



GLOUCESTER WRITERS CENTER
2013
ANNUAL REPORT

"A working writers center in a working town"

History of Gloucester Writers Center



Rev. Paul Sawyer & Vincent Ferrini

The poet Vincent Ferrini bought our small building, located at 126 East Main Street in 1948. An engaged and prolific poet, Vincent wrote there prodigiously for over 60 years until his death in 2007. Charles Olson visited Vincent after reading one of his poems in 1949 and was later to call Vincent his only brother. For decades 126 East Main Street was a mecca for writers and artists from all over the country. Because of its 19th-century history the house was placed on the National Register of the East Gloucester Historical District on April 26, 1996.

In April of 2010, Unitarian Universalist minister, writer, and historian Paul Sawyer made a dying wish to his friends Henry Ferrini and Annie Thomas that Vincent's home be turned into a writer's center so that "in fifty years time, when we are gone, it will still be going strong for writers on Cape Ann and beyond." Soon after, André Spears, an independent scholar and experimental writer from Manhattan, joined Thomas and Ferrini as a founder. Paul died in June of 2010 knowing that over 200 people had made donations, large and small, from all over the country, and that 126 East Main Street had been purchased and incorporated as the Gloucester Writers Center. In September of 2010 Mayor Carolyn Kirk proclaimed Ferrini and Olson the honorary poet laureates of Gloucester because "both served as mentors for generations of writers and poets who have come to our city."

Preserving and enhancing the Ferrini home has been vital to the successful growth of GWC. Author Peter Anastas writes: "*During its existence as an important gathering place for the sharing, teaching, and dissemination of literature, the GWC has continued Ferrini's tradition of work and hospitality.*" The legacy of poetic enquiry practiced by Ferrini and Olson and their philosophy of the importance of all voices in the community remain a touchstone to the mission of GWC.



Our 600 square foot home has been the meeting place for writers from around the world and around the corner.
Cover Photo: Helen Anne Lind Design



126 EAST MAIN STREET • GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01930 • USA

Dear Friends,

June 1, 2014

This was our busiest, most event-packed year to date. But through it all we never lost sight of our identity as a place for working writers. ***Our mission is to provide a place of respect and openness for diverse voices in the community and to honor the rich literary legacy of Cape Ann.***

Thousands have attended our events (over 200 happenings since 2010) and this year we grew our online offerings so that many more people could participate through our website, newly offered podcasts and our film archives. We expanded our audience both locally and globally, collaborated with more organizations and academic institutions, and began to develop GWC's ability to publish online and in print.

Along with our Centenary events we are proud to highlight the accomplishments of our educational programming in this year's Annual Report. Our classes and workshops have expanded to include more voices in the community including veterans, emerging writers, and high school students. The body of work that is being produced from our programs continues to delight, move, and amaze us. The ongoing conversation with the people of Cape Ann and the writers who visit from around the world helps us discover who we are and uncover possibilities for young and old alike.

As you read about all that has happened at GWC from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 please remember this: despite our small staff of part-time employees and our sustainable budget, we have maintained a robust schedule and a regular, consistent, stable presence on Cape Ann and beyond. We are able to do this because our mission is shared by so many wonderful volunteers and supporters. We depend on you. Our future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Co-Directors Annie Thomas & Henry Ferrini

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Anne Thomas - Clerk
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The Gloucester Writers Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your financial donation.

Community Education

The GWC Community Education Program, offered by our core team of committed teachers, grew in size and scope this year. We continued to offer classes, workshops, and ongoing creative-writing support groups. In addition to our free classes for women and youth, we added free workshops for veterans and their families and a mixed-gender writing group as well as several writing classes offered on a sliding-scale fee basis.



Young writers from *The Elicitor*, Gloucester High's Literary Magazine.

Our core classes served up to 60 students at any given time with many more attending one-time workshops. We teamed up with the library and high school to offer college essay help to students, held workshops on a variety of topics, held Poetry Slams for kids, sponsored the Finish Line Writers Group and ran Mugup Seminars run by visiting writers. Our work provided a bridge to literary and academic writers to facilitate open dialogue and serve as a model of respectful discourse.

In November GWC board member Dorothy Shubow Nelson, a former Senior Lecturer in English at UMass Boston, started a new Veterans Writing Workshop in collaboration with the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). Seeing this workshop as an integral part of the GWC mission to foster community based programming, Dorothy believed that holding the workshop in the Veterans Center would help draw veterans of varied experiences from Gloucester and Rockport neighborhoods and beyond Cape Ann. Dorothy put together a prospectus and a course description and approached Director of the Office of Veterans Services Richard Barbato and his associate Lucia Amero, who were very receptive to the idea. Richard said, “[Veterans] need to have a way to make sense of their experience.” The eight participants in the fall workshop quickly began sharing their different backgrounds, experiences and beliefs. Reverend Wendy Fitting attended the reading at the end of the course and wrote, “*So moving and important and richly varied. It is a rare thing for me to experience such a palpable atmosphere of trust in events such as these!*” The second workshop began at the end of FY2013 and grew to 13 participants. Dorothy plans to continue facilitating these workshops and is considering adding an evening session.



