

BLUE NOTES

BLUE MOUNTAIN CENTER'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2022

40 Years in Operation: 25 with Sis

This year, the BMC community lost a very special member – Helen Eldridge, known as Sis by those lucky to have basked in her caring and mischievous presence.

Since Covid, traffic through the kitchen has slowed. Still, it remains the heart of BMC, and we have Sis and her legacy to thank for the warmth it radiates outward, nourishing all who come to the table. In the spirit of celebrating our 40 years afloat and all those who have helped along the way, we want to honor Sis here on the cover of *Blue Notes*. It's just the kind of fuss she would have swatted at with her spatula.

Alongside her cousin, BMC friend Diane McCane, Sis cooked breakfast and Sunday dinners and provided meticulous innkeeping at BMC for 25 years. She embodied a down-to-earth hospitality that makes a place feel like home. Walking into the kitchen, you became her friend and conspirator, and probably left with a nickname.

After Sis passed, conference organizer and BMC friend Cali Brooks recalled Sis's "infectious smile, dry wit and calming presence". Founding director Harriet Barlow recounted, "like everyone who came to breakfast at BMC, I was (and will always be) crazy about Sis...I would go up to the kitchen in the morning to sit at the table and write letters as Sis filled me in on the stories of her life, past and present...she made me feel good about being



alive and helped keep the spirits up at BMC through the best and less-best of times... Sis cared for us, laughed, invited us in, tossed us out and invited us in again. And we loved her."

Alumnus Suzy Parker wrote, "as a Big City Girl, Sis schooled me in Adirondack life when I would visit BMC. She taught me about small town values...I will always be grateful for her friendship, her sense of humor, and her gift of sharing." Others fondly recalled the pranks Sis played, the comforting foods she would insist you ate more of, the stories she liked to tell – like the time she climbed Lookout with BMC conferee Harry Belafonte – "the only hike I ever took!" she claimed.

A cozy bed, a jar of cookies, a cup of coffee served with gossip and wisdom, Sis showed us that these are the ties that bind us together no matter where we come from or who we are. It's the hands-on work, the cooking, cleaning, checking in and tending-to that makes BMC a beloved home-away-from-home. After 40 years, these things, more than anything else, keep BMC steady yet connected to a changing world. Thank you to Sis for so many years of love for this place – and to everyone who has participated in the work of making BMC a strong community. No windowsill will ever be dusted to Sis's standards, but we will keep on dusting, grateful for the way she infused this place with a laughter and warmth that very much live on.

Quick Cinnamon Biscuits
2 cups sifted Flour
3 tsp Baking Powder
1 tsp salt
6 tbsps Shortening
1/3 cup milk
Roll dough 1/4 inch thick
into rec tangle 7" x 16"
Spread with 2 tbs
softened Butter or Margarine
Sprinkle with mixture
of 1/4 cup Sugar + 1 tsp
cinnamon and with raisins
if desired. Roll tightly as
for Jelly Roll Beginning with
wide side. Seal well by
pinching edge of dough
into roll. Cut into 1" x 1" pieces

Sis & alumnus/advisor Kermit Frazier
collaborating in the kitchen circa 2011;
Sis's recipe for cinnamon biscuits.

Alumni Take the Lead: 2022 Programming

This year many of our 2022 conferences and focus residencies were organized by BMC alumni. It has been exciting to see projects brought to BMC by individuals transforming into collective thought and action. As you will read, our alumni network is doing extraordinary work in the world. Special thanks to Angie Cruz, Matice Moore, Kayhan Irani, Rachel Herzing, Minal Hajratwala, Rinku Sen, Cloee Cooper and Robin Wall Kimmerer – powerful leaders who co-hosted a remarkable season.

The Diaspora Focus Residency convened around themes of Diaspora, Art, and the Future of Culture. The writers, artists, mentors and community advocates who gathered have been involved for many years in the curation, creation, and championing of diasporic art and literature – particularly Black, Latinx, and Afro-Latinx work. The group explored transforming their professional and creative fields into spaces of genuine inclusion. They recorded eleven interviews about transitions and the body during their time together, to be published in the Aster(ix) Journal in 2023.

The *Queer|Art BLAQ Retreat* came together to build relationships and nurture community among fellows in BLAQ, a program comprised of Black queer artists across disciplines. Recognizing the unique barriers and vulnerabilities they have experienced in their professional and personal lives, it was crucial to have a meaningful and safe space to gather. The retreat convened established and emerging artists to share intergenerational wisdom and experiences around sustaining professional art practices in an environment of healing and restoration.

