Conversations Rooted in Past, Present and Future

Since its founding in 1982, Blue Mountain Center has worked to craft a program responsive to the dynamics of the progressive movements that we exist to serve. In an effort to make a permanent and consolidated record of this program, and the many conversations that start and continue here, volunteers Kirila Cvestkovska and Joy Strawbridge spent the past two years combing through the archives of conferences, convenings, and focus residencies.

The oft whispered “if walls could talk” is certainly applicable at BMC - at the kitchen and dining room tables, up in the hayloft, on the porch. Do boats have ears? Oh what we might hear…

Listen for snippets from a conversation in 1986 concerning the creation of a national institute for women of color. The archive notes “…the meeting provided a rare opportunity for incisive political discussions among a group of highly experienced women of color activists from all over the country.”

Or one can learn about our most ambitious program project, the Common Practice sessions of the mid-80s. BMC brought together three hundred activists from across the country to discuss and explore the history of progressive movements, where we stood at that moment, and how to find and build upon our commonalities. The relationships and understandings forged during that process endure in the Commons movements today.

In 1990, Jane Sapp organized BMC’s first focus residency. The residency brought together cultural workers of color for a month-long session that sought to build a network of artists “whose work...

Barrier-Free BMC!

We need your help! In the spring of 2017 we will begin construction to add a wheelchair accessible living space on our 117-year old property. The cottage attached to Harriet’s cottage, called The Annex, will be renovated inside and out. A porch will be added with a ramped entrance for wheelchairs. The bedroom and bath will meet ADA codes.

The renovation will cost $60,000. We need donations from Residents and friends of BMC to make this a reality. Will you consider giving an additional gift this year to help make BMC more inclusive? It’s a matter of fairness, equity, and the right thing to do. Help extend BMC’s circle to people who, in the past, have been unable to join us.

If you know a family foundation or private donor who gives in the areas of accessibility and the arts, will you help us reach out to them? Contact Ben at ben@bluemountaincenter.org.

When this project is completed, there will be additional work to do: new pathways to the Club House, the replacement of temporary ramps with permanent, accessible entryways, renovation of the living room bathroom to make it wheelchair friendly, tackling the stubborn step between the living and dining spaces in the great room. We’ll start with The Annex and move forward as funding becomes available. We’ve added a line on this year’s remittance envelope to directly fund this work. As always, thank you in advance for your generous support!
was created from and for their communities”.

After a rash of inner city library closures in 1997, **Harriet Barlow** convened an emergency meeting that led to the creation of Libraries for the Future, headed by BMC staff alum **Laura Wolf-Powers**. In 2000 BMC held the **Single Mom Summit**, focusing conversations on welfare reform and feminism.

BMC has hosted close to three hundred such conversations in thirty-four years. And these snippets represent only a drop in the bucket of the rich and varied history of conversation over the decades. Depending on who looks at the archive, and when, different themes will emerge.

This year, **Buzz Alexander**’s 1997 comments feel particularly resonant. He spoke about incarceration during a gathering of prison art programs.

“We are the most incarcerating nation; over 50% of our prisoners are black… prisons are being used to manage the poor and put money in the pockets of companies. What strikes me is how invisible all this is, how very few people are even seeing prisons, much less talking about prisons and prisoners in this light.”

Conversations about race, prison, and policing have continued at BMC through the **Prison Issues Focus Residency** in 2009 and this year’s convening of artist-educators working in New York and California prisons organized by **Beth Theilen**. It continued in the residencies of individuals like **Andrea Ritchie**, co-author of *Say Her Name; Resisting Police Violence Against Black Women*, **Lisa Graves**, featured in Ava Duvernay’s new film *The 13th*, and **Paul Rucker**, whose multimedia work interrogates the many issues accompanying incarceration in its relationship to slavery.

As Harriet reminds us, the politics of this electoral year have emphasized that we are a nation whose dialectics favor the excl-
2016 Conferences

How Progressive Movements Govern & Build Power
This spring convening gave activists, philanthropists, and elected officials the opportunity to spend three days in focused discussion on governance and building political power. An organizer said, “Our goal was to listen, reflect, and debate on what is working, what is hard, what we need to grapple with in the state of progressive governing and building progressive political power.”

Building a Political Alignment with #AllofUs
BMC alum Jonathan Smucker, with his organization Beyond the Choir, helped facilitate this training attended by activists from the Working Families Foundation, the Movement for Black Lives, Dreamers, 350.org, and others. Strategic conversations about future alignments between the individuals and organizations represented lead to #AllofUs, a millennial-run organization that is actively fighting conservative, right-wing, and establishment leadership.

Clean & Healthy New York
Ten years after its founding, Clean & Healthy NY, (CHNY), brought together experts in the fields of health, sustainability, and business in to participate in their strategic planning. The staff and board of CHNY were able to build relationships with movement partners as they discussed long-term vision in the fight for safer chemicals, a sustainable economy, and a healthier world.

Adirondack Non-Profit Network
Members of the Adirondack Nonprofit Network, (ANN), recognized a vacuum of facilitation and training skills in the region and mobilized to fill this gap during their annual retreat. The network invited Andy Robinson back to “Train the Trainers”. The second day of the ANN retreat focused on poverty in the Adirondack Park, marking the network’s first major dive into a regional social issue and discussion of collective action.

NY and CA Arts in Prisons
Art and writing classes in prisons have long been seen as an opportunity for both justice and rehabilitation work with our country’s most vulnerable populations. Despite this opportunity, artists and educators working in prisons face isolation, funding challenges, and systemic efforts to devalue their work. BMC Alum Beth Theilen has been teaching in prisons and corrections for over 30 years. She organized this spring retreat to bring together East and West Coast educators to share challenges, best practices, and begin conversations about how to build momentum for prison art programming.

