This fall, Poets House celebrates its 10th Anniversary at 10 River Terrace—a library and meeting space with expansive views of the Hudson, built specifically for poetry, and for you. Anniversaries can help us look at our path in time. So I begin this note with thanks for your energy and support. So many visitors and collaborators have helped to make Poets House a place of welcome and learning! Together we make something remarkable: a democratic, pluralistic space that invites millions annually into the experience of poetry and its many possibilities.

Although Poets House has a robust thirty-year history, it is here at 10 River Terrace that the organization’s ethos of service has been most fully expressed: 80,000 people cross our threshold annually to read, write, listen or attend a program. Almost 10,000 of them are students, many on free class trips. Millions find us online or through regional programs. Poets House is dedicated to fostering deep attention to language—language, that creates bridges between communities and individuals. We welcome people from all around the world and from every experience in life. We welcome voices from the past and the future, to create breathing space and dialogue in our culture.

We are so grateful to Battery Park City Authority for the gift of this space. And, now, in honor of our 10th Anniversary in Lower Manhattan, they are helping with another groundbreaking project: a Poetry Path along the banks of the Hudson—poems on benches, pavers, railings and banners. The Poetry Path will have its opening this spring, opening our conversation about poetry into the park and the neighborhood.

Join us all year long for workshops, tributes, events on great poets, and programs that explore poetry’s relationship to science. Come tune your ears and hearts to great words that can illuminate your individual path and the paths we make to each other.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 3 PM
FAVORITE POEM READING with ROBERT PINSKY & SPECIAL GUESTS

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky leads a Favorite Poem reading. For 20 years, this project has celebrated poetry’s vital role in our daily lives, featuring people from all walks of life reading poems that have been significant to them.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7 PM
NORTH OF INVENTION: THE SHAKING TENT with LIZ HOWARD

Liz Howard, winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2016, will discuss this sacred Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) rite and examine the use of ritual practice as a means to guide one’s work, sharing the ways this ceremony has informed her poetics. Co-presented with the Consulate General of Canada.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 8 PM
A TRIBUTE TO W. S. MERWIN with SONNET COGGINS, ROBERT HASS, EDWARD HIRSCH, HOWARD NORMAN, NAOMI SHIHAB NYE, MICHAEL ONDAATJE & Others

Location: 92Y Unterberg Poetry Center, 1395 Lexington Ave. Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance at www.92y.org

You that sang to me once sing to me now / let me hear your long lifted note / survive with me

Friends and fellow poets will read from the work of W. S. Merwin in commemoration of his death on March 15, 2019. A two-term U.S. Poet Laureate, Merwin’s influence on American poetics has been profound.


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 3 PM
ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS CHANCELLOR CONVERSATIONS

Admission: $15.

Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets discuss issues in contemporary life and poetic practice.

3 – 4 PM
Poetry Makes Nothing Happen?: Poetry In/And the Public Sphere with Elizabeth Alexander, Alicia Ostriker, Marie Howe, Alberto Ríos & Natasha Trethewey

4:15 – 5:15 PM
Our Own Foreignness: Border-Crossing Poetry in Translation with Forrest Gander, Brenda Hillman, Khaled Mattawa & Marilyn Chin

5:30 – 6:30 PM
Writing Poetry in a Troubled World with Kwame Dawes, Linda Gregerson, Terrance Hayes & David St. John

Co-presented by the Academy of American Poets and Poets House.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 7 PM
POETRY OF THE SUPERNATURAL: THE WEIRD with BRYAN THAO WORRA & LINDA ADDISON

Bryan Thao Worra, Lao Minnesotan Poet Laureate and president of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association, joins Linda Addison, the first poet and black woman to win the Writers Association’s Bram Stoker Award, to explore supernatural poetics from H. P. Lovecraft to Edgar Allan Poe. Two days before Samhain—a traditional pagan holiday marking the end of harvest season and the descent into winter, when borders between worlds are most porous—join us for an event that toes the line between the natural and the supernatural.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 3 PM
PASSWORDS: THE BALLAD

