

SEVENTH
ANNUAL

BIOGRAPHERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 3-5
2016

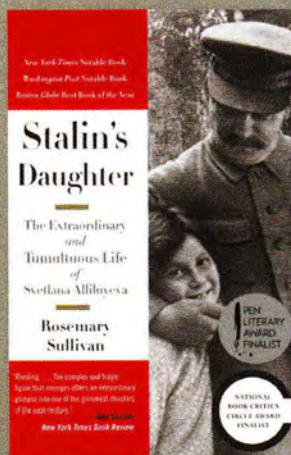
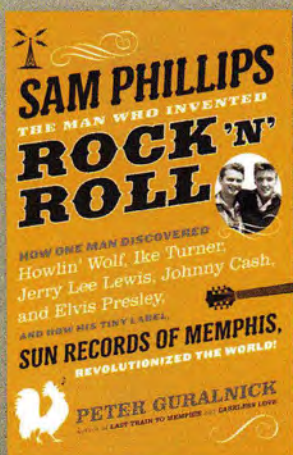
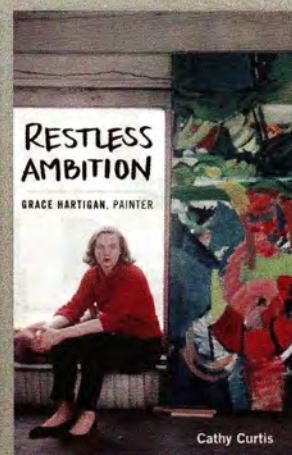
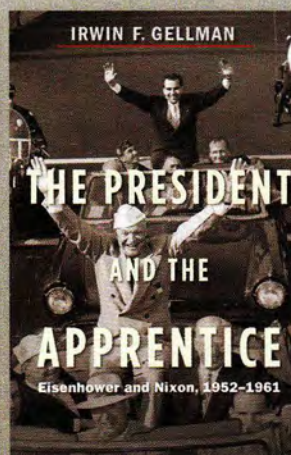
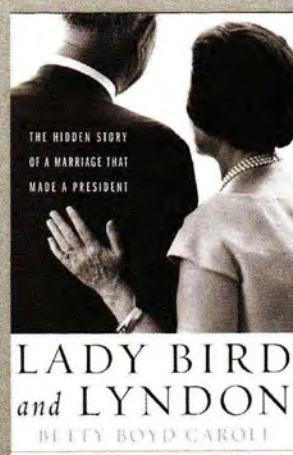
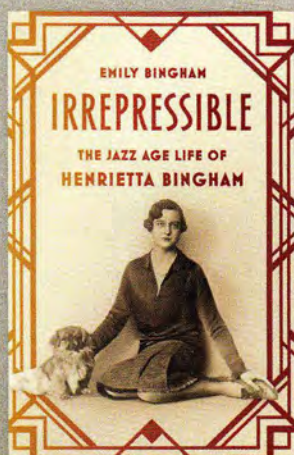
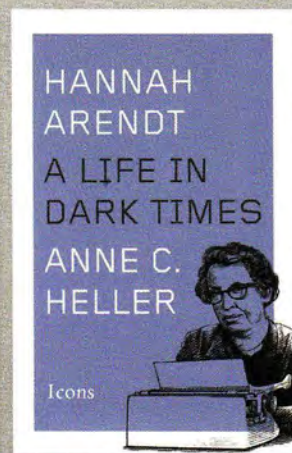
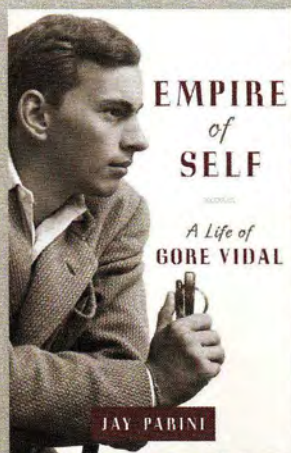
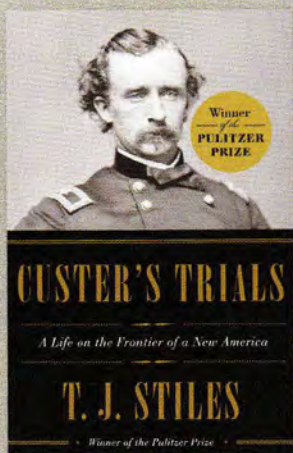
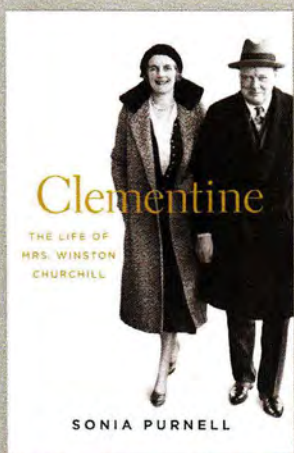
RICHMOND MARRIOTT
500 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VA



THE 2015 PLUTARCH AWARD

Biographers International Organization is proud to present the Plutarch Award for the best biography of 2015, as chosen by you.

Congratulations to the ten nominees for the Best Biography of 2015:



The 2016 BIO Award Recipient: Claire Tomalin

Claire Tomalin, *née* Delavenay, was born in London in 1933 to a French father and English mother, studied at Cambridge, and worked in publishing and journalism, becoming literary editor of the *New Statesman*, then of the (British) *Sunday Times*, while bringing up her children. In 1974, she published *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*, which won the Whitbread First Book Prize. Since then she has written *Shelley and His World*, 1980; *Katherine Mansfield: A Secret Life*, 1987; *The Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan and Charles Dickens*, 1991 (which won the NCR, Hawthornden, and James Tait Black prizes, and is now a film); *Mrs. Jordan's Profession*, 1994; *Jane Austen: A Life*, 1997; *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self*, 2002 (winner of the Whitbread Biography and Book of the Year prizes, Pepys Society Prize, and Rose Crawshay Prize from the Royal Academy). *Thomas Hardy: The Time-Torn Man*, 2006, and *Charles Dickens: A Life*, 2011, followed.



She has honorary doctorates from Cambridge and many other universities, has served on the Committee of the London Library, is a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, and is a vice-president of the Royal Literary Fund, the Royal Society of Literature, and English PEN. She is married to the writer Michael Frayn.

