

2020 ANNUAL



Dear Friends of the Writers House,

The intrepid founders of the Kelly Writers House wrote a spirited manifesto in 1995 that helped shape our history. In that brilliant, forward-looking document, they described the Writers House as a home for interactive learning, discussions about writing, and the free exchange of ideas. This home, as they imagined it, would encourage people to come together in all kinds of ways, including through newly emergent “virtual realities, electronic texts, and electronic publications.”

Several thriving initiatives described in this Annual emerged from that early emphasis on what our founders called the **unconventional** space of the internet. All of our public programming is livestreamed so that people can tune in from anywhere in the world. Our vast digital archive of writers reading their own works is freely accessible online. We’ve created and sustained multigenerational, international learning communities based on the simple idea that community can develop across distances.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been truly grateful to have such a sturdy foundation for finding and sustaining community online. What seemed unconventional at the start of the Kelly Writers House project has become a lifeline nearly twenty-five years later.

But in writing this Annual, which celebrates the entirety of the 2019–20 school year,

including dozens and dozens of pre-pandemic events and projects, we have of course been reminded how deeply people respond to conventional space as well. The lovely old cottage at 3805 Locust Walk is a real beacon. Perhaps Andrea Mitchell (CW’67, HON’18) said it best when she greeted a roomful of writers gathered in the Arts Café in November 2019: “It feels like I’ve come home.”

We long to come home. We long to discuss writing in the Arts Café, to meet new and old friends over tea in the kitchen, to gather face-to-face once again to share ideas.

Until that time, we are gratified to know that community can thrive in virtual spaces. And we’re grateful to the extraordinary community of people who contribute to all the ongoing conversations that help make the Kelly Writers House a home, including alumni, students, faculty, ModPo participants, Penn parents, Philadelphians, and Friends of the Writers House from all over the world. Thank you, friends, for all the ways you contribute to the Kelly Writers House.

Al Filreis
Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English

Jessica Lowenthal
Director

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A CONVERSATION WITH ANDREA MITCHELL ▶ “It feels like I’ve come home,” Andrea Mitchell (CW’67, HON’18) said as she settled in to speak with Kelly Writers House Faculty Director Al Filreis and a gathering of aspiring journalists and other community members. Host of Andrea Mitchell Reports on MSNBC and the Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for NBC News, Mitchell earned a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 2019 for her journalistic work. In December 2019, she took some time out of her busy schedule to visit the Writers House as part of our Povich Journalism Program series. Mitchell described experiences from throughout her storied career, including her start at WXPB, her work as a City Hall correspondent in Philadelphia during the Frank Rizzo administration, and her gutsy onsite coverage of the Three Mile Island accident. Mitchell also shared her enthusiasm about working with up-and-coming female journalists, such as Penn grad Ashley Parker (C’05) of the Washington Post, with whom she co-moderated a Democratic primary debate.

“It’s one of the thrills of being kind of a senior citizen here in television,” she said. “I have been able to watch these extraordinary young women thrive, grow, challenge themselves, and embrace new opportunities.”

LUCID FICTION PROGRAM: SALAR ABDUH ▶ Our annual Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction featured Iranian novelist Salar Abdoh in conversation with scholar and poet Fatemeh Shams, who is a faculty member in Penn’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Abdoh’s political thriller, Tehran at Twilight — a twisty tale of espionage, concealed identities, and fractured relationships — provided fertile ground for a wide-ranging discussion about contemporary Iranian politics, displacement and diaspora, and the little-known story of the “Tehran Children,” Polish Jewish children who survived the Holocaust by finding refuge in pre-revolutionary Iran. To bring some of these threads together, Shams read briefly from a 2015 essay Abdoh wrote about identity and belonging: “[I]n a time of war sometimes you

long for more clarity and a definite sense of belonging somewhere.”

OTHER WOMEN DON’T TELL YOU ▶ Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach (GR’21) organized the “Other Women Don’t Tell You” series as an ongoing forum for frank conversation about motherhood and writing. “I wanted an open dialogue between mothers,” she said, “[to explore] the way this experience enters the form of our writing and living, the way it transforms our poetics.” The second installation of the series, which is sponsored by the Fund for Feminist Projects, was moderated by Creative Writing Director Julia Bloch (GR’11). The event featured Keetje Kuipers, Aireia Matthews, and Dasbach, who held her newborn daughter during the panel. Matthews brought up her children’s autonomy as a complication to writing about mothering: “Some of these stories are theirs,” she said. “I’m raising kids who are writers, and so they can tell their stories and can talk about their childhoods, unapologetically, in the same way that I do.”



CELEBRATING FACULTY AUTHORS



Sara Albert (C’18), **Sonali Deliwalla** (C’22), and **Samira Mehta** (C’21) — current and former students of **Lorene Cary** (C’78, G’78) — helped us kick off a multimedia celebration of *Ladysitting*, Cary’s deeply moving memoir about her grandmother’s life and death. “Ms. Cary writes with an engaging blend of intricate detail, delightful wit and humor, gripping directness, and, of course, immense purpose and passion,” Deliwalla said. Cary gave us a sense of this breadth by reading passages about her Nana’s house, alongside devastatingly frank descriptions of her late grandmother’s end-of-life care. Midway through the event, composer **Liliya Ugay** Skyped in to discuss the collaborative composition of *The Gospel According to Nana*, an opera based on the book. Then everyone strolled down Locust Walk to reconvene at St. Mary’s Church for an otherworldly performance from *Gospel*.



A hard rain couldn’t keep people away from a celebration of **Paul Hendrickson** and his highly anticipated biography of Frank Lloyd Wright, *Plagued by Fire*. A loving crowd gathered to toast Hendrickson and hear about his storytelling process. “What I was trying for from the start was something I’ve tried for before in books: to find storytelling pockets in life that might somehow stand in for the oceanic whole,” Hendrickson said. As Hendrickson spoke, images of Wright and his life flickered full-scale on the Arts Café screen — a fitting mode for the longtime instructor of documentary writing, whose legendary course on writing from photographs teaches students to notice and probe all the fine details of a story.



The Arts Café was packed with adoring students and fans for a celebration of *In the Dream House*, **Carmen Maria Machado**’s inventive memoir about her experience in an abusive relationship. Machado shared chapters from the memoir — including one set in Philadelphia — and answered questions about the book’s structure, queer villains, her love of myths and fairytales, and how she uses formal innovations to explore difficult subject matter. “I tried to figure out ways to create an experience in the book,” she said, “that creates an unsettling effect where the book was not necessarily a friend.”



Find video recordings for these readings and other KWH events on our web calendar (writing.upenn.edu/wh/calendar) and YouTube channel (youtube.com/kellywritershouse).



■ The **Alumni Mentors Program** arranged a series of discussions with alumni about careers in journalism, editing, publishing, media, and entertainment (see page 15).

■ **Carol Bernstein** (C’81), a founding member of the community-led poetry workshop Suppose An Eyes, presented work from *Buried Alive: A To-Do List*, her stunning third collection of poetry.

■ *Penn Gazette* editor **John Prendergast** (C’80) interviewed **Buzz Bissinger** (C’76) about his newest book-in-progress, an investigation of a 1944 football game between two Marine Corps regiments stationed on Guadalcanal.

■ Hosted by **Arielle Brousse** (C’07, SPP’12) and sponsored by the Lucy F. DeMarco Fund for Youth Literature, the Sensible Nonsense Program featured reflections by community members about their favorite children’s books.

■ **Stephen Fried** (C’79) hosted a stellar line-up of alumni journalists for the annual Careers in Journalism and New Media panel, co-sponsored by the Povich Journalism Program, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize (see page 7).

■ The Whenever We Feel Like It series welcomed poet **Dottie Lasky** (GRD’12) for a Scorpio-energy-infused evening of poetic musings, including a foray into a first encounter with a sixteenth-century teenage ghost.

■ Speaking with KWH Program Coordinator **Alli Katz** over lunch, **Nina MacLaughlin** (C’01) described her unusual career path from alt-weekly journalist to carpenter’s apprentice to novelist.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES WEEK

The KWH partnered with the Quechua Language Program to organize a week of events promoting Indigenous language use in the Americas, with a special focus on Quechua and Zapotec. Grant support from the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation enabled a robust schedule of events across campus, including opportunities for community members to record their ancestral languages in our Wexler Studio. The Writers House hosted several events in the week-long celebration:

Américo Mendoza-Mori, Director of Penn's Quechua Program and the lead curator of the week's events, moderated a trilingual reading and discussion — in English, Spanish, and Quechua — with Quechua writers **Pablo Landeo Muñoz**, winner of Peru's National Literature Prize, and **Irma Álvarez-Ccoscco**, a Smithsonian Institution Fellow.

After an opening performance of Nahuatl poetry and Aztec dance by **Ruben Chico** and his student **Miranda**, faculty and students from Haverford College screened films from *Dizhsa Nabani*, a documentary series that explores efforts by farmers, artisans, and public officials in San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya, Mexico, to sustain and reinvigorate their use of the Zapotec language.

Connor Beard (C'21), undergraduate chair of Natives at Penn and member of the Lumbee Tribe, led a discussion about language reclamation with panelists **Stephanie Mach** (GR'24, Navajo/Diné) and **Janice Llamoca** (Quechua).



THE WEBER SYMPOSIUM ► This year's much-anticipated Weber Symposium, an annual program sponsored by Stacey Gillis Weber (W'85) and Jeffrey A. Weber that celebrates great writing about economics and finance, featured John Carreyrou, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*. Carreyrou's novelistic, investigative exposé documents the evolution of the biggest corporate fraud scheme since Enron, through a Henry James-like use of third-person limited point of view that situates the reader firmly in the action. KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis led the riveting conversation with Carreyrou, which explored the collapse of multi-billion-dollar biotech startup Theranos and the rise and fall of its founder Elizabeth Holmes.

HARTMAN SCREENWRITING SYMPOSIUM: DANNY STRONG ► Students and other aspiring screenwriters were eager for industry tips from actor/screenwriter/director Danny Strong, who visited the Kelly Writers House for our fifth annual Hartman Screenwriting Symposium. Penn Creative Writing instructor Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C'88, W'88) led a captivating conversation with Strong, the co-creator of *Empire* and screenwriter of *Game Change*, *Recount*, and *The Butler*. Strong talked about getting into writing because of a rivalry and about how his career as an actor — on *The Gilmore Girls*, *Buffy The Vampire*

Slayer, *Billions*, and other hit shows — has informed his work as a writer and director. Strong emphasized the critical importance of revision and collaboration in screenwriting. “The process never ever ends,” he said. “People give you feedback, and your producers give you feedback, and your studio gives you feedback — and the professional writer is able to take that feedback, process it, and make the script better.”

COMMUNITY READING AND FORUM ON RACIAL JUSTICE ► On June 15th, in the wake of worldwide protests stirred by the murders of unarmed Black Americans at the hands of police, the Kelly Writers House hosted a virtual program for our community to raise our voices, unite our intentions, and promote direct action against anti-Black racism. Our Community Reading and Forum on Racial Justice, moderated by Assistant Program Coordinator Heidi Kalloo, featured readings by Herman Beavers (HOM'96), Lorene Cary (C'78, G'78), Rodney Dailey (C'20), Andrew Depass (W'23), Husnaa Hashim (C'22), Erica Hunt, Meerabelle Jesuthasan (C'19), Davy Knittle (GR'25), and Kenna O'Rourke (C'15). Each speaker took a moment to reflect about their reading selections, which included essays, poetry, and critical writing about police abolition — and Kalloo's deft moderation kept a strong focus on the communal nature of the event.



