

A watercolor illustration of a person with short brown hair, seen from behind, sitting in a wooden Adirondack chair and reading an open book. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. They are sitting in a grassy field. To the left, there is a large, dense tree with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and yellow. To the right, there is a smaller tree with white blossoms. In the background, there are rolling hills under a grey, overcast sky. The overall style is soft and artistic, typical of watercolor painting.

BRATTLEBORO *Literary* FESTIVAL

October 11–14, 2018

2018 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Brooks Memorial Library	
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Janett J. Krosoczka, <i>Hey, Kiddo</i>
118 Elliot	
7:30 – 9:30 pm	<i>True as Steel</i> , a dramatic reading on Royall Tyler with Richard Epstein & Jenny Holan
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12	
118 Elliot	
7:00 – 8:30 pm	A Little Box of Yes (a Storymatic event) with Stefan Merrill Block, Matthew Dicks, Kate Greathead, Noy Holland & Michael Preston

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

118 Elliot	Brooks House Atrium	Latchis 4	Brooks Memorial Library	Centre Congregational Church
10:00 – 11:15 am Stefan Merrill Block & Teddy Wayne	11:30 am – 12:45 pm Write Action Spotlight: Michael Cramer, Arlene Iris Distler, Thomas Griffin, Terry Hauptman, Toni Ortnet, Matti Salminen	10:00 – 11:15 am Bianca Stone & Jenny Xie	10:30 – 11:30 am David Elliot & Matthew Trueman	10:00 – 11:15 am Madeleine Kunin & John Leland
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Ryan Walsh	11:30 am – 12:45 pm Write Action Spotlight: Michael Cramer, Arlene Iris Distler, Thomas Griffin, Terry Hauptman, Toni Ortnet, Matti Salminen	11:30 am – 12:45 pm Wyn Cooper & Dorothea Lasky	11:30 am – 12:30 pm Ann Braden	11:30 am – 12:45 pm Andrea Barnet & Laura Shapiro
12:45 – 2:00 pm Kate Greathead & Joan Silber			1:30 – 2:30 pm Sandra Neil Wallace & Rich Wallace	1:00 – 2:15 pm Colin Calloway
2:30 – 3:45 pm Alia Malek & Tom Sleight with Cara Blue Adams				2:15 – 3:00 pm Denise Duhamel & D. Nurkse
				3:45 – 5:00 pm Vievee Francis & Lynn Melnick

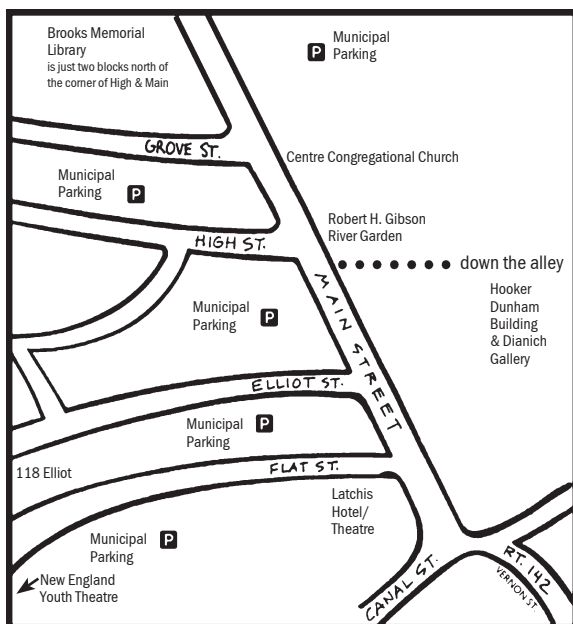
<div>4:00 – 5:00 pm</div> <div>Beowulf Shreehan</div>		
<div>5:15 – 6:30 pm</div> <div>Happy hour and Short Story Showcase with Noy Holland, Ben Marcus, Sigrid Nunez, Joan Silber & Darrel Suarez</div>		
<div>7:00 – 8:30 pm</div> <div>Write Action Open Reading</div>		
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14		
118 Elliot	Brooks Memorial Library	New England Youth Theatre
<div>10:00 – 11:15 am</div> <div>Sigrid Nunez & Katharine Weber</div>	<div>10:00 – 11:15 am</div> <div>James Crews & Bruce Smith</div>	<div>10:00 – 11:15 am</div> <div>Chandler Klang Smith & Aaron Thier</div>
<div>11:30 am – 12:45 pm</div> <div>Wayétu Moore & Rhiannon Navin</div>	<div>11:30 am – 12:45 pm</div> <div>Duy Doan & Tom Sleigh</div>	<div>11:30 am – 12:45 pm</div> <div>George Howe Colt & Eileen McNamara</div>
<div>1:00 – 2:15 pm</div> <div>Brock Clarke & Ben Marcus</div>	<div>1:00 – 2:15 pm</div> <div>David Hinton & Baron Wormser</div>	<div>1:00 – 2:00 pm</div> <div>Anne Fadiman</div>
<div>2:30 – 3:45 pm</div> <div>Kate Christensen & Maria Hummel</div>		<div>2:15 – 3:30 pm</div> <div>Stephen Greenblatt</div>
<div>4:00 – 5:15 pm</div> <div>Jenna Blum & Brendan Mathews</div>	<div>4:00 – 5:15 pm</div> <div>Joan Houlihan & Neil Shepard</div>	<div>3:45– 4:45 pm</div> <div>Ramie Targoff</div>
<div>5:30 – 6:30 pm</div> <div>GennaRose Nethercott</div>		
<div>7:00 – 8:30 pm</div> <div>Laundry: Personal Narrative Writing with Meg Baronian, Taite Blaise, Shanta Lee Gander, Wendy Levy, Verandah Porche, Ruth Antoinette Rodriguez, Diana Whitney & others</div>		

WELCOME TO THE 2018 BRATTLEBORO LITERARY FESTIVAL


All festival events are **FREE** and open to the public. There are no tickets, and seating is on a first-come basis. A map of festival venue locations is shown below. If you have any questions, please visit the Brattleboro Literary Festival headquarters in the Robert H. Gibson River Garden or check for details on our website at www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org.

Festival-goers can enjoy the **Festival Pop-Up Book Store** and **Marketplace & Café** at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden! Take time and browse all of the authors' books and pick up a signed copy of your favorites. It will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. And, of course, **Everyone's Books** will be selling author books at each and every event.

Though the Brattleboro Literary Festival is run entirely by volunteers, there are very real costs associated with its presentation. All events are free unless otherwise indicated, but whether you attend one or a dozen, we ask that you make a donation of any size to the festival, either by cash or check, or you can donate online at our website. **Donation boxes** are located at all of the venues. Thanks so much to all of the donors, partners, and volunteers who help to make the Brattleboro Literary Festival a continued success!



FESTIVAL EVENT VENUES

118 Elliot Street — 118 Elliot Street 

Brooks Memorial Library — 224 Main Street 

Centre Congregational Church — 193 Main Street 

Latchis Hotel and Theatre — 50 Main Street 

Robert H. Gibson River Garden — 157 Main Street 

New England Youth Theatre — 100 Flat Street 

OTHER EVENT LOCATIONS

Brooks House Atrium— 132 Main Street 

River Gallery School — 32 Main Street

Hooker Dunham Lobby — 139 Main Street 



2018 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

Andrea Barnett
Stefan Merrill Block
Jenna Blum
Ann Braden
Colin Calloway
Kate Christensen
Brock Clarke
George Howe Colt
Wyn Cooper
James Crews
Matthew Dicks
Duy Doan
Denise Duhamel
David Elliott
Anne Fadiman
Vieve Francis
Kate Greathead
Stephen Greenblatt
David Hinton
Noy Holland
Joan Houlihan
Maria Hummel
Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Madeleine Kunin
Dorothea Lasky
John Leland
Alia Malek
Ben Marcus
Brendan Mathews

Eileen McNamara
Lynn Melnick
Brian David Mooney
Wayétu Moore
Rhiannon Navin
GennaRose Nethercott
Sigrid Nunez
D. Nurkse
Michael Preston
Laura Shapiro
Neil Shepard
Beowulf Sheehan
Joan Silber
Tom Sleigh
Bruce Smith
Chandler Klang Smith
Bianca Stone
Dariel Suarez
Ramie Targoff
Aaron Thier
Matthew Trueman
Rich Wallace
Sandra Neil Wallace
Ryan Walsh
Teddy Wayne
Katharine Weber
Baron Wormser
Jenny Xie

MARKETPLACE & CAFÉ

Open Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, at the Robert H. Gibson River Garden (157 Main Street)

This year the Lit Fest presents its first Marketplace & Café at the River Garden. Come relax, shop, eat, and socialize!

Antidote Books from Putney, VT, will run the festival's pop-up bookstore, selling titles by all of this year's authors—perfect if you don't have time to stand in line after the readings.

Relax at a café table and reflect on the words you've heard, or grab a bite from our food vendors:

- Baked goods, coffee, apples, and locally made Grafton cheese from local writing community Write Action
- Authentic, locally sourced food-as-art—dim sum from Cai's Dim Sum Teahouse & Catering, serving dumplings, scallion pancakes, and tea
- Dosa Kitchen, South Indian food made with Vermont-fresh ingredients (also on sale, the new Dosa Kitchen cookbook!)
- Local food trucks

Browse the Marketplace for books, magazines, and Vermont-made crafts from:

Green Writers Press	Arts End Books
Kathleen Kennedy Massage	Kathrin Hutson
Bunker Farm	Rosie's Wonders
Goose City Rugs	Adrienne Ginter
Storymatic	Colorquilt
Write Action	Western New England University
New England Review	MFA Program
Green Mountains Review	and many more!

Special thanks to **Finn Campman** for creating the artwork for our poster and program!

Campman is a longtime puppeteer, teacher, and watercolorist from Westminster West. A series of his original watercolor portraits of such authors as John Steinbeck, Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Lydia Davis, and James Joyce will be on display in our Marketplace and Café.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Word + Image: Sampler Event*

6:30 pm–9:00 pm

River Gallery School

Spark your literary inspiration and get your creative juices flowing at the River Gallery School. Join New England author and festival host, **Jodi Paloni**, for an evening of writing prompts, explorations in art-making, and ways in which the two may meet. In this class, we will also look at poems and prose that explore art, art thought, and art-rendering, a spin-off on the ancient practice of ekphrasis. Bring your imagination! No previous experience in writing or art required.

