



GLOUCESTER WRITERS CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2017 - MARCH 31, 2018

Letter from the Co-Directors

When we sit down to write the Annual Report, we first make a list of all the events that have happened in the past fiscal year, in this case from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. We are continually amazed by the incredible, brilliant energy that comes into the Gloucester Writers Center and the generosity of all those who share their creative energy and support.

We are a working writers center in a working town with a strong belief that all voices count. The work of writing and storytelling can transcend time, celebrate place, and grow community. The many GWC-sponsored readings and events by poets and writers from around the block and over the bridge are listed and pictured in this report. We highlight ten GWC events that show the depth and breadth of our outreach during FY2018.

Our Board of Directors, volunteers, and broad base of supporters make this work possible. As always, our future is in your hands. Your comments, ideas, and friendship are appreciated.

Annie Thomas Henry Ferrini

Annie Thomas and Henry Ferrini



Ten One-of-a-Kind Events During FY2018

April 1, 2017: *Olson's Impact* • A six-week course led by David Rich, editor of *Charles Olson: Letters Home, 1949-1969*, was kicked off at the Maud / Olson Library. Participants explored Charles Olson's core poems and essays and their influence on two generations of poets, beginning with his students at Black Mountain College and poets who published in the *Black Mountain Review* and *Origin*.

May 1, 2017: *Getting Heard* • JoeAnn Hart led a free event for the public on how to be heard by your government using traditional postcard and letter writing as a tool for expressing oneself on paper in order to effect policy change.

May 27, 2017: *Olson Panel* • Henry Ferrini, Greg Gibson, Gabe Barboza and André Spears journeyed to the American Literary Association's conference at Westin Copley Place to show the film *The Door is Open* about the delivery of the Maud / Olson Library to Gloucester.

July 22, 2017: *Hettie Jones' Workshop* • Best known for her book *How I became Hettie Jones*, her memoir of the "beat scene" of the 1950s and 60s, Hettie came to Gloucester from New York to lead 15



students in a workshop to create a memoir in the context of its own time and place. Guided by exercises and examples from published work, each three-hour workshop offered time for writing and oral critique. Hettie Jones is the author of 23 books for children and adults, including the award-winning *Big Star Fallin' Mama (Five Women in Black Music)* and *Drive*, the first of her three poetry collections, which won the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber Award.

October 17, 2017: *Writing a 10-Minute Play Workshop* • Actor, director and teacher M. Lynda Robinson began her 13th 10-minute play workshop, once again leading a group of writers in the process of playwriting and producing a play. The six-week course held at the GWC culminates in a staged reading at the Cultural Center at Rocky Neck. The workshop has resulted in 87 plays since 2012. The Cape Ann audience is an important part of the readings, as each play receives written feedback from the audience. This feedback helps playwrights move closer to a final draft. Many of the plays have gone on to professional productions and have been selected and performed in many festivals, including the Annual 10-Minute Play event at the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.



October 21, 2017: *Olson Lecture* • Ann Charters - noted Beat Generation scholar, photographer, and Professor Emerita at University of Connecticut-Storrs - visited Gloucester to discuss her correspondence with poet Charles Olson. She delivered the sixth annual Charles Olson Lecture at the Cape Ann Museum. Beginning in 1968 with Charters' request for Olson to reflect on his "earliest enthusiasm for Melville" and continuing until late 1969, these letters traverse the final two years of Olson's life. Centered on Charters' book, *Olson/Melville: A Study of Affinity*, the correspondence ultimately maps two writers' existence in an America that is simultaneously experiencing the wonder of the moon landing and the chaotic escalation of the Vietnam War. Their exchanges navigate the convolutions of Olson's ideas about history, space, and time in relation to his pivotal book, *Call Me Ishmael*, and his Black Mountain College lectures.

December 10, 2017: A book launch celebrating the publication of *The Inner Voice and The Outer World, Writings by Veterans and Their Families* was held at the Gloucester House. Veterans and family members of veterans read stories and poems from the anthology, and one hundred and fifty people attended this extraordinary event.

A long-time supporter of the GWC commented, "I was stunned at their accomplishments in creating this and have never witnessed a meeting like this one. It's rare to see a group from different backgrounds, so reverent and united, to support these writers. There was a spirituality in the room. This almost sacred atmosphere was remarkable."

