

Bennington College Presents WRITERS READING

Bennington Writing Seminars Faculty and Guests Reading Series

JUNE 15-23RD, 2017

KAITLYN GREENIDGE AMY HEMPEL

Thursday, June 15th
7:00 p.m.

Kaitlyn Greenidge's debut novel is *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* (Algonquin Books), one of the *New York Times* Critics' Top 10 Books of 2016. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Elle.com*, *Buzzfeed*, *Transition Magazine*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Believer*, *American Short Fiction* and other places. She is a contributing writer for L^{EN}NY Letter. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Amy Hempel is a recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the United States Artists Foundation, and the Academy of Arts and Letters, Amy Hempel is the author of *Reasons to Live*, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*, *Tumble Home*, and *The Dog of the Marriage*, and is co-editor of *Unleashed*. Her stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *GQ*, *Vanity Fair*, and many other publications, and have been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. Her *Collected Stories* was named by the *New York Times* as one of the ten best books of 2007, and won the Ambassador Book Award for best fiction of the year.

BENJAMIN ANASTAS MARK WUNDERLICH

Friday, June 16th
7:00 p.m.

Benjamin Anastas is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary*, recently re-released in paperback by the Dial Press, and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance* (FSG), which was a *New York Times* notable book. His memoir *Too Good to Be True* was published in October of 2012 by New Harvest/HMH. Other work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Bookforum*, *The Yale Review* and *The Best American Essays 2012*. He teaches literature at Bennington College.

Mark Wunderlich is the author of *The Anchorage*, which was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 1999, and received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, published in 2004 by Graywolf Press, and *The Earth Awaits* published by Graywolf in 2014 which was a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award, and received the 2015 Rilke Prize. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program at Stanford, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Amy Lowell Trust and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. He teaches literature and writing at Bennington College, and lives in the Hudson River Valley.

SUSAN CHEEVER JEAN VALENTINE

Saturday, June 17th
7:00 p.m.

Susan Cheever's most recent book *Drinking in America*, a look at American History through the lens of alcoholism, was published in October, 2016 and was long listed for a PEN nonfiction award in 2017. *Louisa May Alcott: A Personal Biography*, was published in the fall of 2010 and a previous book on the American transcendentalists, *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work* was published in 2006. She has published seven other books of nonfiction and five novels. She has been nominated for a National Book Circle Award and won the Boston Globe Winship medal and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She lives in New York City.

Jean Valentine won the Yale Younger Poets Award for her first book, *Dream Barker*, in 1965. Her 13th book of poetry is *Shirt in Heaven*, published by Copper Canyon Press in 2015. *Door in the Mountain: New and Collected Poems 1965-2003* was the winner of the 2004 National Book Award for Poetry. Jean was the State Poet of New York for two years, starting in the spring of 2008. She received the 2009 Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets, and has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and awards from the NEA, The Bunting Institute, The Rockefeller Foundation, The New York Council for the Arts, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, as well as the Maurice English Prize, the Teasdale Poetry Prize, and the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Prize in 2000.

ASKOLD MELNYCZUK PETER TRACHTENBERG

Sunday, June 18th
7:00 p.m.

Askold Melnyczuk has received a Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Grant in Fiction, as well as the McGinnis Prize in Fiction. His first novel was a *New York Times* Notable, his second was an *LA Times* Best Books of the Year selection, and the most recent was chosen by the American Libraries Association's *Booklist* as an Editor's Choice. He has received the Magid Prize from PEN for his work as founding editor of *Agni* and in 2011 was honored by AWP with the George Garret Award. His recent work has appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Antioch Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, and *The Denver Quarterly*. An Associate Professor in the MFA Program at the University of Massachusetts, he also teaches at the Bennington Writing Seminars, and has taught at Boston University and Harvard.

Peter Trachtenberg is the author of 7 Tattoos, The Book of Calamities, and Another Insane Devotion, a 2012 New York Times Editors' Choice. His essays, journalism, and short fiction have appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's, A Public Space, Bidoun, The New York Times's travel magazine, The Virginia Quarterly Review and Story Quarterly. His honors include the Whiting Award, the Nelson Algren Award for Short Fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and residencies at Yaddo and the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center.

APRIL BERNARD DAVID GATES

Monday, June 19th
7:00 p.m.

April Bernard is a poet, novelist, and essayist. *Brawl & Jag*, her fifth collection of poems, was published last year by W.W. Norton. *Miss Fuller*, a novel, came out in 2012. Her previous books of poems are *Romanticism*, *Swan Electric*, *Psalms*, and *Blackbird Bye Bye*. Bernard is a regular contributor to The *New York Review of Books* and other journals. She has received a Guggenheim and a Whitney Humanities Center fellowship. Educated at Harvard University, she worked in book and magazine publishing in New York City, and has taught widely.