Board Member: Amanda Cook

Amanda Cook continued to teach *A Group of One's Own*, a weekly course offered free of charge to women of limited resources. This course entered its fourth year in 2014 with several women who have attended from its start. The group has hung together through many challenges and sadly, the death of one original member. Women taking it requested that the GWC be kept open throughout December holidays for use by the class. Amanda writes, “Leading the group has given me new insight into the value of writing. For these women it is not a luxury, but a necessity. It is a way for them to find a voice and have that voice heard by a caring and respectful group. Their writing is personal and strong. It is focused not on the writing industry but on the industry of writing.” Participant Bobby Wayne says: “I am inspired each week by the women in the writing group, not just by how well they write but how they meet some of life's tough challenges by channeling their struggles through writing. I have learned so much by all the others' ways of expressing themselves.”

In January 2014 Amanda began a second writing group called *Mining the Hat*. The weekly class was requested by regular readers at *Open Mic*. In addition, during the year Amanda hosted poetry slams for children and is planning more outreach to school age participants.

M. Lynda Robinson continued her popular quarterly workshop *Writing a 10-Minute Play* (over 40 people have attended them, with many returnees). Three public readings were held at the Cultural Center of Rocky Neck with an estimated 300 audience members attending and giving feedback to the playwrights. The skills honed in the workshops included not only the narrative pragmatics of playwriting, but also listening and providing insightful feedback. Over the past year several of the writers have had their work selected and performed throughout Massachusetts and beyond.



Actors at Cultural Center 10-Minute Play Readings

JoeAnn Hart's play *Keno* was presented at SWAN Day at the Boston Playwrights Theater; Ann McArdle's short piece *More* was seen at the Roxbury Repertory Theater's annual *Six Playwrights in Search of a Stage Festival* and Jeana Grady's play *Meet Pete* won First Prize in the Moondance International Film Festival Stageplay Category in Colorado. Mary Beth Hart's play *Keep A-Breast* won first place and a production at the New Works Festival in Newburyport and M. Lynda Robinson had three plays performed in the Boston area. In addition to running the workshops and producing the Staged Readings, M. Lynda Robinson is actively working to develop the First Annual Cape Ann Ten Minute Play Festival for 2015. In her words "This is quite a leap from a group of new theater writers to a group of accomplished writers with enough good work to fill a festival!"

Writer/teacher Ann McArdle opened a six-session workshop on **Elements of Story**. Ann ran the six-week sessions throughout the year and also offered two sessions of **Flash Fiction**. She writes. "My classes at the Writers Center have goals but no set curriculum. The process evolves; guided exercises come from the work students share and the discussions about it. It's the bag-of-tricks school of pedagogy. The time to work on a particular element of writing is when the students are thinking about it, struggling with it, looking for examples. That's the time to pull out of the bag an exercise that will reveal something germane to the discussion. Preparing to teach classes in this way requires a certain amount of faith that students will remain engaged and interested. So far my GWC students are zealous writers and learners, who make this not only possible, but a lot of fun." Participant Wendy Pierson says, "The classes are happenings. I always learn from them and everyone's work, comments, and critiques."



Endicott Writers: Meghan Perkins, Doug Holder, Emily Pineau & Dan Sklar

Board member JoeAnn Hart organized writers to work with Gloucester High School seniors on their college essays in the fall in conjunction with which we held two College Essay Nights. James Cook, David Rich and other writers led topical workshops and reading groups through the year. We hosted a series of Saturday morning workshops called *MugUps* on a variety of topics including Stephen Jonas's *Exercises for Ear*, writing poetic letters to the editor and using research to stimulate imagination. Amanda Cook created a new series called *Diggers* beginning in April of 2014 with local writer historians discussing Cape Ann's lesser-known history.

The Year That Was Literary Readings, Centenary Events & Writers-in-Residence

Since our founding in 2010 the Gloucester Writers Center has offered unprecedented access for Cape Ann residents to visiting poets and writers from around the world and around the block, who have donated their time to give readings and performances here. This access, in our intimate venue at 126 East Main Street and larger venues on Cape Ann has served to broaden horizons, stimulate respectful discussion, and expand the sense of possibility for all who attend. Fiscal year 2013 was busier than ever with over 50 writers participating in our Literary Reading Series and Centenary Activities, ten writers staying in residence at GWC from as close as Boston and as far as Japan, and many more published and emerging writers sharing work at our monthly Open Mic events hosted by Amanda Cook and our Poets About Town events hosted by Gloucester Poet Laureate Rufus Collinson. Over 2000 people attended events during fiscal year 2013 including those held at 126 East Main Street, the Cultural Center at Rocky Neck, Cape Ann Museum and Maritime Gloucester.



Luso-American writers Oona Patrick, Sarah Chaves w/ Board Member JoeAnn Hart

In **April** we brought writers from throughout New England. *Presence/Presencia* came to Gloucester with three young New England writers of Portuguese descent. Oona Patrick, Brian Sousa, and Sarah Chaves read from their work before a diverse crowd at the Rocky Neck Cultural Center. Then writers and educators Ryan Gallagher, Chuck Levenstein, and Paul Marion came from Lowell to discuss and read from their work. A collaborative event with the Eastern Point Lit House featured readings by short story writer David Crouse and by fiction and non-fiction author Steve Almond.

