



Dear Friends of the Writers House,

Our Class of 1942 Garden looks beautiful in September when students return for the start of the fall semester. “The Quality of Heaven” — a poem by William Carlos Williams etched into the garden path — attracts people from Locust Walk into a lush green oasis, where hostas, ferns, and other shade plants nestle under a canopy of trees. It’s a lovely space, a placid respite from everyday campus activities.

This year, the garden is especially welcoming. A generous gift from Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C’79) and Cliff Eisler (C’79) has enabled us to be responsive to all the ways people enter our cottage. Thanks to their support, we constructed a beautiful new accessibility ramp leading directly into the heart of the Writers House. And with additional support from Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro, we added even more plantings and a stunning new living room floor to help welcome visitors inside.

The Writers House is for everyone. In the pages of this *Annual*, you’ll read about many of the people who participate in projects here, including middle-school students from Lea Elementary in West Philadelphia, high-school students from all over the country, and creative people — writers, scholars, artists, musicians, and others — from all over the world, all of whom have helped make this community welcoming and accessible to all.

The Event Highlights section (pp. 4–11) describes many of the writers who visited us this year, including more than a dozen alumni authors returning to Penn to share their knowledge and experiences with

undergraduates. Our Digital Projects section (pp. 12–13) reflects on several interrelated, innovative media projects, many of them produced in the Wexler Studio. We detail in our Internships & Mentorships section (pp. 14–16) a selection of special opportunities for undergraduates, including twenty-four paid summer internships made possible through the RealArts@Penn program. Our Outreach pages (pp. 17–19) describe some of the community writing projects we supported, including projects led by undergraduates who sought help with intrepid, out-of-the-box ideas.

Finally, the last pages of the *Annual* name all of the Friends of the Writers House, without whom the Writers House simply would not exist. We’ve included a special shout-out (p. 21) to people who have supported us since 2004 — fifteen years!

As always, we are grateful to all of the generous people and organizations — including the Office of the Provost — who contribute to the life of the Writers House. We have a fantastic extended family of friends and supporters, including alumni, students, faculty, ModPo participants, Penn parents, Philadelphians, and Friends of the Writers House from all over the world. We are grateful to them all.

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee, thank you for everything you bring to this community!

Al Filreis
Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English

Jessica Lowenthal
Director

CONTENTS

4 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

11 FELLOWS

12 DIGITAL PROJECTS

14 INTERNSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS

17 OUTREACH

22 SUPPORTING KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



We welcomed hundreds of visitors each week into our newly renovated Arts Café for public presentations by students and faculty, conversations with visiting authors, celebratory gatherings, and more. Visit our online calendar (writing.upenn.edu/wh/calendar) for audio and video recordings of the more than one hundred public events produced at the Kelly Writers House in 2018–2019, a handful of which are described here.

AN EVENING WITH THE CRAVEN WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

► This year's **Cheryl J. Family Fiction Program** featured novelist **Weike Wang**, who is the Craven Writer-in-Residence in Penn's Creative Writing Program and a Harvard grad with a doctorate in public health. Audience members were eager to talk with Wang about her first book *Chemistry*, which KWH program coordinator **Alli Katz** described in her introduction as "a novel about feminism, identity, and inertia that seamlessly integrates fiction and science." Wang also read from a second novel-in-progress, a story about a young woman's romantic tryst in Portugal. Wang's workshop student **Daniel Finkel** (C'20), co-winner of the 2019 Creative Writing Program best thesis prize, opened the event by reading an excerpt from his darkly comic short story, "The Wichita Vortex."

THE NEW OLD ARTS CAFÉ

► On a chilly December evening, we gathered a crowd of over one hundred people to toast **Christine** and **David Gross-Loh** (W'92), whose transformative gift to the Writers House allowed us to reimagine and fully renovate our beloved Arts Café. Faculty Director **Al Filreis**, Provost **Wendell Pritchett**, KWH staff member **Andrew Beal**, and architect **Jeff Goldstein** (C'98) spoke about the past, present, and future of the re-invented mid-nineteenth century parlor — and thanked the Gross-Loh family for their help in making the complete renovation project possible. Additional thanks went to the thoughtful architects of **DIGSAU**, who pulled off a seemingly contradictory mandate — *make it all new, but keep it exactly the same* — and **Howie Lipson** (W'86), whose support allowed us to install all new theatrical lighting, recording equipment, and multicamera video capability. After the talks and toasts, party guests toured the room and marveled at all the special details, including gorgeous crown molding marking the transition from old to new, an elaborate tech track sporting lights and cameras ready for action, and the familiar old mismatched chairs, creaky as ever.

This year, Kelly Writers House welcomed two new full-time staff members: Development and Finance Coordinator **Sean Collins**, and Assistant Program Coordinator **Heidi Kalloo**.

DELICIOUS TITLES

► Our annual celebration of food and books — our delicious and punny **Edible Books Party** — is a highly anticipated event. This year's program took on special meaning, as it honored the memory of **Blaze Bernstein**, a brilliant writer and cook, who spent many happy hours in the KWH kitchen during his much-too-short time with us. As usual, we had entries in an array of extremely competitive categories: Most Delicious, Punniest, Best Use of a Single Ingredient, Most Literary, and Most Literal. **Josephine Cheng** (C'22) and **Sydney Loh** (C'22) teamed up to bake a huge and beautiful chocolate cake, inspired by a scene in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. **Heidi Kalloo** formed *The Seitanic Verses* out of a pile of seitan. **Jessica Lowenthal** made *Handmaid's Ale* by dressing two dozen ginger ales in tiny cloaks and bonnets. **Andrew Beal** and his daughter asked "Should I Share My Ice Cream?" — and, thankfully, decided to share. In selecting winners, our own **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) and Philadelphia food illustrator extraordinaire **Hawk Krall** really had their work cut out for them. But they had some help from Blaze's parents, **Jeanne Pepper** and **Gideon Bernstein**, who reviewed all entries and named one the "Blaziest": *Gum Girl*, a football-sized, shiny pink bust made of bubble gum, chewed up and sculpted by **Allison Ricks** (C'22).



EXTREMELY ONLINE

► The **Bernheimer Symposium**, an annual program endowed by Writers House Board member **Kate Levin** (G'90, GR'95) in memory of **Charles Bernheimer**, allows us to celebrate all kinds of writing. The 2018–2019 symposium, **Extremely Online: Writing Comedy in the Age of the Internet**, gathered five comedians working on and offline to talk about the advantages — and challenges — of writing for the internet. Program host **Ronald Metellus**, senior contributing writer at *The Onion* and former KWH program associate, brought together a group of funny people for a frank conversation about the rewarding and sometimes weird world of internet humor. Panelists included **Milly Tamarez**, founder of the satirical website *Flexxx*; **Kyle Harris**, who works with local sketch comedy collective Darlings; **Jeremy Levick**, who experiments with video; and **Caitlin Kunkel**, founder of the site *The Belladonna* and author of the book *New Erotica for Feminists*. The comedians shared their perspectives about how — and if — Twitter, Facebook, online mags, and other social media can sustain a comedy career.



THE AUDIO EXPERIMENTS OF JANICE LOWE

► We put our brand new Arts Café to the test with a collaborative workshop performance of *Desegregation Remix: 3 Women Sing the Borders*, a multimedia piece, co-authored by **Janice Lowe** and **Lee Ann Brown**. Set in present-day Brooklyn and 1970s Tuscaloosa and Cleveland, *Desegregation Remix* explores issues of gentrification and race through a provocative mix of text, music, image, and sound. Lowe, a poet/composer who was the 2018–2019 CPCW Fellow in Poetry and Poetic Practice, led an ensemble cast of actors and musicians in the public rehearsal of the piece, including **Olithea Anglin**, **Melanie Dyer**, **Aliria Johnson**, **Namaroon**, **Bi Jean Ngo**, **Yohann Potico**, and **DJ Manny Ward**. Audience members contributed as well, adding to a looping vocal collage, created onsite in real time, by answering the question: *when did you feel out of place?* Thanks to the technical dexterity of **Zach Carduner** (C'13), our Wexler Studio Coordinator, the Arts Café was fully prepped for the complex performance.

CHAIN OF REMEMBERING

► When and how should we talk about human suffering? Who bears the responsibility of witness to historical trauma? We discussed these and other questions on the eightieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, when, on November 9–10, 1938, Nazis attacked Jewish people and property throughout Germany. Our intergenerational conversation — organized by **Lilli Leight** (C'19), **Al Filreis**, and **Ira Blum** of Penn Hillel — gathered faculty, students, and others, including grandchildren and great grandchildren of survivors, for a discussion of the ways in which they, and all of us, are part of a long chain of remembering. Though Holocaust testimony is typically associated with the oldest among us, this conversation suggested an unconventional approach: that we should listen to young people — and respond to the ways they seek and find hope amid tragedy.

Check out videos, photos, and more from this year's Kelly Writers House programming at: writing.upenn.edu/wh/calendar



ALUMNI VISITORS

Founding Hub member **Nate Chinen** (C'97) joined **Anthony DeCurtis** in the Class of 1942 Garden for a celebration of *Playing Changes*, Chinen's new book about contemporary jazz.

In honor of legendary Penn teacher Nora Magid, **Stephen Fried** (C'79) moderated a discussion about careers in journalism and new media with alumni journalists **Jill Castellano** (C'16), **Jessica Goodman** (C'12), and **Ashley Parker** (C'05).

Our own **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) interviewed science writer **Dr. Randi Hutter Epstein** (C'84) about the history of hormones (and "how they control everything").

Our annual **Bob Lucid Fiction Program** — created in loving memory of Bob Lucid by several of his students — featured Pulitzer prize-winning superstar **Jennifer Egan** (C'85), who joined us in the Class of 1942 Garden for a twilight reception.

Students past and present of Beltran Award winner **Charles Bernstein** packed the house for a knockout poetry reading by **Trisha Low** (C'11) and **Steve McLaughlin** (C'08).

Jamie-Lee Josselyn interviewed *Vanity Fair* writer **Emily Jane Fox** (C'11) about her behind-the-scenes reporting on the Trump family.

Creative Ventures, which is funded with extraordinary generosity by **Marc Wolpow** (C’80) and **Robin Wolpow**, emphasizes creativity and encourages KWH community members to explore innovative modes of learning, making, thinking, and teaching. This year, Creative Ventures enabled a number of ambitious projects, some of which are described here.

PRODUCTION ▶ KWH people made cool stuff — collectibles, memorabilia, and swag — in honor of favorite programs and, sometimes, just to make things. **Tyler Daniels** (C’21), **Eva Lewis** (C’21), and others, including high school students in our Summer Workshop, stamped out hundreds of buttons with our trusty button-maker. **Alli Katz** screen printed special tote bags for graduating seniors. **Alyson del Pino** (C’21) developed a visual guide to the Miami art scene.

ACTIVISM ▶ **Eva Lewis** (C’21) organized a team of field researchers in Chicago to canvas residents about resource access. **Beatriz Stephen-Pons** (C’20) worked on a case study of prisoner re-entry.

PRINTWORK ▶ **Mary Tasillo** inked special broadsides at the Common Press, with help from Robinson Press assistants **Alyson del Pino** (C’21), and **Rachel Dennis** (C’22).

ZINES ▶ Writers House Zine Librarians **Alyson del Pino** (C’21), **Jacob Kind** (C’20), and **Quinn Gruber** (C’22) collected zines and other microprint DIY books for display in the Lipson Family Student Project Space, including zines made by Penn students at KWH workshops and festivals.

CULINARY COMPETITION ▶ Our annual Chili Cook-Off, hosted by **Nick Seymour** (C’19), brought community members together for delicious chilis (and fierce competition). **Henry McDevitt** (C’22) created a strange but compelling potato-based dish that challenged our notions of “chili.” Competition winners **Tasha Hutnick** (C’20) and **Brennan Burns** (C’20) made a batch with short ribs, bacon, anchovies, and as many types of pepper as they could find. **Leah Baxter** (C’21) and **Madison Taylor** (C’20) assisted in the dessert round — and Leah’s ladyfingers put the team over the top.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE ▶ Gawanabees, a writing group for medical students interested in the ways narrative and medicine intersect, gathered at KWH once a month to exchange work, typically over a meal.

URBAN PLANNING AND POETICS ▶ Grad student **Davy Knittle** (GR’21) paired poets and urban planners for his ongoing interdisciplinary series, City Planning Poetics. Discussions this year focused on urban revitalization, carceral justice, and prison reform.