Fisheries and Farms For Food Justice
Family fishermen joined small-scale farmers and organizers from the North Atlantic Marine Association, (NAMA), and the National Family Farm Coalition, (NFFC), to discuss common strategy in the fight for fair valuing and pricing in our food system. Parallels were drawn between the cooptation of seed stock and the privatization of sea rights. NAMA and NFFC see these parallels as an opportunity to come together and organize for broad systemic change across traditional divisions among farm, sea and food production.

FORCe: Upsetting Rape Culture, Monument Quilt Leadership Team
BMC alums Rebecca Nagle and Hannah Brancato began collecting stories from survivors of rape and abuse in 2014. They wrote, stitched, and painted these stories onto red fabric. The Quilt’s leadership team brought together 30 people from across the US to work on vision, values, and strategy. and to talk about goals for building a culture that supports survivors of rape and abuse. “BMC offered a sanctuary for survivors and leaders to come together. The healing water of the lake, the comfort of good food, and the open space was the perfect setting for this intense and transformative work,” said Nagle.

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**RESIDENT NOTES**

**Jerilea Zempel** was one of nine artists selected for “Up in Arms: Taking Stock of Guns” at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, VT. • **Pete Wyer**’s Song of the Human, featuring choir and birdsong over 18 independent speakers, premiered at New York’s Winter Garden. • **David Wright** co-wrote Away Running, a semi-autobiographical novel about two North American footballers playing in Paris. • **Gary J. Whitehead** has new poems forthcoming in The Massachusetts Review and Parnassus and is seeking a publisher for his fourth collection, Wild Columbine. • **Debra Weisberg**’s one-person show, “Cannot Be Determined in Advance,” will be on view in 2017 at McNinch Art Gallery, Southern New Hampshire University. • **Rhona Weinstein**’s Achieving College Dreams: How a University-Charter District Partnership Created an Early College High School was published this spring. • **Joyce Ellen Weinstein**’s Paint By Numbers is on exhibit at the Hebrew Union College Institute of Religion Museum through July 2017. • **Harvey Weinstein** was awarded a McGill Medicine Alumni Global Award for “outstanding contributions to the betterment of our local or global communities.” • **Activist-educator Hal Weaver** continued to challenge Cold War misinformation with presentations at Harvard University, in Dakar, Senegal, and at Paris’s Quai Brany Museum on the 50th anniversary of the First World Festival of Black Arts in Senegal. • **Jay Walljasper** has been hard at work on the new BMC Commons Magazine. Look for it in your e-mail. Please let BMC know if you aren’t receiving it! • **Davi Walders**’s poem, “Michangelo’s Moses,” won second place in the annual Anna Davidson Rosenberg Contest for poems on the Jewish experience. • **Antonio Vega**’s Abismo is being performed in México. He is still working on his puppet show. • **Susan Varon** facilitated an 11-week writing class for woman survivors of physical or emotional trauma in Taos, NM. • **Tom Varner** is now an Associate Professor at Cornish College of the Arts. His CD, “Nine Surprises,” was featured on NPR’s Fresh Air. • **Paul VanDeCarr** has two new podcast series in the works, one on the history of prisons and another on encounters between very different people. • **John Trotter** received a 2016 New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellowship Grant for Photography. • **Tenement Times,** Meredith Trede’s poetry collection about her early NYC life, was published by Main Street Rag Publications. • **Sherene Renee Thomas** received a starred review from Publishers Weekly for her new book, Sleeping Under the Tree of Life, and has new work appearing in several anthologies. • **Daniel Terris** says hello from Jerusalem, where he is on a Fulbright until June 2017 teaching American Studies at a Palestinian university. • **Composer Andy Teirstein** has initiated “Translucent Borders,” a NYU project that brings composers and choreographers together across cultural and geographic borders. • **Lisa Teasley** is on a two-month writing scholarship in China with the Shanghai Writers Association. Her short story collection, Late Blooming, and her memoir, The Book of Hours, will be published next year. • **Jonathan Tasini**, author of the book, The Essential Bernie Sanders, recently launched a new podcast, The Working Life. • **Judith Tannenbaum** finished Looking at Looking: 33 Glimpses, a work of narrative nonfiction that uses memoir and essay to claim and question what and how we see. • **Margaret Swedish** has a poem in the fall edition of Stoneboat Literary Journal and an essay in Creative Wisconsin. She is finishing a manuscript from her journey to the Alberta tar sands and works on ecology and spirit, environmental justice, and racism. • **Naoe Suzuki** will be in Tokyo for a month as a research fellow at the Tokyo Wonder Site Residency. • **Sarah Sutro** had a solo show of natural ink drawings at the Berkshire Artist Museum and a poetry reading from her new book, Études, at Eclipse Mill Gallery, Adams, MA. • **Pireeni Sundaralingam** has a fellowship at the San Francisco Observatory where she’ll be exploring the intersections of poetry and science. • The University of California Press published Eric Stover’s Hiding in Plain Sight: The Pursuit of War Criminals from Nuremberg to the War on Terror. • **Kirsten Stolle**’s solo exhibition, “Conceal/Reveal,” debuted at Roy G Biv Gallery, Columbus, Ohio. • **Martin Steingesser** and musicians performed a poem advocating support for the monarch butterfly for the Portland, ME City Council followed by a presentation against the use of Roundup and other toxic herbicides. • **Melissa Stein**’s poems have recently appeared in Tin House, Beloit Poetry Review, Ploughshares, Yale Review, 32 Poems, Spillway, Four Way Review, and The Literary Review. • **Judith Stein**’s Eye of the Sixties, a biography of the Chi-
Maud Morgan Arts, Cambridge, MA. ● Sarah Shourd’s play, The BOX, about the experience of solitary confinement and incarceration, had its world premier in San Francisco. ● Paul Shore will have a 2017 solo exhibition of “Drawn Home” at Vermont’s Brattleboro Museum. ● Sun Yung Shin’s third book of poems and essays, Unbearable Splendor, was published by Coffee House Press. ● Sejal Shah’s manuscript, How to Make Your Mother Cry, was named a finalist for a number of awards in. ● Born to Fly: Elizabeth Streb vs. Gravity, co-produced by Tanya Selvaratnam, was nominated for an Emmy Award for Best Arts & Culture Documentary. Tanya committed much of her recent time to Filmmakers for Hillary. ● Bill Schuck’s “Word” is currently at Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art. A second large-scale installation will open in 2017 at Long Island University. ● Nathan Schneider is busy writing about platform co-operativism and recently proposed that Twitter users buy Twitter #WeAreTwitter. ● John Schlesinger has an installation at UnSmoke in Braddock, PA through February, 2017. ● Mark Schapiro wrote “The Unique Burden of Covering Climate Change in the Middle East” for Pacific Standard. ● Sam Sax’s book Madness, which won the National Poetry Series, was largely written at BMC. ● Catherine Sasanov continues to work on her poetry manuscript, Marked Y (Archives & Invocations). ● Alyce Santoro is employing skills and inspiration derived from BMC to help drive Defend Big Bend’s fight against Energy Transfer Partners 42-inches Trans-Pecos Pipeline. She received guidance and support from Andrew Boyd. ● Jon Sands is cohost of the number one poetry podcast in all the land, The Poetry Gods. ● Madrid: Ediciones Endymion published Enrique Sacerio-Gari’s novel El mercado de la memoria. ● Paul Rucker’s “Stories From the Trees,” a project that features lynching postcards from the 1900s animated and set to live music, premiered in Seattle. ● Robert Royhl showed new work at a gallery in Helena, Montana and participated in “Transformation,” at the Doris Dominquez Gallery, Tuscon, AZ. ● John Poch has a new poetry film on YouTube. ● Tenzin Phuntsog is teaching full-time in Montana State University’s Film Department. ● Camellia Phillips’s short fiction won first place in the 2016 PNWA Literary Contest. ● Micah Perks’s novel, What Becomes Us, was published by Outpost19. ● Kathleen O’Toole has poems forthcoming in Notre Dame Review. In The Margins, a poetry collection with three other women, will be published in 2017. ● Bob Ostertag’s Sex Science Selfi: A Social History of Es- trogen, Testosterone, and Identity was published by University of Massachusetts Press. ● Leslie Nuchow released a new album, “Balm for Gilead”. She’ll perform at Rockwood Music Hall, NYC in December. ● Danica Novgorodoff was named Sarabande Books’ 2016 Writer-in-Residence at Bernheim Forest, KY. ● Beverly Naidus is excited about a new collaboration with a team of trans-disciplinary thinkers/creators/activists that focuses on place, ecology, the memories of ancestors, and future descendants. ● Priya Nadkarni’s exhibit, “Stones of Emptiness,” was on view in Springfield, MA this fall. ● Carolyn Monastra brought the “Witness Tree Project” to this

