

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

# WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

## January 10–19, 2013

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**Benjamin Anastas**  
**Jill McCorkle**

**Thursday, January 10**  
7:00 pm

**Benjamin Anastas** is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary* and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*, which was a New York Times Notable Book. His memoir, *Too Good To Be True*, was published by in October of 2012. His essays, journalism, short fiction and reviews have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *GQ*, the *Yale Review* and *Bookforum*.

**Jill McCorkle** is the author of ten books—four story collections and six novels—five of which have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books. Her latest novel, *Life After Life* is due out in 2013. Two of the stories in *Going Away Shoes*, were included in the Best American Short Stories Series. 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.

**Askold Melnyczuk**  
**Brenda Shaughnessy**

**Friday, January 11**  
7:00 pm

**Askold Melnyczuk** has received a Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Grant in Fiction and a 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. He has received the Magid Prize from PEN for his work as founding editor of *Agni* was honored by AWP with the George Garret Award. His work has also appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Antioch Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Grand Street*.

**Brenda Shaughnessy's** most recent collection of poetry is *Our Andromeda*. She's also the author of *Human Dark with Sugar*, winner of a James Laughlin Award, and *Interior with Sudden Joy*, finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Shaughnessy is the recipient of a Bunting Fellowship, an NEA/Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Fellowship, and a Howard Foundation Fellowship. Her poems have also appeared in *Harpers*, *McSweeney's*, *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *Slate.com*.

**Major Jackson**  
**Patricia Hampl**

**Saturday, January 12**  
7:00 pm

**Major Jackson** is the author of three collections of poetry: *Holding Company*, *Hoops*, and *Leaving Saturn*. He has published poems and essays in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. *Leaving Saturn* was awarded the Cave Canem Poetry Prize for a first book of poems and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry. Jackson is a recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Writers' Award and has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

**Patricia Hampl's** most recent books are the memoir, *The Florist's Daughter*, and another work of nonfiction, *Blue Arabesque*, both on many year-end "best" lists including the *New York Times* "100 Notable Books of the Year." Her first memoir, *A Romantic Education* and subsequent books established her as a leading voice in contemporary memoir. Her work has also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *Best American Essays*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Granta*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. In 1990 she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship.

**David Daniel**  
**Alice Mattison**

**Sunday, January 13**  
7:00 pm

**David Daniel's** collections of poems include *Seven Star Bird*, for which he won the Levis Reading Prize; and his chapbook, *The Quick and the Dead*. Daniel recently completed a new collection, *Ornaments and Other Assorted Love Songs*. He is currently working on a new manuscript, *American Recordings*. He is a regular contributor to *The American Poetry Review*, and poems, essays and reviews have appeared elsewhere, including the *Harvard Review*, *Agni*, *Post Road*, *Witness*, *Boston Review*, and *Ploughshares*, where he served as the Poetry editor from 1992 to 2007.

**Alice Mattison's** new novel, *When We Argued All Night*, was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice. Her story collection, *In Case We're Separated*, won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Mattison's earlier novels include *Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn*, *The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman*, *The Book Borrower* (a *Times* Notable Book), and *Hilda and Pearl*. She is the author of three earlier story collections, including *Men Giving Money*, *Women Yelling*, and a collection of poems, *Animals*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Ecotone*, and elsewhere, and has been reprinted in *The Pushcart Prize*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*.

**J.C. Hallman**  
**Jim Shepard**

**Monday, January 14**  
7:00 pm

**J.C. Hallman** is the author of several books of nonfiction, including *The Chess Artist* and *In Utopia*, and a book of short stories, *The Hospital for Bad Poets*. In 2013, he will publish a short biographical work on the correspondence of William and Henry James, and in 2014 he will publish a literary relationship-memoir about author Nicholson Baker.

**Jim Shepard** is the author of six novels, including most recently *Project X*, and four story collections, including most recently *Like You'd Understand*, *Anyway*, which was nominated for the National Book Award and won the Story Prize, and *You Think That's Bad*. His stories have been included in the *Best American*, *PEN/O. Henry*, and *Pushcart Prize* anthologies.

**Martha Cooley**  
**Mark Wunderlich**

**Wednesday, January 16**  
7:00 pm

**Martha Cooley's** first novel, *The Archivist*, was a national bestseller and has appeared in translation in eleven languages. Her second novel, *Thirty-Three Swoons*, was published in the U.S. and Italy. Ms. Cooley's short fiction, nonfiction, and translations have appeared in *A Public Space*, *AGNI*, *The Common*, *PEN America*, *Washington Square*, and elsewhere.

**Mark Wunderlich** is the author of *The Anchorage*, which received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, and *The Earth Avails*, forthcoming from Graywolf. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program at Stanford, and the Amy Lowell Trust. His poems, interviews, reviews and translations have appeared in journals such as *Slate*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Yale Review*, *Fence* and *Tin House*.

**Rachel Pastan**  
**Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon**

**Thursday, January 17**  
7:30 pm (note later start time)

**Rachel Pastan** is the author of two novels, *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.

**Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon** is the author of *Open Interval*, a finalist for the National Book Award, and *Black Swan*, winner of the 2001 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. She is currently at work on *The Coal Tar Colors*, her third collection of poems, and *Purchase*, a collection of essays.

**Sven Birkerts**  
**David Gates**

**Friday, January 18**  
7:00 pm

**Sven Birkerts's** most recent books are *The Other Walk*, *Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again*, and *Reading Life: Books for the Ages*. 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 and the Spielvogel-Diamonstein Award from PEN for the best book of essays. Birkerts has reviewed regularly for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Republic*, *Esquire*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Mirabella*, *Parnassus*, *The Yale Review*, and other publications.

**David Gates** is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, and a collection of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World*. Mr. Gates's fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Tin House*, *Bomb*, *Salon.com*, *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.

**All readings will be held in Tishman Lecture Hall at Bennington College**  
**For more information, please contact 802-440-4452 or [writing@bennington.edu](mailto: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](http://www.bennington.edu)