WASHINGTON COLLEGE

literary events
CALENDAR
2016-2017

SOPHIE KERR PROGRAM &
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 more than 40 years ago enables 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, Junot Díaz, Jonathan Franzen, Lauren Groff, Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket), Mary Karr, Ted Kooser, Colum McCann, Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Pinsky, Claudia Rankine, Charles Simic, Jane Smiley, Natasha Trethewey, and Jacqueline Woodson 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 demonstrates the best ability and promise for future fulfillment in the field of literary endeavor. Valued at $65,768 in 2017, 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 literary seasons of programming built around themes such as “Poets Writing the Lyrical Essay,” “What’s Found in Translation,” “The Verbal & the Visual,” and “Queer Voices.”

Fiction writers, poets, essayists, playwrights, critics, editors, singer-songwriters, and studio artists routinely join us from around the world for readings, craft talks, and residencies. Recent guests include Joy Castro, Eduardo C. Corral, Emily Danforth, Dick Davis, Mark Doty, Tarfia Faizullah, Neil Gaiman, Matthea Harvey, Jamaal May, Ander Monson, Maggie Nelson, Benjamin Paloff, and Anthony Swofford.
Literary House Orientation Open House and Print Shop Demo

**Friday, August 26, 8:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

The Lit House welcomes the Class of 2020. Learn about 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**

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 T. Michael Kaylor instructs. The courses last 7 weeks. Registration begins on August 29, 2016. The Beginner’s Workshop begins Tuesday, September 13, and the Advanced Workshop begins Thursday, September 15. To sign up, email lit_house@washcoll.edu.

Beginner’s Workshop: Introduction to Letterpress  
**Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m., Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House.**

Advanced Workshop: Book Arts  
**Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m., Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House**

**Fall Movie Nights at the Literary House**

Literary films, popcorn, and snacks—what could be better? Come enjoy films picked by students and Lit House staff. Be sure to stay afterward for a rousing discussion of the evening’s movie.

**The Color Purple**  
**Friday, September 16, 7:00 p.m., Enclosed Porch, Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Directed by Steven Spielberg, this award-winning adaptation stars Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover, Margaret Avery, and Oprah Winfrey in her film debut. It is based on the Pulitzer-Prize winning novel of the same name by Alice Walker.

**The Silence of the Lambs**  
**Friday, October 21, 7:00 p.m., Enclosed Porch, Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Directed by Jonathan Demme and starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins, this Oscar-winning horror-thriller is based on the novel by Thomas Harris.

**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**  
**Thursday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., Enclosed Porch, Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Directed by Andrew Adamson and based on the epic fantasy series by C.S. Lewis, the film stars Tilda Swinton, Jim Broadbent, and Liam Neeson, as the voice of Aslan, the great lion responsible for creating Narnia.
Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

First-Year Book Event with Idra Novey

Wednesday, September 7, 4:30 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Each year, all new students read a book that reflects the mission of Washington College. Students read this book the summer before they begin their studies at the College, in anticipation of the rigorous conversation they will have with a book discussion leader and their Peer Mentor. This program introduces new students to Washington College’s wealth of opportunities to hear interesting lectures and presentations outside of the classroom. The 2016 First-Year Book is Idra Novey’s *Ways to Disappear* (Little, Brown, 2016), a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice and a Staff Pick at *The Paris Review*.

Idra Novey’s poetry collections include *Exit, Civilian* (University of Georgia Press, 2012), selected for the National Poetry Series, *The Next Country* (Alice James, 2008), winner of the Kinereth Gensler Award, and *Clarice: The Visitor* (Sylph Editions, 2015), a collaboration with the artist Erica Baum. Her fiction and poetry have been translated into eight languages and she has written for *The New York Times*, NPR’s *All Things Considered*, *Slate*, and *The Paris Review*. She is the recipient of awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, *Poets & Writers Magazine*, the PEN Translation Fund, the Poetry Foundation, and the Poetry Society of America. She has also translated the work of several prominent Brazilian writers, most recently Clarice Lispector’s novel *The Passion According to G.H.* (New Directions, 2012). She has taught at Princeton University, Columbia, NYU, Fordham, the Catholic University of Chile, and in the Bard Prison Initiative.

