

FIFTH ANNUAL *Complete*
Biographer 2014
CONFERENCE



May 17–18, 2014

University of Massachusetts Boston

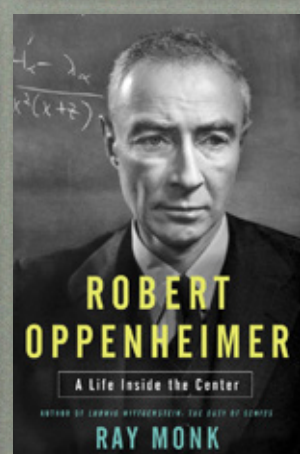
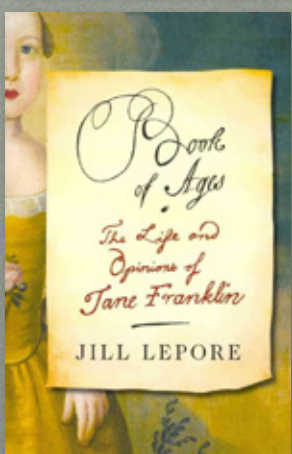
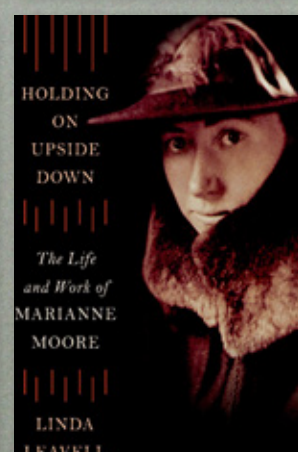
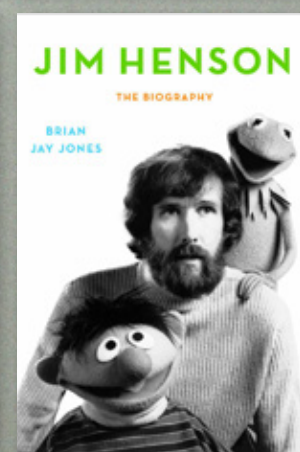
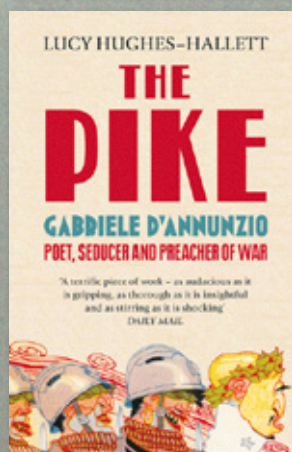
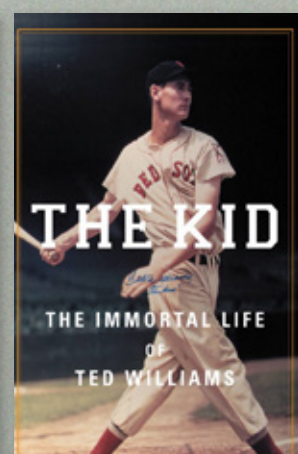
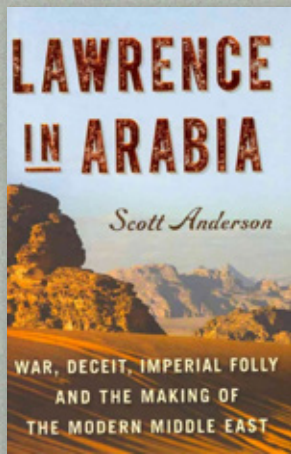
100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts



THE 2013 PLUTARCH AWARD

Biographers International Organization – with the generous support of the Chappell Great Lives Program – is proud to present the Plutarch Award for the best biography of 2013, as chosen by you, the world's only organization of biographers.

Congratulations to the ten nominees for the Best Biography of 2013:



The 2014 BIO Award Recipient: Stacy Schiff

Stacy Schiff won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for *Věra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)*. She is the author as well of *Saint-Exupéry*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*, awarded the George Washington Book Prize and the Ambassador Book Award. Her most recent biography, *Cleopatra: A Life*, was published in 2010. Translated into 30 languages, *Cleopatra* won the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography.



Praised for her meticulous scholarship and her witty style, Schiff has contributed frequently to *The New York Times* op-ed page and *The New York Times Book Review*. She has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. The recipient of an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Schiff was named a 2011 Library Lion of the New York Public Library. A native of western Massachusetts, Schiff lives in New York City. She is at work on a book about the Salem witch trials, to be published by Little, Brown.

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Saturday, May 17 | Panels and Panelists

“And Then What?”:

Creating Suspense in Biography

8:45–10:00AM LOCATION: BALLROOM B

There are different kinds of biographies—cradle-to-grave, slice-of-life, group, literary, celebrity, cultural—but every biographer wants to keep readers engaged and turning pages. What techniques can a biographer use to that end? What devices from novels and films, like foreshadowing and cliffhangers, work in biography, and how are they best used? Biographers of different eras and kinds will explore how to pique and maintain interest, and create suspense.

Moderator

GAYLE FELDMAN is under contract to Random House for a biography of its cofounder Bennett Cerf. She is also New York correspondent of *The Bookseller*, the British magazine of the book business. Her previous books are a cancer memoir, *You Don't Have to Be Your Mother* (Norton, 1994), and *Best and Worst of Times: The Changing Business of Trade Books* (2003), published in conjunction with a fellowship at the Columbia Journalism School. She was book news editor and a contributing editor at *Publishers Weekly* and has written for *The New York Times*, *Self*, *The Daily Beast*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The Nation*.

Panelists

JOHN ALOYSIUS FARRELL has had a prize-winning career as a newspaperman, notably for *The Denver Post* and *The Boston Globe*. He has covered every presidential campaign since 1976, two wars, and the troubles in Northern Ireland. He has also driven an ice cream truck, shined shoes, waited tables, cared for animals in a medical laboratory, and worked in construction and on a kibbutz. His biography *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century* (2000) won the D.B. Hardeman Prize for the best book on Congress and was excerpted in *Pols: Great Writers on American Politicians* (2004). *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned* won the 2012 *Los Angeles Times* biography award. Farrell is working on a biography of Richard Nixon. His website is www.jafarrell.com.

CARLA KAPLAN, the Davis Distinguished Professor of American Literature at Northeastern University and a former Guggenheim fellow, is the author of *Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters*, (a *New York Times* Notable Book and finalist for NAACP's "Image Award") and *The Erotics of Talk: Women's Writing and Feminist Paradigms*. She has edited numerous works of African American literature. *Miss Anne in Harlem: The White Women of the Black Renaissance* (HarperCollins) is a *New York Times* Notable Book and one of *Publishers Weekly's* "Ten Best" books of the year. Kaplan's next book, a biography of Jessica Mitford, is forthcoming from HarperCollins.

JOHN MATTESON is a Distinguished Professor of English at John Jay College in the City University of New York. He holds an A.B. in history from Princeton University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a Ph.D. in English from Columbia University. His first book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography. *The Lives of Margaret Fuller* received the Ann M. Sperber Prize from Fordham University and was shortlisted for BIO's inaugural Plutarch Prize. Matteson has just completed an annotated edition of *Little Women* for W.W. Norton and Company.



BIOGRAPHERS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

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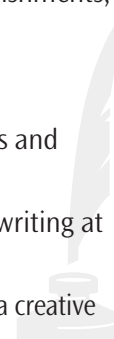


THE MAYBORN
Literary Nonfiction Conference

July 18–20, 2014
Grapevine, TX

Join top-tier writers from the U.S. and around the globe at this nationally acclaimed annual event where journalists, writers, readers, students, and educators meet to discuss their accomplishments, aspirations, and angst.