***This workshop was organized by the River Gallery School and there is an associated fee. For more information go to www.rivergalleryschool.org.**

Jarrett J. Krosoczka, *Hey, Kiddo**

7:00 pm–8:00 pm

Brooks Memorial Library

In kindergarten, **Jarrett J. Krosoczka**'s teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery—Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents—two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along. Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Hey, Kiddo is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

New York Times best-selling author/illustrator **Jarrett J. Krosoczka** creates books with humor, heart, and a deep respect for his young readers—qualities that have made his titles perennial favorites on the bookshelves of homes, libraries, and bookstores. First published at the age of twenty-three, Krosoczka has more than thirty published books to his credit. Titles include several picture books, his wildly popular *Lunch*

Lady graphic novels, and the *Platypus Police Squad* middle-grade novels. His new book, *Hey, Kiddo*, has been long-listed for the 2018 National Book Award. Krosoczka is a two-time winner of the Children's Choice Book Awards Third to Fourth Grade Book of the Year and has been a finalist for the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award. He lives in western Massachusetts with his wife and children, and their pugs, Ralph and Frank.

***This event contains mature themes and language and is suitable for middle school-aged children and up.**

***True as Steel*, a dramatic reading on Royall Tyler**

7:30 pm–9:30 pm

118 Elliot

In 1991, to commemorate the Vermont statehood bicentennial, local residents **Don McLean** and **Christina Gibbons** compiled a play called *True as Steel*, a dramatization depicting, in their own words, the lives and works of **Royall Tyler** and his wife, **Mary (Palmer) Tyler**. The play was performed at Brooks Memorial Library and several other venues around Brattleboro. As part of the Brattleboro Words Project, the Lit Fest will feature a reprise of the play **directed by Geoffry Brown**, featuring **Richard Epstein** and **Jenny Holan**.

Royall Tyler (1757–1826) was an attorney, writer, and resident of Boston, Guilford, and Brattleboro. He served briefly in the militia during the American Revolution. Tyler wrote the first American comedic play, “The Contrast,” which was staged in New York City in 1787 as part of inauguration festivities for George Washington, who also attended the performance. Tyler was also a Vermont attorney and Supreme Court Justice who wrote opinions for the court and who also published verse, fragments, and orations, which were published in many early American newspapers. He penned one of America's first novels, *The Algerine Captive* or *The Life and Adventures of Doctor Urdike Underhill, Six Years a Prisoner among the Algerines*, published in Walpole, New Hampshire, in 1797. His wife Mary outlived him by 40 years and was known primarily for her work, *The Maternal Physician*, America's first child rearing manual, which she wrote in 1811, and was finally published by her descendants in 1926, as well as *Grandmother Tyler's Book*, an autobiography edited by her granddaughter, Helen (Tyler) Brown, and published in 1925.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

A Little Box of Yes

7:00 pm–8:30 pm

118 Elliot

Join 2018 Festival authors **Stefan Merrill Block**, **Kate Greathead**, and **Noy Holland**, along with special guests **Michael Preston** and **Matthew Dicks** for improvisational storytelling based on Synapsis, a new storytelling prompt and game from **Storymatic Studios** (**Brian David Mooney** and **Vaune Trachtman**).

Here's how it works: The storytellers will draw cards from the Synapsis box. The cards prompt them to write one sentence. Then they answer questions about the story that sentence comes from—and as they improvise their answers, they begin to discover the story, setting, and characters. Audience participation welcome!

A Little Box of Yes is kind of like if you crossed “Selected Shorts” with “Wait, Wait... Don’t Tell Me” and “The Moth.”

Cash Bar.

Stefan Merrill Block grew up in Plano, Texas. He is the author of three novels including his latest, *Oliver Loving*. His first book, *The Story of Forgetting*, was an international bestseller and the winner of Best First Fiction at the Rome International Festival of Literature, The Ovid Prize from the Romanian Writer’s Union, the 2008 Merck Serono Literature Prize and the 2009 Fiction Award from The Writers’ League of Texas. He lives in Brooklyn.

Matthew Dicks is the internationally bestselling author of the novels *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*, *Something Missing*, *Unexpectedly*, *Milo*, *The Perfect Comeback of Caroline Jacobs*, and *Storyworthy: Engage, Teach, Persuade, and Change Your Life Through the Power of Storytelling*. He is a 35-time Moth StorySLAM champion and 5-time GrandSLAM champion whose stories have been featured *Moth Radio Hour*, *This American Life*, *TED*, *The Colin McEnroe Show*, *The Story Collider*, *The Liar Show*, *Literary Death Match*, *The Mouth*, and many others. Matthew is also the cofounder and creative director of Speak Up, a Hartford-based storytelling organization that produces shows throughout New England.

Kate Greathead’s first novel, *Laura & Emma*, was published by Simon & Schuster in March 2018. A graduate of Wesleyan University and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, her writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *New York Times*, and *Vanity Fair*, and on NPR’s *Moth Radio Hour*. She is a nine-time Moth Storytelling Slam champion. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, the writer Teddy Wayne.

Noy Holland’s latest work is *I Was Trying to Describe What It Feels Like: New and Selected Stories*, out now from Counterpoint Press. Other

collections of short fiction and novellas include *Bird*, *Swim for the Little One First*, *What Begins with Bird*, and *The Spectacle of the Body*. She has published work in *The Kenyon Review*, *Antioch*, *Conjunctions*, *The Quarterly*, and *Glimmer Train*, among others. She was a recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council award for artistic merit and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. She teaches at the MFA program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts, as well as at Phillips Andover and the University of Florida. She serves on the board of directors at Fiction Collective Two.

Brian David Mooney is a recipient of a 2019 creation grant from the Vermont Arts Council and the NEA to support his novel, *The Secret List of Frank Dodge*. He has published essays, fiction, and poetry in the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Bellevue Literary*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Crazyhorse*, and other journals from further into the alphabet. His essays about the creative process were presented by Leonard Nimoy for United States Artists at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Paramount Studios, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. He is the creator of The Storymatic family of creative prompts, which includes Rememory and Synapsis.

Michael Preston lived for many years in New York and was a member of the Shaliko Company, founded by Leonardo Shapiro. He also worked with such artists as John Sayles, Richard Elovich, David Cale, Wynn Handman and Theodora Skipitares. From 1991 until 2000 he toured the world as one of the Flying Karamazov Brothers, which included three different runs on Broadway. They were nominated for an Olivier Award in London for best Comedy in 1994. He directed their latest show, *Life: A Guide for the Perplexed*. Preston is currently an associate professor of theater and dance at Trinity College.

Vaune Trachtman is a photographer and printmaker. Her work will be on display at the Editions / Artists' Book Fair in NYC, October 25–28 at The Tunnel n Chelsea and at Soho Photo Gallery's Alternative Processes Show from November 6-25. When she's not working on making beautiful photopolymer gravures and Chine-collé, she helps make things happen at Storymatic Studios.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Green Writers Press, Reception with Madeleine Kunin

8:30 am

The Dianich Gallery, 139 Main Street

You are invited to join Vermont indie publisher **Green Writers Press** and the **Dianich Gallery** for a very special reception with three-term Vermont governor **Madeleine Kunin**. Meet Kunin up close and personal, and get your book signed in advance before her reading at 10:00 am.

Refreshments courtesy of Cabot Creamery Coop. Book sales by Everyone's Books.

Madeleine Kunin & John Leland

10:00 am–11:15 am

Centre Congregational Church

Madeleine Kunin, known to many as the former three-term governor of our small state, will be reading from her newest memoir, *Coming of Age: My Journey to the Eighties*. Kunin writes on aging, but finds a way beyond the often-emphasized physical tolls to explore the emotional ones as well. As a governor, ambassador, feminist, wife, mother, professor, author, poet, and much more, Kunin's life has been and continues to be full of varied professional and personal undertakings. It's the way in which she confronts aging honestly and positively, however, that energizes this book.

Heartening and wise, **John Leland's** *Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old* follows the stories of six New Yorkers aged eighty-five years and up. In 2015 when the *New York Times* sent Leland to learn about America's fastest-growing age group, he had predictable notions of what their lives entailed: deteriorating bodies and minds, loneliness, resignation, nostalgia. Of course, that's not how their stories go. In those he met, all coming from varying backgrounds, he found a distinct mindset of lightness and satisfaction. In this heartfelt reflection on living better, Leland imparts the learned wisdom that in the face of life's inevitable pain, *choosing* happiness can bring clarity and endurance.

Madeleine Kunin served as the governor of Vermont from 1985 to 1991. As a member of President Bill Clinton's administration, she served as Deputy Secretary of Education of the United States from 1993 to 1997 and United States Ambassador to Switzerland from 1996 to 1999. Former Governor Kunin was Vermont's first and, to date, only female governor, and the first woman in US history to be elected governor three times. She is the author of four books, including her latest, *Coming of Age: My Journey Into the Eighties*.

John Leland is a reporter at the *New York Times*, where he wrote a yearlong series that became the basis for his NYT bestseller, *Happiness Is a Choice You Make*. He is the author of two previous books, *Hip: The History* and *Why Kerouac Matters: The Lessons of "On the Road" (They're Not What You Think)*. Before joining the *New York Times*, he was a senior editor at *Newsweek*, editor in chief of *Details*, a reporter at *Newsday*, and a writer and editor at *Spin* magazine.

Stefan Merrill Block & Teddy Wayne

10:00 am–11:15 am

118 Elliot

Texas Monthly described **Stefan Merrill Block's** third book, *Oliver Loving: A Novel*, as "a charged and hopeful story of a West Texas family seeking a way forward in the aftermath of a school shooting." The evening of the Bliss Country Day School's annual dance began, for shy Oliver Loving, with excitement and nerves as he joined his classmates hoping to run into his crush, Rebekkah Sterling. But just as the music was starting, a young man snuck in through the back door and swiftly devastated the entire town of Bliss, Texas. Ten years later, Oliver Loving is still in a coma, and Block's impeccably told story follows the lives of those who cling to the hope of his recovery—because it's Oliver who can reveal the truth of that fateful night.

Loner: A Novel was named one of the best books of the 2017 by NPR, and one of the most anticipated novels of the fall from *New York Magazine*, *Glamour*, *Lit Hub*, *Boston Magazine*, *The Millions*, and *BookPage*. **Teddy Wayne's** third novel is timely, disturbing, and utterly readable. David Federman, intelligent and seemingly forgettable to most in his high school class, has high hopes for his new life at Harvard. And just when it seems like he is doomed to anonymity, he meets Veronica Morgan Wells—a witty, beautiful, and sophisticated Manhattanite. But don't be fooled; neither character is as they seem, and their dark and obsessive relationship will linger in the minds of readers long after the book is closed.

Stefan Merrill Block grew up in Plano, Texas. He is the author of three novels including his latest, *Oliver Loving*. His first book, *The Story of Forgetting*, was an international bestseller and the winner of Best First Fiction at the Rome International Festival of Literature, The Ovid Prize from the Romanian Writer's Union, the 2008 Merck Serono Literature Prize and the 2009 Fiction Award from The Writers' League of Texas. He lives in Brooklyn.