The book was edited by Dorothy Shubow Nelson and published by the GWC. Dorothy is the facilitator/teacher of the Veterans Writing Workshop. Writers attended the Veterans Writing Workshop, a series of classes held in the fall and spring at the Cape Ann Veterans Center, 12 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester. The Linquata family, owners of the Gloucester House, generously donated the space and delicious buffet. The Cape Ann Veterans Writing Workshop is supported by Cape Ann Veterans Services and The Gloucester Writers Center.



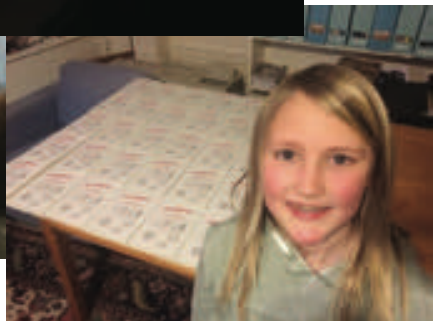
February 28, 2018: *Poems From Ward 3* • Joshua Scott-Fishburn, Craig Plaisted, Peter Murdoch, and Stevens Brosnihan, all writers from Ward 3, read together at the GWC. The writers met at GWC board member Joshua Scott-Fishburn's shed each week to share their work and offer constructive critique. The 52-week pact culminated with the GWC reading.



Themes of Ward 3 and Gloucester weaved through the dialogue.



March 16, 2017: The GWC hosted a book launch for staff person Amanda Cook, who has embodied the GWC's dedication to hearing all voices. A "standing room only" crowd turned out to hear Amanda read from her book, *Ironstone Whirlygig*, a daybook, a memoir, and a serial poem.



Community Education Outreach Report

One of the Gloucester Writers Center’s most important roles is helping members of our community find their voices. Our monthly Open Mic has welcomes writers from all walks of life to share their work.

From poetry to memoir, flash fiction to humor, each Open Mic covers a broad spectrum of writing and experience. It is not uncommon for a first-time reader and a published author to read back-to-back. The often-packed room is full of generous listeners, ready to welcome newcomers and happy to hear the progress of longer works read in installments.

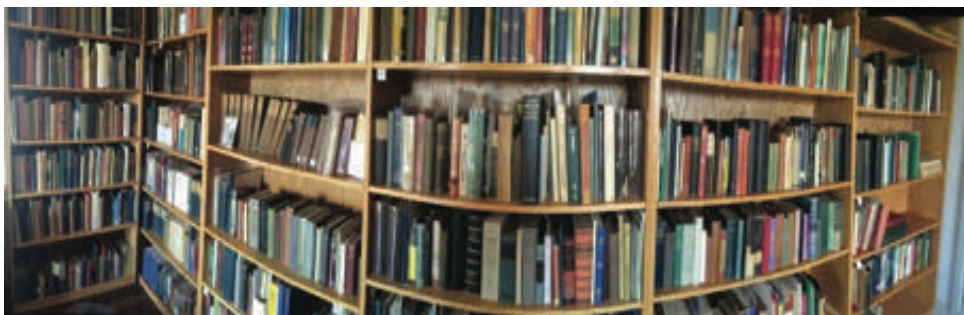
We are committed to creating opportunities for people to have their own voice when they might otherwise be silent. *Our Group of One’s Own* continues to help women express themselves in a safe and supportive environment. Thursday mornings at Pathways Pre-school helps young children learn the strength of words.



Maud / Olson Library Report FY2018

Organizing the Maud / Olson Library Collection and developing plans for future development continued under the able management of Project Manager Judith Nast. During FY2018 the physical organization of the collection included labeling, boxing fragile materials, covering materials with dust jackets, and boxing periodicals.

The 5,500-piece collection of books, periodicals and ephemera is in solid shape. Each item has a bookplate with Ralph Maud's notes. Olson Scholar Ralph Maud hand-copied Olson's marginalia onto his facsimile copies. The library that accompanied the Olson collection when it traveled from Vancouver to Gloucester includes Olson's works, letters, biographies, commentaries by others on Olson's works, Gloucester-related materials and items related to Black Mountain College.



Consultant Ben Cole implemented the use of a software system called Tableau. This new system allows MOL users and internet users to search the MOL catalogue online.