Uplift: Nurturing and Transforming Afghan Cultural Continuity gathered together women and nonbinary people of predominantly West and South Asian heritage who have been working to support Afghan artists and cultural workers in finding safety, continuing artistry in diaspora, and preserving their art for generations to come. The group reimagined how cultural workers can be supported in ways that aren't extractive or assimilative, as well as how this work can build bridges with Indigenous and refugee communities facing the brunt of the U.S. war machine. Participants named their time together the "Mey Khaaneh", which means in Persian/Farsi the *tavern or wine house*. In Persian poetry wine is about transformation and transgression, a stepping out of the imposed forms and into abundance, love and mystery.

The *Abolish Prisons* conference brought together those interviewed for *How to Abolish Prisons* (forthcoming from Verso Books) to discuss the current state of organizing for prison abolition in the US and Canada, and to think about how to best build the movement in the current political climate. Understanding that we are living through a global period of rising authoritarianism, participants sought to take advantage of a period of openness to prison abolition. The group discussed organizing approaches; shared strategies and tactics; identified opportunities and challenges in

shifting political conditions; conducted movement mapping; and strengthened relationships between key organizations.

Word Up Summit convened members of Word Up Community Bookshop/Librería Comunitaria, a multilingual, collectively operated bookshop and arts space in Washington Heights. The collective hosts an annual Summit, gathering to define collective structure, examine threats, make plans to mitigate challenges and do consensus training. This year they hosted the summit at BMC to examine sustainability strategies, reset priorities, update their mission and discuss how to hold joy amidst it all.



Changemaker Authors on the front porch.

Narrative Initiative and the Unicorn Authors Club hosted *Changemaker Authors: Conjuring a Diverse Publishing Landscape*, a focus residency and strategy retreat. Bringing together organizers and teachers from their staff along with guests from the publishing industry, the gathering convened people of color in the industry to conjure a world in which books by diverse social justice leaders are supported, published, and widely read. The retreat set aside time for learning together, collective strategizing and individual rest.

In September, BMC hosted its first "Advisors +" open house, a chance for BMC Advisors, their families and guests to spend time onsite and envision future programming. New connections were formed through generative conversations, potato digging, dock fishing, and intergenerational explorations of the forest floor!

Justice for the Land: Collaborative Biocultural Restoration in Haudenosaunee Homelands, like 2019's Justice for the Land conference, was organized by the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment (CNPE). This conference series is built on more than a

decade of collaborations between the CNPE, Indigenous partners, federal and state environmental agencies and land conservation nonprofits to protect cultural landscapes and restore biocultural relationships with the land. Having seeded multiple cross-cultural partnerships in Haudenosaunee homelands, the group returned to celebrate collective efforts to advance biocultural restoration. Looking ahead, they continued their growth toward a shared vision of justice for the land, imagining new pathways toward rematriation across the region. BMC Staff were grateful for the opportunity to participate.

The *Reproductive Justice & Bodily Autonomy* conference provided activists and journalists working at the intersection of reproductive justice, the far right, and race and immigration a space to deepen movement knowledge of reproductive justice frameworks and history. As the overturning of Roe ushers in a new era of criminalization, there is widespread recognition that we are at a critical inflection point. Reproductive Justice was created to develop structures and frameworks that center people of color, LGBTQ people, and those under attack by ascendant white supremacy and theocratic rule. Building on the analysis and movement ecosystem developed at 2018's

Gender and White Supremacy retreat, the participants analyzed current threats, shared knowledge, and strengthened their collaborative resistance.

Sanctuary for Independent Media, a Troy, NY-based nonprofit, uses art, science and participatory action to promote social and environmental justice and freedom of creative expression. Transitioning to new leadership, their Board, staff, and allies dedicated time at BMC to take stock of the organization's strengths, opportunities, and threats. Topics included the sustainability of the Sanctuary as a community resource, and expanding the reach of the North Troy community - from the hyperlocal to the international.

John Brown Lives!, an organization that uses the history of freedom and human rights in the Adirondacks as a prism to inform and inspire civic action, convened at BMC to focus on their strategic planning process.

The organization was eager to commit the time and resources necessary to usher JBL! into greater effectiveness and ensure their continuance in serving the public as a freedom education and human rights project that brings communities together through history.

■ How to Abolish Prisons ■

■ Lessons from the Movement Against Imprisonment ■

■ Rachel Herzing & Justin Piché ■

How to Abolish Prisons by
Rachel Herzing & Justin Piché.