*This event is made possible by the generosity of the Provost’s Office, the Sophie Kerr Committee, and the William James Forum.*

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*—American Shakespeare Center

Sunday, September 18, 7:30 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Founded in 1988, the ASC On Tour boasts more than 25 years’ worth of global touring experience on stages in 47 states, five foreign nations, and one U.S. Territory. The ASC On Tour invites audiences to enjoy this show as Shakespeare’s troupe performed it—on a bare stage and surrounded by audience members who share the same light with the actors, each of whom plays multiple roles. This highly interactive style allows the ASC On Tour to forge a sense of community between performers and audience rarely found in theatre today, and enables our audience to understand and enjoy these classic works.

*This performance of The Two Gentlemen of Verona will feature in its cast a recently adopted dog from the Kent County Humane Society, which will be present before and after the show.*
Literary House & Sophie Kerr Series

Living Writers—A Reading by Jericho Brown

Thursday, September 29, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House


*This event is co-sponsored by the Black Studies program, the Rose O’Neill Literary House, and the Sophie Kerr Committee.*

Literary House & Sophie Kerr Series

Living Writers—A Reading by Denise Duhamel

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

Denise Duhamel’s most recent book of poetry is *Blowout* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her other titles include *Ka-Ching!* (Pittsburgh, 2009), *Two and Two* (Pittsburgh, 2005), *Queen for a Day: Selected and New Poems* (Pittsburgh, 2001), *The Star-Spangled Banner* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1999), and *Kinky* (Orchises, 1997). She and Maureen Seaton co-authored *CAPRICE (Collaborations: Collected, Uncollected, and New)* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2015). Duhamel is a recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is Professor of English at Florida International University in Miami.

Literary House Series

*Still Life with Poem*—A Lit House Press Book Launch

Tuesday, October 18, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Join us for a poetry reading and book signing as the Literary House Press releases its second trade paperback, an anthology of brand-new poems from 80 American poets called *Still Life with Poem: Contemporary Natures Mortes in Verse*. Contributors James Arthur, James Allen Hall, Leslie Harrison, dawn lonsinger, and Dora Malech—as well as co-editor Lindsay Lusby—will read their poems from the anthology and their favorite pieces from other poets in the book. The reading will be followed by a book sale and signing, as well as delicious refreshments.
Literary House Series

Find Your Subject & Voice: A Workshop for Writers of Fiction & Memoir with Laura Oliver ’75

Friday, October 21, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Exploring subject and voice is the exciting, ongoing work of both new and experienced writers. Using published examples, writing exercises, expert instruction, and lively discussion, this dynamic workshop will help you find the story you wish to tell and the most authentic, authorial voice in which to tell it. We will see how successful stories are built and will learn to eliminate what is unnecessary so the remaining tale shines. Perfect for new writers wishing to experiment and for more advanced writers seeking fresh inspiration to energize new and existing work.

Literary House & Sophie Kerr Series

Living Writers—A Reading by Cathy Linh Che

Thursday, October 27, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Cathy Linh Che is the author of the poetry collection Split (Alice James Books, 2014), winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize, the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the Best Poetry Book Prize from the Association of Asian American Studies. She is a Vietnamese American poet, teacher, and arts administrator living in Los Angeles, CA.

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

Pym, Prometheus, and the Marinere: Anachronizing Edgar Allan Poe—A Lecture by Professor Richard C. De Prospo

Thursday, November 3, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Rich De Prospo’s tenure-clock has been ticking away since 1975 at Washington College, where he has chaired the Humanities Division and the American Studies Program and is currently Professor of English. He served as a visiting professor of English and Literary Theory at the University of New Hampshire and the University of London, and has served as a U.S. Information Agency consultant for the establishment of American Studies programs at universities in Germany, Ecuador, and Slovenia. His publications include Theism in the Discourse of Jonathan Edwards (University of Delaware Press, 1985), The Stowe Debate (University of Massachusetts Press, 1994), and The Latest Early American Literature (University of Delaware Press, 2016), as well as numerous articles in literary theory and American literature journals. He is currently completing Poe’s Difference, of which “Pym, Prometheus, and the Marinere: Anachronizing Poe” is an excerpt.
Literary House & Sophie Kerr Series

Living Writers—A Reading by Timothy Donnelly

**Tuesday, November 15, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Timothy Donnelly is the author of *Twenty-seven Props for a Production of Eine Lebenszeit* (Grove, 2003) and *The Cloud Corporation* (Wave, 2010; Picador, 2012), winner of the 2012 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. His chapbook *Hymn to Life* was published by Factory Hollow Press in 2014 and, with John Ashbery and Geoffrey G. O’Brien, he is the co-author of *Three Poets* (Minus A Press, 2012). He is a recipient of *The Paris Review*’s Bernard F. Conners Prize, a Pushcart Prize, and the Poetry Society of America’s Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award, as well as fellowships from the New York State Writers Institute and the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He is currently chair of the Writing Program at Columbia University’s School of the Arts and poetry editor of *Boston Review*. He lives in Brooklyn with his family.

