

Guest Writer Series 2013-2014

SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ENGLISH DEPARTMENT/
CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM and the SALT LAKE CITY ARTS COUNCIL

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Guest Writer Series Announces 19th Literary Season

The Salt Lake City Arts Council and the University of Utah's English Department and Creative Writing Program are pleased to announce the 2013-2014 season of Guest Writers. The series is known for its presentation of an exemplary group of writers reading from their work. Readings are scheduled on Thursday evenings at the Finch Lane Gallery / Art Barn—with the exception of the December 5 reading, which will be held at the Ladies Literary Club (850 East South Temple). All readings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public. A reception to meet the writers follows each reading. The following is this year's writers' line-up:

August 29


Poet **LILLIAN-YVONNE BERTRAM** &
University of Utah Creative Writing **GRADUATE STUDENTS READING**

 **Lillian-Yvonne Bertram's** first book, **But a Storm is Blowing From Paradise**, was selected by Claudia Rankine as the 2010 Benjamin Saltman Award winner and published by Red Hen Press in 2012 and is a 2013 poetry nominee for the Hurston/Wright Foundation Legacy Award for outstanding works of literature published by African Americans. Her second book, **a slice from the cake made of air**, is forthcoming from Red Hen Press. She is one-sixth of the poetry collective, Line Assembly. She has been in residence at the Vermont Studio Center, the Montana Artist's Refuge, and is the recipient of a United States Embassy grant to be in residence at the Ventspils Writers & Translators House in Ventspils, Latvia, in 2014. The 2009-2011 Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow at Williams College, her poetry and prose has received numerous awards and has appeared widely. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Literature & Creative Writing at the University of Utah.




September 19

Prose Writers **STACEY LEVINE & LYDIA MILLET**

 "She is one of the most interesting writers working in America today, startling and idiosyncratic in the best sense." —*San Francisco Bay Guardian*. **Stacey Levine** is the author of four works of fiction including **The Girl with Brown Fur**, **Frances Johnson**, **Dra—**, and **My Horse and Other Stories**. A Pushcart Prize nominee and recipient of The Stranger Genius Award (2009) for Literature, she has fiction published in *Fence*, *Tin House*, *The Fairy Tale Review*, *The Washington Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Yeti*, and others. She has written a libretto and two one-act plays. Translations of her short fiction have appeared in Danish and Japanese publications.




 "Millet is simply an incredible writer. Her prose displays the exceedingly rare combination of philosophical introspection with poetic grace and flourish." — Nicholas Mancusi, *The Daily Beast*. **Lydia Millet** is the author of 11 books of fiction, most recently the novel **Magnificence**, a finalist for the National Book Critics' Circle and *Los Angeles Times* book awards. **Magnificence** is the last in a trilogy about extinction and loss that began with **How the Dead Dream** and **Ghost Lights**. Her short story collection called **Love in Infant Monkeys**, was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize. Previous novels included **My Happy Life**, which won the PEN-USA award for fiction, and **Oh Pure and Radiant Heart**, about the physicists of the Manhattan Project.



October 10


Prose Writer **MARY RUEFLE**

 "Her work combines the spiritual desperation of Dickinson with the rhetorical virtuosity of Wallace Stevens. The result (for those with ears to hear) is a poetry at once ornate and intense; linguistically marvelous, yes, but also as visceral as anything you are likely to encounter." -- Poet Tony Hoagland. **Mary Ruefle's** latest book is **Trances Of The Blast**. Her collection of essays on poetry, **Madness, Rack, and Honey**, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; her **Selected Poems** won the 2011 William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. In addition to poetry, she has published a book of prose, **The Most Of It**, and a book of erasure, **A Little White Shadow**. Other erasure books have been exhibited in museums and galleries. She lives in Vermont.




