SPONSORED BY THE SOPHIE KERR PROGRAM AND THE ROSE O’NEILL LITERARY HOUSE
The Sophie Kerr Legacy

SOPHIE KERR, a prolific and popular American writer of the early 20th century, has left an indelible literary mark on Washington College. The gift that Kerr bequeathed over 40 years ago has enabled the College to bring to campus a succession of the nation’s top writers, editors, and scholars. Edward Albee, Joseph Brodsky, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, Eamon Grennan, Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Pinsky, Charles Simic, Mary Karr, Jonathan Franzen, Jane Smiley, Junot Díaz, Colum McCann and Ted Kooser are just a few of the literary heavyweights who have inspired and instructed the next generation of American writers at Washington College.

In addition to the Sophie Kerr Speaker Series, the Sophie Kerr Gift provides scholarships for students who show literary promise, pays for library books, and supports various student literary activities. The result is a vibrant intellectual culture where the literary arts thrive.

The Kerr endowment also funds the Sophie Kerr Prize, awarded each year to the graduating senior who has the best ability and promise for future fulfillment in the field of literary endeavor. Valued at $58,274 in 2012, it is the nation’s largest literary prize awarded solely to undergraduate students.

The Rose O’Neill Literary House

THE CREATIVE WRITING culture so much in evidence at the Rose O’Neill Literary House is grounded in Washington College’s historic commitment to foster writing across all disciplines and to connect our students and faculty to the wider culture of literature and the creative arts. In collaboration with the English Department and the Sophie Kerr Committee, the Lit House hosts a dynamic array of readings, lectures, and student-centered workshops with writers from across America and around the globe.

Authors, poets, webcomics, graphic novelists, humorists, playwrights, rock critics, radio hosts, editors, sportswriters, and studio artists routinely join us from around the world for readings, career events, and fellowships. Recent guests include Neil Gaiman, Hannah Tinti, Laura van den Berg, Leila Aboulela, John Barth, Oni Buchanan, George Saunders, Nuruddin Farah, Amanda Hesser, John Harwood, Patricia Smith, J.T. Rogers, James McBride, Philip Gourevitch, Emmanuel Guibert, Marie Rutkowski, Joseph Wallace, and rapper DMC.
Literary House Orientation Open House and Print Shop Demo

August 24, 8:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

The Lit House welcomes the class of 2016. Learn about the campus publications, as well as art, music, and writing groups, try your hand at letterpress printing, and connect early with like-minded upper-class students and arts faculty.

Print Shop Workshops

Beginners' Workshop: Introduction to Letterpress

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Begins Tuesday, September 11. Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House

Advanced Workshop: Book Arts

Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Begins Thursday, September 13. Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House

Our free, non-credit Print Shop workshops are open to students, faculty, and staff at Washington College and our Chestertown neighbors. Come learn the history of the book and experience letterpress printing and bookbinding. Master Printer Mike Kaylor instructs. Course lasts 7 weeks. To sign up, email lit_house@washcoll.edu

Crunchable Colloquium: A Reading, Conversation, and Celebration

September 14, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Join us for an event honoring the 11-year anniversary of Crunchable, an online literary magazine founded and run by Washington College alumni. Reading, roundtable, and tasty food!
Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

“Barry McGovern Reads Yeats, Joyce, and Beckett”

September 19, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Barry McGovern is an Irish actor who has had a long career in theater, film, TV, and radio. He is regarded by many as one of the leading exponents of the work of Samuel Beckett. His one-man Beckett show, *I’ll Go On*, produced by Dublin’s Gate Theatre, has played worldwide. He has toured with the Gate productions of *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, and *Happy Days*. He has also played in *Krapp’s Last Tape*. Earlier this year he played Vladimir in the acclaimed production of *Waiting for Godot* at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. His most recent stage appearances were as George Aaronow in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, directed by Doug Hughes, at Dublin’s Gate Theatre, and his new Beckett one-man show *Watt* at the Edinburgh Festival. Films include *Riders to the Sea*, *Joe Versus the Volcano*, *Billy Bathgate*, *Braveheart*, *Far and Away*, *The General*, *Journey of the Magi*, and *Waiting for Godot*. In 1998 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Letters from Trinity College, Dublin.

