **erica kaufman** and created to support the teaching of poetry for all teachers in all settings.





The Writers House community extends far beyond campus. We are committed to sharing our resources with near neighbors and far-flung friends, through special workshops and discussion groups, online materials, literacy outreach projects, and sustained community partnerships.

SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG WRITERS



For ten days in July, a stellar group of high school students lived the Writers House lifestyle as participants in our **Summer Workshop for Young Writers**. Led by **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), with assistance from **David Marchino** (C'16) and **Jess Li** (C'20), the workshop was the first of its kind at KWH.

The program was fast paced and intense. Our twenty summer workshopers — from as far away as Australia and as near as North Philly — gathered in the Arts Café each morning at 8:30 am sharp before dividing into smaller groups to focus on new writing assignments and projects. Conversations continued throughout the day and late into the night, often right up until Harnwell College House's 11:00 pm curfew.

Workshop participants explored a range of writing styles and modes in craft sessions with a host of top-notch instructors. **Alli Katz** offered tips and tricks for drawing comics, even for those with no previous artistic experience. **Victoria Ford**'s session focused on persona poetry, while **Michelle Taransky** showed how poetry can emerge from everyday moments. With **Karen Rile**, workshopers created narrative/art collages; with **Jake Marmer** they fused music and writing. **Hannah Kinisky** (SPP'18) and **Demo Gakidis** (GED'18) — who also served as

dorm assistants — extolled the benefits of brevity. And **Lindsay Buchman** taught the basics of letterpress art, leading a hands-on workshop at the Common Press.

The high school students also participated fully in KWH-style events and projects: they attended a Sensible Nonsense reading, curated specially for them by **Arielle Brousse** (C'07); produced recordings in the Wexler Studio with the help of **Zach Carduner** (C'13) and **Emily Rush** (C'19); and utilized our much-loved button maker for creative side projects. On the final evening of the program, all twenty students presented work in the Arts Café, reading excerpts from their memoirs to thunderous and adoring applause.

And, of course, as is true of so many programs here, food played a central role: KWH student staffers prepared fresh fruit for each morning's popular "fruit break" and served homemade lunch each afternoon. Our resident baker **Lily Applebaum** (C'12) led a pie-making tutorial in the KWH kitchen and supplied the final reading with homemade dessert.

We are incredibly grateful to **Maury Povich** (C'62) for his support of this project. His generosity allowed us to offer financial assistance to half of the Summer Workshop participants, many of whom could not have come otherwise.



REACH



COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECTS

Managed by Levin Outreach Coordinator **Camara Brown** (C'17) and Community Partnerships Developer **Rachel Zolf**, community writing projects thrived at Writers House this year.

- ▶ Camara and Rachel piloted **FreeWrite**, a weekly writing workshop for a small group of women incarcerated at the Federal Detention Center in Center City.
- ▶ On Fridays throughout the school year, our undergraduate-led tutoring project **Write On!** welcomed two dozen students from Henry C. Lea Elementary School to KWH for writing games, one-on-one mentoring, and homemade snacks.
- ▶ Monthly meetings of **Writing a Life**, a writing group for people with cancer diagnoses (organized in partnership with

the Abramson Cancer Center), culminated in the publication of *You Are Not Alone*, a collection of poems, memoirs, letters, and other writing. A number of volunteers assisted in the book's production, including workshop leader **Deb Burnham**, who read every revision, and **Lisa Liu** (C'20), who took a lead role in book design.

- ▶ We collaborated with Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice and the LGBT Center to launch **transcribez**, a writing program for trans and gender-nonconforming youth. Meeting facilitators **Kavi Ade**, **Trish Salah**, **Cyree Jarelle Johnson**, and **Davy Knittle** (GR'20) helped the youth writers create a lovely year-end chapbook.
- ▶ **Imani Davis** (C'20) led weekly poetry workshops for students at William L. Sayre High School in West Philadelphia.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Dallas, Texas. New Orleans, Louisiana. Interlochen, Michigan. Santa Ana, California. These are just a few of the places **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) visited this year to recruit writers to Penn's Class of 2021. As CPCW's associate director for recruitment, Jamie-Lee hits the road to visit high schools and writing programs around the country in search of brilliant high school students who might not otherwise find Penn. She also corresponds with prospective students by email and meets with them in person at the Writers House, with help from **David Marchino** (C'16) and **Peter LaBerge** (C'17) on campus; **Mark Maas** (C'73), who connects Jamie-Lee to writers in New York City; and **Crissy Iglesias**, our fantastic liaison in Penn's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. We owe special thanks to dozens of individuals who contributed funding to support our recruitment efforts, including **Justin R. Segal** (C'93) and **Jennifer M. Segal** (C'96), who established a fund especially for this purpose.



DIGITAL OUTREACH

We hosted nine moderator-led online book groups this year, including one group for high school juniors, led by **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), that focused on writing by faculty in Penn's Creative Writing Program. Online book groups and other digital projects such as ModPo and PennSound (see pages 14–15) allow us to offer our vast resources freely to anyone in the world with an internet connection. Want to listen to a KWH reading but can't visit the Arts Café? Go to KWH-TV (writing.upenn.edu/wh/multimedia/tv) for a live stream. Interested in exploring the works of our Writers House Fellows? Visit our Fellows resource page (www.writing.upenn.edu/wh/people/fellows).

INTERNSHIPS, MENTORSHIPS, and APPRENTICESHIPS



Professional guidance. Networking opportunities. Real-world job experience. Through our Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (CPCW) — and the extraordinary efforts of **R.J. Bernocco** (C'12) and **Mingo Reynolds** — Penn provides students with connections and experiences they need to begin their professional lives.