STAND-UPS SIT DOWN

Our annual Stand-Ups Sit Down program, which is supported by **Haim** and **Jamie Handwerker** (C’83), welcomes comedians for frank and often hilarious conversations about show business, stand-up comedy, humor writing, and more. Comedy writers **Judy Gold** and **Laurie Kilmartin** (left) joined host **Lew Schneider** (C’83) for our fourth annual event in April.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Russian-born absurdist poet **Eugene Ostashevsky** joined us for an energetic multilingual reading of poems about migration, translation, and second-language writing as wrought by pirates and parrots.

Students of **DoubleSpeak** magazine arranged a conversation with **Anne Ishii**, an editor/translator of Japanese manga, who is the newly minted director of Philadelphia's Asian Arts Initiative.

Angolan novelist **Ondjaki**, whose prose melds magical realism, poeticism, and political satire into a jubilant depiction of urban Angola and of postcolonial Africa, shared stories about contemporary African politics and Angolan cultural peculiarities, including a discussion of funerals.

A flurry of white paper clouded the Arts Café when UK poet **Nasser Hussain** encouraged us to launch paper airplanes at will during his January reading of poems from his latest book, *SKY WRI TEI NGS*, composed entirely of words made from three-letter airport codes.

Polish-born poet, essayist, and translator **Norbert Lange** recited poems in impassioned sing-song German, with translations read by Comp Lit grad student **Adam Sax** (GR'22). **Charles Bernstein** led a discussion afterward about Lange's German-language translations of American poetry, including poems by Bernstein himself.

Russian-language poets from all over the place — **Polina Barskova** from Massachusetts, **Keti Chukhrov** from Moscow, **Dmitry Kuzmin** from Latvia, **Elena Mikhalik** from Australia, **Galina Rymbu** from Ukraine, and **Leonid Schwab** from Israel — gathered for the third Your Language My Ear Symposium, half a week of intense translation workshops, performance, discussion, and debate with anglophone poets, translators, and scholars, including Penn's **Charles Bernstein**, **Julia Bloch** (GR'11), **Yehudith Dashevsky** (C'19), **Julia Kolchinski Dasbach** (GR'21), and the amazing **Kevin Platt**, who organized the symposium.

ALUMNI VISITORS

We celebrated the work of **Stephen Fried** (C'79), author of a bestselling book about Benjamin Rush, an early Penn luminary often cited as the father of American psychiatry.

Anthony DeCurtis invited **Alex Koppelman** (C'05) to chat about the meta-work of media reporting (writing about media for the media).

Joshua Schuster (C'98, GR'07) joined us for an informal discussion of ecopoetics and the aims of such poetry to describe the world we have and imagine a better one.

Connie Yu (C'17) performed with **Laynie Browne** and **Bianca Stone** in **Michelle Taranksy's** *Whenever We Feel Like It* reading series.

Creative Writing instructor **Sam Apple** led a discussion with **Arielle Pardes** (C'14) of *Wired*, **Mike Murphy** (C'09) of *Quartz*, and **Albert Sun** (C'10) of the *New York Times*, about the ways data mining, social media, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies shape the work of reporting.

WHO WILL SPEAK FOR AMERICA?

► We kicked off our fall programming with a ten-person reading organized by **Stephanie Feldman** and **Nathaniel Popkin**, editors of *Who Will Speak for America*, an anthology of contributions from the Writers Resist movement, founded in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. “The lesson of Writers Resist for me,” Feldman said, “is the power there is in coming together to collectively and publicly affirm our values.” Our own gathering, under a big white tent in the Class of 1942 Garden, featured a powerful collection of voices responding to the Trump presidency. **Cynthia Arrieu-King**, **Cynthia Atkins**, **Herman Beavers**, **Liz Moore**, **Cynthia Dewi Oka**, **Marc Anthony Richardson**, **Carlos José Pérez Sámano**, and **Fran Wilde** approached the idea of “resistance” from many directions, but their collective work helped affirm the value of literary protest.

DOUGLAS KEARNEY

► “Freedom, freedom, where are you, I can't find freedom cause I need freedom to freedom,” poet **Douglas Kearney** chanted over footage of Beyoncé and Kendrick Lamar's 2016 stage performance of the song “Freedom.” Kearney's captivating multimedia performance — incorporating poetry, music video, and visual art — was just one event in a jam-packed two-day visit to Writers House in October. For a second program, Kearney joined planning historian **Brian Goldstein** in a conversation about urban revitalization. Organized by **Davy Knittle** (GR'21), as part of his City Planning Poetics series, the discussion addressed the ways activist and cultural histories shape and respond to the gentrification of large cities. To round out his visit, Kearney also participated in a number of Wexler Studio recordings, including a ModPoMinute video about a poem by Sophia Naz and a ModPoPlus conversation with Al Filreis about Yona Harvey's “The Dream District: Origins.”

THE WEBER SYMPOSIUM

► This season's Weber Symposium, an annual program focused on writing about economics, business, and big tech, featured a conversation with **Mehrsa Baradaran**, a law professor specializing in banking law, whose newest book, *The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap*, examines the history and politics of Black banks in America. The wide-ranging discussion, which was moderated by KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis**, explored banking failures of the twentieth century — which Baradaran helped contextualize within longer histories of structural inequality. “The reason it's important,” Baradaran explained, “is because that structure is still in place.”

ANNUAL MARATHON READING

► We celebrated **Emily Wilson's** stunning translation of *The Odyssey* by reading it aloud straight through from beginning to end. **Sam Claypoole** (C'20) claimed the first ten-minute slot of our ten-hour reading, followed by over fifty people who helped shoulder the epic task, including faculty and students from the Classics Department. People visited throughout the day to check on our progress, but longtime marathon reading buff **Harry Saffren** sat through the entire event, as he has every year since our marathon reading of *On the Road* in 2007. We sustained our energy with an Odyssean feast of Mediterranean cheeses, olives, and einkorn flatbread reproduced from an ancient recipe by bakers at Lost Bread — all sourced by **Jamie Png** (C'06), who led our culinary research work. An amazing crew of students — **Zoe Braccia** (C'20), **Yiwei Chai** (C'22), **Ashley Codner** (C'21), **Quinn Gruber** (C'22), **Husnaa Hashim** (C'22), **Tasha Hutnick** (C'20), **Emily Rush** (C'19), and **Rachel Swym** (C'22) — transported us to the ancient world with elaborate murals, interactive athletic challenges, hand-painted 3D paper pomegranates, and other imaginative decorations and props. Thanks to their efforts, and with engineering support from KWH program coordinator **Alli Katz**, a giant cardboard cyclops loomed over the entire event, keeping an eye on everything.

TELLING STORIES WITH SOUND

► In partnership with the Philadelphia Chapter of the **Asian American Journalists Association**, we invited a stellar group of podcast producers and hosts to talk about telling stories with sound. The lively conversation, moderated by **Alex Lewis**, focused on what audio can do, not just for journalism, but for narrative itself. **Neena Pathak**, who is a producer of the *Still Processing* podcast at *The New York Times*, opened the discussion by analyzing the elements of a successful audio clip. **Laura Starecheski**, an investigative reporter and producer for *Reveal*, led the audience on a hunt for the truth behind Pizzagate. **Kathy Tu**, the co-host of *Nancy*, a podcast about the LGBTQ experience today, spoke compellingly about the emotional work of interviews — for both interviewers and interviewees alike. As the program drew to a close, the panelists encouraged audience members to listen carefully to the ways stories are told.

HONORING BLAZE BERNSTEIN

► Kelly Writers House friends, students, alumni, and staff gathered at the home of KWH Advisory Board members **Reina** (CW'22, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73) to acknowledge the creation of the Blaze Bernstein Memorial Endowed Fund. The Blaze Fund supports RealArts Internships in the Los Angeles area, as well as programs and projects at the Kelly Writers House that center writing and food, two of Blaze's great loves. So far, we've named three interns thanks to the Blaze Fund: **John Anderson** (C'21) and **Becca Lieberman** (C'20), who interned at Genre Films, and **Lexi Lieberman** (C'20), who interned at Grandview. The intimate gathering at the Bassinis' home featured readings by **Kristen Martin** (C'11), who taught a food writing course in Penn's Creative Writing Program, and **Emma Morgenstern** (C'10), founder of *Penn Appétit*, where Blaze had been named managing editor, after serving as a copyeditor and contributing writer. *Anyone may contribute to the Blaze Bernstein Memorial Fund in honor of Blaze's memory. Visit writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/funds/blazememorial for more information.*





POVICH JOURNALISM HIGHLIGHTS

The Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund, endowed by **Maury Povich** (C’62) and **Connie Chung**, makes possible dozens of programs and events focused on journalism and nonfiction writing every year. This year, we welcomed journalists and editors from the *New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Washington Post*, *Quartz*, *Vanity Fair*, *Wired*, and elsewhere, as well as radio hosts, podcast producers, bestselling authors, essayists, commentators, critics, and others (many of them proud Penn alumni), including:

Douglas Brinkley	presidential historian
Jill Castellano (C’16)	investigative reporter, data analyst
Nate Chinen (C’97)	jazz critic
Emily Jane Fox (C’11)	magazine reporter
Stephen Fried (C’79)	bestselling author
Jessica Goldstein (C’11)	freelance writer
Jessica Goodman (C’12)	magazine editor
Alex Lewis	radio producer
Dana Milbank	newspaper columnist
Mike Murphy (C’09)	technology editor
Arielle Pardes (C’14)	technology editor
Ashley Parker (C’05)	White House reporter
Molly Petrilla (C’06)	freelance writer and editor
Neena Pothak	podcast producer
Albert Sun (C’10)	newspaper editor
Maya Rao	newspaper reporter
Hillary Reinsberg (C’11)	food writer and editor
Jay Rosen	media critic and scholar
Julia Rubin (C’10)	digital media editor
Laura Starecheski	investigative reporter
Kathy Tu	podcast editor and host
Helen Ubiñas	newspaper columnist
Steve Volk	freelance journalist

THE BRODSKY GALLERY

Integrated into the first floor of KWH, our Brodsky Gallery, endowed by **Michael** (W’88) and **Heidi Brodsky** (C’89), featured four shows of visual art this season, including work by Penn students.

Curated and co-created by KWH Junior Fellow **Syra Ortiz-Blanes** (C’18), *Las voces de Maria* documented the experiences of Puerto Ricans in Philadelphia displaced by Hurricane Maria. A version of the multimedia project also appeared in *The Philadelphia Citizen*.

Alyson del Pino (C’21) organized a show of comics by *New Yorker* cartoonist **Liana Finck**, whose book *Passing for Human* chronicles a cartoonist’s search for her lost shadow. Del Pino’s hand-drawn gallery guide featured whimsical descriptions of Finck’s minimalist and arresting work.

Printwork by Penn students opened up our spring semester. **Alyson del Pino** (C’21) showed cardboard intaglio, copper plate intaglio, and hand-pulled monotype. **Bronwyn Katz** (C’21) showed a series of linocuts depicting characters from “The Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll. **Heidi Lee** (C’19) showed screenprints on acetate and mylar, including “Mourning,” which commemorates the Birmingham church bombing of 1963.

Emily Rush (C’19) curated a multi-artist show based on the writings of **Bernadette Mayer**, a poet who sees letters in color. To reproduce Mayer’s experience of language, in which each letter of the alphabet appears to her as a different color, Rush used a Pantone color-key to match Mayer’s vision and then printed large scale versions of her poems. Other contributions to “Poems (in Color) by Bernadette Mayer” included collages by poet **Laynie Browne**, tapestry by **Autumn Wynde** (C’19), and a comic by KWH program coordinator **Alli Katz**.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Generously supported each year by **Paul Kelly** (C’62, WG’64), the **Kelly Writers House Fellows Program** celebrated a landmark twentieth year in 2019. We’ve had twenty years of readings by eminent authors in our Arts Café, twenty years of unforgettable meals in our dining room, and twenty years of seminar-style discussions led by KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis**.

The list of writers we have named as Kelly Writers House Fellows is remarkable, including — to name only a few — Edward Albee, John Ashbery, Paul Auster, Buzz Bissinger, Joan Didion, June Jordan, Jamaica Kincaid, Tony Kushner, and Susan Sontag. Each of them could have filled a large auditorium, but we welcomed them instead into our cozy cottage for intimate conversations with undergraduates.

