THE BLUE MOUNTAIN CENTER

WORKING COMMUNITY

The Blue Mountain Center community, steadily growing for 29 years, now numbers thousands of people. We are the beneficiaries of your addiction to vitamin BMC. Decades’ worth of cards, letters, photographs, phone calls, emails, and visits show your abiding sense of belonging. You’ve given us art and books and music, furniture and electronics and tools, boats and planes—okay, not planes, but equally valuable time, skill, muscle, and sweat on behalf of the place we all love. We know that your gifts express your gratitude for BMC’s offering to you of time, nature, fellowship, freedom from the distractions of the outside world, and a sense of being part of a movement of artists doing a certain kind of work in the world.

You have also given us ideas. And we’ve been thinking about that a lot lately, because you are what makes BMC a commons, both real and virtual. A physical place filled with people, but also a trust held in the hearts and minds, a cache of experiences we all share. All this thinking inspired an important question: How can we activate the BMC community, this commons, on an ongoing basis, make it stronger, more supportive to its members—especially when there is a clear purpose—and sustain it when we are not at BMC?

In conversations this season, answers began to pop up on the porch, dock, dining room, as organically as the snap peas rising in the garden. And they grew in part from the great work on the commons that has been done at BMC by so many people from around the country.

One of those people is BMC friend, and onthecommons.org editor, Jay Walljasper. Jay has been defining the commons, reporting on pioneering commoners’ work toward protecting it and on its practical applications toward more caring stewardship of the world. His work has resulted in the book All That We Share: A Field Guide to the Commons—one of the great overdue ideas of our time—published in November by The New Press. You know as well as we do these days that publishers of any stripe are offering precious little support to authors in the way of promotion, publicity, and book tours. Because All That We Share is a perfect example of the kind of reading the BMC community will find essential, we asked, how can we help? Enter the SKYPE Book Tour Series.

Soon you will find on bluemountaincenter.org guidelines for hosting a SKYPE book party around All That We Share. We intend it to be the first in a series of such ingenious BMC-curated events around BMC community books. Here’s how it will work: Each host will invite friends to a party featuring Jay Walljasper in a reading and conversation via SKYPE. The host will buy a copy of the book for guests to flip through and offer a computer from which to order copies online. A SKYPE account will be needed, but provisions beyond that are up to the host and guests. Please check...
>>> out the BMC website this winter for more information. And if you’re eager to plan a party soon, contact Jay at jay@jaywalljasper.com.

We love this idea, and we’re already dreaming up a few others. What if there were a BMC job board for workers and employers in the community who can supply—or who need—the skills of an editor, writer, graphic designer, film director, composer, handyman, handywoman, gardener—you name it? What if there were a BMC personals department (don’t forget that more than a few couples have met at BMC over the 29 years of its existence)?

These are pie-in-the-sky notions right now. We can’t realize, much less manage, such ambitious plans from the three-staff-members-plus-one-intern office that works 24/7 simply to run BMC. But that’s where you come in.

We encourage you to send us your ideas and your feedback, to share your skills and your knowledge to strengthen the BMC community’s positive effects on each other’s lives. Over the next year, we hope to fire up your engines on behalf of the BMC commons. That means you, and us.

FOCUS RESIDENCIES 2010

Last May 23 artists, activists, journalists, academics, veterans, and educators gathered at BMC for the two-week COSTS OF WAR FOCUS RESIDENCY. The level of engagement on the subject at hand was nothing less than extraordinary, covering—from breakfast to bedtime—the consequences of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, the drug war in Colombia, the struggle for independence in East Timor, and more.

One night someone mentioned that October, 2011 would mark the ten-year anniversary of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. After a slightly stunned silence, we began to discuss the impact of a decade at war. Some of the Residents left Blue Mountain inspired to action; and thus was born the 10 YEARS + COUNTING project.

10 YEARS + COUNTING depends 100 percent on grass-roots participation across the country. If successful, a multi-city series of exhibitions, community events, and educational opportunities will raise awareness of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and expose the true costs of the global war on terror.

You can help us make 10 YEARS + COUNTING resonate widely by promoting the project to your networks. Then take it a step further and develop an event, exhibition, reading, performance, publication, or educational opportunity that responds to this endless war.

10 YEARS + COUNTING invites you to launch your creative initiatives during the three weeks between September 11th and October 8th, 2011, to call attention to this somber decade of war. It is our deeply held hope that during this three-week period, communities across the country will act under the 10 YEARS + COUNTING umbrella, thus magnifying our voices by speaking collectively.

10 YEARS + COUNTING prescribes no particular action. It solicits ideas from as many people as possible. We invite you to harness the power of the arts and active community to create events to bring people together to imagine and work toward a more peaceful world. Visit www.tenyearsandcounting.com for more information and to register or search for an event.

