The Boren Chertkov Residency for Labor and Justice

This past April, Blue Mountain Center lost a beloved friend, Boren Chertkov, who dedicated his life to the fight for equality and justice. In the wake of Boren’s sudden death, Ann Bailey, his wife and partner of 34 years, wrote to tell us that “he loved Blue Mountain and its people, and Work Weekend was truly a high point of the year for him.” Without fail, Boren was always the first to write about Work Weekend—What projects did we have in mind? How might he secure the necessary tools? (Once, he drove a van full of equipment from Sacramento to Blue Mountain Lake to fortify BMC’s woeful workshop supplies.) Come March, when Ben was still hip-deep in snow, Boren’s gentle email would remind him that spring was on its way and with it the keen volunteers who help keep BMC running smoothly.

Boren brought a patient commitment to the Work Weekend crew. In the late afternoon, when other volunteers had meandered off to the hangar or settled into porch chairs for a well-earned rest, we’d notice Boren down by the Grey Cottage quietly raking a section of the lawn. Often he worked near a tree planted in memory of his beloved daughter, Lisa, who died too young more than ten years ago.

It occurred to many of us that workers all over the world, from Samoa to Saipan, benefited from this same tireless, selfless determination we witnessed on the grounds of Blue Mountain Center. Perhaps Boren enjoyed BMC all the more because it is a physical place dedicated to the work he cared about, a container for those who labor on behalf of the needs of others and the health of the planet.

Boren’s resume describes a champion of workers’ rights and social justice, from the struggle to integrate housing and activities in Texas, to the civil rights demonstrations in Washington, D.C., to the fight for farm workers’ rights in California. He worked for the National Labor Relations Board, the IUE, the AFL-CIO, and the U.S. Congress, most notably as Chief Counsel to the Select Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives and Counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor. In 1978, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as General Counsel to the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and later he worked for the National Labor Relations Board in San Francisco.

After his death, a group of Boren’s friends and admirers conceived of the Boren Chertkov Residency for Labor and Justice, to be awarded annually to an applicant whose work reflects Boren’s values. BMC has never endowed a named residency, but we are heartened by the support this project has received in just a few months. We are confident that, with continued support, we’ll be able to raise the $100,000 needed to establish a residency in Boren’s memory.

thanks to those who already gave...

Bob & Ginny Allen • Ann Arneill-Py • Tom Athanasiou • Ann Bailey • Geraldine Bailey • Harriet Barlow • Peter Barnes • John Battista & Justine McCabe • Michael Bedford & Sarah Surro • Beeson, Tayer & Bodine, APC • Cali Brooks & Galen Crane • Carol Brown • Pam Browning & Joe Frankl • Shelly Burns • Daniel Cantor • Chris Carlsson • Ruth Chertkov • Steven Cobble • Kevin Connor • Meehan Crist • Margaret Dietz • Hal & Liz Edmonds • Robert & Cathy Farnsworth • Helen Gaul • John Griffing & Shelley Mydans • Jim Hayes & Cathy Keig • Ginnah Howard • Conrad Johnson • Dani & Bill Kazee • Sheila Kinney & Chris Marzec • Hugh Knox in memory of Linda Kravitz • Ellen Lake & Bill Hoerger • Steve Laki • Ken Lang • Marion & Stan Leff • Kathleen Mack & Rob Watkins • Josh MacPhee • Juliette Major & Ian McWilliam • Anne Makepeace • Claire Maurer • Carol McConnell & Richard Terry • Miguel Méndez • Holly Metz • Martin Morgenstern & Sylvia Pizzini • Brian O’Shaughnessy & Maureen Casey • Jack & Lyn Peuler • Richard & Eileen Polk • John & Alice Provost • Whitney Rimel • Susan Rosenberg • Nettie & Patrick Sabelhaus • David Sargent • Laura & Neil Seldman • Vincent Stanley • Judith Stein • Barbara & Edward Stone • Ben & Jamie Strader • Nancy Strader • Don & Denise Terry • Joan Topalian • Mary Vail • Jessie Wick • Barry Winograd • James Wolpman

to contribute, note Chertkov Residency on the return envelope or donate online at www.bluemountaincenter.org/support
The 350.ORG CLIMATE LAB, which launched BMC’s 2013 season, embodied the idea that art should be integral to the movement to reduce carbon emissions. Session organizer Kevin Buckland invited 21 artists—graphic designers, musicians, choreographers—to strategize for a coming series of actions. Their goals were to generate the next big symbol of the movement and to use art to make inroads where rational arguments have failed. An outgrowth of the 2012 Climate of Change Focus Residency, this lab ramped up the urgency of the previous meeting. Over the course of seven days, participants combined the deep concentration of a residency with the collaborative effort of a conference. They left with a thick portfolio of new projects—infographics, stencils, songs, videos, facilitation guides—and they continue to experiment with collective projects. The work they did at BMC can be found at http://joinsummerheat.org/cookbook.

BMC held a ten-day COLLABORATION SESSION this fall, since it’s often difficult for collaborators to coordinate their schedules to attend a month-long residency. Out of the many strong proposals emerged five teams who came together to work on a wide range of projects: Jane Sapp and colleagues, who are archiving her four-decade body of work; six media and youth leadership educators from the NYC-based Global Action Project; three Occupy Wall Street activists who are distilling strategy theories for organizing; a screenwriter and anthropologist who are exploring the impact of mining in Canada’s Northwest Territories; and two fine-art photographers to round out the session. We were inspired to see meaningful exchanges take place within but also among groups of collaborators.

New Kinds of BMC Gatherings

The COMMONS This was the fourth in a series of collaborative inquiries held by progressive leaders from across the country, including NGO heads, researchers, organizers, and funders. They explored how attention to the relationship between transactional (tactical) and transitional (strategic) work strengthens our ability to achieve transformational goals.

WATER GOVERNANCE Water commons activist Daniel Moss invited Latin American water utility managers to discuss rural watershed protection. New York City’s former Water Commissioner presented an innovative water health program he created with Catskill farmers.