Excerpt from Behind the Floodlines, a graphic novel by Danica Novgorodoff, Session One.
year’s Climate Week, the Society of Photographic Education, and C40 Mayors Summit in Mexico City. • Naeem Mohaiemen’s first three films in The Young Man Was series screened together at ICA, London this fall and will be at Edith-Russ-Haus, Oldenburg, Germany through mid-January 2017. • Anais Mitchell’s folk opera, “Hedestown,” had an off-Broadway run at New York Theater Workshop. Her daughter is three! • A reading from Winter Miller’s play, Spare Rib, was featured at a celebration hosted by Gloria Steinem and friends to honor Dr. Willie Parker, an abortion provider in Mississippi and Alabama. • Philipp Meyer produced and adapted his novel, The Son, into a television show for AMC, debuting in 2018. • Holly Metz’s Killing the Poormaster will be out in paperback in 2017. • Gary McLouth has published two short story collections: Natural Causes and Do No Harm. • Maureen N. McLane published Mz N: the serial: a poem-in-episodes. A poem-essay by her appears in Shimon Attie’s new monograph, Facts on the Ground. • Mary McDonnell’s Class Portrait showed at New York’s Zürcher Gallery. “Vernal Moves,” a solo show, was at Brooklyn’s Centotto. • J McDonald’s “A Growing Storage Problem” was on exhibit this summer at Local Project Art Space, Long Island City, NY. • Richard McCann was elected president of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation. The movie version of his story collection, Mother of Sorrows, is under development with Blacklisted Films. • Jane McAuley’s No Shortcuts: Organizing for Power in the new Gilded Age is now in print. • Composer Missy Mazzoli premiered her second opera, Breaking the Waves, at Opera Philadelphia. • Zibukole Martinaitye premiered new compositions in New York and Vilnius, Lithuania. • Grace Markman’s collages were exhibited at Brooklyn’s FiveMyles. • Sarah Manyika’s Like a Mule Bringing Ice Cream to the Sun was shortlisted for the Goldsmith Prize. • Leonore Malen’s Scenes from Paradise premiered as a one-act play on the grounds of Art Omi International Art and will be shown in 2017 as a multi-channel film projection at Studio 10, Brooklyn. • With recent grants from the NEH and MacArthur, Anne Makepeace plans to finish her Tribal Justice documentary this year and is looking forward to launching it out into the world in 2017. • Gregory Maguire has been nominated by the Greek chapter of IBBY, (International Board of Books for Young People), for the 2017 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. • James Magruder’s third novel, Love Slaves of Helen Hadley Hall, was published in May. • Josh MacPhee has been juggling the birth of his son, Asa, teaching a new class at Pratt Institute, and working with the Close Rikers campaign in order to shut down this country’s most notorious jail. • Antonio David Lyons is moving to Los Angeles. His initiative, We Are Here, has been selected in partnership with SisterLove Inc. as a DREAMS Innovation Challenge Winner. • Erick Lyle recently completed a tour of the Midwest and Canada for his book, Streetopia. The latest issue of his magazine, Seam, will be released at Wayfarer’s Gallery, Brooklyn. • R.H. Lossin celebrated the publication of the fifth issue of Politics/Letters, a quarterly journal and webzine dedicated to the future of the non-hairshirt Left. • David Lloyd read at the Ecopoetics Conference in Perpignon, France and published poems in Red Poets, Comstock Review, Hartskill Review, and Blueine. • Brad Lichtenstein showed his feature film, There Are Jews Here, to an enthusiastic audience at the Indian Lake Theater this summer. It premiered in July at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. • David Licata is nearing the finish line on A Life’s Work, a documentary film about people engaged with projects that they may not complete in their lifetimes. • Jeffery Leppendorf’s Droppin Holar Augustineinim, (Water Drops Hollow the Eyestone), a solo monodrama for soprano with piano, will premiere in 2017 in Iceland. • Sujin Lee’s first solo exhibition, “The Distance Between Worlds,” opened in Seoul, Korea at the Cake Gallery. • Deborah Paye Lawrence’s solo exhibit, “Open Carry,” is on display through December 1 at 4Culture Gallery, Seattle, WA. • Eric Laursen’s bio on Alex Comfort, the author of The Joy of Sex, has been shortlisted by the Biographers’ Club for the 2016 Tony Lothian Award for the best proposal for an uncommissioned first biography. • Orin Langelle’s photo exhibit, “If Voting Changed Things,” was shown at Buffalo’s ¡Buen Vivir! in October. • Ash Kryie is curating an exhibition of Kurt Vonnegut Jr.’s artwork at the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago. • Heidi Kumao has a solo show of photos and video about traumatic injury and recovery at the University of Michigan’s Lane Hall Gallery. • Hopper’s Wife, which Michael Korie co-wrote in 1997, is back after 19 years as part of the inaugural season of the newly reborn New York City Opera. • In May, Ellen Kozak presented “riverthatflowsbothways,” a 3-channel video installation with composer Scott D. Miller. • Lisa Ko’s The Leavers won the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fictio. It will be published by Algonquin Books in 2017. One of her short stories appeared in Best American Short Stories. • Billy Keniston is back to the academic grindstone, trying to infuse radical thinking about the world amongst undergrads. He