Literary House & C.V. Starr Center

"Pull My Daisy"—A Film Showing

**Monday, November 21, 7:00 p.m., Norman James Theatre, William Smith Hall**

Starring poets Allen Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and Gregory Corso, this short film was adapted from Jack Kerouac’s play, *Beat Generation*. The film is directed by Robert Frank and Alfred Leslie, with improvised narration provided by Kerouac, resulting in a movie that defines the Beat Generation.

Literary House & C.V. Starr Center

Being Allen Ginsberg—A Talk with David Carter & Bob Rosenthal

**Tuesday, November 22, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

This talk about Ginsberg brings together the poetry and the life of one of America’s most distinctive voices.

David Carter recalls that the first positive statement he encountered about being gay was in an article he read as a teenager that stated that Allen Ginsberg was homosexual and an American treasure. Carter later attended Ginsberg’s readings whenever he could and interviewed the poet for a 1982 gay cable television program. Carter is the editor of *Spontaneous Mind* (HarperCollins, 2001), Ginsberg’s selected interviews, and the author of *Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution* (St. Martin’s Press, 2004). He is also the author of two young adult biographies.
Bob Rosenthal worked as Allen Ginsberg’s secretary for 20 years until Allen’s death, and currently is a chief advisor to Ginsberg’s estate. A poet and writer, his current project is an experimental chronicle of the business of Allen Ginsberg. Rosenthal’s cult classic, *Cleaning Up New York*, has just been republished from the Little Book Room Press, and he is newly retired as a teacher of English Language and Literature at the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School.

First-Year Reading

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

Come hear Washington College first-year writers read from their original work!

Spring Movie Nights at the Literary House

**February 3, March 3, and April 19, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Join us for Movie Nights at the Lit House for popcorn, snacks, and literary films to be picked by students and staff, and stay after the screening for a rousing discussion of the evening’s movie.

The Literary House at AWP Conference & Bookfair

**February 8-11, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day, Washington Convention Center & Washington Marriott Marquis, D.C.**

Visit the Rose O’Neill Literary House in the Bookfair at the 2017 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Washington, DC. Our students are excited to be there! At the Bookfair, we will be debuting our 2017 AWP Commemorative Broadside (a collaborative project with the poetry organization Split this Rock) and the third issue of *Cherry Tree: A National Literary Journal @ Washington College*. Visit awpwriter.org to register.

**Literary House Series**

**The Personal & the Political—An Evening with Brian Turner**

**Tuesday, February 21, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Brian Turner is a poet and memoirist who served seven years in the U.S. Army. He is the author of two poetry collections, *Phantom Noise* (Alice James, 2010) and *Here, Bullet* (Alice James, 2005), which won the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award, the *New York Times* Editors’ Choice selection, the 2006 PEN Center USA “Best in the West” award, the 2007 Poets Prize, and others. Turner’s work has been published in *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, Poetry Daily, *Harper’s Magazine*, and other fine
Journals. Turner has been awarded a United States Artists Fellowship, an NEA Fellowship, a Lannan Foundation Fellowship, and more. His recent memoir, *My Life as a Foreign Country* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2015), has been called, “achingly, disturbingly, shockingly beautiful.”

This event is made possible in part by generous sponsorship from Dr. Jude M. and Mrs. Miriam R. Pfister M. ’93.

**Literary House Series**

The Personal & the Political—A Faculty Tea & Talk with Professor Christine J. Wade

**Tuesday, February 28, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Christine J. Wade is Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies and the Curator of the Louis L. Goldstein Program in Public Affairs at Washington College, where she teaches classes on Latin American politics, comparative peace processes, human rights, U.S.-Latin American Relations, and the politics of development. She is an expert in the politics of Central America, and has conducted field research in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. She is the author of *Captured Peace: Elites and Peacebuilding in El Salvador* (Ohio University Press, 2016), and co-author of *Nicaragua: Emerging from the Shadow of the Eagle* (Westview Press, 2016), *Understanding Central America: Global Forces, Rebellion and Change* (Westview Press, 2014), and *A Revolução Salvadorenha (The Salvadoran Revolution)* (Fundação Editora Da UNESP, 2006). She is the co-author and co-editor of *Latin American Politics and Development*, which will appear in its 9th edition in July 2017. She is also the author of other scholarly works dealing with revolutions, post-war violence, and peacebuilding. Her current events commentaries regularly appear in *World Politics Review*, *the Latin American Advisor*, and other venues.

