



April-June 2022 Public Programs

If a program is sponsored, it is noted in **RED**

In Conversation With LIVE Sponsorship

\$1,500 for program

\$2,000 for program plus reception

\$3,000 for program, reception, and dinner for up to 9

Freya Johnston, *Jane Austen Early and Late*

April 13 | 6:00 pm -7:30 pm

Austen's novels, published toward the end of her brief life, are as brilliant as they are compact. Earlier writings have been dismissed as mere stepping stones to later proficiency and greatness. But in *Jane Austen Early and Late* Dr. Freya Johnson encourages us to see these "childish effusions" anew, and recognize that humor, insight, and sense of place are consistent throughout Austen's work.

About the Speaker

Ms. Johnston has published two books about Samuel Johnson and is general editor of The Cambridge Edition of the Novels of Thomas Love Peacock (the first two volumes appeared in 2016; the next two will appear in 2022) as well as volume editor of his penultimate novel, *Crotchet Castle* (1831).

Al Filreis and Anna Strong Safford: *The Difference is Spreading*

May 18 | 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

The first poem of Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons* gives the title to *The Difference is Spreading*, a book that makes poetry accessible in an entirely unexpected—and poetic—way. Al Filreis and Anna Strong Safford, of the University of Pennsylvania and the Kelly Writer's House, hand the microphone over to the poets themselves, inviting fifty of them to select and comment upon a poem by another writer. Come share in a lively celebration of poetry, in which poems—and poets—leap from the page and take center stage at The Rosenbach!

Daniel Mulhall, *Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey (Celebrating Ulysses 100)*

June 13 | 6:00-7:30 pm

Daniel Mulhall will discuss his introductory guide to *Ulysses*. *Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey* takes us on a journey through one of the twentieth century's greatest works of fiction. Mulhall shuns the idea that the book is impenetrable and instead shows us the pleasure it can offer us as readers.

About the Speaker

Daniel Mulhall was born in Waterford. He has spent more than 40 years in Ireland's diplomatic service and is currently Ireland's ambassador in the United States. He has written and lectured around the world on the subject of Irish literature, and in particular the work of James Joyce, and has worked tirelessly throughout his career to further the impact and reach of Irish writing around the world.

In Conversation With VIRTUAL Sponsorship

\$1,000 for program

Why Read *Ulysses* 100 Years On? (Celebrating *Ulysses* 100)

Tuesday, April 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Why Read *Ulysses* 100 Years On?

“An illiterate, underbred book it seems to me: the book of a self-taught working man, & we all know how distressing they are, how egotistic, insistent, raw, striking, & ultimately nauseating.”--Virginia Woolf (16 August 1922)

In our era of information saturation, political, social, and environmental upheaval, why read *Ulysses*? In this roundtable, students, scholars, and popular readers reflect on the relevance of *Ulysses* in 2022, one hundred years after its publication. Each participant aims to connect one episode or character to a specific pressing concern today. Censorship, immigration, self-government, Anti-Semitism, sexual, artistic, and religious freedoms—f these were the concerns of 1922, what are the topics that *Ulysses* urgently speaks to today?

About the panelists

Megan Quigley is the author of *Modernist Fiction and Vagueness: Philosophy, Form, and Language* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) as well as articles on Henry James, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, and #MeToo and Modernism. She is co-editing the forthcoming volume *Eliot Now* (Bloomsbury 2022) in time for the centenary of *The Waste Land*. She is an Associate Professor of English at Villanova University.

Paul Saint-Amour is the author, most recently, of *Tense Future: Modernism, Total War, Encyclopedic Form* (Oxford University Press, 2015) and the co-editor, with Jessica Berman, of the Modernist Latitudes series at Columbia University Press. He currently chairs the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sean Latham's teaching and research focus on modern literature and culture with a particular focus on major figures like James Joyce and Bob Dylan. He is the author or editor of nine books that explore topics like snobbery, genre fiction, libel law, and modernism. Latham also serves as Editor of the *James Joyce Quarterly* and Director of the TU Institute for Bob Dylan Studies. Currently, he is at work on a book that explores Dylan creative life.

