

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

June 14–22, 2012

Amy Hempel
Donald Hall

Thursday, June 14
7:00 pm

Amy Hempel is the author of *Reasons to Live*, *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*, *Tumble Home*, and *The Dog of the Marriage*. Her *Collected Stories* was named by the *New York Times* as one of the ten best books of 2007. Hempel's other awards include a Guggenheim and awards from the U.S. Artists Foundation, and the Academy of Arts and Letters.

Donald Hall's sixteen books of poems, include *The Back Chamber*, *White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems 1946-2006*, *The Painted Bed*, *Without*, and *The One Day*. His books of prose include *Eagle Pond*, *Poetry and Ambition*, and *Unpacking the Boxes: A Memoir of a Life in Poetry*. His many awards include the National Book Critics Circle Award, Guggenheim fellowships, and the Lamont Prize. Hall was fourteenth U.S. Poet Laureate, and in 2011, President Obama awarded him the National Medal of Arts.

April Bernard
Shannon Cain

Friday, June 15
7:00 pm

April Bernard is a poet, novelist, and essayist. A second novel, *Miss Fuller*, was published in 2011. Her four books of poems are *Romanticism*, *Blackbird Bye Bye*, *Psalms*, and *Swan Electric*. Bernard has also written screenplays and plays. She received a 2003-2004 Guggenheim fellowship in poetry and the 2006 Stover Memorial Prize in Poetry.

Shannon Cain's short story collection, *The Necessity of Certain Behaviors*, is the recipient of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize for 2011. She also co-edited *Powder: Writing by Women in the Ranks, from Vietnam to Iraq*. Her work has been awarded the Pushcart Prize, the O. Henry Prize, a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and a fellowship from the NEA.

Bret Anthony Johnson
Ed Ochester

Saturday, June 16
7:00 pm

Bret Anthony Johnston is the editor of *Naming the World and Other Exercises for the Creative Writer* and the author of *Corpus Christi: Stories*. His many honors include an NEA fellowship and a National Book Award for writers under 35. His fiction and essays have been appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and in numerous anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*.

Ed Ochester's many books of poetry include *Unreconstructed: Poems Selected & New*, *The Republic of Lies*, *The Land of Cockaigne*, *Snow White Horses: Selected Poems 1973-1988*, and *Changing the Name to Ochester*. He is the editor of the Pitt Poetry Series and edited *American Poetry Now*. Ochester has received fellowships from the NEA and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the George Garrett Award from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, and the Artist of the Year award from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

Amy Gerstler
Geoff Dyer

Sunday, June 17
7:00 pm

Amy Gerstler's books of poems include *Dearest Creature*, named a *New York Times Book Review* notable book; *Ghost Girl*; *Medicine*, *Bitter Angel*, awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *Crown of Weeds*. Her chapbooks of fiction are *Primitive Man*, *Martine's Mouth*, and the collaborative *Most Ridiculous and Least Respectable*. She guest edited the *Best American Poetry 2010* and has received a Durfee Artist Award.

Geoff Dyer's many award-winning books include novels: *The Search*, *The Colour of Memory*, and *Jeff in Venice*, *Death in Varanasi*; a selected essays and reviews: *Otherwise Known as the Human Condition*, and five genre-defying titles including: *But Beautiful*, *Yoga For People Who Can't Be Bothered To Do I*, and most recently, *Zona*. His awards include a Lannan Fellowship, an E. M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and a Bollinger Award.

Susan Cheever
Brian Morton

Monday, June 18
7:00 pm

Susan Cheever's nonfiction includes *Louisa May Alcott: A Personal Biography*; *American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work*; *Desire: Where Sex Meets Addiction*; *My Name is Bill: Bill Wilson, His Life and the Creation of Alcoholics Anonymous*. She has also published five novels, including *Looking for Work*, *A Handsome Man*, and *Doctors and Women*. She is a Guggenheim Fellow.

Brian Morton is the author of the novels *Breakable You*, *A Window Across the River*, which was a *Today Show* Book Club selection; *Starting Out in the Evening*, which was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and was made into a motion picture; and *The Dylanist*. Mr. Morton has received the Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Guggenheim Foundation Award.

Timothy Liu
Rick Moody

Wednesday, June 20
7:00 pm

Timothy Liu's many books of poems include *Bending the Mind Around the Dream's Blown Fuse*, *Polytheogamy*, *For Dust Thou Art*, *Of Thee I Sing*, and *Vox Angelica*, winner of the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. He edited the anthology, *Word of Mouth: An Anthology of Gay American Poetry*, and his work has been featured in anthologies that include *Best American Poetry*, *The Pushcart Prize*, and many others.

Rick Moody is the author of five novels, *Garden State*, *The Ice Storm*, *Purple America*, *The Diviners*, and *The Four Fingers of Death*; three story collections, *The Ring of Brightest Angels Around Heaven*, *Demonology*, and *Right Livelihoods*; a memoir, *The Black Veil*; and a collection of essays, *On Celestial Music*. With the Wingdale Community Singers, he has recorded two albums of songs. He has also made a solo album, *The Darkness Is Good*.

Dinah Lenney
Lynne Sharon Schwartz

Thursday, June 21
7:30 pm
(note later start time)

Dinah Lenney is the author of *Bigger than Life: A Murder, a Memoir* published in Tobias Wolff's American Lives Series and excerpted in *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*. She co-authored *Acting for Young Actors* and has taught acting for the camera and for musical theatre in colleges across the country. Her essays and reviews have appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Washington Post*, and *Brevity Online*.

Lynne Sharon Schwartz is the author of 22 books, including novels, short story collections, nonfiction, poetry, and translations. Her second collection of poetry, *See You in the Dark*, was recently published. Her novels include *The Writing on the Wall*, *Disturbances in the Field*, *Leaving Brooklyn*, and, *Two-Part Inventions*, her latest novel is forthcoming. Her nonfiction books include *Not Now*, *Voyager* and *Ruined by Reading*. Her awards include Guggenheim and NEA grants.

Bernard Cooper
Paul Yoon

Friday, June 22
7:00 pm

Bernard Cooper's books of memoir are *The Bill from My Father* and *Truth Serum*. His *Maps to Anywhere* is a book of essays. Cooper also published a novel, *A Year of Rhymes*, and a book of short stories, *Guess Again*. His work has appeared in *The Best American Essays* series five times. His honors include fellowships from the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation, the PEN/Hemingway Award and an O. Henry Prize.

Paul Yoon's first book, *Once the Shore*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book; a *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Minneapolis Star Tribune* Best Book of the Year; and was selected as a Best Debut of the Year by National Public Radio. He is the recipient of an O. Henry Award, the John C. Zacharis First Book Award from *Ploughshares*, and was selected as a 5 under 35 emerging writers by the *National Book Foundation*

All readings will be held in the 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 • These events are FREE and open to the public • www.bennington.edu