BIO Officers

Will Swift, President
Deirdre David,
Vice President
Marc Leepson,
Treasurer
Dean King, Secretary

Board of Directors

Kate Buford
Barbara Burkhardt
Cathy Curtis
Annette Dunlap
Oline Eaton
John A. Farrell
Gayle Feldman
Beverly Gray
Anne Heller
Kitty Kelley
Joshua Kendall
Dean King
Heath Lee
Marc Leepson
James McGrath Morris
Joanny Moulin
Hans Renders

Advisory Council

Debby Applegate, Chair
Deirdre Bair

Carol Berkin
Douglas Brinkley
Catherine Clinton
Amanda Foreman
Joan Hedrick
Michael Holroyd
Eric Lax
David Levering Lewis
John Matteson
William S. McFeely
Jon Meacham
Marion Meade
Nancy Milford
Andrew Morton
Martin J. Sherwin
T.J. Stiles
Terry Teachout
William Taubman

Conference Program Committee

Anne Heller, Co-Chair
Linda Leavell, Co-Chair
James Atlas
Kate Buford
Beverly Gray
Joshua Kendall
Dean King
Marc Leepson
James McGrath Morris
Amanda Vaill

Conference Site Committee

Kate Buford, Co-Chair
Marc Leepson, Co-Chair
Ellen Brown
Dean King
Heath Lee

Coaching Committee

Will Swift, Chair
Cathy Curtis
Linda Leavell

BIO Award Nomination Committee

Will Swift, Chair
Barbara Burkhardt
Deirdre David
John A. Farrell
James McGrath Morris
Barbara Lehman Smith

Plutarch Nomination Committee

Douglas Brinkley, Chair
James Atlas
Catherine Clinton
Deirdre David
John A. Farrell
Carla Kaplan

Eve LaPlante
J.W. Renders
Will Swift

Rowley Prize Committee

Gayle Feldman, Chair
Jennifer Cockburn
Anne Heller
Carl Rollyson
Roy Schreiber
Carol Sklenicka
Will Swift

Editorial Excellence & Biblio Awards Committee

Will Swift, Chair
Barbara Burkhardt
Deirdre David
John A. Farrell
Anne Heller
Brian Jay Jones
James McGrath Morris
Barbara Lehman Smith

Program Editor

Greg Daugherty

Art Direction

Fearless Future

On our cover: the James River Railway Bridge, a Richmond landmark

Breakfast Plenary Session

Balancing Historical Research and Literary Craft: Annette Gordon-Reed and T. J. Stiles in Conversation

8:15–9:15AM LOCATION: SALONS 4–5




Annette Gordon-Reed received the 2008 National Book Award and the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. She is also the author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (1997); *Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir*, with Vernon Jordan, Jr. (2001); *Andrew Johnson* (2010); and “*The Most Blessed of Patriarchs*”: *Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of Imagination* (co-authored with Peter S. Onuf) (2016). Gordon-Reed’s many honors include the National Humanities Medal, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a MacArthur Fellowship. She holds chaired professorships in both law and history at Harvard University.



T.J. Stiles is the author of *Custer’s Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Guggenheim-Lehrman Prize in Military History. His previous book, *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*, received the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. A member of the Society of American Historians, 2011 Guggenheim Fellow, and 2004 Gilder Lehrman Fellow at the New York Public Library’s Center for Scholars and Writers, he serves on the BIO Advisory Board and Authors Guild council.

the mayborn
literary nonfiction conference
July 22-24 | DFW Lakes Hilton | Grapevine, Texas




P U L I T Z E R
A Century of Excellence: People, Politics & Public Affairs

The 12th annual Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference will feature more than two-dozen top writers, photographers and others – Pulitzer Prize winners, all – in an engaging lineup designed to convey the power of journalism at its very finest.

Register now at themayborn.com.

EST. 1890

FRANK W. & SUE MAYBORN
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



Panels and Workshops

CORE

Trial by Fire: Lessons from Publishing a First Biography

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: DOMINION/
COMMONWEALTH

Biography is a solitary business—especially a first biography. First-time biographers describe the mistakes they made, the challenges they overcame, the elements of planning, writing, and publishing they got entirely right, and the lessons they learned for next time.

Moderator

Anne Boyd Rioux is the author of *Constance Fenimore Woolson: Portrait of a Lady Novelist*, out from W. W. Norton in February. It is the first full-length biography of this important but neglected American writer, who remains in the shadow of her close friend Henry James. Rioux is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities awards, one for public scholarship. She is also an English professor at the University of New Orleans, where she teaches courses in American literature and women writers.

Panelists

Cathy Curtis is the author of *Restless Ambition: Grace Hartigan, Painter* (Oxford University Press, 2015), the first biography of a prominent 1950s New York artist whose life was as colorful as her paintings. A former staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, Curtis holds a B.A. from Smith College and an M.A. in art history from the University of California, Berkeley. Her next biography, *Quicksilver: The Creative Life of Elaine de Kooning*—about a glamorous, free-spirited artist and writer at the social center of the Abstract Expressionists—will be published in 2017, inaugurating the Oxford Cultural Biographies series.

Paul Sorrentino, the Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor Emeritus of English at Virginia Tech, is the editor, co-editor, or author of eight books, including his first biography, *Stephen Crane: A Life of Fire* (2014). He has been a consultant on American literature for such publications and organizations as the *New Yorker*, National Gallery of Art, CNN, A&E Network, NPR, and BBC-TV. A recipient of teaching and research awards—including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Guggenheim Foundation—he received in 2006 from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia the Commonwealth's Outstanding Faculty Award.

Marlene Trestman retired from a thirty-year legal career to complete her first book, *Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin* (LSU Press, 2016). A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Goucher College who received her J.D. from George Washington University and an M.B.A. from Maryland's Loyola University, Trestman has received research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, and a literary prize from the

Supreme Court Historical Society. A New Orleans native who lives in Baltimore, Trestman had a personal relationship with Margolin that grew from common childhood experiences.

Sonja D. Williams is the author of *Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom*, about the pioneering National Radio Hall of Fame broadcast dramatist, journalist, and writer Richard Durham (University of Illinois Press, 2015). Williams has served as a journalist and media trainer in Africa, the Caribbean, and throughout the United States. Her radio documentaries have won numerous awards, including three consecutive and prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards for Significant and Meritorious Achievement and a DuPont-Columbia University Journalism Award. Williams is a professor in the Howard University Department of Media, Journalism, and Film in Washington, D.C.

CRAFT

Bringing Characters to Life

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: SALONS 6-7-8

What makes a character live and breathe on the page? How much detail adds richness to a portrait, and when does too much detail muddy the waters? What can you do about a character with an opaque inner life or contradictory traits? About black holes encountered along the documentary trail? How to deftly portray minor characters? Masters of the craft examine these and other questions affecting one of the biographer's most important tasks.

Moderator

Linda Leavell is the author of *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*, which won the 2014 Plutarch Award, the Modernist Studies Association book award, and the PEN/Weld award for biography. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. She is also the author of *Marianne Moore and the Visual Arts: Prismatic Color*, a book of literary criticism, and for twenty-five years was a professor of American literature. Her current project, under contract with FSG, is a group biography of the Stieglitz circle.

Panelists

George Getschow is the writer-in-residence of the nationally acclaimed Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, an annual gathering for writers and editors devoted to the narrative craft. He is the editor of *The Best American Newspaper Narratives*, an annual anthology of the best narratives published by the nation's daily newspapers, and the editor of *Ten Spurs*, a collection of the best essays and narrative submitted to the Mayborn's national writing contests. He was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters in 2012 for "distinctive literary achievement." He recently served as a Pulitzer Prize jurist for feature/narrative writing at Columbia University. During a 16-year career at the *Wall Street Journal*, Getschow was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and won the Robert F.

