



## September-December 2022 Public Program Sponsorship Opportunities

### Free Open House Sponsorship \$1,500

Onsite at The Rosenbach

Saturday, September 24, 12:00 pm-6:00 pm

Explore The Rosenbach's library, historic house, and galleries with free admission!

### In Conversation With Sponsorship (IN PERSON) \$3,000 for program, reception, and dinner for up to 9 \$2,000 for program plus reception \$1,500 for program

In Conversation With Robin Black

Wednesday, November 16, 6 PM – 7 PM

Sponsored by Jacqueline and Eric Kraeutler

#### Description

“At fifty-nine, I am now the age Virginia Woolf was when she took that final, heavy-pocketed walk into The River Ouse. I am the age at which she killed herself, and I am not going to kill myself; but I was by no means always sure of that.”

Join us in conversation with Robin Black to hear about her new book *Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway Bookmarked*, a deeply intimate volume that deftly blends personal stories with essays on the craft of writing. Black writes about Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, a book she returned to again and again when she began writing at nearly forty and found herself gaining a sense of emotional stability for the first time in her life. For two decades, *Mrs. Dalloway* has been Black's partner in a crucial, ongoing conversation about writing and about the emotional life. Now, Black takes a deep dive into both the craft of the book, what a writer might learn from its mechanics, and also into the humanity to be found on every page.

#### About the Speaker

Robin Black's story collection, *If I loved you, I would tell you this*, was a finalist for the Frank O'Connor International Story Prize, and named a Best Book of 2010 by numerous publications, including the Irish Times. Her novel, *Life Drawing*, was longlisted for the Flaherty-Dunnán First Novel Prize, the Impac

Dublin Literature Prize, and the Folio Prize. Her fiction has been translated into Italian, French, German, and Dutch.

Robin's most recent book is *Crash Course: Essays From Where Writing And Life Collide*. Robin's work can be found in such publications as *One Story*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Southern Review*, *The Rumpus*, *O. Magazine*, *Conde Nast Traveler UK*, and numerous anthologies, including *The Best Creative Nonfiction Vol. 1* (Norton) and *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review*. Robin lives with her husband in Philadelphia and teaches in the Rutgers-Camden MFA Program.

**In Conversation With Stephanie Feldman**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 6 PM – 7 PM**

Description

Stephanie Feldman's novel *Saturnalia* takes place during a citywide winter solstice celebration in Philadelphia on the brink of climate collapse. The novel draws inspiration from lore and customs of the winter solstice, Philadelphia's history, the old English Christmas ghost story tradition, and even Delancey Street itself!

The Saturnalia carnival marks three years since Nina walked away from Philadelphia's elite Saturn Club—with its genteel debauchery, arcane pecking order, and winking interest in alchemy and the occult. In doing so, she abandoned her closest friends and her chance to climb the social ladder. Since then, she's eked out a living by telling fortunes with her Saturn Club tarot deck, a solemn initiation gift that Nina always considered a gag, but has turned out to be more useful than she could have ever imagined.

About the Speaker

Stephanie Feldman is the author of the forthcoming novel *Saturnalia* and the debut novel *The Angel of Losses*, a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, winner of the Crawford Fantasy Award, and finalist for the Mythopoeic Award. She is co-editor of the multi-genre anthology *Who Will Speak for America?* Her stories and essays have appeared in or are forthcoming from *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Electric Literature*, *Flash Fiction Online*, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *The Maine Review*, *The Rumpus*, and *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*. She teaches fiction writing in the Arcadia University MFA program and at the University of Pennsylvania.

**In Conversation With Sponsorship (VIRTUAL)**  
**\$1,000 per program**

**In Conversation with Lucasta Miller, author of *Keats: A Brief Life in Nine Poems and One Epitaph***  
**Wednesday, November 9, 2:00 pm EST**

Description

The epitaph John Keats composed for his own gravestone – ‘Here lies one whose name was writ in water’ – seemingly damned him to oblivion. When he died at the age of twenty-five, having taken a battering from the conservative press, few critics imagined he would be considered one of the great English poets two hundred years later, though he himself had an inkling.

In this brief life, Lucasta Miller takes Keats’s best-known poems – the ones you are most likely to have read – and excavates their backstories. In doing so, she resurrects the real Keats: a lower-middle-class outsider from a tragic and dysfunctional family, whose extraordinary energy and love of language allowed him to pummel his way into the heart of English literature; a freethinker and a liberal at a time of repression; a human being who delighted in the sensation of the moment; but a complex individual, not the ethereal figure of his posthumous myth.