The original 10 YEARS + COUNTING planning group included The Costs of War Residents Amadee Braxton, Susan Brewer, Neta Crawford, Meehan Crist, Anuradha Desai, Camille Gage, Alice Gordon, Monica Haller, Dahr Jamail, Ann Jones, Micah Perks, Susanne Slavick, and BMC staff Harriet Barlow and Alice Gordon. More people have become involved along the way. We are committed to exposing the true costs of war and working towards a more peaceful world.

—Camille J. Gage and the 10 YEARS + COUNTING team
What happens when you conceive a Cultural Workers for the Commons Focus Residency and it convenes a vegan philosopher-filmmaker, activist puppeteer and circus performer, performance poets challenging unexamined assumptions about Hurricane Katrina, members of radical bookstore collectives, “commoning” stalwarts rocking the academic boat, and artists representing collectives determined to reshape how artists connect to each other and the world?

The October Focus Residency, organized by Dara Greenwald, Josh MacPhee, and Malav Kanuga, was an exciting convergence of brilliant minds that challenged each other to think about how the commons serves their work, and how their work serves, or can serve, the commons.

They left the “left brain/right brain” discussion in the dust—exposing themselves to new approaches to the mission of artists, the public, and their audiences. They struggled with notions of authorship, ownership, and the future of our society. They explored the role of archives as a commons that can uncover invisible histories.

They examined how physical spaces can foster radical change and enlightenment, as poet Alexis Pauline Gumbs’ living room does when it becomes the headquarters for the “Eternal Summer of the Black Feminist Mind.” They marveled at the voluminous output of artworks for social change by Favianna Rodriguez, all with no strings attached. They learned from Kate Khatib’s stories about Baltimore’s Red Emma’s collective, which re-invented an abandoned Methodist church hall as a radical bookstore and creative space where activists and cultural groups feed and pitch social change to their hungry neighbors over potluck dinners.

With only one BMC alum in attendance, this was an opportunity for BMC to be swept up into a new space and a new sense of possibility for a world where artists and audiences mix it up and reinvent a notion of an invigorated, dynamic cultural commons for all.

When historian Peter Linebaugh invited fellow Residents to imagine themselves, collectively, as a commons, there was a new sense of the possible and the power of their individual and collective creative work for change.

RESIDENTS, 2010

THE COSTS OF WAR
Amadee Braxton
Susan Brewer
Neta Crawford
Meehan Crist
Lin Daley
Anuradha Desai
Shepard Forman
Camille Gage
Monica Haller
Masha Hamilton
Karín Hayes
Aaron Hughes
Dahr Jamail
Andrew Johnson
Ann Jones
Jennifer Karady
Anne McClintock
Suzanne Opton
Micah Perks
Lisa Rosenthal
Michael Sheridan
Susanne Slavick
Harvey Weinstein

SESSION ONE
Michael Agresta
Dorothy Albertini
Molly Antopol
Pamela Blotner
Nathan Currier
Kim Eisele
Selena Kimball
Su Jin Lee
Jan Mammye
Carey McKenzie
Eli Pariser
David Peterson
Erik Reese
Canyon Sam
Eric Stover
Pireeni Sundaralingam
Chagan Tigay
Joe Wilkins

SESSION TWO
Alice Attie
Henri Cole
Dan Connell
Andrés Thomas Conteris
Nick Gandyello
James Hannaham
Robin Holcomb
Alicia Shandra Holmes
Wayne Horvitz
Shalini Kantayya
Joan Larkin
Amy Leach
Frank Magnotta
Mindy Nierenberg
Lizzie Olesker
Endi Poskovic
Onnesha Roychoudhuri

SESSION THREE
Teresa Basilio
Lawrence Bogad
Kellyann Burns
Noel Curry
Christina Desser
Kayhan Irani
Cheryl Kaplan
Robin Wall Kimmerer
Rey Leon
David Licata
Ellen O’Grady
Karen O’Reilly
Karen Ramos
Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz
Aditi Vaidya
Cathy Woodson

CULTURAL WORKERS FOR THE COMMONS
George Caffentzis
Alixa Garcia
Dara Greenwald
Alexis Pauline Gumbs
Emma Hedditch
Sandy Kaltenborn
Malav Kanuga
Kate Khatib
Peter Linebaugh
Josh MacPhee
Naima Penniman
Favianna Rodriguez
Jenny Romaine
Astra Taylor
WOMEN MAKE MOVIES
In June, the board of Women Make Movies met at BMC to discuss how they will navigate the rapidly changing media distribution industry. The clubhouse was filled with their infectious laughter while they set to the task of redefining the representation and participation of women in the modern film industry.

ADIRONDACK NONPROFIT NETWORK
Leaders from nonprofits across the Adirondacks came together at BMC for an intensive workshop, which engaged executive directors and board chairs in advancing park-wide institutional strength. ANN comprises the full spectrum of organizations—including health care services, arts programs, cultural and environmental groups—that operate in the park.