Kennedy Award for “distinguished writing” about the underprivileged. Today, Getschow is a principal lecturer for the Frank W. Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism. He is completing a book, *Walled Kingdom*, for Henry Holt and Co.

Charlotte DeCroes Jacobs is a professor of medicine (emerita) at Stanford University. Mid-career she began studying biography writing. Her first book, *Henry Kaplan and the Story of Hodgkin’s Disease* was called one of the “Best Five Books” on doctors’ lives by the *Wall Street Journal*. Her second biography, *Jonas Salk: A Life*, was named one of the 100 notable books of 2015 by the *New York Times Book Review* editors. She and husband, Rod, live in Palo Alto, California, where she cares for veterans with cancer.

Hampton Sides is the author of *In the Kingdom of Ice*, *Ghost Soldiers*, *Blood and Thunder*, *Hellhound on His Trail*, and other best-selling works of narrative history and literary nonfiction. He is editor-at-large for *Outside* magazine and a regular contributor to *National Geographic*. His magazine work has been twice named a finalist for the National Magazine Awards. He teaches at Colorado College and lives with his wife, Anne, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he is a partner in Atalaya Productions, an independent film company that develops historical dramas for the screen. In 2015, he was a Miller Distinguished Scholar at the Santa Fe Institute. He is now working on a book about the Korean War Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

The Future of Research

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: MADISON/JEFFERSON

Biographers depend on books, letters, diaries, manuscripts, microfilm, maps, and photographs, as well as the experts who know how to find them; and libraries continue to provide these resources. But the nation’s great libraries are also working to make vast digital archives available to scholars, including (at the Library of Congress) collecting and storing every single utterance on Twitter. Top librarians and archivists examine new trends and the tools we may soon be using.

Moderator

Marc Leepson is a journalist, historian, and the author of eight books. A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly*, he has written for many newspapers, magazines, and reference works, including *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography* and *The Encyclopedia Britannica*. His books include *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life* (2014); a concise biography of the Marquis de Lafayette for Palgrave’s World Generals Series (2011); and *Saving Monticello* (2001). His biography of Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler, who wrote “The Ballad of the Green Berets,” will be published in November. Leepson lives in Middleburg, Virginia. He is BIO’s treasurer.

Panelists

Kathy Jordan joined the staff at the Library of Virginia in 2000 as a research archivist. In 2005, she became a member of the library’s IT staff and has served as the library’s digital initiatives & web services manager since then. During

this time, she has worked with staff throughout the agency to create new web sites and build digital collections, develop a web-archiving program at the library, publicly release Governor Tim Kaine’s archival e-mail collection (the first state archives in the nation to make such a collection available), and launch the LVA’s major crowd-sourcing initiative, Making History: Transcribe.

Paige Newman joined the Virginia Historical Society in 2003 and is currently an associate archivist for collections processing. She has worked on the society’s Unknown No Longer (UNL) project, an online resource that seeks to lift from the obscurity of unpublished historical records as much biographical detail as remains of enslaved Virginians, since 2010, assisting with the preliminary research for the database to its launch in September 2011. She continues to be one of the main contributors to the database by researching and surveying manuscripts and inputting the data into UNL. She holds a B.A. in classics/history from Emory & Henry College and a M.S.L.S. from the Catholic University of America.

Anne C. Osterman is director of the Virtual Library of Virginia, the consortium of the 72 nonprofit college and university libraries within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Before taking this position, she served as the director of information delivery services at American University and as the reference and data services librarian at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She has a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s degree in statistics from American University, and she is co-author of *Electronic Resource Management: Practical Perspectives in a New Technical Services Model*.

WORKSHOP

Advanced Social Media

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: MONROE

Learn how, and when, to deploy social media strategies on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, blogs, and more. Discover how social media can help at the research and pre-publication stages as well as when marketing your book. This session is strictly for members with a strong working knowledge of the basics of social-media platforms. (Newcomers: See “Launching Your Book: Marketing and Promotion.”)

Leader

Lisa Napoli is a biographer and career journalist (the *New York Times*, CNN, MSNBC) who currently works in public radio as an arts and culture reporter at KCRW in Santa Monica. She left her position as a reporter/host for the public radio show *Marketplace* after being invited to the Kingdom of Bhutan to help start a radio station at the dawn of democratic rule there, which led to her 2011 book *Radio Shangri-La* (Crown). She is currently finishing work on a biography of the late philanthropist and McDonald’s heiress, Joan Kroc, called *Ray and Joan*, which will be published by Dutton in November.

Choosing a Subject

10:45–11:45AM LOCATION: SHENANDOAH

How do experienced biographers select their next subject? Discover sources of inspiration, lessons learned from false starts, and strategies for home runs.

Moderator

James Atlas is the author of *Delmore Schwartz: The Life of an American Poet*, which was nominated for a National Book Award, and *Bellow: A Biography*. He was the founding editor of the Penguin Lives and of three other series of brief biographies: Great Discoveries, Eminent Lives, and Icons. He was for many years an editor at the *New York Times*, and his work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Review of Books*, and many other publications. He is the author of a forthcoming memoir entitled *The Shadow in the Garden: A Biographer's Tale*.

Panelists

Blake Bailey is the author of biographies of John Cheever, Richard Yates, and Charles Jackson, and he is working on the authorized biography of Philip Roth. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Francis Parkman Prize, and a finalist for the Pulitzer and James Tait Black Memorial Prizes. His last book, *The Splendid Things We Planned*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

D.T. (Dan) Max is a graduate of Harvard University and a staff writer at the *New Yorker*. His book *Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace*, published in 2012, was a *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the author of *The Family That Couldn't Sleep: A Medical Mystery*. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, their two young children, and a rescued beagle who came to them named Max.

Stacy Schiff is the author of *Véra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; as well as of *Saint-Exupéry*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*, awarded the George Washington Book Prize; and *Cleopatra: A Life*, a No. 1 bestseller. Schiff has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2011 she was named a Library Lion of the New York Public Library. Her most recent book is *The Witches: Salem, 1692*.

CRAFT

Narrative Strategies

10:45–11:45AM LOCATION: SALONS 6–7–8

Along with character development, narrative structure is at the heart of the biographical enterprise. An in-depth discussion of chronology (“abandon it at your peril”), context-building, the narrative arc, and the construction of a compelling narrative work.

Moderator

Debby Applegate's first book, *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher* (Doubleday), won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. Her second book, *Madam: The Notorious Life and Times of Polly Adler*, is forthcoming from Doubleday. She was a Sterling Fellow in American Studies at Yale, where she earned her Ph.D., and is a graduate of Amherst College. She lives in New Haven, Connecticut, with her husband, the business writer Bruce Tulgan.

Panelists

Kirk Ellis won two Emmys, a WGA Award, a Peabody, and the Humanitas Prize for his work as writer and co-executive producer on the HBO miniseries *John Adams*. Programs on which he has served as writer and producer have garnered more than 50 Emmy nominations. Ellis is currently writing the Harriet Tubman story, *Bound for the Promised Land*, for Viola Davis and HBO, as well as *Explorers*, a limited series recounting the Nile quest of Sir Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke.