Idiots’ Books Presents

“Six Years In the Black: Running a Small Press, Blurring the Lines Between Life and Art, and the Virtues of Creative Impatience”

October 2, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

This slide-laden manifesto by illustrator Robbi Behr and writer Matthew Swanson (of the small press Idiots’ Books) discusses the virtues of subscription-based art distribution, the power of selfless self-promotion, the advantages of collaboration, the pleasures of artistic freedom, the importance of saying “yes,” and the unquestionable merits of doggedness. Also included are musings on luck (what it is, whether it can be made, and how to go about getting more of it) and impatience (how it might not be as useless as we are often told).
Literary House Series

Jewish Voices: An Evening of Fiction with Dylan Landis

October 9, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Dylan Landis is the author of Normal People Don’t Live Like This, a debut novel-in-stories that made Newsday’s Ten Best Books of 2009. She has a 2010 Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and has won fiction fellowships from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Norman Rockwell Center. She also writes on interior design for House Beautiful. She lives in New York.

Sophie Kerr Living Writers Series

A Fiction Reading by Tim O’Brien

October 18, 4:00 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Tim O’Brien received the National Book Award in Fiction in 1979 for his novel Going After Cacciato. In 2005, The Things They Carried was named by The New York Times as one of the twenty best books of the last quarter century. It received the Chicago Tribune Heartland Award in fiction and was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 2010, O’Brien received the Katherine Anne Porter Award, presented by the American Academy of Arts and Letters for a distinguished lifetime body of work. His novels have been translated into more than 20 languages. On Nov. 11, O’Brien will accept the $10,000 Dayton Literary Peace Prize’s lifetime achievement award, which recognizes the power of literature in promoting peace and global understanding.

Co-sponsored by: The Douglass Cater Society of Junior Fellows
Sophie Kerr Living Writers Series

A Fiction Reading by Ron Hansen

November 1, 2012 4:00 p.m., Tawes Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Ron Hansen is the author of eight novels, two collections of stories, and a book of essays. He graduated from Creighton University in Omaha and went on to the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop and Stanford University. His novel *Atticus* was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award. His novel *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* was also a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and was made into a movie starring Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck. Hansen’s writing has won awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is currently the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., Professor in the Arts and the Humanities at Santa Clara University in Northern California. Coming in November is *She Loves Me Not: New and Selected Stories.*

Literary House Series

Jewish Voices: An Evening of Words & Music with Anna Solomon & Clare Burson

November 13, 4:30 p.m., The Egg, Hodson Dining Commons First Floor


Released by Rounder Records on September 14, 2010 and featured in *The New York Times* and on NPR and NBC’s *Last Call with Carson Daly,* Clare Burson’s latest album, *Silver and Ash,* is a concept album that explores Burson’s maternal grandmother’s life in Germany, from her birth in 1919 to her escape in 1938, as well as Burson’s own struggles with rupture, silence, guilt, empathy, and continuity.
Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

“Spiritual Committee-Work: The Yeatses and A Vision” by Meg Harper

**November 19, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Margaret Mills Harper is Glucksman Professor of Contemporary Writing in English at the University of Limerick. She specializes in Irish literature, literary modernisms, and poetry of the long twentieth century. Works include *Wisdom of Two* (Oxford 2006), on the occult collaboration between W. B. Yeats and his wife Georgiana Hyde-Lees, and *The Aristocracy of Art* (LSU Press 1990), an examination of the autobiographical fictions of James Joyce and Thomas Wolfe. She is the co-editor of two volumes in the four-volume series Yeats’s “Vision” Papers (Macmillan 1992 and 2001). With Catherine Paul of Clemson University, she has edited *A Vision* (1925) as Volume 13 of *The Collected Works of W. B. Yeats* (Scribner 2008) and is now preparing the 1937 version of *A Vision* for the same series.

First-Year Reading

**November 29, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Come hear the best and brightest Washington College First-Year writers read from their original work!