ADIRONDACK ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT
Adirondack groups convened their annual meeting this year with a sense of urgency on their agenda. Steep staff and budget cuts at environmental agencies, the uncertain political calendar and expectation of further retrenchment, and the spectre of massive fracturing of rock for industrial extraction of gas not far south of the Adirondacks shaped their discussions. Even more than in prior years, they left determined to communicate and work together to face these and other challenges.

GLOBAL JUSTICE ECOLOGY
BMC filled to capacity in November to accommodate the people and ideas driving Global Justice Ecology, a coalition of environmental and social movement leaders working to expose the hidden relationship between environmental abuses and their unevenly distributed social impact. The living room served as the staging ground to strategize around their upcoming efforts to influence policy and amplify their voices in the forums where decisions are made.

LOW-WAGE WORKER ORGANIZING
Community and labor organizers focussing on workers' rights met at BMC in November. They shared strategies and information for developing mobilization efforts into long-term gains, and discussed ways to improve the relationship between community and labor forces.

WATER COMMONS
Recognizing the need to “act yesterday,” water commoners from Canada, the US, and indigenous communities on both sides of the border gathered at BMC to unify their tactics to make the Great Lakes a commons and a public trust. BMC proved the perfect environment for their mission, and in just a few days attendees were able to identify their mutual obstacles and agree on concrete, actionable goals.

GARDENSHARE
Board members of this local Adirondack nonprofit met at BMC late in the fall to sharpen their trajectory as the group gains momentum. Through a USDA grant the group hopes to make a positive impact on food policy by promoting the core principles laid out in their motto: healthy food, healthy farms, and everybody eats.

PEER
Members of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility convened this November to strengthen their efforts to protect public employees who protect our environment. Currently their members are drawing attention to President Obama’s failure to uphold his campaign promise to end political manipulation of federally funded science.
Our Place in the Adirondacks

The flow between BMC and the surrounding communities had a decidedly aquatic feel this year. It began with a landing on the shores of Eagle Lake by the teenage girls from the Lower East Side Girls Club, who were learning about themselves and the wilderness through a program at Adirondack’s Camp Fowler. They kayaked in for an afternoon in June for cookies and conversation with BMC Residents who shared personal stories of becoming authors, artists and activists.

We welcomed the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program on a quiet fall evening at BMC to celebrate another great year of research and education through their project, which uses loons as an indicator species for the health of our waterways.

The organizers of the performance series at St. Williams on Long Point ferried Brooklyn singer/songwriter Jean Rohe and band to the historic desanctified church in July for a concert. She volunteered the gig after paddling by the building as a BMC Resident last year.

Also in July, visual art Resident Pamela Blotner showed new work at the Arts Center in the solo show “Between Myth and Magic.” Meanwhile her husband, nonfiction writer and activist Resident Eric Stover, graciously donated his carpentry skills to ready the BMC boathouse for the Arts Center’s production of Metamorphoses. This one-of-a-kind limited run of Mary Zimmerman’s retelling of Ovid’s myths found a natural home in and around the boathouse’s center slip, as actors and actresses swam to and from the submerged stage, transfixing local audiences and capping the Art Center’s inaugural Adirondack Lakes Summer Theatre Festival. We were happy to help them make a big splash.

The community flow in May carried the best new regional books to BMC when we welcomed back the Adirondack Center for Writing’s fifth annual Adirondack Literary Awards. Seventy writers and readers from the region came to BMC to celebrate the literary achievements of the Adirondacks and ACW’s terrific work bringing the isolated communities of the Park together through the written word.

And finally, more popcorn than water flowed when two BMC Residents, alumnus David Petersen and Session Three Resident David Licata, screened their documentaries for “Meet the Filmmaker,” a new collaborative series co-hosted by BMC and the Indian Lake Theater. The theater has become a dynamic source for art and culture and gatherings in our surrounding towns, and BMC looks forward to new collaborations and connections.

