

BLUE NOTES

Blue Mountain Center's Community Newsletter • November 2014

KEEPING THE LEAD OUT OF OUR SHOES

When Blue Mountain Center opened in May of 1982, several of our founding advisors suggested that we think of the center as an “experiment in co-creation.” Egbal Ahmed, one of our mentors, observed that “BMC must always be open to the next question, the next possibility.” That advice is at the heart of the center’s determination to try new ways of serving the artists and activists who are our community and our constituency.

In 1985 and ’86 BMC departed from our early conference / Residency format to host twelve weeklong co-learning gatherings that we called “Common Practice.” Two hundred and sixty cultural workers and organizers, each of whom had been nominated by their peers, came for five-day explorations of how to de-silo our work for progressive change. It was remarkable, exhausting, and, from the evaluations, a full step forward for the participants. It certainly changed us.

That experiment introduced BMC to scores of national, regional, and local organizations and change agents who

became co-innovators of our program. From one came the suggestion of a “parents and kids” Residency session. We tried it. Thirteen parents, seven children under the age of four, all-day childcare and cooperative evenings. It was loud and lively, great for the Resident parents and a “too-far” stretch for BMC’s capacity. But it was a five-star effort and we learned more than we knew we wanted to know from the experience.

Since then we’ve tried numerous formats for our Residencies and conferences, and introduced the concept of a Focus Residency, which combines the two. This year that format was guided by three alums working on issues of sexual violence. We also hosted a five-day gathering of veteran artists, organized by Aaron Hughes, who participated in the Costs of War Focus Residency in 2010.

Each of our efforts shares the objective of serving the movement(s) for justice, peace, and health. We learn from what we try. You, our alums, are our brain trust. Help us keep our program fresh and relevant. Your suggestions are always welcome.

—Harriet Barlow



Winter Miller and Hannah Brancato, Photo by Anna Schulte Haber

NEW WEBSITE

If you haven’t visited bluemountaincenter.org recently, do it! We have a new site (same web address), which features more detailed background information on BMC, including pages on our mission, programming, and facilities. New high-resolution images evoke the experience of being here, and fill in the gaps between basics like application guidelines and contact information.

An early version of this article might have been titled “Nephew Bails out Bad-Back Ben.” After his uncle slipped a disc in his back, Luke Nathan came to do some heavy lifting for a few weeks, and ended up staying for the rest of the season. We owe him many thanks for the web site overhaul, but let’s not forget the dirt, woodchip, and compost hauling.

—Hannah Lee

INSIDE: SHEET MUSIC FOR A NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

BMC AT THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

This September, an estimated 400,000 people converged on a muggy New York City morning for the People's Climate March. Friends and alumni of Blue Mountain Center worked at every level for the success of the march, celebrated as the largest climate action in history.

Subways and streets overflowed with children, parents, students, and workers carrying signs that made the connection between climate and social justice explicit: "Climate Change is About People!" "Clean Air, Clean Jobs!" and the march's slogan: "To Change Everything, We Need Everyone!"

Favianna Rodriguez, BMC alum and co-founder of the immigration-focused arts organization Culture Str/ke was part of the core group of artists that organized for the march. Rodriguez said, "Artists were not just a side component of the People's Climate March. Artists were the glue." Migrant communities, union members, and shoreline neighborhoods hit hard by Hurricane Sandy led the parade of

humanity carrying giant stalks of corn, life preservers, and artistic renderings of Climate Warriors. "There is no Planet B!" marchers cried.

Many marched from as far north as 86th Street, through Times Square, south towards the Hudson River. A fleet of paper boats floated down the west side of Manhattan Island. The Sea Change: We All Live Downstream paddle, which started weeks earlier in Troy, New York, was set to coincide with the historic climate action. BMC alumni Dylan Gauthier and Kevin Buckland collaborated with 350.org on Sea Change, creating a sustainable flotilla that brought climate change awareness to towns and cities throughout the Hudson River Valley.

Jamie Henn, 350.org's Strategy & Communication Director, wrote that "much of the art, activism, and friendships that made the march a success can be traced back to meetings and workshops at BMC!"

At the culmination of the three-mile procession, marchers had the

opportunity to contribute to *The Climate Ribbon*, a large-scale installation that highlighted all we stand to lose from "climate chaos." Conceived by Blue Mountaineers Andrew Boyd and Gan Golan, the ribbon provided a space for mourning and reflection amidst the crowds. Golan planned many of the arts-based strategies at the march. He wrote: "It takes deep roots to create a moment like the People's Climate March, and there is no question that many of those roots grew out of the soil beside Blue Mountain Lake."

The People's Climate March, an unprecedented convergence of social justice and environmental activism, defied expectations and preconceptions of who gets involved. Artists, activists, students, soccer moms, kids, and black-tie and blue-collar workers converged, demonstrating to the world that combating climate change will require an integrated and collaborative movement. In short, "To change everything, we need everyone!"

—Zohar Gitlis



Marchers contribute climate ribbons; Sea Change arrives in NYC; BMC alumna Snoon's artwork featured prominently at the march. Photos by Michael Premo and Sea Change.

SEXUAL AND GENDER VIOLENCE: A FOCUS RESIDENCY

This fall, Blue Mountain Center alums Anna Schuleit Haber, Helen Benedict, and Anne McClintock collaborated with the BMC staff to host a two-week Focus Residency on Sexual and Gender Violence. The session brought together fifteen visual artists, filmmakers, activists, journalists, and novelists.

The session moved between the personal and the political, storytelling and strategizing. Artists grappled with questions about the ethics of portraying survivors of intimate violence and the importance of depicting painful experiences. Activists questioned

what it would take to realize a culture of consent and easy access to survivor support.

During the session we witnessed the passage of a groundbreaking affirmative consent law in California. We followed the determination of a Columbia University activist to carry her mattress around the Manhattan campus until her rapist was expelled. It was clear that momentum was building, and across the country women and men from a variety of backgrounds were ready to see change.

—Zohar Gitlis

2014 Conferences

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy: Researchers, funders, and advocates from organizations such as the National Family Farm Coalition and Grassroots International joined IATP staff for conversations on agroecology. This emerging movement is concerned with the sustainability of our agricultural systems. Discussions at BMC reflected a diversity of visions for farming alternatives and reforms to U.S. trade policies.