- \$15,000 in cash awards
- Opportunities to meet with publishers and literary agents
- Inspiration for practicing the craft of writing at the highest possible level
- Mayborn Biography Fellowship provides a creative residency in Santa Fe, NM.



The Challenges of Group Biography

8:45–10:00AM LOCATION: ROOM 3540

A single life comes with a handy built-in narrative structure, but what about two lives or ten? What strategies are available to create thematic coherence? Moreover, how much room should biographers devote to covering familiar turf as opposed to highlighting new insights and interpretations? And how about the research process? What kind of digging can be done to shed new light on subjects whose major biographers have spent years in the archives?

Moderator

JOSHUA KENDALL, a freelance journalist, has written for numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, and *Slate*. He has written biographies of the lexicographers Peter Mark Roget (Putnam, 2008), author of *Roget's Thesaurus*, and Noah Webster (Putnam, 2011), author of *Webster's Dictionary*. His most recent book is *America's Obsessives: The Compulsive Energy That Built a Nation* (Grand Central, 2013), which profiles seven American icons, including Thomas Jefferson, Henry Heinz, Charles Lindbergh, and Estee Lauder. A graduate of Yale University, Kendall is an Associate Fellow of Yale's Trumbull College.

Panelists

DAVID HAJDU is a professor at Columbia University and a critic for *The New Republic*. He is author of four books, including *Lush Life: A Biography of Billy Strayhorn* and *Positively 4th Street: The Lives and Times of Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Mimi Fariña and Richard Fariña*. Both books were finalists for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography, and both won the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for Music Writing. The critic Jonathan Yardley, in his review of *Lush Life* for *The Washington Post*, called it “a book that comes close to being a model biography.”

SUSAN HERTOEG became a freelance writer and photographer after graduating from Hunter College with a B.A. in English. While raising her three children, she earned an M.F.A. at Columbia University in nonfiction writing. Since then, she has published two biographies: *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Her Life* (which can be considered a group bio, since her life cannot be separated from that of her husband, Charles) and *Rebecca West and Dorothy Thompson: New Women in Search of Love and Power*. Hertog resides in New York City with her husband, Roger.

JUSTIN MARTIN is a New York City-based biographer whose latest book (Da Capo Press, fall 2014) is a group portrait of an artist's circle that hung out at a Manhattan bar during the 1850s. Among the members: a young Walt Whitman, Artemus Ward (America's first stand-up comic), and Fitz Hugh Ludlow, a psychedelic drug pioneer. Martin has written three previous biographies: on Alan Greenspan, Ralph Nader, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park and countless other green space masterpieces. Martin's work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Twice Marginalized: The Challenges of Writing About Little-Known Gay and Lesbian Subjects

8:45–10:00AM LOCATION: ROOM 2540

What happens when an author must make the case to agents and publishers that a book's subject is not just obscure and gay or lesbian (a doubly daunting combination), but also someone who can be presented as a rediscovery? Three biographers discuss the paths they took, from the initial impetus for their books to publishing contracts.

Moderator

BRIAN HALLEY is acquisitions editor for the University of Massachusetts Press, based at the University of Massachusetts Boston. After earning an M.A. in literature at the University of London, Halley started his publishing career assisting a literary agent at the Sayle Agency in London. He then became an editor at Beacon Press, acquiring books in environmental studies, nature writing, LGBT issues, and social justice. At UMass Press, Halley started the *Environmental History of the Northeast* series; coordinates the *Studies in Print Culture and History of the Book* and the *American Popular Music* series; and acquires in American Studies, environmental studies/history, urban studies, and regional books.

Panelists

JIM ELLEDGE is the author of *Henry Darger, Throwaway Boy: The Tragic Life of an Outsider Artist*, recently published by Overlook Press. His book *H*, a collection of prose poems, was issued by Lethe Press, and *A History of My Tattoo: A Poem* won the Lambda Literary Award for gay poetry in 2006. With David Groff, he edited *Who's Yer Daddy? Gay Writers Celebrate Their Mentors and Forerunners*. He lives in Atlanta.

CASSANDRA LANCER has authored six books and numerous catalogs and essays. Her critical biography *The Many Masks of Romaine Brooks* will be published by University of Wisconsin Press in 2014, followed by an exhibition of Brooks's work at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum in 2016. Langer blogs about Brooks at <http://www.romainebrooks.com>. She has taught art history and criticism at Florida International University and the University of South Carolina and has been a visiting scholar at Hunter College, Queens College, School of Visual Arts, and The Feminist Art Institute. Langer is a contributing writer for *Gay and Lesbian Review International*.

BARRY WERTH is a journalist and the acclaimed author of six books, including *The Scarlet Professor: Newton Arvin, A Literary Life Shattered by Scandal* (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2001; paperback, Anchor, 2002); *Banquet at Delmonico's: Great Minds, the Gilded Age, and the Triumph of Evolution in America*; and *31 Days: Gerald Ford, the Nixon Pardon, and a Government in Crisis*. Werth's articles have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, and *GQ*. He has taught at Smith College, Mount Holyoke, and Boston University. Werth's latest book is *The Antidote: Inside the World of New Pharma* (Simon & Schuster, 2014).

Writing for Young Adults

10:15–11:30AM LOCATION: ROOM 2540

The YA category is one of the hottest in publishing today, and the biography genre is a natural for this readership. Panelists will discuss the elements that make for a compelling YA biography, including approach to subject matter, style, voice, and readability.

Moderator

CATHERINE REEF has written more than forty nonfiction books for young people and adults, among them, *The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne* and *Leonard Bernstein and American Music*. Her work has earned her the Sydney Taylor Award and the Joan G. Sugarman Children's Book Award as well as Golden Kite and Jefferson Cup honors. In 2014, Clarion will publish her book *Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life*, a dual biography for young adults.

Panelists

MARY MORTON COWAN's biography, *Captain Mac: the Life of Donald Baxter MacMillan, Arctic Explorer*, won a 2010 National Outdoor Book Award and other honors, and is recommended by the National Science Teachers Association. Her published work also includes a historical novel based on MacMillan's experiences in the Arctic. Nearly seventy of her articles and stories—including seventeen biographical sketches of personalities such as Lewis Hine and Mary McLeod Bethune—have been published in magazines for youth. Cowan's articles have also been reprinted in textbooks and anthologies, and included in reading comprehension programs for standardized tests.

DOROTHY DAHM has had a lifelong interest in biography for young people. She writes about the genre on her blog, Kidsbiographer. Dahm has written for publications and businesses in the United States and the United Kingdom. Dahm lives in Vermont, where she is an English professor at Castleton State College.

KEM KNAPP SAWYER's work includes biographies for teen readers of world figures such as Anne Frank, Nelson Mandela, and Mohandas Gandhi, and of outstanding women such as Harriet Tubman, Abigail Adams, and Eleanor Roosevelt. She is also the author of *Refugees: Seeking a Safe Haven* and *The Amazing Underground Railroad*. Sawyer lives in Washington, D.C., where she works as an editor and writer at the Pulitzer Center, a nonprofit that supports international journalism. Sawyer has traveled to Haiti, India, Bangladesh, and Congo to report on children's issues.

Agent Speed Dating

- Alumni Lounge
(appointments booked individually)

Dealing with Your Agent... or Choosing Not to Have One

10:15–11:30AM LOCATION: ROOM 2545

You finally landed an agent, but now what? What should you expect, and what can you do if your expectations are not being met? How much should your agent be involved in dealings with your editor? And what is it like to forgo having an agent and deal with publishers on your own?

Moderator

MARC LEEPSON is a journalist and historian, and the author of seven books. A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly*, he has written for many publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, and *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. His books include a concise biography of the Marquis de Lafayette for Palgrave's *World Generals* series; *Flag: An American Biography*; and *Saving Monticello*. His next book, *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, a Life*, will be published by Palgrave in June. A BIO board member, he lives in Middleburg, Virginia, and teaches U.S. history at Lord Fairfax Community College.