These events were above and beyond our day-to-day programming, squeezed in before, after or in the middle of Residencies and Conferences. Yet they added to the richness of Residents’ experience and our sense of where BMC exists. They offered a way for BMC to give back and connect to our communities.
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ALLY ACKER’s third book of poems, Some Help From the Dead was published by Red Hen Press in October. • BUZZ ALEXANDER’s book Is William Martínez Not Our Brother? hit the bookstores this fall. • ALICE ATTIE completed a suite of drawings entitled “Red” at BMC last summer and will be exhibiting them at Foley Gallery in Chelsea in September 2011. • In the fall, OLIVE AYHENS taught at Pont-Aven School of Contemporary Art in France. She showed work at Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper, WY and the Frederieke Taylor Gallery in NYC. • MARIELLA BISSON had a solo show at the Feick Art Center in Poultney, VT, and will have a solo show with West Branch Gallery in Stowe, VT, in March. • LARRY BOGAD has been working as a writer and brain truster for the guerrilla theatre action group Republicorp. He recently was the editor-in-chief and lead writer of the D-I-Y Action Guide What Would the Founding Fathers Do? • CELIA BLAND is teaching at Bard College. She’s had recent essays published in The American Poetry Review, Fifth Wednesday, Field Notes, and as a “Faculty Minute” on the local NPR station. • GEORGE BRANT had readings of The Mourners’ Bench—written while at BMC—at Florida Studio Theatre and Trinity Repertory Company. • GRAY BRECHIN continues to expand the collaborative inventory of New Deal public works in California out of the UC Berkeley Geography Department and hopes to expand it into a national inventory involving thousands of Americans in a collective act of rediscovery. • SUSAN BRIANTE’s second collection of poems, Utopia Minus, is forthcoming from Ahsahta Press in March 2011. • JANE BROX’s fourth book, Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light, was published in July 2010. • KATY BUTLER’s article “What Broke My Father’s Heart: How a Pacemaker Wrecked Our Family” ran in the New York Times Magazine June 20, 2010. The paper’s most emailed story for 3 days, it told the story of her parents’ deaths, and Washington. To hear about a Mexican migrant’s home community’s proposals for immigration reform, email her at ecalmus@elrincon.org. • CHRISTOPHER CARDINALE’s first graphic novel, Mr. Mendoza’s Paintbrush, was published in June. It is a sixty-page, full-color adaptation of a short story by Luis Alberto Urrea. • CHRIS CARLSSON has two books coming out next year: Ten Years That Shook The City: San Francisco 1968-78 and an expanded edition of Vanished Waters: The History of San Francisco’s Mission Bay. • KRISTIN CASALLETTO was a Project Fellow at the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in New York and received a Purchase Award for her work. • MARY CHILDERS often teaches her memoir, Welfare Brat, in literacy programs at community centers and prisons. She also uses it on college campuses as a catalyst for discussing the needs of students who are the first in their families to seek an advanced degree. • ANDREA CLEARFIELD is currently a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome. Her documentary of Tibetan music in the restricted region of Lo Monthang, Nepal premiered in November. • HENRI COLE’s new manuscript of poems, Touch, which he completed at BMC (in-between swims!), will be published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux in 2011. • JOE CONNELLY went to Haiti in January with the relief group NYCMedics. His story, “A Pan-American Tragedy,” appeared in the July/August issue of Adirondack Life. • ROYSTON COPPENGER’s new translation of Hedda Gabler was produced in New York City in the summer of 2010. He’s also adapting Shakespeare’s War of the Roses. • DOUG CUOMO is having the world premiere of Black Diamond Express Train to Hell, inspired by a 1927 sermon by Rev. A.W. Nix, at Carnegie’s Zankel Hall. • JANET CULBERTSON’s solo exhibit dealing with environmental issues and oil spills showed at the Islip Museum in the fall. • LISA DILLMAN’s play Ground (written in part at BMC in 2007) was produced in the 2010 Humana Festival of New American Plays. • SANDI DOLLINGER has been researching for a new play set in Zakopany during the 19th century. • MAGGIE DUBRIS received a 2010 NYFA grant in music/sound for the soundtrack she made for the short film In The Dust Zone. Hear it at...
www.dustzone.com. • In Hanoi this January JOSEPH DUEMER received a medal of friendship from the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture. He had poems recently in The Southern Poetry Review, The Beloit Review, The Tampa Review, and The Georgia Review. • CARMEN EINFINGER is doing quite well and has a show in the Republic of San Marino in Italy this winter.

• SHARON FAIN was awarded a Paumanok Visiting Writer’s Prize from Farmingdale State College. Her work is forthcoming in Arts & Letters and Best New Poets 2010 from the University of Virginia Press.

• ROSEMARIE FIORE has several group exhibitions coming up, including one at the Weatherspoon Art Museum and one at Hunterdon Art Museum.

• LESLIE FRY had an outdoor sculpture commissioned and installed by the City of Tampa in April. • ALETA GEORGE wrote an essay about poets Ina Coolbrith and Joaquin Miller’s quest to redeem the name of Lord Byron. She enjoys writing the “Ear to the Ground” column for Bay Nature Magazine, but misses the loons on the lake.

• CLAIRE GORENFINKEL is enjoying her third year of study at the Academy for Jewish Religion, where she is writing a thesis on two intellectual giants of the Jewish and Quaker traditions who became social activists.

• Signs of Change: Social Movement Cultures 1960’s to Now, edited by DARA GREENWALD and JOSH MACPHEE, is now out from AK Press. • TIM GUTHRIE is doing a show of the pieces he worked on as part of the BMC Prison Issues focus residency at the Bemis Underground called “Extraordinary Rendition.”