November 7

Prose Writer **KAREN TEI YAMASHITA** & Poet **NICK MONTFORT**

 Heralded as a “big talent” by the *Los Angeles Times*, extolled by the *New York Times* for her “mordant wit,” and praised by *Newsday* for “wrestl[ing] with profound philosophical and social issues” while delivering an “immensely entertaining story,” **Karen Tei Yamashita** is one of the foremost writers of her generation. She is the author of **Through the Arc of the Rain Forest, Brazil-Marú, Tropic of Orange, Circle K Cycles, and I Hotel**, all published by Coffee House Press. **I Hotel** was selected as a finalist for the National Book Award and awarded the California Book Award, the American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Award, and the Association for Asian-American Studies Book Award.




 **Nick Montfort** is Associate Professor of Digital Media at MIT and has served as president of the Electronic Literature Organization for the past three years. He develops text generators and interactive fiction and has participated in dozens of literary and academic collaborations. Montfort co-edited **The New Media Reader, The Electronic Literature Collection Volume 1**, wrote **Twisty Little Passages: An Approach to Interactive Fiction** and co-wrote **Racing the Beam: The Atari Video Computer System**. His latest book, **10 PRINT CHR\$(205.5+RND(1)); : GOTO 10**, is a collaboration with nine other authors about a one-line Commodore 64 BASIC program. His books of poems are **2002: A Palindrome Story** (written with William Gillespie) and **Riddle & Bind**.




December 5

Poets **BRIGIT PEGEEN KELLY** & **ESTHER LEE**

Ladies Literary Club, 850 East South Temple

 “Brigit Pegeen Kelly is one of the very best poets now writing in the United States. In fact, there is no one who is any better. Not only are her poems brilliantly made, but they also give great pleasure...” –poet Stephen Dobyns. **Brigit Pegeen Kelly** has published three books of poetry, **To the Place of Trumpets**, selected by James Merrill for the Yale Series of Younger Poets Prize, **Song**, winner of the Lamont Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets, and **The Orchard**, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Additional awards and honors include a “Discovery”/ *The Nation* award, the Witter Bynner Prize from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, the Cecil Hemley Award from the Poetry Society of America, and numerous fellowships. In 2008, Kelly was awarded the Academy Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets. Her work has appeared in many anthologies, including six volumes of *The Best American Poetry*.




 **Esther Lee** is the author of **Spit**, winner of the Elixir Press Poetry Prize, and her chapbook, **The Blank Missives**. Her poems and articles have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Verse Daily*, *Hyphen*, and elsewhere. A Kundiman fellow, she received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Indiana University where she served as Editor-in-Chief for *Indiana Review*. She has been awarded the Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize, Scowcroft Prose Prize, and Utah Writer's Contest Award for Poetry selected by Brenda Shaughnessy, as well as twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She recently received her Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Utah and currently teaches as an Assistant Professor at Agnes Scott College.




January 30

Prose Writer **MARCUS WICKER**

Poets **NATE LIDERBACH & SUSANNAH NEVISON**

 **Marcus Wicker** is the author of **Maybe the Saddest Thing**, selected by DA Powell for the National Poetry Series. The recipient of a Pushcart Prize and 2011 Ruth Lilly Fellowship, he has also held fellowships from Cave Canem, the Fine Arts Work Center, and Indiana University. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Third Coast*, and *Ninth Letter*, among other journals. Wicker is assistant professor of English at University of Southern Indiana and Poetry Editor of *Southern Indiana Review*.



 **Susannah Nevison's** poetry and criticism has appeared in *JERRY Magazine*, **Western Humanities Review**, **New Southerner** and elsewhere. A doctoral student and teaching fellow at the University of Utah, she is the recipient of a 2013 Academy of American Poets/University of Utah Levis prize and was nominated by the English Department for a 2013 AWP Intro Journals Award. Originally from Massachusetts, she is learning to love the mountains.



