



AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE

300 WASHINGTON AVENUE
CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620

the CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A Semi-Regular Extravaganza of Literary and Other Creative Happenings we Call

All events are free and open to the public.

JANUARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Printshop Demonstration

5:00 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

Join Master Printer T. Michael Kaylor for a tour of the Lit House printshop—a working museum of antique presses and equipment for artisan printing and bookmaking. Free beginner's workshops begin Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. Workshops for advanced students begin Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. Email obailey2@washcoll.edu to sign up.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Lit House Community Meeting

5:00 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

Join our monthly meetings for networking, event planning, conversation—and, above all, for sharing a love of language, stories, and the creative life. Anyone with an interest in overseeing, imagining, and inhabiting the House is welcome. Meetings are largely shaped by participants' ideas and concerns. First-time attendees are always welcome.

FEBRUARY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Sophie Kerr Lecture: Terry Eagleton, The Death of Criticism

4:30 p.m., Casey Academic Center Forum

The author of more than forty works of literature and cultural criticism, Terry Eagleton has been called "Britain's best-known academic and literary critic" by *The Guardian*. His most recent book is *The Meaning of Life: A Very Short Introduction*.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Faculty Books Reception

4:30 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

The last several years have seen more than a dozen book publications by Washington College faculty, including scholarly works ranging from the politics of Japanese security to the role of maternity in Shakespeare and including original verse, plays, and visual art. Join us for a celebration of their achievements, and a brief primer on their work.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Lit House Community Meeting

5:00 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The First-Year Reading

7:00 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

Come enjoy one of the highlights of the literary year at Washington College as first-year creative writers share their poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. This event is also sponsored by The Department of English and The Writers' Union.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

An Afternoon of Love, Madness and Historical Non-Fiction

4:30 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

Acclaimed author Donna Lucey reads from her new historical work *Archie and Amelie: Love and Madness in the Gilded Age*. It is a tale of high society, complete with elopement, opium, and the paranormal. Book signing to follow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Sophie Kerr Lecture: Poetry Reading by Thom Ward

4:30 p.m., Casey Academic Center Forum

An editor for BOA Editions, an independent publisher of American poetry and poetry in translation, Thom Ward has edited more than 80 collections of poetry, as well as publishing his own work. His most recent collection of macabre prose poems is *The Matter of the Casket*.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Pitchapoloosa!

4:30 p.m., Casey Academic Center Forum
Reception to follow at the Rose O'Neill Literary House

If you have a book idea, now is your chance to pitch it to a panel of publishing experts from New York City (a literary agent, a best-selling author, a book critic for *The New York Times*, and a leading editor) and get an immediate response. Whether you're sitting on a literary gold mine or wondering whether the time has come to go back to the scratch pad, this is a rare chance to learn firsthand about how and why book ideas morph into accepted book proposals and published manuscripts. The event is hosted by the authors of *Put-*

ting Your Passion Into Print: Get Your Book Published Successfully! and is co-sponsored by the Maureen Jacoby Endowment for Publishing and Editing.

COMING IN MARCH AND APRIL

- Alumnus **Frank Giampietro** returns to campus to read from his new collection of poetry *Begin Anywhere* and to offer insight into the publishing world with his editor, April Ossman of Alice James Books. 4:30 & 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19 at the Rose O'Neill Literary House.

- **Ted Kooser**—a winner of the Pulitzer Prize in poetry and former United States poet laureate—reads from his work to kick off Sophie Kerr Weekend. 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 27 at the Norman James Theatre in William Smith Hall.

- As part of a Lit House festival on music and literature, **Michael Gray**, one of the world's foremost Dylan scholars, speaks on "Bob Dylan and the Poetry of the Blues." 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 2 at the Rose O'Neill Literary House.

- **Neil Gaiman**, the international superstar of fantasy and graphic narrative, headlines the Lit House festival on graphic narrative, part of the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature. 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 27 at the Prince Theatre, 210 High Street, Chestertown, MD.

FOR MORE EVENTS

If you want to get involved with one of the many student groups that frequent the Lit House, here's who to see:

The Writers' Union - Kirstin Kibbe '10
Writers' Theatre - Aubrey Bemis '09
The Artist's Union - Joe Yates '11
Guerrilla Musical Theatre - Cade Moak '09
C.S. Lewis Discussion Group - Liz Leipold '10
The Medium - Erin O'Hare '09
The Collegian - Lauren Campbell '09
The Elm - Katie Blaha '09



from the DIRECTOR

When we renovated the Rose O'Neill Literary House last year, we thought hard about how to shape the kitchen. We wanted to create a space where the rigors of work would be offset by the comforts of home, where a 19-year-old writer from suburban Maryland could share a cup of coffee with a venerable South African novelist before they both head back to work in their studios upstairs.