Colm Tóibín, Music in *Ulysses* (Celebrating *Ulysses* 100)

Tuesday, June 7 | 6:00 p.m.

Colm Tóibín in “Music and *Ulysses*” explores Joyce's use of music in the novel, and the place of music in the Dublin of 1904. Song plays a vital element in *Ulysses*. The characters in the novel live in a web of small conspiracies, easy gossip, old associations. Many of them are connected to one another by an interest in music and song. Song not only connects the characters, but it allows the characters to soar above their own circumstances, as Simon does in the 'Sirens' episode.

About the speaker

Colm Tóibín is one of the most important Irish authors of the present day. He is the author of ten novels, including *The Magician*, his most recent novel; *The Master*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *Brooklyn*, winner of the Costa Book Award; *The Testament of Mary*; and *Nora Webster*, as well as two story collections and several books of criticism. Colm Tóibín is a professor of humanities at Columbia University. Tóibín has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times. He is the editor of *One Hundred Years of James Joyce's "Ulysses"* from Penn State University Press. He lives in Dublin and New York.

Reading Course Sponsorship \$1,500 (pays for 2 scholarships)

The Brontës, Revisited, Reappraised, Reimagined (virtual)

4 sessions online: Apr 24, May 22, Jun 12, Jun 26 | 2:00–4:00 p.m. EDT

Three new Brontë biographers examine three Brontë novels for a 21st Century audience. Each session will feature one of the instructors discussing one novel by the Brontës, Claire O'Callaghan will explore the complexity of gender and race in Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, Sophie Franklin will examine the psychological intensity of what many critics call Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece, *Villette*. Adelle Hay will discuss the keen psychological insight and skillful storytelling of Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

About the instructors

Sophie Franklin is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Tübingen, specializing in the Brontës, violence, nineteenth-century literature and culture, and afterlives. She completed her PhD at Durham University in 2019, where she explored representations of violence in Anne, Charlotte, and Emily Brontë's work; and she is the author of *Charlotte Brontë Revisited: A View from the Twenty-First Century*.

Dr Claire O'Callaghan is a Lecturer in English at Loughborough University, U.K. Her research focuses on Victorian and neo-Victorian literature and culture, with an emphasis on gender, sexuality and the body. Claire is an expert on the Brontës. She is the author of *Emily Brontë Reappraised* (Saraband, 2018) and she has also written on *Jane Eyre*, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, Emily's poetry, contemporary reworkings of *Wuthering Heights*, and the Brontë biodrama, *To Walk Invisible* (2016).

Adelle Hay is a PhD student at the University of Loughborough. Her research focuses on Anne Brontë's changing literary and personal reputations, and how these have been affected by the posthumous editing of her works. Adelle's lifelong interest in books and literature eventually resulted in a career change and in 2020, after three years working as a bookbinder, her first book *Anne Brontë Reimagined: A View From The Twenty-first Century*. Her technical experience and lifelong interest in the Brontës inspired the PhD project, which combines digital humanities, textual editing, and cultural heritage.

Reading *Ulysses* with Ambassador Daniel Mulhall (in-person and virtual)

5 sessions at The Rosenbach and online: Apr 25, May 9, May 23, Jun 6, Jun 13 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. EDT

A career diplomat and author, Daniel Mulhall, who is currently Ireland's Ambassador to the USA, has written *Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey* (Dublin 2022) with different sets of non-specialist readers in mind—those who have read Joyce's novel, those who plan to read it and those who may never get to read it, but want to know more about this leviathan of literary modernism. This course is aimed at a full range of readers and especially at those who want to deepen their knowledge of James Joyce and *Ulysses*, his greatest achievement.

This course alternates between in person and virtual meetings:

Apr 25 in person at The Rosenbach
May 9 virtual on Zoom
May 23 in person at The Rosenbach
Jun 6 virtual on Zoom
Jun 13 in person at The Rosenbach

About the instructor

Daniel Mulhall was born in Waterford. He has spent more than 40 years in Ireland's diplomatic service, and is currently Ireland's ambassador in the United States. He has written and lectured around the world on the subject of Irish literature, and in particular the work of James Joyce, and has worked tirelessly throughout his career to further the impact and reach of Irish writing around the world.