Our 2018–2019 Kelly Writers House Fellows were **Mei-mei Berssenbrugge**, a Chinese American poet whose experimental writing mixes the abstract and the particular in long, gorgeous lines; **Rosanne Cash**, the legendary singer-songwriter, whose memoir *Composed* has been called called “one of the best accounts of an American life you’ll likely ever read” (*Chicago Tribune*); and **John Keene**, the eminent fiction writer who grapples with American history and retells familiar stories from forgotten, unknown, and overlooked perspectives.

Thanks to the efforts of **Lily Applebaum** (C’12), who organized all the complex details of each visit, the standing-room only

performances went off without a hitch. Berssenbrugge tested our newly installed sound system with her characteristically hushed, measured voice, which carried lovingly throughout the Arts Café, reaching all the way to overflow seating in the living room. Cash pushed our acoustics even further by performing a moving rendition of her 1981 hit song “Seven Year Ache.” Keene read a story — at times hilarious, at times heartbreaking — about a young computer whiz who channels his feelings into his keyboard.

For the students in the associated Fellows Seminar — the dozen or so undergraduates who spent the spring semester studying the work of these writers — the classroom proved to be a rewarding, collaborative learning environment. Seminar students worked together to prepare for intensive meetings with our Fellows, each taking on a special research project for presentation to their classmates. **Elizabeth Lemieux** (C’21) wrote a descriptive analysis of genre in Cash’s music, with a special focus on genre lines she’s crossed or resisted. **Lilli Leight** (C’19) read the entirety of Keene’s culture blog, dating back to

2005, and reported about the most notable entries. **Darby Levin** (C’19) read Berssenbrugge’s plays, and described their formal and linguistic relationship to her poetry.

Some of this research and careful reading helped us fete the Fellows with food; snack breaks in the Fellows class featured recipes derived from textual references. Students made a luscious fruit salad for Keene, based on a line in *Counternarratives*: “avocados, papayas, acerolas, tangerines, limes, mangoes.” For Cash, they mounded tomatoes in a bowl, recalling a scene from *Composed*, in which Cash’s mother fills a washbasin with freshly picked tomatoes from their garden.

And, as is now tradition, seminar students also gifted Fellows with their own words, presenting each Fellow with a beautiful, hand-printed broadside, created in collaboration with **Mary Tasillo** of the Common Press. Lines from Berssenbrugge’s broadside served as an anthem for the Fellows Program and the relationships it engenders: “I write to you and you feel me. / What would it be like if you contemplated my words and I felt you?”



DIGITAL PROJECTS

ModPo

During my very first week of ModPo in 2013 I watched a live webcast from my home in Sydney, Australia. I realized the room was not a set; it was a real room in a real house — dedicated to all writers and visitors, even virtual. I picked up my phone and called in. I have been a KWH fan ever since; it's the physical manifestation of Dickinson's "Paradise."

— Eleanor Smagarinsky

KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis** and a team of teaching assistants offered the seventh installment of **ModPo**, a massive open online course on modern and contemporary American poetry. Over thirty thousand new and returning students joined us for this year's course, which included weekly webcasts and fresh video content filmed by **Zach Carduner** (C'13) and **Chris Martin**, who even went on the road to meet up with ModPo friends in other cities. Poet **Erin Moure** and singer-songwriter **Andrew**

Whiteman joined a special webcast in Montreal, where we also filmed new episodes of the YouTube series ModPoMinute. ModPo TA **Molly O'Neill** (LPS'11) met up with the crew in Santa Monica for additional ModPoMinute clips. Our newest ModPo initiative is a credit-bearing version of the course taught by **Anna Strong Safford** (C'13) and offered three times a year through Penn's school of Liberal and Professional Studies. Visit lponline.sas.upenn.edu to find out more.

Wexler Studio

Our talented Wexler Studio team, led by **Zach Carduner** (C'13), produced a record number of recordings in the studio this year. We welcomed poets, musicians, scholars, audiophiles, and a variety of other talkers, and soundmakers into the flexible space.

Carduner worked closely with **Janice Lowe**, the 2018–19 CPCW Fellow in Poetics and Poetic Practice, on a series of recording sessions, to flesh out an audio rendition of Lowe's 2016 collection *Leaving CLE: poems of nomadic dispersal*. Lowe combined multi-layered vocal tracks with unorthodox instrumentation, including a kalimba and an early-twentieth century Underwood No. 3 typewriter that lives at KWH.

Wexler staffers engineered several podcasts, including two for *The Daily Pennsylvanian*:

Bottoms on Top, a humorous exploration of LGBTQ+ issues on Penn's campus, and *The Trillest*, a dating show that set up blind dates to unfold "on air."

PennSound Podcasts, which is produced in partnership with *Jacket2* and PennSound, featured a series of conversations with poets. **Jenn McCreary** interviewed **Samantha Giles** about her new collection *Total Recall*. **Jennifer Ponce de Léon** invited Argentinian poet **Dani Zelko** for a conversation about his unique form of socio-poetic practice. And **Julia Bloch** (GR'11), **Knar Gavin** (GR'22), and **Aylin Malcolm** (G'22) hosted **Allison Cobb** and **Brian Teare** for a conversation about human embeddedness in the nonhuman world.



PennSound

In April the stars aligned for a once-in-a-lifetime extravaganza: we celebrated **Charles Bernstein**, co-founder of PennSound, with a rollicking birthday bash on the eve of his retirement from Penn. Over one hundred former students, poets, and scholars flew in for the party, including **Danny Snelson** (GR'15) from California, **Christian Bök** from New Zealand, and **Yunte Wang** from China. Many old friends prepared toasts for the occasion — **Bruce Andrews**, **Johanna Drucker**, **Peter Gizzi**, **Susan**

Howe, **Erica Hunt**, **Tracie Morris**, **Marjorie Perloff**, **Jena Osman**, **Bob Perelman**, **Ron Silliman**, and **Elizabeth Willis** among them. Others piled into the Wexler Studio to record additional testimonials and reminiscences. **Chris Mustazza** (GR'19) and **Orchid Tierney** (GR'19) gathered still more materials — poems and notes and praise — for a special anthology, the *Charles Bernstein Mixtape*. You can find all this (and more) on our Charles Bernstein Retirement Celebration page at PennSound, where Bernstein's legacy lives on.

Jacket2

Since 2011, KWH has housed the international online poetics journal, *Jacket2*, an internet 2.0 update of *Jacket*, which was founded in 1997 by **John Tranter**. Each year, *Jacket2* editors **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) and **Julia Bloch** (GR'11) lead undergraduates in the work of editing an academic journal, including proofreading, copyediting, online file management, and design. Editorial assistants **Meerie Jesuthasan** (C'19),

Kelly Liu (C'21), **Alyson del Pino** (C'21), and **Nick Plante** (C'22) had their hands full this year with a small mountain of reviews, articles, commentary posts, and interviews, as well as an omnibus feature on the "extreme," curated by **Divya Victor**, which included contributions from over three dozen writers. As always, their editorial efforts were bolstered by *Merriam-Webster's* and *Chicago Manual of Style*, our go-to style guides.

2018–19 ALUMNI ONLINE BOOK GROUPS

Want to join a book group? Visit writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/groups/bookgroups. Here you'll find a community of book lovers, critics, Penn alumni, and other members of the extended KWH family. Conceived in 2000 by KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis**, the KWH Alumni Online Book Groups

offer a learning community for people who want to be involved in KWH from afar. Thanks to generous support from **David Roberts** (W'84), we've hosted one hundred and seventeen moderator-led online discussions. In recent years we've expanded beyond books to include discussions about music, genre, and

special themes, including group #112, led by **Lauren Yates** (C'12), on witchiness, femininity and healing; group #115, led by **Lily Applebaum** (C'12), on the music of Kate Bush; and group #116, led by **Victoria Ford** (C'15), on the uses of dark humor in Black literature.

POEMTALK AT THE WRITERS HOUSE

Supported by the Leight Foundation, *PoemTalk* is a monthly roundtable discussion of poems in the PennSound collection, hosted and produced by KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis** and edited by **Zach Carduner** (C'13), our Wexler Studio Coordinator. Most episodes of *PoemTalk* are recorded in our Wexler Studio, but several episodes this year were recorded on the road, including two in Los Angeles and one in Montreal. Visit *PoemTalk's* digital home at *Jacket2* (jacket2.org/content/poem-talk) to listen in.

- #127 JOHN ASHBERY'S SHORT ANSWER
- #128 SUEYEUN JULIETTE LEE'S "PERFECT VILLAGERS" SERIES
- #129 SYLVIA PLATH'S "THE STONES"
- #130 GWENDOLYN BROOKS'S "RIOT"
- #131 RACHEL ZOLF'S MARKOV CHAIN TEXT
- #132 MARIA HINDMARCH ON VANCOUVER'S POETRY SCENE
- #133 DIVYA VICTOR ON WHITMAN'S COLONIAL EXTRACTION
- #134 MEI-MEI BERSSENBRUGGE'S *HELLO, THE ROSES*
- #135 JOHN CAGE WRITING THROUGH *FINNEGANS WAKE*
- #136 NASSER HUSSAIN'S *SKY WRI TEI NGs*
- #137 ANNE SEXTON, "THE AMBITION BIRD"



INTERNSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS

Bassini Apprenticeships

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

This year’s Bassini Apprenticeships were distinguished by an emphasis on research practices. Working with nonfiction writer **Sam Apple**, **Dillon Bergin** (C’19) performed primary research about German chemist Otto Warburg. **Amy Juang** (C’20) helped poet **Janice Lowe** develop a database of innovative multi-genre writers, curators, and artists. **William Miller** (C’20) and **Sabrina Qiao** (C’19) investigated doctor-writers and medical narratives with novelist **Weike Wang**, the CPCW Craven Writer-in-Residence.

Povich Internship Prizes

The Povich Internship Prize program, sponsored by **Maury Povich** (C’62), enabled students to accept internship opportunities at creative companies. Student interns included **Anjali Berdia** (C’21) at NoCamels.com, **Ka Yee Christy Ching** (C’19) at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, **Rachelle Frederic** (C’21) at Safehouse Pictures, **Kati Kim** (C’20) at Mad Chance Productions and Joint Effort Productions, **Peter Lu** (C’21) at Mophonics and Spin Move Producers, **Amy Marcus** (C’20) at To Write Love on Her Arms, **Cassidy Mazurek** (C’20) at the Pennsylvania Ballet, **Rowana Miller** (C’22) at The Public Theater, **Toni Walker** (C’20) at VH1, **Galena Sardamova** (C’20) at The Barnes Foundation, and **Maritza Hernandez** (C’21) at the Creative Resilience Collective.

Alumni Mentorship Program

The **Alumni Mentorship Program** connects undergraduates with Penn alumni who work in creative fields. Important mentoring relationships develop through informal lunches, small gatherings at Writers House, and one-on-one conversations.

Students interested in journalism, editing, and publishing met in the fall semester with alumni working in those fields, including **Joy Bauer** of the *Today Show*, **Julie Merberg** (C’88) of Downtown Bookworks, **Taylor Hosking** (C’17) of VICE Media, **Jacob Gardenswartz** (C’18, LPS’18) of MSNBC, **Caroline Kee** (C’15) of *BuzzFeed*, **Michelle Ma** (C’15) of the *Wall Street Journal*, and **Samantha Sharf** (C’12) of *Forbes*.

In the spring, students met with alumni working in the entertainment industry, including executive producer **Alison Greenspan** (C’17), Viacom Catalyst Senior Vice President **Cheryl Family** (C’91), producer **Allison Friedman** (C’09), FilmNation’s **Mike Jackman** (C’85), executive producer **Ariana Jackson** (W’03), writer/director **Lew Schneider** (C’83), screenwriter **David Stern** (C’89), Creative Artists Agency mailroom clerk **Tahir Bell** (C’17), 321 Theatrical Management assistant **Timothy Bloom** (C’17), *Single Parents* writer **Maurin Mwombela** (C’17), William Morris Endeavor assistant **Brian Park** (C’18), MTV/VH1 assistant **Sydney Rodriguez** (W’18), and *Woman Up* script coordinator **Emma Soren** (C’16).



The Friend Fellows Project

Supported generously by the **Harris Family Foundation**, **Katherine P. Harris**, and **Bill and Linda Friend**, the Friend Fellows project enables a mix of internships, research projects, and teaching assistantships during the academic year.

Naomi Elegant (C’19) wrote for the *Philadelphia Public School Notebook*, a nonprofit news service that covers the local school system.

Meerabelle Jesuthasan (C’19) and **Isabella Simonetti** (C’21) interned at *The Philadelphia Citizen*, an online media organization, where they wrote articles and assisted with social media, grant work, and company-wide events.