Bassini Apprenticeships

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



Kaitlin Moore (C'18) apprenticed with Creative Writing Program director **Julia Bloch**. Kaitlin helped Julia conduct research toward a critical-creative project about the poetics of futurity. "Kaitlin's scientific expertise was especially crucial in expanding the project's reach," Julia said. Inspired by her apprenticeship research, Kaitlin developed a portfolio of her own poetry and short fiction, along with an artist's statement focusing on the intersections of science and creative practice.

Christin Molisani (C'18) apprenticed with nonfiction writer **Lise Funderburg**, who is developing an anthology of essays about inherited traits. Through extensive field research and brainstorming sessions with Lise, Christin helped conceptualize a marketing plan and bring the book's mission into greater clarity. Molisani's own essay about her mother's hands promises to be publication ready by fall.

Dan Chung (C'17) and **Claris Park** (C'17) assisted Theatre Arts professor **Brooke O'Harra** in the development of a book about directing for theater and performance. "Claris, Dan, and I had quite a journey this semester," Brooke said. "I was so impressed by their honest engagement and their openness to process and discovery." Dan and Claris helped analyze the rhetorical styles of contemporary books about stage directing and conducted interviews with actors and audience members who participated in performances of Brooke's project *I'm Bleeding All Over the Place*.

THANK YOU

Funding from generous Penn alumni and parents makes it possible for us to support our suite of internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships. Supporters include Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73), Armyan Bernstein and Christine Meleo Bernstein, 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 Wolpov (W'80) and Robin Wolpov, and a pair of anonymous donors.



PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

In summer 2017, our RealArts@Penn Internships Program offered substantive paid internships at twenty-two leading art and culture institutions. Funding from generous donors made it possible for students from all backgrounds to accept these tailor-made opportunities.

Journalism and print

DOWNTOWN BOOKWORKS INC.	Michelle Pereira (C'18)
FLATHEAD BEACON	Emily Hoeven (C'17)
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER	James Meadows (C'19)
PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE	Haley Weiss (C'18)
PITCHFORK MEDIA	Olivia Horn (C'17)
MCSWEENEY'S & THE BELIEVER	Mara Veitch (C'17)
SMALL PRESS DISTRIBUTION	Maya Arthur (C'18)

Museums

PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART	Emily Urban (C'18)
MORGAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM	Sofia Demopolos (C'17)
SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART	Talia Lieberman (C'17)

Music

SHORE FIRE MEDIA	Amanda Silberling (C'18)
SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL	Natalie Larkin-Gilmore (C'18)

Television and film

20TH CENTURY FOX	Orly Greenberg (C'18)
BROADWAY VIDEO	Danielle Moore (C'18)
BROOKLYN FILMS	Riley Nelson (C'18)
DAVID STERN AND STUART GIBBS, WRITERS	Amanda Prager (C'18)
DI NOVI PICTURES	Adelaide Powell (C'19)
GRANDVIEW	Emily Cieslak (C'19)
MANAGEMENT 360	Zeeshan Mallick (C'18)
	Caroline Ohlson (C'18)
MARC PLATT PRODUCTIONS	Abigail Raymaker (W'18)
PRINCIPATO-YOUNG ENTERTAINMENT	Brian Park (C'18)
	Sam Tolbert (C'18)
TREMOLO PRODUCTIONS	Nick Joyner (C'19)
VIACOM CATALYST: CREATIVE + STRATEGY	Mica Tenenbaum (C'18)

Theater

1812 PRODUCTIONS	Savannah Lambert (C'18)
-------------------------	-------------------------

Alumni Mentorship Program

The Alumni Mentorship Program matches undergraduates with Penn alumni working in creative fields. Important mentoring relationships develop through informal lunches, small gatherings at the Writers House, Skype sessions, and one-on-one conversations.

For the second year in a row, the Alumni Mentorship Program offered a series of lunchtime sessions geared towards specific career aspirations and paths. The "Road to Publishing and Journalism" series introduced a group of job-seeking seniors to editors, journalists, literary agents, publishers, and other alumni working in print and media. Participating alumni mentors included nonfiction writer **Buzz Bissinger** (C'76), marketing executive **Melissa Brecher** (C'95), literary agent **Kate Lee** (C'99), journalists **Joe Pinsker** (C'13) and **Jess Goodman** (C'12), and editors **Caryn Karmatz Rudy** (C'92) and **Susanna Porter** (CW'75).

Similarly, the "Road to LA" series gathered LA-bound seniors for conversations about making it in the entertainment industry. Alumni and parent participants included talent agents **Alan Berger** (PAR'11, PAR'13) and **Adam Friedman** (C'11), TV and film executives **Alison Greenspan** (C'94) and **Mike Jackman** (C'85), TV writers **Ariana Jackson** (W'03) and **Lew Schneider** (C'83), and Penntertainment.com founder **Matt Rosler** (C'96).

RealArts@Penn Prizes

When students can't afford to accept unpaid or underpaid internships, they lose out on the advantages those internships can provide. Our **RealArts@Penn Prize** program helps level the playing field so that all students, regardless of financial means, can pursue special opportunities. Now in its second year and funded with a generous donation from **Maury Povich** (C'62), the RealArts@Penn Prize program supported student internships at Saturnalia Books, C3, Situation Interactive, Observatory Pictures, Eyebeam, Quirk Books, and Pitchfork.

FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE



You might be wondering: *how can KWH do so much?* And we only have one answer: *you make it happen.* Everything that goes on here depends on the generosity of loyal supporters like you. Thank you, friends, for investing your time, energy, ideas, and resources into this project.

INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND MENTORSHIPS

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 Lise Funderburg, Brooke O'Harra, and Julia Bloch. *Endowed by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73).*

Eisler Endowed Internship Fund The Eisler Internship Fund enables us to make awards to students for competitive but unpaid or modestly paid internships at cultural institutions, so that students, regardless of financial circumstance, can pursue career-specific learning opportunities. In summer 2017, the Eisler Fund made it possible for Sofia Demopolos (C'17) to intern at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York. *Endowed by Bonnie Eisler (C'79) and Cliff Eisler (C'79).*

Kate Levin Community Outreach Internship Fund This fund permanently endows our Outreach Coordinator Internship, through which a student organizes ongoing community service efforts. Two students shared this role in 2016–2017: Camara Brown (C'17), who

worked closely with community partnerships developer Rachel Zolf to implement writing outreach workshops in a women's correctional facility, and Imani Davis (C'18), who developed a poetry workshop for students at Sayre High School in West Philadelphia. *Endowed by Kate Levin (G'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, we placed twenty-five interns in the summer of 2017. *Supported by the RealArts Internship Fund with gifts from Dirk Wittenborn (C'72), Marc Wolpov (W'80) and Robin Wolpov, 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; Allison Friedman (C'09) and the David Friedman Private Foundation; and a pair of anonymous donors.*



AWARDS AND PRIZES

Beltran Family Teaching and Award Fund The Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award allows us to honor an outstanding teacher at Penn each year. 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 Laynie Browne, who used the opportunity to coordinate a workshop and conversation with Chilean performance poet Cecilia Vicuña. *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 recipient, Casey Quackenbush (C'17), used her grant to research and write about the effects of FDA regulations on American cheesemakers. She traveled to the Mont Blanc region of France to investigate how local cheesemaking practices highlight cultural, historical, and political differences. *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. This year, the prize went to Heather Finnegan (C'20), who will use the support to explore a poetry project based on the themes of the body, physical sensation, and environmental connection. *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. Rebecca Tan (C'19) won this year's prize for "Untitled," an intensely detailed profile of a young person in crisis and how each day-to-day interaction informs her larger choices. *Endowed by Bret Parker (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. Veronica Kowalski will use the prize funds in the 2017–18 school year to create a "visual book club" to bring community members together to discuss video-based media. *Supported annually by the KWH community, with special gifts this year from Lucy Cook (C'95), and Maggie Katz Cordish (C'99) and Reed Cordish.*



FRIENDS OF KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

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

Alyson Shore Adler; Mandee Heller Adler; Maya Afilalo; Caroline Aiello; Shadiyat Ajao; Matthew Algeo; Alice Allan; Michelle Allen; Nathalie Anderson; James Andres; Alonna Anspach; Max Apple and Talya Fishman; Derek Arthur; John Ashbery; Herman and Madeline Axelrod; Gabrielle Bailey; Maggie Ball; Dennis and Debbie Barone; Berni Barta; Herman Beavers and Lisa James-Beavers; Susie and Arthur Becker-Weidman; Donald Beetham; Jay Begun; Craig Behrenfeld; Allan Bell; Evelyn Bender; Stephen Berer and Nancy Micklewright; Barry Berger, MD; Carol Bergere; Ed and Jen Bergman; Len and Ellan Bernstein; Susan Bee Laufer and Charles Bernstein; Bernardo Beyer; Sara Bingham; Daniel Blas; Ronna Wineberg Blaser (in honor of Simone Blaser); David and Vivian Blum; Lawrence Blum; Megan Bly; Scott and Roxanne Bok; David Borgenicht; Merle Born; Neil Braun and Anne Flick; Barbara Russo Bravo; Jay Brecker; Jackee and Denis Brousse; Jacqueline Brown (in honor of Matthew Weiner and in memory of Lorn Brown); Laynie Brown and Brad Davidson; Deborah Brown C'93; Ann and David Brownlee; Alexis Brunswick; Robert Brylawski; Mary Ann Burdett; Nathalie Burg; David Caruso; Lenny Cassuto; Nora Castle (in memory of Ezekiel T.H. Reiser); Dan Castleman and Nancy Ruskin (in honor of Ali Castleman); MC Catanese; Sandra Chaff; Mandana Chaffa; Family of Leon Chazanow; Richard Chinery; Stanley Chodorow; Sam Choi; Peter and Leah Cianfrani (in honor of Al Filreis); Carol Shlifer Clapp; Ashley Codner & Harold and Erica Valestin; Charles Cohen; Gail Spiegel Cohen, DMD, C'76, D'80 (in honor of Stephanie A. Cohen C'13); Michael Cohn (in honor of the ModPo team); Robin Cohn (in memory of Sam Filreis); Mary Collins; John J. Conley, S.J.; Randall Couch; David Cowen; Pam and Mike Crane; David Crawford and Elaine Simon; Heidi Croft (in honor of Al Filreis and ModPo); Susan Croll and Paul Monasevitch; Michael Cullina; Joyce Cummings;



TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES AND OPEN-ENDED SUPPORT

Kane-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 our 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 the fund helped Imani Davis (C'20), who attended the Brave New Voices conference in California, and Kailey Zitaner (C'17), who pursued her interest in narrative medicine. The fund also supported a citywide celebration of poetry organized by Yolanda Wisher, the Poet Laureate of Philadelphia. *Supported by Matt Abess (C'08) and Taylor Abess, Jon Avnet (C'71) and Barbara Avnet, Reina Marin Bassini (CW'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (W'71, C'71, WG'73), Alexis Brunswick (C'04), Robin Cohn (in memory of Sam Filreis), Reuben Daniels (W'91), Alexandra Halpern (C'04), Sharon Ingraham, Joel (C'72) and Penny (W'74) Katz, Ronald Keeperman, Leslie King, John Kingston (M'76, INT'80), Lauren Lineback, Michael Miller (WG'78), Tracey Nafekh, Robert Shepard (C'83, G'83) and Bob Numerof (CGS'83), Maria Popova (C'07), 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), Henry (C'90) and Talia Siegel, Larry and Melissa Stoller, Sharon Weinstein (CW'64), and Holly York (in honor of Al Filreis).*

Student Initiatives Fund The Student Initiatives Fund — a pool of seed money to which anyone can contribute — supports student-led creative enterprises. Projects this year included a celebration of *The Adroit Journal*, a panel discussion of literary translation hosted by editors of *DoubleSpeak* magazine, and the launch of a glossy publication devoted

entirely to coffee and café culture. *Supported annually by the KWH community, with a special gift this year from Penn parents Howard and Cami Gordon.*

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 allow us to reach out so expansively. 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.*

Gordon Walls '38 Creative Ventures Fund 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. *Supported by Gordon Lane Bond (C'06) and Sunny Bond.*

PROJECTS

Kelly Writers House Fellows Fund

The Kelly Writers House Fellows project enables undergraduate writers to interact with eminent writers they greatly admire, through seminar-style discussions in the Arts Café, home-cooked meals in our dining room, and freewheeling public conversations that span 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 poet Nathaniel Mackey, comedian Maria Bamford, and fiction writer Lydia Davis. *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. Lily Applebaum (C'12) and Connie Yu (C'17) put up four shows this year, including “Body Party,” photographs by Liz Barr (C'16) that engaged with beauty, pop, and gendered power dynamics; and “Community Futurisms,” an exhibit of works from the Community Futures Lab, a pop-up oral history archive, workshop space, and gallery in North Philadelphia. *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 remote Washington State — so that they may make substantial progress on a significant writing project. The third annual weeklong residency was awarded to Nikhil Venkatesa (C'17), who used the retreat to work on *Whirlpool of Dreams*, a play about transnational identity and gender roles as explored through the story of a contemporary South Indian family living in Chennai. *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 *Jacket2*, our internationally renowned online journal of modern and contemporary poetry and poetics. 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 alumna Liz Barr (C'16) and KWH staffer Andrew Beal, with assistance from Maura Reilly-Ulmanek (C'17) and Faith Padgett (C'19), 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 a magazine that features substantial longform nonfiction pieces by Penn students.

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 series of panel discussions on City Planning Poetics, and a few playful community events, like the annual Edible Books Party. *Supported annually by Marc Wolpow (W'80) and Robin Wolpow.*

CPCW/PMA Seminar Fund Every other year, we partner with the Philadelphia Museum of Art to offer a unique yearlong undergraduate course, sponsored by the CPCW/PMA Seminar Fund. *Funded annually by Dirk Wittenborn (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation.*

Barbara Daniels; Colleen Davis; Laoni Davis; T. De Los Reyes (in honor of Al Filreis); Anthony DeCurtis; David Deifer; Paul Deveney; Denise L. Devine; Linda Diamond; Franklin Dines and Lynn Arost; Lance Donaldson-Evans; Dr. Howard and Paula Donsky; Annette Dorsky; Charles Downey; Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof; Andrew Dulberg; Rachel Blau DuPlessis; Philip Eager and Mimi Calter; George Economou and Rochelle Owens; Carol Elias; Melissa Oppen Enns; Daniel Evans; Michelle Falkoff; Steven Fama; Rob Faunce; Harvey A. Feldman; Walt Fellman; William Fenrich; Catherine Field; Al Filreis; Jean Findlay; Joe Finston; Oscar Firschein; Barbara and David Fishback; Marjorie Fiterman; Marni Fogelson; Samantha Kleier Forbes; Jenny Ford; Sallie Foster; Ben and Sharon Fountain; Michael Fox; Peggy Fox; Adam Frank and Marnie Gordon; Alan and Arlene Freedman; Jacqueline Berkell Friedland; Nancy and Jonah Friedman; Bill and Linda Friend and Elaine Levinson; Friend of ModPo; Liza Fuchs; Lise Funderburg; Roy and Vicki Gainsburg; Mark and Pamela Gallagher; Jenny and Domingo Garcia; Kara Gendron; Daniela Genin; Kari Gerber; Steve Gerkin, DDS (in honor of Paul Hendrickson); Sheldon Gerstenfeld; Nadia Ghent; Bev Gillespie; Seamus Gilson; Jessy Ginsberg; Sharon Glickman; Noah Golden-Krasner; Danny Goldstein; Arthur Goldwyn; Mack Goode; Mark Gordon and Aldo Buono; Charles Granatir; Dave Green; Augusta Greenbaum (in honor of Al Filreis); Elisa and Clint Greenbaum; Alison Greenberg; Shoshana Greenberg; Deborah Greenberg and Michael Winnick (in honor of Al