•ERICA HARRIS spent six weeks in Varanasi, India, completing a residency at Kriti Gallery and teaching bookmaking to kids in nearby schools.

• DAISY HERNANDEZ’s personal commentary on the recession was aired on the “Living in the Middle” series on NPR. She was on a radio roundtable discussing Time Magazine’s decision to run a cover photo of a mutilated Afghan woman.

• ROBIN HOLCOMB has a new album out called The Point of it All. • GINNAH HOWARD is doing a summer. • AARON HUGHES is building Iraq Veterans Against the War’s campaign called Operation Recovery: Stop the Deployment of Traumatized Troops. To keep this a creative effort he has curated a project of the National Veterans Art Museum called Chicago in War. • IMMY HUMES is pining away for Blue. She just got back from a shoot about food and globalization in France, made a feature documentary about the unemployment crisis in US, and completed her first advocacy videos. • KAYHAN IRANI won a NY Emmy Award for Best Writing for her TV series We Are New York. • BILL JACOBSON is currently in a show at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, entitled “Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture.” In 2011 he has exhibitions in Germany and New York. • After winning awards for his independent reporting on the on-the-ground consequences of the Iraq war, • DAHR JAMIL set off to report on the catastrophic oil spill off the Gulf Coast. • RICHARD KAMLER is participating in discussions and panels on art as a subversive activity across the country this winter. • CHERYL KAPLAN will appear in the new documentary Translating Edwin Honig by director Alan Berliner. Segments of Kaplan’s films are included in her performance Delusion, recently seen at BAM.

• NANCY KATES continues to work on her film Regarding Susan Sontag. She treasures her BMC friendships, and is happy to be in touch with BMCers.

• JOY KATZ began teaching in the creative writing program at the University of Pittsburgh. She is de-uglifying an old house and finishing a new manuscript.

• SYBIL KOLLAR has poems forthcoming in The Same and is conducting writing workshops in the First Step Program at NYC’s Coalition for the Homeless. • JAMES LARDNER went to Louisville as a speaker for the Coffee Party convention. His “Pro-Government Pledge to America” was printed in the Daily Beast.

• AMY LEACH was one of the 2010 recipients of the prestigious Whiting Writer’s Award. • ADRIAN NICOLE LEBLANC will be the nonfiction Harman Writer in Residence at Baruch College this coming Spring.

• SUJIN LEE will be participating in an online art exhibition titled “The Weight of the Words”. • MARY LIEPOLD is spending the fall as a Woman Peace Writer in the Woman PeaceMakers
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Program at the University of San Diego. • PETER LINERBAUGH teaches at the University of Toronto and his latest book, The Magna Carta Manifesto, is an impassioned defense of the necessity of the commons.

DON LONDON has added web design to his portfolio of activities. He supports Open Source projects, W3C compatibility, and specializes in WordPress development. • NANCY LORD just completed her two-year term as the Alaska Writer Laureate. Her book Early Warming: Crisis and Response in the Climate-Changed North will be out in January 2011.

PAUL MACCOMBA has a double solo exhibition called ‘Familiar’ touring Ireland. • Celebrate People’s History: The Poster Book of Resistance and Revolution, edited by JOSH MACPHEE, is now out from Feminist Press.

ANNE MAKEPEACE is just finishing her film We Still Live Here, Às Nutayuneàn, about the return of the Wampanoag language. She recently married Charles Church on a beautiful day at Lake Wononscompomuc. • JAN MAMMY is good news and bad news. The good is that one of his works is in a review on photography from Leipzig from 1839 to present. The bad news is that he still misses the unique atmosphere of BMC and the call of the loons at night.

EDDIE MARTINEZ’s documentary To Be Heard, which he worked on at BMC’s first focus session on prisons, premiered at the DOC NYC festival, and won the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award.

VALERIE MAYNARD is working on rehabbing buildings in Baltimore to house her, her works, and her archives. She hopes to finish by spring 2011. • MARY MCDONNELL’s work will be shown in “Between Picture and Viewer: The Image in Contemporary Painting” at the Visual Arts Gallery of the School of Visual Arts, New York.

CASSANDRA MEDLEY celebrates the publication of her two anti-Iraq–war, anti-Afghanistan–war plays Daughter and Son by the Broadway Play Publishing Co. • DANIEL MEITZER had three plays is celebrating his “6th inning,” a.k.a his 60th Birthday, by asking friends and supporters to donate to the Institute for Policy Studies and Provisions Library in any multiple of $60.

TONI MIROSEVICH’s new book of poetry, The Takeaway Bin, is out from Spuyten Duyvil. It grew from her chapbook My Night of the Living Dead winner of Oblique Strategies, a collection of poetry, and Dignity, was published by Shambhala in June. A good chunk of the book was written at BMC. • BEVERLY NAIDUS used a grant to create a community based eco-art project that involves restoring an heirloom orchard on a former military site.

