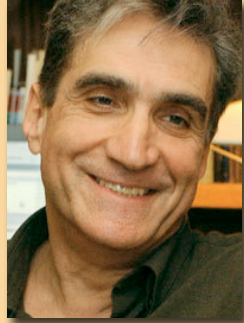




The Newsletter of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association

Robert Pinsky selected 2016 Poet in Residence

Robert Pinsky is an American poet, essayist, literary critic, and translator. From 1997 to 2000, he served as US Poet Laureate. Pinsky is the author of nineteen books, most of which are collections of his poetry. His published work also includes critically acclaimed translations, including The Inferno of Dante Alighieri and The Separate Notebooks by Czesław Miłosz. He teaches at Boston University.



The annual Poet In Residence is proudly sponsored by NYSCA (through HAC) to feature poets who continue to embody Walt Whitman's spirit of democracy, diversity and creativity. He will officiate at the Whitman Birthday Celebration on June 4th and 5th, 2016.

Whitman on the Town:

WWBA celebrates Whitman A La Carte

Trustee Jo-Ann Raia kicked off the WWBA Capital Campaign fundraiser, Whitman A La Carte, on June 24 at Appliance World in Huntington. Chairwoman and Huntington Town Clerk Raia secured premier tastings from 14 outstanding restaurants and bakeries: Cirella's, Fado, Imperial Meat Company, Nisen Sushi, Plates, Cinque Terre Ristorante, Ideal's Element, A Rise Above Bake Shop, Bon Bons Chocolatier, Copenhagen Bakery, Fiorello Dolce, Reinwald's Bakery, Hummel



Chair Jo-Ann Raia with Whitman Personator and Honorary Trustee Darrel Blaine Ford

Hummel Bakery, and Jonathan Lord Corp. Beverages were donated by Clare Rose, LITHOLOGY Brewing Company, and Starbucks Coffee Company. Chefs utilized Appliance World's modern kitchen stations to freshly prepare their signature menu items. Susan Bowe, her committee and Trustees skillfully assembled over 25 raffle baskets comprised of donated items from over 40 local businesses. Auctioneer Jill Doherty professionally led the Live Auction. Citigold was premier sponsor and over 110 supporters attended the event. Over \$9,000 was raised to support the Campaign, "Bring Walt Into the 21st Century," which aims to incorporate interactive technology into the Interpretive Center exhibit and enlarge the museum experience for our visitors and special needs friends. Appliance World generously donated their facility for the event and many thanks go to President Kevin Nathan, with much appreciation given to Patricia Hehir for her efficient assistance. WWBA salutes Chair Jo-Ann Raia and all who contributed, donated, and worked to make the Capital Campaign kick off a resounding success. WWBA plans a repeat event next summer while contributions to the Campaign are actively sought and appreciated all year long. RFPs for the museum exhibit remodeling are currently being solicited. Interested parties should contact the WWBA office at 631-427-5240 or visit www.waltwhitman.org for contributions or information.



WAR WORDS WISDOM: A Veteran Experience

Sponsored by John & Penny Barr and NYCH

The Birthplace celebrated the sesquicentennial of the Civil War with a new historic series of events titled "War Words Wisdom." Funded through the generosity of John and Penny Barr and the New York Council For the Humanities, the series focused on the veteran experience throughout American History. Veterans, friends and supporters joined the Association to learn about Walt Whitman and other Long Islanders during the Civil War, write their experiences into prose in the writing workshop, and listen to music that helped shape the way Americans went to war. Special thanks to our Panelists Bill Bleyer, Harrison Hunt, John Barr, Doug Anderson, Maurice Decaul, Jim Davis, Lt. Col. Richard Beil, Karen Karbiener, Brian Matthew Jordan, and Mort Künstler.



Bill Blyer, Civil War Reenactor Max Kenny, Cynthia Shor and Harrison Hunt.

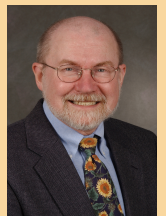
Maurice Decaul, Bob Savino, Writing Participant, Dr. William T. Walter, Mary Flatley, Writing Participant, and Tom Wysmuller.