ArtRage: The board of a radical, non-profit gallery and community center in Syracuse set organizational goals for the next three years. Among these goals was closing the demographic gaps in the communities they reach, in keeping with their mission of exhibiting art that dissolves social boundaries.

Association of Independents in Radio: Leaders of AIR, a network of radio producers, met to assess their program's identity. Participants discussed projects like Localore (an initiative that promotes new media experimentation), New Voices (a scholarship program for minority producers), and Curious City (WBEZ Chicago's series that produces segments based on listener suggestions).

Power and the New Economy: Over the course of a four-day retreat, progressive activists, researchers, and funders concerned with movement building brainstormed scalable solutions for the new economy. They considered the different roles of benevolent capital required to bring about change in the current neoliberal economic reality.

Adirondack Nonprofit Network: For their annual retreat, leaders of the Adirondack Nonprofit Network discussed changes to the Adirondack Nonprofit Summit. They shared case studies of organizations taking on leadership roles in the region in non-traditional ways, like ANCA's Go Digital or Go Dark and the Adirondack Common Ground Alliance. Participants also shared communication strategies and personal leadership goals.



Jonathan Allen's Eagle Nest boulder drawings appear throughout the issue.



Prison Issues — The Correction: This mini-conference organized by North Country Public Radio and John Brown Lives! brought radio, print, and TV journalists to discuss best practices in reporting on issues related to incarceration. Conveners led workshops and discussions on the forty-year trajectory of the U.S. prison system, the economic role of prisons in the North Country, and freelancing strategies for social justice journalism.

Beautiful Solutions: Members of the international network of artist-activist trainers convened in October to review strategic planning and generate ideas. They worked in both large and small groups to workshop teams' ideas for creative grassroots activism. Tactics for web presence and development were also considered.

Veteran Artists Iraq: War veteran Aaron Hughes organized this retreat in support of the emerging veterans' arts movement. Leaders of eight organizations gathered to reflect, learn about each other's projects, and seed future collaborations.

350.org: In the wake of the historic People's Climate March in September, 350.org and their allies grappled with topics related to power building in the climate justice movement. They worked to construct a common vision, narrative, and program that would spur mass mobilization around issues of climate change.

Synthetic Biology: Scientists and advocates convened to analyze the rapid development of engineered life known as "Syn-Bio". The group reviewed recent technological advances and strategized about how their international movement can hold the governments and industries behind them accountable for health and safety standards.

U.S. Department of Arts and Culture: The USDAC's inaugural program, Imaginings, envisions what life might be like in 2034, when the arts are more fully integrated into American society. The group's organizing team and collaborators met to imagine future endeavors.

—Luke Nathan

RESIDENT UPDATES

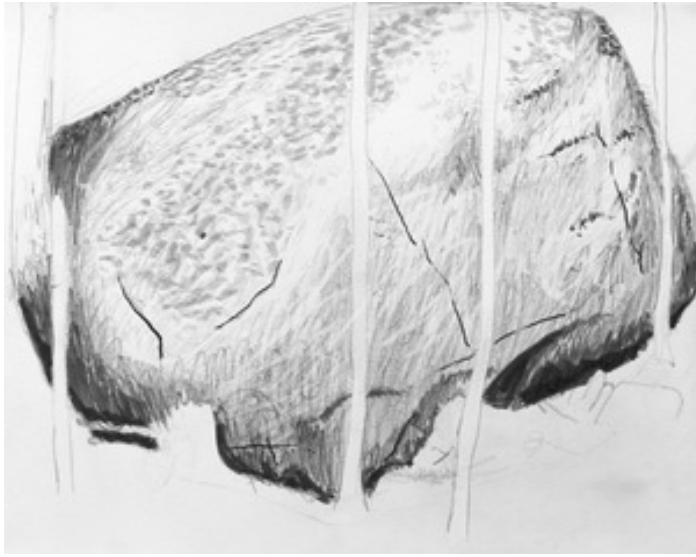


Shigeki Yobisida and Sam Graham-Felsen get goofy; Robert Atkins poses with a sculpture by John Schlesinger; Yesenia Sanchez pays homage to Frida Kablo. Photos by Shelly Silber and Hannah Lee.

Ally Acker completed a film she began at BMC in 1988. *Reel Herstory: The REAL Story of Reel Women*, hosted by Jodie Foster, is now entering film festivals. ● **Buzz Alexander** is almost retired, but not quite. He's teaching a Literature of Climate Change course at the University of Michigan. ● **Molly Antopol's** *The Un-Americans* received a National Book Award nomination. ● **Katherine Arnoldi** had a solo show of wildlife illustrations at Indian Road Café, NYC. She received a Blue Dot Award at The Art Students League. *The Amazing True Story of a Teenage Single Mom* will be re-printed by Graymalkin Press. ● **Alice Attie** exhibited photographs and drawings at Howard Greenberg Gallery, NYC. MOMA is currently reviewing her drawings for acquisition. A book of her poems will be published in 2015 by Seagull Press. ● **Howard Axelrod's** memoir, *The Point of Vanishing*, will be published in 2015 by Beacon Press. ● *Interior Wilderness*, **Olive Ayhens's** solo exhibit, was at Lori Bookstein Fine Art, NYC this spring. ● **Cynthia Back** was awarded a Studio Workspace Residency at Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY. ● *Madonna Comix*, **Celia Bland's** poetry-image collaboration with artist Dianne Kornberg, was published this summer. ● **Jennifer Block** announces that Abe Logan Rush was born on a snowy full moon on a farm in Loganville, WI. Her article "The 'Pernicious Trend' of DIY Baby Food?" was in *The Baffler*. ● Inspired by a vivid dream about BMC, **Rosalyn Bodycomb's** 2011 multimedia installation *My Aviary* was presented in May at the Conduit Gallery Project Room, Dallas, TX. Rosalyn's solo exhibition *The Trauma of the Incident* is now at the Conduit Gallery. ● **L.M. Bogad** led a Tactical Performance workshop resulting in a series of strange urban interventions in Riga, Latvia. He rode a tandem bicycle disguised as an oil-industry CEO's SUV at the NYC Climate March. ● **Gray Brechin** works at UC Berkeley with Living New Deal (livingnewdeal.org). 7,400 sites have been posted that graphically demonstrate the extent to which the U.S. continues to benefit from President Roosevelt's initiatives to extricate the U.S. from the Great Depression. ● **Kellyann Burns** is in a group