The kitchen mattered so much to us because, like the Lit House itself, it is an intellectual and creative launching pad. A warm and inviting layout, we believed, would cultivate warm and inviting minds. And by covering an entire wall with chalkboard paint, we turned the room itself into a canvas/scratchpad/discussion board on which we can all share our daily musings, observations, and ideas.

Like the House itself, the kitchen rarely closes. If you are student or faculty—from Chestertown or from “away”—this center for literature and the creative life is to open to you. We’re baking a cake and you are a central ingredient. Come get mixed up in it. It’ll be rich and sweet and filling. —Joshua Wolf Shenk

COMMUNITY NEWS

thoughts and deeds from our people present and past

The Lit House Community gathers each month to discuss current happenings within the House and the literary world at large, to imagine future House events and projects, and, in one recent meeting, to discuss which literary figure we most wanted to take on a date.

Those who can't get enough join committees that tackle areas like programming and the re-framing and hanging of our historic posters. Our service committee has been especially lively, forging ahead with a project to benefit the PEN American Center's 25/12 Campaign. For every \$25 raised

by our students, PEN will donate 12 writing manuals to inmates in prisons across America. We've also pioneered the Literary House Extended Day Program at Garnett Elementary School—offering mentorship and tutoring in literary, musical, and math skills to third and fourth graders.

To join our listserv—or to yank yourself off it—contact Owen Bailey (obailey2@washcoll.edu, 410-810-5768). To book the Lit House, or to discuss Pittsburgh's zombie issues, contact Kathryn Bursick (kbursick2@washcoll.edu, 410-778-7899).

EVENTS RECAP

Conceiving our fall series on “the literature of fact,” we thought of William Carlos Williams and his instruction that there are “no ideas but in things.” It's true, right? We discover the most expansive knowledge through the most particular investigations. As writers, we are always searching for the grains of sand that scratch our imaginations and that can produce pearls. With this in mind, we hosted talks from five distinguished writers who have drilled down into a variety of topics and woven, from threadspools of detail, tangible, palpable accounts of the human condition. Available for download at the Washington College page on iTunes U, these talks featured Philip Gourevitch's account of war literature, which drew on his award-winning reportage from Rwanda and Abu Ghraib and *The New York Times* food writer Amanda Hesser, who filled the house with her words and her culinary creations. (The food is not available for download.)

FEATURED ARTIST Washington College alumnus Frank Giampietro (M '02)

is sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and always surprising. *Begin Anywhere*, Giampietro's debut book of poetry, contains gems like “Death by My Son,” in which “We shoot to hell a cardboard box/on which I have drawn a picture of a kitty” and a poem that explores thoughts of death, reanimation, the universe, and the afterlife—all this engendered by his picking a scab.

Before he got into the language-making business, Frank ran an appliance business in Delaware. After receiving his MA in English literature from Washington College and his MFA in poetry from Vermont College, he left for Tallahassee, Florida, where he is working on a PhD in creative writing at Florida State University.

Frank also maintains the poetry website La Fovea (www.lafovea.org), which encourages poets to read the work of other poets. Visitors to the site are greeted by a giant eyeball. You can eyeball Frank himself on March 19, 2009, when he comes to campus for a reading and a public conversation with his editor, April Ossman of Alice James books.

FEATURED ARTIST

- Neil Gaiman's *Sandman #1*
- Frank Giampietro's *Begin Anywhere*
- John Barth's latest stories (*The Development*) and Jehanne Dubrow's poetry debut (*The Promised Bride*)

EDITH RECOMMENDS...

“Get black on white,” Guy de Maupassant advised writers. We've taken his advice to heart, adopting the quote for a revival of our poetry postcard series of letterpress originals. These cards, which also feature quotes by Carl Sandburg and that Shakespeare fellow, will be on display at the AWP conference in Chicago this February. If you're there, stop by our table to snag one and to try your own hand at letterpress printing. Thanks to the wonders of photopolymer plating, our new Lit House logo has been adapted for hand-printed stationery and notecards. If you get a letter from us, hold the paper up to the light. That's letterpress, baby.


at the
PRINTSHOP