Teddy Wayne is the author of the novels *The Love Song of Jonny Valentine*, *Kapitoil*, and most recently, *Loner: A Novel*. He is the winner of a Whiting Writers' Award and an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship as well as a finalist for the Young Lions Fiction Award, PEN/Bingham Prize, and

Dayton Literary Peace Prize. A columnist for the *New York Times*, he also a regular contributor to the *New Yorker* and *McSweeney's* and has taught at Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis. He lives in New York.

Bianca Stone & Jenny Xie

10:00 am–11:15 am

Latchis 4

Vermont's own **Bianca Stone** is, in the words of legendary poet John Ashbery, "a brilliant transcriber of her generation's emerging pathology and sensibility." In her new collection, *The Möbius Strip Club of Grief*, Stone is a figure akin to Dante, a living poet winding through a feminist purgatory, observing ghosts that otherwise go unseen. Fierce and devilish, soulful and sharp, these poems expose an underworld infused with grief and disappointment, but they also party with the lost souls, the wild muses. The collection was a *Paris Review* Staff Pick and a Most Anticipated Book of 2018 at *NYLON*, *Bustle*, *Autostraddle*, and more.

Jenny Xie's debut poetry collection, *Eye Level*, sets the reader in motion. It's a far-flung travel collection, propelling us from Cambodia to Corfu to New York and beyond. All the while the poems—restless, sensual, piercing—also navigate the wilds of interior life. Xie ruminates and searches in solitude and in crowds. The *New York Times Book Review* wrote, "The poems in [Xie's] crystalline debut . . . are ever alert to the complex relationship between geography and the self."

Bianca Stone is the author of *The Möbius Strip Club of Grief* and *Someone Else's Wedding Vows* (Tin House/Octopus Books, 2014), and is also the illustrator of *Antigonick* (New Directions, 2012), a collaboration with Anne Carson. She runs the Ruth Stone Foundation in Vermont and New York City.

Jenny Xie was born in Hefei, China, and raised in New Jersey. She holds degrees from Princeton University and New York University's creative writing program. Her debut poetry collection, *Eye Level*, was selected by Juan Felipe Herrera as the winner of the 2017 Walt Whitman Award, given by the Academy of American Poets, and was published by Graywolf Press in 2018. She lives in Brooklyn and teaches at New York University.

David Elliot & Matthew Trueman

10:30 am–11:30 am

Brooks Memorial Library

David Elliott and **Matthew Trueman** are the authors of *In the Past: From Trilobites to Dinosaurs to Mammoths in More Than 500 Million Years*. Who doesn't love a dinosaur? Care to meet a *dunkleosteus*? An *apatosaurus*?

How about the dragonflyesque meganaura? In a collection that's organized chronologically by epoch and is sure to intrigue everyone from armchair dino enthusiasts to budding paleontologists, Elliott and Trueman present some of the most fascinating creatures ever to evolve on the earth.

David Elliott is a *New York Times* bestselling children's author. His many titles include: *And Here's to You!*, *The Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle*, *The Evangeline Mudd* books, *Finn Throws a Fit!*, *Jeremy Cabbage and the Living Museum*, and the picture book, *In the Wild*. Born in Ohio, David has worked as a singer, a cucumber washer, and a popsicle stick maker. Currently, he lives in New Hampshire with his wife and a three-footed dog.

Matthew Trueman spent his childhood in Italy but returned to the United States to attend art school. In addition to *In the Past* he is the illustrator of *A Picture for Marc and Noah's Mittens*. He lives in Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

Ann Braden

11:30 am–12:30 am

Brooks Memorial Library

In *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*, **Ann Braden** introduces us to seventh-grader Zoey, who has her hands full taking care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer. This moving debut novel explores the cultural divides around class and the gun debate through the eyes of one girl on the edges of society, trying to find her way forward. Famed local author Karen Hesse said, "This is a compassionate look at poverty, hard choices, and defending one's right to be treated humanely."

Ann Braden writes books about kids struggling to find their voice amidst the realities of life. Ann's debut middle grade novel *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* received a starred review from *School Library Journal* and was described by Newbery Award winner Karen Hesse as "a compassionate look at poverty, hard choices, and defending one's right to be treated humanely. A very fine first novel, written with a deft hand." Ann founded GunSenseVT, a grassroots group focused on championing the common ground on the issue of guns in Vermont, which recently helped pass landmark gun violence prevention legislation. She also founded the Local Love Brigade, which now has chapters all over the country sending love postcards to those who are facing hate. Ann is a former middle school teacher, the co-host of the children's book podcast, "Lifelines: Books that Bridge the Divide," along with Pakistani American author Saadia Faruqi, and recently one of the co-organizers of #KidsNeedMentors. Ann lives in southern Vermont with her husband, two children, and two insatiable cats named Boomer and Justice.

Ryan H. Walsh

11:30 am–12:30 pm

118 Elliot

Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* is an iconic rock album shrouded in legend, one that has touched generations of listeners and influenced everyone from Bruce Springsteen to Martin Scorsese. And fifty years after Morrison's iconic masterpiece was released, **Ryan H. Walsh** gives us *Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968*, which follows a criss-crossing cast of musicians and visionaries, artists and hippie entrepreneurs. In it James Brown quells tensions the night after Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated; the real-life crimes of the Boston Strangler come to the movie screen via Tony Curtis; Howard Zinn testifies for Avatar in the courtroom. *Rolling Stone* said *Astral Weeks* "unearths the time and place behind the music. . . . A book full of discoveries. . . . A fantastic chronicle."

Ryan H. Walsh is a musician and journalist. His culture writing has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Vice*, and *Boston Magazine*. He was a finalist for the Missouri School of Journalism's City and Regional Magazine Award for his feature on Van Morrison's year in Boston, from which his new, critically acclaimed book, *Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968*, developed. His rock band Hallelujah the Hills has won praise from *Spin* magazine and *Pitchfork*; collaborated on a song with author Jonathan Lethem; and toured the US extensively over their 10-year existence. The band won a Boston Music Award for Best Rock Artist, and Walsh has twice won the award for Best Video Direction. He lives in Boston with his wife, the acclaimed singer-songwriter Marissa Nadler.

Write Action Spotlight

11:30 am–12:45 pm

Brooks House Atrium

Short readings by local writers with one or more book or anthology publishing credits for the past year. Check out the bios for this year's authors below!

Nichael Cramer woodworks, reads, writes, and lives (with his wife Crystal Washburn), in southern Vermont. His poems have appeared in *Bottlerockets*, *FrogPond*, *Ghazal Page*, *Birchsong*, *Seven Days*, *Fowl Feathered Review*, and others.

Arlene Iris Distler's poetry has been published in online and print journals, and in anthologies, including *Birchsong: Poetry Centered in Vermont*, from which she will read. In 2014 Finishing Line Press published "Voices Like Wind Chimes." Her first full length collection, *Just This Body*, was a finalist for the 2017 Richard Snyder Prize from Ashland Poetry Press.

Thomas Griffin's poetry has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, recognized with an Academy of American Poets Prize and continues to be published widely. His most recent chapbook is *All That Once Was You* (Finishing Line Press, 2018). Thomas has a BA in Language, Literature & Writing and an MFA in Writing.

Terry Linda Hauptman is the author of four poetry books. She will be reading from her newest manuscript. Her most recent collection, *The Indwelling of Dissonance* was published in 2016. She currently teaches an intensive Poetry Workshop as well as a Multicultural Art and Poetry class at Green Mountain College.

Toni Ortner has had four new books published in 2018: *Fractured Woman* and *End Rhymes for End Times* (Word Tech Communications), *Giving Myself Over to J.S. Bach* (Kelsay Books), *Daybook I* (Deerbrook Editions) which is a diary that includes, poetry, prose poems, and fiction.

Matti Salminen has made useful the tools from which he forged a path through a challenging struggle to redefine madness. The author of *Keyhole in the Sun*, he will present work that incorporates learning from disciplines as wide-varying as karate, and revolutionary ethics.

Andrea Barnet & Laura Shapiro

11:30 am–12:45 pm

Centre Congregational Church

While **Andrea Barnet's** new book *Visionary Women: How Rachel Carson, Jane Jacobs, Jane Goodall, and Alice Waters Changed Our World* is expertly and vividly written, the real genius behind these pages stems from the author's unexpected grouping of four woman whose links are not immediately obvious. She follows the arcs of their lives to reveal that all four, in their uniquely extraordinary ways, threw conventions of their times out the window. Carson, Jacobs, Goodall, and Waters were leaders in igniting constructive change in their respective fields—biology and conservation, urban renewal, primatology, and the food industry. *Visionary Women* is a must read for anyone looking to learn more about progressive movements and those who strive to effect our world with positive change.

Some people spend their lives laboring over and thinking about food, while for others it's a mere necessity. Whether your relationship to food is positive or negative, encompassing or thoughtless, it's one that exists in each and every human life. In *What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women and the Food that Tells Their Stories*, **Laura Shapiro** wants to know how individuals relate to food and how it informs their lives. Dorothy Wordsworth, Rosa Lewis, Eleanor Roosevelt, Eva Braun, Barbara Pym, and Helen Gurley Brown—these six women from the last two centuries had sometimes delicious and often strange food lives, and Shapiro's retelling of their

stories is a book to be devoured.

Andrea Barnett is the author of *Visionary Women: How Rachel Carson, Jane Jacobs, Jane Goodall, and Alice Waters Changed Our World*, and previously, *All-Night Party: The Women of Bohemian Greenwich Village and Harlem, 1913-1930*, which was a nonfiction finalist for the 2004 Lambda Literary Awards. She was a regular contributor to the *New York Times Book Review* for twenty-five years, where she wrote primarily on the arts and culture. Her journalism has appeared in *Smithsonian Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *Self*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Mirabella* and *Working Mother*, among other venues. She splits her time between the Hudson Valley and New York City.

Laura Shapiro is the author of *Something From the Oven*, *Perfection Salad*, *Julia Child*, and, most recently, *What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women and the Food That Tells Their Stories*. She was a columnist at *The Real Paper* before beginning a sixteen-year run at *Newsweek*, where she covered food, women's issues, and the arts and won several journalism awards. Her essays, reviews, and features have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Gourmet*, *Gastronomica*, *Slate*, and many other publications.

Wyn Cooper & Dorothea Lasky

11:30 am–12:45 pm

Latchis 4

Mars Poetica may be a collection of poetry, but the way poet **Wyn Cooper** draws on other art forms—from music to painting to fashion to film—makes it also a work of art that is uncategorizable and refreshingly original. Cooper mirrors and merges seemingly disparate topics to expose a kind of equilibrium in an often unbalanced world. Poet and former Lit Fest participant Vijay Seshadri wrote that these poems “are cold compresses for the inflamed mind. They calm and refresh with their clarity and lucidity . . . They are a perfect antidote for the fevers of our historical moment.”

