Brattleboro Literary Festival

October 17–20, 2019
2019 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Brooks Memorial Library

7:00 – 9:00 pm  Christopher Benfey / Brent Kendrick, A Words Project Event

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

118 Elliot

7:00 – 8:30 pm  What is Home? Amitava Kumar, E.C. Osondu, Pitchaya Sudbanthad, Xu Xi moderated by Sophia Howlett
* Cash Bar

First Baptist Church

7:00 – 8:30 pm  Poetry & Prose-How they merge-Brinda Charry, Kim Chinquee, Jeff Freidman, Dzvinia Orlowsky

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

118 Elliot

10:00 – 11:15 am  Miciah Gault/Dave Patterson
11:30 am – 12:45 pm  Kamila Shamsie/Amitava Kumar
1:00 – 2:15 pm  Juliet Grames/Susan Conley
2:30 – 3:45 pm  Joshua Furn/s/Courtney Maum
3:45 – 5:00 pm  Daniel Torday/Peter Mendelsund
5:00 – 6:30 pm  Short Story Showcase: E.C. Osondu, Sergio Troncoso, Jess Row, Kamila Shamsie and Xu Xi

New England Youth Theatre

10:00 – 11:15 am  Emily Bernard/Xu Xi
11:30 am – 12:45 pm  Matt McCarthy/Charles Wheelan
1:00 – 2:15 pm  Tatiana Schlossberg/Ben Green
2:30 – 3:45 pm  Ann Hood/Michael Ruhlman
3:45 – 4:45 pm  Dani Shapiro

Centre Congregational Church

10:00 – 11:00 am  Christopher Klein
11:15 am – 12:15 pm  Brenda Wineapple
1:00 – 2:00 pm  Harold Holzer
2:15 – 3:15 pm  Joseph Ellis
3:30 – 4:30 pm  Andrew Delbanco

First Baptist Church

10:00 – 11:15 am  Edgar Kunz/Phillip D. Williams
11:30 am – 12:45 pm  Karen Skolfield/Dorothea Lasky
12:45 – 1:45 pm  Lunch
1:15 – 2:30 pm  Literature and race: Michael Datcher, Rosario de Swanson, Jess Row, moderated by William Edelglass

Latchis 4

10:00 – 11:15 am  Ely Lonnon/Glynnis Fawkes
11:30 am – 1:00 pm  Write Action Spotlight reading
1:15 – 2:30 pm  Sergio Troncoso/Jess Row
2:30 – 3:45 pm  Jabari Asim/Michael Datcher

5:00 – 6:30 pm  Los Lorcas
# 2019 Schedule at a Glance

## Thursday, October 17
- **Brooks Memorial Library**
  - **7:00 – 9:00 pm**
  - Christopher Benfey / Brent Kendrick, A Words Project Event

## Friday, October 18
- **118 Elliot**
  - **7:00 – 8:30 pm**
  - What is Home? Amitava Kumar, E.C. Osondu, Pitchaya Sudbanthad, Xu Xi moderated by Sophia Howlett
  - *Cash Bar*
- **First Baptist Church**
  - **7:00 – 8:30 pm**
  - Poetry & Prose-How they merge-Brinda Charry, Kim Chinquee, Jeff Freidman, Dzvinia Orlowsky

## Saturday, October 19
- **118 Elliot**
  - **10:00 – 11:15 am**
    - Miciah Gault / Dave Patterson
  - **10:00 – 11:00 am**
    - Christopher Klein
  - **10:00 – 11:15 am**
    - Edgar Kunz / Phillip D. Williams
  - **10:00 – 11:15 am**
    - Ely Lonnon / Glynnis Fawkes
  - **11:30 am – 12:45 pm**
    - Kamila Shamsie / Amitava Kumar
  - **11:30 am – 12:45 pm**
    - Matt McCarthy / Charles Wheelan
  - **11:15 am – 12:15 pm**
    - Brenda Wineapple
  - **11:30 am – 12:45 pm**
    - Karen Skolfield / Dorothea Lasky
  - **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**
    - Write Action Spotlight reading
  - **1:00 – 2:15 pm**
    - Juliet Grames / Susan Conley
  - **1:00 – 2:15 pm**
    - Tatiana Schlossberg / Ben Green
  - **1:00 – 2:00 pm**
    - Harold Holzer
  - **12:45 – 1:45 pm**
    - Lunch
  - **1:15 – 2:30 pm**
    - Sergio Troncoso / Jess Row
  - **2:30 – 3:45 pm**
    - Joshua Furst / Courtney Maum
  - **2:30 – 3:45 pm**
    - Ann Hood / Michael Ruhlman
  - **2:15 – 3:15 pm**
    - Joseph Ellis
  - **2:00 – 3:15 pm**
    - Brenda Shaughnessy / Sam Ross
  - **2:30 – 3:45 pm**
    - Jabari Asim / Michael Datcher
  - **3:45 – 5:00 pm**
    - Daniel Torday / Peter Mendelsund
  - **3:45 – 4:45 pm**
    - Dani Shapiro
  - **3:30 – 4:30 pm**
    - Andrew Delbanco
  - **3:30 – 4:30 pm**
    - Anna Maria Hong / Evie Shockley
  - **5:00 – 6:30 pm**
    - Short Story Showcase: E.C. Osondu, Sergio Troncoso, Jess Row, Kamila Shamsie and Xu Xi

## Sunday, October 20
- **118 Elliot**
  - **10:00 – 11:15 am**
    - Christopher Castellani / Steven Rowley
  - **11:30 am – 12:45 pm**
    - Sandra Newman / Pitchaya Sudbanthad
  - **1:00 – 2:15 pm**
    - Mona Awad / Lauren Acampora
  - **2:30 – 3:30 pm**
    - Madeline Miller
  - **3:45 – 5:00 pm**
    - Richard Blanco / Pablo Medina
  - **5:00 – 6:30 pm**
    - Havana: 500 years — A Film (with Cathryn Griffith)

- **New England Youth Theatre**
  - **10:00 – 11:00 am**
    - Paige Williams
  - **11:15 am – 12:30 pm**
    - TKira Madden / Katharine Smyth
  - **12:45 – 1:45 pm**
    - Casey Cep

- **Brooks Memorial Library**
  - **10:00 – 11:15 am**
    - Charles Coe / Patrick Donnelly
  - **11:30 am – 12:45 pm**
    - Mary Ruefle / Michael Burkhard
  - **1:00 – 2:15 pm**
    - Marilyn Nelson / Roxana Robinson
  - **2:30 – 3:45 pm**
    - Literature and race: Michael Datcher, Rosario de Swanson, Jess Row, moderated by William Edelglass

- **Latchis 4**
  - **11:30 am – 12:45 pm**
    - Sisters in Crime
  - **1:00 – 2:15 pm**
    - Ann Cardinal / Abi Maxwell
  - **2:30 – 3:45 pm**
    - Bart Casey / Charles Fergus

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**Saturday Evening, October 19**

- **First Baptist Church – Epsilon Spires**
  - **7:00 – 8:30 pm**
    - Write Action Open reading

- **118 Elliot**
  - **7:00 – 8:30 pm**
    - Touche: A Tournament of Words: Festival affiliated event presented by Mount Island - suggested admission

- **Brooks Memorial Library**
  - **6:30 – 8:30 pm**
    - Archer Mayor 30th book celebration

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**
Welcome to the 2019 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 Brooks House Lobby or check for details on our website at www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org.

Festival-goers can enjoy the Festival Pop-Up Book Store in the Brooks House Lobby run by Antidote Books! It will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. Take your time and browse all the authors’ books and pick up a signed copy of your favorites. And, of course, Everyone’s Books will be selling author books at each event.

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

118 Elliot Street — 118 Elliot Street

Brooks Memorial Library — 224 Main Street

Brooks House Lobby — 132 Main Street

Centre Congregational Church — 193 Main Street

Epsilon Spires /First Baptist Church—191 Main Street

Latchis 4 — 50 Main Street

New England Youth Theatre — 100 Flat Street
2019 Festival Participants

Lauren Acampora
Jabari Asim
Mona Awad
Christopher Benfey
Emily Bernard
Richard Blanco
Michael Buckard
Ann Dávila Cardinal
Bart Casey
Christopher Castellani
Casey Cep
Brinda Charry
Kim Chinquee
Charles Coe
Susan Conley
Michael Datcher
Andrew Delbanco
Patrick Donnelly
Joseph Ellis
Glynnis Fawkes
Charles Fergus
Joshua Furst
Miciah Bay Gault
Juliet Grames
Ben Green
Mark Griffin
Ann Hood
Harold Holzer
Anna Maria Hong
Jeff Friedman
Brent Kendrick
Christopher Klein
Amitava Kumar
Edgar Kunz
Dorothea Lasky

Elly Lonon
T Kira Madden
Courtney Maum
Abi Maxwell
Matt McCarthy
Pablo Medina
Peter Mendelsund
Madeline Miller
Marilyn Nelson
Sandra Newman
Dzvinia Orlowsky
E.C. Osondu
Dave Patterson
Roxana Robinson
Sam Ross
Jess Row
Steven Rowley
Mary Ruefle
Michael Ruhlman
Tatiana Schlossberg
Kamila Shamsie
Dani Shapiro
Brenda Shaughnessy
Evie Shockley
Sisters in Crime
Karen Skolfield
Katharine Smyth
Pitchaya Sudbanthad
Daniel Torday
Sergio Troncoso
Charles Wheelan
Paige Williams
Philip B. Williams
Brenda Wineapple
Xu Xi
FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS AND BOOKSTORE

Open Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, Brooks House Lobby (132 Main Street)

Pick up a program and get all your information about the festival and about Write Action, the local writer’s organization—plus you can shop for festival books at our festival headquarters.

Antidote Books from Putney, Vermont, will run the pop-up bookstore, selling books from all the festival’s 2019 authors—convenient if you don’t have time to stand in line after the readings.

Books will be sold on site after every event by Everyone’s Books and Antidote Books.

Enjoy a cup of coffee at a café table in the atrium and reflect on the speakers you’ve heard.

Special thanks to Donald Saaf for providing the artwork for the poster and program book cover!

Donald creates brilliantly colored collages by carefully integrating torn wallpaper, images from magazines and catalogs, and photocopies of everyday objects with his bold gouache paintings. He lives with his family in Marlboro, Vermont.
Festival Events

Thursday, October 17

7:00 - 9:00 pm
Words Project with Christopher Benfey & Brent Kendrick
Brooks Memorial Library

*If: The Untold Story of Kipling’s American Years* by Christopher Benfey is an exploration of the life and work of Rudyard Kipling in Gilded Age America. At the turn of the 20th century, Rudyard Kipling towered over the literary world. At the height of his fame in 1907, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming its youngest winner. Benfey brings this fascinating and complex writer to life and traces the writer’s deep involvement with America over one crucial decade—1889 to 1899—when Kipling lived for four years in Brattleboro, Vermont, and sought to turn himself into an American writer. It was his most prodigious and creative period, as well as his happiest, during which he wrote *The Jungle Book* and *Captains Courageous*. Had a family dispute not forced his departure, Kipling almost certainly would have stayed. “There are only two places in the world where I want to live,” he lamented, “Bombay and Brattleboro. And I can’t live in either.” In this fresh examination of Kipling, Benfey hangs a provocative “what if” over Kipling’s American years and maps the imprint Kipling left on his adopted country, as well as the imprint the country left on him.

Brent Kendrick, author of *Infant Sphinx: The Collected Letters of Mary E. Wilkins Freeman*, will discuss Mary’s life in Brattleboro and beyond. Born in Randolph, Massachusetts, in 1852, Mary E. Wilkins moved to Brattleboro as a teen with her family in 1867. Her father, Warren, owned and operated the Wilkins Dry Goods store near the intersection of Main and High. She began her writing career in Brattleboro by publishing poems in the newspaper, *Vermont Phoenix*, and in several children’s magazines. Over her fifty-year career she published twenty-two volumes of short stories, fourteen novels, over fifty uncollected short stories and prose essays, three plays, and one motion picture play, and her writing earned national acclaim and the admiration of America’s most celebrated literary figures. She was a guest of Rudyard Kipling at his Dummerston home in 1892 and was seated with Mark Twain at his 70th birthday party in 1905. She became Mary E. Wilkins Freeman when she married Charles Freeman in 1902. In 1925 the American Academy of Arts and Letters unanimously awarded her the first William Dean Howells Medal for distinguished work in fiction.