SECRET CITY This joyful, irreverent community of art-worshippers holds spectacular Sunday morning services in New York City. They came to BMC to begin envisioning a growing network of gatherings.

ANN The theme for this year’s Adirondack Non-Profit Network meeting was Managing Change. Organizations transforming in scope, size, or mission evaluated their progress and heard feedback from peers.

TOXICS REDUCTION Physicians, organizers, and researchers pursued strategies for eliminating harmful chemicals from household products and replacing them with safer alternatives.

ADK ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS Leaders of major regional environmental groups returned to discuss ecological issues in the park, including water quality, invasive species, and development pressure.

WHO RULES? Community organizer and BMC alum Aaron Bartley conceived of this session, which drew on the academic field of power analysis. The conferees considered how grassroots organizations might adopt a research-based approach for use in the public interest.

THE NEW PRESS After the great success of their book The New Jim Crow, the non-profit publishing house The New Press held its first-ever full staff retreat. They used their time to strategize about how they, as a mid-sized activist press, can leverage books for social change.

NY IMMIGRATION Immigration experts and activists from urban and rural regions of New York collaborated on policy agendas, expanding their focus to include issues that affect immigrants’ daily lives.
2013 Resident Updates

Dorothy Albertini was on a panel of women writers, “Solo: Writing Our Own Adventures,” in Great Barrington, MA. • Jonathan Allen just closed his second solo show in NYC. Loading, with works created at BMC. • Molly Antopol’s debut story collection, The Un-Americans, is forthcoming from W.W. Norton. • Tom Athanasiou, climate-justice activist, still has faith for global climate negotiations, and is heartened that more and more people seem to agree! • As part of a TED event at the Met, Alice Attie made on-site drawings for the 17 presentations. • Ina Diane Archer was a multidisciplinary artist in residence at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA. • Katherine Arnaldi had an article, “Appreciating Tillie Olsen: On the Publication of Tell Me a Riddle, Requa 1 and Other Works,” in the fall issue of The Literarian. • Olive Ayhens was in On Time: Grand Central at 100 at the New York Transit Museum and her piece was reproduced for posters in subway stations.

Cynthia Back will have a solo exhibition of prints and collages at the Pennwood Art Gallery, Newtown, PA. • Aaron Bartley continues to direct PUSH Buffalo, which has expanded its affordable housing development, green infrastructure program, and organizing to hold utility companies accountable. He is hard at work finishing a draft of his Buffalo novel. • Michele Battiste published Uprising (Black Lawrence Press), the poetry project she worked on during her 2007 BMC residency. • Edgar Baren’s documentary short Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall will compete in the 86th Academy Awards. • Lance Belville is presently writing on two theatre projects initiated in Latin America. • Helen Benedict read from her novel Sand Queen, and spoke on a panel entitled “War is Murder: Writing Fiction in An Era of Perpetual Warfare” at the Center For Fiction in NYC. • Reverend Billy’s Church of Stop Shopping moved to the Lower Eastside Girls Club in the East Village. The $20 million facility was erected against all odds by Blue Mountain honorary neighbors Lyn and David Pentacost. • Celia Bland’s work has recently appeared in Yellow Medicine Review, Poetry International, Witness, and Anthem. Her piece Madonna Comix is forthcoming from William James Co. • Barbara Blatner’s play Years of Sky, about a biracial couple that witnesses JFK’s assassination, premiered at the 59E59 Theatres in NYC. • Larry Bogad performed his piece Economic: Keeping Score (in which he converts economic data into neoDadaist music) around the world. He is almost finished with his book, Tactical Performance, thanks to BMC. • Lisa Borders published her second novel, The Fifty-First State (Engine Books). • George Brant’s play Grounded (Oberon Books) was published and received eight productions this season in the U.S. and U.K. • Gray Brechin received the President’s Award from the California Preservation Foundation for his efforts to stop the corrupt sale of historic post offices and their New Deal art. • Kevin Buckland is working with 350.org to build a global network of “activists” to confront the climate crisis. • Kellyann Burns showed work in Pushing the Line: Drawing in the Age of Anxiety, at ArtsWestchester in White Plains, NY. • Katy Butler’s new memoir, Knocking on Heaven’s Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death, hit the NY Times Science Bestsellers.

George Caffentzis recently published In Letters of Blood and Fire: Work, Machines and the Crisis of Capitalism, a book he began at BMC. • Ellen Calmus’s nonprofit Corner Project in Malinalco, Mexico, has been drawing academics from around the world studying migration. • Kelly Candelas is producing and directing a new documentary film on soccer in Kolkata, India. • Kristin Capp had an exhibition of work from Namibia and Brazil at the 2012 Bursa FotoFestival in Turkey. • Lynne Cherry has produced nine short films documenting youth solutions to the climate crisis. • Bell Chevigny published “Desire is the Best Crutch.” She persuaded the librarian in Morristown, NY, to mount a plein air festival, which drew 20 painters and galvanized the town. • Andrea Clearfield is composing an opera on the Tibetan yogi Milarepa. Her Philadelphia Salon concert series celebrated its 27th anniversary. • Henri Cole’s new collection of poems, largely written at BMC, is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus & Giroux. He has been writing about Paris for The New Yorker’s Page-Turner. • Chuck Collins published 99 to 1: How Wealthy Inequality is Wrecking the World (Berrett Koehler), and works to support the movement to divest from fossil fuels. • Leslie Concannon’s paintings will be at Gallery 19 in Essex, CT, in December 2013. • Dan Connell traveled to Egypt and Sudan to cover the kidnapping, torture, and ransom of Eritrean refugees in the Sinai for Middle East Report. • Joe Connelly’s third novel, The Awful Grace, was excerpted in last February’s issue of Adirondack Life. • As part of CloseGitmo.net, Andrés Thomas Conteris has fasted long-term in solidarity with prisoners on hunger strike in Guantanamo and he’s been fed with nasogastric tubes in front of the White House and U.S. embassies to demonstrate the force-feeding torture perpetrated daily by the Pentagon. • Christopher Cook is shopping his new road memoir, Postcards for Kerouac, among publishers. He has several new pieces on food stamps, gentrification, and more. • Ryder Cooley shared her XMALIA, Songs of Extinction album and illustrated book for Earth Day. • K. L. Cook joined the faculty of Iowa State University’s MFA in Creative Writing and Environment Program. • Katharine Cook is writing poetry, as well as citizen journalism for the Point Reyes Light, and she is starting a book. • Cloee Cooper and her love returned from two months of traveling in Istanbul, Athens, and Kosova with recipes for Baklava, pickled peppers, and Ajvar. • Royston Copping’s new translation of Chekhov’s The Seagull premiered in NYC. His daughter Matilda, a budding visual artist, just entered high school. • Neta Crawford published Accountability for Killing (Oxford University Press), about the moral responsibility for collateral damage in America’s post-9/11 wars. She worked on this book at BMC during the Costs of War session. • Meehan Crist is Writer-in-Residence in Biological Sciences at Columbia University and writing for several publications. She is perhaps most excited about her interview with Iraq veteran, visual artist, and BMC alum Aaron Hughes, which appears in the Nov/Dec issue of The Believer. The interview was conducted on the sun porch at BMC.