Combining close-up readings of his writings with the story of his brief but teeming existence, Lucasta Miller shows us how Keats made his poetry, and explains why it retains its vertiginous originality and continues to speak to us across the generations.

#### About the Speaker

Dr. Lucasta Miller is a critic and biographer. As the author of *The Brontë Myth*, she has published and lectured widely on the Brontë sisters and their afterlives. A former visiting scholar at Wolfson College, Oxford, and a former visiting fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, she holds a Ph.D by publication in Life-writing from the University of East Anglia and is currently an Honorary Research Associate at UCL and a Royal Literary Fund Fellow.

In 2019, Lucasta’s book *L.E.L.: The Lost Life and Mysterious Death of the Female Byron* was shortlisted in the US for the National Book Critics’ Circle Award. Its subject, Letitia Landon, was a popular poet of the 1820s and 1830s who influenced the Brontës. Her latest book, *Keats: A Brief Life in Nine Poems and One Epitaph*, was picked as a standout title for 2021 by *The Sunday Times*, *The Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Guardian*.

## **Curator’s Toolkit Course Sponsorship**

**\$2,500**

**Pays for two scholarships**

**In-Person Course | The Curator’s Toolkit: Up Close and Personal with The Rosenbach’s Collections**

**Tuesdays, in-person at The Rosenbach 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

**September 13, 2022, September 20, 2022**

**October 4, 2022, October 11, 2022, October 18, 2022, October 25, 2022**

**November 15, 2022, November 29, 2022**

**December 6, 2022, December 13, 2022**

The Curator’s Toolkit will equip you with knowledge and skills for handling, studying, preserving, and learning from fine art, antiques, rare books, and manuscripts at The Rosenbach and beyond, and give you hands-on, behind-the-scenes access to a world-renowned museum and library collection. You will even have the opportunity to study the museum exhibition design process and research objects in the collection. In this course, the historic Rosenbach house becomes your laboratory for the study and enjoyment of art, artifacts, and historic texts.

Each Curator's Toolkit course session will combine lectures and discussions with hands-on Artifact Labs that put real Rosenbach collection objects in students' hands, in order to apply lessons from the course readings and learn directly from original materials. By the end of the course, students will have viewed and handled more than 100 Rosenbach collection objects, including many pieces that are infrequently seen by the public. The course will also include a behind-the-scenes tour of The Rosenbach, and a panel discussion featuring a book and manuscript conservator, focused on work recently completed on a rare Rosenbach medieval manuscript. Special attention will be paid to helping students navigate the rich collections of The Rosenbach and explore their own personal areas of interest within our holdings—both during and after the course.

The course is intended as a foundational introduction to museums, libraries, and the study of historic artifacts, and no background knowledge is assumed. All members of the general public are welcome to enroll!

## Reading Course Sponsorship

**\$1,500**

**Pays for two scholarships**

**In Person Course: Reading *Ulysses* at The Rosenbach with Jean-Michel Rabaté**

**Wednesdays, in person at The Rosenbach**

**Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 7, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 15, Apr 5, May 10, Jun 7**

**6:30-8:30pm EST**

### Description

*Ulysses*, one of the most influential novels ever written, marks the culmination of high modernism that we place in 1922, the year it was published along with many other masterpieces. However, because of its undeniable difficulties, a great number of readers abandon it after a few attempts. Reading the text becomes easier as a group exercise. Our reading group will acquaint first-time readers with *Ulysses* and give those who are familiar with the novel an opportunity to deepen their engagement with it. Our meetings will start with a mini-lecture providing a general framework, but the core of our group activity will be textual discussions.

Our nine monthly sessions should give time to establish a learning curve as we will grapple with a text that can be compared with a living organism. We will not simply aim at the intellectual mastery that solves the text's innumerable puzzles but also pose questions about the links between literature and everyday life while keeping in mind Joyce's sense of fun, his tolerant humor, his awareness of the human body and his love of music, therapies of joyous survival all the more needed as we face a darkening world

### About the Instructor

Jean-Michel Rabaté, Full Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania since 1992, is a co-editor of the *Journal of Modern Literature*, a co-founder of Slough Foundation, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has authored or edited more than forty books on modernism, psychoanalysis, philosophy and literary theory. He has taught in Princeton, Seoul (Yonsei), Manchester, Montreal, Paris and Dijon.