BMC's Resident Support Fund: Auction + Future

"The support I received from the RSF encouraged me to attend BMC - my first-ever residency. Yes, the money mattered, as it helped pay for travel and I put some towards rent. In addition to that though, there's something about getting a check to off-set bread [and] butter costs that says, 'Your work is important, and we really want you here to work on it.' That faith in me was so very important, and something I really needed."
- Carla Murphy, BMC alum

Last year, BMC hosted our first auction to raise money for the Resident Support Fund (RSF)! The RSF was created by BMC alumni in 2017 to make residencies more financially accessible to artists and activists of color. Inspired by conversations around engaging the wider BMC community in supporting the RSF, we sent out a call for auction donations, resulting in more than seventy items, and raising a total of \$14,379 for the fund.

The RSF auction became a wonderful opportunity for BMC's community to share their work and interests across space and time. Alumni offered works of art, workshops, invitations to

host guests at their studios and homemade cookies. Staff created packages and kits (for those missing BMC magic), guided trips up Castle Rock, puffin tours, and more. During and after the auction, we heard from participants that they had reconnected with residents from many years ago and made new friends through the auction.

The generosity of our community enabled us to provide larger stipends in the 2022 season, as well as the breathing room to consider other ways we could ensure that the RSF continues to grow. We'll hold off on another auction (for now!), but come mid-winter we'll begin new initiatives around sustaining the RSF, which will be announced through e-newsletters and social media, as well as our website. If you'd like to make a donation to the Resident Support Fund, please go to bluemountaincenter.org/support, or mail us a check indicating that it is for the RSF. We thank you for your support in making BMC more possible for future residents of color.

Many thanks to our RSF Committee members Teresa Babilio, Kermit Frazier and Carla Murphy for their input and guidance, and to Program Manager Merry Wang for expertly running our first online auction!

BMC's 2022 Award Recipients

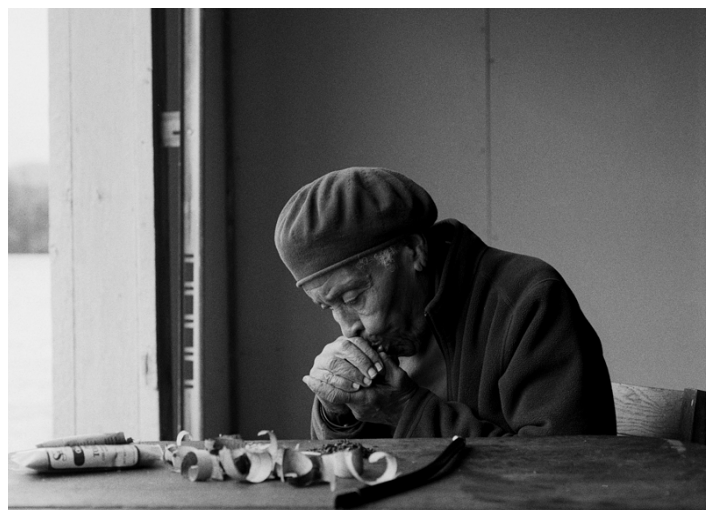
Through longform reportage and personal essays on topics ranging from political utopias to hitchhiking, 2022's *Henry J. Margolis Award for Nonfiction* recipient **Wes Enzinna** writes on how the poor cope in an increasingly unequal society, using, in part, his own experiences growing up in a working-class Adirondack family. Wes is working on a forthcoming book about the housing and homelessness crisis in California for Penguin Press titled *Impossible Paradise*, for which he has spent much of the past year reporting and sometimes living in a tent city in the San Francisco Bay Area. He worked on a portion of the book during his residency at BMC. In between writing, Wes played dynamic games of ping pong at boathouse parties with staff and residents (and mostly won).

moira williams, the 2022 *Harriet Barlow Commons Residency Award* recipient, is a disabled Indigenous artist, cross-disability activist, and access doula whose work reflects the premise: access as art. moira weaves disability justice together with crip celebratory resistance and environmental justice. Their often co-creative work merges bio-art, workshops, performance, sound, choreographed walks and gatherings. To participate is to generate empathy, abundance, vitality and transformative possibilities. moira believes in "access intimacy" as an attitude needed to push beyond the limitations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. At BMC moira planted trees, recorded the sounds of flowing water and rescued stray canoes that were abandoned amidst a summer squall on Blue Mountain Lake.