Morgan Skidmore worked for The Teachers Institute of Philadelphia, a project that allows Philadelphia public school teachers to enroll in seminars taught by Penn professors.

Amber Rose Johnson (GR’21) and **Davy Knittle** (GR’20) TA’d for a graduate seminar on modern and contemporary poetry run in parallel to ModPo, a massive open online course on the same subject.

Sean McGeehan (C’16) and **Luisa Healey** (C’21) pitched in at PennSound, our enormous archive of audio files, where they learned about digital media and streaming, audio editing, and HTML.



GET INVOLVED!

All of our internship and mentorship programs are organized by **R.J. Bernocco** (G’12) and **Mingo Reynolds** in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. With the help of Penn alumni, parents, faculty, and staff — including RealArts@Penn Faculty Director **Anthony DeCurtis** and Van Doren Fellow **Stephanie Garcia** (C’18) — they work tirelessly to connect Penn students with career-boosting opportunities. Do you want to find out more? Email us at realarts@writing.upenn.edu to get more information or get involved.

Special Opportunities

The Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund helps fill some of the financial gaps that exist in university support for creative students. Thanks to this extraordinary fund, KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis** helped several students meet their creative and intellectual goals this year. **Sophia DuRose** (C’21) traveled to the West Coast to assume the life of her twin sister for a writing research project. **Husnaa Hashim** (C’22) attended the Summer Writing Program at Naropa University. **Anthony Lagana** (C’21) interned for a month at Harvard’s Woodbury Poetry Room. And **Mary Osunlana** (C’20) traveled to London to document minority skateboard culture.

Many alumni, parents and friends contributed to this special opportunities fund, including Jon (C’71) and Barbara Avnet, Emilio Bassini (C’71 W’71 WG’73) and Reina Marin Bassini (CW’72 GED’72), Lucy Oh Cook (C’95), Reuben (W’91) and Jennifer Daniels, Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C’92) and Lee Rudy (C’92), Marcy (C’88) and Jeff Schneider (C’88), Mark (C’95) and Rachel Sherman (C’95), and Melissa and Lawrence Stoller. To find out how you can join in this effort, email Andrew Beal (abeal@writing.upenn.edu).

RealArts@Penn Internships

The RealArts@Penn Internship Program provides professional guidance, networking opportunities, and real-world job experience for students interested in pursuing arts-related careers. RealArts@Penn offered twenty-four paid internships in the summer of 2019:

PRINT MEDIA

Downtown Bookworks Inc. (New York City)
Flathead Beacon (Montana)
Library of Congress (Washington D.C.)
Philadelphia Media Network (Philadelphia)
Philadelphia Magazine (Philadelphia)
Pitchfork Media (New York City)
McSweeney's and the *Believer* (San Francisco)
Small Press Distribution (San Francisco)

Elaina Doft (C'21)
Charlotte Bausch (C'20)
Joyce Hida (C'21)
Carmina Hachenburg (C'21)
Sabrina Qiao (C'19)
Colin Lodewick (C'19)
Sophia DuRose (C'21)
Elizabeth Lemieux (C'21)

MUSEUMS

Morgan Library and Museum (New York City)
White Chapel Gallery (London)

Brooke Krancer (C'20)
Autumn Wynde (C'19)

MUSIC

Shore Fire Media (New York City)
Settlement Music School (Philadelphia)

Samuel Kesler (C'20)
Teresa Xie (C'22)

TELEVISION AND FILM

Brooklyn Films (Los Angeles)
David Stern and Stuart Gibbs, Writers (Los Angeles)
Doug Robinson Productions (Los Angeles)
Genre Films (Los Angeles)
Grandview (Los Angeles)
Management 360 (Los Angeles)

Becca Lieberman (C'20)
Caroline Harris (C'19)
Liza Babin (C'20)
John Anderson (C'21)
Kate Lindenburg (C'20)
Hughes Ransom (C'19)
Lexi Lieberman (C'20)
Shalom Obiagio (C'21)
Akhil Vaidya (C'22)
Francesca Reznik (C'19)

Monami Productions (New York City)
Tremolo Productions (Los Angeles)
Viacom Catalyst: Creative + Strategy (New York City)

THEATER

1812 Productions (Philadelphia)
Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures (New York City)

Lynn Osegura (C'20)
Ali Yarto (C'20)

Alumni Spotlight

Jessica Penzias (C'12) was awarded a RealArts@Penn Internship in the summer of 2011 with David Stern and Stuart Gibbs. Since then, Penzias has made a career as a playwright and librettist; she credits Stern and Gibbs in her success story.

"My time interning for David Stern and Stuart Gibbs was invaluable to me. I can trace my career back to that summer in L.A., when I first learned that writing was a viable career option. I learned about writing

for young audiences and about writing musicals.

My greatest professional moments have been moments I shared with my collaborators. Finding joy in the process is essential and best done with

people who inspire you. It's essential to reach out to people you admire to learn from them and offer your support when appropriate. And always always say thank you."

OUTREACH



COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECTS

WRITE ON!

► Write On! is a community writing project that matches Penn students with kids from Henry C. Lea Elementary School. On Fridays throughout the year we welcome two dozen middle-schoolers to KWH for writing games and one-on-one mentoring. The project has been sponsored by Jerilyn Perman (C'91) and Brian Perman (W'90) through the Esther Saxon Fund since 2001. Their continued support over the past eighteen years has helped nurture generations of writers. This year's lead coaches **Juliana Kemenosh (C'20)**, **Rachel Kulik (W'21)**, **Carrie Shade (C'21)**, and **Linda Zhou (C'21)** designed creative exercises to encourage self-expression, imagination, and confidence in writing skills. Students from **Rachel Zolf's** Community Writing course offered extra assistance in

the spring semester. And a team of KWH student chefs — including **Ashley Codner (C'21)**, **Tasha Hutnick (C'20)**, and **Husnaa Hashim (C'22)** — cooked up elaborate after-school snacks each week, making sure to have plenty of healthy options on hand. Each weekly Write On! session concluded in the Arts Café, where Lea students had the opportunity to share their work with classmates and coaches. And, in true KWH fashion, a celebration of student writing, with plenty of food, capped off the year.

TRANSCRIBEZ

► Transcribez is a community writing group for trans and gender nonconforming youth, organized in partnership with Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice and the LGBT Center. The program offers a dedicated space for trans youth to come together and share their experiences in a

safe and welcoming setting. Guidance and support comes from mentor writers, who visit throughout the year, arranged by **Andrew Spiers**, a trans/queer writer and radical social worker who serves as the group's facilitator. In March, **Raquel Salas Rivera (GR'19)**, the 2018–2019 Poet Laureate of Philadelphia, visited Transcribez for the third year in a row. And everyone celebrated in April with a launch party for a collectively written chapbook, designed and edited by **Davy Knittle (GR'21)**. Transcribez is made possible thanks to the Esther Saxon Term Fund and a special gift from the Blackheart Foundation.

WRITING A LIFE

► Founded in 2014 as a collaboration with the Abramson Cancer Center, **Writing a Life** is a writing group for people with cancer diagnoses. The group met

twice a month this year — to write together and find support — with facilitator **Deborah Burnham**. Burnham edited an anthology of the group's writings in May of this year, with design assistance from **Lisa Liu (C'20)**.

COMMUNITY WRITING COURSE

► Students in Rachel Zolf's **Community Writing** course, which was supported in part by a grant from the Blackheart Foundation, studied creative writing pedagogy in the classroom and then visited a range of Philadelphia writing projects to learn more. Zolf encouraged her students to generate ideas about how to harness the power of education — and creative writing in particular — for personal and social change. Several students from the course visited Write On! and worked side-by-side with our volunteers.

UNDERGRADUATE
OUTREACH WORK

Eva Lewis (C’21), a Levin Outreach Intern at KWH, took a lead role in developing our outreach capacity by performing much needed research about volunteer opportunities in Philadelphia.

Juliana Kemenosh (C’20), **Rachel Kulik** (W’21), **Carrie Shade** (C’21), and **Linda Zhou** (C’21) served as lead coaches for Write On!, our after-school writing program.

Ian McCormack (C’21) and **Yiwei Chai** (C’22) assisted with our Summer Workshop for Young Writers.

James Fisher (C’19) worked at Mighty Writers, an off-campus after-school writing program, where he assisted high school students with college applications.

A grant from Writers House helped **Max** and **Sam Strickberger** (C’22) expand *InLight*, a publication based in Washington, DC that helps build empathy through storytelling.

Imani Davis (C’20), who served as a teaching assistant for **Rachel Zolf**’s Community Writing course, developed writing workshops for students at Sayre High School.



ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

RECRUITMENT AND ACCESS

► We want talented high school writers to apply to Penn, so we are always on the lookout for prospective students with interest in writing and the creative arts. Our student recruitment efforts are led by **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05), who visits high schools and youth writing programs all over the country. Tour stops this year included the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, the Orange County School of the Arts, Interlochen Arts Academy, WriteGirl, Writopia Lab, Bathgate Educational Complex in the Bronx, and the Charleston County School of the Arts.

And, of course, she met with plenty of prospective students and their families right here at KWH, too, with help from **Ian McCormack** (C’21), who greeted visitors and led dozens of special tours throughout the year.

A lot of people help make this work possible. Over one hundred alumni, parents, and other friends joined us at the Louis K. Meisel Gallery in November for our seventeenth annual **Writers House New York** event, hosted by Susan

and **Louis Meisel**, to pledge their financial support for our recruitment efforts. Thanks to their generosity, we raised over one third of our annual goal for our student recruitment program. Other assistance came from KWH alumni and members of the KWH Board who helped us connect with local writing programs, area high schools, and individual prospective students. We are also grateful to **Crissy Iglesias** and the **Office of Penn Admissions** for their ongoing support of our recruitment efforts.

Are you a prospective student interested in hearing more about writing at Penn? Don’t be shy! Email **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** at jjossely@writing.upenn.edu.

SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR
YOUNG WRITERS

► Twenty writers participated in our third annual **Summer Workshop for Young Writers**, an intensive ten-day residential program for high school students.

Summer Workshop Director **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05) led lively discussions every morning about personal essay writing.

David Marchino (C’16), **Izzy Lopez** (C’19), **Ian McCormack** (C’21), and **Yiwei Chai** (C’22) moderated additional collaborative sessions in which students workshopped fresh drafts, inspired by their work with Josselyn and one another.

Afternoons were reserved for one-off craft sessions taught by KWH-affiliated artists and writers, including experimental poetry with **Michelle Taransky**, poetry and science with **Kaitlin Moore** (C’18), comics with **Alli Katz**, food writing with **Kristen Martin** (C’11), persona poetry with **Victoria Ford** (C’15), character development with **Melissa Jensen**, narrative collage with **Karen Rile** (C’80), creative annotation with **Sarah Arkebauer** (C’11), letterpress with **Mary Tasillo**, audio recording with **Zach Carduner** (C’13), and pie-making with **Lily Applebaum** (C’12). (Yes! We made — and ate — a half-dozen pies.)

Food played a central role in other activities as well: daily fruit breaks, snacks of bubble tea and **Insomnia Cookies**, and catered lunches representing Philly’s diverse food scene. A field trip to

the Magic Gardens included a stop at **Ishkabibble**’s for cheesesteaks and **Gremlin** (a local drink made of equal parts lemonade and grape juice). A late afternoon hangout on the hammocks at **Spruce Street Harbor Park** involved two kinds of water ice. And plenty of popsicles throughout the ten-day program helped our workshopppers beat the Philly heat.

Days and nights were otherwise filled with conversation, writing assignments, and games of **Uno** in the **Rodin College House** rooftop lounge, so our workshopppers had little time for rest. But these brilliant students emerged from the program with renewed creative energy. **Deborah Olatunji** put it this way: “I learned that when life is going too fast to fully recollect moments, taking time to pause is essential for growth as a writer, friend, and human being.”

We are grateful to **Maury Povich** (C’62) and **Connie Chung** for their support of this program. With their help, we award grants of financial assistance to more than half of participants.