SHELLEY NEILL’s newest album Irish Eyes Gypsy Soul has been played on over 40 Jazz radio stations across the country. • WILL NIXON spent the recent zombie season (Halloween) giving readings from Love in the City of Grudges (FootHills Publishing), which has poems inspired by Night of the Living Dead.

SUZANNE OPTION’s “My Soldier/Many Wars” photographs were shown at the Lyon Photography Festival in “US Today, After...” and at the Brighton Photo Biennial in “New Ways of Looking”.

KAREN O’REILLY’s short story “Birds” appears in this winter’s Dublin Review.

KATHLEEN O’TOOLE is delighted by the release of her first full-length collection of poetry, Meanwhile. • CELIA OWENS now lives in Italy, in both Rome and a little town south called Alvito, where she has room for guests.

LORI PARK is making her first large-scale bronze sculpture (subject: women international!) to be unveiled in London 2011.

JONATHAN PARKER’s portraits were on display at the John Davis Gallery in Hudson, NY this year. • RICK PILTZ’S DC-based advocacy project has a new website, www.climatesciencewatch.org, which documents his work defending climate scientists and challenging the Obama administration.

RICHARD POSNER is designing a xeriscape tire colonnade bike path for the City of Tucson, AZ. Mano y Mano se Retiro/Retired Way consists of a series of inverted tire columns crowned by native plants. • ERIK REESE’s blog, The Future We Want, continues and expands the work he has done to draw attention to the environmental, social, and public health consequences of
strip mining in America.

- **SUSAN RICH**'s third collection, *The Alchemist's Kitchen*, has been published by White Pine Press. • **DAVID REYNOLDS**' new book, *A New New Deal: How Regional Activism Will Transform the American Labor Movement*, is out in paperback from Cornell University Press. • **KIM ROBERTS** edited a new book, *Full Moon on K Street*, featuring poems of current and former DC residents from the past 60 years. • **FAVIANNA RODRIGUEZ** is working on a graphic novel about four undocumented youths who walked for 150 days to take a message of humanity to the government in Washington. • **ROBERT ROYHL** was in an October show at the Davis Dominguez Gallery in Tucson. • **JOHN ROWELL** is happy that the play he worked on at BMC in 2009, *The Music of Your Life*, is getting a workshop production in London at the Jermyn Street Theater.

- **DONALD RUSSELL** encourages you to check out Provision Library's cool new website at www.provisionslibrary.com

- **OLIVER SACKS**' new book, *The Mind's Eye*, was published in October. • Photographer/filmmaker **LAURENCE SALZMANN**'s show *Echele ganas* is at Tufts University. • **Laurie Sandell**’s graphic memoir, *The Impostor's Daughter*, came out in paperback in July 2010 and was nominated for an Eisner Award for Best Reality-Based Work.

- **STEPHEN SANDY** and Louisiana State University Press, have just published his new collection of poems, *Overlook*. • **Sky Train**, *CANYON SAM*’s new book about Tibet, received the 2010 PEN American Center's Open Book Award. • **CATHERINE SASANOV** took a road trip across the South to study sites associated with slave trader Isaac Franklin. Her poetry collection *Had Slaves* was published in March.

- **BASYA SCHECHTER**’s band Pharaoh’s Daughter will be anchoring the 6th Annual Sephardic Music Festival at 92Y Tribeca December 2nd. They’re having a free concert December 6th at NYC’s Wintergarden. • **LYNDA SCHOR**’s latest collection of short fiction, *Seduction*, was recently published by Spuyten Duyvil Press. • **ANNA SCHULEIT** completed two new projects: *Just a Rumor*, involving a face, a pond, and wild ducks at UMass Amherst, and *Here Rests Peggy*, a set-design for Ivy Baldwin Dance in New York.

- **NEIL SELDAN** is working hard on decentralizing and reforming the waste system and finished another successful fast pitch season with no serious injuries. • Poet **RAVI SHANKAR** had two chapbooks come out over the summer—*Voluptuous Bristle* (Finishing Line) and *Seamless Matter* (Rain Taxi)—and won a Pushcart Prize in Poetry. • **JEFF SHARLET** published C economic development plays in peacemaking. • **PAUL SHORE** has been in three exhibitions recently: “Licked Sucked Stacked Stuck: A Confectionery History of Contemporary Sculpture” at the Brattleboro Museum in VT, and two group shows. • **LESLIE SILLS** was awarded an artist residency at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts and her work was included in “The Tea Pot Redefined” exhibit at Mobilia Gallery. • **JUDY SIMONIAN** is having a solo show at Edward Thorp Gallery in January. • **RON SLYE** resigned from the Kenyan Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission due to the government’s failure to support the Commission and the Chairman’s unresolved conflicts of interest. • **MARTIN STEINGESSER** recently had a poem and essay featured in *The Humanist* and has poems appearing this fall in *Poetry East, Hanging Loose, and Poems Against War*.

