

Bennington Writing Seminars Hosts Acclaimed Authors and Faculty in Winter 2020 Writers Reading Series

Bennington, VT: From January 9 - 17, critically acclaimed, award-winning authors and faculty of the [Bennington Writing Seminars](#) will host [Writers Reading](#), an evening reading series during the MFA program's winter residency. All readings are free, open to the public, and will take place in Tishman Lecture Hall on the College's [campus](#).

On [Thurs. January 9 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Jill McCorkle](#) and [Mark Wunderlich](#). 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*. Wunderlich is author of three critically acclaimed books of poetry. He is the director of the Bennington Writing Seminars and served as chair of the poetry jury for the 2019 National Book Awards.

On [Fri. January 10 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Carmen Giménez Smith](#) and [Jia Tolentino](#). Giménez Smith is the author of a memoir and six poetry collections, including *Be Recorder*, a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award, and *Milk and Filth*, a finalist for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle. Tolentino is a staff writer at the *New Yorker* and the author of the essay collection *Trick Mirror*. Formerly, she was the deputy editor at *Jezebel* and a contributing editor at *The Hairpin*.

On [Sat. January 11 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Jamel Brinkley](#) and [Monica Ferrell](#). Brinkley is the author of *A Lucky Man: Stories* (2018), a finalist for the National Book Award, the Story Prize, the John Leonard Prize, the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and winner of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. Ferrell is the author of three books of fiction and poetry, most recently the collection *You Darling Thing*. Her novel *The Answer Is Always Yes* was named one of *Booklist's* Top Ten Debut Novels of the Year.

On [Sun. January 12 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Doug Bauer](#), [Deirdre McNamer](#), and [Derek Palacio](#). Bauer's novels are *The Book of Famous Iowans*; *The Very Air*; and *Dexterity*. He has published three works of nonfiction: *Prairie City, Iowa*; *The Stuff of Fiction*; and *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death*, which won the 2014 PEN/New England Book Award in Nonfiction. McNamer is the author of four novels: *Rima in the Weeds*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, *My Russian*, and *Red Rover*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review*, among others. Palacio is the author of the novella *How to Shake the Other Man* and the novel *The Mortifications*. His short story "Sugarcane" appeared in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2013*.

On [Mon. January 13 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Alice Mattison](#) and [Craig Morgan Teicher](#). Mattison's most recent novel is *Conscience. The Kite and the String: How to Write with Spontaneity and Control—and Live to Tell the Tale*, is now available in paperback. Several of her previous novels and story collections have been *New York Times Notable Books* or Editors' Choices. Morgan Teicher is the author of three books of poetry, most recently *The Trembling Answers*, which won the 2017 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets.

On [Wed. January 15 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Benjamin Anastas](#) and [Jenny](#)

[Bouilly](#). Anastas is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary* and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*. His memoir *Too Good to Be True* was a national bestseller. Bouilly is the author of five books including *Betwixt-and-Between: Essays on the Writing Life*. Her work has been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry*, *The Next American Essay*, and *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, among others.

On [Thurs. January 16 at 7:30 PM](#) (**note:** later time), Writers Reading welcomes [David Gates](#) and [Clifford Thompson](#). Gates was a staff writer for *Newsweek* for many years. He has won the Guggenheim fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award. Thompson's latest book is *What It Is: Race, Family, and One Thinking Black Man's Blues*. He received a Whiting Writers' Award for nonfiction for his 2013 *Love for Sale and Other Essays*.

On [Fri. January 17 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Jericho Brown](#) and [Amy Hempel](#). Brown is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and he is the winner of the Whiting Writer's Award. Brown's latest collection, *The Tradition*, was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award. Hempel is the award-winning author of *Sing to It!*, *Reasons to Live*, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*, *Tumble Home*, and *The Dog of the Marriage*. She received the 2018 Yaddo Artist Medal.

Writers Reading is a hallmark series of the Bennington Writing Seminars, a two-year low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Writing program with ten-day residencies in January and June. During the Seminars, students work closely with distinguished and actively publishing faculty, their path determined by the reading discipline as well as the production of original work. The mission of the Seminars is to connect the emerging writer with much of the best that has been done and to cultivate the critical skills that serve the writing as much as the reading.

About the Bennington Writing Seminars

Steeped in the Bennington College's literary legacy, [Bennington Writing Seminars](#) is consistently named one of the top low-residency Masters of Fine Arts in Writing programs. Founded in 1994, the Seminars was one of the first low-residency graduate writing programs in the country. During this two-year, low-residency program, students commit as much to reading as to writing and conceive reading lists that strengthen and broaden their knowledge. Students perform critical literary analysis and craft bold new works of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry inspired by their discoveries. They finish with a polished thesis and a parting lecture. All this with the expert guidance of authors who, throughout individualized instruction, become familiar with and develop a stake in students' work.

Stay in touch with the Bennington literary scene, including Bennington Writing Seminars [alumni and candidates](#), via Twitter:

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