strains to remember how open and free it felt to swim across Eagle Lake in the company of brilliant artists and activists. ● Tatana Kellner is having a solo exhibit at the Garrison Arts Center, Garrison, NY thru January 2017. ● Donna Kaz’s debut book, UN/MASKED, Memoirs of a Guerrilla Girl On Tour, has been published by Skyhorse. ● L.A. Kauffman’s history of the American left since the 60s is at long last finished! Direct Action: Protest and the Reinvention of American Radicalism will be published in 2017. ● Annette Kapon’s group exhibition, “LOVE, e-artist contemporary,” was shown in Chemnitz, Germany. ● John Kaplan’s Are We Human, a mash of 50s science fiction, the Wizard of Oz, and the work of James Baldwin, premiered at the New Ohio Theatre. ● Shalini Kantayya’s documentary, Catching the Sun, was named a New York Times Critic’s Pick and premiered globally on Netflix. ● Richard Kamler’s “Drawings” were on exhibit at Far Out Gallery, San Francisco. ● Si Kahn continues to organize in Alaska with Musicians United To Protect Bristol Bay. ● Hillary Jordan’s first novel, Mudbound, is being made into a major motion picture. ● Kristin Jones’s multidisciplinary cultural project “Tevereterno,” producing art around Rome’s Tiber River, secured a 19-year permit for public programming. ● Raina Joes has poems forthcoming in Crab Orchard Review, Measure, and St. Katherine Review. ● Simen Johan had a solo show at the Yossi Milo Gallery, NYC. ● Dahr Jamail is working as a staff reporter for Truthout.org. whilst simultaneously working on a book about human-caused climate disruption. ● Denise Iris’s newest video projection, Lactophíe, was shown at the Lumen Festival of New Media. ● Rayhan Irani is working with the Anna Deavere Smith Pipeline Project. She was invited to the White House to celebrate AAPI Artists and Storytellers, and to Little Rock to co-lead the annual Civil Rights Educator Institute. ● Arlene Hutton received a NYFA 2016 Artist Fellowship for Playwriting/Screenwriting and participated in FringeNYC. ● Kathleen Hulser is a curator at The Transit Museum, Brooklyn. Come visit her to learn more about the history of mass transit and green transportation. ● Aaron Hughes is working in Chicago on the “Tea Project” and teaching art with the Prison & Neighborhood Art Project at Statesville Prison, Joliet, IL. ● Timothy Huang’s Costs of Living won the Richard Rodgers Award and will be read at Playwrights Horizons in February. ● Wayne Horvitz is a 2016 Recipient of the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. ● Arlie Hochschild’s Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right is a finalist for the National Book Award. ● Adam Hochschild published Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939. ● Leslie Hirst presented a solo exhibition, “Objectively Speaking,” at the Center for Visual Research, Cedar Crest College, PA. ● Marcy Herman’s “Darkness and Light” was exhibited at Luis Ross Gallery, NYC. ● Robbin Henderson was a featured artist at the San Francisco’s Contemporary Jewish Museum’s exhibition “Chasing Justice”. Her memoir, Immigrant Girl, Radical Woman, will be published 2017 by Cornell University Press. ● Kylie Heidenheimer had a solo show at Galerie Gris, Hudson, NY. ● Billy Hayes’s Insomniac City: New York, Oliver, and Me will be released by Bloomsbury in 2017. ● James Hannaham’s second novel, Delicious Foods, won the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. ● Lowell Handler is in Israel directing his first full-length documentary film. ● Miriam Bird Greenberg’s In the Volcano’s Mouth won the 2015 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize. ● Lisa Graves’ research is featured in The 13th, a new film by Ava DuVernay. ● Sam Graham-Felsen’s debut novel, Green, is forthcoming from Random House in 2018. Sam and his wife are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Lev! ● Alice Gordon’s recent editing work includes words on the World Bank and early-20th-century fashion (not in the same document). She also is writing an article about Camp Shakespeare in Round Top, TX. ● Rory Golden presented “Duty Free Ranger: Coronado in Queens,” an action piece hosted by HERE IN JAMAICA. ● Mike Glier’s “The Alphabet of Lili,” paintings from 1984-2016, are exhibited now through April 2017 at Philbrook Downtown, Tulsa, OK. ● Joan Giannecchini and Stan Kaplan have sold their northern California farmhouse and are moving to Reno, NV to enjoy the casinos, dollar oysters, and cheap gin. ● Dylan Gauthier and Kendra Sullivan are artists-in-residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Center on Governors Island, NY. They participated in the exhibition “Radical Seafaring” at Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY with their collective Mare Liberum. ● Climbing poeTree, the dynamic duo Alixa Garcia and Naima Penniman, are hard at work on their forthcoming 2017 album “Instrinsic”. ● Nick Gagliano’s play, The Blameless, will have a world premiere at San Diego’s The Old Globe in 2017. ● Mia Gallagher’s most recent novel, Beautiful Pictures of the Last Homeland, launched this summer to much acclaim. ●