The MOL hosted approximately 100 international and out-of-town visitors during the summer months.



The Maud / Olson Library used social media outreach effectively, reaching thousands of people with its posts.

Judith hands over the reins at MOL having accomplished an enormous amount of work.



Year in Review – Calendar of Events

April 3: Open Mic

April 5:
Sandra Williams
and Jan Blais



April 6: Short Story
Writing: Structure
and Meaning

April 8:
Charles Olson's Impact -
A six-week course on
Charles Olson



April 11: *Fish Tales* - Poetry
at Sawyer Free Library

April 12: Jeff Zinn reads at the GWC

April 26: Fanny Howe

May 1: Getting Heard: Pizza and Postcards

May 1: Open Mic

May 10: Marc Levy reads at the GWC

May 24: Thorpe Feidt and Patrick Doud

May 27: Olson Panel at the
American Literature
Association Conference



Year in Review – Calendar of Events



May 31:
Kyle Schlesinger -
Olson at Goddard

June 5: Love Fest: an interactive community art project

June 5: Open Mic

June 7:
Richard Grossinger
and Lindy Hough
read at the GWC



June 18:
We Resist: A Reading

June 23:
Fish Tales -
I Protest

June 28:
Richard Deming
and Nancy Kuhl



Year in Review – Calendar of Events



July 1:
Dig In!
a conversation about
the politics of food



July 9:
Rick Berlin reads

July 10: Open Mic

July 12: Olivia Kate Cerrone: *The Hunger Saint*



July 22:
Hettie Jones:
Memoir Workshop

July 26: Stephanie Cassatly reads at the GWC

August 7: Open Mic

August 8:
Niaz Dorry and Lee Van Der Voo
*Fish Market: Inside the Big Money
Battle for the Ocean & Your
Dinner Plate*



Year in Review – Calendar of Events

August 16:
Pui Ying Wong,
Cathy Strisik,
and Ani Gjika
read at the GWC



August 23:
Charles Guiliano
And Geoffrey Movius

September 6: Reading of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

September 7: Jonathan Bayliss Birthday Bash
and Gilgamesh Play Reading

September 9:
Michael Casey
and Paul Marion
read at the GWC



September 11: Open Mic

September 13: Ben Berman and
Joshua Scott-Fishburn
read at the GWC

September 15: *Fish Tales* - Birth



Year in Review – Calendar of Events

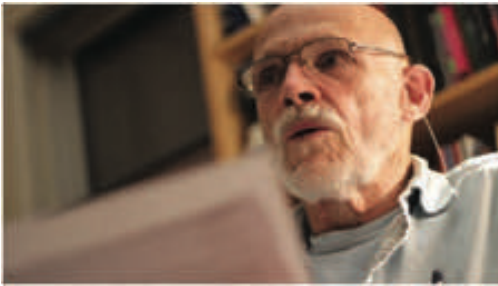
September 21:
Kate Tarlow Morgan -
Memoirs of Places and Phrases



September 25: Jungian Study Group Introductory Overview

September 27: College Essay Program Training Night

October 2: Open Mic



October 4:
Dorothy Nelson
and Preston Hood -
Writing Through

October 13:
Joel Dinerstein
reads from *The Origins of
Cool in Post War America*



October 16: Jungian Study Group

October 17: Writing a 10-Minute Play – The 13th Workshop

October 18:
Peter Anastas and
Bob Buckeye
reading



Year in Review – Calendar of Events

October 21:
Ann Charters delivers the
Sixth Annual Charles Olson Lecture
at Cape Ann Museum



October 24:
Meet the Author Night -
Anita Diamant at the
Azorean Restaurant

October 25: Don Wellman and Michael Franco read at the GWC

November 1:
Laura Harrington
reads from her new
book *A Catalog of Birds*



November 6, 13, 20, & 27 and Dec. 4:
NaNoWriMo Workshop for Young Adults

November 15: Gabe Barboza and Paul Cultrera
read their poetry at the GWC



November 29:
Danusia Borchardt
reads at the GWC

Year in Review – Calendar of Events

December 1: *Fish Tales - Road Trip!*

Fundraiser at Gloucester Stage Company



Year in Review – Calendar of Events

December 10: Book Release - *The Inner Voice and the Outer World: Writings by Veterans and Their Families*