Recent book titles include *Rust* (Bloomsbury, 2018), *Kafka L.O.L.* (Quodlibet, 2018), *Beckett and Sade* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), *Rire au Soleil: Lacan, les affects et la littérature*, Paris, Campagne Première, (2019), *Rires Prodiges: Rire et jouissance chez Marx, Freud et Kafka* (Paris, Stilus, 2021) and *James Joyce, Hérétique et Prodiges* (Stilus, 2022). He has edited the collections *After Derrida* (2018),

*New Beckett* (2019), *Understanding Derrida / Understanding Modernism* (2019), *Knots: Post-Lacanian Readings of literature and film* (Routledge, 2020) and *Historical Modernisms*, Bloomsbury, 2022, co-edited with Angeliki Spiropolou.

### **Virtual Course: Learning *Ulysses* Online with Robert Berry**

**Wednesdays on Zoom**

**October 12, November 2, December 14, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 12, May 3, May 31**

**6:00-7:30pm EST**

#### Description

In 2022 James Joyce's *Ulysses* becomes 100 years old. Rediscover just how much fun it can be to read it. Students in this class will work together to gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for life and central literary achievements of James Joyce focusing on his best known work *Ulysses* (pub. 1922). Secondary readings and class discussions may occasionally dip into Joyce's earlier or later works, but the main goal will be to read this novel together and unravel some (though certainly not all) of its mysteries. Class meetings will be conducted over Zoom where we will focus on answering questions that arise from the reading. Our hope is to build an interesting conversation for first-time and returning readers as we puzzle our way through some of the novel's enigmas and enjoy its language. But students will also find a great number of lectures offered via Google Classroom for those wishing to go deeper into the Joycean waters.

#### About the Instructor

Robert Berry is a Philadelphia artist and educator who has spent over a decade translating James Joyce's *Ulysses* into comics and other media. He teaches courses in comics and *Ulysses* at the University of Pennsylvania and is known throughout the Joyce community for his work on *Ulysses* "Seen". He occasionally still has time to paint pretty pictures.

### **Libraries and Liberty: The Writerly Voice with Kelsey Scouten Bates**

**Thursdays on Zoom, September 29, October 20, November 10**

**December 15 in person at The Rosenbach**

**6:00-7:30pm EST**

**Sponsored by Liza and Jon Seltzer**

#### Description

From the founding of the United States through the Civil War, creative and expository writers used their pens to persuade people to buy into their version of liberty. In this second course in the Libraries and Liberty Series, we'll look closely at the rhetoric of writers from the Revolution through Emancipation--from the moral and intellectual weight of writing in the early republic (Phillis Wheatley and The Federalist Papers) to the persuasive power of writing during the Civil War (Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Walt Whitman).

#### About the Instructor

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.

**In Person Course: Reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* with David Wallace**

**Thursdays in person at the Rosenbach, October 6, October 27, November 17, December 1**

**6:30-8:30pm EST**

**Sponsored by Judy and Allen Freedman**

Description

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is one of the greatest poems in the English language, a story of adventure, sexual opportunity, and great psychological subtlety. It has often been translated, most recently by Simon Armitage, CBE, FRSL, Poet Laureate (2018), and there is a film version from 2021 starring Dev Patel as Gawain. But to truly appreciate the magic of *Sir Gawain* we must read the original, written in a regional, alliterative meter from the later fourteenth century. This is challenging, but not daunting, and the rewards are great. For there were two rival strands of English poetry in England after the disastrous plague of 1348: one, the Chaucerian, became the mainstream, London-based tradition; the other, that of *Sir Gawain* and *Piers Plowman*, is now much less known. *Sir Gawain* survives in only one manuscript, now in the British Library, and that barely escaped a disastrous fire in 1731.

Everyone is invited to join this four-part, autumnal *Gawain* adventure. Some prior familiarity with Chaucer will help, but is not required. The best way to meet the poem for the first time is via James Winny's parallel text edition, and I'll be using that, but there are many other editions (including Armitage, J.R.R. Tolkien). And for more on the poem and its manuscript see

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/sir-gawain-and-the-green-knight>

About the instructor

David Wallace, sometime President of the Medieval Academy of America, has been Judith Rodin Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn, where he regularly teaches courses on Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) and his afterlife, since 1996. He is also Director-in-Chief of Bibliotheca Dantesca. His most recent book is *Chaucer: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and in 2019 was awarded the Sir Israel Gollancz Prize by the British Academy. For the Rosenbach, David Wallace has taught courses on Dante and Chaucer.