SUPPORTING KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

Everything we do 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, Mentorships, and Apprenticeships

Bassini Apprenticeship Endowed

Fund ▶ Working one-on-one with professional writers, undergraduate apprentices gain first hand experience in the real work of a writing career. This year, William Miller (C'20) and Sabrina Qiao (C'19) worked with Craven Writer-in-Residence Weike Wang on her second novel, Dillon Bergin (C'19) helped Sam Apple with his upcoming book, and Amy Juang (C'20) supported Janice Lowe in developing a database of multi-genre writers. *Endowed in 2007 by Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73).*

Blaze Bernstein Memorial Endowed

Fund ▶ In partnership with the Bernstein family, we are proud to honor the legacy of Blaze Bernstein, an extraordinary young writer whose tragic death we all mourn. In honor of Blaze, this fund supports an annual RealArts@Penn Internship in Los Angeles, as well as community-oriented programs that center writing and food, two of Blaze's great loves. The 2019 Blaze Bernstein Memorial Intern was John Anderson (C'21), who worked at Genre Films. *Founded in 2018 with a lead gift from Gideon Bernstein and Jeanne Pepper Bernstein, the Blaze Fund is supported by a community of Writers House friends, including Maya Afilalo (C'16), Reina Marin Bassini (C'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71,*

W'71, WG'73), Erica Baum, Roxanne Bok (C'81) and Scott Bok (C'81, W'81, L'84, Trustee 2005–present), Merle Chernovsky Born (CW'68), Lucinda (ASC'92) and Timothy Carlson (W'88), Anthony DeCurtis, Monica Donegan (C'16, LPS'17), Jennifer Egan (C'85), Andrew Ferris, Brandon Fleischer (C'15), Ken Goldman (C'92), Alex Goldstein (C'11), Dr. Amy Gutmann (HOM'04) and Dr. Michael W. Doyle, Haim (C'83) and Jamie Handwerker, Jessica Haralson (C'08), Kim and Alan Hartman (W'87), Carine Hejazi (W'03), Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present) and Nancy Kelly, Kate Levin (GAS'96) and Robin Shapiro Levin, Seth and Deanne Lipsay (WG'86), Jessica Lowenthal (G'07) and Ryan Godfrey, Kristen Martin (C'11), Sharone Menczel (C'95, L'99), Emma Morgenstern (C'10), James F. Newswanger (C'82, GED'90, GR'95), Brian Perman (W'90) and Jerilyn Perman, Karen Rile (C'80) and Larry Smith, Leslie Dezer Salmon (W'82) and Ricardo Salmon (W'93), Jerome Schneider (C'95), Robert Shepard (C'82) and Bob Numerof (C'82; C'83), Bill Speer, Laina Spinelli and Dan Spinelli, Susahn Stowers-Soule, David Roberts (W'84) and Deborah Roberts, Ellen Umansky (C'91) and David Gutman, Hilda Beltran Wagner (CAS'87), and Rick Wennerberg.

The Clearman Cottage Residency ▶ The Clearman Cottage Residency provides

young writers with uninterrupted writing time in an idyllic setting, a waterfront guest cottage in Washington, so that they may make substantial progress on a significant writing project. The fourth annual weeklong residency was awarded to Sabrina Qiao (C'19), who used the retreat to work on her memoir about her experiences as a survivor of an autoimmune disease. *Supported annually by Buzz Bissinger (C'76) and Lisa Smith since 2015.*

Eisler Endowed Internship Fund ▶ The Eisler Internship Fund offers financial assistance to students who have accepted unpaid or modestly paid internships at cultural institutions, so that any student, regardless of financial circumstances, can pursue specialized learning opportunities in the arts. The Eisler Fund made it possible for Brooke Krancer (C'20) to intern at the Morgan Library in summer 2019. *Endowed by Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C'79) and Cliff Eisler (C'79) in 2011.*

Elissa Caterfino Mandel Internship Endowed Fund ▶ The Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed Internship Fund supports student internships in the real-world practice of editing. Our 2018–2019 Caterfino Mandel Intern was Meerabelle Jesuthasan (C'19) who served as an editorial assistant for *Jacket2* magazine. *Endowed by Elissa Caterfino Mandel in 2011.*



Ginns RealArts Internship Endowed

Fund ▶ Endowed by Seth (C'00) and Jane Ginns in 2019, the Ginns Internship Fund supports one RealArts@Penn Intern each summer, helping students interested in pursuing arts-related careers gain practical experience and professional guidance. We look forward to announcing the first Ginns RealArts Intern next year!

Kate Levin Community Outreach

Internship Endowed Fund ▶ This fund supports Community Outreach Internships through which students participate in writing-based community service efforts. We named two Levin Interns this year: Eva Lewis (C'21), who started a volunteer guide for Penn students, and James Fisher (C'19), who worked at Mighty Writers. *Endowed by Kate Levin (G'90, GR'95) in 2012.*

Maury Povich RealArts Internship Prize

Fund ▶ The Povich Prize Fund helps level the playing field by offering funding to



students who have secured unpaid or modestly paid internships at cultural institutions, arts organizations, or creative companies. Preference for the award goes to students with demonstrated financial need. The Povich Fund supported eleven students in the summer of 2019, including Ka Yee Christy Ching (C'19), who interned in the conservation department at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. *Endowed by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.*

RealArts Internship Fund ▶ RealArts@Penn helps students make meaningful connections beyond the university, particularly through paid summer internships at leading cultural institutions. Thanks to strong partnerships cultivated with alumni and friends at 20th Century Fox, Pitchfork Media, Viacom, The Morgan Library and Museum, and elsewhere, we supported twenty-four interns in the summer of 2019. *Funded with a special gift by Marc Wolpov (W'80),*



Robin Wolpov, and the Marc and Robin Wolpov Family Fund, with additional support from Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung, the Cape Branch Foundation, Dirk Wittenborn (C'72), and Kirsten Wittenborn.

RealArts Program Fund ▶ Anyone can contribute to the RealArts Program Fund, which supports the core mission of the RealArts@Penn project: mentoring undergraduates. With the help of this fund, the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing creates a series of opportunities for undergraduates to meet with alumni mentors working at art organizations or in creative fields. Alumni mentors who visited for informal lunches included Buzz Bissinger (C'76), David Borgenicht (C'90), Cheryl J. Family (C'91), Caryn Karmatz-Rudy (C'92), Lew Schneider (C'83), and David Stern (C'89). *Funded with a special gift from Ricardo Salmon (W'93) and Leslie Dezer Salmon (W'92), with additional support from Jessica Penzias (C'12).*

15 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Featured visitors to our Arts Café in 2004–2005 included Roger Angell, Lorene Cary, Nate Chinen, E. L. Doctorow, Stefan Fatsis, Paul Hendrickson, Ken Kalfus, Erica Hunt, Rebecca Traister, Anne Waldman, and dozens more. Then, as now, all of our programs were free and open to the public. And just as we do today, we relied on financial support from Friends of the Kelly Writers House to make such programs possible. This year, we want to give an extra special shout out and thank you to the Friends of the Kelly Writers House who supported us back in 2004 — and continue to support us today! Thank you, Friends, for your enduring interest in Writers House, for your long friendship, and for your commitment to this place.

Nat Anderson, Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum, Dennis Barone and Deborah Ducoff-Barone, Reina Marin Bassini and Emilio Bassini, Megan Bly and Scott Wunsch, Roxanne Bok and Scott Bok, Robert Brylawski, Eric Brotman, Robert Brylawski, Nathalie Burg, Jean Chatzky and Eliot Kaplan, Susan Croll and Paul Monasevitch, Bob and Marcia D'Augustine, Colleen Davis, Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve, Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler and Cliff Eisler, Cheryl Family and Ken Saji, Harvey Feldman and Carol Kosik, Robert Friedman, Seamus and Mary Ann Gilson, MacKarness Goode and Penelope Bodry-Sanders, Ted and Judy Goldsmith, Adam Groothuis, Bruce and Karyn Greenwald, Harry and Lyn Groome, Jane Gutman, Alex Halpern, Hank and Carol Herman,

Steven and Thomas Heller, Stephen and Jane Heumann, Carolyn Jacobson and Erik Simpson, Sally Kaplan, Dick and Kathy Katz, Donald Keim, Paul and Nancy Kelly, Edward Kelly, Kate Levin and Robin Shapiro, Murray McComas, Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan, Brian and Jerilyn Perman, Neil Plakcy, Hadley Davis Rierson and Lee Rierson, Andrew Robinson, Peter Rogers, Steve and Marsha Roth, Daniel Rottenberg, Caryn Karmatz Rudy and Lee Rudy, Robert Sandler, Susan Small Savitsky, Jon Saxon, Dan Schorr, David and Barbara Simon, Ken Stein, Mary Eileen Streight, David Sussman, Ellen Umansky and David Gutman, Gary and Nina Wexler, Eleanor Wilner, Henry and Judy Zachs, Harvey and Judith Zalesne



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

We thank the following Friends for their generous support of the Writers House in our 2018–2019 year:

Jill Abbott, Alyson and Marc Adler, Jason and Mandee Adler, Maya Afilalo, Matthew Algeo, Nathalie Anderson, Anonymous, Alonna Anspach, Derek Arthur, Sarah Auerbach, Herman and Madeline Axelrod, Duff Axsom, Sharon Baird, Dennis Barone and Deborah Ducoff-Barone, Gregory Barron and Sarah Murphy, Sean Basinski, Elissa Bassini and Jeremy Pick, Erica Baum, Arthur and Susan Becker-Weidman, Donald Beetham, Leah and William Begg, Evelyn Bender, Lysa Bennett and Gregory Djanikian, Carol Bergere, Edward Bergman, Charles Bernstein, Ellan and Leonard Bernstein, Bernardo Beyer, Constance Billé, Ronna Blaser, Simone Blaser, Peter and Eleanor Bloch, Scott Blum, Kathleen Blurock, Penelope Bodry-Sanders and MacKarness Goode, David Borgenicht, Merle Born, Barbara Bravo, Jay Brecker, Hal Broderon and Laura Sanchez, Ellen and Robert Brooks, Meredith Broussard and David Grazian, Denis and Jacqueline Brousse, Deborah Brown and Jefrey Pollock, Jacqueline Brown, Marc Brown and Betsy Levine-Brown, Alexis Brunswick, Robert Brylawski, Ricki Bull, James Burdett, Nathalie Burg, Sally Burrell, Lucinda and Timothy Carlson, John Carroll and Rachael Paz, Leonard Cassuto, Nora Castle, Janine Catalano, Philip and Wendy Catalano, Mary Carol Catanese, Sandra Chaff, Mandana Chaffa, Andrew Chang, Debjani Chatterjee, Stanley Chodorow, Elizabeth Chung, Kyung Chung, Laurie Churchman, Leah Cianfrani, Sara Coelho, Brett Cohen, Charles Cohen, Gail and Martin Cohen, Harris Cohen,

Awards and Prizes

Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award Endowed Fund ▶ Every year we nominate an outstanding teacher for the Beltran Family Teaching and Mentorship Award. This year’s honoree was Charles Bernstein, a beloved teacher, poet, mentor, and co-founder of PennSound. For the Beltran Prize Program, Bernstein hosted a poetry reading by his former students Trisha Low (C’11) and Steve McLaughlin (C’08). *Endowed by Penn parents John Paul Beltran and Lina Beltran in 2012.*

Terry B. Heled Travel and Research Grant Endowed Fund ▶ The Heled Travel Grant enables a student to undertake a significant travel-based research and writing project. This prize round, Caroline Harris (C’19) studied the intersection of poetry and pilgrimage while hiking over one hundred miles of the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage in Japan. *Endowed by Mali Heled Kinberg (C’95, G’95), in 2007, in memory of her mother Terry B. Heled, with additional support this year from Stefanie Moll (C’94).*

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. Erin O’Malley (C’21) won this year’s prize for her proposal to produce a chapbook about Asian Pacific Islander Desi American icons. *Endowed by Penn parents Michael and Danielle Goldstein in 2010.*

Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic Nonfiction ▶ The Parker Prize acknowledges excellence in student journalism. Annabelle Williams won the 2018–2019 Parker Prize for an investigative piece that chronicles an altercation between a Pennsylvania teacher and two young anti-abortion activists. *Endowed by Bret (CAS’90) and Katharine Parker in 2011.*

The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Fund ▶ Established to honor the literary communitarianism of our first director, Kerry Sherin Wright, the Kerry Prize is awarded annually to a Hub member who proposes a project in line with Kerry’s capacious vision. This year’s prize will support two winners: Jacob Kind (C’20), who will develop a blog about drag culture in Philadelphia, and Samantha Friskey (C’20) who will focus on playwriting. *Supported annually by the KWH community, with a special gift this year from Margaret Katz Cordish (C’99) and Reed Cordish, and additional support from Peggy Fox (G’68).*