December 18: Jungian Study Group

February 5: Open Mic

February 8: Fred Dewey and Peter Anastas read at the GWC



February 16:
Rory O'Connor's
*Tales From Another
Place* at the GWC

February 25: A Celebration of Gerrit Lansing



February 28:
Poems from
Ward 3

March 5: Open Mic

March 9: 10-Minute Play staged readings at
Cultural Center at Rocky Neck

March 16: Book Release: Amanda Cook's *Ironstone Whirligig*

March 21: Steven Seidenberg and David Abel read at the GWC

March 23: *Fish Tales* - High School

March 29: Veterans Writing Workshop

Thank You

Foundation Support and Grants

Bruce J. Anderson Foundation
Caldwell Foundation
Community Preservation Act
Galen Gibson Scholarship Trust
Garland Legacy Project
Lobster Cove Foundation
Mass Cultural Council
Taylor Foundation
Womens Fund of Essex County



Thank you to the Cultural Center at Rocky Neck. This space hosts *Fish Tales* and many reading events for GWC.

Thank You Corporate Donations

Aberdeen Home Care
Anthony & Dodge, PC
Ark Landworks
Bank Gloucester
Cape Ann Savings Bank
Lucas Noble Financial
Geoffrey H. Richon, Co. Inc.



Fundraising Report

- Individual donations ranging from \$10 to major gifts of \$30,000 continued to be the largest source of funding for the GWC.
- Two mailings brought in \$35,000 with over 200 donations made.
- Eleven people became Sustainers, making a monthly donation.
- Fundraiser events during the year were successful. These included Meet the Author Night with author Anita Diamant at the Azorean Restaurant, and the ongoing standing room only *Fish Tales*. Board member William Taylor designed tee shirts and hats with the theme of “Write-On”.
- Event Committee members Mary John Boylan, Maureen Aylward, Joe Cardoza, Charlee Bianchini, Annie Thomas and Henry Ferrini worked with Renata Greene and Mac Bell on the Incredible Dancer Gala held in June 2018.
- Treasurer Paul Cultrera focused on issues of cash flow tracking and management.
- GWC received over \$45,000 in money from foundation and corporate donations.
- Grant writer Barbara Silberman continued to research funding opportunities. Our multi pronged fundraising efforts brought in over \$170, 000.



GWC Board of Directors Report

As we come to the close of FY2018, the Gloucester Writers Center board reflects on its growth and accomplishments. Our main goal was to strengthen the board with new members and provide structure to the organization as it moved into a period of transition.

We grew our board, welcoming several amazing people who offer us the talent, perspective, and insight needed to strengthen the GWC.

- Joe Cardoza and Sandra Williams joined the board. Sandra works on the Education Committee and focuses on the development of the Dogtown Writers Festival with Board President Dan Duffy. Joe works on the Event Committee and planned the music for the Incredible Dancer Gala in June 2018.
- Paul Cultrera, who took over the role of treasurer, works with staff on cash flow issues and overall development.
- Simone Early joined the board in June 2018. She is working with Henry Ferrini to design the Writers Wall on Porter Street.

We say fond farewells with gratitude, to three board members who have made significant contributions to the Gloucester Writers Center.

- Brenda Hiltz has served as the treasurer of the GWC. She was instrumental in strengthening GWC's accounting methods and financial stability.
- Sumiko Giarratini worked as liaison to Anthony Dodge with Annie Thomas and Andria Picano on GWC accounting.
- Charlee Bianchini, chair of the Governance Committee, developed important governance policies and non-profit best practices.

GWC Board of Directors Report

The board instituted a strong schedule of monthly meetings and committee reporting, cloud-based document access, active Executive Board discussions and actions, and an ongoing review of financials.

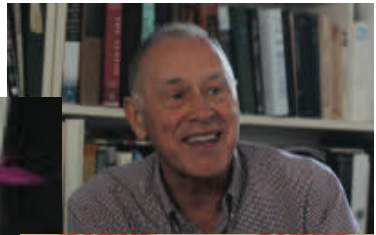
This past year, the GWC board worked closely with co-directors Annie Thomas and Henry Ferrini to transition the organization to a more resilient position strategically and financially. The Executive Committee, (President Dan Duffy, Vice-President Maureen Aylward, Clerk Mary John Boylan, and Treasurer Paul Cultrera) met regularly with Henry and Annie to continue our work with emphasis on fundraising and development efforts, building strategic governance direction, providing support for education and programming initiatives, and focusing persistently on staying relevant and engaged in our community's culture.