Literary House Series

Jewish Voice: An Evening of Poetry with Idra Novey

**December 4, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Idra Novey is the author of *Exit, Civilian*, a 2011 National Poetry Series Selection, and *The Next Country*, a finalist for the Foreword Book of the Year Award in poetry. She has received awards from the Poetry Society of America, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the PEN Translation Fund. Her recent translations include Clarice Lispector’s novel *The Passion According to G.H.* (New Directions and Penguin UK, 2012). She has taught in the Bard College Prison Initiative, at NYU, and in Columbia University’s School of the Arts.
Literary House Series

Writing in Wartime: An Evening of Fiction with Siobhan Fallon

February 19, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Siobhan Fallon’s debut collection of stories, *You Know When the Men Are Gone*, was listed as a Best Book of 2011 by *The San Francisco Chronicle* and Janet Maslin of *The New York Times*. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Women’s Day, Good Housekeeping, New Letters,* and *Publishers’ Weekly*, among others, and she writes a fiction series for *Military Spouse Magazine*. She earned her MFA at the New School in New York City and lives in Falls Church, VA.

Graduate School Tea

February 26, 4:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Washington College faculty and alumni discuss their experiences with the graduate school application process, succeeding in a graduate program and careers, and offer tips to students who are considering graduate school in English.

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

“And That’s True Too’: Puzzling the Texts of King Lear” by Barbara Mowat

March 6, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Barbara A. Mowat is Director of Research Emerita at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Consulting Editor of *Shakespeare Quarterly*, and Editor (with Paul Werstine) of the *New Folger Library Shakespeare*. She holds an M.A. degree in English literature from the University of Virginia, a Ph.D. in English literature from Auburn University, and Doctorates of Humane Letters from Amherst College, St. Johns University, and Washington College. Before coming to the Folger, she was Hollifield Professor of English Literature at Auburn University and then Dean of the College at Washington College. She has served as President of the Shakespeare Association of America, President of the Southeast Renaissance Conference, Chair of the MLA Committee on the New Variorum Shakespeare, and a member of the Advisory Board of the International Shakespeare Conference (Stratford-upon-Avon).
Washington College at AWP Conference & Bookfair

March 6 – March 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA

Stop by the Rose O’Neill Literary House table at 2013’s Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Boston, MA. Our students are excited to be there! Visit awpwriter.org to register. Book Fair is free and open to the public on Saturday.

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

“What is College For?” with Andrew Delbanco

March 25, 4:30 p.m., Hotchkiss Recital Hall, Gibson Center for the Arts

A distinguished scholar of American literary and religious history, and recipient of Columbia University’s Great Teacher Award, Dr. Delbanco will lecture on the topic of his latest book, College: What it Was, Is and Should Be. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in 2012 Dr. Delbanco was awarded a National Humanities Medal “for his writings on higher education and the place classic authors hold in history and contemporary life.” His previous books include The Real American Dream: A Meditation on Hope, Required Reading: Why our American Classics Matter Now, The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil, Melville: His World and Work, and The Puritan Ordeal.

Literary House Series

Writing in Wartime: A Faculty Tea & Talk with Professor Ryan Kelty

March 26, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Ryan Kelty is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Washington College. His research examines the effects of civilian contractor integration on military personnel, diversity in the military, and the role of military service across the life course. Dr. Kelty’s work has appeared in Armed Forces & Society, The Future of Children, Teaching
Sociology, the Annual Review of Political and Military Sociology, and several edited volumes. Dr. Kelty teaches a seminar on Armed Forces & Society at Washington College, and consults for various defense agencies and defense research organizations. Previously, Dr. Kelty served on the Department of Behavioral Sciences & Leadership faculty at West Point.

King Lear by William Shakespeare

Directed and scenery designed by Prof. Jason Rubin with Prof. Tim Maloney as King Lear.

April 4, 5, 6 7:30 p.m. and April 7 1 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Jason Rubin, who has been a professional set designer since 1970, started teaching at Washington College in the spring of 1986. He has also taught at George Mason University and Loyola College in Baltimore. Among the theaters he has designed for are Theater of the First Amendment in Fairfax, Virginia, Totem Pole Playhouse in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, and The Folger in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Theater Library Association, for which he was a juror for the George Freedley Award for ten years. Among his favorite productions at Washington College that he has designed and directed are She Loves Me, Good, Anne Frank, and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

Professor Tim Maloney holds a BA from King’s College and an MA from the University of Delaware. He has directed or performed in 118 plays in his 55 years of making theatre, the last 46 of those years at Washington College. In addition to teaching, acting, and directing, Professor Maloney has experience in set design and dramaturgy. He has written a number of scripts for children’s theatre and has written adaptations of Gogol’s The Government Inspector and Jonson’s Volpone. He is retiring from teaching after King Lear, but not from theater.