This year's *Boren Chertkov for Labor and Justice Award* went to "Prexy" (Rozell W.) Nesbitt, who has spent more than five decades as an educator, activist, and speaker on Africa, foreign policy, and racism. A teacher and lecturer for many years throughout the US, he has worked as a "red cap," social worker, union organizer, and served as consultant and advisor in many capacities. He was active in the US, Canada and Europe in the struggle to end apartheid. He also worked to end colonialism in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Prexy currently teaches at Chapman University's Department of Peace Studies. He is working on an autobiographical accounting of a lifetime of political organizing and social change activity that includes the US civil rights movement, the anti-apartheid movement, the antiwar movement, the labor movement, and alternative education initiatives. Prexy plans to join us at BMC in 2023.

In Memory Of **Miriam Beerman** died in February 2022, at the age of 98. A retrospective exhibition *Miriam Beerman: 1923-2022 Nothing has changed* was held at the Rechnitz Hall DiMattio Gallery in West Long Branch, NJ and included twenty large-scale paintings. She was the first woman to have a solo exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, and had over 30 more in her career. Miriam used texture and passion to create dynamic and powerful work that still adorns the halls of BMC, where she was a resident five times between 1988-1998.

Baltimore artist **Valerie Maynard** died on September 19. She was a resident at BMC in every decade from 1987 to 2016, enriching and inspiring every group she joined. She lived to be 85. Valerie was born and raised in Harlem. Her sculptures and prints explored Black identity and racism. The *NY Times* wrote: "...her work was consistently unflinching in its social commentary." Valerie was friends with Toni Morrison and James Baldwin, but also spent time in the Eagle Nest garage and grew close with caretaker Bill LaPrairie. In 2006 she talked several residents into hanging a heavy gong from a birch limb over the lake. Afterward, grateful that they'd survived, one resident said, "How can you say no to Valerie?" We are grateful for Valerie's life, work, and presence in our BMC community.



Portrait of Valerie taken in the boathouse by filmmaker Elissa Moorhead.

David Sheridan, 83, died peacefully on June 23. He was a dedicated BMC volunteer and served on the admissions committee for over 20 years. A lifelong labor advocate, David provided strategic communications guidance for the National Football League Players Association during their groundbreaking 57-day strike in 1982. In the 1980s, David served as Communications Director for the Service Employees International Union. At the National Education Association he was Senior Writer/Editor with the Civil and Human Rights division. He helped create the Center for Social Justice and championed the organization's deepening commitment to human rights and racial justice. A passionate and committed poet, David was published in *Gargoyle Magazine* and many other journals.

RESIDENT UPDATES

Ian Allen's piece, *We Are Sorry to Say That You Should Take Tucker Carlson's Testicle-Tanning Stuff Seriously*, appeared in April's New Republic • Amir Amirani has produced *In the Eye of the Storm, The Political Odyssey of Yanis Varoufakis*, a documentary series about capitalism. He is completing a documentary on the social history of America as seen through the prism of a TV show • Nellie Appleby's *The Sunshine Collectors* was shown at The Studios of Key West • In November, Alice Attie gave a lecture at the New York Studio School about her writing and drawings • Olive Ayhen's painting was included in the show *In Nature Nothing Exists Alone* at the NYC Culture Club, World Trade Center • *Prison Terminal* director Edgar Barens is working for Humane Prison Hospice Project, a non-profit based in SF, that extolls the virtues of prisoner involved, prison-based hospice • Helen Benedict's *Map of Hope and Sorrow: Stories of Refugees Trapped in Greece* launched in October at South Street Seaport, NYC • Maya Binyam's novel, *Hangman* will be published by FSG in 2023 • Jennifer Block is living in Tucson, AZ with her 9 year old son, Abe. Let her know if you are desert bound! • In 2021, L.M. Bogad won a Guggenheim Award, and a WPA Artist Fellowship from the US Department of Arts and Culture. His book, *Performing Truth: Works of Radical Memory for Times of Social Amnesia*, has been published • Katie Booth's *The Invention of Miracles* is the British Academy's prize for Global Cultural Understanding and a finalist for the PEN award for biography and the Marc Lynton History Prize • Hannah Brancato, with her collaborator, officially launched *Move Slowly: Dreamseeds*, a community healing space and art exhibit at Gallery CA, Baltimore • Suchi Branfman was awarded the 2022 City of LA Master Artist Award and the National Dance Education Organization's 2022 Leadership in Dance Award. Her ten-year choreographic residency inside the Norco prison, *Dancing Through Prison Walls* project, has been touring internationally • Alan Brown is in pre-production on his fifth narrative feature film, *Friends and Foes*, scheduled for production in 2023 • Linda Burnham co-edited and contributed to *Power Concedes Nothing: How Grassroots Organizing Wins Elections*, a collection of articles and interviews that recounts how community-based