GWC Board of Directors Report

UPCOMING INITIATIVES - The GWC Board is developing the following programs to be implemented in FY2019

- Dogtown Writers Festival - A two-day festival to be held in September 2019. The Gloucester Garland Legacy Project gave a grant to fund the festival and writer Sandy Tolan will give the first keynote address named in honor of Joe Garland. Board President Dan Duffy and members Sandra Williams and Joshua Scott-Fishburn formed the structure of the festival and reached out to writers and community groups to collaborate and plan the festival.
- Henry Ferrini and Barbara Silberman continued to develop funding sources and plans for the Writers Wall on Porter Street.



Financial Report

Thank you to Brenda Hiltz and Sumiko Giarratini from Anthony & Dodge, PC in Hamilton, MA for pro bono accounting services. Because the gross revenue of the GWC is under \$200,000 a review is not required by law.

**ANTHONY
&
DODGE, PC**

Certified Public Accountants

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Website: www.anthonydodge.com

Accountants' Compilation Report

To the Members
Gloucester Writers Center, Inc.
Gloucester, MA 01930

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of Gloucester Writers Center, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities, and equity—tax basis as of March 31, 2018, and the related statement of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets—tax basis for the year then ended, and for determining that the tax basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management had elected to omit substantially all the disclosures ordinarily included in financial statements prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Company's assets, liabilities, equity, revenues and expenses. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent with respect to Gloucester Writers Center, Inc.

Anthony + Dodge, PC
ANTHONY & DODGE, PC
Certified Public Accountants
Hamilton, Massachusetts

July 27, 2018



Financials

The combination of mailings, events, grants, and individual giving, along with a large individual donation to ensure the development of the Maud / Olson Library, combined to produce another great fundraising year.

GLoucester Writers Center, Inc. STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - TAX BASIS AS OF MARCH 31, 2018

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2017</u>
Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 47,286
Other Current Assets	75
Total Current Assets	<u>47,361</u>
Property and Equipment	
Land & Building	100,000
Building Improvement	13,433
Library	25,179
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,746)</u>
Total Property and Equipment	<u>133,866</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 181,227</u>

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:	
Due to Fiscal Agent Project	\$ 1,001
Deferred Scholarship Revenue	141
Notes Payable - Credit Line	<u>3,035</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,177</u>
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	167,810
Temporarily Restricted	<u>9,240</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>177,050</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 181,227</u>

See accountant's compilation report.

Financials

GLOUCESTER WRITERS CENTER, INC.
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER CHANGES IN
NET ASSETS - TAX BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

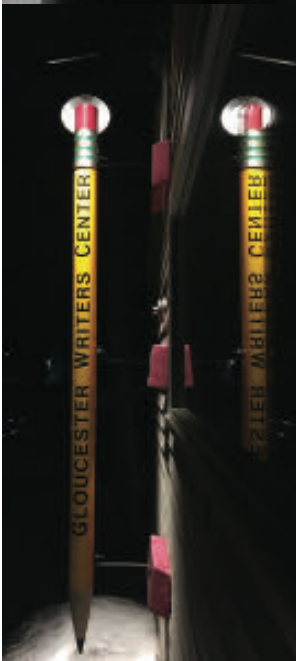
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues & Support			
Direct Mail Appeal	35,058		35,058
Fundraising - Other	2,416		2,416
Restricted Grants	21,000		21,000
Grants	9,332	15,000	24,332
Individual giving	47,010	35,250	82,260
Literary Series	15		15
Writing Education	1,060		1,060
Programs - Other	6,617		6,617
Interest Income	64	48	112
Total Revenue and Support	<u>122,572</u>	<u>50,298</u>	<u>172,870</u>
Expense			
Major Events Expense	477		477
Major Event - Food and Beverage	100		100
Fundraising Expense Other	476		476
Grants Expense	3,450		3,450
Program Expense	6,967	20,352	27,319
Filing Fees	70		70
Business Expenses	712		712
Depreciation Expenses	1,312		1,312
Equip Rental and Maintenance	273	11	284
Janitorial Services	750		750
Donation	75		75
Rent		17,331	17,331
Utilities	2,194	1,130	3,324
Repair and Maintenance	1,232	929	2,161
Books, Subscriptions, Reference		1,677	1,677
Postage, Mailing Service	775		775
Printing and Copying	222		222
Supplies	1,426	213	1,639
Telephone Expenses	297		297
Meals and Entertainment	342	85	427
Web Expenses	1,432	159	1,591
Insurance - Liability & WC	1,031	1,032	2,063
Staff Development	31		31
Salaries & Wages	68,569	16,144	84,713
Payroll Processing Fees	(280)	874	594
Payroll Taxes	7,903		7,903
Conference, Convention, Meeting	157	770	927
Travel	135	454	589
Bank Service Fees	344		344
Interest Expenses	345		345
Total Expense	<u>100,817</u>	<u>61,161</u>	<u>161,978</u>
Changes in Net Assets	<u>21,755</u>	<u>(10,863)</u>	<u>10,892</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>146,055</u>	<u>20,103</u>	<u>166,158</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u><u>167,810</u></u>	<u><u>9,240</u></u>	<u><u>177,050</u></u>