exhibition at the Shirley Fiterman Art Center, NYC. She will have a solo exhibition at McKenzie Fine Art in 2015. ● **Kelly Candaele** is shooting a documentary on the workers who are constructing the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles. ● In 2013 **Kristin Capp** exhibited at the TR1 Kunsthalle in Tampere, Finland, during the Backlight Photo Festival. She was part of group exhibitions at the Bates College Museum of Art in Maine and at the National Art Gallery of Namibia. ● **Farai Chideya's** co-authored book *Innovating Women: The Changing Face of Technology* was published in September. She finished a draft of *The Naturals*, a young adult sci-fi novel driven by climate change and inequality. ● **Henri Cole's** new collection of poems, *Nothing to Declare*, is forthcoming in March from Farrar, Straus and Giroux. ● **Christopher Cook** published a piece about corporate wellness programs in *National Nurse*. ● **Katherine Cook** is publishing regularly in the Pulitzer prize-winning *Pt. Reyes Light* and starting on her first book. ● **Meehan Crist** is still Writer-in-Residence in Biological Sciences at Columbia; now she is also Editor at Large for *Nautilus*. She published a piece on sensory deprivation, the CIA, and taking acid with dolphins. ● **Cathy Crowe** has been appointed a Distinguished Visiting Practitioner in Department of Politics at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. ● An excerpt from **Ashley Dawson's** memoir about growing up in South Africa during apartheid will be published in the *Iowa Review*. He is writing a book on extinction with BMC alum Eddie Yuen. His partner, Manijeh, gave birth to baby girl Sheila. ● **Emily Doolittle** spent time in Glasgow finishing her chamber opera *Jan Tai and the Bear*. She began a collaboration with Glasgow-based Ensemble Thing and attended performances of her pieces in London and Portugal. ● **Tamara Dragadze's** novel, *Josefu's Thousand Hills*, launched at Foyles Bookshop, London, in October. ● **Maggie Dubris** finished her non-fiction book, *The Bones of St. Clare*. She is doing sound for an installation called *Hieroglyphic* with the artist Sang-ah Choi and working on a novel called *Collide-O-*

Scope. • **Carmen Einfinger** lectured at Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Gdansk, Poland. Her project “When is a neighbor a stranger?” is about art in public spaces. • After debuting his in-progress video with the Tubettini Sisters at BMC, **Paul Farinacci** recently presented it to the public. • **Gene Fellner** is now a faculty member at Staten Island University. • **Boris Fishman’s** novel *A Replacement Life* was a Barnes & Noble Great New Writers pick. • **Kermit Frazier’s** play *Kernel of Sanity* was published in 2014 by Broadway Play Publishing. • *Win/Lose/Draw*, co-written by **Mary Gallagher** and Ara Watson, opened in September at London’s Waterloo



East Theatre. • **Joann Gardner** had poems accepted by *West Trade Review*, *Trajectory*, *Comstock Review* and *Barrow Street*. She has poems forthcoming in an anthology on higher education. • **Douglas Gayeton**, director of the Lexicon of Sustainability project, published *LOCAL: The New Face of Food and Farming in America* with Harper Design. He directed the PBS series *Know Your Food*. • **Joan Giannecchini** is in *Visions: Women Artists of the Great Basin*, to be published next spring. • The Opalka Gallery in Albany, NY is hosting *Meander, because you can't see much while marching*, a survey of 35 years of art by **Mike Glier**. • **Miriam Bird Greenberg’s** work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in the *Colorado Review*, *Killing the Buddha*, *Versé Daily*, and *Zyzzyva*, as well as in the anthologies *Best New Poets 2014* and *The Queer South*, and in two chapbooks: *All night in the new country* (Sixteen Rivers) and *Pact Blood, Fevergrass* (Ricochet Editions). • **Eileen Rockefeller Growald’s** memoir, *Being a Rockefeller, Becoming Myself*, is now available in paperback. • **Anna Schuleit Haber** and **Yotam Haber** moved to New Orleans. They continue collaborating on “The Voice Imitator,”

104 paintings and 104 compositions for piano based on the fiction of Thomas Bernhard. The project will receive its first exhibit in NYC December 2014. • **James Hannaham’s** second novel, *Delicious Foods*, will appear from Little, Brown, and Co. in 2015. He is a tenure track Associate Professor in the Pratt Institute’s new Writing MFA program. • While laboring away on *Sweat: A History of Exercise*, **Billy Hayes** reports his commitment “to take one good picture a day.” • **Kylie Heidenheimer** was in group exhibitions at 532 Gallery Thomas Jaeckel, NYC, and Galerie Gris in Hudson, NY. • **Sabine Heinlein’s** *The Orphan Zoo: The Rise and Fall of the Farm at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center* was released in August. • **Shea Hembrey’s** show *MultiVerses* was at the Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery, NYC. • **Leslie Hirst** will have a solo exhibition at the Museo del Merletto, Burano, Italy in conjunction with the Venice Biennale 56th International Art Exhibition. • **John Hollenbeck** received his fourth Grammy nomination, this time for his arrangement of Jimmy Webb’s *The Moon’s A Harsh Mistress*. • The final book of **Ginnah Howard’s** trilogy, *Rope & Bone: A Novel in Stories*, was published in July. • **Aaron Hughes** was awarded the 2014-2015 Claire Rosen and Samuel Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists for his ongoing Tea Project. He coordinated the Veteran Artist Retreat at BMC this fall. • **Immy Humes** has embarked on a new film about the life of cinema pioneer Shirley Clarke. • **Arlene Hutton** was awarded a commission from The Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Project and chosen for Playground at The Lark New Play Development Center. She was named the South Carolina Arts Commission 2015 Playwriting Fellow. • **Denise Iris** took part in an expedition to the Arctic Circle and will create a 3-channel video based on the experience. • **Dahr Jamail** is a reporter for Truthout.org. He lives in Washington and reports on anthropogenic climate disruption and mountain climbing in the Olympics. • **Chris Jerome’s** book, *An Adirondack Passage*, came out in a third edition. It has been in print for 20 years! *The Art of Richard Kamler* will be published by Common Ground Publishers in 2015. He has seven pieces in the show *Prisons* at the Museum of Art & History in Santa Cruz, CA. • A reading of **John Kaplan’s** new play, *Are We Human*, took place in October at 440 Studios, NYC. • **Annetta Kapon** participated in two group exhibitions in Greece and China. • **Kim Klein** continues to create workshops and curricula helping explain how just tax policy is critical to the common good. “People are amazed that tax policy can be fun and that ordinary people (like me) can understand it.” • **Ellen Kozak** is currently showing paintings at The Albany Institute of History and Art. • **Orin**