Mary Gallagher’s play, *Bedtime*, was translated into Spanish and produced in Lima, Peru. Her novel, *The Secrets of the House*, will be published in 2017. • **The Sleeping World**, a first novel by Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes, was released by Touchstone in September. • **Leslie Fry** has been creating new works on paper and wood that are documented on her blog, lesleifry.com. • **Kermit Frazier**’s play, *Modern Minitrelry*, was a finalist for the 2016 Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference. His play, *Firepower*, will premiere in 2017 at Detroit Repertory Theatre. • **Alex Forman** and partner Octavio di Leo inaugurated the Urca Institute for Strategic Storytelling with a project on blind soccer. • **Regina Fitzsimmons** is pursuing an MFA in creative nonfiction writing at the University of Montana. • **Harper Collins** published Boris Fishman’s second novel, *Don’t Let My Baby Do Rodeo*. • **Mel Evans** journeyed through the U.S.’s capitals of oil, art, and power this fall on a performance, lecture, and creative workshop tour with Liber- ate Tate. • **Kimi Eisele** directed *Standing with Saguaro*, a 3-act performance project celebrating the saguaro cactus and the Sonoran Desert. • **Carmen Einfinger**’s “Trees on Maple Avenue” was part of the public art installations in the district of Xindian, Taipei, Taiwan. • **Ben Ehrenreich**’s *The Way to the Spring: Life and Death in Palestine* was published by Penguin Press. • **Maggie Dubris** completed the final draft of her new book, *BrokeDown Palace*. Poems from the manuscript will be published in *Nine Mile* and *Local Knowledge*. • **Sunny Drake** is creating a screenplay plus four new theatre works including a verbatim theatre piece, a work with integrated video, a collective creation, and a satirical piece about male emotional illiteracy. • **Tamara Dragadze** is working on a book about her accident in Southern France three years ago and has been campaigning to keep the UK in the European Union. • **Emily Doolittle**’s chamber opera, *Jan Tait and the Bear*, was awarded a 2016 Opera America Discovery Grant, and was premiered by Ensemble Thing at Glasgow’s Centre for Contemporary Arts. • **Sandi Dollinger**’s *Under the Aguacate Tree*, a one-act play about the plight of maids in affluent Honduran households, was mounted by St. Rose Theatricals, College of St. Rose, Albany, NY. • **Stephanie Dinkins** is a 2016/17 Resident Artist at NEW INC, an incubator program of New York City’s New Museum. She is working on the intersection of art, design, and technology to experiment with new models of cultural production. • **Shari Diamond** spent the spring in Japan working on “Out of the Blue,” a series of cyanotypes inspired by a visit to Hiroshima and stories shared about the 1,000 paper cranes. • **Tanya Dawkins** has launched her artist website, newsworldringstudios.com, featuring two of her mixed media series: “Homage to Wangari Maathai” and “Revolution: Darkness. Dawn. Repeat”. • **Beth Custer** scored Cathy Lee Crane’s film, *Manhattan Front*, and KQED’s video series, *Deep Look*. She premiered songs with Mill Valley Philharmonic and performed at the Maybeek Studio of Performing Arts and SFMusic Day. • **Neil Curry** was invited to read at the International Poetry Festival held in the Ducal Palace, Genoa, Italy. He had a lovely time! • **Janet Culbertson** has 33 ongoing exhibits all dealing with the environment. • Street Nurse **Cathy Crowe** continues to write for Canada’s progressive media rabble.ca while she completes her memoir, *A Knapsack Full of Dreams*. • **Neta Crawford**’s work was highlighted in *The Atlantic* in an article on the cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is putting together an international team to reevaluate the Global War on Terror. • **Rosemary Covey** enjoyed visits from her 2015 co-residents **Rick and Raina Joines** this summer. She is hard at work on her insect paintings. • **Cloe Cooper** is working on a Masters in Journalism at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. She has an article in sjnnchicago.medill.northwestern.edu. • **Ryder Cooley** and **Hazel** released a new album with their band, Dust Bowl Faeries. They continue their animal advocacy work and are now living in Catskill, NY. • **Katharine Cook**’s heart is in the restoration of the coastal prairie of Marin County, CA. She sows seed and plants and distributes seedlings to individuals and restoration organizations. • **Christopher Cook** is researching a major report for Oxfam America and consulting on projects for Friends of the Earth. He has the cover story in the October issue of *The Progressive*. • **Kate Connell** and **Oscar Melara**’s “Moving Art House” project is featured on the cover and in an article in the latest issue of *Race, Poverty and the Environment*. • **Andrea Clearfield** was awarded a 2016 Pew Fellowship in the Arts. Her cantata on family premiered with the Philadelphia Gay Men’s Choir at the Denver GALA Festival. • **Mia Chung** is nearly finished with a draft of *Catch as Catch Can*. It will be workshopped at NYC’s New Dramatists in December. • A short story by **John Chavers** was published in the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library annual literary journal. Thirty-eight of his photographs were published this year. Many were taken at BMC. • **Damiani** published **Kristin Capp**’s *BRASIL*. The book launched in Seattle, NYC, and Namibia, and was included in a photo book exhibition in Athens, Greece. • **Carla Cantrelle** experienced an ex-
BM C PARTNERS WITH H AM ILTON C OUNTy H ISTORIAN