Brent Kendrick is the son of a West Virginia coal miner. He earned his PhD at the University of South Carolina and is a Professor of English at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia. He is known for his works on American author Mary Wilkins Freeman.
The Brattleboro Words Project is a multi-year collaboration of Marlboro College, Brattleboro Historical Society, Brattleboro Literary Festival, Write Action, and Brooks Memorial Library backed by a National Endowment for the Humanities matching grant with support from The Windham Foundation, Edward Jones, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, and other local businesses and individuals.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

7:00 - 8:30 pm: Panel discussion—What Is Home?
118 Elliot

Thoughts of home evoke different feelings and conjure different images of place and people. Neighborhood foods, smells, materials, and structures can tell us a lot about who lives, works, and visits there. Why do we feel that we belong in some places and not in others? What is the shifting nature of home? Place and identity are inextricably bound to one another as people come to identify with where they live. How does moving affect or change our identity? Exploring the relationship between place and identity deepens our understandings of identity formation and the role of place in social and psychological development. The bonds between place and identity can influence social formations, cultural practices, and political actions. Join the panel discussion with four international authors: Amitava Kumar, E.C. Osondu, Pitchaya Sudbanthad, and Xu Xi, moderated by SIT president Sophia Howlett.

Cash bar

Amitava Kumar is a writer and journalist. He was born in Ara, and grew up in the nearby town of Patna, famous for its corruption, crushing poverty, and delicious mangoes. Kumar is the author of several books of nonfiction and two novels. Kumar’s latest book is Immigrant, Montana: A Novel. It was named a notable book of the year by The New York Times, a book of the year by The New Yorker, and listed by Barack Obama as one of his favorite books of 2018. His forthcoming nonfiction is entitled Every Day I Write the Book. Born and raised in India, he lives in Poughkeepsie, in upstate New York, where he is the Helen D. Lockwood Professor of English at Vassar College.

E. C. Osondu is the author of Voice of America. Born in Nigeria, he received his MFA from Syracuse University and is the winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing and a Pushcart Prize. His fiction has appeared in The Atlantic, n+1, Guernica, and other publications. He teaches at Providence College in Rhode Island. He was born and raised in Nigeria and now lives in the United States.

Pitchaya Sudbanthad is the author of the new novel, Bangkok Wakes to Rain. He has received fellowships in fiction writing from the New York
Foundation for the Arts and the MacDowell Colony, and currently splits time between Bangkok and Brooklyn. He was born in Thailand and raised in Saudi Arabia as well as America, all of which influenced his writing. His desire to write about Bangkok stems from his yearly visits there—where he has an intimate understanding of the city, but says he still feels like a visitor every time.

Xu Xi is the author of thirteen books, including five novels, six collections of short fiction and essays and most recently *Insignificance: Hong Kong Stories* and the memoir *Dear Hong Kong: An Elegy for a City*, as part of Penguin’s Hong Kong series for the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover to China. Her new book is an essay collection *This Fish Is Fowl*. A former Indonesian national, born and raised in Hong Kong, she morphed into a US citizen at the age of 33. She splits time, unevenly, between the state of New York and the rest of the world (sightline towards that land of childhood memory, Indonesia).

Dr. Sophia Howlett is the President of SIT. She was previously at Kean University in New Jersey, where she was Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. She holds a PhD in European Renaissance Philosophy and Literature from University of York, UK, and a BA in English Literature from Cambridge University. With international experience in more than forty countries, she has taught, researched, and written in philosophy, literature, and comparative and international higher education policy over the past two decades. In 1997, Dr. Howlett became director of the External Higher Education Co-operation Office at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, and served as its dean from 1999 through 2012. Her most recent work, *Marsilio Ficino and His World*, was published in 2016.

7:00 - 8:30 pm: Prose & Poetry—How They Merge
*Epsilon Spires (First Baptist Church)*

Though the prose poem and the flash story come from different traditions, those traditions have crossed boundaries and are now producing intriguing hybrid pieces. Prose poets appear in flash story journals and anthologies, and conversely, flash story writers are being published in prose poem anthologies and literary journals. The flash story and prose poem are flourishing in our era, and the relationship between the two is complex and intertwining. This reading will create a dialogue between the two forms. These writers have been on the leading edge of this hybridization, so this event will be both fascinating and entertaining.

Brinda Charry has published two novels, *The Hottest Day of The Year* and *Naked in the Wind*, and a collection of short fiction (*First Love and Other Stories*). She has won the Katha Award for Short Fiction, the Picador Short Story Competition, prizes in the BBC and Commonwealth short story competitions, and the Ewing award for the Literary Arts. Recent work has appeared in *Litro* magazine and anthologies of short fiction.

Kim Chinquee is the author of six fiction collections, mostly recently
Wetsuit. Her work has been published in over a hundred journals and anthologies, including The Nation, NOON, Conjunctions, Denver Quarterly, Ploughshares, StoryQuarterly, New Micro: Exceptionally Short Fiction, and others. She has received two Pushcart Prizes, is Senior Editor of New World Writing and Chief Editor of Elm Leaves Journal, and co-directs the writing major at SUNY-Buffalo State.


Dzvinia Orlowsky is a Pushcart prize poet, translator, and a founding editor of Four Way Books. She is the author of six poetry collections, including A Handful of Bees (reprinted in 2009 as part of the Carnegie Mellon University Classic Contemporary Series) and her most recent, Bad Harvest. Dzvinia teaches at the Solstice Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing of Pine Manor College, Providence College, and is founding director of “Night Riffs: A Solstice Magazine Reading and Music Series.” In 2016 she was awarded an NEA fellowship for her work in translation.

SAVURDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:00 - 11:00 am: Christopher Klein
Centre Church

Christopher Klein’s When the Irish Invaded Canada begins over a year after Robert E. Lee relinquished his sword, when a band of Union and Confederate veterans dusted off their guns. But these former foes had no intention of reigniting the Civil War. Instead, they fought side by side to undertake one of the most fantastical missions in military history: to seize the British province of Canada and hold it hostage until the independence of Ireland was secured. By the time these invasions—known collectively as the Fenian raids—began in 1866, Ireland had been Britain’s unwilling colony for 700 years. Thousands of Civil War veterans who had fled to the United States rather than perish in the wake of the Great Hunger still considered themselves Irishmen first. When the Irish Invaded Canada is the untold tale of a band of fiercely patriotic Irish-Americans and their chapter in Ireland’s centuries-long fight for independence. Inspiring, lively, and often undeniably comic, this is a story of fighting for what’s right in the face of impossible odds.

Christopher Klein is the author of four books, including When the Irish Invaded Canada: The Incredible True Story of the Civil War Veterans Who
In this novel of literary suspense, **Miciah Bay Gault’s** *Goodnight Stranger* follows a young woman held captive by her past, and the stranger whose arrival unearths long-buried family secrets. Lydia and Lucas Moore are in their late twenties when a stranger enters their small world on Wolf Island. Lydia, the responsible sister, has cared for her pathologically shy brother, Lucas, since their mother’s death a decade before. They live in their family house by the sea, shadowed by events from their childhood. When Lydia sees the stranger step off the ferry, she feels an immediate connection to him, while Lucas is convinced the man, Cole Anthony, is the reincarnation of their baby brother, who died when they were young. *Goodnight Stranger* is a story of choices and regrets, courage and loneliness, and the ways we hold on to those we love.

**Miciah Bay Gault** is the author of a debut novel *Good Night, Stranger*. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *Tin House, The Sun Magazine, Agni, The Southern Review, The Literary Review*, and the anthology *Contemporary Vermont Fiction*. Miciah was the editor of *Hunger Mountain* at Vermont College of Fine Arts for nine years, and now coordinates the Vermont Book Award and teaches in VCFA’s MFA in Writing and Publishing program. She lives in Montpelier with her husband and three children.

**Dave Patterson**’s *Soon the Light Will Be Perfect* is a taut and luminous coming-of-age novel that follows two brothers over the course of a summer of change. A 12-year-old boy lives with his family in a small, poverty-stricken town in Vermont at the start of the Gulf War. For the first time in a long time, things are stable for the family and they can finally afford to move out of the trailer park into their own home—then the mother is diagnosed with cancer. *Soon the Light Will Be Perfect* chronicles the journey of two brothers on the cusp of adulthood, a town battered by poverty, and a family at a breaking point in spare, honest prose.

**Dave Patterson** is the author of the critically acclaimed debut novel, *Soon the Light Will Be Perfect*, and is at work on his second novel. He is also a journalist, a beer critic, and a musician. He lives in Portland, Maine.

**Emily Bernard**’s extraordinary, exquisitely written memoir (of sorts), *Black Is The Body*, looks at race in a fearless, penetrating, honest, true way. Twelve telltale, connected, deeply personal essays explore the
complexities and paradoxes, the haunting memories and ambushing realities of growing up black in the South with a family name inherited from a white man, getting a PhD from Yale, marrying a white man from the North, adopting two babies from Ethiopia, teaching at a white college, and living in New England today. Beginning with a stabbing in a New England college town, Bernard writes about walking into a coffee shop when graduate student at Yale, and, along with six other people, being randomly attacked by a stranger with a knife. Bernard explores how that bizarre act of violence set her free and unleashed the storyteller in her.

Emily Bernard was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. She holds a BA and PhD in American Studies from Yale University. She is the author of five books, including her new book, Black is the Body. Her first book, Remember Me to Harlem: The Letters of Langston Hughes and Carl Van Vechten, was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. Emily is the Julian Lindsay Green and Gold Professor of English at the University of Vermont.

In This Fish Is Fowl, Xu Xi offers the transnational and feminist perspective of a contemporary “glocalized” American life. Xu’s quirky, darkly comic, and obsessively personal essays emerge from her diverse professional career as a writer, business executive, entrepreneur, and educator. From her origins in Hong Kong as an Indonesian of Chinese descent to her US citizenship and multiple countries of residence, she writes her way around the globe. Caring for her mother with Alzheimer’s in Hong Kong becomes the rhythmic accompaniment to an enforced, long-term, long-distance relationship with her partner and home in New York. In her linguistic trip across the comic tragedy that is globalism, she wonders about the mystery of humanity and the future of our world at this complicated and precarious moment in human existence. This Fish Is Fowl is a 21st century blend of the essayist traditions of both West and East.

Xu Xi is the author of thirteen books, including five novels, six collections of short fiction and essays, most recently Insignificance: Hong Kong Stories; the memoir Dear Hong Kong: An Elegy for a City, as part of Penguin’s Hong Kong series for the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover to China; and a new collection of essays, This Fish Is Fowl. A former Indonesian national born and raised in Hong Kong, she splits time between New York and the rest of the world.

10:00 - 11:15 am: Edgar Kunz & Philip B. Williams
First Baptist Church

Approach these poems as short stories, plainspoken lyric essays, controlled arcs of a bildungsroman, then again as narrative verse. Tap Out, Edgar Kunz’s debut collection, reckons with his working-poor heritage. Within are poignant, troubling portraits of blue-collar lives, mental health in contemporary America, and what is conveyed and passed on through touch and words—violent, or simply absent.
Edgar Kunz is a writer from New England and author of the poetry collection *Tap Out*. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland, where he teaches at Goucher College and in the MFA program at Salve Regina University.

In *Thief of the Interior*, **Phillip B. Williams** investigates the dangers of desire, balancing narratives of addiction, murders, and hate crimes with passionate, uncompromising depth. Formal poems entrenched in urban landscapes crack open dialogues of racism and homophobia rampant in our culture. Multitudinous voices explore one’s ability to harm and be harmed, which uniquely juxtaposes the capacity to revel in both experiences.

**Phillip B. Williams** is the author of *Thief in the Interior*, winner of the 2017 Kate Tufts Discovery Award and a 2017 Lambda Literary award, and finalist for an NAACP Image Award. He currently teaches literature and creative writing at Bennington College.

10:00 - 11:15 am: Elly Lonon & Glynnis Fawkes

**Latchis 4**

Based on her successful McSweeney’s column, **Elly Lonon’s Amongst the Liberal Elite** takes readers on a cross-country road trip with romantic partners Alex and Michael. The couple decides to use their tax refund to reconnect with their fellow Americans via a cross-country road trip and, more specifically, better understand how Trump won the election. In a quest to visit The World’s Largest Frying Pan (of which there are six in the US) Alex and Michael embark on a journey marked with personal and societal realizations. *Amongst the Liberal Elite* is the political satire we’ve all been waiting for— one that offers comic relief from ourselves.