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Taylor and Matthew Abess; Tonia Nicholson Arrington; Greg Barron and Sarah Murphy; Eric Brotman; LaRhonda Brown-Barrett and Michael Barrett; Lucy Cook; Maggie Katz Cordish and Reed Cordish; Bob and Marcia D'Augustine; D'Augustine Foundation; George and Lee Spelman Doty; Cheryl Family and Ken Saji; Ted and Judy Goldsmith; Monice and Neil Grabowski; Harry and Lyn Groome; Adam Groothuis; George Johnson; Cathy and Ethan Kahn; Joan Kim; Jean-Marie and Richard Kneeley; Jina, Dave, and Sarah Lindstedt; Michael Magee; Ed and Marian Mulé; Frederick Muller; Mr. Pancks' Fund (in memory of Graham Kimpton); Marjorie Perloff; Elizabeth Porth Polizzi; Wendy and Brett Prager; Evan Raine; Bruce Resnikoff and Claudia Berman; Nancy Rothstein; Susan Small Savitsky; Susie Orman Schnall; Lew Schneider and Elizabeth Abbe; Mark and Rachel Sherman; Henry and Talia Siegel; Lynn Brehm Strother; David Sussman; John and Sally Van Doren; Jill and Daniel Wallen; Andy Wolk; and Beth Zemble.



OUTREACH / BEYOND THE CAMPUS

Sayet-Rosenberg Fund for Young Writers The Sayet-Rosenberg Fund allows us to seek out and engage talented young writers. Half of the gift supports the work of our associate director for recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), who recruits promising writers to Penn, while the other half funds internships for KWH-affiliated students to teach creative writing to children during the summer. 2017 Sayet-Rosenberg interns Heather Finnegan (C'20) and Michaela Kotziers (C'17) taught boys and girls aged 8–15 at Frost Valley YMCA's summer camp. *Endowed by Harry Rosenberg (W'79) and Laurie Sayet.*

KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund Since the launch of our Alumni Online Book Groups in 2000, we've hosted more than ninety moderator-led online book 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 persona poetry, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, and avant-garde poetry alongside rap music. *Supported annually by David Roberts (W'84).*

Esther T. Saxon Term Fund The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts, particularly programs and projects for kids in under-resourced local elementary schools. 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 peers and Penn mentors. *Supported annually by Jerilyn Perman (C'91) and Brian Perman (W'90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon.*

Student Recruitment Fund Our student community is made up of some of the most gifted young writers in the nation. To be sure we're reaching as many talented prospective students as possible, we send Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05) to high schools and extracurricular programs, particularly in geographically isolated or underprivileged regions. This fund supports the travel and administrative costs associated with these

recruitment visits, which let emerging writers across the country know that a Penn education is within their reach. *Supported annually by Justin R. Segal (C'93) and Jennifer M. Segal (C'96).*

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, our online repository of digital poetry recordings; PoemTalk, a monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis and co-sponsored by the Poetry Foundation; *Jacket2*, an online magazine for critical and scholarly writing about poetry; and ModPo, our massive open online course 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 Stuart S. Applebaum (who made his gift in honor of Lily Applebaum, C'12), Eric Brotman (C'94), Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C'83), David (W'84) and Deborah Roberts, Ricardo Salmon (W'93) and Leslie Dezer (W'92), a pair of anonymous donors, and the estate of John Norton (GR'67).*

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. Our associate director for 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 Susan Small Savitsky (CW'75) and Lynn Strother (CW'72).*

SUPPORT FOR EVENTS

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund The Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund allows us to 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 discussion with Anna Holmes, founder of *Jezebel*, who joined a panel of Penn students and faculty for a discussion of feminist journalism. *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 Grammy and Tony award-winning songwriter Duncan Sheik. *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 allowing us to pay honoraria to a remarkable number of visiting writers year after year. This year the fund supported a number of events with poets, including a talk on the intersection of poetry and Dadaism with Jed Rasula, a conversation led by Alan Bernheimer on the surrealist poets, and a panel discussion on formalist poetry moderated by Lynn Levin. *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 sponsors programs engaging with children's and young adult literature. This year, the fund allowed us to host the fifth annual Sensible Nonsense Project reading, in which readers from a range of professional backgrounds reflected on their favorite and most formative children's books. *Endowed by Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C'88).*

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 program celebrating the Afghan Women's Writing Project and a conversation with Jia Tolentino, contributing writer for the *New Yorker* and former deputy editor at *Jezebel*. *Endowed by an anonymous donor.*

Cheryl 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 a doubleheader with Rosalie Knecht, author of *Relief Map*, and Marie-Hélène Bertino, author of *2 A.M. at the Cat's Pajamas*. *Endowed by Cheryl J. Family (C'91).*

Hartman Family Screenwriting Series Fund The Hartman Family Fund allows us to host an annual event with a professional screenwriter so that our aspiring moviemakers can get a taste of the writers' room. Though a giant snowstorm kept Alec Sokolow (*Toy Story*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*) in New York, we look forward to seeing him at KWH in the fall. *Endowed by Alan Hartman (W'87) and Kim Hartman.*

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 series sponsored a visit with Robert Strauss, former *Sports Illustrated* reporter and features writer for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, who talked about his book *Worst. President. Ever.*, a biography of James Buchanan. *Endowed by the late Sylvia Kauders (CW'42).*

The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer The Levin Endowed Fund allows our program coordinator to plan a program that engages her most creative impulses. For this year's symposium, program coordinator Alli Katz invited two young fiction writers — Emma Eisenberg and former KWH staffer Sam Allingham — to give readings of their recent work and to join us in conversation about their writing process. *Endowed by Kate Levin (GAS'96) in memory of much-beloved Comparative Literature professor Charles Bernheimer.*