THE WORD MADE MANIFEST ► Our Brodsky Gallery, endowed by Michael Brodsky (W'88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C'89), offers up-and-coming art curators the opportunity to plan innovative exhibitions of visual art. Common Press Manager Mary Tasillo curated “The Word Made Manifest: Text in Handmade Paper,” the first Brodsky Gallery exhibit of the 2019–20 season. Works by Kerri Cushman, Helen Hiebert, Takeshi Honda, Steve Kostell, Drew Matott, Suzanne McClelland, Melanie Mowinski, Christy Rupp, and Tasillo herself demonstrated a variety of special techniques, including stenciling, pigment dyeing, paper shaping, and custom watermarks. Community members learned about papermaking firsthand at the show's opening reception, which featured a messy and satisfying papermaking workshop in the Class of 1942 Garden facilitated by Olivia Caro of The Soapbox: Community Print Shop & Zine Library.

CAREERS IN JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA ► “It is, every year, one of the great joys of my life to moderate these panels and listen to these alums talk about their careers,” said Stephen Fried (C'79), organizer of our annual Careers in Journalism and New Media panel, co-sponsored by the Povich Journalism Program, the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize, and the Daily Pennsylvanian. All three of this year's panelists

— Ashley Parker (C'05) of the *Washington Post*, Luis Ferré-Sadurní (C'17) of the *New York Times*, and Jessica Goodman (C'12) of *Cosmopolitan* — were former winners of the Nora Magid Mentorship Prize, which provides support and mentorship to Penn seniors who show exceptional promise as writers and editors. The panelists discussed, among other things, how to juggle journalism and parenting, the importance of persistence, and the rapidly changing mode of online media. “They not only tell great stories about great journalism,” Fried said, “but they are very generous in explaining things the way they would have liked someone to do when they were undergrads thinking about such careers.”

A CONVERSATION WITH ALAN ROSEN ► Sponsored by the Wexler Fund for Jewish Life and Culture, Holocaust scholar Alan Rosen visited KWH in November to discuss his latest book, *The Holocaust's Jewish Calendars: Keeping Time Sacred, Making Time Holy*. During the public lunchtime conversation with KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis, Rosen explained in poignant detail how keeping track of “Jewish time” through the Jewish calendar provided Jews in ghettos, hiding places, even concentration camps, a sense of continuity with Jewish life and communal identity. “In these years of terror and oppression,” Rosen explained, “the calendar showed itself for what it really was — a blueprint of irrefutable freedom.”

WRITERS HOUSE on the road

BOSTON

A whirlwind trip to Boston included a ModPo webcast at MIT organized with help from poet **Nick Montfort** (GR'07); a trip to the Woodberry Poetry Room for a *PoemTalk* recording; a ModPo meet-up with Harvard professor **Elisa New**; and a KWH-style salon at the home of KWH Board Member **David Gross-Loh** (W'92), with presentations by **Christine Gross-Loh**, **Camara Brown** (C'17), **Anna Strong Safford** (C'13), and **Al Filreis**, who led a close reading of a poem by Emily Dickinson.

GREENWICH

Al Filreis joined a gathering of alumni in Greenwich, Connecticut, for an evening of poetry and collaborative learning, hosted by his former students **Mark Sherman** (C'95) and **Rachel Sherman** (C'95).

LOS ANGELES

Mali Heled Kinberg (C'95, G'95) hosted a crowd of KWH friends in her magnificent LA home for an evening of readings, conversation, and wood-fired pizza. **Jane Sussman** (C'09) shared an excerpt from her novel-in-progress, **Freddy Wexler** (C'10) read from a new children's book, and **Rodney Dailey** (C'20) shared poetry.

NEW YORK CITY

For the eighteenth consecutive year, **Susan Meisel** and **Louis Meisel** welcomed over a hundred friends of the Kelly Writers House to the Louis K. Meisel Gallery in SoHo for a benefit in support of our Student Recruitment Fund. Several KWH community members shared readings and reflections, including **Amber Rose Johnson** (GR'21), **Daniel Finkel** (C'20), **Weike Wang**, **Nina Wolpov** (C'14) and **Al Filreis**, who led collaborative close readings of two poems by Larry Eigner.

SEATTLE

Al Filreis and members of our ModPo team visited Seattle for the Modern Language Association convention to make videos of poets and scholars and convene discussions and ModPo meet-ups. The trip was sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Wallace Stevens Society.

VANCOUVER

After Seattle, the ModPo team headed to Vancouver, BC, where **Lucy Oh Cook** (C'95) hosted a group of poets and poetry lovers for a special *PoemTalk* discussion with **Fred Wah**, **Daphne Marlatt**, and **Meredith Quattermain**, hosted as always by **Al Filreis**.



■ **Andrea Mitchell** (CW'67, HON'18), host of *Andrea Mitchell Reports* on MSNBC and the Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for NBC News, spoke about her career, which has included coverage of every presidential election since 1980 (see page 4).

■ **Sebastian Modak** (C'10) shared one of the best “how I spent my last year” stories imaginable: how he traveled around the world — Croatia, Chile, Orcas Island, and forty-nine other destinations — as the “52 Places” reporter for the *New York Times*.

■ Our Creative Ventures project sponsored three virtual Homecoming screenwriting workshops with screenwriter/director **Andy Wolk** (C'70), who led discussions about how to tell stories for film and TV.

■ Journalist **Aaron Short** (C'03) joined our Kauders Lunch Series for a discussion of his book, *The Method to the Madness*, a history of Donald Trump's celebrity-driven campaign for the presidency.

■ Our Applebaum Editors and Publishers Program featured **Hillary Reinsberg** (C'11), who spoke with aspiring food writers about her rise from blogger to editor-in-chief of *The Infatuation* and *Zagat*.



POVICH JOURNALISM PROGRAM

Every year our Povich Journalism Program Fund, which was endowed in 2010 by **Maury Povich** (C'62) and **Connie Chung**, enables an astounding series of conversations with journalists, reporters, opinion writers, science and tech writers, biographers, and other writers of nonfiction. Povich Journalism Program visitors meet with journalism classes, join students and others for conversations in the Arts Café or online, and offer our community practical career guidance, tips of the trade, and reports from the field.

2019–20 Povich visitors included writers and editors from the *New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Cosmopolitan*, and elsewhere:

Buzz Bissinger (C'76) JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

Eric Boehlert POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

Zaina Erhaim JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST

Luis Ferré-Sadurní (C'17) POLITICAL JOURNALIST

Stephen Fried (C'79) JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

Jessica Goldstein (C'11) ARTS AND MEDIA WRITER

Jessica Goodman (C'12) OP-ED EDITOR

Christine Gross-Loh JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

Trish Hall JOURNALIST AND EDITOR

David Maraniss BIOGRAPHER AND EDITOR

Stephen Metcalf COLUMNIST AND PODCAST HOST

Andrea Mitchell (C'67) JOURNALIST AND ANCHOR

Sebastian Modak (C'10) TRAVEL WRITER

David Murrell JOURNALIST

Clayton Neuman DIGITAL PRODUCER

Ashley Parker (C'05) WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

John Prendergast (C'80) MAGAZINE EDITOR

Janny Scott JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

Kit Seelye POLITICAL JOURNALIST

June Thomas PODCAST PRODUCER

Caitleen Weaver (C'11) FEATURES WRITER



SUSSMAN POETRY PROGRAM:

ERICA HUNT ► When poet-scholar Erica Hunt visited us in November for a full day of events, KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis convened a special PoemTalk discussion about her work. Hunt's poem "Should You Find Me" served as the jumping off point for panelists Billy Joe Harris, Aldon Nielsen, and Tyrone Williams, who joined Hunt and Filreis in a close reading of the piece. "I think of her work as exploding both the boundaries of what we think of as 'mainstream' as well as 'experimental' African American writing that forces us to rethink these categories," Williams said later that night, when he introduced Hunt as the featured reader for our annual Sussman Poetry Program. And, indeed, Hunt's reading demonstrated her category-defying range. The audience listened with rapt attention as she read poems based on Zen koan, poems that played with line break and language, humorous poems, and lamentations.

CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN ORAL POETRY PROGRAM: ROYA MARSH ►

Our 2019–20 Caroline Rothstein Oral Poetry Program featured performer/activist and nationally ranked slam poet Roya Marsh, who was introduced at the Kelly Writers House by Excelano member Imani Davis (C'20). Davis praised Marsh as a mentor-writer who "dedicates herself to the worthwhile project of queer Black liberation and joy." Marsh's performance lived up to the praise, with dazzling poems about coming of age as a butch Black woman, many of them written in honor of the women who raised her. After the performance, Marsh engaged with audience members, discussing writing through trauma, the importance of naming oneself, and a call to consider Black joy as a "guiding light to navigate the world."

HELED TRAVEL AND RESEARCH

GRANT ► "I love you, I miss you, and I see you as you are," said Isami McCowan (C'21) of her grandmother, whose life story she chronicled in a writing project supported by the Heled Travel and Research Grant. Since 2007, the Heled Grant has enabled students to conduct ambitious research projects all over the world and write about their experiences. This year we celebrated two Heled winners. McCowan visited the Izu islands of Japan to learn to learn the story of her grandmother's childhood. Sonali Deliwala (C'22) spent three weeks in rural India at a school for Indigenous girls, interviewing people from different villages and tribal communities, which resulted in a collection of fiction and nonfiction writing.

EDIBLE BOOKS PARTY ► Our Edible Books Party honors the memory of Blaze Bernstein, a brilliant writer and cook. Supported by the Blaze Bernstein Memorial Fund, Hub members make, bake, or build books out of food and compete for prizes in a number of categories. This year's winners:

Most Literal

Amanda Silberling (C'18) for *Not Meat*

Most Creative

Henry McDevitt (C'22) and Autumn Wynde (C'19, SPP'19) for *The Alchemist*

Most Appetizing

Nick Seymour (C'19) for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondies*

Most Architectural

Mahailya Hinsey (C'23) for *The Count of Monte Cristo*

Least Architecturally Sound

Waiting for the Great Pumpkin, by Chelsey Zhu (C'22), Ryan Lam (ENG'22), and Erinda Sheno (C'22)

Punniest

Husnaa Hashim (C'22) and DuBois Stewart (C'21) for *Pair/Pear O' Bowl of the Sour/Sower*

People's Choice

Darby Levin (C'19) for *The Tell Tale Tart*

The Blaziest

Sam Kaufmann (C'22) for *The Divine Creme Brulee*

CREATIVE VENTURES

Creative Ventures, which is funded with extraordinary generosity by **Marc Wolpov** (W'80) and **Robin Wolpov**, emphasizes creativity and encourages KWH community members to explore innovative modes of learning, making, thinking, and teaching.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Public events at Writers House sponsored by Creative Ventures in 2019–20 featured performance artists, filmmakers, journalists, critics, crafters, memoirists, and musicians.

Graduate student **Amber Rose Johnson** (GR'21) launched Mess+Process, a reading and workshop series focused on the winding paths we take in our imaginative exploration of new ideas.

Elizabeth Weitzman — journalist, film critic, and author of more than two dozen books for children and young adults — joined us for a discussion of renegade women in the film industry.

Undergraduates **Kwynasia Young** (W'20) and **Mary Osunlana** (C'20) organized the Waist Beads Workshop to celebrate Black cultural heritage.

RealArts@Penn Faculty Director **Anthony DeCurtis** invited filmmaker **Godfrey Cheshire** for a screening and discussion of *Moving Midway*, a documentary about his family's antebellum and post-Civil War history.

Performance artist **Tammy Faye Starlite** lit up our Arts Café with her irreverent, raucous portrayal of 1960s rock and roll legend Marianne Faithfull.

The Daedalus Quartet, Penn's quartet-in-residence, organized a multimedia event responding to ideas of migration and exile, featuring new works by composers

Gabriel Bolanos Chamorro and **Anh Vu** (GR'27) and readings by **Herman Beavers** (HOM'96), **Azahara Palomeque**, and **Dagmawi Woubshet**.

Graduate student **Davy Knittle** (GR'25) curated the eighth event in his City Planning Poetics series: a conversation about urban ruins with investigative journalist **Daniel Biddle** and poet **Donna Stonecipher**.