Reading *The Sound and the Fury* with William Faulkner biographer Carl Rollyson (virtual)

5 sessions online: Apr 27, May 11, May 25, Jun 15, Jun 29 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. EDT

Reading *The Sound and the Fury* in the context of Faulkner's time and place is a concrete way of understanding a novel that has often been deemed difficult and experimental. An introductory session will be devoted to Faulkner's family background and its place within Southern history, with specific attention to the events and people that inspired the creation of his first great novel.

Each session will begin with a basic discussion of what happens in the section and then of how the section is arranged so as to fit into the totality of the whole work. It is recommended that you read the entire novel after the first session, not worrying too much about what you do not understand, and then re-reading each section in preparation for each class session. Certain Faulkner biographies will be helpful in situating your reading of the novel, but none are required for the course.

About the instructor

Carl Rollyson, Professor Emeritus at Baruch College, The City University of New York, is the author of the two volume *The Life of William Faulkner* for University of Virginia Press. He has also published numerous biographies of literary figures such as Sylvia Plath, Susan Sontag, Lillian Hellman, Amy Lowell, Rebecca West, and Norman Mailer. His writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Criterion*, and the *Washington Post*.

Great Prison Literature Book Club (in person)

4 sessions at The Rosenbach and Eastern State Penitentiary: Apr 28, May 19, Jun 9, Jun 23 | 6:30–8:00 p.m. EDT

The Rosenbach and Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site Collaborate to host the "Great Prison Literature Book Club." The first meeting will be at The Rosenbach and the remaining three at Eastern State Penitentiary.

April 28 at The Rosenbach—Edward Pettit, Manager of Public Programs, The Rosenbach, on Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* and *American Notes*

May 19 at Eastern State Penitentiary—Matt Murphy, Eastern State Penitentiary Tour Programs Supervisor, on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *House of the Dead*

June 9 at Eastern State Penitentiary—Jerome Loach, Eastern State Supervisor for Education and Partnerships, on *The Autobiography of Malcolm X, as told to Alex Haley*

June 23 at Eastern State Penitentiary—Samantha Hunter, Eastern State Senior Specialist, Tour and Youth Programs, on *Inside This Place, Not of It: Narratives from Women's Prisons*, edited by Ayelet Waldman

Searching for Feminists in Athens' Golden Age with Sadhbh Walshe (virtual)

4 sessions online: May 4, May 18, Jun 1, Jun 15 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. EDT

An Exploration of selected works by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes

In recent years, many scholars have been re-evaluating the great works of Ancient Greek theatre through a feminist lens. The tragedies and comedies that were written by the four major playwrights of Athenian Golden Age – Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes—feature some powerful and extraordinary women who do not shy away from attempting to control their own destinies. Characters like Clytemnestra, Antigone, Medea, and Lysistrata, to name a few, are increasingly viewed as anachronistic feminist icons who stood up to their men folk, often at great personal cost. But while modern day audiences and readers may see much to admire in these undeniably complex women, some scholars believe that any feminist revisionism is misguided. They remind us that the writer's intention may not have been to celebrate these independent women but rather to demonstrate the danger they posed to men and to society.

So, which is it? Well, that's what we hope to find out in this course as we explore selected works from each of the aforementioned writers – *Lysistrata* and *The Women's Assembly* by Aristophanes, *Medea* and *Trojan Women* by Euripides, *Antigone* and *Elektra* by Sophocles, and Aeschylus' *Oresteia* (a trilogy of plays comprising *Agamemnon*, *The Libation Bearers*, and *The Eumenides*.) In addition to closely examining these plays through a feminist lens, we will learn about the playwrights' lives, the major events that were taking place in 5th century Athens which informed their work

About the instructor

Sadhbh Walshe is a New York based Irish writer and journalist. She has written op-eds and features for *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, NBC, CBS, *The Irish Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, Al Jazeera America and she wrote a weekly opinion column for *The Guardian*. She was awarded a John Jay/ H.F Guggenheim justice fellowship and was named a Soros Justice fellowship finalist for her year-long *Guardian* series, Inside Story: The US Prison System. She was an associate producer for the TV pilot *The District on CBS* and was a staff writer for the syndicated TV series. She wrote and directed the award-winning short film *Miss Bertram's Awakening* and her new play, *The Write Off*, recently had its inaugural performance in New York. Previously, Sadhbh taught the Writing Irish Women course for the Rosenbach.