In **May** GWC featured a full slate of local and visiting writers. Poet and “historian of alternative worlds” Mary Baine Campbell and writer/artist John Engstrom read from their works. The next evening local writers Peter Anastas and David Rich gave their first *Reading Ferrini* talk, investigating Vincent Ferrini’s life as a writer - from his involvement in radical politics to his move to Gloucester in 1948, his connection with Charles Olson, and his role as “the conscience of Gloucester.” Then, in a joint presentation by GWC and Gloucester's The Book Store, author Greg Gibson rocked the house with his tragi-comic recollections of the genesis of his new crime novel *The Old Turk's Load*. The writer-in-residence and author of *Buying the Farm* Tom Fels rediscovered Gloucester since apprenticing with Vincent Ferrini during the 60s. Peter Anastas and David Rich presented Part II of *Reading Ferrini*. At the end of May, in a powerful event called **Double Header**, Ammiel Alcalay read from his groundbreaking work *A Little History* and Peter Anastas read selections from his book of locally-themed essays entitled *A Walker in the City*.



Board Member Greg Gibson reads from his new novel.

Moving into **June**, Gloucester's Poet Laureate Rufus Collinson led an enthusiastic group in an event called **Read Your Favorite Vincent Poem**. This was the first event in GWC's month-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Vincent Ferrini's birth. Then long-time Gloucester resident and Vincent Ferrini friend Jayne Robbins launched her new journaling book, *Daring Deluxe*. Worcester-based teacher and scholar Jim Cocola gave a fascinating talk entitled *In Venanzio's Vernacular*, in which he read from and discussed his recently published work on Ferrini's language and poetics, *Upsettin da Setuppa*.

Ammiel Alcalay, professor at CUNY and head of the “Lost and Found” project published two broadsides examining the historical context and impact of Ferrini’s work in conjunction with the CUNY Poetics Document Initiative. Kyle Waugh, a research fellow from CUNY was a researcher-in-residence, coming to investigate and organize Ferrini material at the Cape Ann Museum. GWC board member Dorothy Shubow Nelson convened and moderated a panel entitled *Holy Local: Vincent Ferrini’s Literary Legacy* consisting of Peter Anastas, James Cook, Peter Kidd, Elizabeth McKim, Kate Tarlow Morgan, David Rich, Ken Warren and Fred Whitehad, who presented new and ongoing scholarship on aspects of Vincent Ferrini's life and work. The panel was held at the Cape Ann Museum on the afternoon of June 22 and was attended by over 100 people of all ages.



New Board Member David Rich lectures on Vincent Ferrini at the Cape Ann Museum

On the evening of June 22, GWC launched *Incredible Dancer*, a new book of some of Vincent Ferrini’s unpublished poems edited by Gregor Gibson with a forward by Peter Anastas at a Gala attended by over 300 people at Maritime Gloucester. Poems in the book were the basis of a show produced by M. Lynda Robinson and Michael McNamera, *Poet’s Cabaret*, with actors, singers, musicians, filmmakers, and dancers collaborating to produce an hour-long cabaret with sets designed by Susan Frey. Over 60 volunteers and numerous local businesses supported the celebration netting over \$20,000 for GWC. The amount of time and creativity donated by the community to create the Centenary events was incomparable.

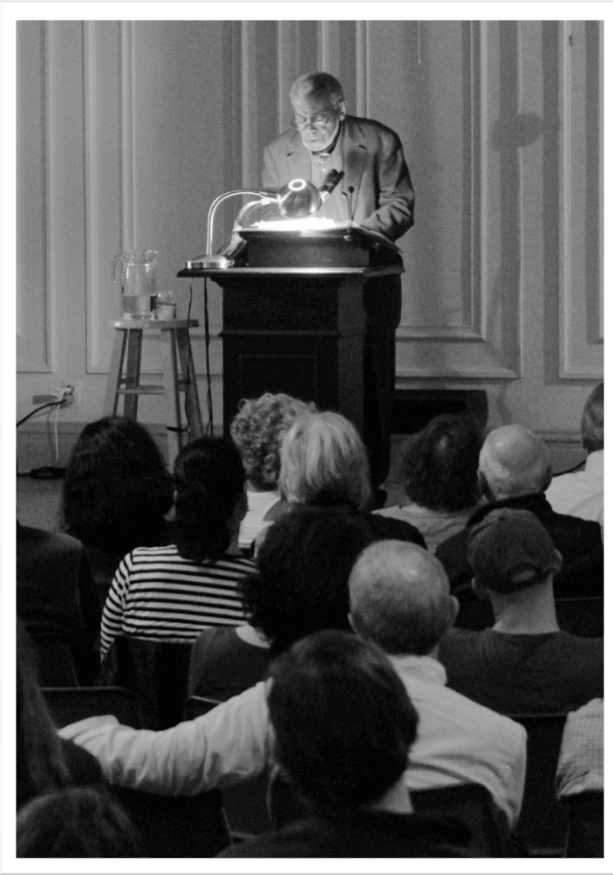


Volunteers Renata Greene, Jen Fahey, Kim Sarkin and Sarah Slifer make tablecloths for Centenary Gala.