See accountant's compilation report.



Volunteers

Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of the GWC and Maud / Olson Library. Volunteer and pro bono services included assisting with events and mailings, gardening, tending the spaces at the 126 and 108 East Main Street, fundraising, running programs, producing materials, and graphic designing. Central to our mission, writers from near and far gave their time through readings and sharing their ideas.



Staff and Volunteer Positions 2017-2018

Co-Directors

Henry Ferrini and Annie Thomas

Community Education Coordinator / Web Admin

Amanda Cook

Bookkeeper

Andria Picano

PR and Administrative Support

Ellen Pulitzer

Graphic Design and Production Support

Renata Greene

Fish Tales Producer

Maureen Aylward

Project Coordinator Maud / Olson Library

Judith Nast

Grant Writer

Barbara Silberman

Webmaster

Steve Brettler

Teachers and Workshop Facilitators

Dorothy Shubow Nelson

M. Lynda Robinson

David Rich

Sandra Williams

Artist-in-Residence

Susan Erony

Gardeners

Barbara Boudreau

William Taylor

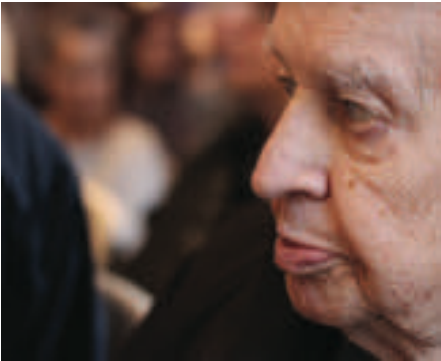
Event Coordination

Stacey Dexter



Transitions

The Gloucester Writers Center lost a great friend with the death of Gerrit Lansing just two weeks shy of his 90th birthday. Since its beginning, the GWC has been lucky to have Gerrit's advice and influence. He was a binding force in our community and the greater poetic community. Gerrit drew people to Gloucester. Friendships were made and strengthened in his presence. His curiosity and knowledge were legendary. Gerrit was a generous writer, listener and friend. We are privileged to have been witness to his magic.



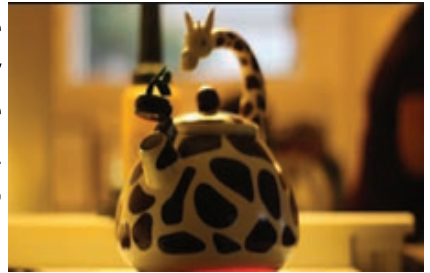
Gifts in Memory:
Thank you for gifts
given in memory of
Neal Jacobs and
Ruth Harriet Jacobs
and Gerrit Lansing.