**In Person Course: Reading *Paradise Lost* with Anne Hall**

**Thursdays in person at the Rosenbach, November 3, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9**

**6:30-8:30pm EST**

**Sponsored by Genie and James Murphy**

Description

The plot of Milton's *Paradise Lost* is the story of the Fall, but its heart is Milton's insights into the soul of fallen humanity. When young, Milton did not concentrate on fallenness; he concentrated on freedom. He followed the ancients in holding that happiness lies in the freedom that undergirds the community's strength and dignity and that also undergirds the happiness of the individual. For the

community, freedom is freedom from the indignity of slavery. For the individual, freedom is freedom from the intellectual shackles of tradition. It is also the strength that comes from considering ideas that are not in step with tradition. In the *Areopagitica*, Milton's argues against official limitations to both the community's and to the individual's freedom to think. By the time he came to write *Paradise Lost*, however, Milton was no longer sure that the ancient view is the key to human happiness and dignity. In this course, we will read Milton's *Areopagitica* and excerpts from his other prose writings and all of *Paradise Lost*. We will explore how in *Paradise Lost*, Milton reconsiders the ancient view of human happiness. The approach to *Paradise Lost*, then, will be both literary and philosophical.

#### About the Instructor

Anne Hall taught for 25 years in the English department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, another 18 years in the English department at the University of Pennsylvania, and for the Rosenbach, has led courses on Mann's *The Magic Mountain* and *Doktor Faustus*, Henry James' *The Portrait of a Lady* and *The Ambassadors*.

**Virtual Course: Stop for Death: Poetry, Prose, and the Unknown with the Black History Maven, Kalela Williams**

**Wednesdays on Zoom, October 19, November 2, November 16, November 30  
6:00-7:30pm EST**

#### Description

As death is our greatest mystery, writers and storytellers have explored this state with their imaginations for millennia. Join Kalela Williams, founder of Black History Maven, for a look into poetry and fiction surrounding death, with a focus on U.S. 18th and 19th century works. Along with discussing our own feelings, we'll also glimpse letters, images, and other primary sources and documentation that illustrates how death has been seen, feared, and honored. This is a virtual course, but as an assignment, participants will each be asked to visit a cemetery local to them.

#### About the Instructor

Kalela Williams is the founder of Black History Maven, a gathering community that honors all diverse pasts, affirms Black identity and pride, and engages communities in literary, artistic, and cultural conversations. She is the current Director of Writing of Philadelphia youth organization Mighty Writers, and previously worked in literary programming for the Free Library of Philadelphia and James Madison University's Furious Flower Poetry Center.

In addition, Kalela serves on the board of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and writes fiction that connects history with the present. Her essay, "The Three Century Walk" is forthcoming this fall in *Making Tracks: Reflections on Walking* by New Door Books, and she recently was awarded a Tin House Writing Residency for her YA novel-in-progress, *The Rosebine Daughters*. Kalela has led literary and writing workshops for museums, organizations, and institutions including the Barnes Foundation, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Library Company of Philadelphia, Mural Arts, and many others.

**Virtual Course: Reading Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!* with Carl Rollyson**

**Wednesdays on Zoom, November 2, November 16, November 30, December 14, December 28, January 11  
7:30-9:00pm EST**

### Description

Many readers consider *Absalom, Absalom!* (1936) William Faulkner's greatest and most difficult novel. Set in the antebellum South, during the Civil War and the early years of Reconstruction, and in the early twentieth century, this work is a meditation not only on the history of the South but on history itself, on the way history is made and told. The novel grew out of Faulkner's many earlier efforts in stories and novels to come to terms with his region's past but also with the trajectory of American and world history as he saw it unfolding in 1930's America. If readers find the novel difficult, it should be noted that Faulkner found writing it difficult as well. The course will explore how this novel got made by focusing on the circumstances of Faulkner's life and family history and his awareness of how important race was to his definition of America. Because the sentence structure of the novel is so intricate—paralleling the intricacy of history—special attention will be paid to the close reading of certain passages. If possible, bring with you to class the Library of America edition of the novel, which is included in *William Faulkner: Novels 1936-1940*, so that you will have immediate access to passages read in class.