Dorothea Lasky's writing palpitates, invents, and feels deeply. *Milk* is a commanding new collection that pins creator to creation, challenging and celebrating the forceful relationship from the perspective of an artist and mother. “Don't look for daintiness nor defeatism in Lasky's weighty lines,” wrote acclaimed poet, Major Jackson, “but rather fierce, quick-witted associations that make space for one woman's power to name her world.”

Wyn Cooper is the author of five collections of poetry: *Chaos Is the New Calm*, *Postcards from the Interior*, *The Way Back*, *The Country of Here Below*, and a new book, *Mars Poetica*. His poems appear in twenty-five anthologies of contemporary poetry. He has taught at Bennington and Marlboro Colleges, the University of Massachusetts / Amherst, the

University of Utah, and the Frost Place. He has written songs with Sheryl Crow, David Broza, Jody Redhage, and David Baerwald. He lives in Boston.

Dorothea Lasky is the author of five full-length collections of poetry, including her newest, *Milk*. Lasky's writing has appeared in *POETRY*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The Atlantic*, and *Boston Review*, among others. She is a coeditor of *Open the Door: How to Excite Young People About Poetry*. Dorothea Lasky is an assistant professor of poetry at Columbia University's School of the Arts and lives in New York City.

Kate Greathead & Joan Silber

12:45 pm–2:00 pm

118 Elliot

Kate Greathead proves herself an impassioned observer and insightful storyteller in her incisive debut novel, *Laura & Emma*, which takes on the challenges of motherhood and class. Laura is a lifelong Manhattanite who was born into an Upper East Side family with old money and old values. In 1981, thirty-something and aimless, she meets Jefferson, the two have a one-night stand, and nine months later, Emma arrives into the world. Despite having been the prodigal progressive of the family, Laura chooses to raise her daughter among all of the luxuries and eccentricities her family has to offer, for better or for worse. Told in a series of vignettes, this novel is a stylish and witty meditation on family and identity.

Literary great **Joan Silber**'s new book, *Improvement: A Novel*, tells the rippling story of Reyna, a single mother in New York City whose choices in men often have her aunt Kiki worried. Reyna visits her partner, Boyd, at Rikers during his three-month sentence, and while she knows their relationship isn't perfect, his hold on her grows ever-tighter. What Kiki doesn't know is that Reyna has been aiding Boyd's cigarette smuggling scheme. When Reyna ultimately decides her involvement is too risky for herself and her young daughter, the consequences are more far-reaching than anyone could have imagined, affecting both close relations and strangers. "Without fuss or flourishes," wrote the *Wall Street Journal*, "Joan Silber weaves a remarkably patterned tapestry connecting strangers from around the world . . . The writing here is funny and down-to-earth, the characters are recognizably fallible, and the message is quietly profound: We are not ever really alone, however lonely we feel."

Kate Greathead's first novel, *Laura & Emma*, was published by Simon & Schuster in March 2018. A graduate of Wesleyan University and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, her writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *New York Times*, and *Vanity Fair*, and on NPR's *Moth Radio Hour*. She is a nine-time *Moth* Storytelling Slam champion. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, the writer Teddy Wayne.

Joan Silber is the author of eight books of fiction. The most

recent, *Improvement*, is the winner of the 2018 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, and was listed as one of the year's best books by the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, *Seattle Times*, and *Kirkus*. Her previous book, *Fools*, was long-listed for the National Book Award and a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Other works include *The Size of the World*, finalist for the LA Times Fiction Prize, and *Ideas of Heaven*, finalist for the National Book Award and the Story Prize. She lives in New York and teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and in the Warren Wilson MFA Program.

Colin Calloway

1:00 pm–2:15 pm

Centre Congregational Church

George Washington is as iconic and imposing a figure as one can be in this country, and seemingly difficult to write on without rehashing generations of knowledge and story. But in an extensive new biography, *The Indian World of George Washington*, **Colin Calloway** re-contextualizes Washington and uses his life to focus not on the early colonists of this country, but on the great Native American leaders of the time—Shingas, Tanaghrisson, Bloody Fellow, Joseph Brant, Red Jacket, Little Turtle—and their tribes: the Iroquois Confederacy, Lenape, Miami, Creek, Delaware, among them. This book is for those who want to learn more about the monumental impact the diplomacy and relations between colonists and indigenous people had on shaping the future of the country.

Colin Calloway is the John Kimball Jr. 1943 Professor of History and Professor of Native American Studies at Dartmouth College. He served for two years as associate director and editor at the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian at the Newberry Library in Chicago and taught for seven years at the University of Wyoming. Professor Calloway has written many books on Native American history, including his latest *The Indian World of George Washington*.

Sandra Neil Wallace & Rich Wallace

1:30 pm–2:30 pm

Brooks Memorial Library

In *First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great*, **Sandra Neil Wallace** and **Rich Wallace** profile immigrants and refugees who went on to make a difference, from Nikola Tesla to Carlos Santana, Albert Einstein to Barbara Young. "This book takes figures from all races, nationalities, and religions and looks at them as human beings and at the amazing things they have accomplished... A deeply patriotic look at how immigrants' application of the American ideals of hard work and perseverance can have lasting effects." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Sandra Neil Wallace is an author and advocate for change. Known for her investigative journalism and original narrative style, her books for young readers focus on people who break barriers and change the world. The daughter of a refugee and concentration camp survivor, Sandra became a changemaker when she broke a gender barrier in sports as the first woman to host an NHL broadcast on national TV. Her books have been selected as ALA Notable books, the Chicago Public Library's "Best of the Best", Bank Street College's Best Children's Books of the Year, and awarded Booklist's Editors' Choice, the Parents' Choice Gold Award, and the International Literacy Association's Social Justice Award. She became a US citizen in 2016 and is a founding member of the Keene (NH) Immigrant and Refugee Partnership and an advisor to the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College.

Rich Wallace's first novel, *Wrestling Sturbridge*, was selected as one of the best YA novels of the 20th century by the American Library Association. He's since authored many more. His recent nonfiction books—co-authored with his wife, Sandra Neil Wallace—include *Bound by Ice* and the forthcoming *First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great*. Recent honors include the International Literacy Association's Social Justice Award, the Paterson Prize, the California Reading Association Gold Award, and many others. Rich was a long-time editor at *Highlights for Children* magazine and continues to write *The Timbertoes* comic strip for that magazine. He serves on the boards of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College and the Historical Society of Cheshire County, NH.

Denise Duhamel & Dennis Nurkse

2:15 pm–3:30 pm

Centre Congregational Church

Denise Duhamel is a committed feminist, but that doesn't mean she can't do battle with certain principles of feminism that so often challenge women as much as they support them. In her latest poetry collection, *Scald*, Duhamel has words with, and pays tribute to, visionary feminist leaders like Shulamith Firestone, Andrea Dworkin, and Mary Daly; pop icons like Helen Reddy, Cyndi Lauper, and Kathleen Hanna; and artists and writers Catherine Opie, Susan Faludi, and Eve Ensler, in an attempt to understand our moment in cultural history.

Love in the Last Days: After Tristan and Iseult is **D. Nurke's** inventive reimagining of a medieval love story told in a rich variety of verse, making for a lively and evocative collection. Borrowing centuries-old words and expertly mingling it with modern language, this is a portrayal of love for our time. "The lines are lovely," wrote Julia Berick at the *Paris Review*, "the lovers are doomed, the legend lives, and then you're sitting in an empty L train at Eighth Avenue long after the doors have opened to release you."

Denise Duhamel is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including *Blowout*, *Ka-Ching!*, *Queen for a Day: Selected and New Poems*, and her latest collection, *Scald*. Duhamel has received grants and awards from numerous organizations, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and she served as the guest editor of *The Best American Poetry 2013*. She teaches creative writing and literature at Florida International University and lives in Hollywood, Florida.

D. Nurkse is the author of eleven collections of poetry, most recently *Love in the Last Days: After Tristan and Iseult*. He is the recipient of a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim fellowship in poetry, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, two New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships, the Whiting Writers Award, and prizes from the Poetry Foundation and the Tanne Foundation. He served as poet laureate of Brooklyn from 1996 to 2001. He's currently a long-term member of the writing faculty at Sarah Lawrence College and lives in Brooklyn.

Alia Malek & Tom Sleigh with Cara Blue Adams

2:30 pm–3:45 pm

118 Elliot

Cara Blue Adams will be in conversation with authors **Alia Malek** and **Tom Sleigh** about their new books, both of which explore topics of immigration, the refugee crisis in Syria, the challenges of reporting, and writing to inform and to offer honest and sensitive depictions of people's lives.

Journalist **Alia Malek** was born in Baltimore but her roots are in Syria. When Hafez al-Assad came into power in 1970, her grandmother's apartment was taken, and the loss prompted Malek's parents to move to the US. In 2011, she returned to Damascus and reclaimed the apartment. She then spent two years writing anonymously for several news outlets on Syrian politics and culture—she also chronicled the lives of the people living in her building. *The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria* is about the Syrians—Muslims, Christians, Jews, Armenians, and Kurds—whose stories she came to know intimately. Malek weaves these narratives with her own, as well as with intelligent analysis of history and politics, to create a masterful portrait of Syria and its people.

Tom Sleigh, perhaps best known for his poetry, has done extensive work as a journalist in Africa and in the Middle Eastern region once called Mesopotamia. In his new collection of essays, *The Land between Two Rivers*, Sleigh recounts stories from people living under military occupation, in famine, and in war. These essays are serious reflections on what it means to write about the lives of others in such extreme conditions, though his writing is often laced with humor and self-deprecation. *The New York Times Book Review* wrote: "In Sleigh's hands . . . moments of ongoingness mix something of the daily with something of the miraculous. . . . Like

[Walt] Whitman, Sleigh here plays with what the observer's notebook can become. He embeds lines of poetry in journalistic essays like a rogue reporter; conversely, he'll forge a sonnet or rhymed tercets out of reported language."

Alia Malek is a journalist and former civil rights lawyer. She is the author of *A Country Called Amreeka: US History Re-Told Through Arab American Lives* and editor of *Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post 9/11 Injustices*. Her latest book is *The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria*. Born in Baltimore to Syrian immigrant parents, she began her legal career as a trial attorney at the US Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. She then moved to and reported from Damascus, Syria. Her reporting from Syria earned her the Marie Colvin Award in November 2013. She returned to the US for the launch of Al Jazeera America, where she was senior writer. After her departure, she was a Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow at the Nation Institute and in residence at the MacDowell Colony and honored with the 12th annual Hiatt Prize in the Humanities.