BM C is a temporary home to Residents who come from all over the world to work, rest, and play in our slice of the Adirondack Park. Residents, staff, and friends have created a far-reaching network of artists and activists, but BM C is also part of another, more local network of nine towns that make up Hamilton County—New York State’s most rural county. The remoteness that makes BM C such a magical place, inspiring creativity, conversation, and exploration for change, also shapes the lives of Adirondack locals who live here year-round.

The rich rural culture, history, and future of Hamilton County have been celebrated, explored, and questioned this year through a series of events organized by Dr. Eliza Jane Darling, Hamilton County Historian.

Propelled by the county’s Bicentennial, Darling launched “The Arcadia Factory,” a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), that encourages public dialogue about changing demographics. Hamilton County was the only rural county in the country to receive funding for this project from NEH.

Events with schools, libraries, and other local non-profits invited community members to share stories and think critically about the history and future of the region. “Two hundred years is a drop in the bucket for an anthropologist, but for me, history isn’t dead in the past, it’s what got us here,” Darling said on a recent visit to BM C.

The award allowed the county to partner with BM C on several projects including two films and a public lecture. City of Trees, directed by BM C resident Brandon Kramer and There Are Jews Here, directed by alum Brad Lichtentstein, were shown this summer at the Indian Lake Theater. “Peeling Back the Narrative: The Racialized Adirondacks,” a lecture given by BM C alumnus, historian, and regular contributor to Adirondack Life Amy Godine, took place in November.

Kramer’s documentary shared one vision: to put people back to work by planting trees in Washington, D.C. The film was followed by animated discussion that sought to find parallels between D.C.’s green-jobs initiative and waning employment opportunities in the central Adirondacks.

There are Jews Here highlighted stories of community endurance despite declining population in small-towns in Texas, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Alabama. The screening attracted a diverse audience excited to see experiences similar to their own on the big screen.

In the last fifteen years Hamilton County has lost over ten percent of its total population and nearly thirty percent of its residents under the age of nineteen. Darling writes, “The loss of our youth along with the aging of our remaining population has resulted in school closures, stress on vital services, and a general sense of anxiety about the future. And we are not alone.” BM C is proud to support our local community by sharing stories, and imagining a path forward for our county and our neighbors.

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One extraordinary moment during a singing gig at a Veterans Administration hospital when every man in the locked psych ward joined her to sing a haunting version of Yesterday.

Kelly Candaele is completing a documentary film on the workers who are building Los Angeles’ Wilshire Grand Tower.

Ellen Calmus reports that The Corner Institute is now working throughout their Central Mexican region to provide new corruption-prevention methodology to a population of nearly 400,000.

Katy Butler was named a Marion Weber Healing Arts Fellow at Mesa Refuge.

Brit Bunkley’s solo exhibition, “Ghost Shelter,” was presented at Abteilung für Alles Andere, Berlin.

George Brant’s new play, Marie and Rosetta, premiered at NYC’s Atlantic Theater. He continues to work on the screenplay and opera version of Grounded.

Karen Branan published The Family Tree Lynching, a book she started at BM C in the 1990s.

Check out new writing from Tom Boswell on his blog tomboswellblog.wordpress.com.

This summer, from the little phone booth under the stairs at BM C, Katie Booth sold her first book, The Performance of Miracles, to Simon & Schuster.

Larry Bogad is a Full Professor of Political Performance at UC Davis. He performed Economusic: Keeping Score in Argentina and Chile, and Cointelshow at the San Francisco Mime Troupe’s Studio.

Rosalyn Bodycomb’s solo exhibition “Trance” at Conduit Gallery, Dallas, presented two paintings sponsored by a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Inspired by the daylong canoe trips from Racquette Lake to Eagle Lake, the paintings are a close study of the glassy surface