The first session will begin with a basic discussion of what happens in the first chapter of the novel, and how that chapter prepares readers for what is to come in the subsequent eight chapters. It is recommended that you read the entire novel, after the first session, not worrying too much about what you do not understand, then re-read the chapters assigned for subsequent sessions. Certain biographies and other books about Faulkner (listed below) 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*. Carl Rollyson recently led a course on Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* at the Rosenbach.

### **Virtual Course: Reading *Moby-Dick* with Hester Blum**

**Tuesdays on Zoom, November 8, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 14, April 11**

**6:00-7:30pm EST**

### Description

Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* has a monumental reputation. Less well known are the novel's unexpectedly weird, funny, tantalizing, messy, and wondrous moments. Narrator Ishmael, along with the whaleship Pequod's other "meanest mariners, and renegades and castaways," is beguiled into joining Captain Ahab in his vengeful pursuit of the white whale that "dismasted" him. But along the way, Ishmael takes the reader along many a detour into varied ways of knowing. In a tone "strangely compounded of fun and fury," *Moby-Dick* brings outlandish curiosity to bear on the multitudinous, oceanic scale of our diverse world.

In this course, which welcomes first-time Melville readers and *Moby-Dick* obsessives alike, our discussions will range from the novel's most thunderous, epic heights to its quirkiest, crudest jokes. What higher (or lower) powers are at play in the world? How do we come to knowledge? What do

humans owe one another? What does a "heart-stricken moose" sound like? Is that really how sperm whales got their name? These and innumerable other questions are raised by Melville's best-known work, and most readers come away from *Moby-Dick* with a new sense of how to navigate the oceanic vastness of our world. We will have the benefit drawing from the Rosenbach's excellent Melville holdings in our discussions.

#### About the Instructor

[Hester Blum](#) is Professor of English at Penn State. She is the editor of the new Oxford World's Classics edition of *Moby-Dick* and the author of *The View from the Masthead: Maritime Imagination and Antebellum American Sea Narratives* and *The News at the Ends of the Earth: The Print Culture of Polar Exploration*, among other volumes. Blum is past president of the Herman Melville Society, and her honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She participated in the 38th Voyage of the Charles W. Morgan, the world's last surviving wooden whaleship and the sister ship to the Acushnet, in which Melville sailed.

**Virtual Course: Shakespeare and the Fantastic with Dr. Jim Casey**

**Thursdays on Zoom, December 15, January 5, January 19, February 2, February 16**

**6:00 - 7:30pm EST**

**Sponsored by Lenore H. Steiner and Perry A. Lerner**

#### Description

Shakespeare's plays are full of fantastical elements and entities, including fairies, witches, ghosts, and magicians. But how should we read these otherworldly appearances in Shakespeare? How were such things viewed in the early modern period? How were they depicted on stage? And how might the answers to such questions change our understanding of the plays? We know that magic, science, and religion were less clearly delineated during Shakespeare's lifetime than they are today, but how might these blurred cultural beliefs affect our interpretation of individual playtexts? Using the Fantastic as a frame for reading the plays, this course will explore four of Shakespeare's better-known works—one comedy, two tragedies, and one romance. Our discussion of each play will proceed from the questions and interests of the participants, but we will begin with a focus on fairies and lovers in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, witches and fate in *Macbeth*, ghosts and the afterlife in *Hamlet*, and magic and spirits in *The Tempest*. In addition to examining the Fantastic in Shakespeare, we will develop a basic understanding of the material conditions of the early modern stage and the poetic conventions of early English verse. Ideally, this course will be quite interactive, combining brief lecture materials with open conversations. Every time we meet, we will practice a variety of reading techniques that will enable participants to begin experiencing Shakespeare's plays more deeply and effectively on their own, recognizing each text not only as a narrative story but also as a poetic script that was meant to be performed.

#### About the Instructor

Dr. Jim Casey is a Fulbright Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient, Past President of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, editor of Shakespeare and Fletcher's *Two Noble Kinsmen*, and co-editor of the collection *Shakespeare/Not Shakespeare*. Although primarily a Shakespearean, he has published peer-reviewed essays on such diverse topics as fantasy, monstrosity, early modern poetry, medieval poetry, pedagogy, textual theory, performance theory, postmodern theory, adaptation theory, digital humanities, old age, comics, anime, masculinity, grief, the supernatural, Shakespeare, Chaucer, Ovid, *Firefly*, and *Battlestar Galactica*.