PIDDGIN KINE RHAPSODY: HAWAIIAN ENGLISH-CREOLE POETRY FROM 1970 TO THE PRESENT with R. ZAMORA LINMARK

Celebrated Filipino American poet and novelist R. Zamora Linmark discusses hybridity and song in Hawaiian ballad traditions. Linmark will intersperse the lecture with Hawaiian Pidgin poems by Lois-Ann Yamanaka and other Hawaiian voices, concluding with his appropriation of a Federico García Lorca ballad, which will be sung in rounds.
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 6:30 PM
PASSWORDS: THE BALLAD

LOVE, LYRICISM & SOCIAL PROTEST with SARAH ARVIO

Award-winning poet Sarah Arvio presents her new translations of the poetry of Federico García Lorca, recently published as the acclaimed Poet in Spain. She will discuss Lorca’s approach to form, rhythm, and lyricism and his emulation of literary and musical forms as an expression of love and social protest. Describing her strategies for translating Lorca’s varied poetic music, she will read from the cante, the ballads, and the great homoerotic love poems. Arvio will be joined by flamenco guitarist and Lorcaphile Sergio Sánchez-Monge Escardó in performance.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2-4 PM
WOKE BABY FAMILY BOOK FESTIVAL WITH STORY TIMES FOR THE KIDS!
Curated by MAHOGANY L. BROWNE

Join us for a celebration of independent presses that publish justice-oriented children’s books, curated by Mahogany L. Browne. A Cave Canem fellow and alumna of Poets House’s Emerging Poets Fellowship, Browne creates a vibrant space for youth between the page and spoken word as Artistic Director at Urban Word NYC. Browne is an educator and spoken-word poet, as well as the author of several books, including Black Girl Magic and a new book, Woke Baby, written for children ages zero to five.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7 PM
NORTH OF INVENTION: A berthDAY CELEBRATION with bill bissett
Introduce by ADEENA KARASICK

On the occasion of polymath bill bissett’s 80th birthday, join us in welcoming the poet, painter, musician, and editor to Poets House! bissett will present on his legendary career in Canadian small press publishing. The evening will conclude with a reading from his latest collection, breth. Co-presented with the Consulate General of Canada.

— DECEMBER —

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6:30 PM
A TRIBUTE TO FANNY HOWE

Poets House honors the life and work of prolific poet, scholar, and activist Fanny Howe, author of more than 20 books of poetry and prose. After initially dropping out of Stanford to join the civil rights movement, Howe taught literature at institutions across the country. She is currently Professor Emerita in Literature at the University of California at San Diego. She has mentored a generation of American poets and scholars working at the intersection of experimental writing and activism. Join us in honoring Howe’s lasting legacy with hosts Jennifer Tseng and Kazim Ali, as well as Maureen N. McLane, Rae Armantrout, Peter Gizzi, Carolyn Forché, Jeff Yang, Ben Doller, Xing Senna, and Howe herself.

POETRY PATHS ACROSS THE NATION

FIELD WORK: ALIGNING POETRY AND SCIENCE

Field Work: Aligning Poetry and Science is a three-year program imagining new pathways between scientific and poetic communication. Together with natural history museums and libraries in Salt Lake City and Milwaukee, Poets House has created interdisciplinary learning models for increased understanding of the world around us, uniting STEM learning with poetry through collaborative language arts experiments and the creation of experiential Poetry Paths.

Alison Hawthorne Deming and Katharine Coles, distinguished Field Work Poets-in-Residence, will join us in the new program series, Poetry & Science.

LANGUAGE OF CONSERVATION

The national project placing poetry in zoos still thrives in cities across the nation.

10TH ANNIVERSARY AT 10 RIVER TERRACE

POETS HOUSE POETRY PATH

Having partnered with libraries, museums, and zoos across the nation to implement Poetry Paths that continue to surprise and delight visitors with the language of poetry, Poets House will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in Lower Manhattan by unveiling a poetry path in our own “front yard,” produced in collaboration with Battery Park City Authority. Opening in Spring 2020!