ARISE, ARISE: SHEET MUSIC FOR A NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

We owe many thanks to folk virtuosos (and 2014 Residents) Jean Rohe and Liam Robinson, for giving us both a new banner to wave and the opportunity to help spread their work. *Arise* is sure to have a long life on pianos across the country, in our humble newsletter but also in a forthcoming edition of *Rise Up Singing!* If you’d like a free full-length download of the song, go to jeanrohe.com/anthem. The accompanying video is also online, at jeanrohe.com/#/Videos. If you turn the page, you can also find out how it sounds by playing it yourself!

NATIONAL ANTHEM: ARISE! ARISE!

Choral Lead Sheet

Words and Music by Jean Rohe
Arranged by Liam Robison

♩ = 60

Verse 1

At - lan - tic and Pa - cif - ic flow, The Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mex - i - co -

5 The land be - tween sus - tains us all, To cher - ish it our tire - less call.

Chorus

A - rise! A - rise! I see the fu - ture in your eyes. To a more

A - rise! A - rise! I see the fu - ture in your eyes. To a more

A - rise! A - rise! I see the fu - ture in your eyes. To a more

A - rise! A - rise! I see the fu - ture in your eyes. To a more

per - fect un - ion we as - pire, And lift our voices - es from the fire. Fine

per - fect un - ion we as - pire, And lift our voices - es from the fire. Fine

per - fect un - ion we as - pire, And lift our voices - es from the fire. Fine

per - fect un - ion we as - pire, And lift our voices - es from the fire. Fine

Verse 2

18 F C C

Treble Melody

Bass Melody

We reached these shores from man-y lands. We came with hung-ry hearts and

22 G F C F C D.S. al Vs.3

hands. Some came by force and some by will, At the auc-tion block or the dark-ened mill.

Verse 3

27 F C C

Treble Melody

Bass Melody

We died in your fields and your fact - or - ies, Strange fruit hang-ing from the pop - lar

31 G F C F C D.S. al Vs.4

trees, With an old coat hang-er in a room some-where, A trail of tears,— an e - lec - tric chair.

Verse 4

36 F C C

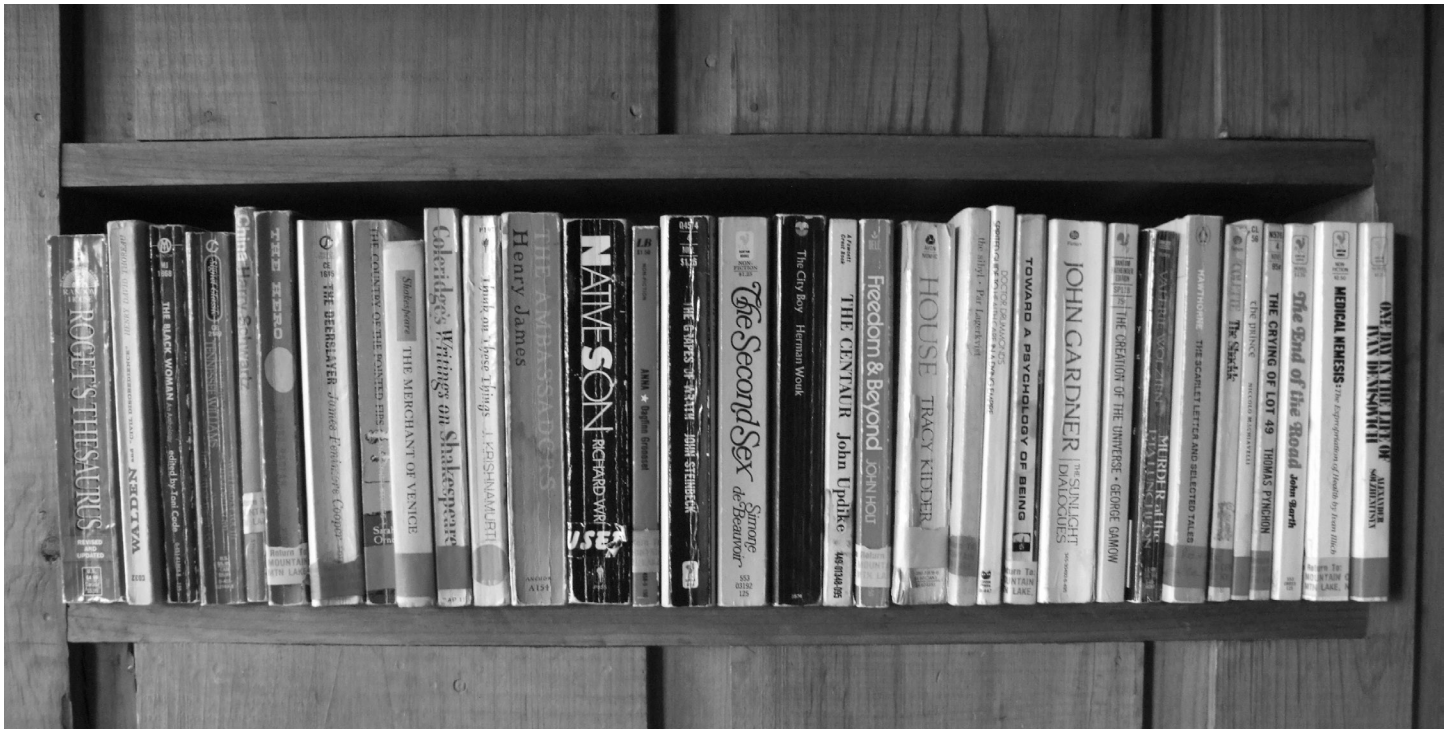
Treble Melody

Bass Melody

And our great re - spons - i - bil - i - ty To be guard - ians of our lib - er -

40 G F C F C D.S. al Fine

ty, 'Til tyr - ants bow to the peo-ple's dream, And just - ice flows like a might - y stream.