STUDENT PROJECTS

Creative Ventures supported a number of innovative student projects and activities. Students explored screenwriting, cooking, fiber arts, filmmaking, blogging, and other kinds of making and doing.

Josephine Cheng (C'22) cooked recipes from *The Story of the Stone* to explore Chinese culinary and literary heritage.

Morgan Herrmann (ENG'20) worked on the development of an original TV pilot.

Led by **Susannah Colt** (M'23), **Likhitha Kolla** (GR'27, M'27) and **Lake Walsh** (M'22), a group of medical students gathered regularly to exchange writing and ideas and talk about the ways narrative and medicine intersect.

Alyson del Pino (C'21) completed a pamphlet guide to Miami's art museums.

A group of undergraduate knitters formed a new **Fiber Arts Circle** for knitting, crochet, and other yarnwork.

PRINT WORK

Creative Ventures supported a number of print projects this year, including zine and book making, letterpress broadsides and booklets, student magazines, and more.

The Creative Ventures Fund provided foundational support for the Common Press, a joint letterpress project of the Kelly Writers House, Penn Libraries, and the School of Design. Press manager **Mary Tasillo** organized an assortment of activities including book arts workshops, letterpress demos, and broadside production.

Writers House Zine Librarians **Alyson del Pino** (C'21) and **Quinn Gruber** (C'22) expanded the Writers House Zine Library, with a special focus on collecting zines produced by Black artists.

Graduate students **Joel Newberger** (GR'28) and **Jane Robbins Mize** (GR'27) published the first run of *The Swan*, a pocket-sized pamphlet series, with each edition devoted to the newest work of one emerging poet.

The staff of the *Penn Review* — led by **Daniel Finkel** (C'20) and **Sophia DuRose** (C'21) — offered prizes for fiction and poetry, with winners published in the magazine.

The undergraduate-led Penn Publishing Cooperative served as a forum and resource for Penn's publications.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

A unique undergraduate seminar

Combining an undergraduate seminar and a series of public events, the Kelly Writers House Fellows Program is a signal Writers House-style project. Supported generously since 1999 by Paul Kelly (C’62, WG’64, Trustee 1997–present), the Fellows Program invites three (or more!) eminent authors to the Writers House for intensive two-day visits in the spring semester, lovingly hosted by students in the associated Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar.

This year’s Kelly Writers House Fellows were Saidiya Hartman, a literary scholar and cultural historian whose work traces the afterlife of slavery in modern American life; Erín Moure, the eminent Canadian poet and translator; and journalists Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris, hosts of the New York Times culture podcast Still Processing.

As always, students in the Fellows Seminar studied everything — the syllabus included an extensive cross-section of everything each Fellow has ever written. A collaborative approach to research helped

them cover as much ground as possible. Rodney Dailey (C’20) looked into Hartman’s use of unconventional methods and form in her approach to writing history. Peyton Touns (C’23) interviewed poets about the importance of Moure’s poetry to the

Through the combined research efforts of all the students in the course, complete pictures of each Fellow began to emerge.

It was an unplanned surprise, of course, to move the Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar completely online in March, but

I had been reading Saidiya Hartman my entire undergraduate career up until the point, my senior spring, when I helped prepare for her visit and wrote her introduction. This felt simultaneously like a burst of inspiration and a prayer of stillness. The project seemed to me a homecoming. It was nerve-wracking but all the more exciting, a culmination to my work as a critical race scholar at Penn.

— Rodney Dailey (C’20)

contemporary poetry scene. Michel Liu (C’20) and Bella Fertel (C’20) reported to the class about podcasting, including what it takes to make a podcast and how Wortham and Morris work together to produce Still Processing.

the teaching team — lead by Director of Creative Writing Julia Bloch (GR’11), with assistance from Lily Applebaum (C’12) and Anna Strong Safford (C’13) — combined their many years

of experience with online teaching and learning to pivot with ease to an all-virtual format. Fellows Seminar students also proved remarkably ready for the new approach. The class experimented with innovative uses of technology to make conversations interactive, fun, and intellectually generative.

Poet/translator Erín Moure, whose visit to the KWH was planned for March, followed the university’s shift to an all-virtual format — and the class happily welcomed her into their

the weirdness of watching disaster movies during a disaster. Questions from the audience posted to YouTube and Twitter included one from Wortham’s mother (which charmed the Fellows class). The YouTube recording of their virtual visit to Writers House racked up over 1,500 views within a few weeks.

The two virtual Fellows visits were a huge success by any measure. But, in retrospect, we were immensely glad we could host our first Fellow for an in-person visit. Scholar

While all my classes transitioned relatively well, Dr. Bloch, Lily, and Anna went above and beyond to transfer the classroom experience online. Though it’s near impossible to recreate the atmosphere of the front room of Kelly Writers House on Zoom, the Fellows Seminar was able to get pretty damn close to it.

— Peyton Touns (C’23)

virtual conversation. Moure took advantage of her own apartment, using her personal library to turn the livestreamed public reading into a show-and-tell. Bloch, Applebaum, and Safford managed the interactive conversation with Moure brilliantly — fielding audience questions from YouTube, Twitter, and email.

The transition to an online format was also a breeze for Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris, already veterans of Zoom rooms thanks to their own virtual recording setup for Still Processing. Their engaging conversation — a natural fit for a livestreamed event — touched upon many topics, including

and critic (and MacArthur Genius) Saidiya Hartman came to the KWH for two days in February, before the pandemic upended all plans. Attendance for Hartman’s public reading in the Arts Café set records; seating stretched from the podium all the way to the kitchen, with people packed together in a way that has become simply unimaginable post-pandemic. Students in the Fellows Seminar were especially excited to speak with Hartman about her book Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments, which includes history about Black queer life in early-twentieth-century Philadelphia.



DIGITAL PROJECTS

PENNSOUND ▶ PennSound — the world's largest, free online collection of recorded poetry — adds new material to its expansive catalog every year, drawing from archives and newly made recordings, many of them produced right here at the Kelly Writers House. Working with a variety of physical and digital media, the engineers of PennSound learn firsthand how to produce, edit, and manage audio files.

Post-Bacc Fellow **Maya Arthur** (C'18) and Friend Fellow **Nick Seymour** (C'19) managed the biggest PennSound project of 2019–20: a massive collection of mid-twentieth-century recordings, including readings by **Clark Coolidge**, **Allen Ginsberg**, **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**, and **Anne Waldman**. Other new archival materials added to PennSound this year included readings by **Claude Royet-Journoud**, **John Taggart**, **Rosmarie Waldrop**, and others, recorded at the Centre de poésie internationale Marseille.

Wes Matthews (C'23) worked steadily throughout the year, segmenting full-length readings into individual poems. His painstaking efforts brought us downloadable MP3s of poems by **Mei-mei Berssenbrugge**, **Susan Howe**, and **Nathaniel Mackey**, among many others.

Wexler Studio assistant **Leah Baxter** (C'21) spent the summer catching up on PennSound

recordings produced in the KWH Arts Café during the 2019–20 season, including two events in the Breaking Through series curated by **Simone White**, a conversation between **Daniel Biddle** and **Donna Stonecipher** hosted by **Davy Knittle** (GR'25), and readings by **Majorie Welish**, **Kate Colby**, **Erica Hunt**, and **Erin Moure**.

Visit PennSound to listen in:
writing.upenn.edu/pennsound

WEXLER STUDIO ▶ Students learn audio engineering and production in the Wexler Studio at Kelly Writers House, which puts out a steady stream of podcasts, interviews, author recordings, and audio experiments of all kinds.

Student-led podcasts produced in the studio this year included *The Trillest* and *Bottoms on Top*. Now in its third season, *The Trillest*, hosted by **Sia-Linda Lebbie** (C'21), offered student-to-student advice. *Bottoms on Top*, an LGBTQ+ lifestyle and pop culture podcast featured a group of fresh voices, hosted by **Caroline Bourneuf** (Nu'20) and **Adi** (C'20).

Faculty at Penn developed studio projects to complement their scholarship and teaching. **Kevin Platt** invited the Russian-language poet **Semyon Khanin** for

an extended bilingual recording session. Students of **Bethany Wiggin**, Director of the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, recorded a series of interviews with Philadelphians, including a victim of the experiments on Holmesburg Prison inmates conducted from the 1950s to the 1970s. **Américo Mendoza-Mori**, the Director of Penn's Quechua Program, organized a series of recordings as part of Indigenous Languages Week (see page 6), including an interview with Quechua writer **Pablo Landeo Muñoz**, who flew in from Paris for the week's festivities.

Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C'05), the Associate Director for Recruitment and Access in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (CPCW), added several episodes to *Dead Parents Society*, a podcast that explores writing about losing a parent. Guests included **Molly O'Neill** (LPS'11), **Rachel Levy Lesser**, **Gianna DeMedio**, and **Isabella Simonetti** (C'21).

Poets and writers visited the studio throughout the year for special studio sessions, including **Ahmad Almallah**, **Levi Bentley**, **Ricardo Bracho**, **Kate Colby**, **Denice Frohman**, **Danielle LaFrance**, **Tracie Morris**, **Laura Mullen**, **Solmaz Sharif**, and **Ted Rees**.



JACKET2 ▶ Since 2011, the KWH has housed the online journal Jacket2 (jacket2.org) which features writing about contemporary poetry and poetics by contributors from all over the world. Jacket2 editors **Kenna O'Rourke** (C'15) and **Julia Bloch** (GR'11) led a team of undergraduates — **Gabriela Alvarado** (C'23), **Quinn Gruber** (C'22), **Kelly Liu** (C'21), **Kendall Owens** (C'23), and **Nick Plante** (C'22) — who developed their skills in proofreading, copyediting, and design. Everyone adapted admirably to remote work in March, when we moved all KWH operations online in response to COVID-19. O'Rourke sent the staff weekly Chicago Manual of Style refresher emails throughout the online semester, as well as funny videos for morale. Notable Jacket2 publications this year included a commentary series called *Covidian catastrophes* by **M. NourbeSe Philip**, which explored the role of poetry during the convergent crises of COVID-19 and state violence against Black people; a feature on the Indonesian poet **Afrizal Malna**; and a podcast series hosted by **Laynie Browne** titled *Poetry at the Rail Park*. Funding for Jacket2 came from several sources, including our Digital Poetries Fund; an anonymous fund established in 2000 to support magazine production; and two funds that support student editors — the Debbie Duenes Kay Fund and the Elissa Caterfino Mandel Fund.

Browse Jacket2 articles and more:
jacket2.org

MODPO ▶ For the eighth consecutive year, KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis** and a team of co-conveners and collaborators offered “ModPo,” a massive open online course on modern and contemporary American poetry hosted on Coursera.org. The free course has enabled more than 360,000 people in 190 countries to join an intergenerational, cross-cultural community of learners.

Weekly interactive webcasts produced by **Zach Carduner** (C'13) and **Chris Martin** allowed participants to engage in lively conversations about the course materials. Several poets stopped by to participate in these active discussion sessions, including **Kate Colby**, **Tracie Morris**, and **Douglas Kearney**. Other poets, including **Erica Baum** and **Ron Silliman**, joined online discussion forums to answer questions from students about their work.

In the spring, the ModPo team responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by ramping up off-season activities. **Max McKenna** (C'10) offered a four-week course on the poems of Gwendolyn Brooks, **Jake Marmer** offered a course on poetry and spirituality, and **Jason Zuzga** (GR'16) offered a course on anglophone ethnopoetics. In June, the ModPo team collaborated with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City to offer a virtual webcast in conjunction with MoMA's special spring exhibition “Dorothea Lange: Words & Pictures.”

ModPo and its offshoot course offerings are entirely free thanks to the support of the Kelly Writers House community. Visit writing.upenn.edu/wh/support to find out how you can help!