Panelists

KATHERINE FLYNN joined the Kneerim, Williams & Bloom Agency in 2008. After graduating from Johns Hopkins University, she worked at the literary agency of Sanford J. Greenburger Associates in New York. She then pursued a Ph.D. in history at Brown University. Prior to joining KW&B, she taught literature and composition, and worked in a rare book shop. Flynn represents history, biography, politics, current affairs, adventure, science, pop culture, and psychology. She particularly loves exciting narrative nonfiction, where the truth is more fascinating than anything else. She is open to anything that is well-written and contains a good, fresh story.

DEAN KING is the best-selling author of nine books, including *Skeletons on the Zabar* (2004), a *Washington Post* Book of the Year, and *Patrick O'Brian: A Life Revealed*. *The Wall Street Journal* called his latest book, *The Feud: The Hatfields & McCoys: The True Story*, "popular history the way it ought to be written." King's writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *Men's Journal*, *Granta*, *The New York Times*, and other publications, and he has appeared on NPR, the BBC, and two History Channel special documentaries. A co-founder of the James River Writers, and a board member of the Library of Virginia Foundation, he lives in Richmond, Virginia.

LAUREN SMYTHE is a literary agent at InkWell Management. Prior to joining InkWell in 2010, she worked in the literary department of William Morris Endeavor. Her interests are wide-ranging, but tend toward smart narrative nonfiction (narrative journalism, modern history, biography, cultural criticism, personal essay) and personality-driven practical nonfiction (cookbooks, fashion, and style). Smythe's authors include William Egginton, Ashley Gilbertson, Hal Niedzviecki, Kelsey Osgood, Sarah Nicole Prickett, Jacob Silverman, and Janine Wedel. She also works with the estate of M.F.K. Fisher. Smythe grew up in Indiana, attended New York University, and lives, predictably, in Brooklyn.

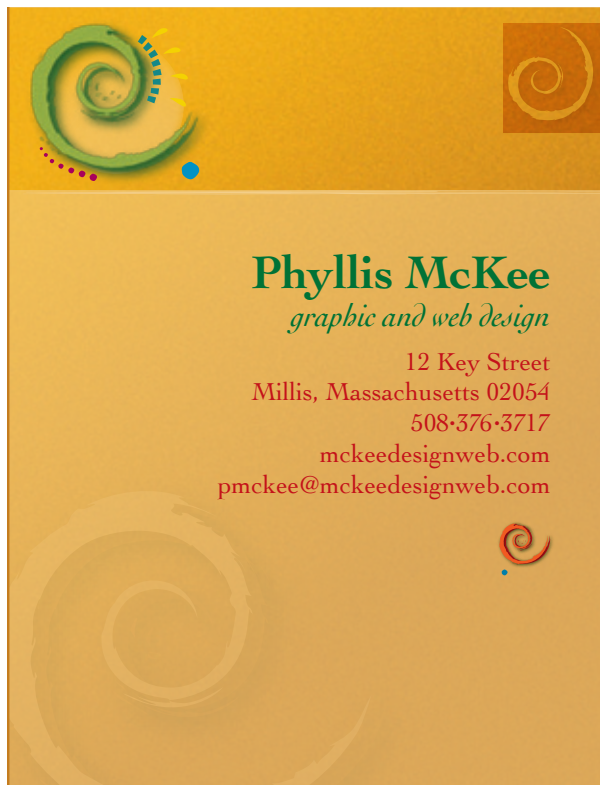
The Dark Side: Addressing the Unsavory Elements of a Subject's Character

10:15–11:30AM LOCATION: ROOM 3540

Many of us are attracted to a subject because we admire the person, but in the course of research we often discover negative, sometimes shocking, information. How have biographers handled this, particularly in the case of celebrated and/or much-loved figures? Must we always try to balance the bad with the good? To what extent may biographers address thoughts, feelings, fantasies, and motivations?

Moderator

CATHY CURTIS is chair of the Program Committee for the 2014 BIO conference and the newly elected vice president of BIO. A former staff writer at the *Los Angeles Times*, and recipient of a National Gallery of Art Critic's Fellowship, she is a graduate of Smith College and the University of California, Berkeley. Curtis has worked as a copywriter and editor, written for art publications, and contributed entries to the *Dictionary of American History* (Scribner's, 2002). Her biography of Abstract Expressionist painter Grace Hartigan will be published by Oxford University Press in May 2015.



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Panelists

EVELYN BARISH has just published *The Double Life of Paul de Man* (Liveright/Norton), a biography of the inventor of deconstruction theory that reveals his concealed past as a collaborator in wartime Belgium and as a white-collar criminal who, exiled, penetrated the highest levels of American academic culture, becoming an internationally celebrated “great man.” Barish is the author of *Emerson: The Roots of Prophecy* (winner of the Gauss Prize, 1989) and other books. An emerita professor of English at the Graduate Center, CUNY, Barish is a native New Yorker and a graduate of Bryn Mawr and NYU.

JOSHUA KENDALL, a freelance journalist, has written for numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, and *Slate*. He has written biographies of the lexicographers Peter Mark Roget (Putnam, 2008), author of *Roget's Thesaurus*, and Noah Webster (Putnam, 2011), author of *Webster's Dictionary*. His most recent book is *America's Obsessives: The Compulsive Energy That Built a Nation* (Grand Central, 2013), which profiles seven American icons, including Thomas Jefferson, Henry Heinz, Charles Lindbergh, and Estee Lauder. A graduate of Yale University, Kendall is an Associate Fellow of Yale's Trumbull College.

BARBARA WILL is a professor of English at Dartmouth College, where she has taught since 1994. She received degrees from Yale University (B.A.), Bryn Mawr College (M.A.), and Duke University (Ph.D.), where she wrote her dissertation on genius and Gertrude Stein under the direction of Fredric Jameson. Her most recent book, *Unlikely Collaboration: Gertrude Stein, Bernard Fay, and the Vichy Dilemma*, examines the close friendship between the great modernist writer Gertrude Stein and Bernard Fay, director of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and a Nazi collaborator during the Second World War. Will is writing a book on Samuel Beckett and the French Resistance.

Did you know?



Stephen Daye set up the first printing press in British North America in 1638 in what is now Harvard Square. First work printed: a broadsheet, *The Freeman's Oath*; first book: the *Bay Psalm Book*. A plaque marks the site on a building near the intersection of Dunster Street and Massachusetts Avenue across from the Au Bon Pain.

Thanks to Sarah Jensen for this and other local lore.

Cultivating Readers & Blurb Writers

10:15–11:30AM LOCATION: ROOM 3545

Getting blurbs is a question of relationships, reaching out to people interested in and knowledgeable about your subject. This panel will begin with how to cultivate blurb writers as you are finishing your proposal, followed by a discussion about whether to help people write blurbs and how to know when you can edit what they send in. We will examine how much influence blurbs have on early reviewers such as Kirkus, as well as on traditional reviewers, bloggers, and social media. Specific examples will be provided. In addition, two panelists—an author whose recent biography had 15 blurbs (a self-confessed “blurbaholic”) and a highly experienced agent—will give advice to the third panelist, a new biographer getting ready to launch her first book.

Moderator

KATE BUFORD is the author of *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe* (Knopf, 2010; paperback, University of Nebraska Press, 2012), an Editors’ Choice of *The New York Times* and recipient of awards from SABR and PFRA. *Burt Lancaster: An American Life* (Knopf/Da Capo/Aurum UK; 2013 Knopf ebook edition) was chosen as a best book of 2000 by *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Washington Post*. Buford has been published in *The New York Times*, *Film Comment*, *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *History Now*, and *Readex*. A former commentator on NPR’s *Morning Edition* and APM’s *Marketplace*, she is a member of PEN, the NYU Biographers Seminar, and BIO, and lives in Virginia.