## Read Alouds at the Rosenbach \$5,000 Sponsorship

### **Dracula Marathon Reading**

Friday Oct 14, 4:00 pm – Saturday Oct 15, 8:00 am

Location: Trinity Center for Urban Life

2212 Spruce St, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Sponsored by Kitty and Bob DeMento

#### **Description**

Join us as we read aloud the entire novel *Dracula* by Bram Stoker from dusk till dawn. Late Friday afternoon, we'll begin with Jonathan Harker's journal account of his visit to Dracula's Castle and we'll end on Saturday morning with the pursuit of Dracula back to his lair. The Rosenbach is the home of first editions of Bram Stoker's novel, as well as his Notes for *Dracula*, over 100 pages of outlines, early plot ideas, and research notes, compiled by the author over the seven years he developed and wrote the book. This year, Stoker's masterpiece turned 125 years old and what more fitting way to celebrate the King of the Vampires than an all-night reading. Do you dare stay up all night with us to hear this blood-curdling tale read aloud?

This Rosenbach program will take place at the Trinity Center for Urban Life, 2212 Spruce St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (22nd and Spruce Streets, just 2 blocks from the Rosenbach)

## Performances at the Rosenbach \$3,000 sponsorship

### **The Vampire's Mystery: Notes on a Monster**

October 28, 29 & 30 | 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Unravel Dracula's riddle using author Bram Stoker's own notes and outlines during this immersive, theatrical, experience through the historic Rosenbach mansion. Stay tuned for more information!

## Biblicocktails Sponsorship \$1,500 (recognition and four tickets)

Biblicocktails

## Drinking with Dickens Bibliococktails: A Ghostly Christmas Friday, December 9, 6:30-8:30 pm

Welcoming in the Christmas season by celebrating the way Charles Dickens did, with good fellowship, ghost stories . . . and punch! The conviviality of the Dickensian world is nowhere more apparent than in Dickens' Christmas books and stories. From Mr. Pickwick celebrating at Dingley Dell to Scrooge offering Bob Cratchit a talk over a bowl of smoking bishop, Dickens knew that Christmas "was the season of hospitality, merriment, and open-heartedness." Dickens himself always celebrated the holiday with parties, feasting, games and a brimming bowl of punch.

Dickens also loved the tradition of telling ghost stories during the Yule season and his Christmas tales are brimful of spirits, from goblins to Marley and beyond. We'll bring some of his ghostly apparitions to life as we drink punch made from Dickens' own recipe.

The Bibliococktails series celebrates great literature and great libations. Programs include themed cocktails and a fun activity. Admission includes entry and two specialty cocktails.

### Lunchtime Talks

**\$1,500 per talk or \$4,700 for whole year (x4)**

**All lunchtime talks sponsored by Lenore H. Steiner and Perry A. Lerner**

**Lunchtime Talk with Josh Hitchens, author of *Haunted Philadelphia***

**Tuesday, October 4, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**

#### Description

As one of the most haunted cities in the nation, the City of Brotherly Love is a haven for unexplained phenomena. The specter of an innocent waiter murdered in 1783 is sometime seen breaking dishes and smashing glasses at the City Tavern, once a meetinghouse for George Washington, Paul Revere, and other patriots. Anguished screams and haunting footsteps are still heard among the cellblocks of Eastern State Penitentiary. Among the picturesque streets of Chestnut Hill sits Baleroy Mansion, whose plethora of supernatural hosts has earned the home the nickname of "the most haunted house in America." In *Haunted History of Philadelphia*, author and paranormal historian Josh Hitchens relates twelve chilling tales of Philly's past and present.

#### About the Speaker

Josh Hitchens was born and raised in Sussex County, Delaware. He has been a storyteller for the Ghost Tour of Philadelphia since 2007. Josh is also a theater director, actor, playwright and teaching artist who has been called "Philadelphia's foremost purveyor of the macabre" by local press. His first book, *Haunted History of Delaware*, was released in 2021 by Arcadia Publishing. Josh is deeply honored to tell the stories of his second home in *Haunted History of Philadelphia*. He is also the creator of the podcasts *Going Dark Theatre*—which examines the humanity behind the horror in true tales of ghost stories, unsolved mysteries and weird history—as well as *Hitchens on Horror*, in which he acts as a host

for some of your favorite scary movies. Josh has also written articles for *Philadelphia Weekly* and the *Broad Street Review*. <http://www.joshhitchens.com>

### **Lunchtime Talk with Beth Hessel, Director of the Athenaeum**

**Tuesday, November 1, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**

#### Description

Since its founding in 1814, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia has always – intentionally – been a community built on dialogue and innovation shaped by books and learning. Executive Director Dr. Beth Hessel shares stories founders, members, and friends of The Athenaeum who marked Philadelphia as the center of political, economic, and social innovation and reform.