Filreis); Rabbi Lisa S. Greene; Jane Gutman; Jennifer Gwarz; Matthew Hall; Alex Halpern; William J. Harris; Kenneth Hay; Steven and Thomas Heller; Paul and Ceil Hendrickson; Jackie Henrion; Michael Herzlin; Stephen and Jane Heumann; Sara and Brian Holland; Ann Hostetler; Wendy Hough; John Hough, Jr.; Jerry Huncosky and Patti Candelari (in honor of Al Filreis); Jeffrey and Cynthia Hunt; Virgil Huston; Michael Hyde; Sharon Ingraham; Peter Inman and Martina Darragh; Hilal Isler; Mike and Alexandra Jackman; Diane Jacobs; Edward Jacobson; Carolyn Jacobson and Erik Simpson; Leigh Jacoby; Merry Jones; Jeffrey David Jubelirer; Sally Kaplan; Carole Weinheim Karsch ED'59 GED'78; Terry Kattleman; Joel and Penny Katz; Richard and Kathy Katz; Adam Kaufman; Carol and Jeffrey Kaufman; Ronald Keeperman; Donald Keim; Edward Kelly; Susan Kerr; Andrew Kevorkian; Janice Kimenhour; Leslie King; John Kingston; Betsy Klausman; Sabrina Kleier Morgenstern; Leora Klein; Jody Rosen Knowler; Deborah Komins; Dave Kornfeld; Stephen Krewson; Stephen Krewson (in honor of Stephen Krewson); Ali Kriegsman; Mary Kuntz; Moira Kuo; Beth Kwon; James La Marre; Jim and Susan La Marre; Jon and Deborah LaBerge (in honor of Peter LaBerge); Sherman and Pauline Labovitz; Jake and Hubert Lem; Teresa Leo; Ruth Lepson; Lynn Levin; Ali Levine; Michelle Levister (in honor of Al Filreis); Elena and Ken Levitan; Edward Levitt; Joanne Lichtman; Russel Like; Lauren Lineback; Ron Litman; Betty Liu; Cara Lockwood; Orli Low; Jessica Lowenthal and Ryan Godfrey; Tyler and Skye Lucas; Elizabeth Lynch; Lynch Family; Jennifer Machiaverna; Gloria MacKay; Elaine and Mort Maimon; John Majane; Mahtab Malek; John and Joan Mandryk; Maria Markovich; Gloria Marmor; Kathleen Matson; Don Matzkin; Cecile Mazzucco-Tham; Murray McComas; Margaret McDonald; Kathleen McGarry; Andrew McGhie; Max McKenna; Kevin and Holly McLaughlin; Tammy McLeod; John Meehan; Amy Tucker Meltzer; Julie Merberg; Gerald and Harriet Miller; Ilana E. Miller; Michael Miller; Suzanne Miller; Nick Montfort; Susan and Kevin Moore; Wynne Morrison; Fred Moten and Laura Harris; Cynthia Motz; Andrew Murray; Tracey Nafekh; Elizabeth Ann Naismith Picciani;



The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment

We partner with WXPB (88.5 FM) to produce a monthly one-hour radio show. Hosted and produced by KWH program coordinator Alli Katz, LIVE at the Writers House showcases some of Philly's most exciting up-and-comers. Among the guests featured on shows this year were science writers, Philadelphia teachers, and women writing about conflict regions.

Endowed by BigRoc.

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, allowing us to host an annual fiction program that pays tribute to Bob as a continuing inspiration. This year's Lucid program featured Bard Fiction Prize winner and Young Lions Award finalist Alexandra Kleeman, who read from her short story collection, *Intimations*.

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 include readings, craft talks, and mentor meetings with journalists, memoirists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Among the Povich series highlights this year were a lunch with Pulitzer-winning *Washington Post* columnist Kathleen Parker; a talk with *New York Times* presidential campaign reporter Matt Flegenheimer; and a conversation with *Slate* critic Stephen Metcalf and bestselling author of *The Lost City of Z*, David Grann. *Endowed by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.*

The Caroline Rothstein Fund in Support of Oral Poetry

With the help of 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 a conversation with poets Will Alexander and Edwin Torres. *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. This year's Sussman

program featured Ross Gay, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award for his collection *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*. *Endowed by Penn parents Daniel and Miriam Morse in memory of Eva and Leo Sussman.*

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 financial writer with a knack for lucid prose. Our eighth annual Weber Symposium featured *Wall Street Journal* contributor and executive editor of *Recode* Kara Swisher. *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, allowing students and others to think creatively about what can happen in our space. This year, the fund supported a celebration of *The Golden Shovel Anthology*, a collection of new poems honoring Gwendolyn Brooks. It also supported several collaborative undertakings, like our Speakeasy open mic series and The Body Electric student poetry exchange. *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 Tahneer Oksman, author of the book *How Come Boys Get To Keep Their Noses?*, a critical look at comics, gender, and modern Jewish identity. *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 programming with international scope and appeal. Our Writers Without Borders series this year included a conversation with Burmese poet ko ko thett, who described his complicated relationship with the English language; a daylong series of events, including a crepe-making demonstration, featuring performance artists Nicole Peyrafitte and Pierre Joris; and, co-sponsored by Penn's Department of Near Eastern Language and Culture, a reading of "un-banned" poetry: poems in Arabic, Persian, and English by writers from countries included in the Trump administration's Muslim ban. *Funded annually by Seth Ginns (C'00) and Jane Ginns.*



Each year we take Writers House talent on the road to reconnect with alumni and friends in other cities. Generous supporters open their homes and offices to us for special salon-style gatherings.

Thanks to the generosity of **Susan and Louis Meisel**, over one hundred New York-area friends joined us in November for the fifteenth (!) annual “Writers House New York” at the famed Louis K. Meisel Gallery. The event featured readings and heartfelt testimonial by students, alumni, and faculty, including Creative Writing faculty member **Lorene Cary** (C’78) and “lingualisualist” **Edwin Torres**.