Boathouse Linocut by session 2 resident Maura Dwyer.

organizations, networks and unions contributed to the 2020 defeat of Donald Trump • Wendy Call's book of poetry in translation, *Irma Pineda's In the Belly of Night and Other Poems*, has been published. The anthology she is co-editing, *Best Literary Translations*, is open for submissions until the end of 2022 • Ellen Calmus presented her Mexican nonprofit's Grassroots Transparency method for preventing corruption in judicially-challenged rural contexts at the Vatican's Dicastery for Human Development Gallery, NYC • Ellen Cantarow's essay, *Life on a Leash*, appeared December, 2021 in the *Columbia Journalism Review* • Carla Cantrelle continues to write and edit middle-grade and YA fiction. She also teaches workshops for the Alda Center for Communicating Science • Kristin Capp had an exhibition at the Koplin Del Rio Gallery, Seattle, where she presented work from the series *Americana and Brazil* • Chris Carlsson continues to lead walking and bicycling tours and host historical SF Bay Cruises. He is completing his second novel • Kristin Casaletto won the Printmaking Excellence Award at the Kalamazoo Institute of Art's annual juried show. She has artwork in exhibitions at the Muskegon Museum of Art and in Minneapolis and Grand Rapids • John Chavers is working on a project dealing with capital punishment. An exhibit of his work on trees will be featured near Houston in 2023 • Ada Chen, Kate Connell and Oscar Melara collaborated on *What's Precious?*, an exhibition curated by Chen at The Jewelry Library, NYC • Xandra Nur Clark's play *Ursa Major*, about three Soviet women and featuring Russian and Ukrainian folk songs, has been commissioned by Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. There will be a NYC reading in 2023 • Elvira Clayton is a 2022-2023 Fellow with A.I.R. • Composer Andrea Clearfield had nine world premieres between September 2021 and July 2022. A new cantata, *Here I am: I am Here*, is about transgender youth and conversion therapy • After 18 years of collaboration, Alixa and Naima are transmuting their creative partnership as Climbing PoeTree into "new evolutions, new branches bearing distinct fruits" • Joe Connelly wrote *How a Blue Mountain Lake Great Camp Became an Artists' and Activists' Retreat*, a feature article about BMC, for *Adirondack Life* • Cathy Crowe has co-edited *Displacement City Fighting for Health and Homes in a Pandemic* • Neil Curry's study, *Samuel Johnson: Writer*, was published by



Session 3 enjoying a sunny breakfast.

Greenwich Exchange ● **Mashuq Mushtaq Deen** is looking forward to his world premiere production of *Flood* at Kansas City Rep in 2023 ● **Shari Diamond** was awarded a 2022 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in the category of Photography ● **Laurel Doud**'s flash essay was published in *Toasted Cheese Literary Journal* ● **Jan Dove** is working to build community for Book Artists in the Olympic Peninsula ● **Tamara Dragadze** was awarded the Medal of Honour by the President of Georgia for her services to promote Georgian studies and Georgian culture in the UK ● **Ellen Driscoll** and **Kathy Engel** collaborated on "Eyechart" Dialogue and Reading, an outdoor banner installation, a print exhibition, and a series of accordion books ● **Virginia Eubanks**'s article, *His PTSD, and My Struggle to Live With It* appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* ● **Maggie Dubris** and **Andy Teirstein** continue to work on their opera, *Broke*, which is drawn from Maggie's book, *BrokeDown Palace*. They had a reading of the piece at Opera America ● **Stephen Duncombe** and **Steve Lambert** published *The Art of Activism: Your All Purpose Guide to Making the Impossible Possible* with O/R books ● **Diane Dwyer** is working on a 2D series, *There Used To Be Dinosaurs*, supported by a Puffin Foundation grant ● **Maura Dwyer** started a masters degree program in Urban and Community Planning. She received a Grit Fund and Alternate Roots professional development grant to co-produce a series of workshops in Baltimore ● **Carmen Einfinger** participated in the Artist Talk panel: *Iconic Women in the Arts* at the BoweryArt Studio, NYC ● **Zein El-Amine** launched his collection of short stories, *Is This How You Eat A Watermelon*, at the Center for Fiction, Brooklyn and City Lights Bookstore, SF ● **Wes Enzinna** won a 2022 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant for his book-in-progress, *Impossible Paradise: Life, Death, and Home in a California Tent City* ● **Mel Evans** has a one-year-old child, Ezra Hicks. She swims weekly at the West Reservoir, London while daydreaming about Eagle Lake ● **Sarah Farahat** finished *Al-Awda (The Return)*, a mural for Portland's Center for Study and Preservation of Palestine ● **Boris Fishman** is conducting a series of writing workshops starting in 2023 ● **Kermit Frazier**'s *Class Reunion*

