

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

January 7–16, 2016

BERNARD COOPER
JOAN WICKERSHAM

Thursday, January 7
7:00 pm

Bernard Cooper is the author of six books, including his 2015 memoir, *My Avant-Garde Education*. Sections of the latter appeared in *Granta*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *New York Times Magazine*, and elsewhere. A show of his digital art opened earlier this year at The MDC Museum of Art and Design in Miami. Cooper has been a Visiting Writer at the University of Iowa and at the University of Montana.

Joan Wickersham's most recent book, *The News from Spain: Seven Variations on a Love Story* was named a best fiction pick by National Public Radio, *Kirkus Reviews* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Her memoir *The Suicide Index: Putting My Father's Death in Order* was a National Book Award Finalist. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in publications including *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*.

GREGORY PARDLO
LESLIE JAMISON

Friday, January 8
7:00 pm

Gregory Pardlo's collection *Digest* won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, was shortlisted for the 2015 NAACP Image Award and was a finalist for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. His first collection, *Totem*, was selected for the APR/Honickman Prize in 2007. His work has appeared in *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere.

Leslie Jamison is the author of *The Empathy Exams*, a *New York Times* bestselling essay collection, and a novel, *The Gin Closet*, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times First Fiction Award. Her work has appeared in *Harper's*, *Oxford American*, *A Public Space*, *Boston Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Believer*, and the *New York Times*, where she is a regular columnist for the Sunday Book Review. She is an assistant professor at Columbia University.

CHARLES BOCK
RACHEL PASTAN

Saturday, January 9
7:00 pm

Charles Bock's novel *Beautiful Children* won the Sue Kaufmann award for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. His fiction and nonfiction has been anthologized, and has appeared in venues including *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, on *NPR*, in *Esquire*, *AGNI*, and the *Iowa Review*. Charles is a graduate of the Bennington Writers Seminars, class of 1996.

Rachel Pastan is the author of three novels: *Alena*, *Lady of the Snakes*, and *This Side of Married*. Her short fiction has been published in *The Georgia Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Mademoiselle*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. In 2014 she edited *Seven Writers*, a chapbook of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry inspired by exhibitions organized at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, where until recently she served as Editor-at-Large.

ALEXANDER CHEE
JILL McCORKLE

Sunday, January 10
7:00 pm

Alexander Chee's first novel, *Edinburgh*, won the Michener Copernicus Prize, the AAWW Lit Award and the Lambda Editor's Choice Prize. *Out Magazine* honored him as one of their 100 Most Influential People in 2003. His work has appeared in *Granta*, *Out*, *The Man I Might Become*, *Loss Within Loss*, *Men On Men 2000*, *His 3*, and *Boys Like Us*. He has taught at the New School University, Wesleyan, Amherst College, and at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Jill McCorkle is the author of ten books, including *Life After Life* (2015). Five of her volumes have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books. She is the winner of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature, and the North Carolina Award for Literature. She was a Briggs Copeland Writer in Residence at Harvard, and was one of the original core faculty members of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

MARK SLOUKA
MAJOR JACKSON

Monday, January 11
7:00 pm

Mark Slouka's books include *Essays from the Nick of Time*, which in 2011 won the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay. A Guggenheim and NEA Fellowship recipient, his stories and essays have appeared in *Harper's*, where he is a contributing editor, as well as *Granta*, *Agni*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Essays*, *Best American Stories*, and *PEN/ O. Henry Prize Stories*.

Major Jackson is the author of four collections of poetry: *Roll Deep*, *Holding Company*, *Hoops*, and *Leaving Saturn*. He is the editor of *Countee Cullen: Collected Poems* and poetry editor of the *Harvard Review*. His work has appeared in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Style Magazine*, *Poetry*, and *Tin House*. Jackson has received fellowships at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

STUART NADLER
KATHLEEN GRABER

Wednesday, January 13
7:00 pm

Stuart Nadler's first novel, *Wise Men*, was named a Barnes and Nobel Discover Great New Writers selection and a Best Book of the Year by Amazon. His story collection, *The Book of Life*, was a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, and long-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Story Prize. His next novel will appear in July. He teaches at the University of Iowa and the University of Wisconsin.

Kathleen Graber is the author of two collections of poetry, *Correspondence* and *The Eternal City*; the latter was a finalist for The National Book Award. She has received fellowships from the Rona Jaffe Foundation, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, NEA, and Guggenheim Foundation, and Princeton University, as well as an Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship. Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Poetry 2012* and *2014*.

ALICE MATTISON
DEIRDRE McNAMER

Thursday, January 14
7:30 pm (later start time)

Alice Mattison's latest novel, *When We Argued All Night*, was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice. Her most recent story collection, *In Case We're Separated*, won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Threepenny Review*, and has been reprinted in *The Pushcart Prize*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*.

Deirdre McNamer is the author of four novels: *Rima in the Weeds*, *My Russian*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, and *Red Rover*. Her essays, short fiction and reviews have appeared in many magazines, including the *New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and *Outside*. She was was a judge for the 2015 PEN/Faulkner award.

MARK WUNDERLICH
MEGAN MAYHEW BERGMAN

Friday, January 15
7:00 pm

Mark Wunderlich, winner of the 2015 Rilke prize, is the author of *The Anchorage*, which received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, and *The Earth Avails*, which was a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award. His work has appeared in *Slate*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Poetry*, *Yale Review*, *Fence* and *Tin House*, and his poems are widely anthologized. He teaches literature and writing at Bennington College.

Megan Mayhew Bergman is the associate director of the Bennington Writing Seminars. Her first story collection, *Birds of a Lesser Paradise*, was a Barnes and Noble Discover pick, Indie Next selection, and one of Amazon and Huffington Post's Best Books of 2012. *Almost Famous Women*, published in 2015, was also an Indie Next selection. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Oxford American*, *McSweeney's*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Kenyon Review*, *Slate*, *Ploughshares*, and the *Best American Short Stories* 2012 and 2015.

All readings will be held in Tishman Auditorium at Bennington College

For more information, please contact 802-440-4452 or writing@bennington.edu

Location on campus and event dates and times are subject to change • These events are FREE and open to the public • www.bennington.edu