**Elly Lonon**, a member of the Liberal Elite herself, is still recovering from growing up in a red state. Born and raised in North Carolina, she moved to Manhattan for graduate school and to pursue a career in the music business. Weary from consistent marginalization by the patriarchy, she left both the industry and NYC, opting to work for a not-for-profit and moving to the suburbs of Jersey where living near a Superfund site promptly gave her cancer. Once in remission, she read far too many self-help books, learned to embrace life, and abandoned her previous career to write and procreate.

A children’s song inspires a love of Greek mythology in a young girl in **Glynnis Fawkes’* Persephone’s Garden***. A young woman finds a career in archeology and illustration. A young mother sees her daughter become a woman, as her own mother’s memories are lost. *Persephone’s Garden* is a deeply personal story and an inventive study of girlhood, womanhood and motherhood, through memory, history, and mythology. It is 272 pages of new comics about her mother, cartoons that have appeared on The New...
Yorker.com and elsewhere, and diary comics spanning the past seven years.

Glynnis Fawkes is an Ignatz Award–nominated cartoonist and illustrator living in Burlington, Vermont. She has worked as an illustrator for archeological excavations since 1998 on sites in Greece, Crete, Turkey, Israel, Cyprus, Syria, and Lebanon. She is at work on a book about her first trip to Greece, a draft of which received the MoCCA Arts Festival Award in 2016. Find out more about Glynnis and her work at glynnisfawkes.com.

11:15 am - 12:15 pm: Brenda Wineapple
Centre Church

Brenda Wineapple’s *The Impeachers* dramatically evokes a pivotal period in American history, when the country was rocked by the first-ever impeachment of a sitting American president. When Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and Vice-President Andrew Johnson became “the Accidental President,” it was a dangerous time in America. Congress was divided over how the Union should be reunited: when and how the secessionist South should regain full status, whether former Confederates should be punished, and when and whether black men should be given the vote. Devastated by war and resorting to violence, many white Southerners hoped to restore a pre–Civil War society, if without slavery, and the pugnacious Andrew Johnson seemed to share their goals. With the unchecked power of executive orders, Johnson ignored Congress, pardoned rebel leaders, promoted white supremacy, opposed civil rights, and called Reconstruction unnecessary. It fell to Congress to stop the American president who acted like a king. Theirs was a last-ditch, patriotic, and Constitutional effort to render the goals of the Civil War into reality and to make the Union free, fair, and whole.


11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Kamila Shamsie & Amitava Kumar
118 Elliot

*Home Fire* is Kamila Shamsie’s heartbreaking story of an immigrant family forced to pit love against loyalty. After years of watching out for her sister in the wake of their mother’s death, Isma accepts an invitation from a mentor in America, granting her freedom to resume a long
postponed dream. But worries about her headstrong sister back in London continue, and she can’t stop thinking about their long-lost brother, who has disappeared to pursue his own dream, trying to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew. A son of a powerful political figure enters the sisters’ lives, and has his own birthright to live up to. Suddenly two family’s fates are inextricably entwined in this suspenseful and searing novel that asks what sacrifices will we make in the name of love.

**Kamila Shamsie** is the author of six novels, including *Home Fire*, which won the London Hellenic Prize and the Women’s Prize for fiction in 2018. This novel was also a finalist for the 2019 International Dublin Literary Award, as well as long listed for the Man Booker Prize. Kamila Shamsie is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and was named a Granta Best of Young British Novelist in 2013. She has been translated into over twenty languages. She grew up in Karachi and now lives in London.

*Immigrant, Montana: A Novel* by **Amitava Kumar** was named one of the best books of 2018 by *The New Yorker* and by Barack Obama. Carrying a single suitcase, Kailash arrives in post-Reagan America from India to attend graduate school. As he settles into American existence, Kailash comes under the influence of a charismatic professor and finds his life reshaped by a series of very different women with whom he recklessly falls in and out of love. Looking back on the formative period of his youth, Kailash builds a case for himself, as a good man in spite of his flaws and as an American in defiance of his place of birth. Kailash weaves a story that is at its core an incandescent investigation of love—despite, beyond, and across dividing lines.

**Amitava Kumar** is a writer and journalist. He was born in Ara, and grew up in the nearby town of Patna in India. Kumar’s latest book is *Immigrant, Montana: A Novel*, named a notable book of the year by *The New York Times*, a book of the year by *The New Yorker*, and listed by Barack Obama as one of his favorite books of 2018. His forthcoming nonfiction is entitled *Every Day I Write the Book*. Born and raised in India, he lives in Poughkeepsie, in upstate New York, where he is the Helen D. Lockwood Professor of English at Vassar College.

**11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Matt McCarthy & Charles Wheelan**

*New England Youth Theatre*

Drug-resistant bacteria—known as superbugs—are one of the biggest medical threats of our time. In *Superbugs*, **Dr. Matt McCarthy**, researcher and ethics professor, tells the exhilarating story of the race to save countless lives of patients infected with deadly bacteria. From the muddy trenches of the First World War, where Alexander Fleming searched for a cure for soldiers with infected wounds, to breakthroughs in antibiotics and antifungals today that could revolutionize how infections are treated, McCarthy takes the reader on a rollercoaster ride through the history
and future of medicine. Along the way, we meet a series of patients and learn why potentially life-saving treatments are often delayed for years to protect patients from exploitation. “In a voice that is thoughtful and honest, punctuated by sharp wit, he reveals the drugs and dilemmas that will impact humanity for years to come.” —Daniela Lamas, author of You Can Stop Humming Now

Matt McCarthy is the author of two national bestsellers, The Real Doctor Will See You Shortly and Odd Man Out and his new book, Superbugs. He is an assistant professor of medicine at Weill Cornell and a staff physician at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, where he serves on the Ethics Committee. His work has appeared in Sports Illustrated, Slate, The New England Journal of Medicine, and Deadspin. He reviews nonfiction for USA Today and lives in New York.

Set in the near future, The Rationing by Charles Wheelan centers around a White House struggling to quell the crisis—and control the narrative. Around the year 2030, a new flu-like viral disease emerges mainly in the US. No problem: Dormigen, a drug that effectively treats viral and bacterial infections, has been invented. Yes, problem: A warehouse fire destroys some of the federal government’s supply of Dormigen, and the private company that produces the fallback stockpile tries to cut corners. The awful upshot as the death count from the new bug rises: Washington may have to ration existing supplies if the National Institutes of Health can’t save the day. Little goes according to plan during the three weeks necessary to replenish the stocks of Dormigen. Some Americans will get the life-saving drug and others will not, and nations with their own supply soon offer aid—but for a price.

Charles Wheelan is the author of the best-selling Naked Statistics and Naked Economist and is a former correspondent for The Economist. His new novel, The Rationing, is a political satire that follows the handling of a national medical crisis both in the White House and in the lab. Drawing on twenty years of political experience as a speechwriter, a Congressional candidate and most recently the founder of Unite America, he teaches public policy and economics at Dartmouth College and lives in Hanover, New Hampshire, with his family.

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Karen Skolfield & Dorothea Lasky
First Baptist Church

“A terrific and sometimes terrifying collection—morally complex, rhythmic, tough-minded, and original.” —Rosanna Warren, 2018

Barnard Women Poets Prize citation. In a poetic voice at once accessible and otherworldly, gutsy and insightful, US Army veteran Karen Skolfield offers a rare glimpse of a female soldier’s training and mental conditioning in her poetry collection Battle Dress. Through the narratives of a young soldier, her older counterpart, and her fellow soldiers, Skolfield
searches for meaning in combat preparation, long-term trauma, and the way war is embedded in our language and psyche.

Karen Skolfield’s book *Battle Dress* won the Barnard Women Poets Prize. Her book *Frost in the Low Areas* won the 2014 PEN New England Award in poetry and the First Book Award from Zone 3 Press, and is a Massachusetts “Must Read” selection. She is the poet laureate for Northampton, Massachusetts, for 2019-2021. Skolfield is the winner of the 2016 Jeffrey E. Smith Editors’ Prize in poetry from *The Missouri Review*, the 2015 Robert H. Winner award from the Poetry Society of America, and the 2015 Arts & Humanities Award from New England Public Radio. Skolfield is a US Army veteran and teaches writing to engineers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she earned her MFA.

In her forthcoming collection, *Animal*, Dorothea Lasky constellates four central topics—ghosts, colors, animals, and bees—in highly attuned prose, and explores the powers and complexities of the lyric, “metaphysical I,” which she exposes as one of the central expressions of human wildness. In deceptively simple language carrying profound insights directly to readers—with a sense that is at once bold and subtle—Lasky serves as an encouraging guide through the startling, sometimes dangerous, always exhilarating landscapes of feral poetic imagination.

Dorothea Lasky is the author of six full-length collections of poetry, including the forthcoming *Animal* and six chapbooks. She holds a doctorate in creativity and education from the University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of the MFA program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Lasky has taught poetry at New York University, Wesleyan University, and Bennington College, and is an Assistant Professor of Poetry at Columbia University’s School of the Arts. She lives in New York City.

**11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Write Action Spotlight Reading**

*Latchis 4*

Check out Brattleboro’s vibrant writing community at the Write Action Spotlight Reading! Six local writers will read from their recently published books, and the two first-place winners of this year’s Write Action poetry and prose annual contest will read their winning pieces. Readings will be approximately ten minutes each. Book sale and signing will follow.

Ea Burke was born, raised and educated in Philadelphia. In 1980 he settled in Vermont, where he has raised his family and practiced law. Ea’s poetry has been published in literary journals and poetry collections over the years. His novel, *Christine, Released*, about a 16-year-old girl’s odyssey that takes her into the punishing world of cocaine, is due out this October. His short story, “Maia’s Call” appears in the *Running Wild Short Story Anthology, Volume 3*, released in September.
Charles Butterfield has turned his attention to creative writing since retiring from teaching science. A new book of his poems, *Morning Watch*, will be released in mid-October. He has published two previous collections. He will read *Terran*, awarded first place in the 2019 Write Action prose-writing contest. Of this piece, the judge wrote, “In *Terran* physical detail is balanced with introspection in this sketch which touches on the awkward, tender camaraderie of two relative strangers joined in a common task.”


Terry Hauptman is the author of five full-length poetry collections. She has taught World Art, Poetry, and Ethnopoetics at several universities. Most recently she taught intensive Poetry workshops and Multicultural Art History classes at Green Mountain College. She will be reading from *The Tremulous Seasons*, the third book in the triptych from North Star Press. The vision is historic, imaginative, and revelatory in depth and vision.

Lynn Martin’s poetry has appeared in numerous journals including *Calliope, River City Review, South Florida Review, The Garden State*, and *Green Mountains Review*. She also has work in the anthologies, *Heartbeat of New England, My Lover is a Woman, Tail Feathers, and Connections: New York City Bridges in Poetry*. She has four poetry books: *Visible Signs of Defiance, Talking to the Day, Birds of a Feather*, and *Living Diversity*, her most recent book. Of her work, Martin says, “My hope is my writing opens doors for women just beginning, and speaks to the world as family.”

Christian McEwen is a writer, educator and cultural activist, currently based in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. Her book *World Enough & Time: On Creativity & Slowing Down* is now in its seventh printing. Her most recent book is *Legal Tender: Women & the Secret Life of Money*. Lively and surprising, with a focus on childhood memories, adult challenges, the joys of generosity and abundance, and the inequities of race and class and gender, it is the fruit of more than fifty hands-on interviews.

Charles Monette, winner of the 2019 Write Action Poetry Contest, is a father, poet, playwright, director, actor, carpenter and storyteller. Born in Manhattan, he has lived in the Brattleboro area since 1980. He has written seven plays, acted in two, and directed five, and writes a column, *Meanderings*, a prose/poetry hybrid chronicling his hikes on Black Mountain in Dummerston, Vermont, for an online magazine, *vermontviews.org*. Of his winning poem, the judge wrote, “An
Bian’s Bullet Ballet was chosen for the subtly complex emotions in poet and reader, both unpleasant and pleasant—daring.”