For ticket reservations call 410-778-7835 or email drama_tickets@washcoll.edu.
Sponsored by: Washington College Department of Drama
Literary House Series

Writing in Wartime: Playwright KJ Sanchez 2012 Douglass Wallop Fellow
April 8 – 12 Events are TBA. Please visit lithouse.washcoll.edu for updates.

KJ Sanchez is founder/CEO of American Records, a theater company devoted to chronicling our time (www.amrec.us). As a playwright, she has been produced at theaters including Asolo Rep, Actors Theater of Louisville, Two River Theater, Baltimore’s CENTERSTAGE, Round House Theater, Working Classroom, Cornerstone, and Off-Broadway at Urban Stages. She has directed plays by Dan Dietz, Kyle Schmidt, Heather Raffo, Jose Rivera, Quiara Hudes, and Kristoffer Diaz. As an actress she has been on stage at The Humana Festival, The Goodman, Berkeley Rep, Long Wharf, New York Theater Workshop, and BAM. She is the voice of many characters in the cartoons Dora the Explorer and Go Diego Go. As the producer, director and co-author of ReEntry, a play based on interviews with Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, KJ produced its international tour and contracted with the Department of Defense, taking the play to service members at more than thirty military bases and hospitals throughout the US and Internationally.

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

“Shakespeare’s Spirit World” with Elizabeth Harvey
April 17, 4:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, John S. Toll Science Center

Elizabeth D. Harvey is Professor of English at the University of Toronto. She is the author of Ventriloquized Voices: Feminist Theory and Renaissance Texts (Routledge, 1992), and co-editor of Soliciting Interpretation: Literary Theory and Seventeenth-Century English Poetry (University of Chicago Press, 1990), Women and Reason (University of Michigan Press, 1992), Sensible Flesh: On Touch in Early Modern Culture (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), and Luce Irigaray and Premodern Culture: Thresholds of History, (Routledge, 2004). She is currently completing a co-authored book on early modern literature and science, John Donne's Physics, the first section of which is forthcoming as an article in ELH: English Literary History.

Co-sponsored by: Washington College Department of Art and Art History
Author of the critically acclaimed and best selling memoir, *Jarhead, A Marine’s Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles*, Anthony Swofford served as a lance corporal in a U.S. Marine Corps Surveillance and Target Acquisition/Scout-Sniper platoon during the 1991 Gulf War. After finishing his military service, he attended the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop and in time, wrote a book about his experience in the Marines. Published on the eve of the Iraq War, *Jarhead* reveals Swofford as an eloquent and brazenly honest spokesman for the “grunt” who is as aware of the political realities of the war as he is of warfare’s seduction over him. His newest book, *Hotels, Hospitals and Jails: A Memoir*, was released in June 2012 by Hachette Book Group.

**Senior Reading**

*April 30, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House*

Bid farewell to the graduating senior writers as they read from their original pieces.
Summer Poetry Salon Series

May 28, June 25, and July 23, 2013, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Join us for three afternoons of poetry, local music, tasty food and drink, and good conversation about the literary life.

Cave Canem Fellow

June 2013, Rose O’Neill Literary House

Cave Canem, the nation’s leading organization for African-American writers, teams up with the Rose O’Neill Literary House and Washington College for the Washington College Cave Canem Residency in June 2013. Chosen through a rigorous application process, the Fellow will spend time researching and writing in Chestertown. Additionally, the Fellow will give a public reading as part of the Summer Poetry Salon Series. Our 2012 Fellow was poet Kevin Vaughn. Check our website, lithouse.wash-coll.edu, for more details.

All events listed in this brochure are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Visit lithouse.washcoll.edu and English.washcoll.edu for updates, more info, and additional events.
“The writer’s story is the story of everyone else. We must make empathetic leaps out of our own skins. Good universities will teach us this. What we must do is continue to create the space for new voices to chronicle our times.”

— International Impac Award and National Book Award winner Colum McCann, in his keynote address for the announcement of the 2011 Sophie Kerr Prize