

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

# WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

## January 8–16, 2015

**BENJAMIN ANASTAS**  
**JILL McCORKLE**

**Thursday, January 8**  
7:00 pm

**Benjamin Anastas** is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary*, which has been called “the funniest, most underappreciated novel of the 90s,” and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book, and a memoir *Too Good To Be True*. Other work has appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *GQ*, *The Yale Review*, *Bookforum*, and *The Best American Essays 2012*.

**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 is *Life After Life*. Two of the stories in *Going Away Shoes* were included in *The Best American Short Stories*. 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.

**ANGIE CRUZ**  
**MAJOR JACKSON**

**Friday, January 9**  
7:00 pm

**Angie Cruz** is the author of the novels *Soledad* and *Let It Rain Coffee*. She is the recipient of the Camargo Fellowship, a New York Foundation of the Arts Grant, and most recently she was awarded the Elizabeth Kirkpatrick Doenges Visiting Artist/Scholar Fellowship at Mary Baldwin College.

**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. 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.

**JOAN WICKERSHAM**  
**RANDALL KENAN**

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

**Joan Wickersham's** most recent book, *The News from Spain: Seven Variations on a Love Story*, was named a best fiction pick by National Public Radio, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Her memoir *The Suicide Index: Putting My Father's Death in Order* was a National Book Award Finalist. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and many other publications. She has been awarded grants by the NEA and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**Randall Kenan** is the author of a novel, *A Visitation of Spirits*; two works of non-fiction, *Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century* and *The Fire This Time*; and a collection of stories, *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*. He edited and wrote the introduction for *The Cross of Redemption: The Uncollected Writings of James Baldwin*. Among his awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, the North Carolina Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Rome Prize.

**SVEN BIRKERTS**  
**KATHLEEN GRABER**

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

**Sven Birkerts's** most recent books are *The Other Walk* and *Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again*. 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. 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. He is the Director of Bennington's MFA program.

**Kathleen Graber** is the author of two collections of poetry, *The Eternal City*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, and *Correspondence*. She is a recipient of fellowships from The Rona Jaffe Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the NEA, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Graber's recent poems have been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry 2012* and *2014*. She has been a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University and an Amy Lowell Travelling Scholar.

**DEIRDRE McNAMER**  
**TOM BISSELL**

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

**Deirdre McNamer** is the author of four novels: *Rima in the Weeds*, *My Russian*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, and *Red Rover*. Her essays, short fiction, and reviews have appeared in many magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *Outside*.

**Tom Bissell** is the author of nine books, including *Magic Hours*, *The Father of All Things*, and *The Apostles*, which will be published next year. His work has been awarded the Rome Prize and a Guggenheim fellowship.

**JOSH WEIL**  
**MARIE HOWE**

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

**Josh Weil** is the author of the novel *The Great Glass Sea* and of the novella collection *The New Valley*. His other writing has appeared in *Granta*, *Esquire*, *Tin House*, *One Story*, and *The New York Times*, among others. Weil is a recipient of fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the MacDowell Colony, and the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences.

**Marie Howe** is the author of three volumes of poetry, *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time*, *The Good Thief*, and *What the Living Do*, and is the co-editor of a book of essays, *In the Company of My Solitude: American Writing from the AIDS Pandemic*. She has been a fellow at the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College and a recipient of NEA and Guggenheim fellowships. Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *Harvard Review*, and *The Partisan Review*, among others. Currently, she is the 2012–2014 Poet Laureate of New York State.

**RACHEL PASTAN**  
**MARK WUNDERLICH**

**Thursday, January 15**  
7:30 pm (note later start time)

**Rachel Pastan** is the author of three novels: *Alena*, *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. A graduate of Harvard College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Rachel is currently Editor-at-Large at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, where she writes the blog *Miranda*.

**Mark Wunderlich** is the author of *The Anchorage*, which received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, and *The Earth Avails*. 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*.

**DAVID GATES**  
**ALICE MATTISON**

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

**David Gates** is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, and a collection of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World*. Gates' 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.

**Alice Mattison's** 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*, and *Hilda and Pearl*. She is the author of three earlier story collections and a collection of poems, *Animals*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review* and elsewhere, and has been reprinted in *The Pushcart Prize*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*.

**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)