Cathy Crowe is a Distinguished Visiting Practitioner in the Department of Politics at Ryerson University, Toronto, working in the area of social justice and activism. • Janet Culbertson showed work in the group exhibition The Land Before and After Time in NYC. • Neil Curry is publishing three books of poetry: The Fable of the World (Shoestring Press); Some Letters Never Sent (Enitharmon Press); and The Poet William Couper (Greenwich Exchange). An excerpt of the memoir Ashley Dawson began this summer at BMC is under consideration at The Iowa Review under the title “The Dark Heart of Whiteness.” • Page Dougherty Delano is...
continuing her study of American women in Europe in the years surrounding World War II. • Anuradha Desai became Senior VP for External Affairs at EdVestors, which works to improve urban education. • Lisa Dillman’s play American Wire-Pie had a sold-out run at Chicago’s Rivendell Theatre Ensemble and will open at the Seattle Public Theatre this January. Her play The Walli will have runs at six U.S. universities during the 2013-2014 season. • Emily Doolittle is pleased to announce the birth of her son, Milo Frederick Banas Doolittle. It’s been a busy year, but she still managed to publish a paper on the song of the Musician Wren, and is writing a chamber opera that will be performed in Shetland. • This spring Jan Dove will start teaching Berkeley City College students how to run their own art gallery. • Joseph Duemer’s poem “Lake Surface Full of Clouds,” written at BMC in 2008, won the annual prize given by the American Literary Review in 2012. 

Playwright Elise Forier Edie performed her one-woman show The Pink Unicorn, written at BMC in 2011, at the United Solo Theatre Festival in NYC. • TJ Edwards’ two new plays, Boy Friends and The Hologram, premiered in June as part of the 16th Annual Black Box New Play Festival in NYC. • Carmen Einfinger has been creating public art interventions around Buffalo, NY, including for the Echo Art Fair and the Hallwalls Contemporary Center for the Arts. • Kimi Eisele finished her first novel, and recently completed a dance film celebrating the plants and animals threatened by a proposed open-pit copper mine in southern Arizona. • Kimberly Elkins’s novel, What is Visible, will be published in June. • Jason Eskenazi published Wonderland: A Fairy Tale of the Soviet Monolith. Paul Farinacci has two solo exhibits of paintings and sculptures: Back to School and Other Tales of Woe at the Lyceum Gallery, and House of the Holy and Other Humble and Not So Humble Abodes at the Islip Museum. • John Feffer completed his Open Society Foundation fellowship in Eastern Europe and is turning the 280 interviews he conducted there into a book and a one-man show. • Rosemarie Fiore had a solo exhibition of smoke paintings at Von Lintel Gallery in NYC. • Boris Fishman’s novel A Replacement Life (HarperCollins) is coming out this June. He finished it at BMC! • Alex Forman published his translation of the Brazilian memoir Surviving My Father. • Kermit Frazier’s Legacies was published by Broadway Play Publishing. • Susan Freireich is still working on, and giving readings from, her memoir about El Salvador’s civil war. • Leslie Fry had a solo exhibition, Archaeology Through the Looking Glass, at the McNinch Art Gallery. Her outdoor bronze Colossal AcornHead was installed at The DeCordova Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA, in July. Camille Gage will be exhibiting her interactive public art project, I Am Water, at Form + Content Gallery, Intermedia Arts, and the Commons Gallery at the University of Minnesota. • The work and research that Dylan Gauthier began at BMC this summer on boat-making, gentrification, and “urban wilderness” is in the exhibition About, With & For at Boston Center for the Arts - Mills Gallery. • Andrew Ginzel and Kristin Jones’ Fathom opened in May at Snow College in Ephraim, Utah. • Mike Glier’s show With All The Holes In You Already There’s No Reason To Define The Outside Environment as Alien, exhibited at the Gerald Peters Gallery in NYC. • Joseph Goldstein published his book Mindfulness: A Practical Guide to Awakening (Sounds True). • Rory Golden’s roving street intervention Human Cannonball Countdown debuted at the Art in Odd Places 2013 festival in Sydney, Australia, and NYC. • Elizabeth Graver’s fourth novel, The End of the Point, came out this year and was on the long-list for fiction for the National Book Award. • Vanalyn Green is the new chair of the Undergraduate Fine Arts Department at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. • Miriam Bird Greenberg’s NEA work has appeared in two chapbooks, All night in the new country (Sixteen Rivers Press) and Pact-Blood, Fevergrass (Ricottoch Editions), and in Ninth Letter, Zyzzyva, and on Verse Daily. • Eileen Rockefeller Grollow released a memoir, Being a Rockefeller, Becoming Myself. Visual artist Anna Schuleit and composer Yotam Haber got married in New York in April. Their collaboration, The Voice Imitator, a series of 104 paintings and 104 piano pieces, will premiere in late 2014. Anna is also working on a solo show of large paintings. Yotam’s evening length oratorio, A More Convenient Season, was premiered by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in September. • Joyce Hackett is working on a novel about 19th-century activists in the Berkshires. • Masha Hamilton’s fifth novel, What Changes Everything, was published over the summer, and she just returned from 16 months working as Director of Communications and Public Diplomacy at the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. • Lowell Handler has a new book entitled Crazy and Proud. • James Hannaham’s novel Delicious Foods (Little, Brown), which he worked on at BMC in 2010, will be out in early 2015. • Dr. Vincent Harding was a PeaceJam 2013 Hero Award honoree in recognition of his lifelong work in creating compassionate social change in the U.S. and abroad. • Elizabeth Harris-Behling’s translation of Antonio Tabucchi’s novel, Tristano Dies (Archipelago Books), won a 2013 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant. • Wenonah Hauter had an exciting year traveling around the country with Foodopoly: The Battle Over the Future of Food & Farming, the book she began writing at BMC. • Billy Hayes will be a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy in Rome for the month of February 2014, where he will continue research for his history of exercise, Sweat. • Karin Hayes’s Sundance hit, We’re Not Broke, is now available on DVD, and free online. Karin screened the film at our local Indian Lake Theater this summer. • Pierre Hébert just finished a film entitled John Cage – Halberstadt that premiered in Halberstadt, Germany at the John Cage Organ Project. He is currently working on a video installation that will open in Montréal in March. • Kylie Heidenheimer had a solo exhibition at Galerie Gris in Hudson, NYC. • Sabine Heinlein’s story, A Portrait of the Writer as a Rabbit, first published in The Iowa Review, won a Pushcart Prize. • Marcy Hermansader showed work in How Simple Can You Get?, a national exhibition. Her piece Black on Black appeared in the online journal Drain. • Leslie Hirst contributed a chapter to the new book The Art of Critical Making (John Wiley and Sons). • Jan Hively is writing a new “train the trainer” curriculum for Positive Aging. • Robin Holcomb premiered her song cycle, We Are All Failing Them, at the Northwest Film Forum in Seattle. She is scoring a new documentary about Hurricane Katrina. • Patti Horvath’s essays and stories appeared in Saranac Review, Georgetown Review, Confrontation, and 2 Bridges Review. • Ginnah Howard read from her new novel, Doing Time Outside, at the National Alliance on Mental Illness New York State Conference in Albany. • Immy Humes is making a film about American New Wave filmmaker Shirley Clarke. • Arlene Hutton’s play about the Holocaust, Letters to Sala (Dramatists Play Service), has productions scheduled at theatres in Atlanta and Minneapolis.