**Literary House Series**

The Personal & the Political—An Evening with Carolyn Forché

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

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

Feminism is Everywhere—A Lecture by Dr. Phyllis Rackin

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

Phyllis Rackin is Professor of English Emerita at the University of Pennsylvania. A past President of the Shakespeare Association of America, Dr. Rackin is the author of numerous articles on Shakespeare and literary theory, and of four books: *Shakespeare’s Tragedies* (World Dramatists, 1978), *Stages of History: Shakespeare’s English Chronicles* (Cornell, 1990), *Shakespeare and Women* (Oxford, 2005), and, with Jean E. Howard, *Engendering a Nation: A Feminist Account of Shakespeare’s English Histories* (Routledge, 1997). She co-edited another book, *The Merry Wives of Windsor: New Critical Essays*, with Evelyn Gajowski (Routledge, 2014). Recipient of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, Dr. Rackin has taught and mentored countless scholars, including Professors Kate Moncrief and Courtney Rydel, here at Washington College. Her landmark accomplishments have been honored with the Phyllis Rackin Graduate Fellowship for Feminist Scholarship in the Humanities and the annual Phyllis Rackin Lecture hosted by the Penn Medieval/Renaissance Seminar.

Literary House Series

The Personal & the Political—An Evening with Chris Abani

**Thursday, April 6, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Chris Abani’s books of fiction include *The Secret History of Las Vegas* (Penguin, 2014), *Song For Night* (Akashic Books, 2007), *The Virgin of Flames* (Penguin, 2007), *Becoming Abigail* (Akashic Books, 2006), *GraceLand* (FSG, 2004/Picador 2005), and *Masters of the Board* (Delta, 1985). His poetry collections are *There Are No Names for Red* (Red Hen Press, 2010), *Feed Me The Sun: Collected Long Poems* (Peepal Tree Press Ltd., 2010), *Sanctificum* (Copper Canyon Press, 2006), *Hands Washing Water* (Copper Canyon Press, 2006), *Dog Woman* (Red Hen Press, 2004), *Daphne’s Lot* (Red Hen Press, 2003), and *Kalakuta Republic* (Saqi, 2001). He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the PEN/Hemingway Award, the PEN Beyond the Margins Award, the Hurston Wright Award, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship, among many honors. His work has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, German, Swedish, Romanian, Hebrew, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Dutch, Bosnian, and Serbian.
Senior Reading

**Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Come hear graduating senior writers read from their original pieces! The Literary House will also announce the winners of the Literary House Genre Fiction Prize, the William W. Warner Prize for Creative Writing on Nature and the Environment, and the Jude & Miriam Pfister Poetry Prize.

Sophie Kerr Prize Event

**Date and Location TBA**

This event to announce the winner of the annual Sophie Kerr Prize will feature a keynote address by a noted author and readings by the student finalists. Previous speakers have included National Book Award-winner Colum McCann, Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael Dirda, renowned poet Mary Jo Salter, author and 1982 Sophie Kerr Prize-winner Peter Turchi, and author Roy Kesey. In 2017, the Prize will be valued at $65,768.

Literary House Series

**Summer Literary Salons**

**May 23, June 27, and July 25, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

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

Cave Canem Residency

**June 2017, Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Cave Canem, the nation’s leading organization for African American poets, teams up with the Rose O’Neill Literary House and Washington College for the Washington College Cave Canem Residency in June 2017. 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 Literary Salon series. Our 2016 Fellow was poet Darrel Alejandro Holnes. Check our website, lithouse.washcoll.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.
“Within your words your readers will find \textbf{the language} they need to think their own essential, \textbf{life-saving thoughts} about \textbf{love} and \textbf{longing} and \textbf{fear}. That’s why \textbf{you are needed}. I don’t know of any higher calling.”

—fiction-writer Roy Kesey, in his keynote address for the announcement of the 2016 Sophie Kerr Prize