Enroll for free today:
modpo.org



ALUMNI ONLINE BOOK GROUPS

▶ The Kelly Writers House has convened vibrant online conversations about books since the fall of 2000 when we launched our first Alumni Online Book Group. Thanks to generous support from **David Roberts** (C'84), we've hosted 125 moderator-led online discussions for our extended Penn family. Book Group moderators this year included **Mike Hennessey**, who led a group of readers through *Eggshells*, the quirky and critically acclaimed novel by Caitriona Lally; **Lily Applebaum** (C'11), who led a discussion about Shirley Jackson's spooky classic, *The Haunting of Hill House*; and **David Roberts** (C'84) and **Al Filreis**, who convened a group to discuss works by Ingeborg Bachman and Primo Levi. **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), our Associate Director for Recruitment and Access, closed out the season with a record-setting one-hundred-member book group for prospective Penn students, focused on works by faculty in Penn's Creative Writing Program.

PoemTalk 2019–20

Supported by the Leight Foundation, PoemTalk is a monthly roundtable discussion of poems in the PennSound collection, moderated by KWH Faculty Director **Al Filreis**.

- #138 Maggie Nelson's "Bluets"
- #139 poems from the Worker Writers School
- #140 Barbara Guest ascends the blue stairs
- #141 Rosmarie Waldrop remembers Nazi Germany
- #142 an early Charles Bernstein poem
- #143 Hannah Weiner's "Clairvoyant Journal"
- #144 Michael McClure's "Ghost Tantras"
- #145 Tonya Foster's "A Swarm of Bees in High Court"
- #146 Robert Frost's "Mending Wall"
- #147 William Carlos Williams' "By the Road to the Contagious Hospital"
- #148 Erica Hunt's "Should You Find Me"
- #149 Kamau Brathwaite's "Negus"
- #150 two poems by Terrance Hayes



INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

BASSINI APPRENTICESHIPS ►

The Bassini Apprenticeship Program, endowed in 2007 by **Reina Marin Bassini** (CW'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73), matches 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.

Samira Mehta (C'21, G'22) helped **Lorene Cary** (C'78, G'78) engage newly-registered Philadelphia voters through the #VoteThatJawn project.

Amber Auslander (C'20) assisted **Beth Kephart** (C'82) with research about Virginia Woolf and letterpress culture. Auslander published an essay about the experience in the Penn Gazette (June 2020).

Alec Druggan (C'21) helped **Laynie Browne** develop ways for people to engage with poetry at Philadelphia's newly opened Rail Park, including a six-episode Jacket2 podcast series exploring poetry and public space.

VAN DOREN FELLOWSHIP ►

Established in partnership with the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (CPCW) and the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), the Van Doren Fellowship helps increase student access to and involvement with the arts. **Amanda Silberling** (C'18), our third Van Doren Fellow, assisted the RealArts@Penn Program as part of her engagement efforts. She coordinated the Alumni Mentor lunch series, developed a fantastic new website, and helped students learn about funding opportunities for internships. "It's rewarding to be able to support students in their pursuit of creative careers," Silberling said. "We want to make sure students understand that even if they aren't awarded a RealArts@Penn internship, they're still encouraged and welcome to work with us; we're always happy to help them edit their resumes and cover letters, connect with alumni, or discuss potential career paths." Silberling also played a crucial role in our Summer Workshop for Young Writers — especially as the program pivoted to an online mode. During the ten-day, all-virtual endeavor, she served as a teaching assistant, facilitating workshop sessions and providing written feedback on student work. Generous support for the Van Doren Fellowship came from **John Van Doren** and **Sally Van Doren**, in addition to our partners at the ICA and CPCW.

KWH POST-BACCALAUREATE FELLOWSHIP ►

The KWH Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship was designed to offer a year-long residency for a recent Penn graduate to gain practical, resume-building experience at KWH, while also working on an ambitious writing project. 2019–20 Post-Bacc Fellow **Maya Arthur** (C'18) learned about editorial practices at Jacket2 and PennSound during her fellowship year — and completed an eighty-page poetry manuscript, with guidance from mentor-writer **Simone White**. At Jacket2, Arthur joined our editorial collective, participating as a voting member on incoming submissions and serving as a proofreader on accepted pieces. At PennSound, Arthur took a lead role in a major new project: processing and uploading materials from a massive collection of recordings made by S Press. The remainder of Arthur's time was reserved for an ambitious writing project about some of the ways memory, movement, and language relate to a body in crisis. Arthur's collection explores chronic illness, implicit bias in the medical field, and Blackness, all through an archival investigation of her own lived experience. In July 2020, Arthur was awarded a grant from the Sachs Program in Arts Innovation to extend some of her research into a multimedia project.



POVICH INTERNSHIP PRIZES ►

The Povich Internship Prize program, sponsored by **Maury Povich** (C'62), provides financial support for students who have been offered internships at arts organizations and creative companies. The fund supported eight students in the summer of 2020: **Juliann Barbella** (C'21) at Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, **Kelly Liu** (C'21) at The Music Playground and The Diner, **Miles Meline** (C'22) at CityStep.org, **Lauren Reiss** (C'21) at Co_ed, **Alexandra Sinsheimer** (C'21) at Maison de Mode, **Omar Swidan** (C'22) at Kidas, **Kyle Whiting** (W'21) at WXPN's The Key and Press Here Publicity, and **Zoe Ziegler** (W'20) at Small Motor Skills.

REALARTS@PENN ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ►

The **Alumni Mentorship Program** connects undergraduates with Penn alumni who work in creative fields. Important mentoring relationships develop through small gatherings and one-on-one conversations. In the fall semester, students met with alumni working in publishing, editing, and



journalism including **Dani Blum** (C'18), **Jacob Gardenswartz** (C'18, LPS'18), **Susan Golomb** (C'82), **Taylor Hosking** (C'17), **Geralyn Lucas** (C'89), **Michelle Ma** (C'15), **Julie Merberg** (C'88), **Joe Pinsker** (C'13), **Susanna Porter** (CW'75), **Zachary Sergi** (C'10), and **Rebecca Tan** (C'19). In the spring, the program tapped alumni working in the entertainment industry, including **Timothy Bloom** (C'17), **Cheryl Family** (C'91), **Allison Friedman** (C'09), **Alison Greenspan** (C'17), **Mike Jackman** (C'85), **Ari Lewis** (C'18), **Maurin Mwombela** (C'17), **Brian Park** (C'18), **Jessica Penzias** (C'12), **Mark Rizzo** (C'92), and **Emma Soren** (C'16).

To support students through the uncertainty of the pandemic, RealArts@Penn expanded its mentorship series to continue online over the summer. All applicants to RealArts@Penn Internships were invited to join informal conversations and Q&A sessions with alumni in media, entertainment, and publishing, including **Jean Chatzky** (C'86), **Michelle Nader** (C'87), **Stuart Gibbs** (C'91), **Jacob Gardenswartz** (C'18), **Jennifer Yu** (C'16), and **Ariana Jackson** (W'03).

The Friend Fellows Project

Supported generously by the **Harris Family Foundation**, **Katherine P. Harris**, and **Bill Friend** and **Linda Friend**, the Friend Fellows project enabled a mix of internships, research projects, and teaching assistantships during the 2019–20 school year.

Claire Adams, an undergraduate at Temple University, joined the ModPo team to learn about how to run a massive open online course.

Sophie Burkholder (ENG'20) interned at *Philadelphia Magazine*, where she racked up several bylines, including coverage of the coronavirus.

Samantha Claypoole (C'20) assisted the Teachers Institute of Philadelphia with research about the displacement of residents from West Philly's Black Bottom neighborhood.

Erin O'Malley (C'21) interned at Hachette Book Group's Running Press, where they assisted with editorial operations for three imprints.

Nick Seymour (C'19) expanded his experience in audio production and editing right here at Writers House, in our Arts Café and Wexler Studio.

Graduate student **Jess Shollenberger** (G'24) served as a Fellow in Poetic Practice at KWH and the Creative Writing Program, working for both *Jacket2* and ModPo.

2020 RealArts@Penn Internships

The RealArts@Penn Internship Program provides paid summer internships at creative companies, where students interested in pursuing arts-related careers receive professional guidance, networking opportunities, and real-world job experience. The RealArts@Penn team — led by R.J. Bernocco (G'12) and Mingo Reynolds in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing — deftly navigated COVID-19 travel restrictions by arranging ten remote internships in summer 2020. Additional companies signed on to host alternative, short-term internships in fall 2020.

FilmNation	John Anderson (W'21)
Library of Congress	Rhosean Asmah (C'20)
Philadelphia Media Network	Sophie Burkholder (E'20)
ViacomCBS Catalyst	Eliana Doft (C'21)
1812 Productions	Mikayla Golub (C'22)
Philadelphia Magazine	Beatrice Forman (C'22)
Grandview	Luke Hrushanyk (C'21)
Pitchfork Media	William Miller (C'20)
Radical Act Productions	Mary Osunlana (C'20)
Downtown Bookworks	Juliette Palermo (C'20)

Supporting RealArts@Penn

Major support for the RealArts@Penn project comes from **Marc Wolpov** (W'80) and **Robin Wolpov**, and the Marc and Robin Wolpov Family Fund.

RealArts@Penn Internships are also made possible through endowments established by **Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler** (C'79) and **Clifford R. Eisler** (C'79), **Seth Ginns** (C'00) and **Jane Ginns**, **Missy Linn** (NU'91) and **Eric Linn** (W'92), and **Cheryl K. Nakao-Miller** (W'81) and **Jimmy Miller**; and through the Blaze Bernstein Memorial Fund, established by **Gideon Bernstein** and **Jeanne Pepper Bernstein**, with support from many other friends of the Kelly Writers House.

Additional support this year for RealArts@Penn came from **Sharon Baird** (C'93) and **Bill Baird**, **Susanna Porter** (CW'75), **Maury Povich** (C'62) and **Connie Chung**, and **Leslie Dezer Salmon** (W'92) and **Ricardo Salmon** (W'93).

Do you want to join in this effort to match creative students with career-building opportunities? Email **Andrew Beal**: (abeal@writing.upenn.edu).



COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECTS

TRANSCRIBEZ ► Transcribez is a community writing group for trans and nonbinary youth, aged fourteen to twenty-four. The group meets once per month — in person or online — and offers a dedicated space for trans youth to come together and share their creativity in a safe and welcoming setting.

Guidance and support for transcribez in 2019–20 came from group facilitators [Andrew Spiers](#), [Mariya Oneby](#), and [Devin Esch](#), as well as trans-identifying guest writers. One especially inspiring visitor was [Andrea Jenkins](#), a poet, trans activist, and the first Black openly transgender woman elected to public office in the United States. Jenkins led a special session in June 2020, during Pride month.

An essay about transcribez by [Andrew Spiers](#) will appear in the second edition of *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves*, coming June 2021 from Oxford University Press. In it, Spiers describes the impact of the project: “These workshops change the lives of the youth who attend, creating new bonds between attendees, many of whom have experienced homelessness, family rejection, bullying in school, and other hardships. Our group is a sacred and joyful space. I am so grateful it exists.”

Transcribez was made possible this year thanks to a major gift from the Black Heart Foundation, with additional support from Robert Shepard (C’83, G’83) and Bob Numerof (CGS’83) and the Esther Saxon Term Fund.

WRITE ON! ► On Fridays throughout the school year we welcome middle schoolers to the KWH for Write On! — a community writing project that matches Penn students with kids from Henry C. Lea Elementary School for writing games and one-on-one mentoring. The project is sponsored by [Jerilyn Perman](#) (C’91) and [Brian Perman](#) (W’90) through the Esther Saxon Term Fund, which has helped nurture young writers since 2001.

This year’s project coordinators were [Nidhi Bhatt](#) (C’23), [Anneka Ignatius](#) (C’22), [Juliana Kemenosh](#) (C’20), [Rachel Kulik](#) (W’21), [Carrie Shade](#) (C’21), [Hayley Sussman](#) (C’22), and [Linda Zou](#) (C’21).