Beth Macy is the author of the Lukas Prize-winning *Factory Man: How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local—and Helped Save an American Town*. A longtime reporter who specializes in outsiders and underdogs, Macy has won more than a dozen national journalism awards, including a Nieman Fellowship. In October, Little, Brown will publish Macy's *Truevine: A Strange and Troubling Tale of Two Brothers in Jim Crow America*. It traces the kidnapping of two African-American brothers who were sold to the circus around the



design
coding
marketing

- Book design—cover & interior layout
- Responsive, mobile-friendly website design & coding
- Education-based marketing




http://fearless-future.com

turn of the last century, and of their mother, who risked her life to win their freedom back.

T.J. Stiles is the author of *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Guggenheim-Lehrman Prize in Military History. His previous book, *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*, received the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. A member of the Society of American Historians, 2011 Guggenheim Fellow, and 2004 Gilder Lehrman Fellow at the New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers, he serves on the BIO Advisory Board and Authors Guild council.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Reviewing Biography

10:45–11:45AM LOCATION: MONROE

What do editors and reviewers at prominent newspapers and magazines look for when choosing a biography to review? What can you do to increase the odds that your book will be reviewed? Do introductions matter? Finally, why do reviewers so often ignore the biographer's work and merely summarize the life? Is there anything we can do to draw attention to our craft?

Moderator

Kate Buford's award-winning *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe* (Knopf, 2010; University of Nebraska, 2012) was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. *Burt Lancaster: An American Life* (Knopf/Da Capo/Aurum UK) was named one of the best books of 2000 by the *New York Times*. Buford has written for the *New York Times* and other publications and has appeared on many radio and television shows

including *Charlie Rose*, *History Detectives*, and *Reel Sports*. She was a commentator on NPR's *Morning Edition* and APM's *Marketplace* from 1995–2004. She serves on the board of BIO.

Panelists

Carl Rollyson is a professor of journalism at Baruch College, CUNY. His biographies include *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath*, *A Real American Character: The Life of Walter Brennan*, *Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews*, *Marilyn Monroe: A Life of the Actress*, and *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography*. His books about biography include *Biography: A User's Guide* and *Confessions of a Serial Biographer*. His reviews of biographies have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the *New Criterion*, and other publications. He is at work on *This Alarming Paradox: The Life of William Faulkner*.

David O. Stewart's first book, *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution*, won the Washington Writing Award as Best Book of 2007. Two years later, *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*, was called "by all means the best account of this troubled episode." His *Madison's Gift: Five Partnerships That Built America* and his second novel, *The Wilson Deception*, set at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, were both released in 2015. He is the president of the *Washington Independent Review of Books*, an online book review.

Steve Weinberg started as a newspaper reporter, moved to magazines, and finished his first book in 1978. He has written seven books since, including three biographies, a book about the craft of biography, and a book about the craft of book reviewing. His reviews have been published in three dozen newspapers and magazines. Weinberg is currently working on a biography of Garry Trudeau for St. Martin's Press.

Great Lives

Biographical Approaches to History and Culture

For the past thirteen years, the University of Mary Washington has presented a public lecture series/academic course titled "Great Lives: Biographical Approaches to History and Culture." During that time, it has become a major cultural and educational attraction in the region of Virginia between Richmond and Washington, D.C.

Offered annually, Great Lives brings

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

Although the University of Mary Washington is a public institution, the Great Lives program is largely supported by private funds. Beginning in 2004 with a grant from a generous benefactor, funds have been substantially augmented each year by local patrons who are devoted to the program.

The innovative combination of an academic course and a public lecture series is unusual, if not unique, in the country. The fact that it is not just a public series, but also an academic course, adds a significant dimension to the program. Students are instructed on the evolution of the genre, then introduced to some of its most prominent contemporary practitioners. The result is an extraordinary opportunity for interaction among biographers, students, faculty, and the general public.

BIO is grateful for the support and enthusiasm of William Crawley, director of Great Lives, and Torre Meringolo, vice president for advancement and university relations.



WORKSHOP

Do's and Don'ts of Writing a Proposal

10:45–11:45AM LOCATION: MADISON/JEFFERSON

You have a great idea—now you have to sell it. How do you craft a persuasive proposal? When should you write it? What should you include? Advice from a veteran biographer and editor.

Leader

Amanda Vaill is a former book-publishing executive and a biographer, journalist, critic, and screenwriter. Her

books include the best-selling *Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy—A Lost Generation Love Story*, a finalist for the National Book Critics' Circle Award; *Somewhere: The Life of Jerome Robbins*; and *Hotel Florida: Truth, Love, and Death in the Spanish Civil War*. A 2000 Guggenheim fellow who has served as a judge or adviser for the National Book Awards, the Whiting Writers' Awards, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Vaill also wrote the screenplay for the Emmy- and Peabody Award-winning documentary, *Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About*. She has just begun research for her next book, *The Schuyler Sisters—and Mr. Hamilton*.

Lunch and Keynote Address by Claire Tomalin, winner of the 2016 BIO Award

12–1:30pm Location: SALONS 4–5

The BIO Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the art and craft of biography. Claire Tomalin will be introduced by Stacy Schiff, winner of the 2014 BIO Award.



BIOGRAPHY *by* DESIGN

Every person and organization has a story.
Let us help you tell yours.

Founded by BIO board member Kate Buford & BIO member Abby Santamaria, Biography By Design offers expert writing, editing, research and consulting services to individuals, families, media projects and organizations.

www.BiographyByDesign.com

Independent Presses for Biography

1:45–2:45PM LOCATION: MONROE

Indie presses are proliferating. They are filling niches in the marketplace for biographical works that trade and academic publishers have abandoned or overlooked. We tell you how, when—and what—to publish with an independent press.

Moderator

Penelope Rowlands is the author of *A Dash of Daring: Carmel Snow and Her Life in Fashion, Art, and Letters*, a critically acclaimed biography of the legendary Irish-American editor-in-chief of *Harper's Bazaar* from 1934 to 1957 (Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster). She is both the editor of and a contributor to two recent anthologies, *Paris Was Ours* and *The Beatles Are Here!*, both published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, and is working on a biographical project about Aaron Burr's later years.

Panelists

Michael Coffey stepped down as co-editorial director of *Publishers Weekly*, where he worked for 26 years, in 2014. Prior to that, he served as editor-in-chief of *Small Press* magazine. He has published three books of poems (*Elemenopy*, Sun & Moon Press; *87 North*, Coffee House Press; and *CMYK*, O Books). He co-edited *The Irish in America* (with Terry Golway, published by Hyperion), a companion volume to a three-part PBS documentary on Irish immigration to America. His book *27 Men Out*, on baseball's perfect games, was published by Atria/Simon & Schuster. Most recently, his collection of short stories, *The Business of Naming Things*, was published by Bellevue Literary Press.