There are so many ways to participate in the life of Poets House. Visit the library. Bring a friend. Bring your classes.
FOLLOW US @POETSHOUSE:

POETSHOUSE.ORG
For details, visit poetshouse.org or call 212-431-7920

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS

Open to all levels. No application needed, but registration is required. To register, and for more information, visit poetshouse.org. Fee: Three-hour classes are $95; four-hour classes are $110.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 12 – 4 PM
RE-COGNITION, RE-VISION, & REVELATION: PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR POEMS with NICKOLE BROWN & JESSICA JACOBS

Bridging the gap between inspiration and perspiration, this workshop focuses on specific elements of poetry, such as tone, metaphor, imagery, form, and sound, to provide students a process by which they can infuse revision with the same creative energy that accompanies writing early drafts. This workshop is excellent for writers currently revising drafts of existing poems.


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 12 – 3 PM
YOU ARE HERE: POEMS OF PLACE with KC TROMMER

What do time and place have to teach us? This generative workshop aims to use participants’ personal geographies—inherited as well as chosen—to create work that examines one’s own place in the world. Class discussion will consider modern and contemporary poets—including W. S. Merwin, Frank O’Hara, Heather McHugh, Joy Harjo, Rosebud Ben-Oni, and others—to learn from these poets’ visual and narrative mapping.

KC Trommer is the author of We Call Them Beautiful. She has taught writing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Bard High School Early College; and the University of Pennsylvania.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 12 – 3 PM
DREAMS & DIASPORA: EXPLORING SPECFICATIVE POETICS with BRYAN THAO WORRA

Speculative poetry embraces elements of fantasy, horror, and science fiction, sharing roots in the Odyssey, the Ramayana, Beowulf, and more. In addition to these, we will examine speculative works by poets of the Southeast Asian diaspora(s) examining the Vietnam War, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, and the Secret War for Laos as case studies in storytelling, mythmaking, and collective mourning. Together, we will navigate an approach to reconciling memory, healing, and the search for a future.

Bryan Thao Worra is the Lao Minnesotan Poet Laureate and President of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 6 – 9 PM
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAT DOWN AND ORDERED MY FEELINGS: THE LIST POEM with R. ZAMORA LINMARK

One of the oldest and most popular forms of poetry, the repetitive verse of the list makes it as incantatory as a Polynesian chant, as witty as a 10th-century Japanese courtesan, and as outrageously fun as growing up gay in Middle America in the 1960s. In this hybrid lecture-workshop, we will examine how poets from different times and parts of the world use the list as a historical, cultural, and lyrical document.

Poet, novelist, and playwright R. Zamora Linmark was born in Manila, Philippines, and has lived in Honolulu, Madrid, and Tokyo. He has published five collections of poetry and taught at the University of Hawai’i and the University of Miami.

SIX-WEEK WORKSHOPS

Open to all levels. No application needed, but registration is required. To register, and for more information, visit poetshouse.org. Fee: $325.

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 12 – NOVEMBER 23 (SKIPPING NOVEMBER 2), 3 – 5:30 PM
FINDING YOUR VOICE AND YOUR DUENDE: WRITING POEMS OF LOVE AND DEATH with SARAH ARVIO

What is the Lorcan notion of “duende”? Is duende a muse or inspiration? Is it the same as “voice”? In this workshop, we’ll think about what makes a poem move us—what gives it duende—and how to cultivate the voice as an expression of our particular selves, accessing experiences and emotions with techniques such as dream-thinking and thought-streaming.

Sarah Arvio is an acclaimed poet, translator and memoirist. Her latest book is Poet in Spain, new translations from the poems of Federico García Lorca. Winner of the Rome Prize among other honors, she has published three books of poetry; another is forthcoming. Arvio has worked as a translator for the United Nations and taught poetry at Princeton.