Coordinators designed special creative exercises to encourage self-expression, imagination, and confidence in writing skills. In the last session before winter break, kids and coaches wrote words of reflection about their Write On! experiences on cut-out paper snowflakes. “I still keep the snowflakes I made in that session on my desk,” said Write On! Coordinator [Carrie Shade](#) (C’21). Another session — at the start of 2020 — invited kids to speculate about the future. Nobody, of course, predicted how unusual 2020 would turn out to be!

To help fuel creativity, a team of KWH student chefs, usually led by [Ashley Codner](#) (C’21), cooked up elaborate snacks in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen: pizza bagels, trail mix, Rice Krispie treats, and mud pudding with

gummy worms (always served with sliced fruit and veggies too).

WRITING A LIFE ► Founded in 2014 as a collaboration with the Abramson Cancer Center, and supported by a generous gift from the Black Heart Foundation, Writing a Life is a group for people with cancer diagnoses who write together and find support in a non-clinical setting. The group cultivates a safe and confidential space for members to reflect upon their experiences within a supportive community.

Writing a Life met twice a month this year with facilitator [Deborah Burnham](#) and also expanded to include an additional monthly session for caregivers. For Burnham, one of the most rewarding aspects of Writing a Life was witnessing the camaraderie that developed among participants, who offered each other emotional support, empathy, and care, as well as feedback about writing projects.

When the pandemic required the group to move its meetings online, participants missed in-person gatherings, Burnham reported. “We miss the moments of one-on-one talk, the chance to watch people’s faces while they listen, the chance to ask a private question or share a hug before leaving,” she said. But the new virtual meetings also removed barriers for some patients to attend — and the supportive ethos of the group continued, despite the social distance.



ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

RECRUITMENT AND ACCESS ►

We actively engage with prospective Penn students who want to hear more about the Kelly Writers House, the Creative Writing Program, and Penn’s vibrant writing community — through one-on-one meetings at the KWH, visits to high schools and after-school programs around the country, and informal gatherings on Zoom.

Our recruitment and outreach efforts are led by [Jamie-Lee Josselyn](#) (C’05), who serves as the Associate Director for Recruitment and Access in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. Josselyn travels the country to help get the word out about writing at Penn and seek out promising young writers. Her travels this year took her to the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Young Dallas Fort Worth Writers, the Hathaway Brown School’s Osborne Writing Center, and the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, among many other places, including the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, right here in Philly.

A team of people — including [Ian McCormack](#) (C’21), [David Marchino](#) (C’16), [Peter LaBerge](#) (C’17), and our Van Doren Fellow [Amanda Silberling](#) (C’18) — helped with our recruitment efforts by chatting with prospective students, leading tours, and introducing young writers to the Kelly Writers House. [Crissy Iglesias](#) and other

staff members in Penn Admissions offered additional support and guidance.

And lots of KWH community members pitched in to help fund our outreach efforts. We were especially grateful to everyone who attended our eighteenth annual Writers House New York event in November, hosted by [Susan Meisel](#) and [Louis Meisel](#), which raised money in support of our Student Recruitment Fund.

Are you a high school student who’d like to learn more about writing at Penn? We want to get to know you! Introduce yourself by emailing [Jamie-Lee Josselyn](#) at jjossely@writing.upenn.edu.

SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG WRITERS ►

When the twenty-five students who participated in our fourth annual Summer Workshop for Young Writers met on Zoom for the first time, they had no idea how close they would become in just ten days. In a summer that was about social distancing, they came together safely and meaningfully.

The students were from all over the country — California, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, New York, Texas, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico. They spent their Zoom sessions in a daily memoir workshop led by Summer Workshop Director [Jamie-Lee Josselyn](#) (C’05)

and in rotating craft sessions that included food writing with [Kristen Martin](#) (C’11), comics with [Alli Katz](#), narrative collage with [Karen Rile](#) (C’80), poetry and naming with [Michelle Taransky](#), collaborative close reading with [Al Filreis](#), science and writing with [Kaitlin Moore](#) (C’19), humor in writing with [Alina Grabowski](#) (C’16), found poetry with [Briar Essex](#) (C’20), poetry and publishing with [Peter LaBerge](#) (C’17), and poetry and the body with [Maya Arthur](#) (C’19). Additionally, [Ollie Dupuy](#) (C’23) hosted a Summer Workshop open mic with assistance from fellow Excelano Project members, and [Dani Fitzgerald](#) (GSE’19) from Penn Admissions led a special info session.

At the center of the Summer Workshop were core team members [David Marchino](#) (C’16), [Izzy Lopez](#) (C’19), [Amanda Silberling](#) (C’18), and [James Chang](#) (C’22), who, along with Josselyn, read and commented on countless drafts, facilitated group workshops and discussions, and did their best to keep up with the runaway Zoom chat.

While the Summer Workshop was technically virtual this year, the connections made through writing and conversation were real, and will endure. As always, we are grateful to [Maury Povich](#) (C’62) and [Connie Chung](#) for their support of this program, which grants financial assistance to more than half of participants.



SUPPORT

INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND MENTORSHIPS

Bassini Apprenticeship Endowed Fund ▶ The Bassini Apprenticeship program pairs undergraduates with professional writers for special projects. This year's pairings were Samira Mehta (C'21, G'22) with Lorene Cary (C'78, G'78), Amber Auslander (C'20) with Beth Kephart (C'82), and Alec Druggan (C'21) with Laynie Browne. Endowed in 2007 by Reina Marin Bassini (CW'72, GED'72) and Emilio Bassini (C'71, W'71, WG'73).

Blaze Bernstein Memorial Endowed Fund We are proud to honor the legacy of Blaze Bernstein, an extraordinary young writer whose tragic death we all mourn. This fund, established in partnership with Bernstein's family, supports an annual RealArts@Penn Internship in Los Angeles and community-oriented programs that center writing and food, two of Blaze's great loves. The 2020 Blaze Bernstein Memorial Intern was Mary Osunlana (C'20), who interned at Don Cheadle's production company, Radical Act Productions. Founded in 2018, with a lead gift and ongoing support from Gideon Bernstein and Jeanne Pepper, the Blaze Fund is supported annually by a community of Writers House friends, with a special gift this year from Paul Kelly (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997–present) and Nancy Kelly.

The Clearman Cottage Residency ▶ The Clearman Cottage Residency provides young writers with uninterrupted writing time in

an idyllic setting, so that they may make substantial progress on a significant writing project. The fourth annual week-long residency was awarded to Caroline Curran (C'20), who used the retreat to work on a collection of short stories. Supported annually since 2015 by Buzz Bissinger (C'76) and Lisa Smith.

Debbie Duenes Kay Student Editor Internship Fund The Debbie Duenes Kay Student Editor Internship Fund provides financial support for Penn students to gain experience in professional editing practices. In 2019–20, the fund supported the work of Kendall Owens (C'23), who served as an editorial assistant for Jacket2 magazine. Supported annually since 2019 by Debbie Duenes Kay (C'95).

Eisler Endowed Internship Fund The Eisler Internship Fund offers financial assistance to students who have accepted unpaid or modestly paid internships at cultural institutions. The Eisler Fund made it possible for Mikayla Golub (C'22) to intern at 1812 Productions in summer 2020. Endowed in 2011 by Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C'79) and Clifford R. Eisler (C'79).

Elissa Caterfino Mandel Internship Endowed Fund The Elissa Caterfino Mandel Endowed Internship Fund supports student internships in the real-world practice of editing. This year's Caterfino Mandel Intern was Gabriela Alvarado (C'23), who served

as an editorial assistant for Jacket2 magazine. Endowed in 2011 by Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C'83).

Ginns RealArts Internship Endowed Fund 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. In summer 2020, the Ginns Fund supported Rhosean Asmah (C'20), who interned at the Library of Congress. Endowed in 2019 by Seth Ginns (C'00) and Jane Ginns.

Kate Levin Community Outreach Internship Endowed Fund This fund supports Community Outreach Internships through which students participate in writing-based community service efforts. As the 2019–20 Levin Community Outreach Intern, Eva Lewis (C'21) worked closely with Penn's African-American Resource Center to develop an ambitious outreach project. Endowed in 2012 by Kate Levin (G'90, GR'95) and Robin Shapiro.

Missy and Eric Linn RealArts Internship Endowed Fund The Linn RealArts endowment supports one RealArts@Penn Intern, making possible an internship in a creative industry, regardless of the student's area of study. We look forward to announcing the first Linn RealArts Intern in summer 2021. Endowed in 2020 by Eric Linn (W'92) and Missy Bechler Linn (NU'91).



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 and creative companies. The fund supported eight students in the summer of 2020, including Juliann Barbella (C'21), who interned at Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, and Kelly Liu (C'21) who worked at The Music Playground and The Diner. Endowed in 2016 by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.

Norma Grace Miller RealArts Internship Fund The Miller Internship Fund supports one RealArts@Penn Intern each summer, helping students interested in pursuing arts-related careers gain practical experience and professional guidance. Thanks to the Miller Fund, Beatrice Forman (C'22) interned at Philadelphia Magazine in summer 2020. Endowed in 2019 by Cheryl K. Nakao-Miller (W'81) and Jimmy Miller.

RealArts Internship Fund The RealArts Internship Fund makes it possible for us to support up to twenty paid summer internships at leading cultural institutions so that students may gain practical experience in the arts and make real-world connections beyond the university. Thanks to strong partnerships cultivated with alumni and friends at the Library of Congress, Philadelphia Magazine, Pitchfork Media, FilmNation, and elsewhere, RealArts@Penn Interns receive direct access to transformational learning opportunities. In summer of 2020, we arranged ten such internships, and negotiated a number of special commitments for fall. Funded with major support from Marc Wolpow (W'80), Robin Wolpow, and the Marc and Robin Wolpow Family Fund, with additional support from Susanna Porter (CW'75).



FRIENDS OF THE WRITERS HOUSE

We thank the following Friends for their generous support of the Kelly Writers House in our 2019–20 year:

Jill Abbott
Maya Afilalo
Matthew Algeo
Nathalie Anderson
James Andres
Derek Arthur
Myrna Asher and Howard Asher
Sarah Auerbach
Carol Avins
Sylva Baker
Sharon Baker and Tom Baker
Pratima Annapurna Balabhadrapathruni
Stephanie Banks
Stephanie Barron
Greg Barron and Sarah Murphy
Berni Barta
Ian Bauer and Joy Bauer
Herman Beavers and Lisa James-Beavers
Susan Becker-Weidman and Arthur Becker-Weidman
Donald W. Beetham
Leah Begg and William Begg
Jay R. Begun, in memory of Mr. Gerald Begun
Evelyn Bender
Jose Luis Benitez
Carol Clampett Bergere
Edward Bergman
Marshall Berman
Julia Bernstein
Charles Bernstein
Leonard A. Bernstein and Ellen Rubin
Arman Bernstein and Christine Bernstein
Gideon Bernstein and Jeanne Pepper Bernstein
Cara Bertron
Bernardo Beyer
Seth Bienstock and Alison Kris Bienstock
Daniel E. Blas and Ilana Teicher
Ronna W. Blaser, in honor of Dr. Simone Blaser
Carole Blaze and John Prendergast
E. David Blum and Vivian Blum
Lawrence Blum
Scott Blum and Joanne Blum
Kathleen Matson Blurock
Megan Bly and Scott Wunsch
Roxanne Conisha Bok and Scott Bok



David A. Borgenicht
Jay Brecker
Donna Bridgeman
Jackie Brousse and Denis Brousse
Julie Phillips Brown
Jacqueline Dalea Brown,
in honor of Matthew Weiner
Alexis M. Brunswick
Robert E. Brylawski
James Burdett and Mary Ann Burdett
William Burrison
Lorene E. Cary
Lenny Cassuto
Nora M. Castle, in memory of
Mr. Zeke Reiser
Mary Carol Catanese
Sandra Chaff
Mandana Chaffa
Andrew Michael Chang
Debjani Chatterjee
Laurie Churchman
Leah Cianfrani, in memory of
Dr. Peter Cianfrani
Dorcy Siegel Clark
Sara Coelho
Harris Cohen
Ellen Cohen and Marshall Cohen
Charles Cohen
Michael Cohn
Mary Collins
Rev. Blaney Charles Colmore
John Colwell
John J. Conley
David M. Cowen
Benjamin H Craine, in memory of
Mr. Donald Bedrick
Allan Cramer
Michael A. Crane and Pamela Crane
Susan R. Croll and Paul Monasevitch
Jonathan E. Cryer and Marnie Fitzmaurice,
in honor of Al Filreis
Amaris Cuchanski
Michael Cullina
Jacob Cytryn
Anastasia Damaskinou
David Daniels and Barbara Daniels
Scott Day
Anthony DeCurtis
Dave Deifer
Denise Devine
Linda Diamond
Franklin Dines
Greg Djanikian and Lysa Bennett
Howard Donsky and Paula Donsky
Annette Dorsky
Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof
Robert Ducsay and Gabrielle Ducsay
Sabrina C. E. Eaton
Robin Cohn Ebenstein

their proposal to develop writing workshops for Philadelphia schools. Endowed in 2010 by Penn parents Michael Goldstein and Danielle Goldstein.