Tom Sleigh is the author of ten books of poetry, including *Army Cats*, winner of the John Updike Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and *Space Walk* which won the Kingsley Tufts Award. In 2018, Sleigh published a collection of essays on refugees in the Middle East and Africa, *The Land Between Two Rivers: Writing In An Age Of Refugees*, and a companion poetry collection, *House of Fact, House of Ruin*. Widely anthologized, his poems and prose appear in the *New Yorker*, *Village Voice*, and other literary magazines, as well as *The Best of the Best American Poetry*, *The Best American Poetry*, *Best American Travel Writing*, and *The Pushcart Anthology*. He is a distinguished professor in the MFA Program at Hunter College and lives in Brooklyn.

Cara Blue Adams is a fiction writer. Her stories have appeared in *Narrative*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Epoch*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Mississippi Review*, and *The Sun*. She is the recipient of The Missouri Review William Peden Prize and The Kenyon Review Short Fiction Prize, judged by Alice Hoffman, and she was named one of *Narrative's* "15 Below 30." Her awards include a New York State Council on the Arts Artist-in-Residence Exchange Grant and scholarships and fellowships to the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. Cara grew up in Vermont. She lives in Brooklyn and is an assistant professor of creative writing at Seton Hall University.

Special thanks goes to the School for International Training for sponsoring Alia Malek and making this event possible.

Vievee Francis & Lynn Melnick

3:45 pm–5:00 pm

Centre Congregational Church

Connotation Press says of **Vievee Francis's** latest collection, *Forest Primeval*: "Some artists encounter a forest, a country landscape of overgrown grass and wild flowers, a stream teeming with fish, and don't simply see sunlight casting a holy gaze on a peaceful scene. Rather they are sensitive to the dark underbrush curling in the forest, the choked grass and flowers vying for space, the ravenous fish devouring a carcass . . . Francis cannot look away from this more onerous view—from a landscape formed by the legacy of slavery, oppression, and violence against Black people and, especially, Black women." She identifies with the voiceless and wild things in the composed, imposed peace of the Romantic poets with whom she is in dialogue. Words certainly do not fail as Francis sets off into the wild world promised in the title. The wild here is not chaotic but rather free and finely attuned to its surroundings.

The poems in **Lynn Melnick's** *Landscape with Sex and Violence* explore what it means to exist within a rape culture so entrenched that it can't be separated from the physical landscapes in which it enacts itself. Lyrically complex and startling—yet forthright and unflinching—these poems address rape, abortion, sex work, and other subjects frequently omitted from male-dominated literary traditions, without forsaking the pleasures of being embodied, or the value of personal freedom, of moonlight, and of hope. Throughout, the topography and mythology of California, as well as the uses and failures of language itself, are players in what it means to be a woman, a sexual being, and a trauma survivor in contemporary America.

Vievee Francis is the author of *Blue-Tail Fly*, *Horse in the Dark*, and *Forest Primeval*, winner of the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and the Hurston / Wright Legacy Award for Poetry. She is an associate professor at Dartmouth College and an associate editor for *Callaloo*.

Lynn Melnick is the author of *Landscape with Sex and Violence* and *If I Should Say I Have Hope*. She is a fellow at the New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers and serves on the Executive Board of VIDA: Women in Literary Arts. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Beowulf Sheehan

4:00 pm–5:00 pm

118 Elliot

Beowulf Sheehan has been attending the Lit Fest for years, tirelessly working behind the lense, photographing our events and authors. This year we are beyond thrilled to him participate on stage presenting his new book, *Author: The Portraits of Beowulf Sheehan*. Sheehan

is considered to be his generation's foremost literary portrait photographer, having made portraits of the literary luminaries of our time across the globe, from Roxane Gay to Masha Gessen, Patti Smith to Zadie Smith, Karl Ove Knausgaard to J.K. Rowling, and Jonathan Franzen to Toni Morrison. In *Author* you'll find the most insightful, intimate, and revealing portraits of these artists made in his studio, in their homes, in shopping malls and concert halls, on rooftops and in parking lots, on the beach and among trees, surrounded by flowers and in clock towers. Following an enlightening foreword by Salman Rushdie, Beowulf Sheehan shares an essay offering insights in the poignant and memorable moments he experienced while making these portraits.

Beowulf Sheehan is a photographer of portraiture and performance in the arts. His work has appeared internationally, including in *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Vogue* and at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Dostoevsky Museum, and International Center of Photography. He lives in New York City.

Short Story Showcase and Literary Happy Hour

5:15 pm–6:30 pm

118 Elliot

Take a moment to relax your brain and discuss the day's events with authors and fellow festival-goers. There will be wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase, as well as complimentary snacks to tide you over.

And when you're refreshed, enjoy one of the most popular events of the festival—the **Short Story Showcase**. Author and festival committee member **Tim Weed** will host five of the festival's most entertaining readers. Check out their bios below!

Noy Holland's latest work is *I Was Trying to Describe What It Feels Like: New and Selected Stories*, out now from Counterpoint Press. Other collections of short fiction and novellas include *Bird*, *Swim for the Little One First*, *What Begins with Bird*, and *The Spectacle of the Body*. She has published work in *The Kenyon Review*, *Antioch*, *Conjunctions*, *The Quarterly*, and *Glimmer Train*, among others. She was a recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council award for artistic merit and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. She teaches at the MFA program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts, as well as at Phillips Andover and the University of Florida. She serves on the board of directors at Fiction Collective Two.

Ben Marcus is the author of six books, including his latest short story collection, *Notes from the Fog*. His stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The Paris Review*,

The Believer, *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *McSweeney's*, *Time*, *Conjunctions*, and elsewhere. He is the editor of *The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories*, and for several years he was the fiction editor of *Fence*. He is now the fiction editor at *The American Reader*. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writers Award, a Creative Capital Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in fiction, a literature award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and three Pushcart Prizes. He taught at Brown University for several years before joining the faculty at Columbia University's School of the Arts.

Sigrid Nunez is the author of seven novels, including her latest, *The Friend*, which is long-listed for the 2018 National Book Award. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Harper's*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, and *The Believer*. Nunez is also the recipient of four Pushcart Prizes, a Whiting Writer's Award, a Berlin Prize Fellowship, and two awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters: the Rosenthal Foundation Award and the Rome Prize in Literature. In spring, 2019, she will be visiting writer at Syracuse University. She lives in New York City.

Joan Silber is the author of eight books of fiction. The most recent, *Improvement*, is the winner of the 2018 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, and was listed as one of the year's best books by the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, *Seattle Times*, and *Kirkus*. Her previous book, *Fools*, was long-listed for the National Book Award and a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Other works include *The Size of the World*, finalist for the LA Times Fiction Prize, and *Ideas of Heaven*, finalist for the National Book Award and the Story Prize. She lives in New York and teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and in the Warren Wilson MFA Program.

Dariel Suarez was born and raised in Havana, Cuba. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1997, during the island's economic crisis known as The Special Period. Dariel's story collection, *A Kind of Solitude*, was selected as the winner of the 2017 Spokane Short Fiction Prize and comes out this fall. He is also the author of the poetry chapbook *In The Land of Tropical Martyrs* and one of City of Boston's inaugural Artist Fellows. Dariel has taught creative writing at Boston University, the Boston Arts Academy, Boston University's Metropolitan College, and is now the Director of Core Programs and Faculty at Grub Street. His work has received awards from the Boston Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, *Glimmer Train*, and *Nimrod International's* Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction. He lives in the Boston area with his wife and daughter.

Green Writers Press Author Reception

6:30 pm

The Dianich Gallery, 139 Main Street

You are invited to join Vermont indie publisher **Green Writers Press** and the **Dianich Gallery** for a very special reception highlighting the best of Vermont. stop by for drinks and a reading and book signing with GWP authors.

Refreshments courtesy of Cabot Creamery Coop. Book sales by Everyone's Books.

Write Action Open Reading

7:00 pm–8:30 pm

Brooks House Atrium

Brattleboro Literary Festival attendees are invited to read at the annual BLF Open Reading hosted by Write Action. Anyone interested in participating should stop by the River Garden anytime on Saturday to sign up. Each reader will have a seven-minute time slot and will read in the order of signing up.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Sigrid Nunez & Katharine Weber

10:00 am–11:15 am

118 Elliot

In **Sigrid Nunez's** novel, *The Friend*, a woman's lifelong friend and mentor dies unexpectedly, leaving her burdened with his unwanted dog. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the Great Dane's mute suffering from the loss of its master, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building. Long-listed for the 2018 National Book Award in Fiction and lauded by *The New York Times Book Review*, *NPR*, *Harper's Magazine*, and many others, this elegiac and searching novel is both a meditation on loss and a celebration of human-canine devotion.

Katharine Weber's *Still Life With Monkey*, also meditates on the aftermath of loss and the roles animals can play in our grief and recovery. The novel follows Duncan Wheeler, a successful architect whose devotion to the quotidian pleasures of life is made tragically difficult when a car accident leaves him paralyzed and haunted by the death of his assistant. Duncan and his wife find themselves in conflict as he grows less sure of what he has left to live for, and, desperate to help him, she brings home a highly trained helper-monkey to assist her husband with basic tasks. As the monkey entertains Duncan with his sweet antics, Duncan's life becomes more tolerable and full of joy. Yet, the question persists: Is it enough? This masterfully observed novel about the conflict between the will to live and the desire to die has been lauded by the *Washington Post* and *Booklist* and received a starred review in *Kirkus*.

Sigrid Nunez is the author of six other novels and a memoir, *Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag*, as well contributions to *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Harper's*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, and *The Believer*. Nunez is also the recipient of four Pushcart Prizes, a Whiting Writer's Award, a Berlin Prize Fellowship, and two awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters: the Rosenthal Foundation Award and the Rome Prize in Literature. In spring, 2019, she will be visiting writer at Syracuse University. She lives in New York City.

Still Life With Monkey is **Katharine Weber's** sixth novel, and she is also the author of a memoir, *The Memory of All That: George Gershwin, Kay Swift, and My Family's Legacies of Infidelities*. Three of her books were named Notable Books by *The New York Times Book Review* and two of her novels were long-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Weber holds the Thomas Chair in Creative Writing at Kenyon College.

James Crews & Bruce Smith

10:00 am–11:15 am

Brooks Memorial Library

James Crews's second poetry collection, *Telling My Father*, winner of the Cowles Prize, explores familial bonds, memory, and grief in a risky, bold, and elegant exploration of coming of age against a backdrop of profound loss.