Lisa Reardon is senior editor at Chicago Review Press, an independent nonfiction publisher founded in 1973. Among other categories, she acquires children's, YA, and adult biographies. Lisa has been with Chicago Review Press, Inc. since 1999, starting at sister company and distributor IPG before moving to editorial in 2004. Previously she worked at textbook publisher McDougal Littell and managed bookstores in Chicago and Austin. Lisa graduated with a B.A. in French language and literature from Kalamazoo College and holds an M.A. in writing from DePaul University. She lives in Oak Park, Illinois, with her husband and daughter.

Family Biographies—American and British Royalty (and Everyone Else)

1:45–2:45PM LOCATION: DOMINION/
COMMONWEALTH

Three eminent biographers discuss the special requirements and hazards of writing about royal families on both sides of the Atlantic—and how what they've learned applies to *any* family. We all have a royal family to write about.

Moderator

Dean King, a native of Richmond, Virginia, is the nationally best-selling author of nine books, including *Skeletons on the Zahara*, a Salon Book Award winner, and *The Feud*, which the *Wall Street Journal* called “popular history the way it ought to be written.” His biography *Patrick O'Brian: A Life Revealed* was serialized in the *Daily Telegraph*, which named it a book of the year. He has appeared on NPR, the BBC, and as the chief storyteller on two History Channel documentaries, and his writing has appeared in *Outside*, *Garden & Gun*, *Granta*, *National Geographic Adventure*, and the *New York Times*.

Panelists

Nigel Hamilton is an award-winning British-born biographer, academic, and broadcaster, whose works have been translated into sixteen languages. In the United States, he is known primarily for his best-selling work on the young John F. Kennedy, *JFK: Reckless Youth*, which was made into an ABC miniseries, and *American Caesars: Lives of the Presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush*. In the United Kingdom, he is known for *Monty*, a three-volume official life of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, the World War II Field Marshal, which won both the 1981 Whitbread Award and the Templer Medal for Military History. He has also written about the lives of Thomas Mann and former President Bill Clinton, as well as numerous other works in a variety of fields. His film on the life of Field Marshal Montgomery won the New York Blue Ribbon Award for Best Documentary. He founded the British Institute of Biography and became the first Professor of Biography in the U.K. at De Montfort University. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston, and at work on the third volume of his life of FDR; the second volume will be published in June.

Kitty Kelley is an internationally acclaimed writer whose last five biographies have been No.1 *New York Times* best sellers: *His Way: The Unauthorized Biography of Frank Sinatra*; *Nancy Reagan*; *The Royals*; *The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty*; and *Oprah*. In 2012, she published *Capturing Camelot: The Iconic Images of Stanley Tretick* and donated royalties to the D.C. Public Library Foundation. In 2013, she published *Let Freedom Ring* to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington, with royalties going to the Children's Defense Fund. In 2017, she'll publish a children's book, *Martin's Dream Day*, with royalties going to Reading is Fundamental. She is under contract to write a social history of Georgetown.

Andrew Lownie has been a journalist, a publisher, a book-seller, a director of the Curtis Brown literary agency and, since 1988, has run his own literary agency, the Andrew Lownie Agency. He is the author of several books, including lives of the writer John Buchan and, most recently, the spy Guy Burgess. He was educated in Asheville, North Carolina, and at the universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh. He is the founder and president of The Biographers Club of London and is at work on a life of Lord Mountbatten, a crucial influence on the British Royal Family.

Biographical Fiction and Biography

1:45–2:45PM LOCATION: SALONS 6–7–8

Distinguished practitioners in related but highly distinct forms—biography and fiction centered on biographical facts—discuss the limits and freedoms of their respective crafts and share their secrets for creating riveting stories.

Moderator

Anne C. Heller's *Ayn Rand and the World She Made* (Nan Talese/Doubleday/Anchor 2009/2010) was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was chosen a best book of the year by *Time* magazine, the *Daily Beast*, *USA Today*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Library Journal*, and *Bloomberg*. Her most recent book is *Hannah Arendt: A Life in Dark Times*, published by Harcourt Houghton Mifflin in 2015. She has been an adjunct professor of American literature at Bennington College and an award-winning editor at magazines including the *Antioch Review*, *Esquire*, *Lear's*, and *Vanity Fair*. She is the former executive editor of magazine development at Condé Nast Publications.

Panelists

Douglas Brinkley is a professor of history at Rice University, a best-selling author, and a presidential historian. CNN has described him as “a man who knows more about the presidency than just about any human being alive.” His works of history, biography, and journalism include *FDR and the Creation of the U.N.* (with Townsend Hoopes); *The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter's Journey Beyond the White House*; *Rosa Parks: A Life*; *The Boys of Pointe du Hoc: Ronald Reagan, D-Day, and the U.S. Army 2nd Ranger Battalion*; *Gerald R. Ford: Cronkite*, and others. He is completing the third volume of his U.S. environmental history series, tentatively titled *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the American Conservation Movement*. The first two volumes—*The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* and *The Quiet World: Saving Alaska's Wilderness Kingdom, 1879 to 1960*—were published in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Eight of his books have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year. He lives in Austin and Houston, Texas, with his wife and three children.

Thomas Mallon's nine books of fiction include *Henry and Clara*, *Fellow Travelers*, *Watergate*, and *Finale: A Novel of the Reagan Years*. He has written volumes of nonfiction about plagiarism (*Stolen Words*), diaries (*A Book of One's Own*), letters (*Yours Ever*) and the Kennedy assassination (*Mrs. Paine's Garage*), as well as two books of essays (*Rockets and Rodeos* and *In Fact*). His work appears in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and the *New York Times Book Review*. He received his Ph.D. in English from Harvard University and was awarded the Vursell prize of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, for distinguished prose style.

Launching Your Book: Marketing and Promotion

1:45–2:45PM LOCATION: MADISON/JEFFERSON

What can biographers learn about book promotion from an author who writes management books? Here's what: How to devise a systematic approach to book marketing and promotion. First, determine exactly what it is you are trying to sell—the book? yourself? something else? Second, define and find your audience. Third, make a content plan to communicate something of real value to that audience. Fourth, create a multi-channel campaign plan for systematically communicating with your audience, including unpaid media (print/electronic), paid media, direct contact, and social media.

Leader

Bruce Tulgan is the founder of RainmakerThinking, Inc., a research and consulting firm in New Haven, Connecticut. He is the author or co-author of 20 books, including the best sellers *It's Okay to Be the Boss* and *Managing Generation X*. Tulgan's work has been the subject of thousands of news stories around the world. His wife, Debby Applegate, won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for *The Most Famous Man in America*, about the 19th-century minister Henry Ward Beecher.

CORE

The Agents' Panel

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: SHENANDOAH

You asked for it (again): This panel provides all you ever wanted to know about agents but were afraid to ask. Three top agents in a frank discussion of who they are and what they do, particularly in our increasingly complex publishing environment. Find out how to get an agent, how to keep one, and what you can (and can't) expect from her or him.