Parker Prize Endowed Fund for Journalistic Nonfiction The Parker Prize acknowledges excellence in student journalism. Rowana Miller (C’22) won the 2019–20 Parker Prize for her multigenre piece, “The Ghosts of Locust.” Endowed in 2011 by Bret Parker (CAS’90) and Katharine Parker.

The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Fund The Kerry Prize honors the literary communitarianism of our first director, Kerry Sherin Wright. This year’s prize went to Rowana Miller (C’22) to develop Word Camp, an online summer writing camp for kids. Supported annually by the KWH community.

PROJECTS

Kelly Writers House Fellows Fund The Kelly Writers House Fellows project enables undergraduate writers to interact with eminent writers through seminar discussions, home-cooked meals, informal gatherings, and public interview-style conversations. Our 2019–20 Fellows were Saidiya Hartman, a literary scholar and cultural historian whose work traces the afterlife of slavery in modern American life; Erin Moure, the eminent Canadian poet and translator; and journalists Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris, hosts of the New York Times culture podcast Still Processing. 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. This season’s exhibits included small-scale works by Penn students, curated by Alyson del Pino (C’21); and comics and cartoons, curated by the people of Sequential Philly, with assistance

from KWH Program Coordinator Alli Katz. Endowed in 2010 by Michael Brodsky (W’88) and Heidi Hookman Brodsky (C’89).

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 firsthand. Endowed in 2000 by an anonymous donor.

Leight Foundation Term Fund The Leight Foundation Term Fund supports digital projects at Writers House, including PoemTalk, a monthly podcast about poems in the PennSound collection, featuring roundtable discussions with poets and poet-scholars, convened by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis. Supported annually since 2017 by the Leight Foundation.

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress Endowed Fund Through the Robinson Press, students discover and explore print culture in the Common Press studio. Robinson Press assistants Alyson del Pino (C’21) and Rachel Dennis (C’22) worked side-by-side with Common Press manager Mary Tasillo to create broadsides, ephemera, and other print matter. Endowed in 2010 by Nina Robinson Vitow (CW’70, WG’76) in memory of her parents Herman Robinson and Jeanne Robinson.

Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowed Fund for the Literary Journalism Magazine The Zarin/Rosenfeld Fund nurtures journalistic talent by making possible the publication of substantial long-form nonfiction pieces by Penn students. In 2019–20 the fund supported the publication and activities of the Moviegoer, a journal for writing about film. Endowed in 2011 by Penn parents Judith Zarin and Gerald Rosenfeld.

The Creative Ventures Fund Creative Ventures enables students and faculty to

pursue ambitious projects, especially those that emphasize innovation, discovery, and imagination. The Creative Ventures Fund made possible a series of public events at Writers House in 2019–20, including conversations with performance artists, filmmakers, journalists, poets, critics, memoirists, and musicians. Student-led initiatives included a workshop focused on the use of waist beads in the African diaspora and a programming series founded by Amber Rose Johnson (GR’21) about creative processes. Supported annually since 2011 by Marc Wolpov (W’80) and Robin Wolpov.

Online Projects Fund A key tenet of the Kelly Writers House mission is that learning communities connected across distances need not be impersonal. The Online Projects Fund, established with an anonymous founding gift in 2019, directly supports our online projects, including ModPo, our massive open online course about modern and contemporary poetry. Funded annually since 2019 by an anonymous donor.

CPCW/PMA Seminar Fund The CPCW/ PMA Seminar brings writers together to collaborate with fellow students and professional artists on a real-world project over the course of a full academic year. Participants learn to engage with the arts through critical and creative writing, while learning firsthand the processes of making, curating, and funding art. Taught by Kenny Goldsmith, students in the 2019–20 seminar also worked closely with Matthew Affron, the chief curator of twentieth-century art at the PMA and met with artists and curators in Philadelphia and New York. The course culminated in a beautiful hardbound collection of student writing, co-published by CPCW and the PMA. Funded annually since 2008 by Dirk Wittenborn (C’72) and the Cape Branch Foundation.

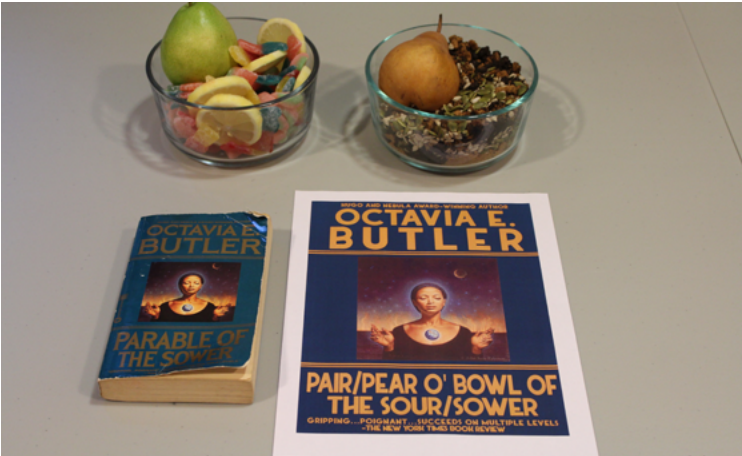
TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES AND OPEN-ENDED SUPPORT

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 small but 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 and tea, learning to chop vegetables, and making lifelong friends. Endowed in 2010 by Ed Kane (C’71, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace.

Hartman Dining Room Endowment The Hartman Dining Room Endowment provides support for the many and various activities of the Writers House dining room: intimate sit-down dinners with visiting writers, buffet lunches and receptions, break-out sessions for youth writing workshops, and meetings of all kinds, including informal conversations. Endowed in 2017 by Penn parents Alan Hartman (W’87) and Kim Hartman.

Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund This flexible fund, to which anyone can contribute, enables Faculty Director Al Filreis to direct support where it is most urgently needed and to be responsive to unusual proposals for projects “on the fly,” just as they are being imagined by intrepid students and faculty. This kind of funding reinforces the vision of the Writers House as a site for both creative experience and skills development. This year, the fund supported learning opportunities for students, including Isabella Simonetti (C’21), who developed skills in HTML, web design, and podcasting; Sophia DuRose (C’21), who served as a summer-session research assistant; and Caroline Curran (C’20), who completed a week-long writing residency. The fund provided support to faculty members, including Rachel Zolf and Simone White, who engaged students through innovative teaching

Sarah B. Eisen Nanus
Carol L. Elias
Jane Epstein and Leonard Epstein
Galina Espinoza
Daniel Evans
Michelle S. Falkoff
Robert J. Faunce
Ronald L. Fellman, in honor of
Dr. Melissa A. Fellman
William H Fenrich
Alberto F. Fernandez Cabria
Douglas Ferrin
Catherine Fisher Field
Alan Filreis and Jane Treuhaft
Lois Filreis
Jean Marie Findlay
Marjorie S. Fiterman
Luellen Fletcher
Jenny R. Ford
Sallie Foster
Ben Fountain and Sharon Fountain
Peggy Fox
Jacqueline Friedland
Liza Fuchs
Lise Funderburg
Roy Gainsburg, in honor of Al Filreis
Greg Gallagher
Mark Gallagher
Allison Gardenswartz and
Daniel Gardenswartz
Jessica Garmise and Brian Garmise
Daniela Genin
Stephen Gerkin, in honor of
Paul Hendrickson
Nadia Ghent
John Giannotti, in honor of Oran Giannotti
Stuart Gibbs
Elizabeth Goldwyn Gibson, in memory of
Dr. Arthur Goldwyn
Seamus Gilson and Mary Gilson
Jody Girgenti
Diana Glasberg-Sussman and
Daniel Glasberg-Sussman
Noah Golden-Krasner
Nancy Golding and
Robert Hartheimer Golding
Kenneth Goldman
Daniel A. Goldstein
David Goldwyn and Julie Goldwyn,
in memory of Arthur Goldwyn
Mackarness Goode and
Penelope Bodry-Sanders
Mark D. Gordon and Aldo Buono
Theodora Rapp Graham, in honor of
Dr. Robley Wilson Jr. and
Dr. Stanley W Lindberg
Charles Granatir, in honor of Al Filreis
Richard Graves and Teru Graves
David Grazian and Meredith Broussard



Simone Graziano
David Green
Patricia Green
Elisa Greenbaum and Clint Greenbaum,
in honor of Al Filreis
Deborah A. Greenberg, in honor of
Al Filreis
Rabbi Lisa Greene
Judith Greene
Beth E. Gruber
MJ Gruninger
Jane Gutman
Matthew Hall and Anne Hall
Alexandra Halpern
Siobhan M. Hansen
Nargus Harounzadeh
Caroline Harris
William Harris and Susan Harris
Steven Heller and Tom Heller
Dina R. Hellerstein
Kathryn Hellerstein and David Stern
Jackie Henrion
Michael B. Herzlin
Lisa Hoffstein and Paul Hoffstein
Brian Holland and Sara Holland
Peter Holstein and Lynn Holstein
Thea Diamond Howey
Jeffrey Hunt and Cynthia Hunt
Roger Hurwitz and Janel Hill Hurwitz
Meg Hutcheson and Doug Hutcheson
Stephen Hutnick and Elizabeth Hutnick
Lee Huttner
Michael T. Hyde
S.E. Ingraham, in memory of
William John Hislop
Katie Jackson
Alexander Jacobs
Diane Jacobs
Carolyn Anne Jacobson and Erik Simpson
Leigh Jacoby
Robert Jaffe
Kari Jensen and Thomas Hitch
Lynn J. Jerath
Teresa Jones, in memory of David T. Jones
Jeffrey Jubelirer
Emily Kaplan
Sally Grueskin Kaplan
Eric J. Karlan
Frederick Kaskel, in honor of Dr. Al Filreis
Richard Katz and Kathy Silver
Adam B. Kaufman
Carol Kaufman and Jeffrey Kaufman
Jonathan M. Kaye and Deborah Goldberg
Kaye, in honor of Ms. Lisa Katzman
John Keene
Ronald Keeperman
Donald B. Keim

and mentoring. The fund also enabled several free, online discussion groups led by Penn alumni and faculty that allowed members of the KWH community to convene from anywhere in the world. Supported this year by Reina Marin Bassini (CW'72, GED'72), Megan Bly and Scott Wunsch, Reuben Daniels and Jennifer Daniels, Theodora Rapp Graham (GR'74), Alex Halpern (C'04), Ronald Keeperman, Paul Kelly (C'62 WG'64, Trustee 1997–present) and Nancy Kelly, Michelle Levister (C'88), Tyler Lucas and Geralyn Lucas (C'89), Michael Miller (WH'78), Brian Paul (W'90) and Sharon Paul (C'90), Lee David Rudy and Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C'92), Mark Sherman (C'95) and Rachel Sherman (C'95), Henry Siegel (C'90) and Talia Siegel, John Van Doren and Sally Van Doren, and Ken Wyman (W'84, L'87) and Jan Wyman.