Bruce Smith's *Spill* deals, too, with trauma and what we do with it, as well as with our gratitude, artistic aspiration, and the current political reality. The collection's centerpiece is a lyrical essay recalling Smith's time working at the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg in the '60s and the schooling the speaker received in race, class, and culture, in addition to poetry, from the mentorship of an inmate. On either side of this prose poem are related poems of excess and witness, of ransacked places and the new territories that can emerge from a monstrous landscape.

James Crews's first collection, *The Book of What Stays*, won the 2010 *Prairie Schooner* Book Prize and received a Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award. His work has also appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Raleigh Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *The New Republic*, among other journals, and he is a regular contributor to *The Times Literary Supplement*. A recipient of an MFA in Creative Writing-Poetry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a PhD in Writing and Literature from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Crews now lives on an organic farm in Shaftsbury, Vermont.

Bruce Smith is the author of eight books of poems, including *The Other Lover*, a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, and the recent *Devotions*, a finalist for the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Los Angeles Times Book Award, and winner of the William Carlos Williams Award from the American Academy of Poets. Smith's poems have appeared in *The Best American Poetry*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Kenyon Review*, among others. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and twice received fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts in addition to an award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has most recently served as a visiting professor at the University of Houston and Columbia University.

Chandler Klang Smith & Aaron Thier

10:00 am–11:15 am

New England Youth Theatre

Aaron Thier's third novel, *The World is a Narrow Bridge*, follows Murphy and Eva, a young couple in Miami who have almost decided to have a baby when Yahweh, the Old Testament God, appears to Eva to demand

that she serve as his prophet . . . and manage his social media presence. Following Yahweh's orders, the couple embarks on a wild road trip across the country, using a hundred million dollars to build a temple on a landfill and enduring a period of Biblical wandering in the deserts of the southwest among other incomprehensible demands and arcane rituals. At odds with their mission but helpless to disobey, Murphy and Eva search their surroundings for signs of a future they can have faith in.

Chandler Klang Smith's debut novel, *The Sky Is Yours*, also takes a humorous look at the dark side of our reality and future. In the burned-out city of Empire Island, three young people navigate a metropolis under constant threat from a pair of dragons that circle the skies. Reality star Duncan Humphrey Ripple V, the spoiled scion of the metropolis' last dynasty; Baroness Swan Lenore Dahlberg, his tempestuous, death-obsessed betrothed; and Abby, a feral beauty Duncan discovered tossed out with the trash, are forced to flee everything they've ever known. As they wander toward the scalded heart of the city, they face fire, conspiracy, mayhem, unholy drugs, dragon-worshippers, and the monsters lurking inside themselves. Scathingly clever and gorgeously strange, *The Sky Is Yours* is at once faraway and disturbingly familiar, its singular chaos grounded in the universal realities of love, family, and the deeply human desire to survive at all costs. Called "staggering" by NPR and an "heir to *Infinite Jest*" by Tor.com, along with positive reviews from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Huffington Post*, among others, this novel is cinematic, bawdy, hilarious, and utterly unforgettable.

Aaron Thier's second novel, *Mr. Eternity*, was a finalist for the James Thurber Prize for American Humor, and he is the recipient of a literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a contributor to *The Nation*. He lives in western Massachusetts with his wife, the poet Sarah Trudgeon, and two sons.

Chandler Klang Smith holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University and has served twice as a juror for the Shirley Jackson Awards. She now lives and teaches in New York City.

Wayétu Moore & Rhiannon Navin

11:30 am–12:45 pm

118 Elliot

Wayétu Moore's debut novel, *She Would Be King*, reimagines Liberia's early years through three unforgettable characters who meet in a settlement in Monrovia, where their gifts help them salvage the tense relationship between the African-American settlers and the indigenous tribes as a new nation forms around them. Moore intermingles history and magical realism to find not only the voices of these three characters, but also the fleeting spirit of the wind, who embodies an ancient wisdom. In this vibrant story of the African diaspora, Moore, a talented storyteller

and a daring writer, illuminates with radiant and exacting prose the tumultuous roots of a country inextricably bound to the United States.

Rhiannon Navin's debut novel, *Only Child*, fictionalizes a more recent cultural phenomenon in a tenderhearted account of healing and family narrated by a six-year-old boy. Squeezed into a closet with his classmates and teacher, Zach Taylor hears gunshots ring through the halls of his school. A gunman will take nineteen lives and irrevocably change the fabric of Zach's close-knit community. While Zach's mother pushes for justice against the shooter's parents, Zach retreats into a world of books and art, setting out on a captivating journey toward recovery and forgiveness, determined to help the adults in his life rediscover the love and compassion they need to light the way out of their darkest hours.

Wayétu Moore is the founder of One Moore Book, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that encourages reading among children of countries with low literacy rates and underrepresented cultures by publishing culturally relevant books that speak to their truths, and by creating bookstores and reading corners that serve their communities. Her writing can be found in *Guernica Magazine*, *The Rumpus*, *The Atlantic Magazine* and other publications. She currently serves as a Margaret Mead Fellow at Columbia University Teachers College, is an Africana Studies lecturer at City University of New York's John Jay College, and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Rhiannon Navin grew up in Bremen, Germany, in a family of book-crazy women. Her career in advertising brought her to New York City, where she worked for several large agencies before becoming a full-time mother and writer. She now lives outside of New York City with her husband, three children, two cats, and one dog.

Duy Doan & Tom Sleigh

11:30 am–12:45 pm

Brooks Memorial Library

Duy Doan's striking debut collection, *We Play a Game*, winner of the 2017 Yale Series of Younger Poets, explores—now with abundant humor, now with a deeply felt reserve—the ambiguities and tensions that mark our effort to know our histories, our loved ones, and ourselves. These poems draw from Doan's experience as a Vietnamese-American while at the same time making a case for—and masterfully playing with—the fluidity of identity, history, and language. Nothing is alien to these poems: the Saigon of a mother's dirge, the footballer Zinedine Zidane, an owl that "talks to his other self in the well"—all have a place in Doan's far-reaching and intimately human art.

Tom Sleigh's most recent books are *House of Fact*, *House of Ruin*, a poetry collection, and its simultaneously-published companion, *The Land Between*

Two Rivers: Writing In an Age of Refugees, a book collecting his essays on refugees in the Middle East and Africa. Sleigh meditates on our culture, in which fact can easily be manufactured and ruin achieved by pressing “Send” or pulling a trigger. His subjects, including a militia in Libya, a military base in Baghdad, a shantytown in East Africa, and an opulent mall in Long Island, illustrate the ramifications of having let the genie of war, famine, and climate change out of the bottle. In the end, like Doan’s collection, the book ultimately turns on conundrums of selfhood and self-estrangement and the freedom to be found in stepping outside of our own circumstances to observe them with depth and compassion.

Duy Doan’s work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Slate*, *The Cortland Review*, and elsewhere. A Kundiman fellow, he received an MFA in poetry from Boston University. He is the former director of the Favorite Poem Project at BU.

Tom Sleigh is the author of ten books of poetry, including *Army Cats*, winner of the John Updike Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and *Space Walk* which won the Kingsley Tufts Award. Widely anthologized, his poems and prose appear in the *New Yorker*, *Village Voice*, and other literary magazines, as well as *The Best of the Best American Poetry*, *The Best American Poetry*, *Best American Travel Writing*, and *The Pushcart Anthology*. He is a distinguished professor in the MFA Program at Hunter College and lives in Brooklyn.

George Howe Colt & Eileen McNamara

11:30 am–12:45 pm

New England Youth Theatre

George Howe Colt’s *The Game: Harvard, Yale, and America in 1968* tells the story of a football game on November, 1968, at the end of a turbulent and memorable year in American history: the season-ending clash between Harvard and Yale. Both teams entered undefeated and left undefeated, the final score coming in at 29-29. To some this was a triumph, to others, a tragedy, and the reasons for the tie seemed to have as much to do with a miraculous comeback in the final 42 seconds as it did with the events of the preceding months, namely the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, the police brutality at the Democratic National Convention, inner-city riots, campus takeovers, and, looming over all, the Vietnam War. Vivid, lively, and constantly surprising, this intimate work of history is the story of more ordinary people living in an extraordinary time and the issues they and the country faced, issues we continue to wrestle with to this day.

Eileen McNamara, a Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist, examines the life and times of Eunice Kennedy Shriver in *Eunice: The Kennedy Who Changed the World*, arguing her political legacy, before, during, and after the events of 1968 was the most profound left by the Kennedy family.

While Joe Kennedy was grooming his sons for the White House and the senate, his Stanford-educated daughter Eunice was tapping her father's fortune and her brothers' political power to engineer one of the great civil rights movements of our time on behalf of millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. McNamara finally brings Shriver out from her brothers' shadow to show an officious, cigar-smoking, indefatigable woman of unladylike determination and deep compassion born of rage: at the medical establishment that had no answers for her sister Rosemary; at the revered but dismissive father whose vision for his family did not extend beyond his sons; and at the government that failed to deliver on America's promise of equality.

George Howe Colt is the bestselling author of *The Big House*, which was a National Book Award finalist and a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, *Brothers*, and *November of the Soul*. He lives in Western Massachusetts with his wife, the writer Anne Fadiman.

Eileen McNamara is the director of the journalism program at Brandeis. A professor of the Practice of Journalism since 2007, she was previously an award-winning reporter and columnist for *The Boston Globe*, where she won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary and contributed to the coverage of the clergy sex abuse scandal in the Archdiocese of Boston, the subject of the film *Spotlight*, winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2016. Her writing continues to appear in *The Globe* and on *Cognoscenti*, the commentary pages of WBUR.org, Boston's National Public Radio station.

Anne Fadiman

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

New England Youth Theatre

Anne Fadiman's newest book, *The Wine Lover's Daughter*, examines her relationship with her father, Clifton Fadiman, renowned literary critic, editor, and radio host who, with all of these pursuits, loved wine most of all. Clifton's escape to swanky Manhattan from lower-middle-class Brooklyn was facilitated by his knowledge and appreciation of wine, in addition to his cultivated upper-crust accent, expensive suits, and encyclopedic knowledge of Western literature. This memoir traces the relationship between Clifton and this object of his ardent desire, from the glass of cheap Graves he drank in Paris in 1927 through the Château Lafite-Rothschild 1904 he drank to celebrate his eightieth birthday—when he and the bottle were exactly the same age—to the wines that sustained him in his last years, when he had lost his sight but not his characteristic hedonism. The nose of this wine-soaked memoir is Fadiman's father's life and character, with an oaky finish of his relationship with his daughter. *The Wine Lover's Daughter* is a poignant exploration of love, ambition, class, family, and the pleasures of the palate by one of our finest essayists.