David Gates is the author of the novels *Jernigan* (Knopf, 1991) and *Preston Falls* (Knopf, 1998), and two collections of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World* (Knopf, 1999) and *A Hand Reached Down to Guide Me* (Knopf, 2015). Gates's fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Tin House*, *Granta*, *The Oxford American*, *The Journal of Country Music*, and frequently in *Newsweek*, where he was a longtime writer and editor. He's received a Guggenheim fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award.

SVEN BIRKERTS AMY GERSTLER

Wednesday, June 21st
7:00 p.m.

Sven Birkerts has been editor of *AGNI* since July 2002. His most recent books are *Changing the Subject: Art and Attention in the Internet Age* (2015, Graywolf), *The Other Walk* (2011, Graywolf), *The Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again* (2008, Graywolf) and *Reading Life: Books for the Ages* (2007, Graywolf). He has received grants from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation and the Guggenheim Foundation. He was winner of the Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle in 1985 and the Spielvogel-Diamondstein Award from PEN for the best book of essays in 1990. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2012. Birkerts has reviewed regularly for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Republic*, *Esquire*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Mirabella*, *Parnassus*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and other publications. Birkerts is Director of the Bennington Writing Seminars, and a core faculty member.

Amy Gerstler has published thirteen books of poetry, and a collaborative artists book (with Alexis Smith.) *Scattered at Sea*, a book of her poems, published by Penguin in June, 2015, was longlisted for the National Book Award, shortlisted for the Kingsley Tufts Award, and was a finalist in poetry for the PEN USA literary award. Her book *Dearest Creature* (Penguin 2009) was named a New York Times Book Review Notable Book, and was short listed for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Poetry. She was the 2010 guest editor of the yearly anthology Best American Poetry. Her work has appeared in a variety of magazines and anthologies, including *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, several volumes of *Best American Poetry* and *The Norton Anthology of Postmodern American Poetry*.

SUSAN CHOI ED OCHESTER

Thursday, June 22nd
7:30 p.m. (Note later start time)

Susan Choi is the author of four novels. Her first novel, *The Foreign Student*, won the Asian-American Literary Award for fiction. Her second novel, *American Woman*, was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize. Her third novel, *A Person of Interest*, was a finalist for the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award. In 2010 she was named the inaugural recipient of the PEN/W.G. Sebald Award. Her most recent novel, *My Education*, received a 2014 Lammy Award. A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, she teaches fiction writing at Yale and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Ed Ochester's new book of poetry is *Sugar Run Road* (Autumn House Press). His others include *Unreconstructed: Poems Selected & New* (Autumn House Press, 2007), *The Republic of Lies, a chapbook*, (Adastra Press, 2007), *The Land of Cockaigne* (Story Line, 2001), *Snow White Horses: Selected Poems 1973-1988* (Autumn House, 2000), *Cooking in Key West* (Adastra Press, 2000), *Changing the Name to Ochester* (Carnegie Mellon, 1988), *Miracle Mile* (Carnegie Mellon, 1984), and *Dancing on the Edges of Knives* (University of Missouri Press, 1973). He is the editor of the *Pitt Poetry Series* at the University of Pittsburgh Press, and edited *American Poetry Now* (Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2007). His poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry 2007* and *2013*, and the *Pushcart Prize* anthologies.

DON LEE DINAH LENNEY

Friday, June 23rd
7:00 p.m.

Don Lee is the author of the novels *Lonesome Lies Before Us*, *The Collective*, *Wrack and Ruin*, and *Country of Origin*, and the story collection *Yellow*. He has received an American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, and the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction. He is currently the director of the M.F.A. program in creative writing at Temple University and splits his time between Philadelphia and Baltimore

Dinah Lenney is the author of a memoir-in-essays, *The Object Parade* (Counterpoint Press), and of *Bigger than Life: A Murder, a Memoir*, selected for the American Lives series by the University of Nebraska Press. She co-edited *Brief Encounters: A Collection of Contemporary Nonfiction* with the late Judith Kitchen (W.W. Norton, 2015), and co-authored *Acting for Young Actors* with Mary Lou Belli. Other work has appeared in a variety of publications and anthologies including the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *AGNI*, *Creative Nonfiction*, the *Harvard Review*, the *Paris Review Daily*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, where she serves as an editor-at-large.

ALL READINGS WILL BE HELD IN DEANE CARRIAGE BARN 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

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