Student Initiatives Fund The Student Initiatives Fund fuels many student-led creative projects and ventures, including magazines, public events, workshops, and other happenings. This year, among other things, the fund supported a two-day residency for transdisciplinary Indigenous writers, organized by Loran Grishow-Schade (MSW'20), and a memorial event honoring Toni Morrison, organized by Imani Davis (C'20) and Ashley Codner (C'21). Supported annually by the KWH community, with special gifts from Penn parents Howard Gordon and Cami Gordon.

Alice Cooper Shoulberg Scholarship Endowed Fund for the Support of Student Creative Writing Established in memory of Alice Cooper Shoulberg, a stellar student who graduated from Penn's College for Women in 1955 and then went on to a brilliant career as a Philadelphia public school teacher, the Cooper Shoulberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Lipson Student Projects Space,

where undergraduates depend on computers for production and design software. Endowed in 1998 by Overbrook High School classmates of Alice Cooper Shoulberg.

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 KWH with proposals for new projects. This year the Gordon Walls Fund helped support community-focused events and programs, 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 one-year fellowship open to recent Penn graduates, established in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA). 2019–20 Van Doren Fellow Amanda Silberling (C'18) helped expand student opportunities in the arts, working closely with the RealArts@Penn Internship program, the Alumni Mentors series, and the Summer Workshop for Young Writers. Supported annually by Penn parents John Van Doren and Sally Van Doren.

OUTREACH / BEYOND THE CAMPUS

The Black Heart Foundation A generous gift from the Black Heart Foundation helps make possible two integral programs of community outreach and inclusion at the Kelly Writers House: transcribez, a nurturing writing workshop for trans and gender-nonconforming youth, led by a team of mentors and guest artists; and Writing a Life, a writing group for people with cancer diagnoses, co-facilitated by the Abramson Cancer Center. Supported annually since 2015 by Ilina Singh (G'89, C'88) and the Black Heart Foundation.

Digital Poetries Fund The Digital Poetries Fund helps 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 KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis; Jacket2, an online journal of writing about poetry; and ModPo, our massive open online course on modern and contemporary poetry, which engages tens of thousands of students each year. Supported annually by the KWH community, with special support this year from Chris Forman, and additional gifts from Stuart Applebaum, Mary Carol Catanese, Elissa Caterfino Mandel (C'83), Annette Dorsky, Nadia Ghent, The Sylvia W. and Randle M. Kauders Foundation, ViJalayaxmi Maddali, Rachel Sheinkin, and Ron Silliman, in memory of Gil Ott.

KWH Alumni Online Book Group Term Fund We've hosted more than 125 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). Supported

annually by David Roberts (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. This year's program moved online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic but maintained its emphasis on writing in a community setting. Thanks to the Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund, more than half of the workshop participants received financial assistance. For students of greatest need, the program was entirely free of charge. Supported annually since 2017 by Maury Povich (C'62) and Connie Chung.

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 students from nearby Lea Elementary, and transcribez, a monthly writing group for trans and gender-nonconforming youth. Supported annually since 2001 by Jerilyn Saxon Perman (C'91) and Brian Perman (W'90), in honor of Esther T. Saxon.

Carol Ann Kell
Edward P. Kelly
Susan Kerr
Joan Kim
Janice Kimenhour
Leslie King, in honor of Kaitlin Moore
John Kingston
Laurie Kirsznern and Mark Kirsznern, in honor of Beryl Rosenstock's 75th birthday
Betsy Klausman and Michael Klausman
Samantha Kleier Forbes
Leora Klein
Jean-Marie Kneeley and Richard Kneeley
Charles S. Knittle
Jody Rosen Knowler
Deborah Komins
Ruth Davis Konigsberg
Rena Cohen Kopelman and Joshua Kopelman
Nina Korsh and James Korsh
Stephen Krewson and Stina Krewson
Ferne Forman Kuhn
Moiria Kuo
Peter Kussell
Beth Kwon
Joanna La Corte
James La Marre and Susan La Marre
Deborah W. LaBerge and Jon J. LaBerge
Judi Lagana and Tony Lagana
Dain Landon
Bella Lemos
Michelle N. Levister, in honor of Al Filreis
Cindy Levy and Jeffrey Levy
Jenny M. Libien
Joanne Lichtman
Russel C. Like and Tatyana Like

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Caroline Aiello
Gordon Bond and Sunny Bond,
in memory of Gordon Walls
Cheryl J. Family and Ken Saji
Theodore Goldsmith and
Judith Goldsmith
Tom Janover and Sarah Janover
Hong Liu
Geralyn Lucas and Tyler Shawn Lucas,
in honor of Jamie-Lee Josselyn

Frederick L. Muller
Susan Napier
Alexander Newmark
Brian Paul and Sharon Paul
Marjorie Perloff
Evan Raine
Ilyse Reisman
Bruce Resnikoff
Lindsey Rosin
Deborah Shiffman and
David Shiffman

Susan Small Savitsky and
Gerald Small Savitsky
David W. Sussman
Daniel Wallen
Stacey Gillis Weber and
Jeffrey A. Weber
Thomas Whitford and
Margaret Whitford
Andy Wolk
Holly York



Michael Lipsky and Ava Lipsky
Ronald Litman and Daphne Klausner
Orli Low
Michael Lynch and Julie Lynch
ViJayaIaxmi Maddali
Dea Mallin
Maria Markovich
Stephen J. Marmon
Lynn Marsden-Atlass
Randi Marshall
Mark P. Marziale
Mehrin Masud-Elias
Jacqueline Matusow and Arthur Matusow
Cecile Mazzucco-Than
Winnie McCormack and Joe McCormack
Colin M. McDonald
Maxime McKenna
Holly McLaughlin and Kevin McLaughlin
Tammy Dee McLeod
Elizabeth McMillan
Loren B. Mendell
Kenneth Meskin and Jennie Meskin
Gerald Miller and Harriet Miller
Ilana Miller
Joelle Silverman Miller and John Miller
Michael L. Miller
Suzanne Miller
David Millstein
Susan Miron
Talia Moine
Nick Montfort
Wynne Morrison
Alan H. Nadel and Karen Nadel,
in honor of Al Filreis
Panna Naik
Dabney Narvaez
Elinor Sharon Nathanson
Cory Newman
Margaretta Noonan and Jack Noonan
Michaela Oldfield
Bradley Olson
Mark A. Osele
Rochelle Owens, in memory of
George Economou
Ashlee Paxton-Turner
Yvette N. Payseur, in honor of Al Filreis
Bret Pearlman and Marion Pearlman
Kevin S. Penn and Erica J. Penn
Jessica K. Penzias
Bob Perelman and Frances Shaw
James Piccarello
Arthur S. Pier III
Noah Pink
Elyse M. Pivnick
Linda Pizzi
Neil S. Plakcy



Sayet-Rosenberg Endowed Fund for Young Writers The Sayet-Rosenberg Fund supports outreach, teaching, and other work with young writers. In summer 2020, Sayet-Rosenberg Intern Mahailya Hinsey (C’23) worked for Mighty Writers, a Philadelphia-based organization that offers free writing workshops for youth. Endowed in 2001 by Harold L. Rosenberg (W’79) and Dr. Laurie A. Sayet.

Student Recruitment Fund This robust fund enables 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. These special recruitment visits help high-school writers discover the Writers House community — and allow us to reach a diverse population of promising young writers. Supported annually since 2016 by Justin R. Segal (C’93).

Student Recruitment and Access Fund This community-supported fund helps us engage with high-school writers, guidance counselors, and teachers. We are committed to direct outreach to prospective students — particularly those who believe Penn is beyond their reach financially, geographically, or otherwise — and this fund helps make that work possible. Supported annually by our Writers House New York salon, hosted each fall by Susan Meisel and Louis Meisel, with gifts from Caroline Aiello (C’03), Marshall Berman (C’99), Martin Bienenstock (C’74) and Barbara Bienenstock (C’77), David Biro (C’86), Michael Cohn (C’85), Anthony DeCurtis, Jacqueline Friedland (C’99), Nargus Harounzadeh (C’06), Caroline Harris (C’19), Kim Hartman and Alan Hartman (W’87), Alexander Jacobs (C’09), Tom Janover and Sarah Janover, Moira Kuo (C’06), Dain Landon (C’97), Bella Lemos, Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro, Michael Lipsky (C’92) and Ava Lipsky,

Geralyn Lucas and Tyler Shawn Lucas (C’89) in honor of Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05), Joelle Silverman Miller and John Miller, Talia Moine, Alan Nadel and Karen Nadel (C’90), Bret Pearlman (C’88), Brett Prager (ENG’88, W’88) and Wendy Prager (C’89), Ilyse Reisman (C’22), Lynn Marie Roland (C’93), Caroline Rothstein (C’06), Dan San Jose (W’93), Wendy Sardinsky (C’81), Dan Saxon and Harriet Saxon (C’60), Lois Segel (C’65), Deborah Shiffman (C’89) and David Shiffman, Steve Sosnick (W’85, WG’86) and Miriam Sosnick, Lynn Strother (C’72), David Swersky (C’69), Jane Treuhaft, Ellen Umansky (C’91), and Kenneth Wyman (W’84, L’87) and Jan Wyman.

SUPPORT FOR EVENTS

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Endowed Fund The Applebaum Fund allows us to honor publishers and editors — the people who work behind the scenes to curate, shape, and promote the words we love. In October, the Applebaum Publishers and Editors series welcomed Hillary Reinsberg (C’11), the editor-in-chief of Zagat and The Infatuation, for a conversation with Anthony DeCurtis. Endowed in 2008 by Irwyn Applebaum (C’75) and Lucy Applebaum.

Blutt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund It’s riveting when Rolling Stone editor Anthony DeCurtis interviews a rock legend for an audience of fifty in our Arts Café — and that’s just what the Blutt Fund makes possible. We look forward to welcoming singer-songwriter Kathy Valentine of the Go-Go’s when we are able to reschedule this year’s symposium, postponed by the pandemic. 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 The Bok Fund allows us to explore the full spectrum of contemporary writing practice by sponsoring dozens of events each year: poetry readings, film screenings, conversations with novelists, craft talks, workshops with visiting journalists, and more. Over a dozen writers visited KWH this year thanks to the Bok Fund, including the Iranian novelist Moniro Ravanipour, multigenre writer Carmen Maria Machado, and poets Peter BD, Rachel James, and Marjorie Welish. Endowed in 1998 by Scott Bok (C’81, W’81, L’84, Trustee 2005–present) and Roxanne Bok (C’81).

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 were Gabriela Alvarado (C’23), Yiwei Chai (C’22), Rodney Dailey (C’20), Kae Lani Palmisano, Rebecca Stuhr, and Eric Smith. Endowed in 2016 by Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C’88, W’88) in memory of Lucy F. DeMarco.

Cheryl J. Family Endowed Fund for Fiction Programming The Cheryl J. Family Fiction Fund sponsors an annual reading by an emerging or early-career fiction writer. This year’s Family Fiction Program featured the acclaimed novelist Ottessa Moshfegh, who also visited Justin McDaniel’s legendary course on existential despair. Endowed in 2006 by Cheryl J. Family (C’91).