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Drawing by Antonio Vega, Session One
of the Marion River. ● Pamela Blotner will travel to Rangoon in December to begin work on “Art Beyond Borders,” a shared curation/workshop/installation project. ● Jennifer Block is at work on a book about women’s health and feminism to be published by St. Martin’s Press in 2018. Her son, Abe, will turn 3 in December. ● Tem Blessed has been writing a graphic novel entitled Planeta Blu. He will soon release “Chain Breaker,” a socially conscious political Hip-Hop LP. ● Nina J. Berman continues to work on “An Autobiography of Miss Wish,” a collaborative project told in photographs, drawings, videos, texts, and documents exploring the life of a survivor of sex trafficking and child pornography. It was a finalist for the Center for Documentary Studies’ Lange Taylor Prize. ● Helen Benedict’s novel, Wolf Season, will be published by Bellevue Literary Press in 2018. ● Lance Belville’s play, Qaddafi’s Cook, came off a summer tour of Fringe Theatre Festivals with a string of rave reviews. ● Anne Basting was awarded a 2016 MacArthur Fellowship. Her book, The Penelope Project: An Arts-based Odyssey to Change Elder Care, was published by University of Iowa Press. ● Sophie Barbasch’s solo show was featured at Galerie Bohai in Hannover, Germany. ● Cynthia Back spent September and October in Norway working on woodcuts. She had an exhibition of prints at Washington Printmakers Gallery in D.C. ● Olive Ayhens has been awarded the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Residency for 2016/17. ● Shimon Attie, currently ensconced in Saint Louis, is making a new art work for the Saint Louis Art Museum. ● One of Alice Attie’s portraits from “Harlem” is now on display in an exhibition called “Portraits from the Whitney Collection.” ● Tom Athanasiou directs the Climate Equity Reference Project. Its new report, Setting the Path Towards 1.5C, is available on ecoequity.com ● The Amazing True Story of a Teenage Single Mom, a graphic novel by Katherine Arnoldi, was released in paperback by Graymalkin Press. ● Patrick Arden has received a 2016-17 Public Scholar award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. ● Mia Alvar won the PEN/Bingham Prize for her debut story collection, In the Country, from Alfred A. Knopf. ● Jonathan Allen has two projects in the “BRIC Biennial: Volume II, Bed Stuy / Crown Heights Edition,” a solo exhibition of new paintings at FiveMyles gallery and a performance at BRIC House. ● Ian Allen’s play, Laura Bush Killed a Guy, will premiere in 2017 at The Klunch, Washington DC. ● Dorothy Albertini published Dorothy and Some Kittens. It is available at publicationstudio.biz. ● Please forgive us if we left you out, did not include one of your many accomplishments, or misspelled a name or title.

Thanks to everyone who sent us their newly published and recorded books, plays, poems, articles, CDs, videos, and DVDs. Keep us up to date on your accomplishments! We will put them on display here at Blue Mountain Center.

FOCUS RESIDENCIES BRING NEW COLLABORATIONS

A team of contributing editors of Aster(ix), a journal of literature, art, and criticism that centers the voices of women of color, joined us for a focus residency in early September. Editor-in-Chief, Angie Cruz was a first time BMC resident who came to us through the reccomendation of alumnus Andrea Thome. We are excited to report that the partnership was an inspiring and productive success. “That lake is medicinal and all the tears and laughter were great for recharging my spirit. So many projects got started, seeds planted, and I know for a fact everyone was impacted in a magical and necessary way,” wrote Angie. During the six days spent at BMC, Aster(ix) residents balanced their individual writing projects with conversations about the vision, direction, and future of the journal, a few trips to the beaver hut between Eagle and Blue Mountain Lakes, and a piñata on the front lawn.

Our Urban Commons Residency was organized by BMC Alumni Dylan Gauthier and Kendra Sullivan, along with first-time BMC resident Chloe Bass. Residents came together to confront the question: how do we who are engaged in “producing and reproducing the city,” as David Harvey has written, reinforce our “collective right not only to that which they produce, but also to decide what kind of urbanism is to be produced?” The cohort at BMC included writers, activists, civic hackers, caregivers, scholars, choreographers, and teachers who incorporate mutual aid, commoning, place, urbanism, and local politics into their practice. As writer Fred Moten has said, “I don’t wanna represent anything and I don’t want to repair anything but I do wanna be here more in another way.” During the ten day residency, co-organizers invited participants to compare urban strategies for being here more in another way; to building urban social spaces that strengthen the commons against gentrification and displacement, and that embrace diverse identifications and possibilities.

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BMC FACILITIES UPDATE

Several planned maintenance projects came to a satisfying conclusion during the 2016 season. The large attics in the Club House have new insulation to help the building stay cooler during the summer and warmer in the colder months. New photovoltaic solar panels, (thanks to a generous donation from conferee Bill Kelly and the efficient work of Patrick Dias and the Croton Energy Group), were mounted on the Club House roof to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels. They are now powering four new heat-pump hot water heaters, which are three times more efficient than conventional units.

Of course, emergencies also happen and BMC’s maintenance and administrative staff acted fast to handle unanticipated projects this spring. The Grey Cottage septic system needed a complete overhaul, and we had to install a pricey two-pipe pump system with a built-in backup and alarm system. In order to keep the walk-in refrigerator safe and efficient, a hygienic resin floor was poured and the walls were repaired and re-paneled. Thanks to everyone who donated money and to all of the volunteers who do so much to keep BMC in great shape. All of your efforts help the staff find time for projects like the 2017 accessibility renovations.

We are grateful to our donors and volunteers:

Shigeki Yoshida • Holly Wren Spaulding • Judy Wolfe • Laura & Josh Wolf-Powers • Eric Wolf • Jessica Wilson • Antha Williams • Wild Finch Farm • Dale Wiehoff • Gary Whitehead • Lawrence Weschler • Daniel Wentworth • Rhonda & Harvey Weinstein • Natalie Weill • Jay Walljasper & Julie Ristau • Jenelle Troxell • Joe & Pauline Thome • Andrea Thome & Eddie Martinez • Sara Sutro • Kathleen Suitcliffe Scatassa • Francine Streich • Joy Strawbridge • Candice Stover & Jeff Toman • Vincent Stanley & Nora Gallagher • Guevara Soliman • Mahara Sinclaire • Sun Yung Shin • Sejal Shah • Neil & Laura Seldman • Bill Schuck • Catherine Sasanov • Enrique Sacerio-Gari • Onnesha Roychoudhuri • Loretta Ross • Nelly Rosario • Jean Rohe • Terry Rockefeller • Andy Robinson & Jan Waterman • Andrea Ritchie • Bruce Reilly • Mark Read • Corinne Rafferty & Dale Wiehoff • Hoyt Purvis • Molly Prentiss • Pipeline Prevention Project • Janie Paul • Mita Patel • Susan Parker • David Parish • Larry Olds • Susan Ochshorn • Kathleen O’Toole • Ivy Nyayieka • Danica Novgorodoff • Mindy Nierenberg • Lynne Nathan • Luke Nathan • Scott Moyer • David Morse • Paolo Morales • Holly Metz • Maureen McLane • Heather McGhee • Anne McClintock & Rob Nixon • Justine McCabe & John Battista • Jesse Marshall • Jan Mamme • Lenore Malen • Gregory Maguire • Anne Mackinnon • Mark Limpan • Brad Lichtenstein & Anne Basting • Lisa Lerner • Joan Larkin • Ken Lang • Stephen Kuusisto • Hugh Knox • Patricia Kirshner • Sheila Kinney & Chris Marzec • Kristin Kimball • Billy Keniston • Bill Kelly • Tatana Kellner • Sophie Kazis • Rich Kazis & Jill Medvedow • Donna Kaz • Joel Katz • Nancy Kates • Stan Kaplan • Dolores Johnson • Conrad Johnson • Chris Jerome • Denise Iris • Tessa Huxley & Andy Reicher • Wayne Horvitz • Nica Horvitz • Janet Hively • Lizzie Hesek • Marcy Hermansander • Marcia Henry & Gary Delgado • Karin Hayes & Paul Rachman • Joel Harrison • Andrea Hairston & Pan Morigan • Liese Greensfelder • Lisa Graves • Amy Godine • Vicki Gaubeca • Joann Gardner • Kenneth Gangemi • Susan Freireich • Kermit Frazier • Jonathan Flaccus • Mark Fischer • William Finnegan • Eric Enderlin • John Dunne • Barbara Dudley • Carol Downs • Laurel Doud • James Dobner • Shari Diamond • Christina Desser & Kirk Marcwald • Beth Custer • Janet Culbertson • Neta Crawford • Leslie Cooley • Kevin Connor • Dan Connell • Leslie Concannon • Chuck Collins • Carol Cohn • Ama Codjoe • Kate Chieco • John Chavers • John Cavanagh • Katy Butler • Irene Buszko • George Brant • Andrew Boyd • Jim Boorstien • Ros & Michael Bodycomb • Barbara Blatner • Gerti Berg • Linda Bendorf • Michael Bedford • Jamie Barret Riley • Peter Barnes • Harriet Barlow & David Morris • Allison Barlow & David Ochsichorn • Ann Bailey • Annie Aviles • Tara Allison • Robert & Virginia Allen • Ian Allen • Buzz Alexander •

If we have accidentally omitted your name from this list, please let us know so we can thank you properly.

For what you’ve given us, for what you can give again, we thank you.
STAFF NOTES

Harriet Barlow & David Morris are spending much of their winter in Point Reyes, CA. Drop a line if you are in the area. • Chloe Brown spent a wonderful weekend at BMC this summer. • Devin Cleary is excited to visit MN this winter to see his brother and his one-year-old niece! • Kirila Cvetkovska is visiting Imagination Islands. • Sis Eldridge still looks forward to coming to BMC on Saturday mornings and taunting vegetarians. • Kristina Eldridge has the cutest baby, Harper Rose, who likes to visit BMC and play with screwdrivers. • Zohar Gitlis is training for the next 90-miler and is pickling everything she can get her hands on. • As an outlet for her humor, profanity, and baking, Lizzie Hessek started QueerMartha.com, a life-style blog. She is about to launch a DIY home improvement show on YouTube, Nuts & Knockers.

• Nica Horvitz encountered her first bear at BMC this summer. She still lives in Troy and is working at the Rensselaer County Historical Society. • Sophie Kazis is working as the Radio Program Coordinator at ZUMIX, an arts-based youth development organization in East Boston using music, audio technology and radio to empower young people, ages 7-18. • Elise Kyllo built herself a house in the MN north country with a deck for clogging that's as big as the living area. • Ken Lang is happy to have moved back to Brooklyn. He is working on a marine biology project to launch in early 2017. • Beth Lomnitzer is excited for her December trip to the Spanish Virgin Islands! • Diane McCane’s sewing group is making supportive apparel for cancer patients. • George McCane is out hunting for the perfect tree to cut down and the perfect buck to eat. • Laurie Murdock's son, Steven, has his first meeting with Albany Medical Center for his kidney transplant. He has many tests to be completed in order to qualify for a transplant. Keeping fingers and toes crossed! • Peggy Morrill’s daughter, Molly, got hitched to Justin Baker in a beautiful ceremony, rich in western apparel. • Luke Nathan now lives in Troy, NY. • Suzy Parker trained for a month of hard labor at BMC by hiking 180 miles of the John Muir Trail. • Stuart Remick is still living and working in Tokyo and happy to host any BMC people who find themselves in Japan. • In October, Matt Sautter, who was an intern in 1988, married the charming and exquisite Sally Shackleford in Boulder. • Alan Stafford is doing a workshop at King Arthur Flour this winter. • Ben Strader is excited to start work on the accessible annex this spring. • Joy Strawbridge is teaching the best 8th graders in the world in Lancaster, PA. • Daniel Wentworth has been keeping busy with work and school and has a new life philosophy: honor the vibe. • Jessie Wick and her wife Dori Galvin are expecting a baby in January 2017! Jessie is excited to teach the baby how to sweep. • Moriah Williams just finished hiking the Appalachian Trail, spanning from Maine to Georgia, and will be heading to Portland, ME for her next adventure!

Thanks to all the former staff who put their shoulders to the rakes and shovels at Work Weekend this year. We hope to see

Bobby Eldridge

We suffered the loss of Robert “Bobby” Eldridge, (1938-2016) this August. He was married to Helen “Sis” Eldridge, who has worked in the Blue Mountain kitchen for many years. We were always happy to see Bobby at annual staff dinners, or visit with him and Sis, in rockers on the screen porch, while passing through Indian Lake. Bobby was a gentle and thoughtful man, an anchor in our town, and part of the BMC family.

Bobby Eldridge, courtesy of Miller Funeral Home, Indian Lake, NY.