**Toni Ortner** has had twenty-six books published by fine small presses. She hosts the Write Action Radio Hour the fourth Sunday of each month. Her recent writing can be seen at vermontviews.org under Old Lady Blog. Ortner will read from her most recent book, *Daybook I*, published by Deerbrook Editions. It combines dream, thought memory, and events to create a fluid landscape that captures the interstices between a rich inner life … and its outer manifestations.

1:00 - 2:00 pm: **Harold Holzer**  
**Centre Church**

**Harold Holzer**’s *Monument Man* is the definitive biography of Daniel Chester French, the artist who created the statue for the Lincoln Memorial, John Harvard in Harvard Yard, and The Minute Man in Concord, Massachusetts. Daniel Chester French (1850–1931) is America’s best-known sculptor of public monuments. An authoritative biography, it combines rich personal details from French’s life with a nuanced study of his artistic evolution and beautiful archival photographs of his life and work. Comprehensively researched and written in a lively, engaging manner, French’s life work and story will captivate readers. His diligent dedication to perfecting his craft over many decades of hard work is an inspiring story of artistic evolution. Holzer is an award-winning Abraham Lincoln scholar and a preeminent author of numerous books on Civil War-era art and history.

**Harold Holzer** is the Jonathan F. Fanton Director of The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College in New York City. Holzer is the author, co-author, or editor of fifty-two books on Lincoln and the Civil War era. His new book, *Monument Man*, is the story of sculptor and artist Daniel Chester French. He and his wife Edith live in Rye, New York, and have two grown daughters and a grandson.

1:00 - 2:15 pm: **Susan Conley & Juliet Grames**  
**118 Elliot**

**Susan Conley**’s latest novel, *Elsey Come Home*, is a wry, modern odyssey, and a quietly dynamic portrait of contemporary womanhood—a coming-of-middle-age. When Elsey’s husband, Lukas, hands her a brochure for a weeklong mountain retreat, she knows he is giving her an ultimatum: *Go,* or *we’re done.* Once a successful painter, Elsey set down roots in China after falling passionately for Lukas at a warehouse rave in downtown Beijing. Now, with two young daughters and unable to find a balance between her identities as painter, mother, and, especially wife, Elsey fills her days worrying, drinking, and descending into desperate unhappiness. With brochure in hand, she agrees to go and confront the ghosts of her past.
There she meets a group of men and women who will forever alter the way she understands herself.

Susan Conley is the author of four novels, including her newest, Elsey Come Home, and The Foremost Good Fortune, a memoir that won the Maine Literary Award. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The Paris Review, and Ploughshares. She has been awarded fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, The Maine Arts Commission, and the Massachusetts Arts Council. She spent three years living in Beijing, with her husband and two sons before moving back to Portland, where she was born and raised.

The Seven or Eight Death of Stella Fortuna by Juliet Grames is a family saga about sisterhood, secrets, Italian immigration, the American dream, and one woman’s tenacious fight against her own fate. For Stella Fortuna, death has always been a part of life. Stella’s childhood is full of strange, life-threatening incidents: moments where ordinary situations inexplicably take lethal turns. In her Italian village, Stella is considered an oddity—beautiful and smart, insolent and cold—and the insolence provokes the ire of her father Antonio, a man who demands subservience from women and whose greatest gift to his family is his absence. When the Fortunas emigrate to America on the cusp of World War II, Stella and her sister Tina must come of age in a hostile new world. Soon Stella learns that her survival is worthless without the one thing her family will deny her at any cost: her independence.

Juliet Grames was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and grew up in a tight-knit Italian-American family. A book editor, she has spent the last decade at Soho Press, where she is associate publisher and curator of the Soho Crime imprint. The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna is her first novel.

1:00 - 2:15 pm: Tatiana Schlossberg & Ben Green
New England Youth Theatre

In Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don’t Know You Have, Tatiana Schlossberg explains that far from being only a distant problem of the natural world created by the fossil fuel industry, climate change is all around us, lurking everywhere in our convenience-driven society. By examining the unseen and unconscious environmental impacts in four areas—internet and technology, food, fashion, and fuel—Schlossberg helps readers better understand why climate change is such a complicated issue: how streaming a movie on Netflix in New York burns coal in Virginia; how buying an inexpensive cashmere sweater in Chicago expands the Mongolian desert. Schlossberg empowers readers to think about their “stuff” and the environment in a new way, helping them make more informed choices when it comes to the future of our world. This is a book about the power we have as voters and consumers to make sure that the fight against climate change includes all of us, not just industry groups
and politicians. If we have any hope of solving the problem, we have to do it together.

Tatiana Schlossberg is a journalist writing about climate change and the environment. She previously reported on those subjects for the Science and Climate sections of the New York Times, where she also worked on the Metro desk. Her work has also appeared in the Atlantic, Bloomberg View, the Record (Bergen County), and the Vineyard Gazette. She lives in New York.

Smart cities, where technology is used to solve every problem, are hailed as futuristic urban utopias. We are promised that apps, algorithms, and artificial intelligence will relieve congestion, restore democracy, prevent crime, and improve public services. In The Smart Enough City, Ben Green warns against seeing the city only through the lens of technology and that taking an exclusively technical view of urban life will lead to cities that appear smart, but under the surface are rife with injustice and inequality. He proposes instead that cities strive to be “smart enough”: to embrace technology as a powerful tool when used in conjunction with other forms of social change, but not to value technology as an end in itself. Green describes smart city efforts gone wrong but also smart-enough alternatives, attainable with the help of technology but not reducible to technology: a livable city, a democratic city, a just city, a responsible city, and an innovative city.

Ben Green is an Affiliate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard and a PhD candidate. His book, The Smart Enough City: Putting Technology in Its Place to Reclaim Our Urban Future, was published in April 2019 by MIT Press.

1:15 - 2:30 pm: Sergio Troncoso & Jess Row
Latchis 4

How does a Mexican-American, the son of poor immigrants, leave his border home and move to the heart of gringo America? How does he adapt to the worlds of wealth, elite universities, the rush and power of New York City? How does he make peace with a stern old-fashioned father who has only known hard field labor his whole life? With echoes of Dreiser’s American Tragedy and Fitzgerald’s Gatsby, Sergio Troncoso tells his luminous stories—A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant’s Son—through the lens of an exile adrift in the 21st century, with his characters suffering from the loss of culture and language as well as the loss of roots and home as they adapt to the glittering promises of new worlds that ultimately seem empty.

Sergio Troncoso is the author of The Last Tortilla and Other Stories, Crossing Borders: Personal Essays, and the novels The Nature of Truth and From This Wicked Patch of Dust. He has taught at the Yale Writers’ Workshop for many years. Troncoso is Vice President of the Texas Institute of Letters.
and a member of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund’s Alumni Hall of Fame. A Fulbright scholar, he has won numerous awards, including the International Latino Book Award, the Premio Aztlan Literary Prize, and the Southwest Book Award. He was born in El Paso, Texas, and attended Harvard College and Yale University, where he earned graduate degrees in international relations and philosophy.

*White Flights* is a meditation on whiteness in American fiction and culture from the end of the civil rights movement to the present. At the heart of the book, **Jess Row** ties “white flight”—the movement of white Americans into segregated communities—to white writers setting their stories in isolated or emotionally insulated landscapes, from the mountains of Idaho in Marilynne Robinson’s *Housekeeping* to the claustrophobic households in Jonathan Franzen’s *The Corrections*. *White Flights* aims to move fiction to a more inclusive place, and Row looks beyond criticism to consider writing as a reparative act. What would it mean, he asks, if writers used fiction “to approach each other again”? A moving and provocative book that includes music, film, and literature in its arguments, *White Flights* is an essential work of cultural and literary criticism.

**Jess Row** is the author of the novel *Your Face in Mine* and the story collections *The Train to Lo Wu* and *Nobody Ever Gets Lost*. One of Granta’s Best of Young American Novelists of 2007, he lives in New York and teaches at the College of New Jersey.

2:15 - 3:15 pm: **Joseph Ellis**  
*Centre Church*

The award-winning author of *Founding Brothers* and *The Quartet* now gives us a deeply insightful examination of the relevance of the views of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and John Adams to some of the most divisive issues in America today. The story of history is a ceaseless conversation between past and present, and in *American Dialogue* **Joseph J. Ellis** focuses the conversation on the often-asked question “What would the founding fathers think?” He examines four of our most seminal historical figures through the prism of specific topics, using the perspective of the present to shed light on their views and, in turn, to make clear how their now centuries-old ideas illuminate the disturbing impasse of today’s political conflicts. He discusses Jefferson and the issue of racism, Adams and the specter of economic inequality, Washington and American imperialism, and Madison and the doctrine of original intent. Through these juxtapositions—and in his hallmark dramatic and compelling narrative voice—Ellis illuminates the obstacles and pitfalls paralyzing contemporary discussions of these fundamentally important issues.
Joseph Ellis is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Founding Brothers* and twelve other books, including a new book *American Dialog: The Founding Fathers and Us*. His book *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson*, won the National Book Award. He is the Ford Foundation Professor of History Emeritus at Mount Holyoke College and lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, with his wife and their youngest son.

2:15 - 3:15 pm: Brenda Shaughnessy & Sam Ross

Centre Church

Informed by Brenda Shaughnessy’s craft as a poet and her worst fears as a mother, the poems in *The Octopus Museum* blaze forth from her pen: in these pages, we see that what was once a generalized fear for our children (car accidents, falling from a tree) is now hyper-reasonable, specific, and multiple: school shootings, nuclear attack, loss of health care, a polluted planet. This collection of bold and scathingly beautiful feminist poems imagines what comes after our current age of environmental destruction, racism, sexism, and divisive politics. As Shaughnessy conjures our potential future, she, often with humor, envisions an age where cephalopods might rule over humankind, a fate she suggests we may deserve after destroying their oceans. These poems are the battle cry of a woman who is fighting for the survival of the world she loves, and a stirring exhibition of who we are as a civilization.

Brenda Shaughnessy is the author of five books of poetry, including her new collection, *The Octopus Museum*. A 2013 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, she is Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Rutgers University-Newark. She lives in Verona, New Jersey, with her family.

Crossing urban, foreign, and coastal terrain, the poems of Sam Ross’s *Company* navigate misperception, memory, and threat while engaging with an electrifying sense of possibility. Ross’s book is sensual, political, ghostly, and frank: what a close friend or beguiling stranger might whisper in your ear in the corner of a crowded party to make you say, “Tell me more.”

Sam Ross’s poems have appeared in *Tin House, New Republic, Boston Review, Denver Quarterly*, and other journals. Winner of the Four Way Books Levis Prize in Poetry, selected by Carl Phillips, he received his MFA from Columbia University, where he was a Graduate Teaching Fellow, and has been supported by the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Robert Wilson’s Watermill Center, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. He was born in Indiana and lives in New York City.
In his second novel, *Revolutionaries*, **Joshua Furst** leads us on a long, strange trip through the heart of the sixties and beyond, as seen through the eyes of the revolution’s poster child. *Revolutionaries* filters counter culture icon Lenny’s life through the childhood reminiscences of his grown-up son, Fred, short for “Freedom,” who was literally conceived by Lenny and his wife, Suzy, on the grounds of Central Park’s Sheep Meadow, minutes after they were married in front of “four thousand witnesses tripping on acid and a photographer from the Associated Press.” It will be all but impossible for readers of a certain age to wander far into this elegiac monologue about family upheaval, political tumult, and ruined hopes without thinking of Yippie co-founder Abbie Hoffman. A kaleidoscopic saga, this novel is at once a profound allegory for America—where we’ve been and where we’re going—and a deeply intimate portrait of a father and son who define our times.

**Joshua Furst** is the author of *Revolutionaries*, a novel of family upheaval, political tumult, and ruined hopes centered around Yippie co-founder Abbie Hoffman. He is the author of two other books, *Short People* and *The Sabotage Café*. He lives in New York City and teaches at Columbia University.

It is 1937 in **Courtney Maum’s** *Costalegre* and Europe is on the brink of war. In the haute-bohemian circles of Austria, Germany, and Paris, Hitler is circulating a most-wanted list of “cultural degenerates” whose work is deemed antithetical to the new regime. To prevent the destruction of her favorite art (and artists), the impetuous American heiress, Leonora Calaway, begins chartering boats and planes for an elite group to Costalegre, a mysterious resort in the Mexican jungle, where she has a home. The story of what happens to these artists is told from the point of view of Lara, Leonora’s 15-year-old daughter, who has been pulled out of school to follow her mother to Mexico. *Costalegre* is heavily inspired by the real-life relationship between the heiress Peggy Guggenheim and her daughter, Pegeen. It is a wildly imaginative and curiously touching story of a privileged teenager who has everything a girl could wish for—except for a mother who loves her back.