Langelle is the director of PhotoLangelle.org and curator of the ¡Buen Vivir! Gallery, Buffalo, NY. ● **David Licata's** short story, "12-Bar Blues," was published in Pilgrimage Magazine's Labor Issue. It was partly inspired by the Robert L. Vincent guitar that lives at BMC. ● **David Lloyd** has poems and stories in recent issues of *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Red Poets*, *Redactions: Poetry, Poetics & Prose*, *The Lampeter Review*, and *Stone Canoe*. ● **Gregory Maguire's** new book for children, *Egg and Spoon* (HarperCollins), a moral fable about inequity, hunger, and global warming, is cleverly disguised as a fantasy set in Tsarist Russia and stars Baba Yaga as the l'agente provocateuse. ● Northwestern University Press published **James Magruder's** second book of fiction, *Let Me See It*, a linked story collection. ● **Anne Makepeace** is deep in production of her Tribal Justice documentary, about two tribal courts in California and the judges who are bringing back restorative justice. ● **Grace Markman** participated in the Park Slope Windsor Terrace 2014 Artists' Open Studio Tour. ● **Eddie Martinez** and Andrea Thome married twice (both times to one another) in October. ● **Susanne Mason** is working on *Return to Sender*, a documentary about prisoner reentry into society, which she began at BMC in 2009. ● **Maureen McLane's** *This Blue* was reviewed in the New York Time Book Review and is a finalist for a National Book Award. ● **Carey McKenzie's** film *Cold Harbour* was released across South Africa and is now on the festival circuit. She will be based in Berlin next year. ● **Cassandra Medley** is working on a commission from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation on a science play about climate change. Her play on immigration detention centers, *Cell*, was published in the anthology *Best American Short Plays 2012-2013*. ● **Philipp Meyer's** *The Son* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. ● **Amanda Michalopoulos** published her novel *The Wife of God* in Greek. ● **Sue Moon's** *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from 25*

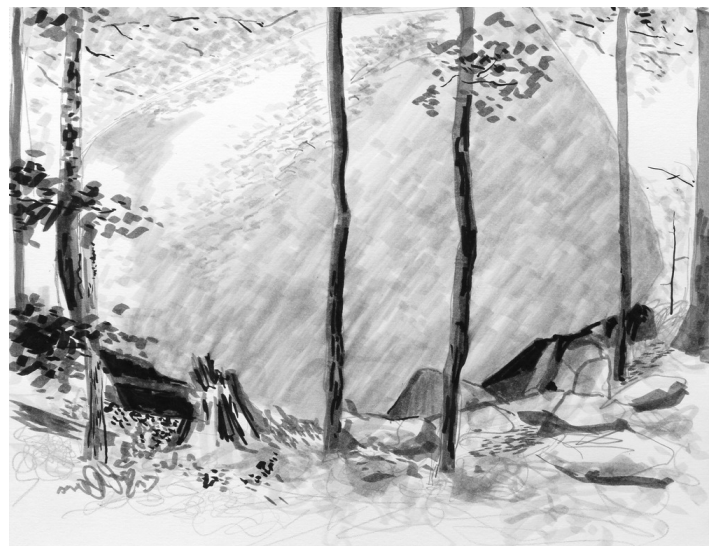
Centuries of Awakened Women, co-authored/edited with Florence Caplow, was published last November. She has been traveling the U.S. leading retreats and workshops based on the book. ● **Tai Moses'** memoir, *Zooburbia: Meditations On The Wild Animals Among Us*, was published by Parallax Press. Her new website, www.taimoses.com, explores ways to make homes, gardens and communities more wildlife-friendly. ● In December **Priya Nadkarni** traveled to Paris and India. She had a solo show at the Kimmel Center at NYU in January. ● **Beverly Naidus** has been hosting discussion groups and workshops on arts for social change in her Seattle studio in the MLK Community Center. Her interactive project, "CURTAIN CALL: Portable Altars for Grief and Gratitude," was on display at Plymouth State University. ● **Will Nixon's** latest poetry chapbook is *My Clone* from Post Traumatic Press. ● **Danica Novgorodoff's** graphic novel, *The Undertaking of Lily Chen*, was published in March. Film rights were optioned by FilmNation. ● **Leslie Nuchow's** new album will be released in 2015. ● **Suzanne Opton's** *Soldier* show was at Sikkema Jenkins Gallery, NYC. It is currently at the Grand Rapids Art Museum as part of *(Dis)Comfort Zones*. ● **Rich Orloff's** comedy, *Tropical Heat*, (begun during a Residency in 1992!), won the 2014 Maxim Mazumdar New Play Award. It premiered this summer in Buffalo and Columbus. ● **Blaine O'Neill** lives in Troy, NY, where he is part of a diverse team developing a network of cooperative enterprises called Margination. He recently collaborated with fellow BMC alums Kevin Buckland and Katherine Ball on projects associated with the People's Climate March. ● **Kathleen O'Toole's** poem "Heist" won the *Northern Virginia Review* poetry prize last spring, and "Roots, Exposed" placed third in *Smartish Pace's* Beulah Rose Poetry Contest. ● **Thomas Paquette's** solo exhibition of paintings celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. It is

traveling to museums in CA, NY, and IN. Another solo exhibition on the importance of water will open at the Rockwell Museum in Corning, NY, in 2015. ● **Lori Park's** bronze sculpture *Silk Weaver* is exhibited at Sotheby's *Beyond*