Panelists

SUSAN RABINER was an editor for more than thirty years and currently runs Susan Rabiner Literary. She is the co-author (with Alfred Fortunato) of *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction and Get It Published*. Two of the biographers she represents won the Pulitzer Prize for their work.

ABIGAIL SANTAMARIA’s first book—a biography of Joy Davidman, communist poet, film critic, and wife of C.S. Lewis—will be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in spring 2015. Abigail holds an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from Columbia University and lives in New York City.

WILL SWIFT, PH.D., is a historian, presidential biographer, and clinical psychologist. He has been writing about American and British leaders for more than twenty-five years. He is the author of *The Roosevelts and the Royals* and *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm*. Dr. Swift has been a featured speaker on CSPAN, on radio, and at many historical venues, including the FDR Library at Hyde Park and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. He is a founding board member of BIO. His website is www.willswift.com.

Publicist and Researcher Consultations:

- Point Lounge (appointments booked individually)



is pleased to announce
**the second annual
Plutarch Award**

Made possible by the
generous support of the
Chappell Great Lives Program
at the
University of Mary Washington



Offered annually, Great Lives brings to campus between 15 and 20 major biographers who speak to audiences of students enrolled in the course and hundreds of area residents who attend the lectures free of charge. Total attendance for the recently completed spring series exceeded 10,000.

Lunch and Keynote Address by Stacy Schiff, Recipient of the 2014 BIO Award

11:45AM–1:30PM LOCATION: BALLROOM

The BIO Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the art and craft of biography.

Getting It Right: From the Proposal to the Last Word

1:45–3:00 PM LOCATION: ROOM 2540

A discussion of the basics for those who are thinking about writing a first biography—or even a second or third one! How do you choose a subject who is compelling to you *and* commercially promising? Is there sufficient conflict in the life? Can you document chief episodes? Does the subject lend herself to a full or partial life? What's involved in writing about a living person? We will also discuss writing a proposal, including tracking down and listing archival and other research resources you will want to consult.

Moderator

ANNE HELLER is a former magazine editor and writer. She is the author of *Ayn Rand and the World She Made* (Nan Talese Books, 2009/2010), a *New York Times* Notable Book, and is at work on a short biography of Hannah Arendt.

Panelists

KAI BIRD is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist, best known for his biographies of political figures. He has also won the National Book Critics Circle Award for biography, the Duff Cooper Prize, a Woodrow Wilson Center Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Bird is a contributing editor of *The Nation* magazine. His new book, *The Good Spy: The Life and Death of Robert Ames*, will be published by Random House on May 20.

NEAL GABLER is the author of three biographies. *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood* (1988) won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. *Winchell: Gossip, Power and the Culture of Celebrity* (1994) was named nonfiction book of the year by *Time* and was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award. *Walt Disney: The Triumph of the American Imagination* (2006) won a second *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and was named biography of the year by *USA Today*. Gabler's awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Woodrow Wilson Center Public Policy Scholarship. He is working on a biography of Edward Kennedy.

JOHN MATESON is a Distinguished Professor of English at John Jay College in the City University of New York. He holds an A.B. in history from Princeton University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a Ph.D. in English from Columbia University. His first book, *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography. *The Lives of Margaret Fuller* received the Ann M. Sperber Prize from Fordham University and was shortlisted for BIO's inaugural Plutarch Prize. Matteson has just completed an annotated edition of *Little Women* for W.W. Norton and Company.

Did you know?

Heads-up to visitors: These laws are still on the books! In Boston, it is illegal to:

- ◆ Allow your sheep and cows to graze on the Commons on Sundays
- ◆ Kiss in front of a church
- ◆ Make or sell candy containing more than 1 percent alcohol
- ◆ Frighten a pigeon from another person's property
- ◆ Hang a vending machine on a utility pole
- ◆ Take a bath without a prescription
- ◆ Wear heels higher than 3 inches when on the Commons

The Book Tour: Real and Virtual

1:45–3:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 3545

Readers might assume that all authors go on lengthy, cross-country tours to read from and promote their books. That's the myth. The reality for most authors is different. They tour on their own—crashing on friends' sofas, driving hundreds of miles a day—all for that desperately wanted interaction with readers and in the hope that it will sell more books. But does it work? We'll explore the ins and outs of touring, as well as alternatives such as radio and online touring. Finally, we'll look at paid speaking engagements, which have become an important source of income for many writers. Hear from this panel on how to land paid gigs and what to charge when you do.

Moderator

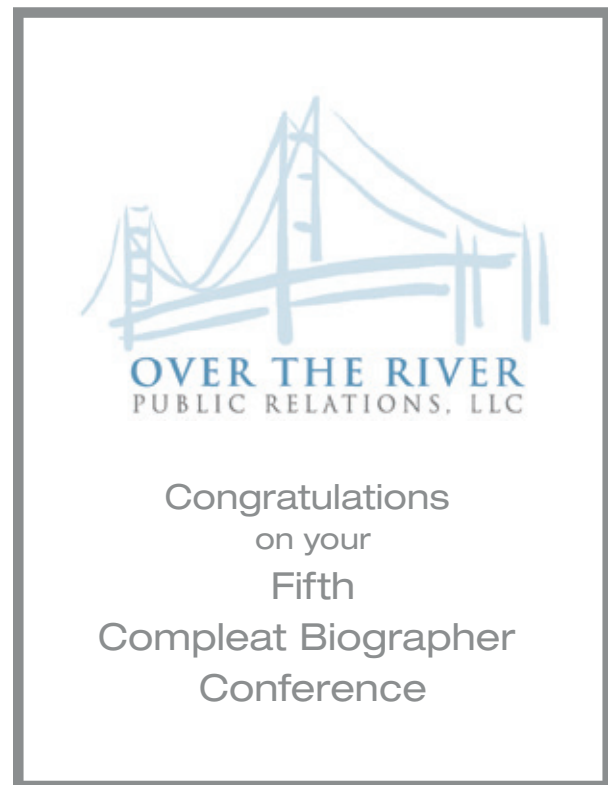
WILLIAM SOUDER is the author of three books, including two biographies. *Under a Wild Sky* (2004) told the story of pioneer and bird artist John James Audubon, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. *On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson* (2012) was a *New York Times* Notable Book, and was named one of the ten best biographies of the year by *Booklist* and one of the twenty-five best nonfiction books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*. Souder lives in Grant, Minnesota.

Panelists

BRIAN JAY JONES is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Jim Henson: The Biography* (Ballantine, 2013) and *Washington Irving: An American Original* (Arcade, 2008). Prior to writing full-time, Jones spent two decades as a public policy analyst and speechwriter at all three levels of government, including nearly ten years in the U.S. Senate. Newly elected as president of BIO, he has served as a BIO board member since 2009, as its secretary in 2010–2011, and as vice president from 2011 to 2013. He lives in Maryland with his wife and daughter, and a very excitable dog.

JOHN ROSENGREN is an author whose books include *Hank Greenberg: The Hero of Heroes*, *The Fight of their Lives: How Juan Marichal and John Roseboro Turned Baseball's Ugliest Brawl into a Story of Forgiveness and Redemption*, and *Blades of Glory*. His articles have appeared in *Men's Journal*, *Reader's Digest*, *Runner's World*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Utne Reader*, among other publications. He is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research, the American Society of Journalists & Authors, and BIO. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Maria, and their two children.