**Courtney Maum** is the author of the novels *Costalegre*, *Touch*, *I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You*, and the handbook *Before and After the Book Deal: A writer’s guide to finishing, publishing, promoting, and surviving your first book*, forthcoming from Catapult. Her writing has been widely published in such outlets as BuzzFeed; the *New York Times*; *O*, the Oprah Magazine; and *Poets & Writers*. She is the founder of the learning collaborative The Cabins, and runs a service called “The Query Doula,” where she helps writers prepare manuscripts and query letters for agents.
2:30 - 3:45 pm: Ann Hood & Michael Ruhlman

New England Youth Theatre

In this warm collection of personal essays and recipes, *Kitchen Yarns: Notes on Love, Life, And Food*, best-selling author Ann Hood nourishes both our bodies and our souls. From her Italian-American childhood through singlehood, raising and feeding a growing family, divorce, and a new marriage to food writer Michael Ruhlman, Ann Hood has long appreciated the power of a good meal. Hood tracks her lifelong journey in the kitchen with twenty-seven heartfelt essays, each accompanied by a recipe (or a few). Hood’s simple, comforting recipes include her mother’s famous meatballs, hearty Italian Beef Stew, classic Indiana Fried Chicken, the perfect grilled cheese, and a deliciously summery peach pie. With Hood’s signature humor and tenderness, *Kitchen Yarns* spills tales of loss and starting from scratch, family love and feasts with friends, and how the perfect meal is one that tastes like home.

Ann Hood is the best-selling author of the novels *The Knitting Circle*, *The Obituary Writer* and *The Book That Matters Most* and the memoir *Comfort: A Journey Through Grief*. Her most recent books are *Kitchen Yarns: Notes on Life, Love and Food*, the memoir *Morningstar: Growing Up with Books* and the young adult novel *She Loves You Yeah Yeah Yeah*. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

An indispensable new cookbook from James Beard Award-winning food writer Michael Ruhlman. *From Scratch* looks at ten favorite meals, including roast chicken, the perfect omelet, and paella—and 175 recipes, exploring myriad alternate pathways that the kitchen invites. A delicious lasagna can be ready in about an hour, or you could turn it into a project by making and adding some homemade sausage. Explore the limits of from-scratch cooking: make your own pasta, grow your own tomatoes, and make your own homemade mozzarella and ricotta—Ruhlman tells you how. There are easy and more complex versions for most dishes, vegetarian options, side dishes, sub-dishes, and strategies for leftovers. Ruhlman reflects on the ways that cooking from scratch brings people together, how it can calm the nerves and focus the mind, and how it nourishes us, body and soul.

Michael Ruhlman is the author of many critically acclaimed books including *Grocery*, *The Soul of a Chef*, *The Elements of Cooking*, and *Ruhlman’s Twenty*. He has collaborated on several bestselling cookbooks, including *The French Laundry Cookbook*. His new book, *From Scratch*, has an October 15 publication date. He divides his time between Providence, Rhode Island, and New York City.
2:30 - 3:45 pm: Jabari Asim & Michael Datcher
*Latchis 4*

In *We Can’t Breathe*, **Jabari Asim** disrupts what Toni Morrison has exposed as the “Master Narrative” and replaces it with a story of black survival and persistence through art and community in the face of centuries of racism. In eight wide-ranging and penetrating essays, he explores such topics as the twisted legacy of jokes and falsehoods in black life, the importance of black fathers and community, the significance of black writers and stories, and the beauty and pain of the black body. What emerges is a rich portrait of a community and culture that has resisted, survived, and flourished despite centuries of racism, violence, and trauma. These thought-provoking essays present a different side of American history, one that doesn’t depend on a narrative steeped in oppression, but rather reveals black voices telling their own stories.

**Jabari Asim** is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the author of seven books for adults, including his latest, *We Can’t Breathe*, plus nine books for children. He teaches at Emerson College and lives in Newton, Massachusetts.

**Animating Black and Brown Liberation** introduces a vital new tool for reading American literature. Rooted in both ancient Egyptian ideas about life and cutting-edge theories of animacy, or levels of aliveness, this tool—ankhing—enables **Michael Datcher** to examine the ways African-American and Latinx literatures respond to and ultimately work to resist hegemonic forces of neoliberalism and state-sponsored oppression. Weaving together close readings and politically informed philosophical reflection, Datcher considers the work of many writer-activists. How, he asks, can cultural production positively influence Black and Brown material conditions and mobilize collective action off the page? How can art-based counterpublics provide a foundation for Black and Brown community organizing? What emerges from Datcher’s innovative analysis is a frank assessment of the links between embodied experiences of racialization, as well as a distinctive vision of 20th and 21st century American literature as a repository of emancipatory strategies with real-world applications.


3:30 - 4:30 pm: Andrew Delbanco
*Centre Church*

**Andrew Delbanco**’s *The War Before the War* is the devastating story of how fugitive slaves drove the nation to Civil War. For decades after its founding, America was actually two nations—one slave, one free.
Enslaved black people repeatedly risked their lives to flee their masters in the South in search of freedom in the North. By awakening northerners to the true nature of slavery, and by enraging southerners who demanded the return of their human “property,” fugitive slaves forced the nation to confront the truth about itself. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was intended to preserve the Union, but in fact set the nation on the path to civil war. It divided not only the American nation, but also the hearts and minds of Americans who struggled with the timeless problem of when to submit to an unjust law and when to resist. The fugitive slave story illuminates what brought us to war with ourselves and the terrible legacies of slavery that are with us still.

Andrew Delbanco is the Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies at Columbia University. He is the author of many notable books, including his latest, The War Before the War. In 2012, President Barack Obama presented him with the National Humanities Medal. Delbanco lives in New York City.

3:30 - 4:45 pm: Anna Maria Hong & Evie Shockley
First Baptist Church

“Anna Maria Hong’s poems—in this case a book of astoundingly innovative sonnets—confirm to us the credo we store in our hearts: that with intelligence, musicality and a love of language poetry can make any subject compelling and revelatory. But it takes a poet with a rare talent like Anna Maria Hong to make us see and joyously declaim what we believe. Age of Glass is a book I’ve been hoping to read for a long time, from a poet whose work I’ve admired for a longer time.”—Khaled Mattawa

Anna Maria Hong is the author of the novella H & G, winner of the A Room of Her Own Foundation Clarissa Dalloway Prize; and Age of Glass, winner of Cleveland State University Poetry Center’s First Book Poetry Competition and the Poetry Society of America 2019 Norma Farber First Book Award. Her second poetry collection, Fablesque, is forthcoming in June 2020.

Art can’t shield our bodies or stabilize the earth’s climate, but Evie Shockley’s semiautomatic insists that it can feed the spirit and reawaken the imagination. The volume responds primarily to the 21st century’s inescapable evidence of the terms of black life—not so much new as newly visible. The poems trace a whole web of connections between the kinds of violence that affect people across the racial, ethnic, gender, class, sexual, national, and linguistic boundaries that do and do not divide us. How do we protect our humanity, our ability to feel deeply and think freely, in the face of a seemingly endless onslaught of physical, social, and environmental abuses? What actions can break us out of the soul-numbing cycle of emotions, moving through outrage, mourning, and despair, again and again? In poems that span fragment to narrative and quiz to
constraint, from procedure to prose and sequence to song, *semiautomatic* culls past and present for guides to a hoped-for future.

**Evie Shockley** is the author of three books—*semiautomatic*, a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in poetry, *the new black*, winner of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Poetry, and *a half-red sea*. Shockley is a professor of English at Rutgers University.

3:45 - 4:45 pm: **Dani Shapiro**

New England Youth Theatre

What makes us who we are? What combination of memory, history, biology, experience, and that ineffable thing called the soul defines us? In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had whimsically submitted her DNA for analysis, **Dani Shapiro** received the stunning news that her father was not her biological father. She woke up one morning and her entire history—the life she had lived—crumbled beneath her. *Inheritance* is a book about secrets: secrets within families, kept out of shame or self-protectiveness, secrets we keep from one another in the name of love. It is the story of a woman’s urgent quest to unlock the story of her own identity—a story that has been scrupulously hidden from her for more than fifty years—and writing brilliantly, and compulsively, on themes of identity and family history. It is a book about the extraordinary moment we live in, a moment in which science and technology have outpaced not only medical ethics but also the capacities of the human heart to contend with the consequences of what we discover.

**Dani Shapiro**’s books include the memoirs, *Hourglass*, *Still Writing*, *Devotion*, and *Slow Motion*, and five novels including *Black & White* and *Family History*. Dani’s *New York Times* best-selling memoir, *Inheritance*, was published by Knopf in 2019. Dani’s essays and journalistic pieces have appeared in numerous publications including *The New Yorker*, and have been widely anthologized. She contributes regularly to *The New York Times Book Review* and has been broadcast on *This American Life*. Along with teaching writing workshops around the world, Dani has taught at Columbia and New York University, and is the cofounder of the Sirenland Writers Conference in Positano, Italy. In February 2019, she launched an original podcast “Family Secrets” in collaboration with iHeart Media. The podcast features stories from guests who—like Dani—have uncovered life-altering and long-hidden secrets from their families’ past. She lives with her family in Litchfield County, Connecticut.

3:45-5:00 pm: **Peter Mendelsund & Daniel Torday**

118 Elliot

*Boomer1* by **Daniel Torday** tells the story of Mark Brumfeld, a bluegrass musician, former journalist and editor, and PhD in English, arriving in his thirties with significant debt and no steady prospects. His girlfriend Cassie, a punk bassist in an all-female band, finds work at a “new
media” company. When Cassie refuses his marriage proposal, Mark leaves New York and returns to the basement of his childhood home in the Baltimore suburbs. Desperate and humiliated, Mark begins to post a series of online video monologues that critique baby boomers and their powerful hold on the job market. But as his videos go viral and as Cassie starts to build her career, Mark loses control of what he began—with consequences that ensnare them in a matter of national security. Boomer1 is timely, suspenseful, and in every line alert to the siren song of endless opportunity that beckons and beguiles all of us.


In the novel Same Same, Peter Mendelsund has crafted a deeply unsettling novel about what it means to exist and to create—and a future that may not be far off. In the shifting sands of the desert near an unnamed metropolis, there is an institute where various fellows come to undertake projects of great significance. But when our sort-of hero, Percy Frobisher, arrives, surrounded by the simulated environment of the glass-enclosed dome of the Institute, his mind goes completely blank. When he spills something on his uniform—a major faux pas—he learns about a mysterious shop where you can take things, utter the command “same same,” and receive a replica even better than the original. Imagine a world in which simulacra have as much value as the real—so much so that any distinction between the two vanishes, and even language seeks to reproduce meaning through ever more degraded copies of itself.

Peter Mendelsund has worked as a dishwasher, bookseller, butler, classical pianist, chicken farmer, teacher, cover designer, house painter, commercial composer, branding consultant, and writer. He is the author of What We See When We Read (“Welcome and fascinating”—Tim Parks, The New York Review of Books); Cover (“Cover pushes us to reconsider what we think we know about the graphic representation of words and ideas.”—The New Republic); The Look of the Book; and a new novel, Same Same. He is the former associate art director of Alfred A. Knopf, and is currently heading a redesign of The Atlantic magazine while completing his second novel, The Delivery. Mendelsund has been described by the New York Times as “one of the top designers at work today,” and his design work has been described by The Wall Street Journal as “the most instantly recognizable and iconic in contemporary fiction.”
5:00 - 6:30 pm: Short Story Showcase
118 Elliot

Take a moment to relax 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. And enjoy one of the most popular events of the festival – the Short Story Showcase. Author and festival committee member Brian Mooney will host five short story masters: E.C. Osondu, Jess Row, Kamila Shamsie, Sergio Troncoso, and Xu Xi.

E. C. Osondu is the author of Voice of America and This House is Not for Sale. Born in Nigeria, he received his MFA from Syracuse University and is the winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing and a Pushcart Prize. He teaches at Providence College in Rhode Island.