- **KIRSTEN STOLLE** had a solo show in San Francisco, a group show in Wyoming, and the San Jose Museum of Art purchased her painting *Orbis Erthyromite* for their collection. • **PEN Center USA** published excerpts from **SYLVIA SUKOP**'s memoir, *Difficult Light*, in *Strange Cargo*, an Emerging Voices Anthology. Her essay “Early Harvest,” was published by *Obit Mag*.

- **PIREENI SUNDARALINGAM** co-edited *Indivisible: An Anthology of Contemporary South Asian American Poetry*, by University of Arkansas Press. • Fellow preachers in the wilderness **REVEREND BILLY (BILL TALEN)** and Guillermo Gómez-Peña, will consecrate hopes and exorcise demons of art, activism, and political despair in a bilingual show at The Gala Hispanic Theater in DC, December 10 & 11. • **JUDITH TANNENBAUM**’s WritersCorps won the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, presented by First Lady Michelle Obama.

- **ANDREA THOME**’s play *Undone* was presented by Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago as part of the 2010 Ignition Festival. The US-Mexico playwright-exchange program that she directs is in its fifth year.

- **ANDY TEIRSTEIN** received his Ph.D with a dissertation consisting of writings and a viola concerto based on themes he collected in Transylvania. He will be playing Pete Seeger in the show *Woody Sez* in London.

- **MEREDITH TREDE**’s collection of chapbooks is out as well as poems in *Blueline, Earth’s*
STAFF NOTES

HARRIET BARLOW’s granddaughter Tessa came to Work Week this year, representing the third generation of Barlow participation (following Toby and Allison). BEN STRADER is working to keep the paddling route through the Marion River open for all, and still enjoying the Indian Lake Theater. SIS ELDRIDGE has stuck to a strict regimen of walking three miles a day. This was augmented, as Alan and Diane noted, by running her mouth at least five miles a day. DIANE MCCANE’s garden this year produced a fantastic pickle-zucchini relish. Her work as moderator between Sis and Alan has also been greatly appreciated. ALICE GORDON returned to BMC after trips to California, Mexico, and Vermont. She also performed Shakespeare in rural Texas. ALAN STAFFORD’s garden saw a new level of magnificence with the blooming of a desert candle from the steppes of Central Asia. LAURIE MURDOCK had a great summer with everyone at BMC, and sincerely hopes to see them again next year or in the future. KEN LANG spent the summer at BMC taking care of the garden. He’s now back in NYC looking for theater opportunities and perusing seed catalogues. STUART REMICK, intern at BMC, was tricked by Ben Strader into moving from Brooklyn to take a job as managing director at the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts. CHLOE BROWN has begun her first year at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she plans to explore fibers and printmaking. She loves it so far. SOPHIE KAZIS is back at Oberlin, singing in a jazz and folk a cappella group, working at an on-campus music venue, and eating in a co-op—sounds like BMC. HOLLY MULDER-WOLLAN lives in Oakland and works for the City Arts and Lectures series and produces a radio program. She also likes to bicycle around Lake Merritt. JESSIE WICK is enrolled in a furniture and cabinet-making program at Laney College in Oakland. She is also a web manager in the Alameda County Education Department. SUZY PARKER saw a naked man in the woods in Bend, Oregon, and wrote a story about it for Source Weekly. It didn’t change her life.

RESIDENT UPDATES/2010

Daughters, and Borderlands.
• JOHN TROTTER continues work on his “No Agua, No Vida” photographic exploration of the water crisis building on the Colorado River. • The book MEREDITH TURSHEN began at BMC was published in 2007. Five solo art shows later, another book has appeared, African Women: A Political Economy. • BARBARA UNGAR’s latest poetry collection, Charlotte Bronté, You Ruined My Life, will be out in December. • PAUL VANDECARR has a blog and podcast called “Inside Stories,” on the uses of storytelling for social justice at www.InsideStoriesOnline.com. • MFUNDI VUNDLA has authored two libretos on South African political figures and produced a noir feature film which he entered in Berlin and Sundance.

• SARAH WALKER’s advocacy group, The MN Second Chance Coalition, received several awards this year as they work to restore voting rights to people with felony convictions. • LIZETTE WANZER was on two panels at Litquake in San Francisco. Her work garnered an Honorable Mention from Whispering Prairie Press. • HAL WEAVER’s anthology, Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights, will be published in 2011. • JOHN PITMAN WEBER had a fabulous multi-lingual experience in Vitoria, Spain leading the creation of a 500 sq. ft. mosaic in the medieval section of town. • Composer STEFAN WEISMAN received a grant to record his opera Darkling, and had his pieces recorded by Newspeak and Jody Redhage. • JOYCE WELLMAN is in a new book about Krishna Reddy and the NY printmaking scene. It is the first in the series Know The Artist Know The Art.