Kayhan Irani emceed the Women in Islam awards this June in NYC and found herself back in India in September. • Denise Iris screened recent

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films at the Lumen Festival of New Media and Performance, the Dumbo Art Festival, and the Microscope Gallery, all in NYC. • Reginald Jackson and his wife Christle are back from Ghana, where they were helping African University College of Communications in Accra move forward. Reginald is beyond proud of his sister Chirlane McCray and brother-in-law Bill de Blasio on winning the New York City mayoral election! • Dahr Jamail works for Al Jazeera English in Qatar, focusing on the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and news in Iraq. • Debra Jenks’ prints from a project-in-progress, The Strange Woman and Seven Diamond Miners, were recently featured in the show RE:Formed at Westbeth Gallery in NYC. • Bud Jennings’ work was recently in Superposition Review, 34th Parallel, and Gertrude. • Michael Jenison’s screenplay The Last Buffalo placed second at the 2013 Spirit Quest Film Festival. • Simen Johan exhibited art at Yossi Milo Gallery in NYC. • Andrew Ellis Johnson has work in Cairo: Images of Transition. He is also in the show Animalia Agitatus at Clarion University, and in the traveling exhibit Out of Rubble. • Ann Jones has a new book, They Were Soldiers: How the Wounded Return from America’s Wars – The Untold Story (Haymarket). • Kristin Jones is in Rome working on her dream project to create a grand open-air water theater and gallery on the Tiber River. • Sabrina Jones published Race to Incarcerate: A Graphic Retelling, and Radical Jesus: A Graphic History of Faith. • Mario Kaiser was awarded the Kurt Tucholsky Prize for Literary Journalism. • Join Richard Kamler on Alcatraz Island for the closing reception of his long-term installation Table of Voices this February. • Cheryl Kaplan appeared in the HBO documentary First Cousin Once Removed. • Annetta Kapon’s 2013 exhibitions included A Virtual Memorial to Vilnius and a show with the LA Metro bus system. • Joy Katz published her third poetry collection, All You Do Is Perceive (Four Way Books). • Donna Kaz has a new musical, LIVE! NUDE! GIRL! • Tatana Kellner will be exhibiting several installations, including Blue Line (made and installed first at BMC) at the Albany Public Library as part of Out of Print. Her newest piece, Poisoned Well, will be exhibited at Davidson College. • Kate Khatib completed a writing project begun at BMC entitled Surrealism’s America: Notes on a Vernacular Epistemology. She earned her PhD in Intellectual History from Johns Hopkins, and can be found co-managing Red Emma’s Cooperative in Baltimore. • Laura Krafowitz purchased and renovated a home in Detroit, and is finalizing edits on her memoir about living and working in the Gaza Strip. • Stephen Kuusisto is finishing a new memoir for Simon and Schuster about life with three guide dogs. His new book of poems, Letters to Borges, is out from Copper Canyon. • Orin Langelle was part of a three-person exhibition in Buffalo, NY, Chiapas: Resistance and Renewal. • Ernie Larsen is co-curating Global Revolt, a six-part film series at Anthology Film Archives. He co-authored a photo/text piece for the new Autonomedia book Capital’s Greek Cage. • Eric Laursen’s book, The People’s Pension: The Struggle to Defend Social Security Since Reagan, was the 2012 Gold Medalist in the Independent Publishers Book Awards. • Adrienne Leban’s book, BioGeo, The Freehand Drawings of Adrienne Leban, is now in London’s Victoria & Albert Museum’s collection, and her book Beyond September 11, Mandalas and Meditations is now in the permanent collection of the 9-11 Memorial Museum. • Sujin Lee presented Theresa Hak Kyung Cha Project in the exhibition A Portrait in Fragments: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha 1951-1982 at Korean Cultural Centre UK. • Teresa Leo’s new book of poetry, Bloom in Reverse (University of Pittsburgh
Meltzer’s short fiction collection, *Outsiders*, with twelve previously published stories, is to be published this winter. He is also working on a collection of memoir essays. • Holly Metz’s *Killing the Poormaster* received the 2013 McCormick Prize and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Book of the Year Award. • Micki McGee was promoted to Associate Professor and appointed as Director of the American Studies Program at Fordham. • Amanda Michalopoulou’s novel *Why I Killed My Best Friend* (Open Letter), about life and politics in Greece, is coming out in the US. • Lydia Millet’s first novel for young adults, *Pills and Starships* (Akashic), comes out in June. • Anais Mitchell had a baby girl, Ramona, in August, “the most delightful and time-consuming project yet.”