Special 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 public interview-style conversations hosted by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis. Our 2018–2019 Fellows were fiction writer John Keene, poet Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, and Grammy-winning artist Rosanne Cash. *Supported annually since 1999 by Paul Kelly (C’62, WG’64, Trustee 1997–present).*

The Brodsky Gallery Endowed Fund ▶ The Brodsky Gallery Fund supports the work of emerging art curators, who select, hang, and showcase works by visual artists. Exhibitions this season included a multimedia project organized by Syra Ortiz-Blanes (C’17) that profiled Puerto Ricans displaced by Hurricane Maria, and a collaborative exploration of Bernadette Mayer’s poetic practice, curated by Emily Rush (C’19). *Endowed by Michael Brodsky (W’88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C’89) in 2010.*

Writers House Journal Endowment Fund ▶ The Writers House Journal Endowment Fund supports *Jacket2*, our online journal of contemporary poetry and poetics, where student editorial assistants learn editorial practice first-hand. Updated daily with reviews, commentary, essays, and interviews, *Jacket2* is a go-to resource for its global audience. *Endowed by an anonymous donor in 2000.*

Leight Foundation Term Fund ▶ The Leight Foundation Term Fund allows us to produce the podcast *PoemTalk*, a roundtable discussion of poems in the PennSound collection, featuring a rotating set of poets and poet-scholars. A collaboration of Kelly Writers House, *Jacket2*, PennSound, and the Poetry Foundation, *PoemTalk* is produced and hosted by Al Filreis, and engineered and edited by Zach Carduner (C’13). *Supported annually by the Leight Foundation since 2017.*

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress Endowed Fund ▶ Through the Robinson Press, students discover and explore print culture in the newly renovated Common Press studio. Robinson Press assistants Alyson del Pino (C’21), Rachel Dennis (C’22) and Rowana Miller (C’22) worked side-by-side with new full-time Common Press manager Mary Tasillo. *Endowed by Nina Robinson Vitow (CW’70, WG’76) in memory of her parents Herman and Jeanne Robinson in 2010.*

Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowed Fund for the Literary Journalism Magazine ▶ The Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund nurtures journalistic talent by making possible the publication of magazines that feature substantial long-form nonfiction pieces by Penn students. The fund supported several magazines this year including *InLight*, *Moviegoer*, and *MugShots*. *Endowed by Penn parents Judith Zarin and Gerald Rosenfeld in 2011.*

The Creative Ventures Fund ▶ Creative Ventures enables students and faculty to pursue ambitious projects and ideas, especially those that emphasize innovation, discovery, and imagination. The Creative Ventures Fund made possible a range of projects and activities this year, including zine-making workshops, travel to film festivals, a series of interdisciplinary discussions (about urban space, food, intersections of science and art, entrepreneurial journalism, and more), and playful community-engagement projects, such as our annual Marathon Reading. *Supported annually by Marc Wolpow (W’80) and Robin Wolpow since 2011.*

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. The 2019–2020 seminar Mamas of Dada will focus on the vital contributions women have made to the twentieth-century avant-garde. *Funded annually by Dirk Wittenborn (C’72) and the Cape Branch Foundation since 2008.*

FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Robert Cohen, Michael Cohn, Robin Cohn, Mary Collins, Blayne Colmore, John Conley, Lydia Cortes, Randall Couch, David Cowen, Michael and Pamela Crane, Marnie and Jonathan Cryer, Amaris Cuchanski, Michael and Theresa Cuchanski, Michael and Pamela Cullina, Jacob Cytryn, Jean Dana, Barbara and David Daniels, Colleen Davis, Laura De Bernardi, T. de Los Reyes, Anthony DeCurtis, Paul Deveney, Linda Diamond, Franklin Dines and Lynn Arost, Lance and Mary Donaldson-Evans, Monica Donegan, Andrew and Debra Censits Donnally, Annette Dorsky, Christina and Charles Downey, Elise Drake, Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof, Andrew Dulberg, Robin Ebenstein, Jennifer Egan, Sarah Eisen Nanus, Carol Elias, Melissa Enns, Len and Jane Epstein, Galina Espinoza, Daniel Evans, Michelle Falkoff, Robert Faunce, Harvey Feldman and Carol Kosik, Ronald Fellman, Walt Fellman, William Fenrich, Jeffrey Feuer and Orli Low, Catherine Field, Lois Filreis, Jean Findlay, Brandon Fleischer, Luellen Fletcher, Anne Flick and Neil Braun, Marni Fogelson-Teel and Joseph Teel, Jenny Ford,

EMILY DICKINSON CIRCLE

Lucille and Irwyn Applebaum, Stuart Applebaum, Barbara and Jonathan Avnet, Reina and Emilio Bassini, Martin and Barbara Bienenstock, Roxanne and Scott Bok, Eric Brotman, Jean Chatzky and Eliot Kaplan, Connie Chung and Maury Povich, Lucy Cook, Bob and Marcia D’Augustine, Reuben Daniels, Kathy DeMarco, Andrew and Ricki Eisenstein, Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler and Cliff Eisler, Joseph Fidanque and Victoria Cohen de Fidanque, Christopher Forman, Robert Friedman, Linda and Bill Friend, Alan Gilbert, Jane and Seth Ginns, Howard and Cambria Gordon, David and Christine Gross-Loh, Alexandra Halpern, Jamie and Haim Handwerker, Katherine Harris, Alan and Kim Hartman, Mali Heled Kinberg, Carol and Hank Herman, Talia Hochman Siegel and Henry Siegel, Paul and Nancy Kelly, Mali Kinberg, Lois Kohn-Claar and Gary Claar, Laurie Legum, Richard Lewis and Ilina Singh, Elissa Mandel, Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan, Lisa New and Larry Summers, Arthur and Ilene Penn, Brian and Jerilyn Perman, Wendy and Brett Prager, Hadley and Lee Rieron, Deborah and David Roberts, Jonathan Rosenstein, Lee and Caryn Rudy, Ricardo and Leslie Salmon, Jeffrey and Marcy Schneider, Jerome Schneider, Justin and Jennifer Segal, Robin Shapiro and Katherine Levin, Rachel and Mark Sherman, Miriam and Steven Sosnick, Kenneth Stein, Daniella Vitale and David Biro, Martha Wallace and Edward Kane, Dirk Wittenborn, Robin and Marc Wolpow



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Sallie Foster, Sharon and Benjamin Fountain, Peggy Fox, Alan and Arlene Freedman, Tovia and William Freedman, Jacqueline Friedland, Liza Fuchs, Lisa Funderburg, Roy and Vicki Gainsburg, Erin and Mark Gallagher, Greg Gallagher, Mark and Pamela Gallagher, Domingo and Jenny García, Stephen Gerkin, Nadia Ghent, John Giannotti, Stuart Gibbs, Elizabeth Gibson, Seamus and Mary Gilson, Jody Girgenti, Norman Glickman and Elyse Pivnick, Sharon Glickman, David Goetke, Kenneth Goldman, Alexandra Goldstein, Mark Gordon and Aldo Buono, Charles Granatir, Richard and Teru Graves, David Grazian, David Green, Patricia Green, Clinton and Elisa Greenbaum, Deborah Greenberg, Judith and Elizabeth Greene, Lisa Greene, Adele Greenspun, John and Beth Gruber, Mary Jane Gruninger, Jane Gutman, Jennifer Gwartz, Rekha and Jonathan Hagen, Anne and Matthew Hall, Dirk Hanson, Jessica Haralson, Susan and William Harris, Robert Hartheimer and Nancy Golding, Kenneth Hay, Janet Heettner and Peter Silverman, Carine Hejazi, Steven Heller, Dina Hellerstein, Kathryn Hellerstein and David Stern, Lauren Herrmann, Kate Herzlin, Michael Herzlin, Stephen and Jane Heumann, Janel Hill and Roger Hurwitz, Thomas Hitch and Kari Jensen, Sara and Brian Holland, Peter and Lynn Holstein, Arthur Huh and Elizabeth Bagot, Jeffrey and Cynthia Hunt, Michael Hyde, Jeffrey Ingber, Lina Insana, Nakiboglu Isler, Kathryn Jackson, Diane Jacobs, Carolyn Jacobson and Erik Simpson, Edward Jacobson, David and Teresa Jones, Jeffrey Jubelirer, Emily Kaplan, Sally Kaplan, Eric Karlan, Ross Karlan, Frederick and Phyllis Kaskel, Richard and Kathy Katz, Adam Kaufman, Carol and Jeffrey Kaufman, Mark and Stacey Kaufman, Donald Keim, Edward Kelly, Susan Kerr, Janice Kimenhour, Leslie King, John Kingston, Beth Kissileff and Jonathan Perlman, Betsy Klausman, Daphne Klausner and Ronald Litman, Sabrina Kleier-Morgenstern, Stephanie Klein, Charles Knittle, Jody Knowler, Deborah Komins, Joshua and Rena Kopelman,

Targeted Opportunities and Open-Ended Support

Kane-Wallace Kitchen Endowed Fund ▶ Pie workshops for high school students, late-night baking sessions, lunch breaks, snack breaks, and prep for more than one hundred public receptions each year. All this and more happens in our beloved kitchen. As in many homes, our kitchen is the heart of our house. Students spend countless hours in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, drinking coffee, learning to chop vegetables, and making lifelong friends. *Endowed by Ed Kane (C’71, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace in 2010.*

Hartman Dining Room Endowment ▶ The Hartman Dining Room Endowment provides support for the many and various activities of the Writers House dining room: intimate dinners with writers we admire, lunches for noon-time readings, weekly staff meetings during the summer, and break-out sessions for youth writing programs. The Hartman Dining Room is a special gathering place. *Endowed by Alan Hartman (W’87) and Kim Hartman in 2017.*

Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund ▶ This multipurpose fund, to which anyone can contribute, enables Faculty Director Al Filreis to invest in creative projects proposed by KWH community members. Filreis helped students meet their creative and intellectual goals this year, including Anthony Lagana (C’21), who interned at Harvard’s Woodberry Poetry Room, and Mary Osunlana (C’20) who documented minority skateboard culture in London. *Supported this year by Jon (C’71) and Barbara Avnet, Emilio Bassini (C’71, W’71, WG’73) and Reina Marin Bassini (CW’72, GED’72), Lucy Oh Cook (C’95), Reuben (W’91) and Jennifer Daniels, Caryn (C’92) and Lee Rudy (C’92), Marcy (C’88) and Jeff Schneider (C’88), Mark (C’95) and Rachel Sherman (C’95), and Melissa and Larry Stoller.*

Student Initiatives Fund ▶ The Student Initiatives Fund supports creative projects dreamed up by KWH-affiliated students. Established in 2016, this generous fund has fueled a wide range of ventures, including magazines, panel discussions, and workshops. This year, among other things, the fund supported *Moviegoer*, an online student-led film magazine, and an ambitious conference

on disability studies, organized over many months by a team of graduate students. *Supported annually by the KWH community, with a special gifts from Penn parents Howard and Cami Gordon, and Roberta and Richard Levin.*

Alice Cooper Shoulberg Scholarship Endowed 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 in 1998.*

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. This year the Gordon Walls Fund helped support community-focused events and projects, including monthly Hub meetings and our annual Hub Thanksgiving. *Supported annually by Gordon Lane Bond (C’06) and Sunny Bond.*

Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship ▶ The Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship is a two-year fellowship open to recent Penn graduates. The Van Doren Fellow helps connect undergraduates with creative opportunities at the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. 2018–2019 Van Doren Fellow Stephanie Garcia helped the RealArts@Penn project match students with paid summer internships in creative fields. *Supported annually by Penn Parents John Van Doren and Sally Van Doren.*

William J. Craven Term Fund ▶ The William J. Craven Term Fund allows the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing to bring a practicing novelist to campus to work with outstanding students in fiction. In 2018–2019, Weike



Wang, a Whiting Fellow and author of the acclaimed novel *Chemistry*, joined us as the Craven Writer-in-Residence, teaching courses in the novel and the novella; in 2019, she received the Beltran Family Award for Innovative Teaching & Mentoring at the Kelly Writers House. *Supported by Dr. Helen L. Luyben since 2017.*

Outreach / Beyond the Campus

Digital Poetries Fund ▶ Our Digital Poetries Fund allows us to make our vast digital resources freely available to anyone, anywhere. The fund supports several interrelated projects, including PennSound, the largest online collection of free digital poetry recordings in the world; *PoemTalk*, a monthly podcast hosted by Al Filreis and co-sponsored by the Poetry Foundation; *Jacket2*, an online journal of critical writing about poetry; and ModPo, our free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry taught by Filreis and a team of TAs, which this year added an astounding number of five-minute videos, all produced in-house. *Supported annually by the KWH community, with special support this year from Alonna Anspach, Stuart S. Applebaum Giving Foundation, Eric D. Brotman (C’94), Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C’83), T. De Los Reyes, The Sylvia W. and Randle M. Kauders Foundation, Charles S. Knittle, Stephen Krewson (C’10), Elizabeth and Nathan Leight, Kate Levin (GAS’96) and Robin Shapiro, Analisa Macias, Michaela Oldfield, David (W’84) and Deborah Roberts, and Susan Small Savitsky (CW’75).*

KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund ▶ We’ve hosted more than one hundred moderator-led online book discussions for alumni, Penn parents, and our extended Penn family. This year’s offerings included a special ten-day session for prospective Penn students led by Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05).