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 15 – NOVEMBER 19, 6 – 8:30 PM
ALTER | ALTAR II: SIGIL, Soma, Score, Salve with ELÆ (LYNNE DESILVA-JOHNSON)

Deconstructing the boundaries of “poetics,” participants will create works that challenge genre, drawing on source texts and media, ephemera, detritus, found language, list-making, and the epistolary form—alongside somatic and social practice. Can this work be a powerful, political act of radical self and community building? Of witness? Can it be an act of healing? YES. “Texts” will include Adrian Piper, Glenn Ligon, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Bhanu Kapil, Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, and more.

ELÆ, a.k.a. Lynne DeSilva-Johnson, is a nonbinary queer multimodal creator and performer, cultural scholar, and educator. Founder and creative director of The Operating System, a radical open-source publisher, they have taught in the CUNY system for over 10 years and now teach at the Pratt Institute.
IN THE TRADITION with JERICHO BROWN

This workshop has as its foremost feature the writing and critiquing of poems by students, focusing on strategies to establish emotional depth, enhance musical pleasure, or strengthen a rhetorical stance. As there is a profound relationship between reading poetry and writing it, we will read, discuss, and even recite the work of poets such as John Berryman, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sylvia Plath, Wallace Stevens, and others. We will read each other’s work, giving and receiving the kind of feedback that binds any community of poets.

Jericho Brown is an associate professor and the director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University. He has written three collections of poetry, including 2019’s The Tradition, and is a recipient of the Whiting Award in Poetry.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2 – 6 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 12 – 4 PM
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, October 15

CHILDHOOD DAYS with FANNY HOWE

We will listen to children’s stories read aloud and discuss myth and memory. We will read poems about childhood—Rilke, Rimbaud, and the moderns—and discuss ourselves, our sources, and the future. The urban childhood—rich or poor—the country childhood, and the suburban childhood in all its alienation: symbols and metaphors homegrown. We will listen to poems each person provides and think of them in relation to the subject of childhood: how it continues to influence our poetry and our lives.

Fanny Howe is the author of more than 20 volumes of poetry and prose, most recently Love and I. Howe taught literature at institutions across the country and is now Professor Emerita in Literature at the University of California at San Diego.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2 – 6 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 12 – 4 PM
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, November 4

SAVING, SINGING, IMAGINING, NAMING with GREGORY ORR

This workshop will focus on two themes. First, how we can begin significant poems by giving ourselves “permission”—that is, how we can open our writing processes to dynamic disorder in the confidence that we have the inherent power (let’s call it imagination) to order our disorder. Second, how we can work with those rich and distinctive powers of poetic language that enliven lyric poems: saying, singing, imagining, and naming.

Gregory Orr has taught at the University of Virginia since 1975, where he was the founder and first director of the MFA Program in Writing. He has authored 12 books of poetry including The Last Love Poem I Will Ever Write, and more, including a poetic memoir On Willing, Art, and Healing, The Blessing.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2 – 6 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 12 – 4 PM
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, November 18

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 16 – DECEMBER 4 (SKIPPING NOVEMBER 13 & 27), 6 – 8:30 PM

WITNESS: A POETRY WRITING AND PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP with ROSAMOND S. KING

What does it mean to witness through poetry? We will practice witnessing others’ lives, our own, and the city around us, reading poets from Edna St. Vincent Millay to Jayne Cortez. Performance exercises will explore modulation, breath, pacing, and rhythm, while writing exercises will alternate between diving into ourselves and witnessing the world.

Rosamond S. King’s publications include RockSaltStone, which received a Lambda Literary Award. She is an associate professor in the English department at Brooklyn College.

THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 17 – NOVEMBER 21, 6 – 8:30 PM
DIRECT ADDRESS: WRITING NEW POEMS with EMILY HUNT

In this workshop, we’ll embrace the urgency, clarity, volition, and sensuality that can surface when we write to someone or something, rather than about, around, or in light of a subject. Taking inspiration from Bernadette Mayer, Lucille Clifton, Fernando Pessoa, Salmaz Sharif, Dara Wier, and others, we’ll ask, how do our voices change based on who or what we address? What happens to diction, tone, and form?