• Naem Mohaiemen’s film *United Red Army* (The Young Man Was, Part 1) has been at various museums, most recently the Yerba Buena Center for Arts in San Francisco. • Carolyn Monasta spent three weeks in the Arctic as an artist-in-residence with One Ocean Expeditions. Work from her project *The Witness Tree* was at the Firehouse Plaza Gallery at Nassau Community College. • In *The Keeper*, Lesnevich’s first novel for children, the protagonist’s best friend has been shortlisted for Children’s Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. • The Keeper, a short fiction collection, *Outsiders*, with twelve previously published stories, is to be published this winter. He is also working on a collection of memoir essays. • Martin Nakell has a new book of poetry, *A Subset of Chance* (Lillebuket). • Shelley Neill is in her 15th year as the Executive and Artistic Director of the Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge, MA, and is working on her 6th recording project entitled *The Currency Is Heat*. • Andy Newman had a solo exhibition at Williams Art in Cambridge, England. He and his brother David had a two-person show at the Emerson Umbrella for the Arts in Concord, MA. • Rob Nixon gave the keynote address at the American Museum of Natural History’s Collecting the Future: Museums, Communities and Climate Change event. • Josip Novakovich was a finalist for the 2013 Man Booker International Prize. • Danica Novgorodoff is releasing her new graphic novel, *The Undertaking of Lily Chen*. • After spending much of the last eight years mothering her beautiful son, Leslie Nuchow is almost finished with an album of new songs. • Lucille Nurkse participated in a residency and cultural exchange in Kremenets, Ukraine. • Pat Oleszko completed a few films of recent performances, including *Jest the Bear Facts, Golden Sun* (out of the great Blue waters), Darwin’s *Nightmare: Pat’s One* and *The AstroNuts Dilemma* (from the Floridian endangered species and spaces). • Celia Owens left Italy to create a Continuing Ed program at Kentucky School of Arts in Louisville.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Thomas Paquette’s traveling solo exhibition *On Nature’s Terms* will be at the Wildling Art Museum, CA; Quick Center for the Arts, NY; and Evansville Museum of Art, IN. • After Eve Pell’s piece about falling in love in old age ran in the *New York Times*, Ballantine offered her a contract for a book. • Micah Perks’ long personal essay, “Alone In The Woods: Cheryl Strayed, My Daughter and Me,” is being...
Institute and College of Art. He will continue work he started during BMC’s prison focus residency in 2009. • Erik Ruin and Maryann Colella of Bread & Puppet went on a summer tour with One Touch of Nature Makes The Whole World Kin, a table-top toy theater show concerning the mutual aid networks that arise in the wake of disasters. • Sheron Rupp had photos featured in Character Study at DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, MA, and Steve Kasher Gallery in NYC.

Enrique Sacrist-Gari’s published Parallegar a La Habana (Bartleby Editores) and has done presentations and readings in Madrid, Barcelona, and Habana. • 30 years after his first BMC residency, Oliver Sacks visited this summer and read his piece, “The Joy of Old Age. (No Kidding.),” a reflection on turning 80, published in The NY times.

Carolyn Salas exhibited her show Hang Up at Dodge Gallery. • Laurence Salzmann was featured in Perspectives on Peace, a group show exploring themes of sanctuary in Philadelphia and around the world. • Canyon Sam is working on the screenplay adaptation of her book about Tibet, and a new book of collected early writings from the 80s-90s. • Jon Sands wrote an essay for The Millions called “So That If I Died It Mattered.” • Susan Santone celebrates 11 years as the executive Director of Creative Change, a nonprofit focused on sustainability education. • Alyce Santoro’s new book Philosoprops: A Unified Field Guide on art, science, and social action — which began at BMC in fall of 2012 — is hot off the presses! • Jay Schmidt had a solo exhibition at the Missoula Art Museum. • Nathan Schneider released his second book, Thank You, Anarchy, and now has an excuse to talk about what an apocalypse is and could be, on radio shows and TV and at live events. • Lynda Schor has a new collection of short fiction, Sexual Harassment Rules (Spuyten Duyvil Press). • David Schuman is the director of the MFA program at Washington Institute and College of Art. He will continue work he started during BMC’s prison focus residency in 2009.

Alissa Quart published Republic of Outsiders, a book about America’s most creative activist sub-cultures that she worked on at BMC. It was excerpted in The Nation, O Magazine, and Salon.

Bruce Reilly co-founded the Transcending Through Education Foundation with fellow formerly incarcerated friends last fall. • Tanya Rey’s personal essay, “The University of Marias,” was published in The Morning News. • Susan Rich’s fourth book of poems, Cloud Pharmacy, comes out in time for AWP Seattle in February, 2014. • Jean Rohe released her new record, Jean Rohe & The End of the World Show, on her own Laundry Line Records label. • Mark Roper’s latest poetry collection, A Gather Of Shadow, was short-listed for the Irish Times Poetry Now Award. • Laura Von Rok has been exhibiting her paintings of the Antarctic landscape, most recently at the Laffer Gallery in Schuylerville, NY, and in Glens Falls, NY, and at the Hyde Museum.