Moderator

Barbara Burkhardt's *William Maxwell: A Literary Life* (University of Illinois Press, 2005; paperback, 2008), a biography of the longtime *New Yorker* editor and novelist, received praise in the *New York Times*, *TLS*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, among other periodicals. She subsequently edited *Conversations with William Maxwell* (University Press of Mississippi, 2012). Burkhardt is associate professor emerita of American literature at the University of Illinois Springfield, where she was named University Scholar in 2007. A founding member of BIO, she has served on the BIO board for three years as its secretary. She is writing a biography of Garrison Keillor under contract to St. Martin's Press.

Panelists

Andrew Lownie has been a journalist, a publisher, a book-seller, a director of the Curtis Brown literary agency and, since 1988, has run his own literary agency, the Andrew Lownie Agency. He is the author of several books including lives of the writer John Buchan and, most recently, the spy Guy Burgess. He was educated in Asheville, North Carolina, and at the universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh. He is the founder and president of The Biographers Club of London and is at work on a life of Lord Mountbatten, a crucial influence on the British Royal Family.

Gail Ross, who is the president of the Ross Yoon Agency, represents important commercial nonfiction and counts top biographers, doctors, CEOs, prize-winning journalists, and historians among her clients. In 2014 alone, a half-dozen of her books were *New York Times* bestsellers. Ross is also a partner in the law firm of Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold, PLLC, where she focuses on the legal aspects of publishing and media law. She writes and lectures frequently on publishing issues and is the author of *The Writer's Lawyer* (Times Books, 1989).

John Taylor "Ike" Williams is a publishing lawyer and the co-founder and director of The Kneerim & Williams Agency, LLC, a literary and dramatic rights agency, with offices in Boston and New York. He represents authors that 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. His law practice emphasizes publishing, film, intellectual property, and First Amendment litigation as well as entertainment law. He specializes in book-to-movie licenses. He is admitted to the United States Supreme Court and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Harvard College.

CRAFT

Dual Biographies

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: DOMINION/
COMMONWEALTH

A biography of a single individual fits snugly into a narrative structure that goes from cradle to grave. But how about a biography of a couple, or a mother and daughter, or two contemporaries? Three biographers explore diverse strategies for covering two lives in one book.

Moderator

Joshua Kendall is the author of *The Man Who Made Lists*, about the creation of *Roget's Thesaurus*, and *The Forgotten Founding Father*, a biography of Noah Webster, the lexicographer responsible for *Webster's Dictionary*. His latest book is *First Dads: Parenting and Politics from George Washington to Barack Obama*. He is also an award-winning journalist, with work in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Psychology Today*, and the *Boston Globe*,

among other publications. He is an Associate Fellow of Yale's Trumbull College.

Panelists

Patricia Bell-Scott is the author of *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice* and professor emerita of women's studies at the University of Georgia. Her previous books include *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women*; *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*; and *Double Stitch: Black Women Write about Mothers and Daughters*, which won the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize. A former contributing editor to *Ms.* magazine, she served as cofounding editor of *SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women* from 1984 to 1994.

Charlotte Gordon is an award-winning author whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Harvard Magazine*, and *The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry*, among other publications. Her latest book, the dual biography *Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley* (Random House), won the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award for biography. She has also published *Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Story of America's First Poet* (Little, Brown) and *The Woman Who Named God: Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths* (Little, Brown). An associate professor of English at Endicott College, she has been a frequent guest on NPR and



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.

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

the CBC. Gordon received her A.B. from Harvard College and her Ph.D. from Boston University.

Julia Markus is a novelist and a biographer. Her novels include the award-winning *Uncle* and *Friends Along the Way*. She is the author of four biographies: *Dared and Done: The Marriage of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning*; *Across an Untried Sea*, concerning women artists who loved women in the nineteenth century; *J. Anthony Froude, The Last Undiscovered Great Victorian* (at last count, still undiscovered); and the recently published *Lady Byron and Her Daughters*. She has received one NEA and two NEH fellowships and is professor of English, director of creative writing at Hofstra University in New York.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Three Ways of Looking at a Subject: Richard Nixon

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: MADISON/JEFFERSON

Some biographical subjects are so beguiling, so polarizing, and so public as to be irresistible to biographers—and difficult to penetrate beneath the crust. Three celebrated biographers talk about their journey to the inner Richard.

Moderator

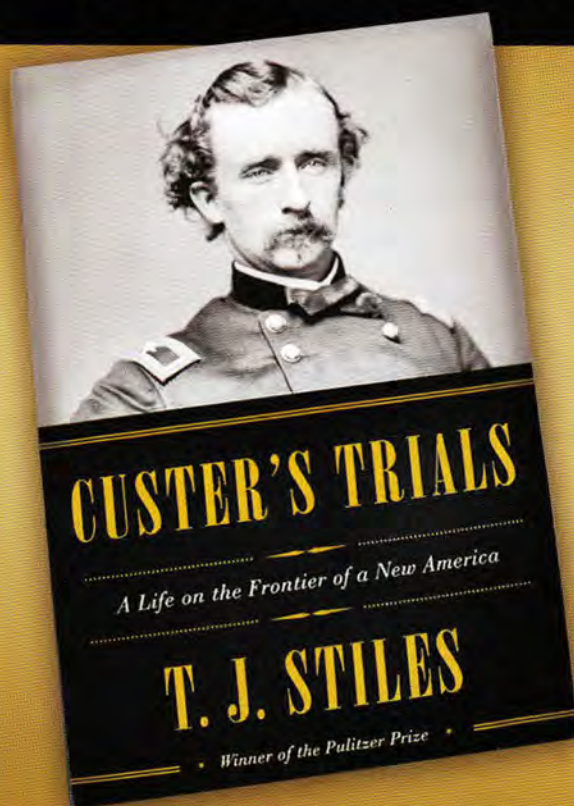
John A. Farrell is the author of *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century* and *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned*, which won the Los Angeles Times award for the best biography of 2011. He is a native of New York, a graduate of the University of Virginia, and a former White House correspondent, investigative reporter, and editor for *The Boston Globe* and other publications. His upcoming biography of Richard Nixon will be published by Doubleday.

Panelists

Jeffrey Frank was a senior editor at *The New Yorker*, where he's still a contributor, and deputy editor of the *Washington Post's* Outlook section. He has published four novels, including the satiric *Washington Trilogy*, and is co-translator, with Diana Crone Frank, of *The Stories of Hans Christian Andersen*. His nonfiction book, *Ike and Dick: Portrait of a Strange Political Marriage*, explores the twenty-year relationship between Richard Nixon and Dwight D. Eisenhower; Russell Baker, writing in *The New York Review of Books*, called it "an elegant example of how pleasurable political history can be when written by a skilled teller of fictional tales who has a careful reporter's respect for facts."

Irwin Gellman's first three books featured Franklin Roosevelt and his administration. His fourth book, *The Contender: Richard Nixon, The Congress Years 1946–1952* was

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE



“A biography of stunning richness and sophistication...

Stiles brilliantly puts flesh and bone on what has become a cultural stick figure.”