February 20

Prose Writer **JEN BERVIN**

✍️ **Jen Bervin's** work brings together text and textile in a practice that encompasses poetry, archival research, artist books, and large-scale art works. Her books include **The Gorgeous Nothings**, **The Dickinson Composites**, **The Desert**, and **Nets**. Her work has been published in *I'll Drown My Book: Conceptual Writing by Women*, *The Sonnets: Translating and Rewriting Shakespeare*, *Figuring Color*, *Against Expression*, *La Familia Americana*, and is forthcoming in *Mel Chin's Funk & Wag from A to Z* and *Re-print*. Bervin has received fellowships in art and writing from Creative Capital, The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, The New York Foundation for the Arts, Centrum, The MacDowell Colony, Visual Studies Workshop, The Center for Book Arts, and The Camargo Foundation. Her work is included in the traveling exhibition *Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art* and is in more than thirty collections including The J. Paul Getty Museum.



March 27

Poet **MARK JAY BREWIN, JR.** & Poet **KATHLEEN GRABER**

✍️ **Mark Jay Brewin, Jr.** is a graduate of the MFA program of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. His first book manuscript *Scrap Iron* won the 2012 Agha Shahid Ali Poetry Prize at the University of Utah Press. His poems have been published or are forthcoming in numerous journals including *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *The Hollins Critic*, *Copper Nickel*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Poet Lore*, *North American Review*, *Greensboro Review*, *New Madrid*, *Prairie Schooner* and elsewhere.




✍️ “[W]hat makes Graber’s poems so fresh and wild are the associative slips that happen between the distant past and the urgent present.” – *Publisher’s Weekly*. **Kathleen Graber** is the author of two collections of poetry, **Correspondence** and **The Eternal City**, which was a finalist for The National Book Award, The National Book Critics Circle Award, and the winner of The Library of Virginia Literary Award for Poetry. She is the recent recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. She has been a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University and an Amy Lowell Travelling Scholar. She is an Assistant Professor of English in the Creative Writing Program at Virginia Commonwealth University and also teaches in the low-residency MFA Program at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

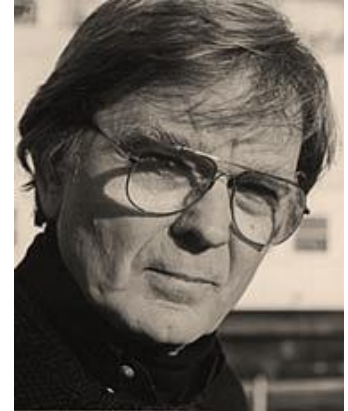


April 10

Prose Writer **ROBERT COOVER**

 Robert Coover is an avant-garde novelist, critic and playwright lauded for experimental forms and techniques that mix reality and illusion, frequently creating otherworldly or surreal situations and effects. A leading proponent of hypertext fiction and metafiction, Mr. Coover is known as a true revolutionary in contemporary American literature and language.

His most recent books are **The Adventures of Lucky Pierre: Directors' Cut**, **Stepmother**, and **A Child Again**. Other works include the collection of short fiction, **Pricksongs and Descants**, a collection of plays, **A Theological Position**, such novels as **The Public Burning**, **Spanking the Maid**, **Gerald's Party**, **Pinocchio in Venice**, **John's Wife**, **Ghost Town** and **Briar Rose**.



As the T.B. Stowell Adjunct Professor of Literary Arts at Brown University, Mr. Coover teaches courses in electronic writing and mixed media, including "CaveWriting," a spatial hypertext writing workshop in immersive virtual reality, as well as standard workshops. He is one of the founders of the Electronic Literature Organization and he created Brown's Freedom to Write Program in 1989. The New York Times said, "As his dazzling career continues to demonstrate, Mr. Coover is a one-man Big Bang of exploding creative force."

April 24

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH FACULTY READING

Thursday readings begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by a reception for the authors. A lunchtime conversation is scheduled the next day at the Art Barn (1340 East 100 South) from noon to 1:00 p.m. with the exception of the August 29 event. For more information call (801) 596-5000 or visit www.slcgov.com/arts.

The 2013-2014 Guest Writers Series season is sponsored in part by: Salt Lake City Corporation; Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts and Parks Program; The King's English Bookshop; Utah Division of Arts & Museums; and the University of Utah Office of the Vice President, College of Humanities and Environmental Humanities Programs.