On a lovely evening in May, Penn parents **John and Sally Van Doren** opened the doors of their Upper East Side art gallery for the second year in a row to a group of thirty friends and community members, including a few newly admitted Penn students. Penn professors **Max Apple** and **Jay Kirk** joined the group of featured readers, for an intimate event that allowed us to show off an intergenerational roster of KWH writers.

Less than a week later, KWH people convened in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for a salon at the home of **David** (W’92) and **Christine Gross-Loh**. More than fifty of our Boston-area fans assembled for performances by poet **Rodney Dailey** (C’20), poet-critic **Amaris Cuchanski** (C’12), nonfiction writer **Zoë Kirsch** (C’14), and digital experimentalist **Nick Montfort** (GR’07). Al Filreis gave a taste of the Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar by leading a collective close reading of “Writing” by KWH Fellow **Lydia Davis**.



Sarah Nanus; Dabney Narvaez; Elinor Nathanson; Deirdre Newman; Dorothy Newman; Cory F. Newman, PhD; Phoebe Nir; Jack Nix; Jim Nooney; Michael Norris; Jane Nugent (in honor of Emily Dickinson); Robert Numerof and Bob Shepard; Pat O’Bannon; Amy Oalican; Jacob Ohnouna and Rachel Schnipper (in honor of Aliza Ohnouna); Mark Osele; Christin Ostrowski and Austin Sherer; Andrea Sachs Otto; Lee Passarella; Bob Perelman; Miriam Peskowitz; Arthur Pier; Bill and Karen Pitofsky; Linda Pizzi; Neil Plakcy; Sandra Planisek; Irene and Richard Plotzker; Dick Polman and Elise Vider; Fred Pond; Eleanor Poplar; Beth Brown Preston; Marion Puerzer; Linda Quarles; Michael Rauch; Sunita Reddy; David and Lisa Reiss; Dominique Renda and Hunter Horsley;

EMILY DICKINSON CIRCLE

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum; Stuart S. Applebaum Giving Foundation; Jon and Barbara Avnet; Reina Marin Bassini and Emilio Bassini; Barbara and Martin Bienenstock; David Biro and Daniella Vitale; Black Heart Foundation; Jean Chatzky and Eliot Kaplan; Reuben Daniels; Leslie Dezer Salmon and Ricardo Salmon; Bonnie and Cliff Eisler; Christopher Forman; Allison Friedman; Rob Friedman; Bill and Linda Friend, Katherine P. Harris, and the Harris Family Foundation (in honor of Nina K. Friend); Seth and Jane Ginns; Janice Goldman; Howard and Cambria Gordon; Haim and Jamie Handwerker; Hank and Carol Herman; Paul and Nancy Kelly; Mali Heled Kinberg; Adam and Mary Beth Kirsch; Lois Kohn-Claar and Gary Claar; Kate Levin and Robin Shapiro; Elissa Caterfino Mandel; Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan; Ed and Marian Mulé; John Norton; Arthur and Ilene Dalinka Penn; Brian and Jerilyn Perman; Jane Pollock; Maria Popova; Quirk Books; Hadley and Lee Rierson; David and Deborah Roberts; Caryn Karmatz Rudy and Lee Rudy; Marcy and Jeff Schneider; Patty and Howard Silverstein; Adam Sokoloff and Susan Drossman Sokoloff; Steve and Miriam Sosnick; Ken Stein; Larry and Melissa Stoller; The Edward W. Kane and Martha J. Wallace Family Foundation; Nina and Gary Wexler; Paul Williams; Dirk Wittenborn; Marc and Robin Wolpaw; and Nancy and Jay Zises.





Joan Retallack; Jose Reyes (in memory of Jose Garcia Villa); Sharlyn Rhee; Maria Rieders; Randy Ringer; Roopika Risam; Andrew Robinson; Joyce and Steven Robinson; Peter Rogers; Lynn Rosen; Matt Rosenbaum (in memory of Sam Filreis); Beryl and Jeffrey Rosenstock; Eric Rosof and Clare Bell; Steve and Marsha Roth; Jeffrey Rothbard; Dan and Barbara Rottenberg; Patrick Ryan; Amy Sadao and Tom Devaney; Helen Sadowski; Elaine Samans; Laura Sanchez; Phil Sandick and Ariel Djanikian; Michael and Ellen Sandler; Robert Sandler W'52; Cindy Savett; Jonathan Saxon; James Schaffer; Rhonda Schaffler; Karin Schaller and John Puckett; Dan Schorr; Lawrence Schwartzwald; Mary A. Scott (in honor of ModPo); Matt Selman; Craig Shannon; Helene Shavin; John and Karen Shea; Debbie Shiffman; Gina Signorella-Arlen; Ron Silliman; Karen Silverman; Paul and Sue Silverman (in honor of Al Filreis); David and Barbara Simon; Isabella and David Simonetti; Harry Simons; Arjan Singh; Rebecca Singh; David Slarskey; Eleanor Smagarinsky; Judith and Barry Solar; Jordan and Melissa Sonnenblick; Laurie Soriano; William Speer; Nick Spitzer; Robert and Jacqueline Stein; Stephanie Stein; Harris and Jane Steinberg; Eugene Stelzig; Eric Stern and Hannah Stutzman; Janet and Byron Stier; Sebastian Stockman; Eric and Rebecca Stone; M. Eileen Streight; Ann Price Hiestand Strong (in memory of Bob Lucid); Peter Sulyok; Jackie, Diana, and Daniel Sussman; David Sweet; Nancy Tag; Molly Tenenbaum; Barbara Tilley; Alex Tokar; Sherefiah Tomlinson; Edith Torres; Jane Treuhaft (in honor of Jessica Lowenthal); William Tripp and Nancy Rassiga Tripp; David Ulin; Ellen Umansky and David Gutman; Renee Unglo (in memory of Michael Unglo); Georgia Van Cleve Colwell; The Van Der Velde-Kraft Family; Alberto Vitale; Allie Volinsky; John and Lucy Vosmek (in honor of the Class of 1961 and the Class of 1963); Laura Walsh (in honor of Vicki Mahaffey, PhD); Tim Waples; Joe and Letty Ward (in honor of Callie Ward); Emily Wasserman; William Watson; Caroline Waxler; George and Carol Weinbaum (in honor of Al Filreis); Philip Weingold; Carly Weinreb; Sharon Weinstein; David Weiss and Maureen Cowie; Lilianne Weissberg; Anne Wellner de Veer; J. L. W. West; Freddy Wexler; Gary and Nina Wexler; Beth and Jeff White (in honor of Hannah White); Wendy and Larry White; Margaret Lehr Whitford; Eleanor Wilner; Jerald Winakur; Charles Wright; Youwen Ye; Holly York (in honor of Al Filreis); Jess Yu; Henry and Judy Zachs; Judy and Harvey Zalesne; Nancy and Meryl 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.