and *Other Plays* has been published by Broadway Play Publishing ● **Denice Frohman** was named a 2022 Pew Fellow by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage ● **Ellyn McCormack Gaydos**'s first book, *Pig Years*, is about work, life and pigs in rural NY and VT ● **Aisha Abdel Gawad**'s novel, *Between Two Moons*, will be published by Doubleday in 2023 ● **Alice Gordon** has been reading a lot this year, and wishes she could've done some of it at BMC! ● **Elizabeth Graver**'s novel *Kantika*, inspired by the story of her Sephardic Turkish grandmother, will be published in 2023 by Henry Holt ● **Hardy Griffin** is part of a team that has started *Novel Slices*, a literary journal dedicated to previously-unpublished novel excerpts ● **Lindsey Guile**'s drawings were in the group show *Deconstruct: Gender in Portraiture* at the Arnot Museum; in a solo show *Rebellious* at the Birke Museum of Art; and will be in a solo show *Unruly Bodies* at the Mary Cosgrove Dolphin Gallery ● **Alexis Pauline Gumbs** won a 2022 Whiting Award for her nonfiction book *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* ● **Robbin Henderson** put aside a narrative art project to focus on co-curating *Emmy Lou Packard: Artist of Conscience* at Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA. ● **Bridget Henry** has been spending time walking through redwood forests in Santa Cruz and watching them regrow after a 2020 fire, making art and learning about habitat restoration and nature's resiliency ● **Wayne Horvitz** produced **Robin Holcomb**'s record, *One Way or Another Vol 1*, accompanied by a book of Robin's lyrics, available in a limited edition of 100 ● **Howardena Pindell**'s mixed media show opened at Garth Greenan Gallery, NYC ● **Immy Humes**'s *The Only Woman* was published by Phaidon Press ● **Arlene Hutton** received a commission from B Street Theatre for *Blooe or the Lamb*. Her play, *According to the Chorus*, premiered at The Road Theatre in L.A. and will open in NYC, 2023 ● **Kayhan Irani** continues to raise funds to support dispossessed Afghan families and to uplift the vibrant and rich culture and knowledge that Afghans hold ● **Susan Ito**'s memoir, *Half & Half: A Japanese American Adopted Life*, will be published in 2023 by Machete Press ● **Bill Jacobson** had two solo shows in SF. *Into the Loving Nowhere* was at Catharine Clark Gallery, and *American Trip* was on view at the Tenderloin Museum ● **May Jeong** won the J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Prize and a Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant for her project, *The Life: Sex, Work, and Love in America* ● **Brad Johnson** is living in D.C. and writing the daily *Hill Heat* newsletter on climate politics and policy ● **Annetta Kapon** had a one-person exhibition at 30 Years Gallery Pado, L.A ● **Julia Spicher Kasdorf** co-published a poetry and photo collection about the human and environmental impacts of fracking. *Shale Play: Poems and Photographs from the Frack Fields*, has attracted attention in Europe as the war in Ukraine has upped production, enabling the U.S. to ship compressed, fracked gas to western European markets ● **Donna Kaz**'s play, *The*

Docent, was included in the Garry Marshall Theatre's New Works Festival • **Keith Kelleher** has been publishing his labor and community organizing experiences and performing stories with the Goodman Theatre's GeNarrations project. He and **Madeline Talbott** have launched a website containing their writings, videos and visuals called *Organizing Graffiti* • **Billy Keniston** is working as a Visiting Assistant Professor of African History at St. Lawrence University • **Sofian Khan** is finishing post-production on his documentary, *Karachi Sky* • **Robin Wall Kimmerer** won a 2022 MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant • **Jonny Lam** is finishing a new record and working towards putting out five unreleased records • **Mike Lanchin** came to BMC this year to complete a memoir about life in the Central American revolutions of the 1980s • **Sonya Lara** worked on her poetry manuscript and wrote a new series of poems at BMC • **James Lardner** writes about political and economic questions for *The New Yorker*. He's been working on a piece about his uncle and namesake who fought and died in the Spanish Civil War • **Marie Myung-Ok Lee** says that her novel, *The Evening Hero*, is finally out! • **Jeffrey Lependorf** edited *Something Close to Music: Late Art Writings, Poems, and Playlists* by John Ashbery, published by David Zwirner Books • **Brad Lichtenstein's** film, *When Claude Got Shot*, won an Emmy for Outstanding Merit in Documentary Filmmaking • **Jerry Liebllich** has moved to Fayetteville, AR, (nearby? get in touch!), where they are editing their first poetry manuscript and getting better at volleyball • **Mark Lipman** has been leading a soundscape mapping project for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. He has a research permit that allows him to camp and make overnight recordings almost anywhere in the park • **Zefyr Lisowski's** poetry collection, *Girl Work*, won the 2022 Noemi Book Prize and will be published in 2024 • **David Lloyd** just returned from Cardiff, Wales, where he completed a writing project while on a Fulbright Scholar Award • **Alli Maloney** edited dozens of writers and landworkers—BMC alums included!—for *The New Farmer's Almanac*, available 2023 • **Jan Mammey** was granted the German Cinematography Award for his camera work in a documentary about eastern Ukrainian war refugees in the Chernobyl fallout area • **Alison Mandaville** spent August in Chattanooga, TN exploring creative play by making her poems into