JOHN TAYLOR ("IKE") WILLIAMS is a publishing lawyer and co-founder and director of the Kneerim, Williams & Bloom Agency, LLC, a literary and dramatic rights agency, with offices in Boston and New York. Authors he represents include Howard Gardner, Michael MacDonald, Joseph J. Ellis, E.O. Wilson, Frances Fitzgerald, Jeff Kinney, Richard Wilbur, Lawrence Tribe, Tim Berners-Lee, Charles Ogletree, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, Nigel Hamilton, James MacGregor Burns, Drew Gilpin Faust, and Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot. Williams also specializes in book-to-movie licenses. His law practice emphasizes publishing, film, intellectual property, and First Amendment litigation and entertainment law. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Harvard College.



**Finding the Balance:
The Life, the Context, the Work**
I:45–3:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 3540

Finding the right balance between narrating the life, providing the context, and discussing the work is a challenge for all biographers. Whether we write about politicians, historical figures, celebrities, or novelists, readers and critics have been known to complain about a lack of balance: too many facts, not enough about the social context, too much about the work, not enough psychological insight (or any other combination of criticisms). How do we achieve a satisfactory integration of all the different aspects of our subjects' lives? Our panelists will suggest different ways to find a satisfactory balance.

Moderator

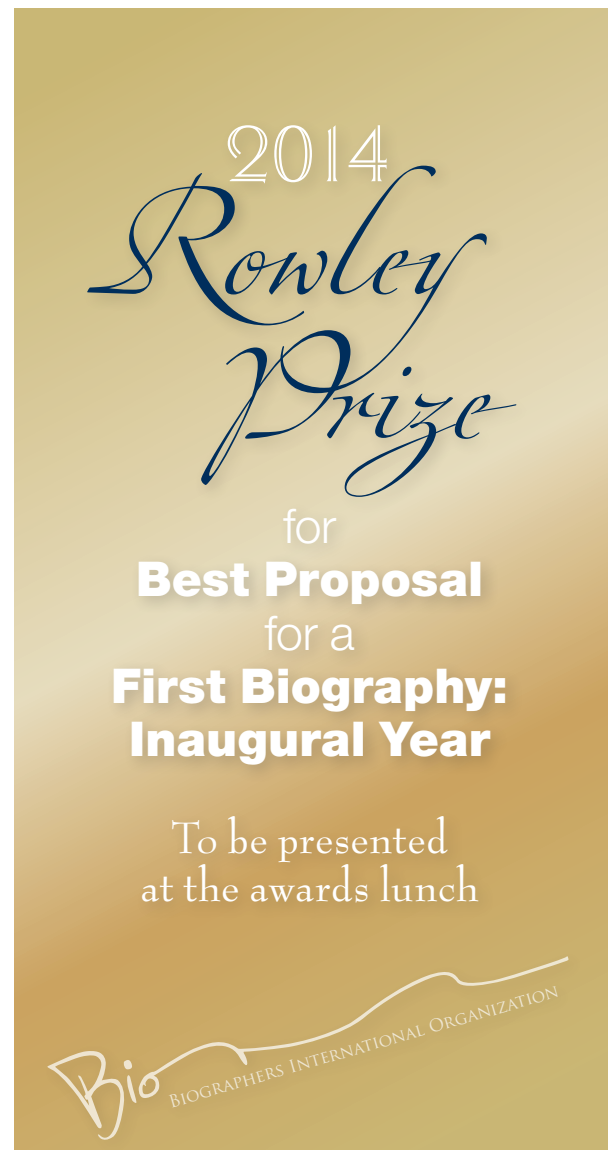
MARC LEEPSON is a journalist and historian, and the author of seven books. A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly*, he has written for many publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, and *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. His books include a concise biography of the Marquis de Lafayette for Palgrave's *World Generals* series; *Flag: An American Biography*; and *Saving Monticello*. His next book, *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, a Life*, will be published by Palgrave in June. A BIO board member, he lives in Middleburg, Virginia, and teaches U.S. history at Lord Fairfax Community College.

Panelists

ELLEN BROWN is a freelance writer and co-author of *Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind: A Bestseller's Odyssey from Atlanta to Hollywood*, an in-depth study of Mitchell's life as an author and manager of a publishing empire. Brown, who lives in Richmond, Virginia, is working on a historical novel about an eccentric antebellum poet who claimed to have inspired "The Raven" and ruined his career trying to establish himself as Edgar Allan Poe's biographer.

DANIEL MARK EPSTEIN's poetry has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic Monthly*. He has received the *Prix de Rome* for his poetry and dramatic works. His first biography was *Sister Aimee: The Life of Aimee Semple McPherson* (1993). *Nat King Cole* was a 1999 *New York Times* Notable Book, and Epstein's biography of Edna St. Vincent Millay was a New York Public Library Honoree (2001). *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage*, was named one of the best books of 2008 by *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Epstein's honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

MICHAEL GORRA's *Portrait of a Novel: Henry James and the Making of an American Masterpiece* (2012) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in biography. Since 1985 he has taught at Smith College, where he is the Mary Augusta Jordan Professor of English. Gorra's earlier books include *After Empire: Scott, Naipaul, and Rushdie* (1997) and *The Bells in Their Silence: Travels through Germany* (2004). He lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, with his wife and daughter, and is beginning a new book on William Faulkner and the Civil War.



The University Press and Biography

1:45–3:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 3545

In an age of declining print sales and increasing cannibalization of once independent trade publishers, university presses provide an increasingly important platform for biographers. What can biographers expect from university presses? And how do university presses see the importance—and sales potential—of biography? Among the topics the panel will address are standards of scholarship that must be met and the presses' approach to marketing.

Moderator

NIGEL HAMILTON has written more than twenty works of biography. *Monty*, his three-volume life of Field Marshal Montgomery, won the Whitbread Prize for Biography and Templer Medal for Military History. *JFK: Reckless Youth*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and was made into an ABC-TV miniseries. In 2007, Harvard University Press published *Biography: A Brief History*, and in 2008, *How To Do Biography: A Primer*. In 2010, Yale University Press published *American Caesars: Lives of the Presidents, From Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush*. Hamilton's latest work is *The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942*.

Panelists

LAURA DAVULIS is associate editor, history, at Yale University Press, where she acquires in the history of the American West, Native American studies, slavery and abolition, and eighteenth-century studies. She lives in New Haven.

BRIAN HALLEY is acquisitions editor for the University of Massachusetts Press, based at the University of Massachusetts Boston. After earning an M.A. in literature at the University of London, Halley started his publishing career assisting a literary agent at the Sayle Agency in London. He then became an editor at Beacon Press, acquiring books in environmental studies, nature writing, LGBT issues, and social justice. At UMass Press, Halley started the *Environmental History of the Northeast* series; coordinates the *Studies in Print Culture and History of the Book* and the *American Popular Music* series; and acquires in American Studies, environmental studies/history, urban studies, and regional books.

STEVEN P. HULL is an editor with the University Press of New England, at Dartmouth College. He helped create and launch UPNE's new trade imprint, Fore Edge, to publish high-quality new work with commercial appeal in several nonfiction categories, including biography. Forthcoming titles include new biographies of Harry S. Truman, Paul Revere, Charles Ives, and Smithsonian Director and spy Dillon Ripley. This fall, UPNE published *Confederate Bushwhacker*, Jerome Loving's biography of Mark Twain in the year 1885. Prior to joining UPNE, Hull was publisher of Justin, Charles & Co., a Boston independent trade press.



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Networking Reception
and
Presentation
of the

Plutarch Award

6:00–7:15PM in the Ballroom

What Happens After You Turn in Your Manuscript?

3:15–4:30PM LOCATION: ROOM 3540

Authors are often surprised at all the work they have to do at this stage. We will talk about permissions (including quotation and reproduction rights), compiling the bibliography and acknowledgements, finding an indexer, and requesting a budget for illustrations.

