

Bennington College Presents

WRITERS READING

Bennington Writing Seminars Faculty and Guests Reading Series

JANUARY 5–13TH, 2017

GREGORY PARDLO
CLAIRE VAYE WATKINS

Thursday, January 5th
7:00 p.m.

Gregory Pardlo’s collection *Digest* (Four Way Books) won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, was shortlisted for that year’s NAACP Image Award, and was a finalist for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. His other honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts; his first collection, *Totem*, was selected by Brenda Hillman for the APR/Honickman Prize in 2007. He is also the author of *Air Traffic*, a memoir in essays forthcoming from Knopf.

Claire Vaye Watkins’ stories and essays have appeared in numerous periodicals including *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The Paris Review*, and *The New York Times*. A recipient of fellowships from the Sewanee and Bread Loaf Writers’ Conferences, Claire was also one of the National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35.” She is the author of *Gold Fame Citrus* and *Battleborn*, which won the Story Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. A Guggenheim Fellow, Claire is on the faculty of the Helen Zell Writers’ Program at the University of Michigan

KATHLEEN GRABER
KAITLYN GREENIDGE

Friday, January 6th
7:00 p.m.

Kathleen Graber is the author of two collections of poetry, *Correspondence* (Saturnalia Books, 2006) and *The Eternal City* (Princeton University Press, 2010), which was a finalist for The National Book Award, The National Book Critics Circle Award, and the winner of The Library of Virginia Literary Award for Poetry. She is a recipient of fellowships from The Rona Jaffe Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Recent poems have been anthologized in *The Literary Review*, *AGNI*, and *Best American Poetry 2012* and *2014*.

Kaitlyn Greenidge received her MFA from Hunter College. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, Elle.com, the *Believer*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, the *Feminist Wire*, *At Length*, and *American Short Fiction*. She is a contributing writer to *Lenny Letter*. Originally from Boston, she now lives in Brooklyn.

RACHEL PASTAN
JOSH WEIL

Saturday, January 7th
7:00 p.m.

Rachel Pastan’s most recent novel, *Alena* (Riverhead), was named an Editors’ Choice in *The New York Times Book Review*. She is also the author of two other novels, *Lady of the Snakes* (Harcourt) and *This Side of Married* (Viking) which was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. In 2014, she edited *Seven Writers*, a chapbook of writing inspired by exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, where until recently she served as Editor-at-Large. She has a BA in English from Harvard College and an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

Josh Weil is the author of the novel *The Great Glass Sea* and the novella collection *The New Valley*, both New York Times Editor’s Choices. A Fulbright Fellow and National Book Foundation 5-under-35 honoree, his awards include the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the Sue Kaufman Prize from The American Academy of Arts and Letters, the GrubStreet National Book Prize, the Library of Virginia’s Award in Fiction, the New Writers Award from the Great Lakes Colleges Association, and a Pushcart Prize. His short writing has appeared in *Granta*, *Tin House*, *One Story*, *Esquire*, and *The New York Times*. Weil has been granted fellowships from the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers’ Conferences, VCCA, and the MacDowell Colony.

NATALIE DIAZ
CLIFFORD THOMPSON

Sunday, January 8th
7:00 p.m.

Natalie Diaz was born and raised in the Fort Mojave Indian Village in Needles, California. She is Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Tribe. Her work has appeared in *Narrative*, *Poetry* magazine, *Drunken Boat*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Iowa Review*, and *Crab Orchard Review*. Her debut book of poetry, *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, was a 2012 Lannan Literary Selection, a 2013 PEN/Open Book Award shortlist, and “portrays experiences rooted in Native American life with personal and mythic power.”

Clifford Thompson received a Whiting Writers’ Award for nonfiction in 2013 for *Love for Sale and Other Essays*, published by Autumn House Press, which has also published his memoir, *Twin of Blackness* (2015). His essays on books, film, jazz, and American identity have appeared in publications including *The Village Voice*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Commonweal*, *Film Quarterly*, *Cineaste*, *Oxford American*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Black Issues Book Review*. He is the author of a novel, *Signifying Nothing*.

MAJOR JACKSON
STUART NADLER

Monday, January 9th
7:00 p.m.