To become a Friend of the Writers House, please fill out this form and send it with your check to:

The Kelly Writers House
3805 Locust Walk
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150
Attention: Arielle Brousse

Please make checks payable to “Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania” and be sure to jot “Kelly Writers House” on the memo line.

- ☐ \$40
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$250
- ☐ \$500
- ☐ William Carlos Williams Circle \$1000
- ☐ Emily Dickinson Circle \$2500
- ☐ Please send me more information about additional giving opportunities

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____

Your or another's name as you would like it to appear on the Kelly Writers House web site:

For more information about the specific programs and projects at the Writers House, please visit our website:
writing.upenn.edu/wh/support.



Al Freireis, Faculty Director
Jessica Lowenthal (G'06), Director
Lily Applebaum (C'12), Assistant to the Faculty Director
Liz Barr (C'16), Robinson Press Coordinator
Andrew Beal, Business Administrator
Levi Bentley, Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Arielle Brousse (C'07, SPP'12), Assistant Director for Development
Zach Carduner (C'13), Wexler Studio Coordinator
Andie Davidson (C'15), Project Assistant
Cheryl Henderson, Weekend Program Associate
Michael S. Hennessey, Editor, PennSound and Jacket2
Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), Associate Director for Recruitment
Alli Katz, Program Coordinator
Dylan Leahy (C'16), Media Assistant
Christopher J. Martin, Director of Technology
Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'16), Administrative Assistant
Kenna O'Rourke (C'15), Jacket2 Managing Editor
Meg Pendoley (C'16), Evening Assistant
Anna Safford (C'13), ModPo Coordinator
David Satten-Lopez, PennSound Media Assistant
Peter Schwarz (CGS'04, LPS'08), Administrative Assistant
Rachel Zolf, Community Partnerships Developer
Maya Arthur (C'18), Creative Ventures Assistant
Perrin Bauder (C'20), Program Assistant
Camara Brown (C'17), Levin Outreach Coordinator
Tyler Burke (C'17), Wexler Studio Assistant
Perren Carillo (C'19), Program Assistant
Domenic Casciato, PennSound Media Assistant
Annie Fang (C'19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Imani Davis (C'20), Program Assistant
Lauren Feiner (C'17), Media Assistant
Heather Finnegan (C'20), Purchasing Librarian
James Fisher (C'19), Program Assistant
Amleset Girmay (W'19), Purchasing Librarian
Cindia Huang (C'17), Assistant to the Business Administrator
Tasha Hutnick (C'20), Program Assistant
Hannah Judd (C'17), Media Assistant
Meerie Jesuthasan (C'19), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Jacob Kind (C'21), Assistant to the Assistant to the Faculty Director
Michaela Kotziers (C'17), Program Assistant
Peter Laberge (C'17), Assistant to the Associate Director for Recruitment
Becca Lambright (C'19), Webmaster
Muriel Leung (C'19), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Ari Lewis (C'18), Wexler Studio Assistant
Lisa Liu (C'20), Webmaster
Mariah Macias (C'17), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
David Marchino (C'16), Assistant to the Associate Director for Recruitment
Kaitlin Moore (C'18), Wexler Studio Assistant
John Odera (C'19), Program Assistant
Gabriel Ojeda-Sague (C'16), Media Assistant
Shayna O'Reilly (C'19), Purchasing Librarian
Mary Osunlana (C'20), Wexler Studio Assistant
Faith Padgett (C'18), Press Assistant
Adelaide Powell (C'19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Carlos Price-Sanchez (C'19), ModPo Assistant
Maura Reilly-Ulmanek (C'17), Assistant to the Program Coordinator
Nick Seymour (C'19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Amanda Silberling (C'18), Webmaster
Dan Spinelli (C'18), Levin Outreach Coordinator
Amy Stidham (C'18), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Ashley Stinnett (C'17), Assistant to the Assistant Director for Development
Shirin Vetry (C'18), Assistant to the Business Administrator
Autumn Wynde (C'19), Program Assistant
Kwynasia Young (C'20), Assistant to the Business Administrator
Connie Yu (C'17), Special Projects Assistant

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!

the center for programs in contemporary writing



**3805 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA
19104-6150**