Mort Künstler, Dr. William T. Walter, Dr. Richard Bronson, Karen Karbiener, Cynthia Shor and Brian Matthew Jordan with a lithograph, Angel of the Battlefield, donated by the artist Mr. Künstler.



NY Council for the Humanities Program

Trustee Dr. Jack Coulehan facilitated the six-part Fall Reading & Discussion series with "Reflections of Illness, Medicine, and Healing." The oversubscribed class read selections from On Doctoring, edited by two physicians, which contains classic literary stories, essays and poems by notable authors about medicine and illness. Provocative discussions ensued about the moral, psychological and physical issues involved with life and death. Coulehan generously donated his grant proceeds back to the Association. The Spring NYCH Series will feature George Wallace with Our World Remade: WW I.



*From the Executive Director's Desk*

Greetings, Members and Friends!

November is National History Month, a key month which highlights our mission to preserve the Birthplace for New York State and for thousands of visitors we greet each year. Our current exhibit, *Whitmanland*, showcases the ancestral Long Island environs of the Whitman family especially the Birthplace property with maps, a 1730 deed, a letter from Whitman's sister, historic artifacts and photos depicting the evolution of the Birthplace exterior. Please visit the exhibit on display until February 1. Our mission also aims to promote Walt's literary legacy and this Newsletter highlights many of our offerings to the community.

At the same time, community members give back to the Association through your participation, membership and donations. William Heyen, our very first Poet in Residence (1981), donated a complete collection of his 30 titles and an extra 125 copies for fundraising purposes. Former Board Member Elisa Rapaport and her husband, Peter, have made a very generous donation which shows their continued support for historic preservation, one of their many passions. John & Penny Barr are notable key sponsors of our signature Veteran Series and Nelson DeMille offers his loyal support on many levels. Our newest Whitman friend, Susan Tane, made a generous donation in honor of Karen Karbiener, a Birthplace friend in her own right. WWBA Trustees continue their outstanding dedication to all things Whitman. We thank all of you who share your passion for preserving and promoting the legacy of Walt Whitman in so many ways. We depend upon you and appreciate your support. The Board and I wish you a very Happy Holiday Season.



*Cynthia Shor*

Community Collaborations



Above: Executive Director Cynthia Shor and Caretaker Steve Arabia with the New York State I Love My Park Day volunteers.



Left: Civil War Historian Bob Farrell helped the birthplace celebrate I Love New York's Path Through History weekend by helping guests to search for and learn about their civil war forefathers.

Right: Poets from the Americas Poetry Festival of New York, an international multilingual writers' conference sponsored by CUNY, on October 15, 2015.



Right: Honorary Board Member Karen Karbiener led guests on a walking tour of Whitman's New York on June 20th. Proceeds from the event were donated to WWBA.



WWBA graciously acknowledges the continued support from the following Members & Donors at the Patron level and above:

Lee Bahlkow, Penny & John Barr, Joan & George Blednik, Sherri & Thomas Casey, Barry Chase, Lorraine Conlin, Paula Curci, Nelson DeMille, Philip Friedman, Francis Gagliardi, Robert Hughes, Joann Krieg, George Mallis, Barry McCallion, Elizabeth & Joshua Miller, Mark Nuccio, Elisa & Peter Rapaport, Ruth Rosenthal, Julie Sheehan, Patti Tana, Irene White, Walter Wientge

Special thanks to New York State OPRHP, Suffolk County, Huntington Town, NYSCA, NYCH, Poets & Writers, and Huntington Arts Council for their continued support.