Understanding the Declaration of Independence at 250 with Philip Mead, Chief Historian and Curator of The Museum of the American Revolution (in person)

4 sessions: 5/5 and 5/19 at The Rosenbach, 6/2 and 6/23 at the Museum of the American Revolution

Understanding Declaration of Independence at 250

A short document with a long national and global reach, the Declaration of Independence of the United States is approaching its 250th anniversary. This course engages students in their own close readings of the text of the Declaration of Independence, alongside major interpretations of the Declaration, both by famous and little-recognized figures, over the course of its 250-year history. By closely examining the document's original language and exploring interpretations over time of four key themes in the Declaration - equality, rights, revolution, and sovereignty - this four-part discussion-rich course asks, what is the significance of Declaration of Independence on the cusp of the coming anniversary? The course discussion and outcomes will help shape the narratives of an upcoming exhibition at Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution, currently being developed by the course instructor.

About the Instructor

Philip Mead is the Chief Historian and Curator of the Museum of the American Revolution (MoAR). He received his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 2012, where he focused on Revolutionary America. He began working for MoAR in 2011 where he co-curated MoAR's critically acclaimed core exhibition that opened in 2017. He has published on various aspects of early American constitutional, military, material culture, and political history. His current book project, which is based on his dissertation, is titled *Melancholy Landscapes: Soldier Diaries and the Making of a Revolutionary War*. It explores the ways manuscript writing and circulation of wartime journals shaped a revolutionary nation. The 2020 exhibition that he directed, *When Women Lost the Vote: A Revolutionary Story, 1776 - 1807*, used newly-found manuscript poll lists to study voting practices in Revolutionary New Jersey.

Writing Memoir at the Rosenbach with Andrew Ervin (virtual)

4 weekly sessions online: May 10, 17, 24, 31 | 6:30–8:00 p.m. EDT

Writing about ourselves can be both challenging and exhilarating, and it's always rewarding. In this course, we'll practice the art of bringing our memories alive on the page. No two lives are exactly alike, and here you'll have the opportunity to describe what makes yours unique. What challenges have you faced? What lessons have you learned? Which memories make you who you are? As the author William Zinsser writes, "Memoir isn't the summary of a life; it's a window into a life, very much like a photograph is its selective composition. It may look causal and even random calling up bygone events. It's not; it's a deliberate construction." Here, that deliberate construction will take the form of three personal essays that no one other than you could possibly write.

About the Instructor

Andrew Ervin is the author of two novels and a memoir about his lifelong love of video games. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and teaches part time in the Graduate Creative Program and in the Intellectual Heritage Program at Temple University. As a critic, he's a regular contributor to the *New York Times Book Review* and many other publications.

Libraries & Liberty Seminar Series (virtual)

Register here: <https://support.librarycompany.org/LibrariesandLibertySeminar>

How have libraries aided the cause of liberty, in the United States and elsewhere? What kind of liberty, and for whom? What role do libraries play now in ensuring the continued freedom of people in our country and around the world? The Libraries & Liberty seminar series is a collaboration between The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and The Rosenbach. Each seminar will build on the last as these three cultural institutions use their collections and areas of expertise to engage with these questions.

Libraries and Liberty: *The Books Behind the Declaration*, hosted by the Library Company and led by director Dr. Michael Barsanti, begins the series by looking specifically at the moment of our country's founding, and how the books in the collection of the Library Company were a part of the conversation and debate.

In fall 2022, **The Rosenbach will host Libraries & Liberty: *Liberty and the Writer's Identity* led by John C. Haas Director Kelsey Scouten Bates**, who will lead us through an exploration of the writer's voice, particularly of American writers whose voices have historically been suppressed. Discover how fiction and non-fiction writers use their experiences and perspectives to create the ethos, pathos, and logos that goes into the great writing we collect, read, discuss, and celebrate in libraries today.