Moderator

BRIAN JAY JONES is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Jim Henson: The Biography* (Ballantine, 2013) and *Washington Irving: An American Original* (Arcade, 2008). Prior to writing full-time, Jones spent two decades as a public policy analyst and speechwriter at all three levels of government, including nearly ten years in the U.S. Senate. Newly elected as president of BIO, he has served as a BIO board member since 2009, as its secretary in 2010–2011, and as vice president from 2011 to 2013. He lives in Maryland with his wife and daughter, and a very excitable dog.

Panelists

LOIS BANNER is a professor of history and gender studies at the University of Southern California. She is the author of many books on women and gender, including *American Beauty* (Knopf, 1984), and four biographies, including *Margaret Mead*, *Ruth Benedict*, and *Their Circle* (Knopf, 2005), *MM Personal: From the Private Archives of Marilyn Monroe* (Abrams, 2011), and *Marilyn: The Passion and the Paradox*, a definitive biography of Marilyn Monroe (Bloomsbury, 2012). Banner is a past president of the American Studies Association and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. In 2005, she won the Bode-Pearson award for lifetime achievement from the American Studies Association.

KATE BUFORD is the author of *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe* (Knopf, 2010; paperback, University of Nebraska Press, 2012), an Editors' Choice of *The New York Times* and recipient of awards from the SABR and the PFRA. *Burt Lancaster: An American Life* (Knopf/Da Capo/Aurum UK; 2013 Knopf ebook edition) was chosen as a best book of 2000 by *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Washington Post*. Buford has been published in *The New York Times*, *Film Comment*, *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *History Now*, and *Readex*. A former commentator on NPR's *Morning Edition* and APM's *Marketplace*, she is a member of PEN, the NYU Biographers Seminar, and BIO.

MARC LEEPSON is a journalist and historian, and the author of seven books. A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly*, he has written for many publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, and *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. His books include a concise biography of the Marquis de Lafayette for Palgrave's *World Generals series*; *Flag: An American Biography*; and *Saving Monticello*. His next book, *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, a Life*, will be published by Palgrave in June. A BIO board member, he lives in Middleburg, Virginia, and teaches U.S. history at Lord Fairfax Community College.

Archive to Endnotes

3:15–4:30PM LOCATION: ROOM 3545

How should you prepare before visiting an archive to maximize your time? How do authors keep track of their sources and decide which facts require a citation? When is it appropriate to use endnotes as a place to speculate on or explore something in your own voice? We'll also look at what your archivist can do for you and what you can do for your archivist. Finally, we'll peer into the digital future of the archive: Is primary source material headed for the cloud?

Moderator

WILLIAM SOUDER is the author of three books, including two biographies. *Under a Wild Sky* (2004) told the story of pioneer and bird artist John James Audubon, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. *On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson* (2012) was a *New York Times* Notable Book, and was named one of the ten best biographies of the year by *Booklist* and one of the twenty-five best nonfiction books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*. Souder lives in Grant, Minnesota.

Panelists

CATHERINE CLINTON earned her undergraduate degree in African American studies from Harvard and her master's in American studies from the University of Sussex. She received her doctorate in history from Princeton in 1980. Clinton has taught at several American universities, including Brown, Wesleyan, and Harvard, and now holds a chair in U.S. history at Queen's University Belfast. She has written and edited over two dozen books, including three biographies: *Fanny Kemble's Civil Wars* (2000); *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* (2004)—named as one of the best nonfiction books of 2004 by the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Chicago Tribune*—and *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life* (2009). She is working on a biography of Scarlett O'Hara.

HEATHER COLE is the assistant curator of modern books and manuscripts and the curator of the Theodore Roosevelt Collection at Harvard's Houghton Library. She holds a B.A. in English from Miami University and master's degrees in rare book librarianship and English from Indiana University.

DEAN KING is the best-selling author of nine books, including *Skeletons on the Zabar* (2004), a *Washington Post* Book of the Year, and *Patrick O'Brian: A Life Revealed*. *The Wall Street Journal* called his latest book, *The Feud: The Hatfields & McCoy's: The True Story*, "popular history the way it ought to be written." King's writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *Men's Journal*, *Granta*, *The New York Times*, and other publications, and he has appeared on NPR, the BBC, and two History Channel special documentaries. A co-founder of the James River Writers, and a board member of the Library of Virginia Foundation, he lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Location, Location, Location:

Writing About Place

3:15–4:30PM LOCATION: ROOM 2545

Robert Caro said, “The greatest of books are books with places you can see in your mind’s eye.” And he’s right. If you give readers a sense of place in biography, you give them an understanding of character and story “more vivid, deeper than any lecture could.” Biographers of famous New Englanders including Sylvia Plath and Amy Lowell (Carl Rollyson); John Singer Sargent and Henry, William, and Alice James (Paul Fisher); and Anne Hutchinson and the Alcotts (Eve LaPlante) will discuss the importance of place and how place shaped both their subjects’ lives and the writing of those lives.

Moderator

NATALIE DYKSTRA is the author of *Clover Adams: A Gilded and Heartbreaking Life* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012), a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award in nonfiction. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts Long-Term Fellowship, a White House Historical Association Fellowship, and research grants from the Schlesinger Library and the Massachusetts Historical Society, which elected her a Fellow in 2011. Dykstra is an associate professor of English at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. When classes are not in session, she lives with her husband in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Panelists

PAUL FISHER is a biographer and cultural historian who has taught literature and history at Yale, Wesleyan, Boston University, and Harvard, and is now associate professor of American Studies at Wellesley College. His books include *Artful Itineraries: European Art and American Careers in High Culture, 1865–1920* (Routledge, 2000), *House of Wits: An Intimate Portrait of the James Family* (Henry Holt, 2008), and *The Grand Affair: John Singer Sargent, His Patrons, and Sexuality in the Art World of the Belle Époque*, forthcoming from Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

EVE LAPLANTE has published three biographies. *American Jezebel* tells the story of the colonial heretic and founding mother Anne Hutchinson. *Salem Witch Judge*, about the 1692 judge who became an abolitionist and feminist, won the Massachusetts Book Award for Nonfiction. NPR named *Marmee & Louisa*, LaPlante’s groundbreaking biography of Louisa May Alcott and her mother, a top ten book of the year. LaPlante is also the author of *Seized*, a narrative portrait of a common brain disorder that can alter personality, and the editor of *My Heart Is Boundless*, the first compilation of the writings of Abigail May Alcott.

CARL ROLLYSON is working on *A Real Character: Walter Brennan and the World of Hollywood Players*, the third volume of his New England trilogy, which includes *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography* and *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath*. His other books include *Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews*, an updated edition of *Marilyn Monroe: Life of the Actress* (available June 1), and two studies of biography, *A Higher Form of Cannibalism: Adventures in the Art and Politics of Biography* and *Biography: A User’s Guide*. His reviews of biography have been collected in *Reading Biography* and *American Biography*.



Did you know?

Phillip Brooks, the ninth rector of the Back Bay’s Trinity Church, wrote the Christmas carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” after visiting the Holy Land in 1865.

Diary of a Biographer: How Authors Led Their Lives While Writing Someone Else's

3:15–4:30PM LOCATION: ROOM 2540

How many years does it take to research and write a biography? What are the most effective strategies for establishing and sticking to a research/writing schedule? How does one juggle working on the biography and coping with impediments to keeping on track (family emergencies, teaching full time, writer's block, health emergencies, earning a living, etc.)?

Our panel of seasoned writers will share their experiences of managing their own lives while writing the biography.

Moderator

DEIRDRE DAVID is the author, most recently, of *Olivia Manning: A Woman at War* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Before publication of her first biography, *Fanny Kemble: A Performed Life* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007), she published several books dealing with Victorian literature and women's writing and edited *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel* (currently in a second edition). She is now at work on a biography of the British novelist Pamela Hansford Johnson.