friendship is roughly everywhere , thanks

the uniformed person puts traffic cones
down in neat rows , they're bright

orange . weeping . what's next

is I'm happy for your jazz concern . it's all sexual

& if I pushed it clear we'd still be on the street

right inside the boundary . I'm so happy . there's nothing
going on .

S was right about winning – full of information , unglowing ,
synthetic color in the limbal ring .

it's just people look so good

when you trust them

& you don't look

Poem by session 2 resident *Benjamin Krusling*
from his 2020 book *Glaring*.

physical objects • The *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* featured **Ravi Mangla** in a multimedia piece on the intersection of arts and organizing • **Sarah Manyika** published *Between Starshine and Clay: Conversations from the African Diaspora* • **Diane Margolis's** *We Built a Village: Cohousing and the Commons* was published by New Village Press • **E. "Oscar" Maynard** has been working in print shops in LA, NM, and DE, and is currently the Print Tech at the University of Delaware • **Becca McCharen-Tran** created a new body of work centering on climate grief and optimism • **Kevin McIntosh's** novel, *Class Dismissed*, is out from Regal House Publishing • **Erika Meitner** is a

Professor of English and MFA Program Director in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her book, *Useful Junk*, was released by BOA Editions

• **E. Ethelbert Miller** received a 2023 Grammy Nomination for his poem, *Black Men Are Precious* • **Tom Miller** has available for purchase a print and e-book version of his travel writer's memoir, *Where Was I?* • **Winter Miller's** *Not a Cat, a Memoir* is available on Amazon. Illustrations are by **Danica Navgorodoff** • **Toni Mirosevich's** book of stories, *Spell Heaven*, has been published by Counterpoint Press •

Naem Mohaiemen has a solo show, *grace*, centered around Maine's right to

dignified death, at Colby Museum of Art, Waterville, ME • **David Moore** was commissioned by the owners of Wayfair to create a large painting for their Cape Cod home • It's been 30 years since **Beverly Naidus's** been to BMC and she still talks and writes about its impact on her work. Health issues in her family have necessitated pulling in her sails to focus on care • Published by Simon & Schuster and Virago, *Our Red Book*, a people's history of menstruation told through many perspectives and identities, was edited by **Rachel Kauder Nalebuff** • **Nasrin Navab** is a Visiting Artist at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign College of Fine and Applied Art. She is working on *The Bridge Project* in collaboration with New American Center • **Emi Nietfeld's** memoir, *Acceptance*, was published by Penguin Random House • An October reading of **Will Nixon's** poems, inspired by *Night of the Living Dead*, was broadcast at GreenKill gallery, Kingston, NY. Thanks to electronic wizardry he (almost) got to appear in the film • **Danica Novgorodoff** is excited to announce that her picture book, *Alexander von Humboldt*:

BLUE NOTES

Explorer, Naturalist, and Environmental Pioneer, is now on shelves! ● **Pat Oleszko** mined the paranormal at Miami's haunted Deering Estate by creating a slew of solidly amorphous apparitions for a film/performance entitled *Pat's Abnormal Activities* ● **Soraya Palmer's** novel, *The Human Origins of Beatrice Porter and Other Essential Ghosts*, will be available from Catapult in 2023 ● **Gayatri Patnaik**, Director of Beacon Press, is thrilled that *The Birdcatcher* by Gayl Jones (published by Beacon!), has been shortlisted for the 2022 National Book