The final seminar in winter 2023, **Libraries & Liberty: *Strange Meetings*, Dr. Beth Hessel will explore the Athenaeum's Record of Strangers** guest book, demonstrating how 19th century libraries were sites for people to encounter new ideas and interesting "strangers."

Schedule for ***The Books Behind the Declaration***

Wednesday April 20th, 2022 6:00-7:30 Libraries, Books, and the Enlightenment

Wednesday May 18th, 2022 6:00-7:30 The Course of Human Events

Wednesday June 15th, 2022 6:00-7:30 All Men are Created Equal

Wednesday July 6th 2022 6:00-7:30 Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

*This closing session will be hosted in-person at the Library Company with a reception.

Performance at The Rosenbach Sponsorship

\$5,000 for program, reception, and dinner for up to 9

Yolanda Wisher's Rent Party at the Rosenbach

May 21, 6:00-7:30 pm

Project sponsored by Susan Muller, Chris and Laura Lindsay, Peter and Ellie Nalle, Elise Drake, and Harriet's Bookshop

Yolanda Wisher's Rent Party at the Rosenbach invokes the tradition of the rent party dating back to the Harlem Renaissance, when communal gatherings of artists fed an outpouring of blues, jazz, and poetry. Rent parties were some of the original house parties. Guests would pay a small fee for homespun food, prohibited drink and live entertainment. Sometimes a piano was hauled up a few flights of stairs for the occasion. While they were designed to help the host pay their rent with the help of a few friends spreading the word, the ancestral rent parties were also incubators of cultural innovation.

Curated and hosted by Philadelphia Poet Laureate Emerita Yolanda Wisher, rent parties feature readings by contemporary poets from different schools of thought and craft in addition to a performance Wisher and her band The Afroeaters. This rent party will be the launch of the Afroeaters album *Doublehanded Suite*, their debut album. Guests will be the first to hear tracks from the album in a cabaret style setting and take part in a live and lively recorded conversation between the Afroeaters about the making of the album. The event will also include a screening of a film by Aidan Un and Raishad Hartnett inspired by the album and the rent party project. Attendees will have an exclusive opportunity to pre-order the signed and numbered copies of the limited edition vinyl record due out later this year.

A Reading: Susan Stewart Sponsored by the Maurice English Poetry Award

Tuesday, April 19 | 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Maurice English Poetry Award

The Maurice English Poetry Reading, established by Helen Drutt English and Deirdre Elena English to honor the memory of the late poet Maurice English, presents each year a distinguished poet for readings in Philadelphia and New York.

A poet, critic, and translator, **Susan Stewart** is the Avalon Foundation University Professor in the Humanities and Professor of English. She is a member of the Associated Faculty of the Department of Art and Archaeology and serves as the editor of the Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets. From 2009 to 2017, she was the Director of Princeton's Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. She teaches the history of poetry, literary criticism, and aesthetics.

Stewart's most recent books of criticism include *The Poet's Freedom: A Notebook on Making; Poetry and the Fate of the Senses*, which won the Christian Gauss Award for Literary Criticism from Phi Beta Kappa and the Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism; *The Open Studio: Essays on Art and Aesthetics*, a collection of her writings on contemporary art; *Crimes of Writing; On Longing; and Nonsense*. A former MacArthur Fellow and recipient of Princeton's Behrman Award in the Humanities, Stewart served as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 2005-2011. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005 and in the Spring of 2009 she received an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2014, she was a Berlin Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin. In 2020 she will deliver the Clarendon Lectures at Oxford University.

Biblicocktails Sponsorship

\$1,500—recognition and four tickets

A Decadent Biblicocktails in the Garden

Friday, April 22 | 6:30–8:30 p.m.

We're celebrating the 150th birthday of artist Aubrey Beardsley with a celebration of all things decadent. Beardsley authored a thousand radical designs that shattered precedent and penned a decadent erotic novel, the manuscript of which, written mainly in violet ink, resides at The Rosenbach along with original Beardsley artwork. Wear your most exotic dandy apparel and enjoy a decadent specialty cocktail in our newly renovated garden. We'll have a Wild(e) time!