Panelists

BETTY BOYD CAROLI has written about obscure subjects (*Today's Immigrants: Their Stories; Immigrants Who Returned Home; Italian Repatriation from the United States, 1900–1914*) and about world-famous Americans (*The Roosevelt Women: A Portrait in Five Generations; First Ladies: From Martha Washington to Michelle Obama;*

and a forthcoming book on Lady Bird Johnson). But whether Caroli is interviewing in Southern Italy or digging through archives in Texas, she finds that her writer's diary varies little. The same rules apply, as does the need to break them.

IRWIN F. GELLMAN is a scholar, professor, speaker, and businessman, as well as an author. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Baltimore, he received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Maryland and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. He has taught at Indiana University; the University of California, Irvine; and Chapman University. Among his books: *Roosevelt and Batista: Good Neighbor Diplomacy in Cuba, 1933–1945*; *Secret Affairs: Franklin Roosevelt, Cordell Hull, and Sumner Welles* (nominated for a Pulitzer Prize); *The Contender: Richard Nixon: The Congress Years, 1946 to 1952*; and *The President and His Apprentice: Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon, 1952–1961* (due in 2014). Gellman is a visiting professor at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

DIANE JACOBS began her career writing film criticism and journalism for *The New York Times*, *Soho Weekly News*, the *Village Voice*, and *The Washington Post* while teaching as an adjunct at Dartmouth, Columbia, and Fairfield College. Her first two books, *Hollywood Renaissance* (Delta Press, 1977), and *...but we need the eggs: The Magic of Woody Allen*, (St. Martin's, 1982) were film criticism. Turning to biography, she received an NEH grant for *Christmas in July: The Life and Art of Preston Sturges* (University of California Press), a *New York Times* Notable Book of 1992. Her next book was *Her Own Woman: The Life of Mary Wollstonecraft* (Simon & Schuster, 2001). She lives with her daughter and dog in Greenwich Village.

SUSAN RABINER was an editor for more than thirty years and currently runs Susan Rabiner Literary. She is the co-author (with Alfred Fortunato) of *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction and Get It Published*. Two of the biographers she represents won the Pulitzer Prize for their work.



Getting the Family on Board

4:45–6:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 2540

“First kill the widow” is neither a practical nor a humane approach to dealing with the family that your subject has left behind. But the subject’s family members are often important gatekeepers, as well as valuable sources of information. Whether your biography is authorized or unauthorized, how do you negotiate the tricky but potentially fruitful relationship with next of kin?

Moderator

BEVERLY GRAY, who once developed one hundred seventy low-budget features for B-movie maven Roger Corman, is the author of the best-selling *Roger Corman: An Unauthorized Biography of the Godfather of Indie Filmmaking*. Tastefully retitled *Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers*, it is now available (as both ebook and paperback) in an updated and unexpurgated third edition. Gray has also published *Ron Howard: From Mayberry to the Moon...and Beyond*. Her blog, Beverly in Movieland (www.beverlyinmovieland.com), covers movies, moviemaking, and growing up Hollywood-adjacent.

Panelists

BRIAN JAY JONES is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Jim Henson: The Biography* (Ballantine, 2013) and *Washington Irving: An American Original* (Arcade, 2008). Prior to writing full-time, Jones spent two decades as a public policy analyst and speechwriter at all three levels of government, including nearly ten years in the U.S. Senate. Newly elected as president of BIO, he has served as a BIO board member since 2009, as its secretary in 2010–2011, and as vice president from 2011 to 2013. He lives in Maryland with his wife and daughter, and a very excitable dog.

WILL SWIFT, PH.D., is a historian, presidential biographer, and clinical psychologist. He has been writing about American and British leaders for more than twenty-five years. He is the author of *The Roosevelts and the Royals* and *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm*. Dr. Swift has been a featured speaker on CSPAN, on radio, and at many historical venues, including the FDR Library at Hyde Park and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. He is a founding board member of BIO. His website is www.willswift.com.

EVAN THOMAS is the author of eight books: *Ike’s Bluff: President Eisenhower’s Secret Struggle to Save the World* (2012); *The War Lovers* (2010); *New York Times* bestsellers *Sea of Thunder* (2006) and *John Paul Jones* (2003); *Robert Kennedy* (2000); *The Very Best Men*, about the early CIA (1995); *The Man to See: The Life of Edward Bennett Williams* (1991); and *The Wise Men* (with Walter Isaacson, 1986). He is Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University. Between 2003 and 2007, he was a visiting professor at Harvard and Princeton, teaching writing and journalism courses.

Market Trends for Biography

4:45–6:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 3540

A panel of industry insiders will discuss current publishing trends that relate to biography.

Moderator

CARL ROLLYSON is working on *A Real Character: Walter Brenman and the World of Hollywood Players*, the third volume of his New England trilogy, which includes *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography* and *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath*. His other books include *Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews*, an updated edition of *Marilyn Monroe: Life of the Actress* (available June 1), and two studies of biography, *A Higher Form of Cannibalism: Adventures in the Art and Politics of Biography* and *Biography: A User’s Guide*. His reviews of biography have been collected in *Reading Biography* and *American Biography*.

Panelists

KATHERINE FLYNN joined the Kneerim, Williams & Bloom Agency in 2008. After graduating from Johns Hopkins University, she worked at the literary agency of Sanford J. Greenburger Associates in New York. She then pursued a Ph.D. in history at Brown University. Prior to joining KW&B, she taught literature and composition, and worked in a rare book shop. Flynn represents history, biography, politics, current affairs, adventure, science, pop culture, and psychology. She particularly loves exciting narrative nonfiction, where the truth is more fascinating than anything else. She is open to anything that is well-written and contains a good, fresh story.

COLLEEN MOHYDE has been a partner in the Doe Coover Agency in Boston for twenty-two years. Among the biographies she represents are *Stand Facing the Stove: The Story of the Women Who Gave America The Joy of Cooking* by Anne Mendelson and *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath* by Carl Rollyson. Forthcoming biographies she represents include: *The Last Love Song, A Biography of Joan Didion* by Tracy Daugherty; an untitled biography of Doonesbury creator Garry Trudeau by Steve Weinberg; *She Will Bring Us Home: The Life of Dorothy Boulding Ferebee* by Diane Kiesel; and an untitled biography of Eunice Kennedy Shriver by Eileen McNamara.

SUSAN RABINER was an editor for more than thirty years and currently runs Susan Rabiner Literary. She is the co-author (with Alfred Fortunato) of *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction—and Get It Published*. Two of the biographers she represents won the Pulitzer Prize for their work.

What Editors Actually Do (and Don't Do)

4:45–6:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 3545

The author-editor relationship is crucial to producing a successful biography. This panel will demystify the process, by explaining what prospective biographers should expect from an editor (which can range greatly from house to house) and what you might have to do for yourself or pay someone else do. It will also explain what the various types of editors (acquiring editors, copy editors, etc.) do and how to work with them most effectively.

Moderator

GREG DAUGHERTY is director of content and editorial at Pace University in New York City. He previously held senior level editing positions at Time Inc., Reader's Digest, Consumer Reports, and other magazine publishers. As a freelancer, he has written for publications such as *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Smithsonian* and *Smithsonian.com*. His books include *You Can Write for Magazines* (Writer's Digest Books).

Panelists

LAURA DAVULIS is associate editor, history, at Yale University Press, where she acquires in the history of the American West, Native American studies, slavery and abolition, and eighteenth-century studies. She lives in New Haven.

PETER JOSEPH is executive editor at Thomas Dunne Books, where he edits a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction. His nonfiction list includes biography, memoir, narrative nonfiction, science, nature, history, politics, and humor. A few examples include Lisa Rogak's Edgar Award finalist *Haunted Heart: The Life and Times of Stephen King*; Mikey Walsh's memoir *Gypsy Boy: My Life in the Secret World of the Romany Gypsies*; and Stephen Michael Shearer's *Gloria Swanson: The Ultimate Star*.