Robert Royhl’s painting was on the cover of the October 2013 issue of Bozeman Magazine. • Paul Rucker has been appointed the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Artist in Residence and Research Fellow at Maryland Institute and College of Art. He will continue work he started during BMC’s prison focus residency in 2009.
University in St. Louis. He recently published fiction pieces in American Short Fiction, Nano Fiction, and Joyland Magazine. • Tanya Selvaratnam’s book, The Big Lie: Motherhood, Feminism, and the Reality of the Biological Clock, comes out in early 2014. • Sejal Shah presented excerpts of work with fellow BMC alum filmmaker Denise Iris. Sejal’s essays and stories have recently appeared or are forthcoming in The Kenyon Review Online, Conjunctions (Web), Brevity, and The Literary Review. • Ravi Shankar’s poems, essays, and translations are forthcoming or have appeared in The Missing Slate, Prairie Schooner, Brevity, The Incredible Sestina Anthology, and others. • Gregg Shapiro’s short story collection Lincoln Avenue: Chicago Stories was published by Squares & Rebels, the LGBT imprint of Handtype Press. • Jeff Sharlet’s article, “Voice and Hammer,” about the forgotten radicalism of Harry Belafonte, was in the Virginia Quarterly Review. • Paul Shore ran a successful Kickstarter campaign to fund a Braid project at the Lower East Side Printshop. • Leslie Sills’ sculpture Blue Hill Bay is featured in 500 Ceramic Figures (Lark Publications), out in February 2014. • Judith Simonian has an upcoming exhibit at John Davis Gallery in Hudson, NY. • Bill Sibley’s latest novel, Sighs Too Deep For Words, received four National Book Award nominations and won the 2013 National Indie Excellence Book Award. • Michael Silverstein has a new book, The Devil’s Dictionary Of Wall Street, which applies the Ambrose Bierce treatment to a place (and its denizens) that really deserve it. • Susanne Slavick was featured in Ornament and Crime at Ortega y Gasset Projects in NYC and has a solo show at Princeton University this January. • Ronald Slye has returned to the U.S. after working for more than three years as a Commissioner with the Kenyan Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission. • Norma Smith is part of “Strangers in the Strangest Land (Origin Stories, Moving Stories),” which gathers stories of family migration. • Lottie Nneed is working as a community builder in Baltimore and loves feeling connected to the city’s neighborhoods. • Rosalind Soloman works with This Place, a project that explores the complexity of Israel and the West Bank. • Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz went to the Arctic on a tall ship and is still processing the sheer beauty of the place and going through hundreds of photos. • Holly Wren Spaulding recently moved to western Mass where she directs Poetry Forge. • Miriam Klein Stahl just finished a public art project for the town of Castro Valley celebrating the community and its native plants. • Judith Stein recently had two articles published in Art in America. • Martin Steingesser and Judy Tierney will be returning the voice of writer Etty Hillesum to Auschwitz-Birkenau this January, then performing The Thinking Heart: the Life & Loves of Etty Hillesum in Belgium. • Louise Steinman is starting her book tour for The Crooked Mirror: A Memoir of Polish-Jewish Reconciliation (Beacon Press). “NYC, Seattle, Portland, SF; here I come…” • Susan Stinson has a new novel, Spider in a Tree, about Northampton in the time of 18th-century preacher Jonathan Edwards. • Kirsten Stolle’s site-specific wallpaper installation Miracle Grow and four redacted collages from her Monsanto Intervention series will debut in Around the Table: Food, Community, Creativity at the San Jose Museum of Art. • Emily Stone’s book Did Jew Know?: A Handy Primer on the Customs, Culture & Practice of the Chosen People is out from Chronicle Books. • Eric Stover has been awarded the Chancellor’s Public Service Award for Faculty Engagement by UC Berkeley. • Meera Subramanian received a Fulbright-Nehru research fellowship to support five months of reporting in India for her book, Elemental India (forthcoming from PublicAffairs and HarperCollins India). • Ira Sukrungruang’s poetry collection In Thailand It Is Night (University of Tampa Press) won the Anita Clair Schraf award. • Writer Pireeni Sundaralingam was commissioned by the San Francisco Arts Commission. She is currently writing a book on “Poetry, Creativity, & The Brain.” • Sarah Sutro co-led an international print exchange workshop and show with artists from Montenegro at UMass Boston and was published in American Arts Quarterly. • Naofumi Suzuki has a solo exhibit, The River, at Lesley University College of Art and Design in Cambridge, MA, with drawings from BLUE, which she began at BMC in 2011. • Margaret Swedish has completed a draft manuscript of a new book looking at the “Myth of the (Unsustainable) American Dream” through the story of her immigrant ancestors. • Andrea Thomé’s new play, Pinkolandia, which she worked on at BMC last year, opened at New York City’s INTAR theatre. Pinkolandia will have shows in Red Bank, NJ and Chicago, IL, in 2014. • Andy Teirstein has performed with Paul Simon, Pete Seeger, and Tom Paxton this year. The third act of his opera, A Blessing on the Moon, was performed at Emory University. • Dan Terris gave a talk, “The Re-Invention of Knowledge,” which he started writing at BMC, at a higher education conference. • Beth Thielien has a Rauschenberg Fellowship to work in Robert Rauschenberg’s Captiva Island studio this winter. • Meredith Trede was awarded the 2012 James J. Nicholson Political Poetry Prize. • John Trotter has been photographing in the Colorado River Delta in Mexico and the Imperial Valley in California for No Agua, No Vida, his project about the human alteration of the Colorado River. • Barbara Ungar was the feature poet at KIN and will be coordinating the new MFA program at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY, in 2014-15. Paul VanDeCarr is working with grassroots groups that are challenging the practice of mass incarceration with www.NationInside.org. • Jay Walljasper’s How to Design Our World for Happiness: A Commons Guide to Placemaking, Public Space and Enjoying a Convivial Life is available for free online. It was created with colleagues at On The Commons. • Lizette Wanzer has been awarded a five-week residency fellowship at Playa Summer Lake. • William Eric Waters reissued his epic poem, “Black Shadows and Through the White Looking Glass,” and released a new collection, Sometimes Blue Knights Wear Black Hats. • Fat Girl, Terrestrial, a novel by Kellie Wells, was a finalist this year for the Paterson Prize in fiction. • Adam Welz’s new blog, NatureUp, is now live on The Guardian. He recently traveled to the Phinda Private Game Reserve in South Africa to document the capture of six rhinos. • Gary J. Whitehead’s poem, “Making Love in the Kitchen,” which he wrote at BMC last Memorial Day weekend, is forthcoming in The New Yorker. • Tona Wilson’s animation Crossing Paths is showing at e4c Storefront Gallery in Seattle. • Sherri Lynn Wood received the 2012 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painters and Sculptors. She is working on her first book, The Improv Handbook for Modern Quilters. • a big thank you to Ten-Day Session resident Sukjong Hong for her rendering of Blue Mountain, which appears on the cover.
**Staff Notes**