*Thank you to all renewed members! Your support helps us preserve and promote the legacy of Walt Whitman.*

Renew or Become a Member Today:  
www.waltwhitman.org  
or call Diana Alvarez  
(631) 427-5240 ext. 114

**Special Thanks**

**WWBA STAFF**

Richard Ryan	Curator
Carolyn Diglio	Education Coordinator
Bonnie Lowe	Bookkeeper
Katrina Lovett	Media & Events Director
Diana Alvarez	Administrator
Steve Arabia	Caretaker

**TOUR GUIDES**

Susan Bowe, Sue Anne Dennehy, Toni Fleig, Diane Gisonny, Margaret Guardi, Arlene Farrell, Beverly Pokorny, Cameron Williams

**POETRY TEACHERS**

Anne Kingsbury, Mindy Kroneberg, Orel Protopoulos, Barbara Southard, Ginger Williams

**VOLUNTEERS**

Gregory Borstelmann, Jim Broten, Judy Covey, Mary Flatley, David Forman, Joanne Hackert, Anna Holzman, Harold LaWare, Chris Liotta, Charles Lipp, Leslie Lockheart, Saera Murtaza, Mona Owens, Mary Ann Weeks

**SUMMER & FALL INTERNS**

James Donnelly, Amanda Hayman, Michael Hoang, Jonathan Kalish, Hamza Mahmood, Geselle Maldonado, Erik Marcinik, Spencer Patterson, Krysten Polish, Anne Rappaport, Victoria Sedlak, Joseph VanGostein, Brandon Wall

*Starting From Paumanok...*

The Newsletter of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association

Editors: Katrina Lovett Cynthia Shor

**Walt Whitman's 196<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

WWBA 2015 Poet in Residence Yusef Komunyakaa officiated at Walt's 196<sup>th</sup> Birthday Weekend Celebration. On Saturday, May 30, Komunyakaa held a Master Class in poetry writing, followed by an evening reading. May 31, he spoke at the awards ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Poets Contest. Walt's poem, "The Voice of the Rain," was featured as a model poem for teachers and students and over 3,000 submissions were received. Awards were presented to 112 young poets and over 200 relatives and friends joined the festivities.



Young poet winners with Walt Whitman Personator Darrel Ford



Wayne Horsley, New York State Parks Deputy Regional Director, greets the guests

Mary Nagin played lively Whitman-era fiddle music. Greetings were delivered by Executive Director Cynthia Shor, Board Vice President Thomas Wismuller, Trustee and Huntington Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia and New York State Parks Deputy Regional Director Wayne Horsley. Poet in Residence Komunyakaa congratulated the young poets, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Juliet Rand beautifully sang the Star Spangled Banner *a capella*. WWBA Education Director Carolyn Diglio was recognized for her outstanding work in overseeing the contest and awards ceremony, and poetry judges Gladys Henderson, Anne Kingsbury, Ginger Williams were thanked for their participation. Whitman Personator Darrel Blaine Ford mingled with guests, and he and Komunyakaa posed for pictures with each of the winners.

The seven Grand Champions, Alanna Wu, Colin Muessig, Sarah Morgenthal, Isabelle Scott, Eleni Aneziris, Lindsay Stancampiano and Amani Hafeez, read their poems which are posted on the WWBA website. The annual Poet in Residence & Birthday Celebration are sponsored by NYSCA through the Huntington Arts Council Re-Grant program.

*Walking with Whitman*  
Poetry in Performance

The Birthplace creatively concludes our 2015 *Walking With Whitman* Series with founder and host, George Wallace, WWBA Writer in Residence 2009-2015

**December 5:**  
Eileen Myles &  
Julie Sheehan\*

**DECEMBER 5**  
Eileen Myles & Julie Sheehan\*



\*Writing Workshop Leader

Tickets for the workshop and reading may be purchased by phone at 631-427-5240 x115 or online at [www.waltwhitman.org](http://www.waltwhitman.org).

Workshop is 2-4pm,  
Performance reading 5-7pm.

**Looking ahead:**

We're excited to announce that *Walking with Whitman* will be moving to First Fridays for 2016! Stay tuned for more information, but mark your calendars:

**March 4th** - Cornelius Eady

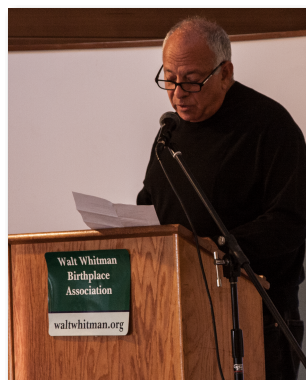
**April 1st** - Jesús Papoleto Meléndez

**May 6th** - David Lehman

**October 7th** - Joseph Millar

**November 4th** - TBA

**December 2nd** - Nathalie Handal



Host and WWBA Writer in Residence George Wallace

**Celebrating Nelson DeMille and *Radiant Angel***

WWBA honored bestselling novelist Nelson DeMille as *Walt Whitman 2014-2015 Champion of Literacy* on Nov. 15, 2016. He was presented with a gilded edge leather bound edition of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Champions of Literacy are individuals who have notably enhanced the impact of literacy through their body of work and personal endeavors. The award ceremony preceded DeMille's presentation, "Everyone Loves A Good Mystery" and a book signing of his latest novel, *Radiant Angel*. Over 100 fans enjoyed DeMille's personal stories about mystery writing and were very attentive with the Q & A. DeMille commented afterward, "What a lively crowd it was; really good questions and comments." DeMille was accompanied by his wife, Sandy, and son, James, a third grader who enjoyed playing with Whitman-era toys while his father signed all 50 books available for sale. DeMille donated the proceeds to WWBA and complimented the Association on being "professional and welcoming." Signed copies of *Radiant Angel* are available online and in the Birthplace giftshop.



Nelson DeMille is honored as the 2014-2015 *Whitman Champion of Literacy*. Mr. DeMille is pictured here (center) with WWBA trustees Tom Wismuller, Bob Savino, Dr. William T. Walter, Executive Director Cynthia Shor, Trustees Dr. Richard Bronson and Faith Lieberman.



*STARTING FROM PAUMANOK...*  
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Fall 2015

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- Darrel Blaine Ford
- Ed Folsom, Ph.D.
- Susan Isaacs
- Karen Karbiener, Ph.D.

**Executive Director**

Cynthia Shor

**Upcoming Events**

- Dec 5 *Walking with Whitman*  
Eileen Myles & Julie Sheehan
- Dec 6 Yuletide Family Day!
- Dec 13 Transatlantic Poetry Reading with Gregory Pardlo and Selina Nwulu.  
Evening Poetry Reading with Gregory Pardlo, 2015 Pulitzer Prize Winner in Poetry
- Jan 9 Long Island Quarterly Celebration  
(snow date 1/16)
- Feb 7 Super Poem Sunday
- March 4 *Walking with Whitman*  
Cornelius Eady

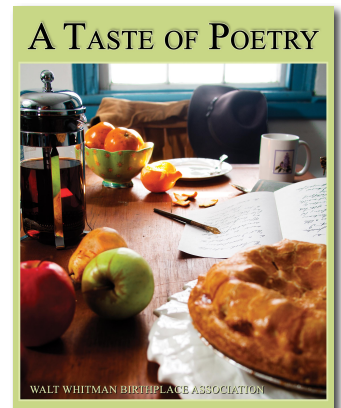
For event details, please visit: [www.waltwhitman.org](http://www.waltwhitman.org)

**Rentals Available**  
**Scout Programs Tea Parties**  
[www.waltwhitman.org](http://www.waltwhitman.org)

**School and group tours by appointment (631) 427-5240 x 113**

*Taste of Poetry - Book Launch*

WWBA launched *A Taste of Poetry*, an anthology comprised of poems with resonating recipes, on Sept. 26. Over 25 of the 70 contributing poets attended and read their poems. Some brought tastings of their recipes. The anthology, a WWBA fundraising endeavor, received laudatory testimonials from Nelson DeMille and George Wallace. Every recipe begins with an evocative story. WWBA thanks Editor Anthony Policano and all who made the book a reality. All proceeds support the Birthplace.



A Perfect gift for the holidays - visit [waltwhitman.org](http://www.waltwhitman.org) or call 631-427-5240 to order a copy today.

Contributing poets and guests at the launch for "A Taste of Poetry".



**Walt Whitman Birthplace Association**

Walt Whitman Birthplace Association is Walt Whitman's voice today, celebrating the poet's vision of democracy, diversity, and creativity. Our programs and exhibits educate the public on Whitman's life and times, explore his contribution to our nation's rich cultural heritage, and inspire young poets and writers.