Additional groups were led by Lily Applebaum (C’12), Al Filreis, Michael Hennessey, David Roberts (W’84), and Lauren Yates (C’12). *Supported annually by David (W’84) and Deborah Roberts since 2009.*

Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund ▶ For ten days each summer, talented high-school writers attend our Summer Workshop for Young Writers. The rigorous residential program emphasizes writing in a community setting, but also makes room for pie-baking tutorials, audio recording, letterpress printing at the Common Press, and sightseeing around the city. Thanks to the Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund, more than half of the workshop participants receive financial assistance. For students of greatest need, the program is entirely free of charge. *Funded annually by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung since 2017.*

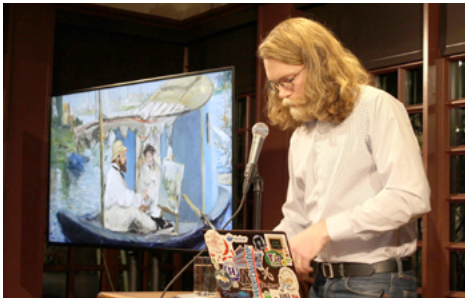
Esther T. Saxon Term Fund ▶ The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts, particularly programs and projects for children in under-resourced elementary schools. Our efforts in this area include two major projects: Write On!, a weekly writing workshop for kids from nearby Lea Elementary, and Transcribez, a monthly writing group for trans and gender non-conforming youth. *Supported annually by Jerilyn Saxon Perman (C’91) and Brian Perman (W’90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon since 2001.*

Sayet-Rosenberg Endowed Fund for Young Writers ▶ The Sayet-Rosenberg Fund supports the work of our Associate Director of Recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05), and also funds teaching internships for KWH-affiliated students. 2019 Sayet-Rosenberg Intern Amanda Bello (C’22) led creative writing workshops at Frost Valley YMCA Summer Camp. *Endowed by Harold L. Rosenberg (W’79) and Dr. Laurie A. Sayet in 2001.*



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Joshua Kornreich, Noah Krasner, Stephen Krewson, Moira Kuo, Kilian Kwaschik, Joanna La Corte, James and Susan La Marre, James La Marre, Jon and Deborah LaBerge, Peter LaBerge, Anthony and Judith Lagana, Catherine and Jerry Lakoff, Marc and Jami Lapadula, Kyoo Lee, Sanaë Lemoine, Roberta and Richard Levin, Michelle Levister, Cindy and Ford Levy, Kristen Levy, Maxwell Levy, Melissa and Paul Levy, Joanne Lichtman, Tatyana and Russel Like, Eric Lipman, Hong Liu, Dana Lotkowski, GERALYN and Tyler Lucas, Michael and Julie Lynch, Jennifer Machiaverna, Analisa Macias, Morton and Elaine Maimon, John Majane, Alexander Marcus, Maria Markovich, Randi Marshall, Sydne Marshall, Kristen Martin, Jackie and Art Matusow, Jacqueline Matusow, Luke Mazur, Cecile Mazzucco-Tham, Murray McComas, Anne and Andrew McGhie, Maxime McKenna, Holly and Kevin McLaughlin, Tammy McLeod, Hsiang Lu Meng, Julie Merberg, Gerald and Harriet Miller, Ilana Miller, John Miller and Joelle Silverman Miller, Michael Miller, David Millstein, Paul Monasevitch and Susan Croll, Nicholas Montfort, Emma Morgenstern, Wynne Morrison, Cynthia Motz, Elizabeth Murphy and John MacDermott, Andrew Murray, Christopher Mustazza, Panna Naik, Cory Newman, Jeffrey Newman, James Newswanger, James Nooney, Matthew Norton and Meghan Bilton, Jane Nugent, Jacob Ohnouna and Rachel Schnipper, Michaela Oldfield, Bob and Andee Oley, Bradley Olson, Mark Osele, Lindsey Palmer, Scott and Randee Paston, Ashlee Paxton-Turner, Bob Perelman and Frances Shaw, Walter Peterson, James Piccarello, Arthur Pier, Noah Pink, Elyse Pivnick, Neil Plakcy, Irene Greenwald and Richard Plotzker, Richard Polman, Phelps Pond, Sharone Poopor, Joyce Pope, Eleanor Poplar, Judith and Jeffrey Poss, Rolf Potts, John Prendergast and Carole Bernstein, Beth Preston, John Puckett, Marion Puerzer, Linda Quarles, Patricia Quinn, Michael and Pamela Rauch, Hillary Reinsberg,



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Linda Reisz and Clifford Klein, Dominique Renda-Horsley and Hunter Horsley, Joan Retallack, Jose Reyes, Maria Rieders, Peter Riley, Roopika Risam, Laura Robertson, Andrew Robinson, Steven Robinson, Peter Rogers, Catherine Rosamond, Matthew Rosenbaum, Jonathan Rosenberg, Karen Rosenberg, Tara Rosenblum, Beryl Levitsky and Jeffrey Rosenstock, Steve and Marsha Roth, Jeffrey Rothbard, Caroline Rothstein, Barbara and Daniel Rottenberg, Patrick Ryan, Amy Sadao and Thomas Devaney, Harry Saffren, Joan Saltzman, Anita Salustro, Marilyn Sandberg, Robert Sandler, Cynthia and Robert Savett, Irene Sax, Nina Sax, Daniel Saxon, Jonathan Saxon, James Schaffer, Karin Schaller and John Puckett, Daniel Schorr, Susan Schultz, Mary Scott, Sheila Segal, Matthew Selman, Craig Shannon, Helene Shavin, Alonna Shaw, Karen Hurvitz and John Shea, Patricia Sheykholeslami, Richard and Mary Siller, Karen Silverman, Susan and Paul Silverman, David Simon, Elaine Simon, David Simonetti, Jerome Singerman and Liliane Weissberg, Rachel Skerritt, St John Smith, Larry Smith and Karen Rile, Mina Smith-Segal, Judith and Barry Solar, Laurie Soriano, William Speer, Laina and Daniel Spinelli, Nicholas Spitzer, Thomas Staudter, Elizabeth and Harris Steinberg, Eugene Stelzig, Daniel and Julie Stewart, Janet and Byron Stier, Sebastian Stockman, Zoe Stoller, Rebecca Zoller and Eric Stone,

Student Recruitment Fund ▶ To be sure we’re reaching as many talented prospective Penn students as possible, we send Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05) to visit high schools and extracurricular writing programs all over the country, particularly in regions that are underrepresented at Penn. 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) since 2016.*

Student Recruitment and Access Fund ▶ We want to alert 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 of Recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05), works tirelessly to identify talented young writers and help them find their way to Penn. *Supported annually by our Writers House New York salon, hosted each fall by Sue and Louis Meisel, with gifts from Sharon Baird (C’93), Barbara and Martin Bienenstock (C’77), Barbara and Martin Bienenstock (C’77), Ronna Blaser, Janine Catalano (C’06), Mandana Chaffa, Kyung Chung, Elizabeth Chung, Michael Cohn (C’85), Anthony DeCurtis, Rob Faunce (C’97, G’98), Adam Groothuis (C’92), Beth and John Gruber,*

Alex Halpern (C’04), Kim and Alan Hartman, Kate Herzlin (C’14), Stephanie Klein (C’06), Lawrence Kohn (W’89), Moira Kuo (C’06), James La Marre (C’11), Peter LaBerge (C’17), Paul and Melissa Levy, Julie Merberg (C’88), Joelle and John Miller, Cynthia Motz (C’87), Lindsey Palmer (C’05), Randee Paston, Jeff and Judy Poss (C’88), Linda E. Quarles (C’94), Hillary Reinsberg (C’11), Carolyn and Jeffrey Reisman (C’87), Karen Rile (C’80) and Larry Smith, Catherine Rosamond, Tara Mark Rosenblum, Jonathan Rosenstein (C’86), Caroline Rothstein (C’06), Daniel Saxon (W’60), Steven (W’85 WG’86) and Miriam H. Sosnick, Colleen Thiersch, Nina Wolpow (C’14), and others.

Events and Programs

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Endowed Fund ▶ In November, the Applebaum Publishers and Editors series welcomed Ammiel Alcalay, the general editor of Lost and Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative. The fund makes possible visits from publishers and editors — the people who curate, refine, and disseminate the writing we read and enjoy. *Endowed by Irwyn Applebaum (C’75) and Lucy Applebaum in 2008.*

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 the Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Jason Isbell. *Endowed in 2009 by Margo Krody Blutt and Mitchell J. Blutt (C’78, M’82, L’84, Trustee 1998–2008).*

Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund ▶ Now celebrating its twentieth year, the Bok Fund allows us to explore the full range of contemporary writing

practice by providing the funding for dozens of events each year: poetry readings, film screenings, conversations with novelists, craft talks, workshops with visiting journalists, and more. Over two dozen writers visited KWH this year thanks to the Bok Fund, including comedian Christine Nangle, poet Douglas Kearney, and Angolan novelist Ondjaki. The fund also made possible our first program of the year, a ten-person group reading from the anthology *Who Will Speak for America? Endowed by Roxanne Bok (C’81) and Scott Bok (C’81, W’81, L’84, Trustee 2005–present) in 1998.*

Lucy F. DeMarco Endowed Fund for Youth Literature ▶ Established in memory of Lucy F. DeMarco, a preschool educator and voracious reader, this fund supports programs that engage with children’s literature, including the annual Sensible Nonsense Project reading, curated by Arielle Brousse (C’07, SPP’12). This year’s readers included 181st District Representative Malcolm Kenyatta, YA novelist Katie Coyle, and Penn students Autumn Wynde (C’19), Chidi Nwogbaga (C’21), and Tyler Daniels (C’21). *Endowed by Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C’88, W’88) in 2016.*

Cheryl J. Family Endowed Fund for Fiction Programming ▶ The Cheryl J. Family Fiction Fund sponsors an annual reading by a young or emerging fiction writer. This year’s Family Fiction Program was a double feature: Daniel Finkel (C’20), winner of the 2019 Creative Writing Program thesis prize, opened for Weike Wang, CPCW’s Craven Writer-in-Residence. *Endowed by Cheryl J. Family (C’91) in 2007.*

Endowed Fund for Feminist Projects ▶ The Fund for Feminist Projects supports programs that focus on gender, sexuality, and feminist thought. Thanks to this fund, Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach (GR’21) organized a panel discussion in September about poetry and motherhood, “Other Women Don’t Tell You,” with Sara Burnett, Ananda

Lima, and Ursula Rucker. *Endowed by an anonymous donor in 2010.*

Handwerker Stand-Up Comedy Series Fund ▶ The Handwerker Stand-Up Comedy Series Fund supports Stand-Ups Sit Down, a celebration of comedy, comedy writing, and comedians. Hosted by Penn funnyman Lew Schneider (C’83), this annual event invites a panel of comedians to KWH for an evening of storytelling and laughs, plus some bonus industry tips for aspiring stand-ups. This year, the series featured Judy Gold and Laurie Kilmartin. *Supported annually by Penn Parents Haim Handwerker and Jamie Handwerker (C’83) since 2015.*

Hartman Family Screenwriting Series Endowed Fund ▶ Aspiring filmmakers get a taste of the writers’ room through the annual Hartman Family Screenwriting program. This year, the Hartman Fund allowed us to invite Tamara Jenkins, award-winning writer and director of many nationally recognized films, including *The Savages* and *Slums of Beverly Hills*, for a spirited conversation with Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C’88). *Endowed by Penn parents Alan Hartman (W’87) and Kim Hartman in 2013.*