**Harriet Barlow** threw off her crutches and cane by season’s end. She crowns BMC “the most therapeutic spot on the planet earth” (the food helps). • This past May, former intern **Will Bedford-Sutro** graduated from UVM, where he studied at the School of Environment and Natural Resources. He lives in downtown Burlington and works at a community garden. • **Chloe Brown** will receive her BFA with a focus in fibers from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago in May. • **Sis Eldridge** just celebrated her 75th birthday by eating breakfast with residents and staff at the BMC dining room table. • **Berry Farrington** celebrated her 10th wedding anniversary on June 1st. • 2013 Program Managers **Colette Garrigues** and **Hannah Lee** spent their first season at BMC eating bonbons with their hair up in rollers. • **Alice Gordon** returned to BMC three times this season, wearing three hats, including that of conferee. Lesson of the year: The Mediterranean is no Eagle Lake, but it’s no slouch, either. • **Lizzie Hessmiller** fell in love with letterpress and will never be the same. She is lobbying BMC to invest in a Vandercook SP15. • **Nica Horvitz** has been living in Seattle for the last year working the family business, writing, making posters, and daydreaming. She’s had visits from multiple BMC alumni and encourages more. (She’s also a great pen pal). • **Sophie Kazis** graduated from Oberlin College in May and has happily found herself back at BMC. • **Ken Lang** was awarded a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. He’ll relocate to Washington D.C. for one year beginning February 2014 to work on marine conservation issues. New D.C. friends eagerly sought! • **Diane McCane’s** photos of her garden were featured in the Indian Lake Garden Club’s 10th Anniversary Celebration flower slideshow. **George McCane** is busy hunting… • **Laurie Murdock** will enjoy actually owning, with a clear title, the land that’s been in her family for 60 years. Thanks to all New Yorkers who voted for prop 4! • **Suzy Parker** is greatly disappointed that she did not get back to BMC this fall, but she happily provided train pick up on the Left Coast for Gan Golan and Andrew Boyd, plus a week of couch surfing for Andrew. Let her know when YOU are next in Oakland! • **David Morris** honed his writing on the Public Good, swim Eagle Lake daily from May to October, and hosted a BMC celebration for his mom Lottie’s 100th birthday. • **Quince Mountain** (“Q”) is in Iowa working on a book of narrative nonfiction. He’s also trying to recover his stolen horse, Untitled. • **Stuart Remick** has spent two years traveling and teaching English in Japan. He is extremely adept at nodding his head as if he understands what people are saying. After helping the Indian Lake Theater go digital, **Ben Strader** worked with BMC filmmakers Brad Lichtenstein and Eddie Martinez to kick off a “Taking Care” series to support Adirondack caregivers. • **Daniel Wentworth** enjoyed his long weekend at BMC so much he decided to stay for the rest of the season. • **Jessie Wick** is back on the east coast and engaged to be married. She’s living in Boston, trucking to BMC, and looking for a job...

**Meet the New Caretaker of Eagle Nest**

As a child, Wes Keays spent summers in Blue Mountain Lake with his grandfather Skip, a good friend and flying buddy of former caretaker Brother Blanchard. For the next 30 years, it seems Wes was unconsciously preparing for his job here: He held several positions in the Saratoga area before starting a home inspection business. We’re thrilled to have Wes and his wife Erica as our new neighbors.
Beyond BMC

These selections are part of a growing archive of stories that reflect how the work and connections fostered here have rippled beyond the boundaries of a BMC residency.

“The BMC boathouse changed the course of my summer. I’d planned to edit a video, but as soon as I set foot in my studio—suspended over the rain-swollen lake—I knew I had to build a boat instead. Using a technique developed in Troy, NY in the 1860s, I set to work copying a one-person canoe (generously lent by Ben’s wife, Jamie) with paper and glue and spar varnish. Fellow residents helped me finish the body and frame it out, and two weeks later we launched “Nessie” (named for the Adirondack explorer, Nessmuk) on Eagle Lake. This fall, I paddled Nessie down the Charles River, part of a project with the collective Mare Liberum to search for urban wilderness. The paper canoe never tipped and kept me dry the whole way.” — **DYLAN GAUTHIER**

“While hiding from the rain under the pines by the beaver house in the channel between Eagle Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, we decided that it would, after all, be a good idea to get married. After eight years together, and seven years coming to Blue Mountain Center, there was no better place to (finally) make this decision. We think the loons would agree.” — **EDDIE MARTINEZ & ANDREA THOME**

“After the 2009 Prison Session, I drew on co-resident Sarah Walker’s work in Minnesota to launch a similar campaign to end employment discrimination in Rhode Island. “Ban the Box,” which prohibits RI employers from asking about criminal record on initial applications, was signed into law in May. Sarah’s colleagues are now utilizing my work in New Orleans to change MN’s public housing policy.” — **BRUCE REILLY**