#### About the Speaker

The Executive Director of The Athenaeum, Beth Hessel, was previously the Executive Director of The Presbyterian Historical Society, a national archive located a few blocks south of the Athenaeum, Beth is also an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who has served congregations across the U.S. and is a popular speaker who has lectured and taught in corporate, nonprofit, and university settings. She holds a B.A. in history from UC Davis, an MA in U.S. Women's History from Binghamton University, an M.Div. from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in history from Texas Christian University. Beth loves the spirit-lifting magic of the Athenaeum's Reading Room and the many opportunities to deepen partnerships with other Philadelphia organizations while creating lasting friendships with the Athenaeum's many members and friends.

## **Behind the Bookcase: Hands-on Tours at the Rosenbach**

**\$1,500 for the full year**

### **Mostly Monarchs: Royal Relics at The Rosenbach**

**Sunday, October 2, 2 PM – 3 PM**

Put on your crown and come to The Rosenbach for a close look at some of the many royal relics in our collection. You will view and even handle documents written and signed by some of history's most legendary queens—Elizabeth I of England, Mary Queen of Scots, and Queen Victoria—as well as other notable royals, including James I of England and Scotland. Examine letters written and signed by Marie de Medici and Louis XIV of France. Hold a book that Britain's Queen Victoria presented to the 7-year-old Count of Paris. Touch a walking stick Marie Antoinette once owned, examine a Bonaparte family tiara set with semiprecious jewels, and delve into the complex dynastic origins of World War I by means of Habsburg family letters and an artifact from Archduke Franz Ferdinand's pocket. Get up close and personal with some of Europe's most famous and notorious monarchs.

### **Rebellious Love: Exploring Queer History, Art and Literature at The Rosenbach**

### **Thursday, October 13, 6 PM – 7 PM**

For many centuries, Queer people have faced marginalization by mainstream society. Yet their obstacles have also given them unique perspectives on the human experience, and inspired important contributions to art, literature, politics, and social organizing. In this tour, we will meet Queer people from history, and consider how their diverse sexualities and identities shaped their lives and informed their work. Among other items from our collection, you will view (and even handle!) a letter documenting an historic meeting of Oscar Wilde and Walt Whitman in Camden, New Jersey, where the two shared a kiss; read romantic love letters exchanged by the legendary film actress Marlene Dietrich and the playwright Mercedes de Acosta; and page through Acosta's personal Bible (which doubled as her scrapbook devoted to the elusive actress Greta Garbo). We will also examine rare books and manuscripts illuminating the lives of Harlem Renaissance figures Langston Hughes and the Philadelphian Alain LeRoy Locke, and view a commonplace book that once belonged to the Chevalier d'Éon, an influential nonbinary person who was a soldier, courtier, and spy. The tour will conclude with a consideration of what comes next in the movement to win full acceptance for Queer people, and how LGBTQIA+ rights intersect with other issues including racial justice. Celebrate Pride Month with The Rosenbach as we uncover our often-hidden but always-fascinating history as Queer people!

### **Dracula: The Enduring Monster**

#### **Wednesday, October 26 6 PM – 7 PM**

Venture boldly into Bram Stoker's handwritten notes for *Dracula* (character and chapter outlines, chronologies, and more!) as Rosenbach staff explore what it took to create this (almost) inexorable villain. If that doesn't sound too terrifying, hazard a look at The Rosenbach's latest vampiric acquisitions: a colonial edition of *Dracula* made for India and the British colonies, and *Spiritual Vampirism*, printed in 1853, a volume shedding pertinent clues on the context of Stoker's diabolical work.

### **Dracula: The Enduring Monster**

#### **Thursday, October 27, 6 PM – 7 PM**

Venture boldly into Bram Stoker's handwritten notes for *Dracula* (character and chapter outlines, chronologies, and more!) as Rosenbach staff explore what it took to create this (almost) inexorable villain. If that doesn't sound too terrifying, hazard a look at The Rosenbach's latest vampiric acquisitions: a colonial edition of *Dracula* made for India and the British colonies, and *Spiritual Vampirism*, printed in 1853, a volume shedding pertinent clues on the context of Stoker's diabolical work.