In **July**, writer-in-residence Ken Irby read from and discussed his work at 126 East Main Street. Economist Dr. Woody Brock read from his new book *American Gridlock* to a full house at the Rocky Neck Cultural Center (RNCC.) July 18 featured a program at Rocky Neck called **Creativity Rising from the Ecological Wreck**. Panelists JoeAnn Hart, Karen Ristuben, Kyle Brown, and David Arnold explored how the tools of the artist and the writer can expand the role of science to create awareness and change. The last week of July the Writers Center welcomed writer in residence Chuck Stein who read from and discussed new work. In **August**, writer-in-residence Nicole Rafter spoke on genocide films, including *Night and Fog* by Alan Renais. A second writer in residence in August—choreographer, writer and dancer Kate Tarlow Morgan—presented a postscript generated from last summer's **Proprioception Panel**, with notes from her discussions with Gloucester poet Gerrit Lansing.

Our Writers-in-Residence Program brought translator Yorio Hirano from Japan with his wife Naomi to stay at the Gloucester Writers Center in late August. He presented his talk *Charles Olson as a Maker of Poetics* to a capacity crowd at RCNN. He also spent time researching T.S. Eliot’s boyhood in Gloucester. Then award-winning poet Meg Kearney read from her work. The title poem of her latest book, *Home by Now*, was included in Garrison Keillor’s anthology *Good Poems: American Places*. New York writer Michael Heller was our writer-in-residence in **September**. He shared his work with the community and attended the GWC Board Retreat Dinner. **October** was a busy month, leading off with Joe Muzio reading from *Buddy Remembers –Then and Now*, a memoir of his Italian American parents. Later that week Kate Tarlow Morgan returned with further exploration of **Proprioception**.

James Cook gave a talk on the work of Amiri Baraka, called *Reading Baraka, "Part of the Same Work,"* in preparation for the fourth annual **Charles Olson Lecture**, produced in cooperation with the Cape Ann Museum, and featuring nationally known dramatist, poet, novelist and activist Amiri Baraka, in a dynamic reading and talk on **October 19** at the Museum. This was one of Baraka's last public appearances. It was a memorable one resulting



Amiri Baraka reads to a capacity crowd at the Cape Ann Museum.

in the GWC receiving a grant from the Kanter Kallman Foundation to award a Gloucester High School student a scholarship in Amiri Baraka's name. Later in October was the occasion for a joint reading by Mary Bonina, author of the memoir *My Father's Eyes*, and Mark Pawlak, reading from his recent work, *Go to the Pine: Quoddy Journals: 2005 – 2010*. Then GWC hosted two events, Joe Torra's **Mug Up Workshop** on Stephen Jonas's *Exercises for Ear*, and the **Fall Poetry Salon**, curated by Kate Colby, featuring Ken Chen and Janaka Stuckey. The month closed with writer-in-residence Helen Freemont who discussed and read from her memoir *After Long Silence*.

November saw the return of Kate Tarlow Morgan for the next exploration of **Proprioception**, followed by a well-attended event at RNCC, **Endicott College Writers**, featuring professor poets Doug Holder and Dan Sklar, joined by student poets Meghan Perkins and Emily Pineau.

In **December** at the RNCC, Alan Weisman, author of the international best seller *The World Without Us*, gave a reading and talk to a packed house from his new book *Countdown: Our Last Best Hope for a Future on Earth?*

From December 7 until January 13, with the exception of classes and workshops held in the GWC space, the Writer's Center "went dark," affording us all a chance to catch our collective breath, and prepare for the coming year.

We opened **January** with a celebration of the birthday of Gloucester's "god-father of JAZZRNB" Willie Alexander, a staunch supporter of GWC, at our first **Open Mic** of 2014. On January 22 Gabrielle Barzaghi and Patrick Doud presented **Persistent Images**, drawings and poems, the results of a remarkable long collaboration.



Nubar Alexanian, Alan Weisman and co-founder Annie Thomas



Carol Weston Reads Linda Crane Parker at *Let the Bucket Down* Launch

February saw the launch of the literary magazine *Let the Bucket Down* featuring work by John Wieners, Stephen Jonas, William Corbett and Robert Creeley, with readings by Carol Weston, Joel Sloman, Joe Torra and Gerrit Lansing. In mid **February** while a nor'easter closed down the city, Israeli poet and critic Shahar Bram and partner/artist Neta Goren discussed their new book, *Colorful was Their Voice*. The month wrapped up with poet Donald Wellman, who came from New Hampshire to read *Enclosed Garden*.

In March Fred Dillen launched his remarkable novel (with many local associations) *Beauty*. Later Peggy Ramback and C. Anthony Martignetti came from Boston and Lowell for a whimsical evening at Rocky Neck reading *The Lons* and *Beloved Demons* respectively. David Abel, poet, editor, and bookseller was our last writer-in-residence of the 2013-2014 year, reading from his own work and lecturing about his research on poet Ed Marshall.