“I pretty much fell for everybody in the September 2009 residency. I wasn’t the only one—we were a close, comfortable, happy cohort, full of beaming admiration and affection. And then two of us died, crazily and unbearably, of illness, separately and young, not long thereafter. So. So? I don’t know. It was ill fated, and I was lucky to have been there. Jean Rohe, the genius singer-songwriter, was the youngest among us. For y’all, and for Eithne and Dara, and the whole universe beyond BMC, here’s a brand new little fruit of that residency, “Pacific Street,” a video for Jean’s new album: http://vimeo.com/77546720. — **IMMY HUMES**

“Attending a conference at BMC in 1982, I found peers who became lifelong, long-distance cohorts. In 1983, as a month-long resident, I struggled with my installation THIS IS NOT A TEST for the New Museum. It was difficult to think about the nightmare of nuclear war in such a luscious place. I was stunned by the beauty of fall in the Adirondacks and, despite my deadline, began to draw and paint trees (I blame the George Grosz drawing over my bed). Two things brought me back to my work. First, a strafing bomber from the SAC base startled me out of a daydream while I was drifting in a rowboat. Then, Joanna Macy’s Despair and Personal Power in the Nuclear Age fell off a shelf in the library and hit me on the head. I went back to my bedroom (there were no studios then), inhaled the book, and wrote to Joanna. Thus began a trajectory that changed my life forever. Though I’d achieved success in the NYC art world, BMC gave me the courage to leave and become the socially engaged artist and teacher I needed to be. After decades of developing and teaching an interdisciplinary art for social change curriculum, my dream of stewarding a program in Arts in Community looks like it will finally come true later in 2014.” — **BEVERLY NAIDUS**
thanks to those who sent donations...

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…& thanks to the heavy lifters for your time, labor, & talents

Letter from the Co-Directors
Looking Forward to 2014

A management mantra at BMC is “Build on strength.” That commitment invites a lot of conversations among staff and with friends of BMC that go something like: “The trip to Castle Rock was glorious. We’ve been so lucky to have so few mishaps over the years. But maybe we should make a habit of leaving a car at the base…just in case.” Or (from Alan): “It’s great to have turkey breast, tuna, and leftovers for lunch. But how about an occasional roast pork loin?” Or (from a former resident): “I’d be more inclined to take out the compost or help out in the garden if there were some kind of timeframe, so I could fit it into my workday.” Thus the “Pitching In” sheet was born.

The opportunity to learn from experience doesn’t ebb, even after 32 seasons. So we are deeply grateful when residents, conference leaders, and other visitors stimulate the positive rethinks that result in new mattresses or stronger coffee or a vision of how our website can enter the 21st century. We also welcome suggestions for weekend conversations, more effective outreach, and topics for focus residencies, especially when there’s an offer of help that accompanies the suggestion.

Next year, building on some positive input gleaned over a meal or via email, we will host a series of meetings that ask hard questions and invite fresh thinking. One will consider the condition and potential of our website and invite the combined wisdom of our community. So, as we continue to plan for 2014, we thank all of you who understand that, like our garden, the BMC program is always a work in progress. We’re grateful for the seedling, weeding, and harvesting you do to help to make both more productive.

— Harriet Barlow & Ben Strader

Alumni Mini Residency Lottery

For the 2014 Memorial Day Alumni Mini Residency (May 21st – 26th), we’re giving priority to those who have not had the chance to return to BMC recently. If five or more years have passed since you were a resident and you’d like to enter the lottery, email us at bmc@bluemountaincenter.org by January 15th with “Mini Residency” in the subject line. If space permits, we’ll then extend the invitation to the larger alumni community.
Top of the Mornin’
A BMC Original Crossword by Gary J. Whitehead

ACROSS
1. Author Hochschild
5. Distinctive doctrines
9. With 63-across, piano cover at 26-across
14. Fatty tuna at a sushi bar
15. T-shaped platform at 26-across
16. “____ My Heart in San Francisco”
17. Tremolo caller at 26-across
18. Home of 23- and 52-across
20. Borders
22. Border
23. See 37-across
29. Driver’s aid
30. Wide shoe specification
31. Rococo
33. Place to gaze into a fire at 26-across
36. ER tests
37. What 23- and 52-across yummily create at 26-across
42. Per
43. Hens, but not roosters
44. Murdock in the kitchen at 26-across
47. Paid player
48. Flagship station of the old Mutual Broadcasting System
51. What one may put on after too many reachings into 58-across (abbr.)
52. See 37-across
56. The hotheaded Corleone
57. Old Italian coin
58. Vessels at 26-across filled by 23- and 52-across
63. see 9-across
64. “The New City-states” author Morris
65. Twice quadri-
66. Boathouse sighting at 26-across
67. Muse of poetry
68. Luau strings
69. Some wine fund bills

DOWN
1. “Finally!”
2. ____ Brothers (“Black Water” band)
3. Excite
4. Three-card scam
5. Mobutu : Zaire :: __ : Uganda
6. Male delivery?
7. The year 1406
8. Patronized Gore or Whiteface
9. “Touché!” elicitor
10. “Vogue” rival
11. Actress Arthur
12. “Bobby” subject, for short
13. Partook of 37-across
19. 2013 Best Picture
21. Streamlined
24. Unwilling to listen
25. Kidney-related
26. “Brandenburg Concertos” composer
27. Homeowner’s pmt.
28. Pool opening?
32. Capone’s nemesis
33. Bert of “The Wizard of Oz”
34. Crash site org.
35. Like universal blood donors
37. It’s rung at 6:30 P.M. at 26-across
38. Poet Lawrence
39. Former French coins
40. Skin: Suff.
41. Some Camaros
45. Excited answer to “Who wants ...?”
46. German “a”
48. Chilly chamber at 26-across
49. Female water spirit
50. Signs again, as a contract
53. Bosc alternative
54. Edward Hopper’s hometown
55. “Vogue” rival
56. Variety show segment
58. Alphabetic trio
59. Rower’s handful at 26-across
60. Eggs, biologically
61. ____ 28: road to 26-across
62. Brillo alternative