Anne Fadiman is an essayist and reporter. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, her account of the cross-cultural conflicts between a Hmong

family and the American medical system, won a National Book Critics Circle Award. *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*, is a book about books (buying them, writing in their margins, and arguing with her husband on how to shelve them). *At Large and At Small* is a collection of essays on Coleridge, postal history, and ice cream, among other topics; it was the source of an encrypted quotation in the *New York Times* Sunday Acrostic. Fadiman is the only writer to have won National Magazine Awards for both reporting (on elderly suicide) and essays (on the multiple and often contradictory meanings of the American flag). She worked with the family of her former student Marina Keegan to edit *The Opposite of Loneliness*, a posthumous collection of Marina's work. She has also edited a literary quarterly (*The American Scholar*) and two essay anthologies. She lives in Western Massachusetts.

Brock Clarke & Ben Marcus

1:00 pm–2:15 pm

118 Elliot

Brock Clark's newest collection of short stories, *The Price of a Haircut*, offers up bite-sized morsels of his trademark social satire and trenchant wit that will have readers laughing and, perhaps, shifting uncomfortably in their seats. From the title story, dissecting racial attitudes in contemporary America, to subjects like PTSD, the fate of child actors, and marital discord, this collection provides a window on a distinctly Clarcean world in which readers will find their own reflections distorted as though in a funhouse mirror—and swept up on a rollercoaster of heart-wrenching insight and self-discovery.

Ben Marcus, with the thirteen stories in *Notes from the Fog*, gives us similarly comic, yet apt, dystopian visions of alienation in a modern world. In the bizarre but instantly recognizable universe of Marcus's fiction, characters encounter surreal new illnesses and equally surreal cures. With beautiful, hilarious, and obsessive prose, Marcus tackles sex, death, lust, shame, the indignities of the body, and the full parade of human folly. A heartbreaking collection that showcases Marcus's compassion, tenderness, and mordant humor, *Notes from the Fog* is blistering and beautiful, the work of a modern master.

Brock Clark is the author of six other books of fiction, including *Exley*, winner of the *Kirkus* Book of the Year Award, a finalist for the Maine Book Award, and a longlist finalist for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and *An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England*, which was a national bestseller, an American Library Associate Notable Book of the Year, a #1 Book Sense Pick, a Borders Original Voices in Fiction selection, and a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice pick. His books have been reprinted in a dozen international editions and have been awarded the Mary McCarthy Prize for Fiction, the *Prairie Schooner* Book Series Prize, a National Endowment for Arts Fellowship, and an Ohio Council for the Arts

Fellowship, among others. Clarke lives in Portland, Maine, and teaches creative writing at Bowdoin College and in The University of Tampa's low-residency MFA program.

Ben Marcus is the author of six books of fiction. His stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The Paris Review*, *The Believer*, *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *McSweeney's*, *Time*, *Conjunctions*, and elsewhere. He is the editor of *The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories*, and for several years he was the fiction editor of *Fence*. He is now the fiction editor at *The American Reader*. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writers Award, a Creative Capital Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Fiction, a literature award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and three Pushcart Prizes. He taught at Brown University for several years before joining the faculty at Columbia University's School of the Arts.

David Hinton & Baron Wormser

1:00 pm–2:15 pm

Brooks Memorial Library

David Hinton's first collection of original poetry in over a decade, *Desert*, also takes on a wide range of subjects, weaving mind and landscape together in mediations on sky and wind, ridgeline and horizon, existence and self. A widely acclaimed translator of Chinese, Hinton's contemporary voice shows another facet of his poetic art in this love letter to the transcendent landscape of the American West. By applying the philosophical insights of ancient China that he has explored so deeply, Hinton brings clarity to the wonder and mystery of this current desert landscape with poems that are spare and spacious, as vast and open as the desert itself.

Baron Wormser's most recent collection of poetry, *Unidentified Sighing Objects*, focuses on the human drama inherent in our need to shape what is misshapen. Wormser takes on a dizzying range of subjects, from Diane Arbus to playground basketball, from the fall of the Berlin wall to Prospero to a suicide inquest. In every poem, he pursues the elusive, complex summation of the welter of feeling that informs any moment, scene—any life.

David Hinton's translations from Chinese include *Classical Chinese Poetry: An Anthology*, *The Mountain Poems of Hsieh Ling-yun*, *Mencius*, *The Analects of Confucius*, *Chuang Tzu: Inner Chapters*, *Forms of Distance* by Bei Dao, *The Selected Poems of T'ao Ch'ien*, and *The Selected Poems of Tu Fu*. In 1997 he was the recipient of the Academy of American Poets' Harold Morton Landon Translation Award for his three volumes published in 1996: *The Selected Poems of*

Lí Po and *Bei Dao's Landscape Over Zero*, and *The Late Poems of Meng Chiao*. His other recent honors include fellowships from the Witter Bynner Foundation, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He lives in Calais, Vermont.

Baron Wormser is the author and coauthor of fourteen books and a poetry chapbook. His most recent book, *Legends of the Slow Explosion: Eleven Modern Lives*, is a nonfiction title about eleven people in the mid-twentieth century whose lives created ripple effects beyond their individual existences. Including electrifying portraits of Rosa Parks, Hannah Arendt, Miles Davis, Audrey Hepburn, Willem de Kooning, and others, these are not conventional biographical essays, but visceral descriptions of the cultural and historical significance of these human catalysts, rendered in molten, multi-dimensional prose. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Bread Loaf, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. For six years, he served as poet laureate of the state of Maine. He has taught many dozens of workshops across the United States and continues to offer generative workshops along with workshops focusing on the works of a particular poet. He also teaches in the Fairfield University MFA Program.

Stephen Greenblatt

2:15 pm–3:30 pm

New England Youth Theatre

Stephen Greenblatt's new book, *Tyrant: Shakespeare on Politics*, explores the playwright's insights into bad (and often mad) rulers. William Shakespeare probed the social causes, psychological roots, and twisted consequences of tyranny by exploring the psyche (and psychoses) of Richard III, Macbeth, Lear, Coriolanus, and the societies they ruled. In exploring Shakespeare's depictions of absolute power and its catastrophic consequences in the context of Elizabeth I's weakening grasp on the throne, Greenblatt shows us the many ways in which Shakespeare's work remains vitally relevant today.

Stephen Greenblatt, a world-renowned Shakespeare scholar, is the author of thirteen books, including *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve*; *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*; *Shakespeare's Freedom*; *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*; *Hamlet in Purgatory*; *Marvelous Possessions*; and *Renaissance Self-Fashioning*. His honors include the 2016 Holberg Prize from the Norwegian Parliament, the 2012 Pulitzer Prize, and the 2011 National Book Award, MLA's James Russell Lowell Prize (twice), Harvard University's Cabot Fellowship, the Distinguished Humanist Award from the Mellon Foundation, Yale's Wilbur Cross Medal, the William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre, the Erasmus Institute Prize, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and the Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of California, Berkeley. He was

president of the Modern Language Association of America and a long-term fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and has been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the American Philosophical Society. He currently serves as Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University.

Kate Christensen & Maria Hummel

2:30 pm–3:45 pm

118 Elliot

Kate Christensen's newest novel, *The Last Cruise*, follows vintage 1950s ocean liner Queen Isabella as she makes her final voyage before heading to the scrapyards. For Christine Thorne, a former journalist turned Maine farmer, this is a chance to experience the bygone mid-20th century era of luxury cruising, complete with fine dining, classic highballs, string quartets, sophisticated jazz, and smoking on board (but no cell phones—or children, for that matter). But as the ship sets out from Long Beach, CA, certain signs of strife and malfunction above and below deck intrude on the festivities. A Hungarian executive sous chef watches escalating tensions among the crew from down in the main galley while an elderly Israeli violinist becomes increasingly aware of the age-related vulnerabilities of the ship, in addition to the cynical corners cut by the cruise ship company. When crisis comes, these characters find themselves tested as they face the unexpected and unknown.

Maria Hummel's *Still Lives* also presents interpersonal drama with the backdrop of a failing institution. Kim Lord, a powerful provocateur and feminist icon in the Los Angeles art scene, puts on a groundbreaking new exhibition featuring portraits in which she depicts herself as famous, murdered women, implicating a culture that is too accustomed to violence against women. Meanwhile, as the city's richest patrons pour into the historic Rocque Museum for opening night, all of the staff, including Maggie Richter, hope the event will be enough to save this sinking ship from its flailing finances. The problem? Kim Lord never shows up to her own gala. As the days drag on and Lord remains missing, suspicion falls on the up-and-coming gallerist Greg Shaw Ferguson, Maggie's ex-boyfriend, while a rogue's gallery of eccentric art world figures also have motives for the act. Set against a culture that often fetishizes female homicides, *Still Lives* is a page-turning tour of the art world's hall of mirrors and one woman's journey below decks of an industry flooded with money and secrets.

Kate Christensen is the author of seven novels, including *The Great Man*, which won the 2008 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. She is also the author of two memoirs, *Blue Plate Special* and *How to Cook a Moose*, which won the 2016 Maine Literary Award for Memoir. Her essays have appeared in many periodicals, including *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Bookforum*, *O*, the

Oprah Magazine, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Food and Wine*. She lives with her husband in Portland, Maine.

Maria Hummel is also the author of *Motherland* (an *San Francisco Chronicle* Book of the Year), *House and Fire*, and *Wilderness Run*. Her fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including the Pushcart Prizes, *Narrative*, *The Sun*, and *The Open Door: 100 Poems, 100 Years of Poetry Magazine*. She received a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University and taught there for many years. She is currently an assistant professor at the University of Vermont, and lives in Vermont with her husband and sons.

Ramie Targoff

3:45 pm–4:45 pm

New England Youth Theatre

Ramie Targoff's *Renaissance Woman: The Life of Vittoria Colonna* explores the life of the remarkable woman of the Italian Renaissance, Vittoria Colonna, the Marchesa of Pescara. Colonna has long been a celebrated footnote in the life of Michelangelo as the artist's best friend—the two exchanged beautiful letters, poems, and works of art—but she also had close ties to Charles V, Popes Clement VII and Paul III, Pietro Bembo, Baldassare Castiglione, Pietro Aretino, Queen Marguerite de Navarre, Reginald Pole, and Isabelle d'Esta, among other significant luminaries. Colonna was the scion of an immensely powerful Roman family during what was arguably the city's most creative era. Art and literature flourished, but political and religious life seemed constantly threatening to collapse. Personally involved with nearly every major development of this period, both through her marriage and her own talents, Colonna was not only a critical political actor and negotiator, but the first woman to publish a book of poems in Italy, an accomplishment which set off a revolution for Italian women's writing. She was, in short, at the very heart of what we celebrate about sixteenth-century Italy, and through her story the Renaissance comes to life anew.