Limits at Chatsworth House, the Duke of Devonshire's English estate. ● **Marti Paschal** was accepted into the Sojourn Chaplaincy volunteer training program at San Francisco General Hospital. ● **Janie Paul** and Buzz Alexander are working on the 20th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners and celebrating the 25th anniversary of The Prison Creative Arts Project. Janie is working on a book about the incarcerated artists of Michigan. ● **Eve Pell's** new book, *Love, Again: The Wisdom of Unexpected Romance*, will be published by Ballantine Books in 2015. ● **Micah Perks** won The New Guard Machigonne Fiction Contest for her story "Ghost Deer." ● **Camellia Phillips's** short story "Let Dead Cows Lie" appeared in the Fall 2013/Winter 2014 issue of *cream city review*. ● **Sarah Nicole Phillips** had solo exhibitions of collages created with discarded office envelopes in Reno, NV, and Brooklyn, NY. ● *A Singing Blade*, a film by **Tenzin Phuntsog**, was shown in February at The Rubin Museum of Art, NYC. ● **Gretchen Primack's** poetry collection, *Doris' Red Spaces*, was published by Mayapple Press. ● **Tanya Rey** relocated to San Francisco. She continues to work on her novel and essays. Her story "Zoraida" was in *Granta*. ● **Nancy Reisman's** novel, *Trompe L'Oeil*, will be published by Tin House Books in 2015. ● **Susan Rich** published *Cloud Pharmacy*, her fourth book of poems. She is working on a new collaboration with artist Carol Sawyer. ● **Andy Robinson** published *Train Your Board (and Everyone Else) to Raise Money*. A companion video series will be available soon. ● **Robert Royhl** showed his work during the February Artwalk First Friday at the Catherine Louisa Gallery, Billings, MT. ● **Canyon Sam** was invited to submit her screenplay *The River of Happiness* to a new invitation-only Asian American Fellowship at the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab. ● **Laurie Sandell** became a single mother by choice to baby boy Teddy on September 11, 2013. She is not sure she will ever have another moment to write, but is wildly happy. ● **Jon Sands's** "Decoded" is in *Best*

American Poetry 2014. His new collection of poems will be published in 2015. ● **Susan Santone** is celebrating 15 years as Executive Director of Creative Change Educational Solutions, a national nonprofit organization focused on sustainability curriculum, teacher education, and school innovation. ● **Catherine Sasanov's** poems about slavery in Colonial Massachusetts and its Province of Maine, as well as an interview and essay about the work, will appear in the Fall 2014/Winter 2015 issues of the online journals *Poor Yorick* and *Common-place*, respectively. Salamander and Skidrow Penthouse will publish her poems this fall. ● **Jaye Schlesinger's** solo show "Defying Ordinary" at Art Space Vincennes, Vincennes, IN, included 30 oil paintings of common, everyday objects. ● **Nathan Schneider** encourages BMC'ers to "give the gift of god and anarchy" by purchasing *God in Proof* and *Thank You, Anarchy*. ● **Joshua Wolf Shenk** published *Powers of Two* to critical acclaim. The book examines "creative intimacy" in the lives of creative pairs. ● **Michael Sheridan** announces that Community Supported Film's filmmaking training project will release a collection of Haitian films to in advance of the 5th anniversary of the Haitian earthquake. ● **Paul Shore** exhibited "Braid Prints" at the Lower East Side Printshop Fall exhibition. ● In January **Leslie Sills** will have an exhibition of her mixed-media paintings, *The Vicissitudes of Youth*, at Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, MA. ● **Judy Simonian** was a 2014 recipient of a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. She had a solo exhibit at John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY, and a group show at Fred Valentine, Ridgewood, NY. ● **Holly Wren Spaulding's** collection of poems, *Pilgrim*, was published by Alice Greene & Co. ● **Jenna Spevack's** participatory, binaural sound installation *InsideOUT House* is on exhibit at the BRIC Biennial, Brooklyn. The project mimics the restorative experience of being outside in nature using auditory stimuli. ● **Kirsten Stolle's** collages were featured in *Made in Mind Magazine*, *DIALOGIST Journal of Art & Poetry* and the *Hunter/Gatherer* exhibition at Truman State University. ● **Meera Subramanian** is in the final stages of her first book, *Elemental India: Notes from a Nation on the Brink*, forthcoming from PublicAffairs. ● **Pireeni Sundalingam** served as consultant



ADDED TO THE ROSTER OF MEMORY



Left to right: Vincent Harding, Daniel Meltzer, Rick Piltz, Alex Sichel, and Willett Thomas. Photos: Climate Science Watch, Columbia University, BMC archive

Throughout 2014, we lost several loved and valued community members. Vincent Harding, a historian, scholar, and distinguished veteran of the Civil Rights Movement, is well known for authoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech on Vietnam. During his 2013 BMC Residency, he shared his recollections of King. Playwright, teacher, and author Daniel Meltzer was a man of indelible humor and conscience. His play *The Square Root of Love* was performed this year at the Mid-Manhattan Library, and his novel *Outsiders* is now available online via Barnes & Noble. Climate activist Rick Piltz passed away in October. His friend Billy Talen described Rick as “the always-ready journey man waiting in the wings to testify for the Earth”. Alex Sichel, a writer and filmmaker best known for her feature *All Over Me*, was a 2002 Resident. She leaves behind a husband, a daughter, and a community that will miss her deeply. Willett Thomas, a Baltimore resident and 2006 Blue Mountaineer, was an author of Southern Gothic fiction. A moving remembrance of Willett appeared in the *Baltimore Post-Examiner* in June.

to the Irish Government's Department of Art and Heritage, advising on the connections between the arts and creativity in science. Her poems appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Michigan Quarterly Review* and *Calyx*. ● **Sarah Sutro** is co-curator and has work in the show *Water+Earth: A Call to Protect Fragile Ecosystems* at MCLA's Gallery 51, North Adams, MA. ● **Madeline Talbott** loves retirement! ● **Astra Taylor's** *The People's Platform: Taking Back Power and Culture in the Digital Age* has been released by Metropolitan/Holt. Rolling Jubilee, an Occupy offshoot she is involved with, erased nearly \$4 million in student debt from for-profit Everest College. ● **Lisa Teasley** taught a master class in writing at the LIDE school in Haiti and a master fiction class in Nigeria. She wrote a memorial piece on the poet Wanda Coleman for the fall issue of *African Voices*. Her short story “Full Circle” appeared in *Zyzzyva*. ● From *Reconnaissance*, **Meredith Trede's** poetry manuscript in progress, Gargoyle published “Child of My Child” and “Xian Warriors.” *Mom Egg Review* published “Jarheads.” *Scintilla* published “My Marine My Grandson,” and “New Ways to War.” *The Feminist Wire* published “Joan's Voices”. ● **John Trotter's** “No Agua, No Vida” won the Kolga Award for the Best Documentary Series at the 2014 Kolga Tbilisi Photo Festival in the Republic of Georgia. In 2015 he will have a solo exhibition of work from his “Burden of Memory” project at the University of Michigan. ● **Barbara Ungar** directs the MFA program at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY.