THE BOSTON GLOBE

“Epic... Shows that, within the context of Custer's life, the Battle of the Little Bighorn really was an epilogue.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

“Illuminating... Captivating”

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY KNOPF

published by Simon & Schuster's Free Press in 1999. His next book, *The President and the Apprentice: Eisenhower and Nixon 1952-1961*, published by Yale University Press in 2015, is a painstaking look at the Eisenhower administration, the relationship between Eisenhower and Nixon, and the politics of the 1950s. Dr. Gellman served as an adviser to the Miller Center's Presidential Recording project at the University of Virginia from 1999 to 2002. He has been a professor at Morgan State College in Baltimore, at Chapman University, where he held the Allergan Chair of Modern American History, at the University of California, Irvine, and at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His article "The St. Louis Tragedy" was the basis of the movie *The Voyage of the Damned*. He and his wife live in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Evan Thomas is the author of nine books: *Being Nixon; Ike's Bluff; The War Lovers; Sea of Thunder; John Paul Jones; Robert Kennedy; The Very Best Men; The Man to See; and The Wise Men* (with Walter Isaacson). He was a reporter, writer, and editor at *Time* and *Newsweek* for thirty-three years, including ten years as Washington Bureau Chief at *Newsweek*, where he won a National Magazine Award in 1999. He often writes book reviews for the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. He has taught writing and journalism at Harvard and Princeton, where he was Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence from 2007 to 2014.

WORKSHOP

Ask a Lawyer: Fair Use, Copyright, Privacy, and Other Legal Issues

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: MONROE

BIO's first pro-bono legal workshop, conducted by a highly regarded publishing and entertainment attorney, who will be ready and willing to answer your publishing-related legal questions, large and small.

Leader

Kirk T. Schroder operates an extensive entertainment and arts law practice, involving all aspects of entertainment and the arts, including film, television, literary publishing, music, radio, theater, visual arts, advertising and marketing, internet, and new media. He is the immediate past chair of the American Bar Association Entertainment and Sports Law section and a past program chair of the Harvard Law School/ABA Symposium on Entertainment Law. He has taught at the law schools of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond and in the Graduate School of Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to being selected to The Best Lawyers In America, he is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, its highest rating for lawyers.

CORE

Round Table Discussions

4:15–5:15PM LOCATION: SEE BELOW

Round tables offer a chance to network with biographers working in your field, share resources, and solve common problems. Conference participants are invited to register for one of the following topical round tables, with a leader present at each table to facilitate discussion.

Topics

- First-time Biographers (MONROE)
- Biographies of Family Members (SALONS 4-5)
- Group Biography (COMMONWEALTH)
- Black Biographies Matter (SALONS 4-5)
- Women's Lives (MADISON)
- Sexuality in Biography (SALONS 4-5)
- Lesser Known Subjects (SALONS 4-5)
- U.S. History before 1945 (SALONS 4-5)
- U.S. History and Politics after 1945 (SALONS 4-5)
- Literary Biography (DOMINION)
- Celebrities and Popular Culture (SALONS 4-5)
- Visual and Performing Arts (SALONS 4-5)

NEED HELP WITH YOUR BIOGRAPHY?

BIO's mentoring program offers the advice of biographers in many fields of expertise. Whether you are just starting to think of a subject, working on your manuscript, or deciding how to launch your book, our mentors can help with questions large and small. We offer you a selection of mentors suited to your topic. You choose the number of hours you need, for mentoring by phone, e-mail, or Skype. The fee is \$60/hour. For more information, and to sign up, contact Will Swift: drswift@gmail.com



Nan A. Talese to receive third BIO Editorial Excellence Award

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on October 5 at the New York Society Library as Biographers International Organization presents the third BIO Editorial Excellence Award to Nan A. Talese, senior vice president of Doubleday and publisher and editorial director of Nan A. Talese/Doubleday.

In a long and celebrated publishing career, Nan Talese has edited major authors of both fiction and nonfiction, including biographies by Peter Ackroyd, Deirdre Bair, Kirstin Downey, Anne C. Heller, George Plimpton, Phyllis Rose, Janet Wallach, and many others.

The New York Society Library is at 53 E. 79th St., in New York City. Watch the BIO website and the *Biographer's Craft* newsletter for more details.

James River
WRITERS



Find us online!

www.jamesriverwriters.org
info@jamesriverwriters.org

twitter @JamesRvrWriters

#JRW16

YOUR
STORY.
YOUR
VOICE!

Annual Conference

October 14 - 16

Writing Contests

Master Classes

Social Events

The Writing Show

panel discussions

Emyl Jenkins Award

and More!



**Closing Reception
and Presentation of the
Plutarch Award**

5:30–7:00PM in Salons 4–5

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

12:00—3:00PM

**The BIO Book Bash at the
Hardywood Craft Brewery**

2408 OWNBY LANE, RICHMOND, VA 23220

New this year: The BIO Book Bash, the official after party and book-selling event for the 2016 BIO Conference. Based on the conference bookseller Chop Suey Books' annual Brew-Ho-Ho, a pre-holiday celebration held at Hardywood for local authors that draws hundreds of customers, the BIO Book Bash will provide a great opportunity for conference attendees and the public to meet and mingle with BIO authors. Come enjoy cold craft beer and book banter with conference panelists and BIO board members and organizers, who will be selling and signing their books. The event is free and open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE! BIOGRAPHY BEYOND BORDERS

COLLOQUIUM ON AMERICAN AND
EUROPEAN BIOGRAPHY

NOVEMBER 5, 2016



OXFORD CENTRE FOR LIFE-WRITING



In collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Oxford, housed at Wolfson College and directed by Professor Dame Hermione Lee, BIO will host a Colloquium on American and European Biography, to be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

With the aim of promoting conversations about similarities and differences and exploring the question of whether we can push the boundaries of biography, we have arranged four roundtable discussions under these rubrics:

- BIOGRAPHIES OF LITTLE-KNOWN AND WELL-KNOWN SUBJECTS
- WRITING ABOUT CELEBRITIES
- HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY
- AUTHORIZED AND NON-AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY

Our lunchtime keynote speaker will be the 2014 BIO Plutarch Award Best Biography winner, Hermione Lee. The Colloquium will conclude with a reception at Wolfson College. Accommodation in Oxford can be arranged at the Best Western Linton Lodge.

Prior to the Colloquium, on Friday evening, November 4, a distinguished American biographer will deliver a lecture at the Centre for Life-Writing Research at King's College London (directed by Professor Max Saunders). A reception will follow.

For those who are interested, a BIO group will be spending Thursday night, November 3, at a Victorian Bed and Breakfast in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, run by Harold Brown, a former staff member in the Royal household. Harold will offer a guided trip to Vida Sackville-West's Sissinghurst Castle (with its famous gardens) and Winston Churchill's home, Chartwell, and provide a formal tea and dinner and breakfast. Book early because there are limited spaces available.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting collaboration between OCLW and BIO (either as a participant on a panel or as a member of the group), please contact either Deirdre David (ddavid@temple.edu) or Will Swift (drswift@gmail.com).