KEITH WALLMAN is an editor at Lyons Press, where he acquires in the categories of biography, American history, politics, crime, and sports. In biography and autobiography, his editorial work includes Best Fact Crime Edgar Award finalist *Rothstein: The Life, Times, and Murder of the Criminal Genius Who Fixed the 1919 World Series*; artist LeRoy Neiman's autobiography *All Told*; the book *Strong Boy: The Life and Times of John L. Sullivan, America's First Sports Hero*; and *John Dillinger: The Life and Death of America's First Celebrity Criminal*.

Making Modernism:

A Conversation Between Biographers

4:45–6:00PM LOCATION: ROOM 2540

Almost a century apart, Margaret Fuller and Marianne Moore edited America's most influential literary magazine, *The Dial*. Now, their biographers, Megan Marshall (*Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*) and Linda Leavell (*Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*), will discuss how these two brilliant women writers—who between them edited Thoreau, Emerson, Joyce, Yeats, and Pound—gained influence and exerted it, establishing in 1840s Boston and 1920s New York the leading aesthetic of their day.

LINDA LEAVELL's first biography, *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*, appeared last October. It has been favorably reviewed in *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and other periodicals. She is also the author of *Marianne Moore and the Visual Arts: Prismatic Color*. Leavell taught American literature at Oklahoma State University for twenty-four years before moving with her husband to the Arkansas Ozarks, where she volunteers as a teacher and museum guide while working on her next project, a group biography of the Stieglitz circle.

MEGAN MARSHALL is the author of *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*, winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. Her previous book, *The Peabody Sisters*, won the Francis Parkman Prize and the Mark Lynton History Prize, and was also a Pulitzer Prize finalist. She is the recipient of fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She teaches archival research and nonfiction narrative in the M.F.A. program at Emerson College, where she is an associate professor in the Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing. She is at work on a short biography of Elizabeth Bishop for the Amazon *Icons* series.

Did you know?

Harvard University's is the second largest library in the country (after the Library of Congress), containing more than 15 million volumes. The Boston Public Library is third with more than 14 million.

Each month, members of BIO receive an informative newsletter devoted to the art and craft of biography. The Biographer's Craft features news about the business, interviews and articles with biographers about techniques, notification of books sold to publishers, new biographies coming into stores, research tips, and more.

"My 'lonely quotient' as a biographer has dropped precipitously since subscribing to The Biographers Craft. I'm on the mend because I belong to a community now."

– *Charles J. Shields, Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee (Henry Holt, 2006)*

"Those of us who write biographies have yearned for a publication like that compiled by James McGrath Morris. Now we no longer yearn; instead, we devour his monthly posting."

– *Steve Weinberg, Taking on the Trust: The Epic Battle of Ida Tarbell and John D. Rockefeller (Norton, 2008)*

"It's the first thing I open when I see it in my inbox."

– *Robin Gerber, Barbie and Ruth: The Story of the World's Most Famous Doll and the Woman Who Created Her (Harper, 2009)*

"Essential viewing if you're in the biog business as reader or writer."

– *Grumpy Old Bookman (listed by the Guardian as one of the top ten literary blogs.)*

It's just one more benefit of your BIO membership.

Sunday, May 18 | Master Classes

Promoting Your Biography: Hiring a Publicist or Going It Alone

9:00AM–NOON LOCATION: 3545

A do-it-yourself workshop conducted by an experienced biographer, for all of us who can't afford to pay for others to promote our work. We will explore the usefulness of Facebook, Twitter, blogs, other social media, and additional sources of free publicity. We will also discuss how to arrange for talks and other promotional activities.

CARL ROLLYSON is working on *A Real Character: Walter Brennan and the World of Hollywood Players*, the third volume of his New England trilogy, which includes *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography* and *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath*. His other books include *Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews*, an updated edition of *Marilyn Monroe: Life of the Actress* (available June 1), and two studies of biography, *A Higher Form of Cannibalism: Adventures in the Art and Politics of Biography* and *Biography: A User's Guide*. His reviews of biography have been collected in *Reading Biography* and *American Biography*.

Biography Workshop: Writing the Proposal

9:00AM–NOON LOCATION: 3540

For many would-be biographers, more daunting than researching or writing the book is often writing the proposal. So what makes a good proposal? A passion for your subject, superb research, and good writing all count. But most important is that you understand that, while it's your subject's life, it's your story. Great proposals get control of that story and never let go of that control. Great biographers never fall into the trap of believing that the story is just the sum of the facts you've uncovered about your subject's life. This session will teach you how to write that great proposal and, even more important, how to know you have done so.

SUSAN RABINER was an editor for more than thirty years and currently runs Susan Rabiner Literary. She is the co-author (with Alfred Fortunato) of *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction—and Get It Published*. Two of the biographers she represents won the Pulitzer Prize for their work.



Robert Gottlieb

*Winner of the
2014 BIO Award
for Editorial Excellence*

A former editor in chief at both Simon & Schuster and Knopf, Gottlieb has edited modern classics of the biographer's craft. He is also a biographer himself. A paperback edition of his most recent book, *Great Expectations: The Sons and Daughters of Charles Dickens*, was released in November.

In an interview with BIO board member Kate Buford, Gottlieb described the editor's job as "helping the author fulfill his or her intentions, not imposing your own ideas. . . . What can help a biographer, I think, is the editor's curiosity about the subject, leading to questions that may prompt useful paths for the author to explore. It's all too easy when writing on a subject about which you're obsessive to forget that the reader may need more grounding. On the other hand, it's easy for an obsessive writer to be swept away by every detail. . . . A triumph of research doesn't always lead to a triumph of narration, and a tactful editor often has to rein in research, just as occasionally he has to spur it on."

Schedule

Saturday May 17

CO Core **R** Research **C** Craft **P** Publishing **M** Marketing

7:30–8:45AM	Registration and BIO Business Meeting: Ballroom			
8:45–10:00AM	“And Then What?": Creating Suspense in Biography C Ballroom B	The Challenges of Group Biography C Room 3540	Twice Marginalized: The Challenges of Writing About Little-Known Gay and Lesbian Subjects C Room 2540	
10:15–11:30AM	Writing for Young Adults C Room 2540	The Dark Side: Addressing the Unsavory Elements of a Subject's Character C Room 3540	Cultivating Readers & Blurb Writers M Room 3545	Dealing with Your Agent... or Choosing Not to Have One P Room 2545
11:45AM–1:30PM	Lunch and Keynote Address by Stacy Schiff, 2014 BIO Award Winner Announcement of 2014 Rowley Prize Winner Ballroom			
1:45–3:00PM	Getting It Right: From the Proposal to the Last Word CO Room 2540	The Book Tour: Real and Virtual M Room 3545	Finding the Balance: The Life, the Context, the Work C Room 3540	The University Press and Biography P Room 3545
3:15–4:30PM	What Happens After You Turn in Your Manuscript? P Room 3540	Archive to Endnotes Room 3545 R	Location, Location, Location: Writing About Place C Room 2545	Diary of a Biographer: How Authors Led Their Lives While Writing Someone Else's CO Room 2540
4:45–6:00PM	Getting the Family on Board R Room 2540	Market Trends for Biography M Room 3540	What Editors Actually Do (and Don't Do) P Room 3545	Making Modernism: A Conversation Between Biographers C Room 2545
6:00–7:15PM	Reception and Announcement of Plutarch Award Ballroom			

Sunday May 18

9:00AM– NOON	Promoting Your Biography: Hiring a Publicist or Going It Alone Room 3545	Biography Workshop: Writing the Proposal Room 3540
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Appointments booked individually

Agent Speed Dating Alumni Lounge

Publicist and Researcher Consultations Point Lounge