Her fourth book, *Immortal Medusa*, is forthcoming from The Word Works. ● **Erich Vogt's** article, “Academic Freedom in Canada, the Stephen Harper Government and the Canadian Media,” was published in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*. ● **Paul VanDeCarr** lives in NYC and works with WorkingNarratives.org, using media and the arts to push for criminal justice reform. ● **Scott Wallace** is this year's Ted Scripps Fellow in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder. ● Composer **Stefan Weisman's** new opera, *The Scarlet Ibis*, received a MAP Fund Grant. The opera's premiere in January 2015, at the PROTOTYPE Opera Festival, was among *The New York Times's* top classical music events of the upcoming season. ● BMC'ers can read about **Adam Welz's** exploits on his blog, NatureUp. ● Two stop-motion videos by **Tona Wilson** were screened on the subway in the Toronto Urban Film Festival. Her painting show is at Berkshire Community College through December. ● **Kay Wood** wrote and illustrated *The Big Belch*, a graphic novel about the comedy of errors that rule the pursuit of oil. ● **Pete Wyer's** *And Death Shall Have No Dominion* was performed at the June River to River Festival, NYC. Participants began singing and walking at points across the city, ultimately converging to finish the piece together. ●

Please forgive us if we left you out, did not include one of your many accomplishments, or misspelled a title, name, event, or location.

THANKS TO YOU,

THE BOREN CHERTKOV RESIDENCY IS A REALITY

We did it! Thanks to the generous support of over 120 donors we've raised the \$100,000 needed to permanently endow The Boren Chertkov Residency for Labor and Social Justice at Blue Mountain Center.

The Chertkov Residency provides one month of concentrated time at BMC for a person whose focus aligns with Boren's life work -- labor activism, migrant workers' rights and the protection of human dignity.

In July Blue Mountain Center welcomed our inaugural Chertkov Resident, Jane McAlevey. Jane is a labor and environmental organizer, and the co-author, with Bob Ostertag, of the landmark *Raising Expectations (and Raising Hell): My Decade Fighting for the Labor Movement* (Verso Press). The Nation selected it as the most valuable book of 2012.

During her month at BMC, Jane wrote articles and essays that appeared in many publications, including *The Nation*, *The Socialist Register*, *AlterNet*, *Truthout*, and *Waging Non-Violence*.

The trustees and staff of Blue Mountain Center give heartfelt thanks to the donors who made this first endowed Residency a reality. We look forward to hosting a Chertkov resident every year, and encourage applications for this opportunity. – Ben Strader

Creating a Special Residency • BMC continues to explore creative ways to fund new named Residencies with a connection to social justice. These Residencies may be named for a sponsor or in honor of someone whose life's work illuminates BMC's core values. Named Residencies may be designed to support a specific discipline or issue. BMC will recognize gifts in our annual report, on our web site, and in other creative and celebratory ways.

AND OUR COLLABORATION CONTINUES

We are grateful to our donors and volunteers: Mike Agresta • Becca Albee • Cynthia Back • Ann Bailey* • Harriet Barlow & David Morris* • Teresa Basilio* • Michael T. Bayer* • Moustafa Bayoumi • Gerti Berg • L.R. Berger • Nina Berman • Michael & Rosalyn Bodycomb • Jim Boorstein • Tom Boswell • Andrew Boyd* • Suchi Branfman • Carl Brauer • Gray Brechin* • Peggy Bruton* • Katy Butler • Ellen Cantarow • Lisa Chen & Andy Hsiao • Ruth N. Chertkov* • Robert Chlebowski* • Carol Cohn • Henri Cole • Leslie Concannon • Dan Connell • Sierra Crane-Murdoch • Chandler Davidson* • Chris Desser & Kirk Marckwald* • Patrick Dias • Stephanie Dinkins • James Dobner • Jan Dove • Barbara Dudley* • Margaret Dufault • Tim Duncheon • Gerald Edwards* • Robert & Cathy Farnsworth* • Ralph Faust* • Kim Fellner • Cindy & Jim Finley* • Boris Fishman • Kermit Frazier • Susan Freireich • Pamina Firchow • Joann Gardner • Colette Garrigues • Alice Gordon* • Ed Giordano • Lee Gold* • Elizabeth Graver • John Griffing* • Anna Schuleit Haber • James S. Hayes* • Billy Hayes • Marcia Henry • Lizzie Hessmiller • Jan Hively • Haik Hoisington • Emily Holmes • Lucy Honig • Nica Horvitz • Ginnah Howard • Leslie Hurst • Denise Iris • Susan Ito • Brad Johnson & Vanessa Williamson • Conrad Johnson* • Stan Kaplan* • Nancy Kates • Paula Katz* • Richard Kazis & Jill Medvedow • Elaine Kim • Kristin Kimball • Sheila Kinney and Chris Marzec • Hugh Knox • Mary Kuhn • Steve & Cheryl Lakich* • Ken Lang • Joan Larkin • Eric Laursen • Cindy Lavahetto* • Jeffrey Lependorf • Mark Lipman • Rebecca Lossin • Meredith Lund • Kathy Mack & Rod Watkins* • Anne Mackinnon* • Gregory Maguire • Jan Mammer • Sarah Manyika • Adrian Martinez • Eddie Martinez & Andrea Thome • Edwin Martinez • Evelyn Martinez • Lillian DeJesus Martinez • Justine McCabe • Anne McClintock & Rob Nixon* • Carol McConnell* • Leslie McFadden* • Maureen McLane • Manuel Medeiros* • Holly Metz* • Richard Minsky • Paul A. Molyneaux • David Morse* • Joshua Morsell • Lynne Nathan • Mindy Nierenberg • Susan Ochshorn • Peggy Ogden • Thomas O'Hara • Larry Olds • One World Fund* • Dan & Ann O'Neill* • Suzy Parker • Donna Parson • Mita Patel • Janie Paul & Buzz Alexander • David & Victoria Pearce* • Margret & Wilbur Pearce* • Michael Picker* • Molly Prentiss • John & Alice Provost* • Marlene Ramirez-Cancio • Michael Ratner & Karen Ranucci* • Bettina Redway* • Frances Richey • Beverly and Roy Ridley* • Andy Robinson* • Liam Robinson • Terry Rockefeller • Jean Rohe • Skip & Shirley Rosenbloom* • Onnesha Roychoudhuri • Paul Rucker • Enrique Sacerio-Gari • Larry & Sharon Saltzman • Yesenia Sanchez • Laurie Sandell* • Catherine Sasanov • Angela Schlaud • John Schlesinger • Nathan Schneider • Bill Schuck • Sejal Shah • Judith Shaw* • William Sibley • Franz W. Sichel Foundation • Shelly Silver • Nancy & James Simons* • Jonathan Smucker • Solidago Foundation* • John Spear • Vincent Stanley & Nora Gallagher* • Barbara & Edward Stone* • Nancy Strader* • Meera Subramanian • Suzanne Tarica* • Don & Denise Terry* • Beth Thielen • Joseph & Pauline Thome • Melanie Towb* • John Trotter • Meredith Turshen • Mary Vail* • Diana Viducich* • David Walders • Nancy Watson-Tansey* • Russell & Mary Weill • Rhona & Harvey Weinstein • Lawrence Weschler • Leo & Adrian Wiegman • Josh, Laura, & Sasha Wolf-Powers • Shigeki Yoshida • *If we have accidentally omitted your name from this list, please let us know so we can thank you properly.*