Love Surpassing Biblicocktails in the Garden

Thursday, June 30 | 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Join us for a special evening celebrating Pride Month in our newly renovated garden. Expect fun literary activities, inspired toasts, cocktail demonstrations, and great bookish conversation.

Behind the Bookcase (in person)

Behind the Bookcase tours are sponsored by Robert K. Urquhart

Written In My Heart: James Joyce & Irish Authors (Thurs, April-14- 6:00-7:00 pm)

The Modern Emily Dickinson: the Anti-Belle of Amherst (Thurs, April 28- 6:00-7:00 pm)

Fakes & Forgeries (Sun, May 8- 2:00-3:00 pm)

Early Hebrew Books I: Writing with Many Pens (Thurs, May 26- 6:00-7:00 pm)

Written In My Heart: James Joyce & Irish Authors (Sun, June 5- 2:00-3:00 pm)

The Artistry and Industry of Bookmaking (Thurs, June 9- 6:00-7:00 pm)

Queer Art & Artists (Thurs, June 23- 6:00-7:00 pm)

Lunchtime Talks at The Rosenbach

Lunchtime Talks at The Rosenbach are sponsored by Lenore Steiner and Perry Lerner

Nancy Moses, "Fakes Forgeries and Frauds"

April 5, 12:30-1:30- Nancy Moses

What's real? What's fake? Why do we care? In this time of false news and fake science, these questions are more important than ever. *Fakes, Forgeries, and Frauds* goes beyond the headlines, tweets, and blogs to explore the true nature of authenticity and why it means so much today. This book delivers nine fascinating true stories that introduce the fakers, forgers, art authenticators, and others that populate this dark world. *Fakes, Forgeries, and Frauds* also raises provocative questions about the meaning of reality. What happens when spiritual truth conflicts with historic fact? Can an object retain

its essence when most of it was replaced? Why did some art patrons value an excellent copy more than the original? Why do we find fakes so eternally fascinating, and forgers such appealing con artists?

About the Speaker

Nancy Moses's award-winning books and articles explore iconic cultural treasures and the provocative issues they raise. Her books include *Fakes, Forgeries, and Frauds, Stolen, Smuggled Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures*, and *Lost in the Museum: Buried Treasures and the Stories They Tell*. She created the Philadelphia Business Journal's "Power Lunch" column and a television series about game-changing women. The former executive director of Philadelphia's History Museum, the Atwater Kent, Nancy's career features senior positions at the National Endowment for the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania's Fels School of Government, and WQED-Pittsburgh Public Broadcasting. A diverse portfolio of clients have achieved major gains as a result of her expertise in nonprofit planning and development. Nancy Moses serves as Chair of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the state agency responsible for preserving, interpreting, and sharing Pennsylvania's historical assets. She holds a Masters Degree from George Washington University and was a Visiting Scholar at the American University of Rome.

Alexander L. Ames, "The Word in the Wilderness: Popular Piety, the Manuscript Arts, and Pennsylvania's Place in American History"

May 3, 12:30-1:30

In the 1700s and early 1800s, the German-speaking residents of the agrarian counties surrounding Philadelphia practiced arts of calligraphy and manuscript illumination that have long drawn the attention of scholars, regional historians, and students of American decorative art. Some have interpreted the manuscripts produced by Pennsylvania Germans as "medieval" in nature, whereas others treasure them as ornaments of early American folk life. In this presentation, Dr. Alexander Lawrence Ames takes a different lens to the documents, analyzing them as artifacts of the intense religious culture of the time, and local examples of an overlooked global tradition of manuscript text production during the so-called "Age of Print." In the process, Ames will reconsider the significance of Pennsylvania in transatlantic religious history and address the importance of the Pennsylvania Germans to the story of America. He will highlight objects from The Rosenbach's collection that showcase the incredible diversity of religious thought in early Pennsylvania as well as pieces from the Free Library of Philadelphia Rare Book Department's iconic collection of Pennsylvania German manuscripts. The presentation is based on Dr. Ames's new book *The Word in the Wilderness: Popular Piety and the Manuscript Arts in Early Pennsylvania*, published by the Pennsylvania State University Press in 2020. Discounted soft-cover copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