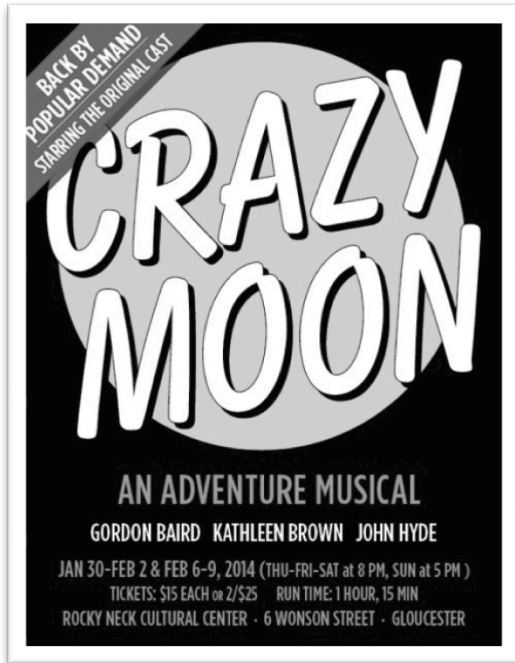
Left: One of the beautiful planters donated by William Taylor and the Gloucester Civic and Garden Council, Inc. Right: New courtyard courtesy of Geoffrey Thomas and Ark Landworks.

Community Outreach

In addition to the Literary Readings and Centenary Events our regular community happenings grew and flourished. Amanda Cook hosted 12 **Open Mic** nights attended by aspiring writers from ages 8 to 80 who shared their work on a regular basis. Maureen Aylward hosted a series of **Fish Tales** – oral story telling where participants had five minutes each to share their stories around a variety of themes such as “High School Reunions,” “Rock and Roll” and “Chickens!” *The Finish Line Writers Group* met regularly at 126 East Main Street to support each other and to finish work.



Greg Bover entertains the crowd at *Fish Tales* hosted at Alchemy.



On March 27 the Fishtown Players performed the hilarious play *Savannah Disputation*, produced by Gloucester’s own Michael McNamara with proceeds helping GWC. Gordon Baird’s one-man show *Crazy Moon*, originally inspired by a GWC playwriting class, was performed to benefit GWC on September 26 at RNCC and again in January. High school folksinger Alisa Amador packed the room at a house party benefit held by Anne Rearick and Willie Alexander.

As a small non-profit, collaboration is central to our process. Over the years we have brought internationally-known writers like Diane di Prima, Iain Sinclair, Andrei Codrescu and Anne Waldman to Gloucester. Last year Amiri Baraka came to speak at the fourth Annual Charles Olson Lecture. Co-Director Henry Ferrini created financial synergy by bringing together representatives from several local organizations, such as Ronda Faloon at the Cape Ann Museum and members of the Charles Olson Society.

UMass Lowell Associate Professor Mike Millner, Co-Director of the American Studies Department and Paul Marion Executive Director of Community & Cultural Affairs welcomed Baraka to UMass Lowell to read and speak to students on October 18. The following day Baraka spoke to a packed house at the Cape Ann Museum.

Today we have a strong affiliation with CUNY in Manhattan and Endicott College in Beverly, which provide us with interns. Interns have participated in everything from scholarly research to helping with our annual appeal.



Artist Gabrielle Barzaghi and writer Patrick Doud present at 126 E. Main

The GWC is also a place where innovative collaboration happens between artists. Gabriel Barzaghi and Patrick Doud spun an unpredictable and fragile narrative, using painting and poetry to tell a story. The *Proprioception Workshop* brought together poets, dancers and painters to explore, in Olson’s words:

The ‘body’ of us as object which spontaneously (...) produces experience of, “Depth,” viz. SENSIBILITY WITHIN THE ORGANISM BY MOVEMENT OF ITS OWN TISSUES.”)

Charles Olson: Proprioception

ONWARD

The GWC Board and Advisory Board members attended a retreat in September 2013 to identify our strengths and challenges.

One of our strengths is our fiscal restraint and responsibility. We have run an extensive schedule on a small budget; and we do not desire to grow for growth's sake. Rather, we desire to maintain our low overhead costs while, simultaneously, planning to amplify and extend our programming in focused ways. This small budget is possible because we own our own building, and do not need to divert large portions of our budget either to rent or mortgage. Another of our strengths is that we introduce to our local population literary and academic writers, and provide a forum for open dialog. And so doing we model civil discourse among diverse participants.



Co-Founder André Spears and Board Member Rev. Wendy Fitting discuss sustainability issues that face GWC at recent retreat.



Co-Founder Henry Ferrini w/Amiri Baraka
Photo :Carolyn Mugar

Challenges: We operate in a small, one-room building. Negotiating the space needs of our workshops and classes, as well as visiting writers and writers-in-residence, is a logistical challenge. We have managed well so far, but our long term goals must ultimately include expanding the space available to us. We continue to challenge ourselves to develop new and effective programs to address Gloucester's underserved populations; and we have already begun to expand our offerings significantly. Since we are a new organization, we have relied on several committed philanthropists and a strong donor base but despite our small staff we need to expand our reach further.