Ramie Targoff is a professor of English at Brandeis University, where she teaches and studies Renaissance literature, with an emphasis on the relationship between literature and religion. She has written books on the invention of common prayer and its influence on Renaissance devotional poetry; on the works of the poet and preacher John Donne; and on Renaissance love poetry. She lives in Cambridge, MA.

Joan Houlihan & Neil Shepard

4:00 pm–5:15 pm

Brooks Memorial Library

Joan Houlihan's collection, *Shadow-feast*, is chronicle of dying—the awareness, denial, pain, and hope surrounding incurable illness, along with the aftermath of grief. Told from three points of view: Hers, His, and Theirs (the couple), this book as a whole is a kagezen, or shadow-feast, a traditional Japanese meal offered to the dead. However, rather than being set out for an absent beloved, this feast is for the reader.

Neil Shepard's most recent book is *How It Is: Selected Poems*, gathering together poems from his previous collections. His most recent book of new work is *Vermont Exit Ramps II*, in which his poems are paired with photographs by Anthony Reczek. While Houlihan traces the points where the structure of life meets the emotional wilderness of grief, in this collection Shepard finds inspiration where the physical structures of human settlement meet the wildernesses of Vermont, bringing new meaning and heart to the well-traveled bends and hills of I-89 and I-91.

Joan Houlihan is the author of four other books of poetry including *The Mending Worm*, which received the 2006 Green Rose Award from New Issues Press, and *The Us*, which received a Must Read distinction from the Massachusetts Center for the Book. Houlihan received her BA and MAT in English from University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and she has taught at Columbia University, Emerson College, and Smith College. Houlihan founded and directs the Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference. She currently serves on the faculty of Lesley University's low-residency MFA in Creative Writing Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts and is Professor of Practice in Poetry at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Neil Shepard is an award-winning poet who, in addition to *How It Is*, has published seven books of poetry, as well as work in numerous literary magazines, among them *Boulevard*, *Harvard Review*, *New England Review*, *Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Shenandoah*, *Southern Review*, and *TriQuarterly*. He taught for many years in the BFA writing program at Johnson State College in Vermont, as well as in the MFA writing program at Wilkes University (PA). He also founded and, for eight years, directed the Writers Program at the Vermont Studio Center, and served as editor of the *Green Mountains Review* for a quarter century. He lives in Johnson, VT.

Jenna Blum & Brendan Mathews

4:00 pm–5:15 pm

118 Elliot

Jenna Blum's novel, *The Lost Family*, paints a vivid portrait of marriage, family, and the haunting grief of World War II in an emotional, beautifully rendered story that spans a generation from the 1960s to the 1980s. In 1965, patrons flock to the dashing bachelor Peter Rashkin's restaurant to savor his brisket bourguignon. A survivor of Auschwitz whose wife, Masha, and two daughters died in the concentration camp, Peter prefers solitude to the parade of eligible women who come through the restaurant, hoping to catch his eye. Only June Bouquet, a young model twenty years his junior, is able to scale Peter's walls, and when she becomes pregnant during their passionate, whirlwind courtship, Peter proposes, hoping starting a new family will help him let go of past horrors. Over the next twenty years, however, his traumas will continue to haunt him, June, and their daughter, Elspeth, shaping their lives in heartbreaking and unexpected ways. Spanning three cinematic decades, *The Lost Family* is a charming, funny, and bittersweet study of the ways in which past tragic loss can continue to reverberate over time.

Brendan Mathews's debut novel, *The World of Tomorrow*, follows a family in New York City dealing with the repercussions of war and trauma. In June 1939, Francis Dempsey and his shell-shocked brother, Michael, board an ocean liner from Ireland bound for their brother Martin's home in New York with a small fortune they've stolen from the IRA. In the week that follows, the lives of these three brothers will collide with big-band jazz musicians, a talented but fragile heiress, a Jewish street photographer facing a return to Nazi-occupied Prague, a vengeful mob boss, and the ghosts of their own family's revolutionary past, all while being pursued by Tom Cronin, an erstwhile assassin forced to track them as one last job. Meanwhile, with the receding Depression, New York is waking up, suffused with an electric home and caught up in the fervor of the World's Fair. Mathews brings the prewar metropolis to vivid, pulsing life in this sweeping, intricate, and ambitious story of an America that blithely hoped it could avoid catastrophe by focusing on the promise of the World's Fair: a peaceful, prosperous "World of Tomorrow."

Jenna Blum is the *New York Times* and number one international bestselling author of the novels *Those Who Save Us* and *The Stormchasers*. She was also voted one of the favorite contemporary women writers by Oprah.com readers. Blum earned her MA from Boston University and has taught fiction and novel workshops for Grub Street Writers for twenty years. She lives in Boston, MA.

Brendan Mathews has published stories in *Glimmer Train*, the *Virginia Quarterly*, and the *Cincinnati Review*, among other publications, and his fiction has twice appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*. Previously

a Fulbright Fellow in Ireland, he now lives with his wife and their four children in Lenox, Massachusetts, and teaches at Bard College at Simon's Rock.

GennaRose Nethercott

5:30 pm–6:30 pm

118 Elliot

GennaRose Nethercott's narrative poem *The Lumberjack's Dove* was selected by Louise Glück as the winner of the 2017 National Poetry Series collection. In this poem, a lumberjack cuts his hand off with an axe, but in its place he finds a dove. This incident spirals outward to explore countless facets of being human, prompting profound reflections on sacrifice and longing, time and memory, and—finally—the act of storytelling itself. The lumberjack, his hand, and the axe that separated them all become participants in the story, sharing their own perspectives and imparting their own lessons. Inflected with the uncanny enchantment of folklore and animated by slyly shifting points of view, *The Lumberjack's Dove* is wise, richly textured poetry from a boundlessly creative voice.

GennaRose Nethercott's other projects include *A Ghost of Water* (an ekphrastic collaboration with printmaker Susan Osgood) and the narrative song collection *Modern Ballads*. Her work has appeared in the *Offing*, *Rust & Moth*, *PANK*, and elsewhere, and she has been a writer-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center, Art Farm Nebraska, and the Shakespeare & Company bookstore in Paris. She tours nationally and internationally composing poems-to-order for strangers on a 1952 Hermes Rocket typewriter, and is the founder of the Traveling Poetry Emporium, a team of poets-for-hire. Nethercott holds a degree in poetry, theatre, and folklore from Hampshire College. A Vermont native, she has lived in many cities across the US and Europe, but is always drawn back to the forest.

Laundry: Personal Narrative Writing

7:00 pm–8:30 pm

118 Elliot

Laundry, as a metaphor for the personal narrative writing that women do, is all about the dirt. It's about coming clean and putting it out in public. Bringing the personal and intimate into a public space is a transgressive and powerful act. At the same time, because the subject of personal narrative or confessional writing is lived experience and emotional travail, it is often derided as feminine, self-absorbed, and weak. This event is about reclaiming and owning a kind of writing that is sometimes dismissed or denigrated. It embraces the notion that confessional writing *is* women's writing. It's about the lives of women

and the way that women write about their lives. By putting their experience into words and then out into the world, women transform their lives in powerful ways and empower other women to do the same.

Laundry will feature mostly local women writers of diverse backgrounds and experience reading brief, sometimes raw, personal or confessional pieces in various formats--spoken word, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Readers **Meg Baronian, Taite Blaise, Shanta Lee Gander, Wendy Levy, Verandah Porche, Ruth Antoinette Rodriguez, Diana Whitney,** and others will present work at this event.



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Royall Tyler Event: Jerry Carbone, Christina Gibbons, Don Maclean, and Sandy Rouse

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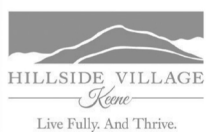
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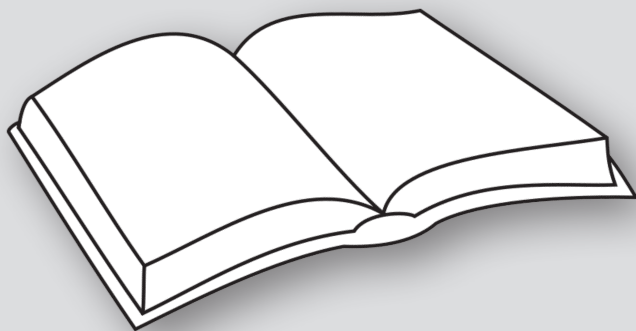
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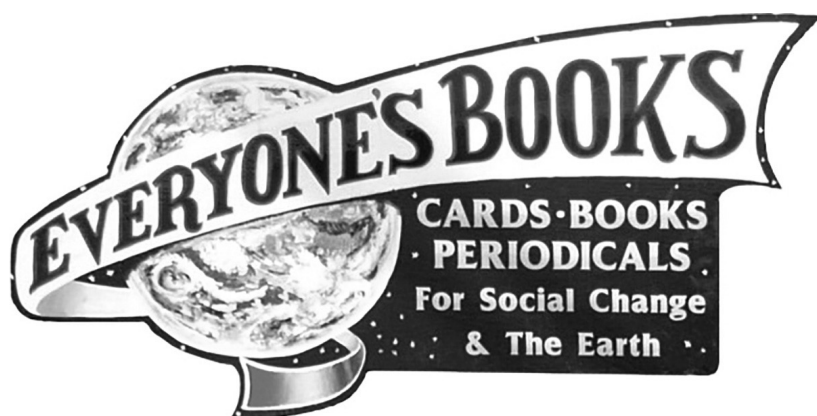
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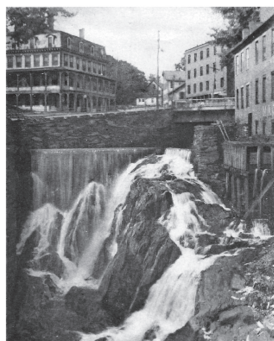
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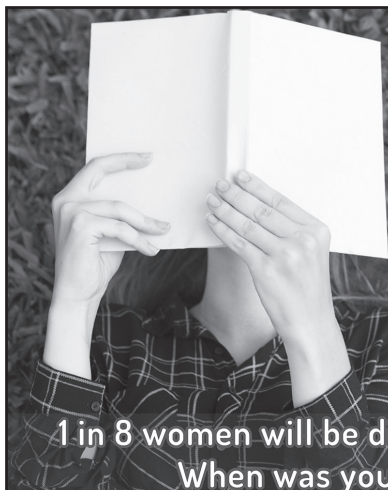
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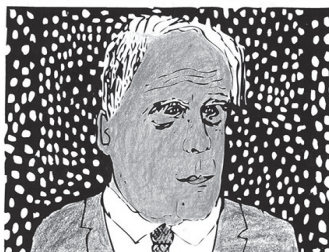


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