Sylvia W. Kauders Endowment Fund ▶ Thanks to the Kauders Fund we are able to arrange a series of intimate lunchtime conversations with nonfiction writers. Jamie-Lee Josselyn hosted two events this year with support from the Kauders Fund: a discussion about grief with Rebecca Soffer, CEO of the publication *Modern Loss*, and a conversation about hormones with Dr. Randi Hutter Epstein (C’84), author of the book *Aroused*. *Endowed by Sylvia W. Kauders (CW’42) in 2007.*

The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer ▶ The Levin Endowed Fund allows the KWH Program Coordinator to plan a program that engages her most creative impulses. This year, the

FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

Susahn Stowers-Soule, Mary Eileen Streight, Lynn Strother, Rebecca Stuhr, Pamela Takefman, Stanimir Takov, Michelle Taransky, Ilana Teicher and Daniel Blas, Colleen Thiersch, Barbara Tilley, Alexander Tokar, Edith Torres, Jane Treuhaft and Alan Filreis, William Tripp and Nancy Rassiga-Tripp, Ellen Umansky and David Gutman, Renee Unglo, Kathleen Vieweg and Barry Berger, Allyson Volinsky, John and Lucille Vosmek, Hilda Wagner, David Wallace, Laura Walsh, Timothy Waples, Caroline Waxler and Michael Levitt, Jeffrey and Stacey Weber, Meredith Weber, Richard and Zarine Weil, George and Carol Weinbaum, Matthew Weiner and Linda Brettler, Laurie Kopp and Matthew Weingarten, Carly Weinreb, Sharon Weinstein, Anne Wellner de Veer, Rick Wennerberg, Dominic Weston, Fred Wexler, Lawrence and Wendy White, Beth and Jeffrey White, Rebecca Williams, Tyrone Williams, Eleanor Wilner, Kimberley and Robert Wilson, Jerald Winakur, Nina Wolpow, Elaine Wong, Stanley Wong, Delores Wright, Robert Wright, Scott Wunsch and Megan Bly, Holly York, Jessica Yu, Yasmine Yu, Henry Zachs and Judy Zachs, Judy and Harvey Zalesne



WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Christine and Armyan Bernstein, Daniele and Steven Bleier, Gordon and Sunny Bond, Mary Brauer-Cox, Cheryl Family and Ken Saji, Andrew and Susan Gold, Ted and Judy Goldsmith, Neil and Monice Grabowski, Harry and Evelyn Groome, Adam Groothuis, George Johnson, Ethan and Cathy Kahn, Margaret Katz and Reed Cordish, Deanne and Seth Lipsay, Michael Magee, Leslie and Jeffrey Mendell, Deborah Miller and Stanley Strickberger, Stefanie Moll, Frederick Muller, Alexander and Jessica Newmark, Candis Nicholls, Catherine Nicholls, Marjorie Perloff, Katherine Pier, Evan Raine, Jeffrey and Carolyn Reisman, Bruce Resnikoff, Susan Savitsky, Richard and Susan Schnall, Robert Shepard and Robert Numerof, Lawrence and Melissa Stoller, David Sussman, Thomas and Margaret Whitford, Andrew Wolk, Beth Zemble and Philip Rosenzweig



Levin Fund program supported a panel discussion of comedy in the age of social media, hosted by Ronald Metellus. *Endowed in 2007 by Kate Levin (G'90, GR'95) in memory of much-beloved Comp Lit professor Charles Bernheimer.*

The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment ▶ We collaborate 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” features some of Philly’s most exciting up-and-comers. For one show, formerly incarcerated writers explored themes raised in Jesmyn Ward’s novel, *Sing, Unburied*. *Sing*, this year’s selection for the city-wide One Book, One Philadelphia project. Another show, curated by Assistant Program Coordinator Heidi Kalloo, featured experimental narratives made with help from computers. *Endowed by BigRoc in 2004.*

The Bob Lucid Memorial Endowment 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. Our 2018–2019 Lucid Program featured the extraordinary Jennifer Egan (C’85), who

received the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction award for her 2017 novel *Manhattan Beach*. *Endowed by the KWH community, with lead gifts by Susan Small Savitsky (CW’75) and Ed Kane (C’71, Trustee 1996–2000).*

Poetry Endowment Fund ▶ Endowed anonymously in 2019, our Poetry Endowment Fund will nurture all kinds of poetic activity, including poetry readings, student writing projects, and collaborations between poets and other artists. We look forward to bringing more poetry to the Writers House and sending more poetry out into the world.

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, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Povich Journalism Programs this year included lunchtime conversations with award-winning journalists, a panel discussion with alumni writers about the role of technology in journalism, and a discussion with bestselling author Stephen Fried (C’79) about his book on founding father Benjamin Rush. *Endowed by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung in 2010.*

The Caroline Rothstein Endowed Fund in Support of Oral Poetry ▶ The Rothstein Fund helps us celebrate the oral tradition of poetry in its many forms, including performance poetry, spoken word, and slam. Thanks to the Rothstein Fund, Imani Davis (C’20) invited Kirwyn Sutherland, whose poems explore the Black experience in America, for a performance in February. *Endowed in 2007 by Penn parents Nancy (CW’75) and Steven Rothstein in honor of their daughter Caroline Rothstein (C’06).*

Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Endowed Fund ▶ We honor the memory of Eva and Leo Sussman, beloved grandparents of Daniel Morse, with an annual poetry program. Our 2018–2019 Sussman Poetry Program explored the legacy of Walt Whitman, with an evening of discussion, featuring Davy Knittle (GR’21), Ujjwala Maharjan, Ron Silliman, Simone White, and others. *Endowed by Penn parents Daniel and Miriam Morse, in 2012, in memory of Eva and Leo Sussman.*

The Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Endowed Fund ▶ Our annual Weber Symposium celebrates a writer who illuminates the workings of business, finance, and economics with clear and lucid prose.

The October 2018 Weber Symposium featured Mehrsa Baradaran, a professor of law, whose critically acclaimed writing tackles issues related to law, economics, race, and politics. *Endowed by Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber in 2008.*

The Wexler Endowment Fund for Programs at the Kelly Writers House ▶ The Wexler Fund enables all kinds of creative projects led by KWH community members: readings, conversations, podcasts, and more. Projects supported by the Wexler Fund in 2018–2019 included student-run open mic nights, poetry readings by Rae Armantrout and Deb Burnham, and a conversation with fiction writer Nathan Alling Long. *Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler in 2005.*

Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture ▶ The Wexler Family Fund helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture. This year, the Wexler Fund helped Sam Strickberger (C’22) undertake a documentary project in Israel and provided support for a special intergenerational conversation about bearing witness, co-presented by Penn Hillel on the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. *Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler in 2010.*



kelly writers house advisory board

The Kelly Writers House Advisory Board is a group of active alumni, parents, and friends who are deeply invested in the people and projects of Kelly Writers House. Board members support us in countless ways, with their time, their ideas, and more. We can’t thank them enough for everything they do to encourage all facets of our mission.

Paul Kelly (C’62 WG’64), Chair
Cheryl Family (C’91), Vice Chair
Irwyn Applebaum (C’75)
Reina Marin Bassini (CW’72 GED’72)
Herman Beavers (HOM’96)
Jeanne Pepper Bernstein
Barbara Bienenstock (C’77)
Roxanne Bok (C’81)
Annalise Carol (C’92)
Janine Catalano (C’06)
Jean Sherman Chatzky (C’86)
Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C’79)
David Gross-Loh (W’92)
Alex Halpern (C’04)
Alan Hartman (W’87)
Mali Heled Kinberg (C’95 G’95)

Meryl Ignaschenko (C’10)
Caryn Karmatz-Rudy (C’92)
Joan Kim (C97 G97 WEV’99 WG’18)
Elizabeth Leight
Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95)
Seth Lipsay (WG’86)
Howie Lipson (W’86)
Sue Meisel
Hillary Miller Krouse (C’88)
Maury Povich (C’62)
David Roberts (W’84)
Leslie Salmon (W’92)
Henry Siegel (C’90)
Harris Steinberg (C’78, GAR’82)
Nina Wexler
Nina Wolpow (C’14)

I was an English major who graduated from Penn in ‘91, missing the magical experience of Kelly Writers House by a few years. When the Advisory Board was formed, I immediately said yes. The sheer number of programs at the House is impressive, and the community it creates for creative students from across the University is invaluable. And now, the outreach it does across the country to find the very best young writers and turn them on to the idea of spending their undergraduate years at Penn is bringing new voices to campus. Locust Walk is all the richer for it.

— Cheryl Family (C’91)

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? Your gift will be acknowledged in our printed *Annual* next year, as well as online 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.

Becoming a friend is easy. To make a donation with a credit card, visit writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/online.php or fill out the lines below. If you would prefer to send a check, mail it along with this form to:

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

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

- ☐ \$40
- ☐ \$250
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$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 name or the name of another as you would like it to appear on the Kelly Writers House website:

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

Credit card number: ____/____/____/____
Credit card expiration date (MM/YYYY): ____/____
Initials: _____

Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania
3805 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150
215-573-9748

writing.upenn.edu/wh

the center for programs in contemporary writing



Al Filreis, Faculty Director	Annie Fang (C’19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Jessica Lowenthal (G’07), Director	Lovette Finnegan (C’20), Purchasing Librarian
Lily Applebaum (C’12), Assistant to the Faculty Director	Amleset Girmay (W’19), Purchasing Librarian
Andrew Beal, Associate Director of Development and Finance	Husnaa Hashim (C’22), Program Assistant
Zach Carduner (C’13), Wexler Studio Coordinator	Tasha Hutnick (C’20), Program Assistant
Sean Collins, Development and Finance Coordinator	Meerie Jesuthasan (C’19), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Stephanie Garcia (C’18), Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellow	Elvis Jimenez (C’20), Wexler Studio Assistant
Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05), Associate Director for Recruitment	Jacob Kind (C’21), Assistant to the Assistant to the Faculty Director
Heidi Kalloo, Assistant Program Coordinator	Anthony Lagana (C’21), Wexler Studio Assistant
Alli Katz, Program Coordinator	Becca Lambright (C’19), Web Assistant
Christopher J. Martin (LPS’15), Director of Technology	Eva Lewis (C’21), Program Assistant
Kenna O’Rourke (C’15), Jacket2 Managing Editor	Kelly Liu (C’21), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Anna Strong Safford (C’13), ModPo Coordinator	Lisa Liu (C’20), Web Assistant
Peter Schwarz (CGS’04, LPS’08), Administrative Assistant	Ian McCormack (C’21), Assistant to the Associate Director for Recruitment
Jamie Albrecht (C’21), Program Assistant	Henry McDevitt (C’22), Wexler Studio Assistant
Leah Baxter (C’21), Wexler Studio Assistant	Rowana Miller (C’22), Program Assistant
Zoe Braccia (C’20), Development Assistant	John Odera (C’19), Program Assistant
Perren Carillo (C’19), Program Assistant	Shayna O’Reilly (C’19), Purchasing Librarian
Ashley Codner (C’21), Program Assistant	Mary Osunlana (C’20), Wexler Studio Assistant
Yiwei Chai (C’22), Development and Finance Assistant	Nicholas Plante (C’22), Jacket2 Editorial Assistant
Tyler Daniels (C’21), Archivist	Adelaide Powell (C’19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Imani Davis (C’20), Program Assistant	Allison Ricks (C’22), Program Assistant
Rachel Dennis (C’22), Robinson Press Assistant	Zuri Robinson (C’22), Development and Finance Assistant
Alyson del Pino (C’21), Robinson Press Assistant	Emily Rush (C’19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Kaliyah Dorsey (C’22), Web Assistant	Nick Seymour (C’19), Wexler Studio Assistant
Sophia DuRose (C’21), Program Assistant	Isabella Simonetti (C’21), Web Assistant
	DuBois Stewart (C’20), Media Assistant
	Autumn Wynde (C’19), Program Assistant
	Kwynasia Young (C’20), Development and Finance Assistant

So many people help to 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!

TEXT Lily Applebaum, R.J. Bernocco, Zach Carduner, Yiwei Chai, Sophia DuRose, Al Filreis, Jamie-Lee Josselyn, Heidi Kalloo, Alli Katz, Davy Knittle, Lilli Leight, Jessica Lowenthal, Kenna O’Rourke, Anna Strong Safford

PHOTOGRAPHY KWH Staff, Eric Sucar/Penn Today (p. 11), Stephanie Garcia (p. 15)

DESIGN Zach Carduner



**Kelly Writers House
3805 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA
19104-6150**