Costs

- (1) Conference Fee (includes lunch and reception at Wolfson College, Oxford, and reception at King's College, London): \$150
- (2) Accommodation at the Best Western Linton Lodge: \$125 to \$150 per night.
- (3) Tunbridge Wells Victorian Bed and Breakfast (<http://www.thevictorianbandb.com/>): formal tea, dinner, and lodging: \$145 for the night (includes formal tea and breakfast) and \$45 for the special dinner. For guests who want to share a room, it is \$90 for the night.

Internet links for information

Centre for Life-Writing Research, King's College, London:
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/ahri/centres/lifewriting/>

Oxford Centre for Life-Writing:
<https://www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/oclw>

Hermione Lee website:
<http://www.hermionelee.com/>

Sissinghurst Castle and gardens:
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle-garden>

Chartwell:
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell>

The 2016 Coaching Program

BIO would like to thank the following biographers for their participation in our second annual coaching program. These accomplished biographers are providing half-hour, one-on-one coaching sessions to those who have paid and arranged for such sessions in advance. In addition, BIO now provides a year-round mentoring service via e-mail, phone, or Skype. For more information, see the advertisement elsewhere in this program or e-mail Will Swift at drswift@gmail.com.

Cathy Curtis is the author of *Restless Ambition: Grace Hartigan, Painter* (Oxford University Press, 2015), the first biography of a prominent 1950s New York artist whose life was as colorful as her paintings. A former staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, Curtis holds a B.A. from Smith College and an M.A. in art history from the University of California, Berkeley. Her next biography, *Quicksilver: The Creative Life of Elaine de Kooning*—about a glamorous, free-spirited artist and writer at the social center of the Abstract Expressionists—will be published in 2017, inaugurating the Oxford Cultural Biographies series.

Irwin Gellman's first three books featured Franklin Roosevelt and his administration. His fourth book, *The Contender: Richard Nixon, The Congress Years 1946–1952* was published by Simon & Schuster's Free Press in 1999. His next book, *The President and the Apprentice: Eisenhower and Nixon 1952–1961*, published by Yale University Press in 2015, is a painstaking look at the Eisenhower administration, the relationship between Eisenhower and Nixon, and the politics of the 1950s. Dr. Gellman served as an adviser to the Miller Center's Presidential Recording project at the University of Virginia from 1999 to 2002. He has been a professor at Morgan State College in Baltimore, at Chapman University, where he held the Allergan Chair of Modern American History, at the University of California, Irvine, and at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His article "The St. Louis Tragedy" was the basis of the movie *The Voyage of the Damned*. He and his wife live in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Linda Leavell is the author of *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*, which won the 2014 Plutarch Award, the Modernist Studies Association book award, and the PEN/Weld award for biography. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. She is also the author of *Marianne Moore and the Visual Arts: Prismatic Color*, a book of literary criticism, and for twenty-five years was a professor of American literature. Her current project, under contract with FSG, is a group biography of the Stieglitz circle.

Justin Martin is the author of four biographies featuring subjects ranging from a Federal Reserve chairman, *Greenspan: The Man Behind Money* (1999), to a pioneering landscape architect, *Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted* (2011). His most recent is a group biography, *Rebel Souls: Walt Whitman and America's First Bohemians* (2014). Martin prides himself on being a thorough researcher and

reporter. Armed with the facts, he aims to render his subjects in novelistic fashion and considers it the highest compliment when someone says: "your book reads like fiction." Martin, a member of BIO's board, lives in New York City.

Carl Rollyson is a professor of journalism at Baruch College, CUNY. His biographies include *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath, A Real American Character: The Life of Walter Brennan, Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews, Marilyn Monroe: A Life of the Actress*, and *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography*. His books about biography include *Biography: A User's Guide* and *Confessions of a Serial Biographer*. His reviews of biographies have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the *New Criterion*, and other publications. He is at work on *This Alarming Paradox: The Life of William Faulkner*.

Carol Sklenicka's *Raymond Carver: A Writer's Life* was named one of the "Best 10 Books of 2009" by the *New York Times Book Review*, and a notable book of that year by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Seattle Times*, the *Oregonian*, and the *Washington Post*. The book was a finalist for the Northern California Book Award and the PEN USA award. Before becoming a biographer, Sklenicka earned a Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis and taught writing at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and Marquette University. Her current project, a biography of short story writer and novelist Alice Adams, will be published by Scribner.

Will Swift is a biographer, a historian, and a practicing clinical psychologist. His *Pat and Dick: The Nixons, An Intimate Portrait of a Marriage* (January, 2014) was shortlisted for the 2015 Plutarch Award and was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice. His previous books are *The Roosevelts and the Royals* (2004) and *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm* (2008). A founding board member of BIO, Swift chairs its Awards Committee, is a member of the 2016 Plutarch Committee, and co-founded the BIO mentorship program. He particularly enjoys discovering facts which help repair historical reputations.



PENGUIN PRESS CONGRATULATES

Claire Tomalin

ON WINNING THE 2016 BIO AWARD!

Schedule—Saturday, June 4

CO Core C Craft I Issues in Biography W Workshop

7:00–8:00AM	Registration			
7:30AM	Breakfast Serving Begins SALONS 4–5			
8:00–8:15AM	Welcome by BIO President Brian Jay Jones SALONS 4–5			
8:15–9:15AM	Breakfast Plenary Session: Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Annette Gordon-Reed and T. J. Stiles in conversation about balancing historical research and literary craft. SALONS 4–5			
9:30–10:30AM	Trial by Fire: Lessons from Publishing a First Biography CO DOMINION/ COMMONWEALTH	Bringing Characters to Life C SALONS 6-7-8	The Future of Research I MADISON/ JEFFERSON	Advanced Social Media W MONROE
10:45–11:45AM	Choosing a Subject CO SHENANDOAH	Narrative Strategies C SALONS 6–7–8	Reviewing Biography I MONROE	Do's and Don'ts of Writing a Proposal W MADISON/ JEFFERSON
12:00–1:30PM	Lunch and Keynote Address by Claire Tomalin, the winner of the 2016 BIO Award SALONS 4–5			
1:45–2:45PM	Independent Presses for Biography CO MONROE	Family Biographies— American and British Royalty (and Everyone Else) C DOMINION/ COMMONWEALTH	Biographical Fiction and Biography I SALONS 6–7–8	Launching Your Book: Marketing and Promotion W MADISON/ JEFFERSON
3:00–4:00PM	The Agents' Panel CO SHENANDOAH	Dual Biographies C DOMINION/ COMMONWEALTH	Three Ways of Looking at a Subject: Richard Nixon I MADISON/ JEFFERSON	Ask a Lawyer: Fair Use, Copyright, Privacy, and Other Legal Issues W MONROE
4:15–5:15PM	Round-Table Discussions SEE PAGE 14 FOR LOCATIONS			
5:30–7:00PM	Networking Reception and Announcement of the 2015 Plutarch Award Winner SALONS 4–5			