### **Drafting a Masterpiece: Celebrated Writers from the Collection**

#### **Sunday, November 6, 2 PM – 3 PM**

The Rosenbach's collection holds some of the most beautiful and powerful lines ever written. We'll look at and touch manuscripts and typescripts by Geoffrey Chaucer, Walt Whitman, William Faulkner, and Toni Morrison. We'll read aloud the work of some of the most creative minds to have put their thoughts down on paper, whether they used a quill, a pen, or a typewriter.

### **Civil War: Voices from America's Darkest Conflict**

**Thursday, November 10, 6 PM- 7 PM**

From the writings of Abraham Lincoln to the wartime letters of Col. Alexander Biddle of the 121st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, to a Confederate children's textbook, this tour provides a glimpse into the lives and thoughts of those who shaped and survived America's worst conflict.

### **A Warm Heart and a Cold Eye: The Legacy of Herman Melville**

**Sunday, December 4, 2 PM – 3 PM**

With a warm heart for human nature, a cold eye for the human condition, and prose that would awe a Biblical prophet, Herman Melville was too good for his time. Join us for an odyssey through The Rosenbach's mighty Melville collection. We'll chart our voyage toward the source of Melville's greatness through early editions of his novels and handwritten letters. Then we'll examine Melville's legacy for modern times. All aboard as, in the words of *Moby-Dick*'s Ishmael, we "sail about a little and see the watery part of the world."

### **The Artistry and Industry of Bookmaking**

**Thursday, December 8, 6 PM – 7 PM**

Do you prefer to judge a book by its cover, or does the inside matter more? In this tour of book arts, we'll take a look at various rare books in The Rosenbach collection, their aesthetics, their functions, how the processes in creating books inform how we use them today, and vice versa. Go behind the scenes of book binding, illuminating medieval manuscript leaves, the artistry of scribes and painters, 19th century printmaking – and perhaps stumble on a few surprises between the pages.

### **The Modern Emily Dickinson: The Anti-Belle of Amherst**

**Thursday, December 22, 6 PM – 7 PM**

The Belle of Amherst. The recluse who lived a life of quiet passion. For a century the Emily Dickinson of public imagination was confined to the decorous hall of The Nineteenth Century Poetess—eccentric, but never improper. But Emily was far more audacious and lively, a woman whose adventurous art and challenging ideas continue to resonate today. We'll look at letters in her own hand, re-examine the first editions of her works, and learn how her first editors reshaped her poetry to fit their own conceptions. We'll explore the myth of the Belle and give voice to the Modern Emily.

## **Shakespeare Read Aloud**

**\$1,000 for the full year**

**Sponsored by Genie and James Murphy**

In person

**Saturday, October 1, 1 PM – 4:30 PM**

**In-Person Shakespeare Read-Aloud: *Macbeth***

“Fair is foul, and foul is fair.”

The *First Folio* lists Shakespeare’s plays under the headings, Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies. But if there were a Horror genre for Shakes, then *Macbeth* would be in it (alright, maybe also *Titus Andronicus*). We’ll celebrate all things macabre during the Halloween month with a reading of the Shakesplay that contains witches, ghosts, murders, and gouts and gouts of blood.

**Saturday, December 3 1 PM – 4:30 PM**

**In-Person Shakespeare Read-Aloud: *Measure for Measure***

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 and a copy of the play!

This event is completely free with advance registration. If you think you’d like to read aloud, please select the “I’d like to be a reader!” ticket; there are fifteen available. Please bring your own copy of the play. If reader spots are sold out, you are welcome to join the waitlist by selecting the “reader waitlist.”

Virtual

***Richard III (part 1)***

**Saturday, November 19 | 1:00–4:00 p.m. EST**

“Now is the winter of our discontent”

Shakespeare’s evil crookback king might not be historically accurate, but his machiavellian machinations to seize the crown and murder everyone in his way are a thrill to read. As this is one of Shakespeare’s longer plays, we’ll be reading just the first half of the play for this session.

This event is completely free with advance registration. If you would like to read aloud, please select the “I’d like to be a reader!” ticket; there are fifteen spots available. If reader spots are sold out, you are welcome to join the waitlist by selecting the “reader waitlist.”

***Richard III (part 2)***

**Saturday, December 17 | 1:00–4:00 p.m. EST**

“A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!”

We continue with the second half of *Richard III* this week, as he continues to eliminate his regal competition and then must fend off a rebellion.