Emily Hunt’s first full-length collection, Dark Green, was named a standout debut by Publishers Weekly and a “Must-Read Poetry Debut” by Lit Hub. This year, she released two chapbooks: Company, a collection of poetry, and Cousins, a book of photographic couplings.

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 19 – NOVEMBER 23, 11:30 AM – 2 PM
EAR TO THE CANVAS: LESSONS FROM THE VISUAL ARTS with ELÉNA RIVERA

In a workshop focusing on the students’ own poems, we will look at the work of visual artists as a springboard for writing poetry, exploring what can be learned from a myriad of artistic practices and discussing writing poetry as a process, an oeuvre. We will look at poems by John Ashbery, Susan Howe, Cecilia Vicuña, John Taggart, Anne Carson, and others, alongside the work of artists such as Louise Bourgeois, David Hockney, and Etel Adnan.

Eléna Rivera is the author of 2017’s Scaffolding, as well as two other full-length poetry collections. She is on the faculty at Bard College and has also taught at NYU.
THE CONSTANCE LAIBE HAYS CHILDREN’S ROOM AT POETS HOUSE

The Constance Laibe Hays Children’s Room is an interactive space filled with the best of children’s poetry, art supplies, and objects chosen to inspire creativity.

Children’s Room hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 5 PM
Children and their adults are invited to visit and explore.

Nearly 10,000 students participated in free Poets House programs and class trips during the past year.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2 – 4 PM
WOKE BABY FAMILY BOOK FESTIVAL WITH STORY TIMES
Curated by MAHOGANY L. BROWNE

Join us in our Constance Laibe Hays Children’s Room for readings from Woke Baby (ages 0-5) and others of the books for children featured in a book festival curated by Mahogany L. Browne. The festival celebrates independent press publishing of justice-oriented children’s books. Visit Elizabeth Kray Hall to explore a range of children’s literature for all ages.

TINY POETS TIME: THURSDAYS AT 10 AM
Free and open to the public.
Poetry and songs for toddlers, hosted by Poets House staff and special guests.

FREE CLASS TRIPS
On a Poets House field trip, students and teachers experience the many joys of poetry through interactive readings, workshops, and exploration of the library—and their own imaginations.

Preschool through high school.
By appointment.
For more details, contact Phoebe Kaufman at 212-431-7920 ext. 2819 or email phoebe@poetshouse.org

A special thanks to Con Edison, Goldman Sachs, Jim Chervenak, and others for their ongoing support of children’s and youth programs.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING CREATE POETS HOUSE’S PATH FORWARD

We salute those individuals and foundations whose leadership donations have enabled the growth of Poets House: Penny & John Barr • Thomas M. & Kate Cheney Chappell • Robert & Angela Kissane • The Estate of Deborah S. Pease • Myra & Harold Shapiro • Margo & Anthony Viscusi • The J. M. Kaplan Fund • The Reed Foundation • The Tomorrow Foundation

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We thank each of our members and all of those who have contributed to our support this year. Poets House depends on donations to survive. If you aren’t a member, please consider becoming one! Members at all levels receive free admission to Poets House programs for a full year.
FALL 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

THE BALLAD—programs on lyric poems and songs, including talks by R. Zamora Linmark & Sarah Arvio

POETRY & SCIENCE—conversations between scientists and poets featuring Mordecai-Mark Mac Low, Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Nalini Nadkarni & Forrest Gander as well as Field Work Poets-In-Residence Katharine Coles & Alison Hawthorne Deming

NORTH OF INVENTION—programs and readings featuring Canadian poets, including Liz Howard & bill bissett, co-presented with the Consulate General of Canada

PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCES, CLASSES & CONVERSATIONS with Linda Addison, Jericho Brown, ELÆ (Lynne DeSilva-Johnson), Emily Hunt, Rosamond S. King, Gregory Orr, Eléna Rivera, Bryan Thao Worra & many others

CELEBRATIONS of the lives and legacies of Dan Halpern, Fanny Howe, and the late W. S. Merwin

EXHIBITIONS including Nicholas Buffon’s Gay New York: Walt Whitman to the Present