Jess Row is the author of two collections of short stories, The Train to Lo Wu and Nobody Ever Gets Lost; a novel, Your Face in Mine; and a new collection of essays, White Flights: Race, Fiction, and the American Imagination. He lives in New York City with his wife and their two children.

Kamila Shamsie is the author of six novels, including Home Fires, which won the London Hellenic Prize and the Women’s Prize for fiction in 2018. This novel was also a finalist for the 2019 International Dublin Literary Award, as well as long listed for the Man Booker Prize. Kamila Shamsie is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and was named a Granta Best of Young British Novelist in 2013. She has been translated into over twenty languages. She grew up in Karachi and lives in London.

Sergio Troncoso is the author of The Last Tortilla and Other Stories, Crossing Borders: Personal Essays, and the novels The Nature of Truth and From This Wicked Patch of Dust. He has taught at the Yale Writers’ Workshop for many years. He is Vice President of the Texas Institute of Letters and a member of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund’s Alumni Hall of Fame. A Fulbright scholar, he has won numerous awards, including the International Latino Book Award, the Premio Aztlan Literary Prize, and the Southwest Book Award. He was born in El Paso, Texas, and attended Harvard College and Yale University, where he earned graduate degrees in international relations and philosophy.

Xu Xi is the author of thirteen books, including five novels, six collections of short fiction and essays, most recently Insignificance: Hong Kong Stories, and the memoir Dear Hong Kong: An Elegy for a City, as part of Penguin’s Hong Kong series for the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover to China. Her new book is an essay collection This Fish Is Fowl. A former Indonesian national, born and raised in Hong Kong, she eventually morphed into a US citizen at the age of 33. She splits time, unevenly, between the state of New York and the rest of the world (sightline towards that land of childhood memory, Indonesia).
5:00 - 6:30 pm: Los Lorcas: Poetry in Concert
Epsilon Spires (First Baptist Church)

In the spirit of Federico Garcia Lorca—gifted musician, legendary poet/playwright and ebullient performer—poets Partridge Boswell and Peter Money, along with guitarist Nat Williams, fuse poetry and music in a passionate and surprising mash-up. Los Lorcas blurs boundaries between spoken word and song, weaving poetry with Andalusian ballads, blues, rock, folk, reggae, hip hop, Americana, and jazz in pursuit of the cante jondo (deep song) Lorca so ardently championed.

Exploring common roots and synergies of poetry and music, Los Lorcas celebrates the poetry of song lyrics and music of lyrical poetry in soulful original compositions and arrangements of poems by Lorca, Yeats, Marley, Dylan, Dickinson, Cohen, Merwin, and Millay, among others. Troubadouring widely in the US and abroad (Ireland and Slovenia), Los Lorcas have performed in diverse venues, including Poetry Center San Jose, Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Burlington Book Festival, Tucson Book Festival, Bookstock Literary Festival (with Robert Pinsky’s PoemJazz), Chandler Music Hall, Vermont College of Fine Arts, KGB Reading Series, Bowery Poetry Club, Nuyorican Poetry Café, and Caffe Lena.

“Los Lorcas in unity is a marvel that would silence any creative individual to awe, inspiring the quietest observer to reach for each word as if they were Federico Lorca himself, meditating on song and poetry mid-stage, arms outstretched.”—Bianca Viñas, PoemCity 2018

Partridge Boswell is the author of Some Far Country (Grolier Poetry Prize). His poems and essays have been anthologized in Roads Taken: Contemporary Vermont Poetry and Vermont Poets and Their Craft. Co-founder of Bookstock Literary Festival in Woodstock, Vermont, Boswell is the recipient of fellowships from Vermont College of Fine Arts, the University of New Orleans, and the Vermont Studio Center. He teaches at Burlington Writers Workshop and ArtisTree Community Arts Center, and lives with his family in Vermont.

Peter Money’s books of poetry include hybrid works such as the prose-poem sequence with Saadi Youssef, Today – minutes only; the poetry/music collaboration Blue Square; Che: A Novella in Three Parts; and a book of translations with Sinan Antoon of the Arab Modernist Saadi Youssef. His most recent book of poems is American Drone: New and Select Poems. Money’s other books include These Are My Shoes, A Big Yellow, Between Ourselves, Instruments, and Finding It: Selected Poems. In addition to his collaborative CD Blue Square, Money has collaborated with cartoonist Rick Veitch in “Beat Panels/Top Down.” He is the director of Harbor Mountain Press and taught at Lebanon College, where he guided the Associates in Creative Writing program. Money’s debut novel Oh When the Saints—a
coming of age story set in Ireland—was released in May 2019 to critical acclaim on both sides of the pond.

6:30-8:30: Archer Mayor 30th book celebration
Brooks Library

Celebrate Brattleboro’s favorite hometown sleuth, Joe Gunther, and meet his maker, Archer Mayor at a presentation and party for Bomber’s Moon, the 30th (!) mystery novel featuring Joe, his crime-solving cohort, and lots of local color. Archer will talk about 30 s and change—in Brattleboro, in his life, in the books, and in VT. Mingle with fellow fans over cake and ice cream, and what’s a party without games and prizes? Don’t miss out on the merrymaking!

Archer Mayor, in addition to writing the New York Times bestselling Joe Gunther series, is an investigator for the sheriff’s department, the state medical examiner, and has twenty-five years of experience as a firefighter / EMT. He lives near Brattleboro, Vermont.

7:00 pm–8:30 pm: Write Action Open Reading
First Baptist Church-Epsilon Spires

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 Brooks House Lobby anytime on Saturday to sign up. Each reader will have a seven-minute time slot and will read in the order of signing up. Refreshments.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

10:00 - 11:15 pm: Christopher Castellani & Steven Rowley
118 Elliot

Christopher Castellani’s novel Leading Men takes us back to July 1953, to a glittering party thrown by Truman Capote in Portofino, Italy, where Tennessee Williams and his longtime lover Frank Merlo meet Anja Blomgren, a young Swedish beauty and aspiring actress in an encounter that will alter their lives. Ten years later, Frank revisits the tempestuous events of that fateful summer from his deathbed in Manhattan. Anja is now legendary film icon Anja Bloom, and lives as a recluse in the US until a young man discovers she possesses the only copy of Williams’s unknown final play—written especially for her. Leading Men seamlessly weaves fact and fiction to navigate the tensions between public figures and their private lives. This expansive yet intimate story of desire and artistic ambition asks what keeps two people together and what breaks them apart? Can we save someone else if we can’t save ourselves?
Christopher Castellani is the son of Italian immigrants and a native of Wilmington, Delaware. He is the author of three critically acclaimed novels and a collection of essays on point of view in fiction. His latest novel, Leading Men, for which he received Fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the MacDowell Colony, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Leading Men was published in February 2019. He lives in Boston, where he is the artistic director of Grub Street, the country’s largest and leading independent creative writing center.

Steven Rowley’s novel The Editor follows James Smale, a struggling writer in 1990s New York City, who finally gets his big break when his novel sells to an editor at a major publishing house: none other than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Jackie, or Mrs. Onassis as she’s known in the office, loves James’s candidly autobiographical novel about his own dysfunctional family. As Jackie and James develop an unexpected friendship, she pushes him to write an authentic ending, encouraging him to confront the truth about his relationship with his mother. But when a long-held family secret is revealed, he realizes his editor may have had a larger plan that goes beyond the page.

Steven Rowley is the best-selling author of Lily and the Octopus and The Editor. His work has been published in nineteen languages. Originally from Portland, Maine, he is a graduate of Emerson College. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

10:00 – 11:00 am: Paige Williams
New England Youth Theatre

In this 2018 New York Times Notable Book, The Dinosaur Thief, Paige Williams tells of one Florida man’s attempt to sell a dinosaur skeleton from Mongolia. In 2012, a New York auction catalogue boasted “a superb Tyrannosaurus skeleton,” and in fact Lot 49135 consisted of a nearly complete Tarbosaurus bataar, a close relative. At eight feet high and twenty-four feet long, the specimen was spectacular, and the winning bid was over $1 million. Eric Prokopi, who had a thriving business hunting, preparing, and selling specimens, to clients ranging from natural history museums to avid private collectors such as actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Nicolas Cage, had brought this extraordinary skeleton to market. But as the T. bataar went to auction, a network of paleontologists alerted the government of Mongolia to the eye-catching lot. An international custody battle ensued, and Prokopi watched his own world unravel.

Paige Williams is a staff writer at The New Yorker and a Mississippi native. A National Magazine Award winner for feature writing, she has had her journalism anthologized in various volumes of the Best American series, including The Best Magazine Writing and The Best American Crime Writing. She is the Laventhol/Newsday Visiting Professor at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, and has taught at schools including the University of Mississippi, New York University,
the Missouri School of Journalism, and, at MIT, in the Knight Science Journalism program. Williams has been a fellow of The MacDowell Colony and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard. At The New Yorker, she has written about suburban politics in Detroit, the death penalty in Alabama, paleoanthropology in South Africa, and the theft of cultural palimony from the Tlingit peoples of Alaska.

10:00 - 11:15 am: Charles Coe & Patrick Donnelly
Brooks Memorial Library

Memento Mori is Charles Coe’s meditation on mortality, change and loss. Rather than being simply somber, this volume observes our human condition through a poetic kaleidoscope, with glimpses of irony and humor that offer a refreshing contrast to the more difficult moments. Coe is a storyteller who writes with compassion, insight and a razor-sharp eye for detail.

Charles Coe is the author of three poetry collections, including his latest, Memento Mori. He has an extensive background as a jazz vocalist and has performed and recorded with numerous musicians in the Boston area and throughout New England.

Patrick Donnelly’s lush, lexically gorgeous, and emotionally complex poems of Little-Known Operas guide the reader through the terrain of love, sex, same-sex marriage, illness, death, and art. Ilya Kaminsky describes it as “a book of tenderness towards everyone who’s been in pain, everyone who’s been ill, everyone who’s had a mother, loved music, everyone who’s lived on this third planet from the sun.”

Patrick Donnelly is the author of four books of poetry, including his latest, Little-Known Operas. The former poet laureate of Northampton, Massachusetts, Donnelly is director of the Poetry Seminar at The Frost Place, and an associate editor of Poetry International

11:15 am - 12:30 pm: T Kira Madden & Katharine Smyth
New England Youth Theatre

Acclaimed literary essayist T Kira Madden’s raw and redemptive debut memoir, Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls, is about coming of age and reckoning with desire as a queer, biracial teenager amidst the fierce contradictions of Boca Raton, Florida, a place where she found cult-like privilege, shocking racial disparities, rampant white-collar crime, and powerfully destructive standards of beauty hiding in plain sight. As a child, Madden lived a life of extravagance, from her exclusive private school to her equestrian trophies and designer shoes, but under the surface was a wild instability. The only child of parents continually battling drug and alcohol addictions, Madden confronted her environment alone. Facing a culture of assault and objectification, she found lifelines
in the loving friendships of fatherless girls. Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls is equal parts eulogy and love letter.

T Kira Madden is a queer APIA writer, photographer, and amateur magician living in New York City. Her debut memoir is Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls. She currently teaches at Sarah Lawrence College. There is no period in her name.

Katharine Smyth was a student at Oxford when she first read Virginia Woolf’s masterpiece To the Lighthouse in the comfort of an English sitting room and in the companionable silence she shared with her father. After his death, she returned to that beloved novel as a way of wrestling with his memory and understanding her own grief. All the Lives We Ever Lived moves between the New England of her childhood and Woolf’s Cornish shores and Bloomsbury squares, exploring universal questions about family, loss, and homecoming. Through her inventive, highly personal reading of To the Lighthouse, Smyth guides us toward a new vision of Woolf’s most demanding and rewarding novel. Braiding memoir, literary criticism, and biography, All the Lives We Ever Lived is a wholly original debut: a love letter from a daughter to her father and from a reader to her most cherished author.

Katharine Smyth is a writer based in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated magna cum laude from Brown University and received an MFA at Columbia University. Her first book, All the Lives We Ever Lived: Seeking Solace in Virginia Woolf, was named a New York Times Book Review Editors Choice.