Our Board of Directors is joined by an Advisory Board located throughout the US and Europe, our experienced instructors (see bios) and hundreds of volunteers, donors, education partners and program participants. During 2013-2014 Co-directors Henry Ferrini and Annie Thomas shared a forty-five hour per week administrative position. Part-time assistance came from Amanda Cook and former interns Eliot Francesa and Max Snelling. Interns from Endicott College Chloe Miller and Kevin Meloche helped regularly with events and social media. Amanda Cook and Dorothy Nelson taught the community based writing programs. Ann McArdle, M. Lynda Robinson and other visiting teachers offered courses on a sliding-scale fee basis and were paid from the revenue generated.



Endicott Interns: Max Snelling, Chloe Martin & Eliot Francesa

In addition Helen Ann Lind and Renata Greene contributed graphic design help and computer expertise. Web designer Steve Brettler from Smallfish-Design and book designer Jim Witham also offered invaluable assistance. Bob McGlinchey helped with our digital archive and Barbara Hyams provided invaluable help in cataloging our growing library. The writers who read at GWC events volunteered their time with the exception of a few modest travel stipends.

The Board of Directors

Amanda Cook, poet and teacher

Henry Ferrini, Board President, filmmaker

Wendy Fitting, retired minister

Gregory Gibson, author and bookseller

JoeAnn Hart, author

Peter Higgins, Board Treasurer, treasurer of Bomco, Inc.

Dorothy Shubow Nelson, poet and retired lecturer, UMass Boston

David Rich, lecturer and historical researcher

André Spears, author, retired shipping broker

William Taylor, antiques and art dealer, former advertising manager

Annie Thomas, former fundraising director, Wellspring House



Board Retreat at the home Annie & Geoff Thomas. Board is joined by advisors Gerrit Lansing, Peter Anastas and intern Chloe Martin from Endicott College.



Kate Tarlow Morgan demonstrates Proprioception during the Ferrini Centenary at Cape Ann Museum.



Playwright Susan Frey and Director M. Lynda Robinson read the roles of Alice B. Toklas & Gertrude Stein at a writer's dinner.

Finances and Fundraising

242 donations ranging from \$10 to \$10,000 made our work possible this past year. Expenses included publication of the book *Incredible Dancer* and underwriting of numerous Centenary Events. The support and enthusiasm of our donors, volunteers, and participants was priceless.

We continue to run an extensive schedule of events on a small budget. Growing sustainably and responsibly requires GWC to maintain a low overhead. We were helped by ownership of our own building at 126 East Main Street and generous gifts, both large and small from the community as well as in-kind support, donation of pro bono services and hundreds of hours of volunteer time to make the Centenary events happen.

In FY2013 GWC added more revenue raising events and continued our multi-pronged fundraising approach including our annual appeal, Centenary Gala, community events and classes, and support from foundations and businesses. We raised almost \$80,000 during the year with approximately 70% of revenue from Individual donations and events. Over \$16,000 was brought in from our appeal letter sent out in November 2013—a significant increase of \$6000 from the previous year's letter. The *Dinner with Writers* series was launched at the June Centenary Gala and raised \$3,000. In addition local artists, musicians, and actors partnered with GWC to raise money through house parties and other artistic events. Workshops and suggested donations at some literary events raised more revenue. Over 300 people participated in our Centenary events, showing the wide base of support GWC enjoys from both the local and international literary communities.

Our commitment to offering free and sliding scale programs and events and to turn no one away for lack of funds was underwritten by the generosity of the community. Because of our support from individuals, our growing revenues from events and classes, and the Centenary year happenings we exceeded projected revenues in every area except foundation grants. Although our percentage of grants received from those sought is good, our challenge is to apply for more grants to provide a larger proportion of grant funding for the future.



Susan Frey's original play *The Dinner Party* was enacted at Susan Steiner's table.



Ten Minute Plays performed at Cultural Center at Rocky Neck. The GWC policy of donation-at-will has been a hallmark. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Foundation Support

Bruce J. Anderson Foundation
 Essex County Community
 Foundation
 Galen Gibson Scholarship Trust
 Gloucester Cultural Council
 Kantor-Kallman Foundation
 Cape Ann Velo
 Bank of America Foundation
 Allied Materials

Business Support

We wish to thank the following businesses who gave generously in cash or in-kind donations: Anthony and Dodge PC, Ark Landworks, the Art Room Boutique, Bomco Inc., Liz Bish Chiropractic, Bonne Bouche Caterers, Braga Management Team, Cape Ann Savings Bank, the Cave, Common Crow, Duckworths, Geoffrey H. Richon Company, Gortons, House of the Raven, Intershell, Jim's Bagel and Bake Shoppe, Law and Water Gallery, LobstaLand, Luke Noble Financial, Market Basket, Martin Ray Landscape, OMG Cakes, Seaside Graphics, Short & Main, Shaws, Stop & Shop, Wellness at Willowdale, Whole Foods Market, Willow Rest, Zimman's of Lynn