About the Speaker

Dr. Alexander Lawrence Ames is Associate Curator of The Rosenbach. He holds an M.A. in American material culture from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware, as well as an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in history of American civilization and museum studies from the University of Delaware. A scholar of early American religion and the history of the book, his research has been published in venues including *Winterthur Portfolio*, *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*, *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*, as well as *Suave Mechanicals: Essays on the History of Bookbinding*. He is also The Rosenbach's Celtic harpist in residence, having performed numerous bibliographically-inspired recitals in recent years, and will be one half of a harp and organ duet at the upcoming Rosenbachchanal celebration in May.

The John C. Haas Director of The Rosenbach, Kelsey Scouten Bates, "Hunger, collective memory, and the meaning of soul food in Gee's Bend, Alabama"

June 7, 12:30-1:30

Between 1979 and 1981, journalist Kathryn Tucker Windham conducted approximately 30 interviews of the residents of Gee's Bend—an African American community isolated in the "Black Belt" region of Alabama. The interviews provide a rare first-hand account of the lives of African Americans in Alabama between 1910 and 1981 as they discuss, among other

things, food traditions. Remembered by nearly every interviewee is a catastrophic incident during which the family of a deceased white merchant, who had been lending Gee's Benders agricultural supplies, collected (with force) all of their agricultural property. Lacking any means to support themselves, residents were required to eat what they had hidden away, share their food with each other, and find comfort in the familiar foods that had become a part of the community's cuisine. The incident left a lasting community-wide association between food, ownership, and freedom, conveyed in the interviews through a collective narrative. The narrative reinforces the idea that Gee's Bend food traditions developed out of a long history of adversity with whites, food sharing and frugality, and reliance on God. The Gee's Bend interviews provide a local example of the evolution of American soul food.

The John C. Haas Director of The Rosenbach, Kelsey Scouten Bates, is a native of Maryland and spent ten years in Alabama where she conducted a rhetorical analysis of the Gee's Bend interviews, housed in the Birmingham Public Library Department of Archives & Manuscripts. Kelsey is a student of writing and rhetoric—she earned her M.S. at Towson University in Baltimore—and American History—she earned her B.A. at University of Maryland, College Park. She is currently working on a creative non-fiction writing project that combines her own family history and the history of the Appalachian mountains.

Shakespeare Read Aloud

This program is sponsored by Pamela Schreiber

Reading Shakespeare plays aloud not only offers a communal way to enjoy these great works but promotes a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's poetry and wordplay. No acting experience is required to participate—just bring your voice!

In Person

Shakespeare's Sonnets part 1 April 2 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Shakespeare's Sonnets part 2 May 7 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Virtual

King Lear (part 1)

Saturday, April 23 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.

King Lear (part 2)

Saturday, May 14 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Additional Programming

A Celebration of Chaucer

April 6, 6:00-7:00 pm

Sponsored by Betsy and David Wice

Join us as we celebrate the return of one of our prized Canterbury Tales manuscripts with talks about the fascinating new way it was restored, followed by readings in Middle English.

Open House: Explore The Rosenbach's library and historic house and galleries

April 24, 12:00-6:00 PM

Sponsored by Eleanor and Peter D. Nalle

Conserving Philadelphia's Jewish Past

May 24, 6:00-7:30 pm

This program is sponsored in part by the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society

The Rosenbach holds a significant collection of portraits of the Gratz family, early Jewish residents of Philadelphia, known for their contributions to the city's charitable institutions. Rebecca Gratz, who is depicted in two of the Rosenbach's portraits, helped found the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society among others. Almost all the Gratz family portraits currently require conservation. With only enough funding to cover half the conservation work, The Rosenbach recently launched its campaign to raise funds for the remaining Gratz family portraits. Join us for this program to welcome back the recently conserved portraits, learn about the conservation effort from Curator and Director of Collections, Judith Guston, and find out how you can help preserve these portraits for years to come.

After the formal program, participants will be treated to a tour of the Gratz portraits currently on display and a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception in The Rosenbach Garden.