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

Sandra Planisek and Robert Planisek
Irene Plotzker and Richard Plotzker
Joyce Pope, in honor of Al Filreis
Eleanor Poplar
Rolf Potts
Jennifer Proga
Christine Ramsey and Andy Fussner
Michael B. Rauch
Evelyn Reilly
Linda S. Reisz and Clifford L. Klein
Dominique Renda-Horsley
Joan Retallack
Nola J. Ridl
Maria Rieders and Eric Rieders
Peter John Riley, in honor of Peter Riley
Roopika Risam
Andy Robinson
Steven Robinson
Peter Rogers
Lynn Marie Roland
Lynn D. Rosen
Matthew Rosenbaum
Jonathan Rosenberg
Karen Rosenberg
Beryl Levitsky Rosenstock and
Jeffrey Rosenstock
Steven Roth and Marsha Roth

EMILY DICKINSON CIRCLE

David Abrams and Amy Abrams
Irwyn Applebaum and Lucy Applebaum
Stuart Applebaum
Sharon Schieffer and Bill Baird
Reina Bassini
Barry Berger and Kathleen Viewer
Martin Bienenstock and
Barbara Bienenstock
David Biro and Daniella Vitale
Elissa Caterfino Mandel
Bob D’Augustine and Marcia Morgan
D’Augustine, in honor of
Allie Morgan D’Augustine
Reuben Daniels and Jennifer Daniels,
in memory of Maria Mehlman, for an
event in honor of Jon Mehlman
and his family
Kathy DeMarco and Emory Van Cleve
Andrew Eisenstein and Ricki Gever
Tercero Fidanque III and Vickie Fidanque
Christopher Forman and Margaret Forman
Chris Forman

Robert Friedman and Christine Friedman
Howard Gordon and Cambria Gordon
Neil Grabowski and Monice Grabowski
Adam S. Groothuis
David Gross-Loh and Christine Gross-Loh
Kim Hartman and Alan Hartman
Hank Herman and Carol Herman
Howard Lipson
Alexandra Jaffe, in honor of
Anthony DeCurtis and Paul Hendrickson
Eliot J. Kaplan
Kauders Foundation
Debbie Duenes Kay
Paul Kelly and Nancy Kelly
Mali Heled Kinberg
Elizabeth Leight and Nathan Leight
Andrea Mitchell and Alan Greenspan
Stefanie Moll
Catherine Detmar Nicholls
Arthur Penn and Ilene Penn
Jerilyn Perman and Brian Perman
Susanna Porter

Maury Povich and Connie Chung
Brett L. Prager and Wendy Prager
Rebecca J. Raphael and Eric Feuerstein
John Reinsberg and Lori Reinsberg
Hadley Rierson and Lee Rierson
Jonathan D. Rosenstein
Lee David Rudy and Caryn Karmatz Rudy
Leslie Dezer Salmon and Ricardo Salmon
Justin R. Segal
Robert E. Shepard and Robert P. Numerof
Mark Sherman and Rachel Sherman
Henry Siegel and Talia Siegel
Ilina Singh and the Black Heart Foundation
Steve Sosnick and Miriam Sosnick
Kenneth Stein
John Van Doren and Sally Van Doren
Marty Wallace and Ed Kane
Paul Williams and Leslie Williams
Dirk Wittenborn and Kirsten Wittenborn
Marc Wolpow and Robin Wolpow
Ken Wyman and Jan Wyman
Adam Young



Caroline Rothstein
Dan Rottenberg
Nancy I. Ruskin and Dan Castleman Ruskin
Patrick Ryan
Harry William Saffren
Anita Salustro
Danilo Anonuevo San Jose
Philip Sandick
A. Margaret Sandin, in memory of
Sasi Suwan
Robert Sandler and Barbara Sandler
Wendy Sardinsky
Cindy Savett
Dan Saxon and Harriet Saxon
Jonathan M. Saxon
Nina Schafer
James Schaffer
Karin Schaller and John Puckett Schaller
Rachel Schnipper and
Jacob Ohnouna Schnipper
Daniel R. Schorr
Lynn Schwartz, in honor of
Jesse Schwartz
Mary A Scott
Lois Segel
Matthew David Selman
Helene Shavin
Alonna Shaw
John Shea and Karen Shea
Rachel Sheinkin
Patricia Sheykhholeslami
Richard Siller and Mary Siller
Ron Silliman, in honor of his students
and in memory of Gill Ott
Karen D. Silverman
Paul Silverman and Sue Silverman,
in honor of Emma Silverman
Peter Silverman and Janet Heetner
Elaine L. Simon
David Simon and Simone Simon
David Skeel and Sharon Skeel
David N. Slarskey
Eleanor Smagarinsky
Mary Ellen Smith, in memory of
Kirby Smith
St. John Smith and
Kay Barned-Smith
Peter Smyth
Barry Solar and Judith Solar
William H. Speer
Joel P. Spenadel
Sandra A. Stanger
Thomas Staudter
Stephanie Stein
Harris M. Steinberg and Jane Steinberg

about poetry and motherhood called “Other Women Don’t Tell You.” Endowed in 2010 by an anonymous donor.

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. Supported annually since 2015 by Penn parents Haim Handwerker and Jamie Handwerker (C’83).

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 actor/writer/director Danny Strong for a lively conversation with Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve (C’88, W’88). Endowed in 2013 by Penn parents Alan Hartman (W’87) and Kim Hartman.

Sylvia W. Kauders Endowment Fund The Kauders Fund supports a series of intimate lunchtime conversations with nonfiction writers. This year, the fund sponsored conversations with journalists Emily Guendelsberger and Aaron Short (C’03), who visited the KWH to chat about their recent books. Endowed in 2007 by Sylvia W. Kauders (CW’42).

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’s Bernheimer Symposium, supported by the Levin Fund, featured a presentation about podcasting with podcast

host Sarah Marshall. Endowed in 2007 by Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro 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 “LIVE at the Writers House,” a monthly, one-hour radio show, produced by Alli Katz and engineered by Zach Carduner (C’13). Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05) hosted three LIVE shows in the 2019–20 season, including one that she curated, which focused on writing about parental loss. Another show, curated by Eric Ruin, featured a multimedia extravaganza, with poetry, music, crankies, and clowning. Alli Katz also hosted three LIVE shows, including one that featured students who produced their recordings from their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Endowed in 2004 by BigRoc.

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 2019–20 Lucid Program featured the Iranian novelist and essayist Salar Abdoh in conversation with Fatemeh Shams. 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 Our Poetry Endowment Fund reflects our commitment to poetry as a community engagement, supporting a wide variety of poetic activity, including readings, student writing projects, and collaborations between poets and other artists. In April, the fund made it possible

for us to present a virtual reading by the Cheburashka Collective, a group of poets writing in and from the Soviet diaspora. Endowed in 2019 by an anonymous donor.

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 robust series of readings, craft talks, and conversations with journalists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Povich Journalism Programs this year included conversations with Syrian journalist Zaina Erhaim, New York Times writer Kit Seelye, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Buzz Bissinger (C’76). Endowed in 2010 by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung.

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 the New York-based spoken-word performer and activist Roya Marsh. Endowed in 2007 by Penn parents Nancy Rothstein (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 2019–20 Sussman Poetry Program featured a full day of events with Erica Hunt, including a public conversation about Hunt’s work led by Al Filreis, with Tyrone Williams, Aldon Nielsen, and Billy Joe Harris. Endowed in 2012 by Penn parents Daniel Morse and Miriam Morse, 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 September 2019 Weber Symposium featured John Carreyrou, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of a book about the Theranos scandal. Endowed in 2008 by Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber.

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. Programs supported by the Wexler Fund in 2019–20 included monthly open-mic nights, a community forum on racial justice, and a conversation with scholar Jacob Edmond, who visited from New Zealand. Endowed in 2005 by Penn parents Gary Wexler and Nina Wexler.

Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture The Wexler Family Fund helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture. This year, the Wexler Fund allowed us to welcome National Jewish Book Award-winner Alan Rosen, who spoke about the significance of Jewish calendars. Endowed in 2010 by Penn parents Gary Wexler and Nina Wexler.

Eugene Louis Stelzig
Janet Miller Stier and Byron Stier
Zoe Gabrielle Stoller
Eric M. Stone and Rebecca Zoller
Anne Strong
Lynn Strother
Rebecca Stuhr
David Swersky
Stanimir Takov, in honor of Al Filreis
Elizabeth Tauber
Joseph Ryan Teel and Marni Fogelson-Teel
Molly Tenenbaum
Elaine Terranova
John Thomas and Barbara Thomas
Susan Thomsen
Barbara Tilley
Ellen Sarah Umansky and David Gutman
Renee Unglo, in memory of Michael Unglo
Elise Vider and Dick Polman
Paul A. Vinelli, in honor of Carol Vinelli
and in memory of Craig Vinelli
Alberto Vitale
Allyson C. Volinsky
John Vosmek and Lucy Vosmek
Laura Walsh
Timothy F. Waples
Margaret Warnke
Caroline Waxler and Michael Levitt
Richard Weil
George Weinbaum and Carol Weinbaum
Matthew Weiner
Carly I. Weinreb
Sharon Weinstein
Liliane Weissberg
Anne Wellner de Veer
Freddy Wexler and Liv Wexler
Beth White and Jeff White
Wendy S. White and Lawrence White
Tyrone Williams
Rebecca Williams
Eleanor Wilner
Jerald Winakur and Lee Robinson
Amanda J. Wolkin
Elaine Wong
Robin Worgan and Glenn Worgan
Delores Y. Wright
Robert Charles Wright
Jessica Yu
Rifki Zable and Jonathan Slonim
Henry Zachs and Judith Zachs
Ji Zhang
Courtney S. Zoffness



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 the Kelly Writers House. Board members support us in countless ways, with their time, ideas, advice, 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, Trustee 1997–present), Chair | |
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| Irwyn Applebaum (C'75) | Joan Kim (C'97, G'97, WEV'99, WG'18) |
| Reina Marin Bassini (CW'72, GED'72) | Jean-Marie Kneeleley |
| Herman Beavers (HOM'96) | Elizabeth Leight |
| Jeanne Pepper Bernstein | Kate Levin (G'90, GR'95) |
| Barbara Bienenstock (C'77) | Seth Lipsay (WG'86) |
| Roxanne Bok (C'81) | Howie Lipson (W'86) |
| Annalise Carol (C'92) | Susan Meisel |
| Janine Catalano (C'06) | Hillary Miller Krouse (C'88) |
| Jean Sherman Chatzky (C'86) | Maury Povich (C'62) |
| Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C'79) | David Roberts (W'84) |
| Rob Friedman (WG'87) | Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C'92) |
| David Gross-Loh (W'92) | Leslie Salmon (W'92) |
| Alex Halpern (C'04) | Henry Siegel (C'90) |
| Alan Hartman (W'87) | Harris Steinberg (C'78, GAR'82) |
| Mali Heled Kinberg (C'95, G'95) | Nina Wexler and Gary Wexler |
| Meryl Ignaschenko (C'10) | Nina Wolpow (C'14) |



OUR STAFF

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Jessica Lowenthal (G’07), Director
Lily Applebaum (C’12), Assistant to the Faculty Director
Maya Arthur (C’18), Post-Baccalaureate Fellow
Andrew Beal, Associate Director of Development and Finance
Zach Carduner (C’13), Wexler Studio Coordinator
Sean Collins, Development and Finance Coordinator
Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05), Associate Director for Recruitment and Access
Heidi Kalloo, Assistant Program Coordinator
Alli Katz, Program Coordinator
Christopher J. Martin (LPS’15), Director of Technology
Kenna O’Rourke (C’15), *Jacket2* Managing Editor
Anna Strong Safford (C’13), ModPo Coordinator
Peter Schwarz (CGS’04, LPS’08), Administrative Assistant
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Autumn Wynde (C’19), Development Assistant

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Gabriela Alvarado (C’23), Caterfino Editorial Intern for *Jacket2*
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Zoe Braccia (C’20), Development Assistant
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Makena Deveraux (C’23), Program Assistant
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Kaliyah Dorsey (C’22), Web Assistant
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Sophia DuRose (C’21), Program Assistant
Lovette Finnegan (C’20), Purchasing Librarian
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Subin Kim (C’23), Finance Assistant

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Rachel Swym (C’22), Purchasing Librarian
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!

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