*2014 Boren Chertkov Residency donor

TREES HAPPEN

Here at BMC, we continue in our efforts to tread lightly on the land. Currently, we are halfway through the work of transitioning the Grey Cottage from an oil-burning furnace to a new wood-burning heating system. Maybe the trees knew what we were up to, because in June one of them sacrificed its top and crushed our lean-to, right next door. This is the challenge of melding planned improvements with unexpected repairs. With your help, we'll be able to rebuild the lean-to in 2015 AND continue with our efforts to make the Grey Cottage (and eventually, all of BMC) greener—minus one oak tree. We can't do it without you. —Ben Strader



STAFF NOTES



Chloe Brown graduated from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the spring and is now living and working in Portland, Maine. ● **Sis Eldridge's** BMC birthday cake echoed Elvis's favorite peanut butter/banana/bacon delight. ● **Colette Garrigues** lives in a small solar-powered house in the hill towns of Western MA. She's been honing her pastry skills at Northampton's Hungry Ghost Bakery and saving her flour doubloons for a trip around the world. ● **Q Gaynor** and Resident **Blair Bravermann** kept **Harriet Barlow** and **David Morris's** house warm all summer, dubbing the time "a writer's residency for two." ● **Alice Gordon** has spent a year turning around the Ship of Delayed Bliss. Destination: first draft of a long-imprisoned play. (Moi: Drama queen.) ● **Zohar Gitlis** left the slot machines of Atlantic City for the Pastabilities of the Adirondacks. Her book, *Essays on Sparsely Populated Tourist Towns*, is forthcoming. ● **Lizzie Hessmiller** is in Philly spending considerable time planning her Big, Gay, Polka Wedding (you should come if you are in Lehighton, PA next June) and its counterpart, the little, queer, Paris ceremony. She still has two cats. ● **Nica Horvitz** spent the fall riding buses and trains throughout Bulgaria, attempting to eavesdrop in other languages and taking photos for her project "American Bar." ● **Sheila Kinney**, lifelong library lover, is president of the Library Board

of Trustees in Worthington, MA. ● **Elise Kylo's** 2012 art retreat has turned into a way of life as she enters her third winter of living in Grand Marais, MN. ● **Ken Lang** is wrapping up a fellowship at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington DC, and is looking for a marine conservation related job at a non-profit, philanthropy, natural history museum, media organization, or government entity. ● **Hannah Lee** can't believe she still hasn't gotten a deer to eat out of her hand. ● **Michelle Markley** is on sabbatical from Mount Holyoke, reading more novels and discovering new rock formations. ● This summer, **Diane McCane's** garden came out beautifully: lots of corn and potatoes! ● **George McCane** spent weeks dismantling the BMC lean-to. Fortunately, he still found time to go camping. ● **Holly Mulder** organized a fundraising evening at San Francisco's City Arts and Lectures, during which **Adam Hochschild** interviewed Paul Farmer about his Ebola crisis work in Africa. ● **Laurie Murdock** says that if anyone wants to teach Adirondack bears some manners, they can come show them how to close a freezer door. ● **Luke Nathan** went camping at Stevens Pond and did not get eaten by a bear, despite his premonitions. ● **Suzu Parker** spent two months at BMC washing windows, recycling cardboard and beer bottles, and loving every minute of it! ● **Stuart Remick** hiked Mt. Fuji by headlamp in September to see the sun come up over Japan. He still hasn't decided if the view was better than Castle Rock. ● **Alan Stafford** is learning Spanish. *¡No pasar en la cocina!* ● **Ben Strader** and his family witnessed the beautiful, joyful marriage of **Jessie Wick** and Dori Galvin. ● After a wonderful summer in the Adirondacks, **Moriah Williams** spent the fall running chainsaws and living in a tent with a conservation corps group in southwestern Colorado! ● **Malia Wollan** gave birth to a baby boy, Oscar, on April 8, 2014. He is a gem. She is a contributing writer for *The New York Times* in San Francisco and managing editor for the UC Berkeley-11th Hour Food and Farming Journalism Fellowship. ● **Sara Zimmerman** and her partner Heather are raising baby Oscar in Oakland, CA. Sara is working as a learning specialist. ●

Willing workers are welcome to join us for **Work Weekend 2015, April 30th- May 3rd**. To enter the lottery for the **2015 Memorial Day Alumni Residency, May 20th- 25th**, email Ben Strader at ben@bluemountaincenter.org. The drawing will be on **April 20th**.

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