Major Jackson is the author of four collections of poetry: *Roll Deep*, *Holding Company*, *Hoops*, and *Leaving Saturn*. He has published poems and essays in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Style Magazine*, *Poetry*, *Tin House*, among other literary journals. Jackson is a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, and 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. He serves as the poetry editor of the *Harvard Review*.

Stuart Nadler is the author of two novels and a short story collection. His first novel, *Wise Men* (Little, Brown), was named a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, a Best Book of the Year by Amazon, and has been translated into five languages. His story collection, *The Book of Life* (Little, Brown), was a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, and long-listed for the Frank O’Connor International Story Prize. His most recent novel, *The Inseparables* (Little, Brown), was published in July, 2016. He holds a BFA from the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, and an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he was a Truman Capote Fellow and a Teaching-Writing Fellow. In 2012 he was a recipient of the 5 Under 35 Award from the National Book Foundation.

ALICE MATTISON
BOB SHACOCHIS

Wednesday, January 11th
7:00 p.m.

Alice Mattison is the author of many critically acclaimed works of fiction. Her newest book is *The Kite and the String: How to Write with Spontaneity and Control—and Live to Tell the Tale*. Her most recent novel, *When We Argued All Night*, was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor’s Choice. She’s the author of five earlier novels, including *Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn* and *The Book Borrower*, and three earlier collections of stories, as well as a book of poems. Her stories, poems, and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Ecotone*, and elsewhere.

Bob Shacochis’ latest novel, *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and won the 2014 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Fiction. *Kingdoms in the Air*, a collection of Shacochis’s travel and adventure essays, was published by Grove Atlantic in 2016. His first novel, *Swimming in the Volcano*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Shacochis’ first short-story collection, *Easy in the Islands*, was published in 1985 and received the National Book Award in category First Work of Fiction. Shacochis has also worked as a journalist and war correspondent.

JILL MCCORKLE
LYNNE SHARON SCHWARTZ

Thursday, January 12th
7:30 p.m. (Note later start time)

Jill McCorkle is the author of 10 books—four story collections and six novels—five of which have been selected as New York Times Notable Books. Her latest novel is *Life After Life*. 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 five core faculty members of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

Lynne Sharon Schwartz is the author of 23 books, including novels, short-story collections, nonfiction, memoirs, poetry, and translations, which have garnered her National Book Award and PEN Award nominations and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the NEA. Her first novel, *Rough Strife*, was nominated for a National Book Award and the PEN/Hemingway First Novel Award. Her 1989 novel, *Leaving Brooklyn*, nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Schwartz’ most recent books are *This Is Where We Came In*, a collection of essays, and the novel *Two-Part Inventions*. Her third poetry collection, *No Way Out But Through*, will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press Poetry Series in 2017.

JOAN WICKERSHAM
JAMES WOOD

Friday, January 13th
7:00 p.m.

Joan Wickersham’s most recent book, *The News from Spain* (Knopf) was named one of the year’s best fiction picks by National Public Radio, Kirkus Reviews and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Her memoir *The Suicide Index* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) was a National Book Award finalist. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *One Story*, *Agni*, *Glimmer Train*, *Ploughshares*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and many other publications. She is a regular op-ed columnist for *The Boston Globe* and her pieces have run in *The International Herald Tribune* and on NPR. She has been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the MacDowell Colony, and Yaddo.

James Wood has been a staff writer and book critic at *The New Yorker* since 2007. He was the chief literary critic at the *Guardian*, in London, from 1992 to 1995, and a senior editor at *The New Republic* from 1995 to 2007. His critical essays have been collected in four volumes, *The Broken Estate: Essays on Literature and Belief* (1999), *The Irresponsible Self: On Laughter and the Novel* (2004), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, *The Fun Stuff and Other Essays* (2013), and *The Nearest Thing to Life* (2015). He is also the author of a novel, *The Book Against God* (2003), and a study of technique in the novel, *How Fiction Works* (2008). He lives in Boston, and teaches half time at Harvard University, where he is Professor of the Practice of Literary Criticism.

Each event occurs from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in TISHMAN LECTURE HALL
with one exception (the January 12 event, which starts at 7:30 pm).
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.