11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Sandra Newman & Pitchaya Sudbanthad

118 Elliot

The Heavens by Sandra Newman begins in New York, late summer, 2000, at a party in a Manhattan apartment, hosted by a wealthy young activist. Dozens of idealistic twenty-somethings have impassioned conversations over takeout dumplings and champagne. A young man, Ben, meets a young woman, Kate—and they begin to fall in love. Kate lives with her head in the clouds, so at first Ben isn’t overly concerned when she tells him about the recurring dream where she’s transported to the past, where she lives a second life as Emilia, the mistress of a nobleman in Elizabethan England. But for Kate, the dream becomes increasingly real. And soon she’s waking from it to find the world changed—pictures on her wall she doesn’t recognize, new buildings in the neighborhood that have sprung up overnight. As Kate tries to make sense of what’s happening, Ben worries that the woman he’s fallen in love with is losing her grip on reality.

Sandra Newman is the author of the novels The Only Good Thing Anyone Has Ever Done, shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award; Cake; and The Country of Ice Cream Star, longlisted for the Bailey’s Women’s Prize for
Fiction and named one of the best books of the year by the Washington Post and NPR. She is the author of the memoir Changeling, as well as several other nonfiction books. Her work has appeared in Harper’s and Granta, among other publications. She lives in New York City.

In Pitchaya Sudbanthad’s Bangkok Wakes to Rain, a missionary doctor pines for his native New England even as he succumbs to the vibrant chaos of 19th century Siam. A post-World War II society woman marries, mothers, and holds court, little suspecting her solitary fate. A jazz pianist in the age of rock, haunted by his own ghosts, is summoned to appease the house’s resident spirits. In the present, a young woman tries to outpace the long shadow of her political past. And in a New Krungthep yet to come, savvy teenagers row tourists past landmarks of the drowned old city they themselves do not remember. Time collapses as these lives collide and converge, linked by the forces voraciously making and remaking the amphibious, ever-morphing capital itself. Bangkok Wakes to Rain is an elegy for what time erases and a love song to all that persists, yearning, into the unknowable future.

Pitchaya Sudbanthad grew up in Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and the American South. He is a contributing writer at The Morning News and the author of Bangkok Wakes to Rain. He divides his time between Brooklyn and Bangkok.

11:30 am -12:45 pm: Sisters in Crime – Mystery Making

In this interactive workshop, four mystery authors representing different sub-genres, including cozy/traditional and thriller/suspense, will brainstorm to create a brand-new mystery using suggestions provided by the audience. Fun, fast-paced, and fascinating, this improv game offers insights into mystery writers’ minds and the conventions of the genre.

Sadie Hartwell, also writing as Susannah Hardy, is the author of the bestselling Tangled Web and Greek to Me Mysteries. She is also a freelance editor of fiction and nonfiction and is a frequent speaker at conferences, libraries, and bookstores. Sadie lives in Connecticut with her family and a tuxedo cat who runs the household. Find her at https://susannahhardy.com/writing-as-sadie-hartwell/

Author Sharon Healy-Yang is passionate about mysteries from the Golden Age, whether in a book or on the screen. Her fascination with mysteries and the 1940s drives her pleasure in crafting novels that recapture the wit, adventure, and suspense of the era. Healy-Yang lives in Massachusetts with her husband, two cats, and an enormous collection of vintage films. Bait and Switch and Letter from a Dead Man are the first two novels in a series of Jessica Minton Mysteries. Healy-Yang is now polishing a third, Always Play the Dark Horse, which brings in another of her passions: thoroughbred racing. Find her at https://sharonhealyyang.com/
An avid reader all her life, as well as a longtime editor, reviewer, and speech writer, **Max Folsom** never envisioned herself as a mystery writer. The author of the Baker Somerset series of mysteries is a member of Sisters in Crime, Crime Writers of Canada, and the League of Vermont Writers. *One Bad Day After Another*, the first Baker Somerset crime novel, was one of the five finalists for the Daphne Du Maurier Award for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense. Find her at [https://www.bakersomerset.com/](https://www.bakersomerset.com/)

**Lisa Lieberman** is the author of the Cara Walden historical noir mystery series based on old movies and featuring blacklisted Hollywood people on the lam in dangerous international locales. Her books hit the sweet spot between Casablanca and John le Carré. Her work has appeared in *Noir City, Gettysburg Review, Raritan, Michigan Quarterly, Mystery Scene* and elsewhere. She is vice president of the New England chapter of Sisters in Crime and a member of Mystery Writers of America. Find her at [https://deathlessprose.com/](https://deathlessprose.com/)

**11:30 am - 12:45 pm: Mary Ruefle & Michael Burkhard**

*Brooks Memorial Library*

Through her many projects across numerous genres, **Mary Ruefle** has proven herself a singular artist, drawing many fans from around the world to her unique vision. With *Dunce* she returns to the practice that has always been at her core: the making of poems. With her startlingly fresh sensibility, she enraptures us in poem after poem by the intensity of her attention, with the imaginative flourishes of her being-in-the-world, which is always deep with mysteries, unexpected appearances, and abiding yearning.

**Mary Ruefle** is the author of books of poetry, including the newly released collection, *Dunce*, now long-listed for the 2019 National Book Award. Other books include *Madness, Rack, and Honey: Collected Lectures*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. She lives in Bennington, VT.

**Michael Burkard** is the author of *lucky coat anywhere; Envelope of Night: Selected and Uncollected Poems 1966-1990; and Unsleeping*, among others. He is the recipient of the Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award and the Whiting Writers’ Award, as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Foundation for the Arts. He teaches at Syracuse University.

**12:45 - 1:45 pm: Casey Cep**

*New England Youth Theatre*

In *Furious Hours*, **Casey Cep** tells the story of Reverend Willie Maxwell, a rural Alabama preacher accused of murdering five of his family members in five separate incidents over an eight-year period in the 1970s, all for
insurance money. With the help of a savvy lawyer, Maxwell escaped justice for years until a relative shot him dead at the funeral of his last victim. Despite hundreds of witnesses, his murderer was acquitted, thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the Reverend. Sitting in the audience during the vigilante’s trial was Harper Lee, who had traveled from New York City with the idea of writing her own *In Cold Blood*, the classic she had helped her friend Truman Capote research. Lee spent a year in the Alabama town reporting, and many more years working on her own version of the case. Now Cep brings this story to life, from the shocking murders to the courtroom drama to the racial politics of the Deep South. At the same time, she offers a deeply moving portrait of one of the country’s most beloved writers.

**Casey Cep** is a writer from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker, The New York Times*, and *The New Republic*, among many other publications. Her first book is *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee*. A proud graduate of the Talbot County Public Schools, she has an AB from Harvard College and an MPhil from the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

1:00 - 2:15 pm: Mona Awad & Lauren Acampora

118 Elliot

In **Mona Awad**’s *Bunny*, Samantha Heather Mackey couldn’t be more of an outsider in her small, highly selective New England MFA program. A scholarship student who prefers the company of her imagination to that of most people, she is utterly repelled by the rest of her fiction writing cohort—a clique of twee rich girls who call each other “Bunny.” Everything changes when Samantha receives an invitation to the Bunnies’ fabled “Smut Salon,” and finds herself drawn to their front door, ditching her only friend, Ava, in the process. As Samantha plunges deeper and deeper into the Bunnies’ sinister yet saccharine world, beginning to take part in the ritualistic off-campus “workshops” where they conjure their monstrous creations, the edges of reality begin to blur. Soon her friendships with Ava and the Bunnies will be brought into deadly collision. *Bunny* is a down-the-rabbit-hole tale of loneliness and belonging, friendship and desire, and the fantastic and terrible power of the imagination.

**Mona Awad** was born in Montreal and has lived in the US since 2009. Her debut novel, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*, won the Amazon Best First Novel Award, the Colorado Book Award and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Arab American Book Award. Her new novel, *Bunny* was released in June 2019. Her writing has appeared in *McSweeney’s, TIME* magazine, *Electric Literature, VICE, The Walrus*, and elsewhere. She earned an MFA in fiction from Brown University and an MScR in English from the University of Edinburgh, where her dissertation was on fear in the fairy tale. She recently completed a PhD in Creative Writing and English literature at the University of Denver. She currently lives in Boston.
In Lauren Acampora’s novel, *The Paper Wasp*, Abby Graven’s childhood best friend and a now-famous actress returns home for their 10-year high school reunion and her dreams of reconnection take on the contours of reality. Weeks after the reunion, Abby hops a plane to LA and shows up out of the blue at Elise’s gated front door, where she resumes her role as best friend, confidante, and support system. Acampora takes this story of obsessive female friendship that could have been reduced to petty jealousy and turns it into something bigger and stranger. This is the Los Angeles of weird cults and day-drunk stars, of struggling documentary filmmakers and mysterious but powerful directors. By turns demented, sad, and frightening, Abby is a unique heroine making all the wrong choices feel somehow right and just. Utterly bizarre and bewitching, this twisted, delicious tale will grab you from the first page and hurl you over the edge.


1:00 - 2:15 pm: Roxanna Robinson & Marilyn Nelson

*Dawson’s Fall* is a novel based on the lives of Roxana Robinson’s great-grandparents: a cinematic reconstruction-era drama of violence and fraught moral reckoning. Set in 1889, in Charleston, South Carolina, Robinson’s tale weaves her family’s journal entries and letters, and spans the life of her tragic hero, Frank Dawson, as he attempts to navigate the country’s new political, social, and moral landscape. Dawson became the editor of the *Charleston News and Courier*, where he found a platform of real influence in the editorial column and emerged as a voice of the New South. But he couldn’t control the political whims of his readers. As he wrangled diligently in his columns with questions of citizenship, equality, justice, and slavery, his newspaper rapidly lost readership, and he was plagued by financial worries. In the end, Dawson—a man in many ways representative of the country at this time—was felled by the very violence he vehemently opposed.

Roxana Robinson is the author of six novels, including her latest *Dawson’s Fall*; three collections of short stories; and the biography *Georgia O’Keeffe: A Life*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *BookForum*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Tin House* and elsewhere. She received fellowships from the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation, and was president of the Authors Guild from 2014–2017. She teaches in the Hunter MFA Program, dividing her time between New York, Connecticut, and Maine.
Conjuring numerous voices and characters across oceans and centuries, *Faster Than Light* by **Marilyn Nelson** explores widely disparate experiences through the lens of traditional poetic forms. This volume contains a selection of Nelson’s new and uncollected poems as well as work from each of her lyric histories of 18th, 19th, and 20th century African-American individuals and communities. Poems include the stories of historical figures like Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy lynched in 1955, and the inhabitants of Seneca Village, an African-American community razed in 1857 for the creation of Central Park. Later pieces range from the poet’s travels in Africa, Europe, and Polynesia, to poems written in collaboration with Father Jacques de Foiard Brown, a former Benedictine monk and the subject of Nelson’s playful fictional fantasy sequence, “Adventure-Monk!” Both personal and historical, these poems remain grounded in everyday details but reach toward spiritual and moral truths.

**Marilyn Nelson** is the author or translator of more than twenty books and chapbooks for adults and children. A three-time finalist for the National Book Award, her many honors include the 2019 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. She currently serves as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

1:00 - 2:15 pm: *Latchis 4* Ann Dávila Cardinal & Abi Maxwell

**Ann Dávila Cardinal**’s *Five Midnights* is a novel based on the el Cuco myth set against the backdrop of modern day Puerto Rico. Five friends cursed. Five deadly fates. Five nights of retribución. If Lupe Dávila and Javier Utierre can survive each other’s company, together they can solve a series of grisly murders sweeping through Puerto Rico. But the clues lead them out of the real world and into the realm of myths and legends. And if they want to catch the killer, they’ll have to step into the shadows to see what’s lurking there—murderer or monster?

**Ann Dávila Cardinal** is the Director of Recruitment for Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA), where she also earned her MFA in Writing. She comes from a long line of Puerto Rican writers, and lives in Vermont with her husband, Doug. *Five Midnights* is her first solo novel.