Transitions

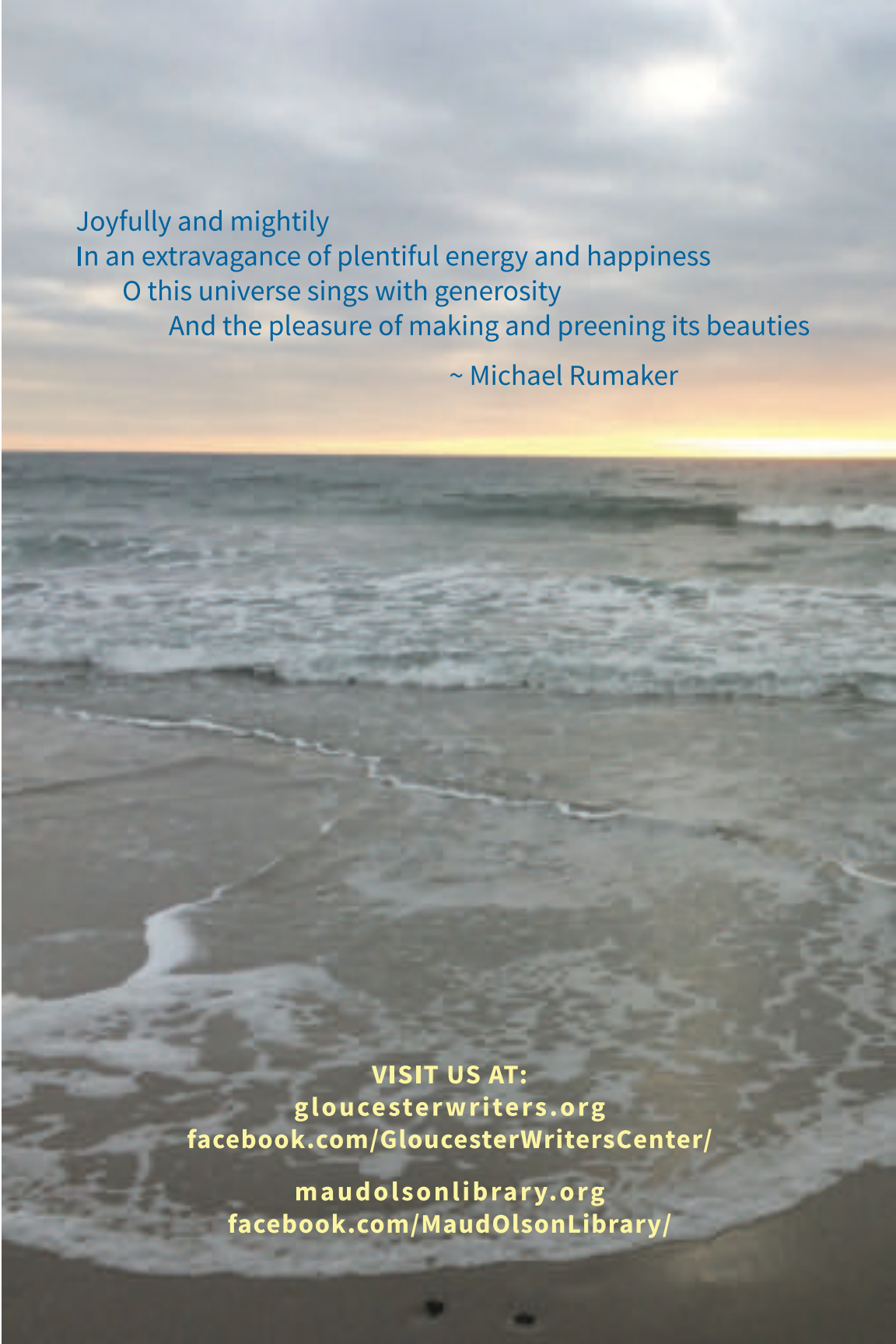
Fred Buck was loved by many. He was husband, father, poet, musician, publisher, and an incredibly funny person. He was a good friend to the GWC, sending us tips, passing on important literary information about Cape Ann, connecting us with writers from around the world, and hiping us to things we didn't know existed. We will miss him. As Willie Alexander says, "Don't forget Fred Buck."



This teapot was given by the late Nicole Hahn Rafter, an early Writer-in-Residence. Her work on the incarceration of women in correctional facilities and eugenics continues to inform scholars and readers world-wide.



We will miss Bill Traves, a lover of Gloucester and the arts. Above, he talks with GWC resident artist, Susan Erony, about Cape Ann's early 20th century art scene.



Joyfully and mightily
In an extravagance of plentiful energy and happiness
O this universe sings with generosity
And the pleasure of making and preening its beauties

~ Michael Rumaker

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