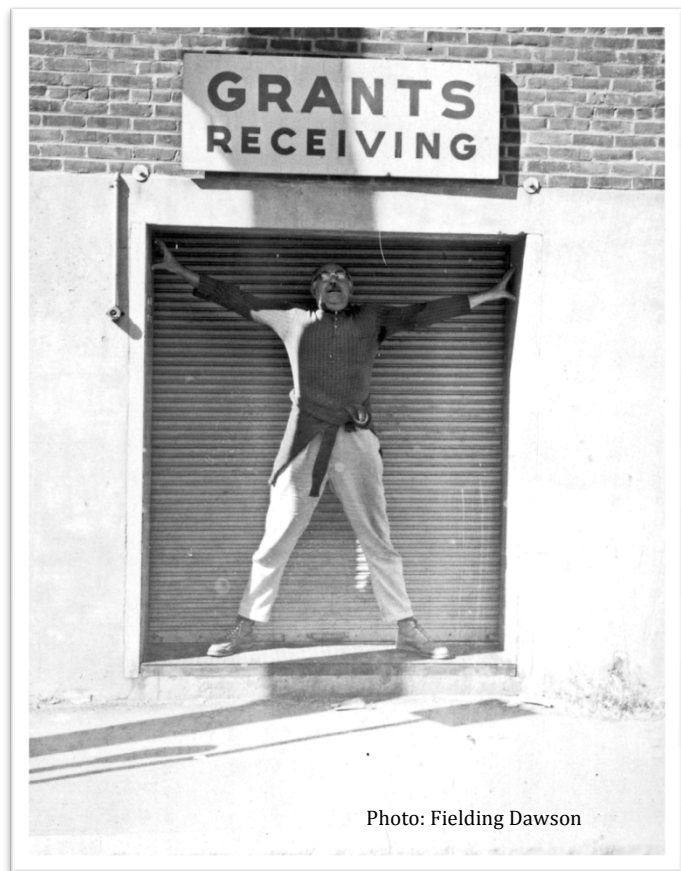


Photo: Fielding Dawson

Operating Statement – 04/01/2013 to 03/31/2014

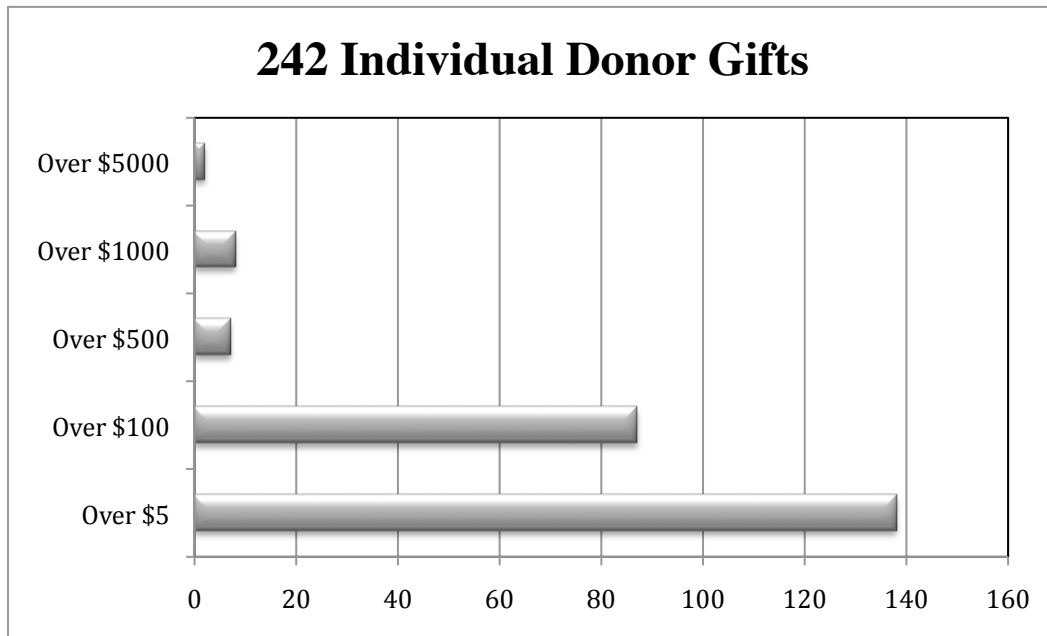
Income:	Donation & Grants	49,345.50
	Interest	51.25
	Program Service Revenue	5,307.50
	Gross Event Income	23,317.31
	Less Event Expenses	<u>-9,928.01</u>
	Net Income from Events	<u>13,389.30</u>

Total: 68,093.55

Operating Expenses:	Salaries, Other compensation & Benefits	51,743.84
	Professional fees, and other payments	7,920.12
	Occupancy, rent, utilities and maintenance	4,766.65
	Printing, publication, postage & shipping	3,747.38
	Other expenses	2,550.81
		<u>\$70,728.80</u>

Net Excess* -2,635.25

***Since 3/31/14 we have received \$19,000 leaving a positive cash flow with several foundation grants pending in June.**



Thank you all for making this work possible!