In *The Den* by **Abi Maxwell**, Henrietta and Jane are 15 and 12, growing up in a farmhouse on the outskirts of town. When Henrietta becomes obsessed with a boy from town, Jane takes to trailing the couple, spying on them—until Henrietta vanishes into the woods one night. Elspeth and Claire are sisters separated by an ocean. Elspeth’s pregnancy at 17 meant she was quickly married and sent to America to avoid shame. But when she begins ingratiating herself to the town’s wealthy mill owner, a series of events unfold that culminate in her disappearance. As Jane and Claire search in their own times for their missing sisters, they each come across a strange story about a family that is transformed into coyotes. But what does this myth mean? With echoes of *The Scarlet Letter*, Abi Maxwell gives us a layered tale of two women, living generations apart yet connected by place and longing, and condemned for the very same desires.
Abi Maxwell is the author of Lake People and a new novel, The Den. Her fiction has also appeared in McSweeney’s. She studied writing at the University of Montana and now lives in New Hampshire, where she grew up, with her husband and son.

2:00 - 3:15 pm: Mark Griffin
New England Youth Theatre

All That Heaven Allows by Mark Griffin is the definitive biography of Rock Hudson, the matinee idol of Hollywood’s Golden Age. The ultimate movie star, he was the embodiment of romantic masculinity in American film throughout the 50s and 60s, and was the king of Hollywood. An Oscar-nominated leading man, Hudson won acclaim for his performances in melodramas (Magnificent Obsession), western epics (Giant) and blockbuster romantic comedies (Pillow Talk). In the 70s and 80s, Hudson successfully transitioned to television with his long-running series McMillan & Wife and a recurring role on Dynasty that introduced him to a whole new generation of fans. But in a more conservative era, Hudson’s wholesome, straight-arrow screen image was at odds with his closeted homosexuality. In 1985 the public learned that the actor was battling AIDS. The disclosure that such a revered public figure had contracted the illness focused worldwide attention on the epidemic. All That Heaven Allows delivers a complete and nuanced portrait of one of the most fascinating stars in cinema history.

Mark Griffin is the author of A Hundred or More Hidden Things: The Life and Films of Vincente Minnelli and All That Heaven Allows: A Biography of Rock Hudson. Griffin’s interviews, reviews, and essays have appeared in scores of publications, including the Boston Globe and MovieMaker. He recently appeared in the documentary Gene Kelly: To Live and Dance. He lives in Maine.

2:30 - 3:30 pm: Madeline Miller
118 Elliot

Circe by Madeline Miller is a “a bold and subversive retelling of the goddess’s story.” In the house of Helios, the god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child, who turns to the world of mortals for companionship, and she discovers that she does possess power—the power of witchcraft. Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts, and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology. There is danger too, and Circe draws the wrath of both men and gods. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love. Circe is a triumph of storytelling, an epic of family rivalry, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man’s world.
Madeline Miller grew up in New York City and Philadelphia. She attended Brown University, where she earned her BA and MA in Classics. Her first novel, *The Song of Achilles*, was awarded the 2012 Orange Prize for Fiction and was a *New York Times* Bestseller. *Circe*, her second novel, an instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller, won the Indies Choice Best Adult Fiction of the Year Award, and the Indies Choice Best Audiobook of the Year Award. It was given The Red Tentacle Award, an American Library Association Alex Award, and the 2018 Elle Big Book Award, and it is currently being adapted for a series with HBO Max.

2:30 - 3:45 pm: Can Literature Change Everything?
*Brooks Library*

The influence of literature in society is evident in both cultural and academic discussion, with conversations around class, race, and gender most often referencing prominent writings surrounding these issues. Literature has led to more tangible change, with its influence visible in cultural stimulation and even government policy. Jess Row’s new book, *White Flights*, aims to move fiction to a more inclusive place, and looks beyond criticism to consider writing as a reparative act. The panel will discuss the impact of literature on society and how it can evoke societal change. With Jess Row, Michael Datcher, and Rosario de Swanson, and moderated by Marlboro professor William Edelglass.


A native of Mexico, Rosario de Swanson holds a PhD in Latin American Literature from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she also obtained a Master’s Degree in Literature from the Hispanic World and Contemporary Literary Theory. She is the author of “¿Y cuál es mi lugar señor entre tus actos?: El drama de Rosario Castellanos”, a study of the plays of Mexican feminist writer and intellectual Rosario Castellanos. Her essays on Women writers from Latin America, the literature of Equatorial Guinea, and Afro-Latin American Writers have appeared in *Hispanic Journal*, *Hispania*, *Alba de América*, *Revista Iberoamericana*, and MARGES.

Jess Row is the author of the novel *Your Face in Mine* and the story collections *The Train to Lo Wu* and *Nobody Ever Gets Lost*. One of Granta’s Best of Young American Novelists of 2007, he lives in New York and teaches at the College of New Jersey.

William Edelglass is Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Marlboro College. His research is primarily in the areas of Buddhist philosophy, environmental philosophy, and 20th century French and German thought. William is chair of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy and is co-editor of the journal *Environmental Philosophy*. He is also co-editor of *Buddhist*
Buried Shakespearean treasure from an ancestor’s tomb brings a disillusioned BBC reporter home to solve her father’s murder and restart her life with the man who has always loved her in Bart Casey’s *The Vavasour Macbeth*. When Margaret Hamilton’s father rescues Elizabethan manuscripts from a flooded tomb, he asks his daughter’s former fiancé Stephen to help decipher them. At first, the documents only seem to resurrect Anne Vavasour’s remarkable true story. But when Margaret and Stephen uncover links between the buried papers and Shakespeare’s Macbeth, ruthless art and antiquities thieves scheme to take the priceless papers at any cost. Blending fiction with little-known facts from history and research, *The Vavasour Macbeth* ranges from the Elizabethan and Jacobean courts to modern-day England, revealing many mysteries of ancient handwriting, manuscripts, and playmaking along the way.

Bart Casey is a writer living in Brattleboro, Vermont. His new thriller, *The Vavasour Macbeth*, is an intoxicating brew of ancient history and modern danger as papers found in an Elizabethan tomb shed new light on Shakespeare and his masterpieces.

Set in 1835 in Pennsylvania town of Adamant, Charles Fergus’s novel, *A Stranger Here Below*, introduces Sheriff Gideon Stoltz, who is thrust into his position by the death of the previous sheriff. Gideon faces his first real challenge as death rocks the small town again when the respected judge Hiram Biddle commits suicide. Gideon is regarded with suspicion as an outsider: he’s new to town, and Pennsylvania Dutch in the back-country Scotch-Irish settlement. And he found the judge’s body. The judge’s death stirs up vivid memories of Gideon’s mother’s murder, the trauma that drove him west from his home in the eastern Pennsylvania. At first Gideon simply wants to learn why Judge Biddle killed himself. But as he finds out more about the judge’s past, he realizes that his friend’s suicide was spurred by much more than the man’s despair. Gideon’s quest soon becomes more complex as it takes him down a dangerous path into the past.

Charles Fergus is the author of seventeen books. *A Stranger Here Below*, his first mystery, is influenced by the personal tragedy of his own mother’s murder. Fergus lives in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom with his wife, the writer Nancy Marie Brown.
3:45 - 5:00 pm: Richard Blanco & Pablo Medina

**118 Elliot**

*How to Love a Country* is a new collection from the renowned inaugural poet, **Richard Blanco**, exploring immigration, gun violence, racism, LGBTQ issues, and more, in accessible and emotive verses. As presidential inaugural poet, memoirist, public speaker, educator, and advocate, Blanco has crisscrossed the nation inviting communities to connect to the heart of human experience and our shared identity as a country. In this new collection of poems, his first in more than seven years, Blanco continues to invite a conversation with all Americans. Through an oracular yet intimate and accessible voice, he addresses the complexities and contradictions of our nationhood and the unresolved sociopolitical matters that affect us all.

**Richard Blanco** and his family arrived in Miami as exiles from Cuba via Madrid, where he was born. Elected by President Barack Obama to be the fifth inaugural poet in history, he is the author of nine books, including his new collection, *How to Love a Country*. He divides his time between Maine and Florida.

In *The Cuban Comedy*, a love story steeped in political satire, poetry, and the lightest touches of magical realism, **Pablo Medina** has created a bold, funny narrative with an uncanny heroine at its core: Elena of Piedra Negra, Cuba. Piedra Negra is an isolated village, whose citizens consist mainly of soldiers injured in the revolution, who pass the time drinking a firewater so intense, all hallucinate, and most never recover. The firewater distiller’s daughter Elena longs to be a poet, and after a chance encounter with Daniel Arcilla, Cuba’s most important poet, Elena wins a national poetry prize and leaves Piedra Negra behind for Havana. There she encounters a population adjusting to a new way of life, post-revolution: there are spies and secret meetings, black marketeers, and censorship. Full of outlandish humor and insights into an often contradictory and kafkaesque regime, Medina brings 1960s Cuba to life through the eyes of Elena.

**Pablo Medina** is the author of eighteen books of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and translation, including his latest novel, *The Cuban Comedy*. He lives in Vermont and teaches in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers.

5:00 - 6:30 pm: Havana: 500 Years—A Film

**118 Elliot**

In conjunction with the 500th Anniversary this year of the founding of Havana, Cuba, Cathryn Griffith has produced a forty-minute documentary film chronicling the restoration of the city’s major buildings and plazas through interviews with the people responsible for the work, and with other residents of this venerable city. The video “La Habana: 500 años / Havana: 500 years” features conversations with leading historians,
urban planners, architects, artists, and residents, including Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of the City of Havana, and senior members of the Historian’s Office who address issues of personal identity, cultural identity and Cuba’s identity as a country. Recent photographs and older images, along with old and new maps of the city, illustrate many of the issues and locations each person identifies as significant.

Boston artist Cathryn Griffith, who produced the film, is a graduate of Wellesley College and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Her work has been enthusiastically received in Cuba, where Eusebio Leal has said: “I would like to greet with ringing bells our good American friend Cathryn Griffith whose images express her affection for our beloved Havana.” Griffith’s earlier research resulted in the publication of the lavishly illustrated book Havana Revisited: An Architectural Heritage. Her photographs of Havana have been exhibited at Harvard University’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach, Florida; Miami Dade College, Miami, Florida; Coconut Grove Arts Festival Gallery, Miami, Florida; and Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. The United States Embassy in Cuba secured a set of her photographs from Havana Revisited for permanent display in the Havana embassy. Griffith conducted her research for the book and the documentary over the course of fifteen years and more than twenty-five visits to this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
OTHER EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:00-8:30 pm: Touché: A Tournament of Words
118 Elliot

Join Desmond Peeples and Shanta Lee Gander for a night of mischief, joymaking, and word games to celebrate the launch of Mount Island, the new magazine for rural LGBTQ+ and POC writers and artists!

Doors open at 6:30 PM for mingling and a variety of word games until 7:00 PM, when the main event begins: Touché! A Tournament of Words.

Touché is a tournament-style game show pitting emerging writers and intrepid laypeople against unique takes on word games and writing exercises.

Contestants compete in five kooky and thought-provoking rounds for the love and mercy of the judges panel and a tyrannical audience, and for the grand prize: $100 and the title of Archbraggadocio.

Tickets are $7 online and $10 at the door. Every ticket purchased donates one free ticket for those without the means to pay for admission. If you have questions, email at info@mountisland.com.

Mount Island is a literary magazine focused on supporting rural LGBTQ and POC writers and artists. To explore more visit MountIsland.com and come hang out with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mountislandmag.

Desmond Peeples’ fiction, poetry, and nonfiction have appeared in Five [Quarterly], Big Bridge, Goreyesque, Hunger Mountain, and elsewhere, and their original music is released independently. They were the founding editor of the literary arts magazine, Mount Island, and currently consult for Green Writers Press. Desmond was born and lives still in Vermont; they received a BA in Creative Writing & Critical Theory from Goddard College while traveling the United States, and they are an MFA candidate at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Learn more at desmondpeeples.com.

Shanta Lee Gander is an artist and multi-faceted professional. Artistic endeavors include prose, poetry, investigative journalism, and photography. Her poetry, prose, and personal essays have been featured in Rebelle Society, on the Ms. Magazine Blog, on her former weekly radio segments Ponder This on Green Mountain Mornings, and in The Commons weekly newspaper. Shanta Lee is an editor at the literary arts magazine Mount Island and co-author of the forthcoming book Ghosts of Cuba: An Interracial Couple’s Exploration of Cuba in the Age of Trump—Told in Images & Words. Shanta has an MBA from the University of Hartford and an undergraduate degree in Women, Gender and Sexuality from Trinity College. She is currently completing her MFA in Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.
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The power to connect thought with its proper symbol, and so to utter it, depends on simplicity of character, that is, upon the love of truth, and the desire to communicate it without loss.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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