• JOE WILKINS has new work in several publications. The manuscript he labored over this summer at the Gray Cottage is floating around New York somewhere. • TONA WILSON finished her handmade artist’s book, Stories Behind Bars. It tells the stories of detained and imprisoned US immigrants and includes material she worked on at BMC. • KAY WOOD’s new blog is http://sexualflowering.com. • ANNA WOODFORD’s collection of poetry Birdhouse was released by Salt in the UK and US this year.

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OUR TWO POTS O’ GOLD

1. contributors

Malea Acker
Adirondack Architectural Heritage
Adirondack Center for Writing
Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts
Adirondack Nonprofit Network
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Jan Dove
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Maggie Dubris
Kim Eisele
Valerie Elbrick Hanlon
Kathleen Fluegel
Food for Maine’s Future
Jacob Forman
Franz W. Sichel Foundation
Kermit Frazier
Susan Freireich
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Scott Gillis
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Liese Greensfelder
Monica Haller
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Virginia Howard
Kayhan Irani
Denise Iris
Chris Jerome
Conrad Johnson
Ann Jones
Shalini Kantayya
Cheryl Kaplan
Nancy Kates
Joel Katz
Tatana Kellner
Robin Kimmerer
Kim Klein
Hugh Knox
Sylvi Kollar
Michael Korie
Jim Lardner
Joan Larkin
Jonathan Lee/JSL Foundation
Sujin Lee
Peter Linebaugh
Josh MacPhee
Jan Mammey
David Morris
Gary McLouth
Carey McKenzie
Holly D. Metz
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Mindy Nierenberg
Judith Nies
Lary Olds
Pat Oleszko
Karen O’Reilly
The Orion Society
Eli Pariser
Donna Parson
Rick Peabody
David Petersen
Rick Pitzl
Gretchen Primack
Erik Reece
Bruce Reilly
Nancy Reisman
Terry Rockefeller
Favianna Rodriguez
Katherine Rogers
Nancy Rosenthal
Oliver Sacks
Andrew Saito
Canyon Sam
St. Lawrence University
Catherine Sasanov
Jay Schmidt
Sejal Shah
Susanne M Slavick
& Andrew Johnson
Holly Wren Spaulding
Vincent Stanley
& Nora Gallagher
Kirsten Stolle
Nancy Strader
Sylvia Sukop
Pireeni Sundaralingam
Astra Taylor
Mark Thompson
Harvey & Rhona Weinstein
Sally Wilcox Jacob
Albert Winn
The Wolf-Powers Family Fund
Women Make Movies
Kathy Woodson
Jerilea Zempel
Marilyn Zuckerman
Please let us know if we inadvertently left you off the list.

2. volunteers

Where would BMC be without its volunteers? This year’s Work Week saw the dining room walls repaired, doors installed in the boathouse studio, the garden squared off, gray cottage painting and porch rescreening, and the studio floors repainted. The 24 dining room chairs reupholstered by the bionic Lynne Nathan drew oohs and ahs. And that was only the beginning. Come summer, Rosalyn Bodycomb reinvented the basement and Michael Bodycomb lit up the boathouse. Ken Lang kept the garden bountiful. Eddie Martinez brought the office up to speed. All season people worked—healing, grooming and loving this space that has carried us all over the years. Every day our appreciation swells up as we see how much better this place is, thanks to them.

Thanks for considering a donation to BMC this year. We need you as much as ever.

Photograph by Laura Seldman
Heading West  BMC is holding our first-ever Admissions Committee meeting in California. We’ll be in San Francisco, but of course we look forward to getting applications from all over the world. We need your help to spread the word about BMC Residencies to people doing terrific, socially conscious work. As always, the BMC Open Residency application deadline is February 1.

Spring Work Weekend  Once again, we are looking for a few great volunteers to come up, or over, for our Opening Weekend. Send an email if you think you can join us, and we’ll add you to our list of people willing to paint, rake, scrape, and converse BMC back into action. This year’s work weekend starts on Thursday, April 28, and goes through Sunday, May 1. We’ll help coordinate rides if you’ll bring your tools, garden gloves, and enthusiasm.

Memorial Day Weekend Alumni Residency  Send an email to bmc@bluemountaincenter.org if you’d like to join us for a short and intense chance to pursue your work at BMC May 25-30. All alums are welcome to put their names in the virtual hat. The deadline for entries is April 24. We’ll have a lottery drawing and let you know the results by May 1.

Do we have your email address? How can we tell you about opportunities to join us for a Skype Book Tour—or a Mini-Residency or Work Weekend or a float on Eagle Lake to wait for the sun to burn through the fog (like Resident Selena Kimball, above)—if you don’t send us your email address? Send it now to bmc@bluemountaincenter.org!