Teacher Bios:

Amanda Cook lives in Gloucester with her husband James and children Abigail and Samuel. She sees writing as an integral part of life. She knits, spins yarn, plays fiddle, feeds people and dances when she pleases. It is in this spirit of living fully that she approaches teaching and writing. Her book *Ironstone Whirlygig* is forthcoming from Pressed Wafer.

James Cook is a teacher at Gloucester High School. He is a poet and editor of *Polis*, a literary journal based out of Gloucester, MA and San Francisco, CA that focuses on the engagement and revitalization of place through art. His work has appeared in *Process*, *Eoagh*, the *Sunday Morning Anthology*, and elsewhere. In 2006 Somerville's *Openmouth Press* published a chapbook of his poems called *Some*

Arguments, and Boston's *Pressed Wafer Press* published a fold out culled from *Arguments and Letters*. He has a BFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College and an MA in Teaching English from Tufts University. James lives in Gloucester with his wife, Amanda, and two children, Samuel and Abigail.

Gloucester-based artist, lecturer, and sometime curator **Susan Erony** attended Rhode Island School of Design, Massachusetts College of Art, Lesley University and the University for Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, Holland. Her artwork has focused primarily on history and the human condition and her lectures on the intersection of art and society. Erony has consulted for organizations on the issues of art and society and taught and lectured on both art history and art practice. She has organized exhibitions on subjects ranging from the use of artistic devices in creating prejudice to those showcasing the work of one artist. She has exhibited extensively and has work in private and public collections in North America, Europe and the Middle East.

Ann McArdle earned her MFA in fiction at the Pine Manor Solstice program. She has developed curriculum and taught creative writing as well as expository writing at various levels from teen to adult over the past fifteen years. She has published nine nonfiction books. Her short story *Tomorrow* appeared in the premiere issue of the journal *Pear Noir*. She is currently working on a collection of 10-minute plays as well as a memoir of her years in Uruguay in the early 70s.

Dorothy Shubow Nelson's book of poems, *The Dream of the Sea*, was published in 2008. Formerly a Senior Lecturer in English at UMass Boston, she taught writing and literature for 25 years. She has an M.A. in English with a concentration in Composition Studies and has presented numerous papers on the teaching of writing at educational conferences. Recent writings include her review of Bruce Weigl's new book of poems, *The Abundance of Nothing*, published in *Consequence Magazine*, Vol. 5, Spring 2013 and *Collages: New Work* by Joy Dai Buell published on-line in *North Shore Art Throb*. She is a member of the Board and the Education Committee of the Gloucester Writers Center. She served as a founding editor of *Union News* (UMass Boston), and *The East Boston Community News* and Editor of *Survival Kit*, an Occupational Health and Safety Newsletter. She has been a denizen of the North Shore and Gloucester for many years.

M. Lynda Robinson has been working in theatre, film & TV for the past 35 years as an actor, director, producer, teacher, coach, and playwright. She attended the Masters Program in Playwriting at B.U. and is a published playwright. As an actor she has performed in many theaters in Boston including the Publick, Nora, Lyric, Wilbur, W.H.A.T., Huntington, Provincetown Rep, Merrimack, Gloucester Stage, Stoneham, Shear Madness, New Rep, Wheelock, among others. Lynda has performed in hundreds of commercials, corporate videos, live trade-shows, and voice-overs as well as performing principal roles in film and TV. In 1993 she was honored with the Norton Award for Outstanding Boston Actress, one of the first local actors to win this award. Lynda teaches at Boston Casting, Wheelock College Family Theatre, and the Gloucester Writers Center, among others, and was awarded the Distinguished Arts Educator Award in Theatre, by Arts/Learning at a ceremony at the State House in 2010.

Penguin Publishes Writer-in-Residence New Book

The GWC was proud to host Iain Sinclair at the 2012 Charles Olson Lecturer held at Cape Ann Museum. He bunked at the Gloucester Writers Center, aka, “the hut”, circumnavigated the city on foot and travelled to Jack Kerouac’s home in Lowell to commune with another literary inspiration. Olson, Kerouac, Burroughs, Corso, Snyder and more figure in *American Smoke: Journeys to the End of Light*. Here’s a quote from his new Penguin publication written in part at 126 East Main Street, Gloucester, MA

I needed a new mythology to shield against the sense of loss and hanging dread inherent in the invasion and dissolution of my familiar London ground...I came to America, hoping to reconnect with the heroes of my youth. The largest, the most light-occulting of all the giants, that earlier race, was Charles Olson...The words on the wall of the hut, the Gloucester Writers Center, where I was now lodged:

“my wife my car my colour my self.”



Iain & Peter Anastas on Pleasant Street



Book Launch Photo: New England Journal of Aesthetic Research



Meridel and Vincent at 1980 Foolkiller Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. (Photo: Fred Whitehead)

*Culture is the cry of the people,
the cry of the ground and the earth.
It must come out of that and not on to it.*

Meridel Le Sueur, 1982



Map Detail from Yorio Hirano's Japanese translation of the *Maximus Poems*.

Gloucester Writers Center
126 East Main Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
www.gloucesterwriters.org

“A Working Writers Center in a Working Town”