Award in fiction ● **Janie Paul's** book, *Making Art in Prison: Survival and Resistance*, will be published by Hat and Beard Press in 2023 ● **Micah Perks'** novella, *The Great Naked and Afraid Baking Show*, is in this Fall's longform issue of *Ploughshares* ● **Junauda Petrus** is working on a film adaptation of her novel *Could We Please Give the Police Departments to the Grandmothers?*, a children's book, which comes out in 2023 ● **Tenzin**

Phuntsog gave an artist talk in connection with his solo exhibit, *Pure Land*, at Microscope Gallery, NYC ● **Almah**

LaVon Rice won the Exposure Artists Program First-Time Grantee Award from The Pittsburgh Foundation ● **Andrea J. Ritchie** co-wrote and published *No More Police: A Case for Abolition*, with Mariame Kaba ● At BMC this fall, **Andrew J. Rodriguez** workshopped and wrote the first draft of his feature, *Negro*, and worked on an episode that premiered in Puerto Rico ● **Denver**

David Robinson has new work forthcoming in *Reunion: The Dallas Review*. In 2023 he will be collaborating with LGBTQI+ organizations in rural Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda to advance storytelling and art as tools of resistance ● **Loretta J. Ross** won a 2022 MacArthur Foundation

Genius Grant ● **Erik Ruin** produced a music video for the re-formed Black Ox Orkestar. He is working on a silk-screened artist's book inspired by the prison letters of Rosa Luxemburg

● **Sheron Rupp** has photographs on exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Art, in the Wilson, NC *Eyes on Main Street* photo festival, and in *Reckonings and Reconstructions: Southern Photography from the Do Good Fund*, published by University of Georgia Press ● **Kiran Kaur Saini's** story *Coiffeur Seven* has been solicited for translation into Spanish for publication ● **Jos Sances** and his collaborator **Juan Fuentes** are nearing the end of

their 10-year odyssey to complete a history of Mission Gráfica as told from the point of view of the community that worked there and created much of the work that made Gráfica the premiere artistic/activist printshop in the SF Bay Area ● **Jon Sands** and Maggie are living and writing in Brooklyn, and welcomed their second child, Sonny, in February! ● **Al Santana** is a recipient of a 2022 New York State Council of The Arts grant for *Migrating To Greatness?* Which draws from the experiences of African-Americans who migrated from south to north between 1910-1970

● **Alyce Santoro** has turned to improvised music and abstract landscape painting as extensions of her pre-pandemic thesis *An Intricate Ensemble: The Art-Science of An Ecological Imaginary for the Anthropocene Epoch* ● **John**

Schlesinger showed new outdoor installations, sculpture and photography in Spring City, PA ● **Bill Schuck** was selected to create an online studio for the Brooklyn Rail's series of virtual studio tours during

the pandemic ● **Antonio Serna** is continuing his art and research project, *Documents of Resistance, Art and Activism*

of *Artists of Color*, with his latest photographs included in the traveling exhibition *Art for the Future: Artists Call and Central American Solidarities* ● **Sejal Shah's** book, *How to Make Your Mother Cry: Stories*, is forthcoming from West Virginia University Press ● **Ravi Shankar's** memoir *Correctional*, from University of

Wisconsin Press, was named a finalist for the 2022 Connecticut Book Awards ● **Leslie Sills's** was honored by The National College Art Association and The National Women's Caucus for Art as A Living Pioneer for her books on women artists

● **Shelly Silver** had an in-person screening of *Girls / Museum* at Goethe Institut New York, NYC ● **Judith Simonian's** *PLUSH*, a painting survey of her works from 2010 to 2011, is currently at GAP Gallery, Brooklyn ● Arctic ice is melting and **Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz** is painting and sculpting about it—winning a 2022 Fellowship in Painting from the Massachusetts Cultural Council

● **Holly Wren Spaulding** is building a writing studio in her backyard in Maine ● **Arlo Rast Smucker**, 21 inches long and 8 lbs, 6 oz, was born to **Becca Rast** and **Jonathan Smucker!** ● **Miriam Klein Stahl** has an installation of 200 papercuts of East Bay Feminists at the Oakland Museum of California as part of the *Hella Feminist*



“BMC Entry Study”, 8x10”,
Acrylic Paint on Panel by
session 2 resident **Kyle Utter**.

Exhibition. Included in the portraits is BMC's own **Holly Mulder-Wollen!** • **Martin Steingesser** coordinated and participated in *This Is a Safe House—Step Through Her Door, Let the Heart's Muscle Unknot*, a collaborative program of poems by six Maine poets at Portland's Cove Street Arts • **Emma Steinkraus** was in a two-person show at 1969 Gallery, NYC • *A History for the Future: The Museum of Contemporary Art 1979-2000*, with a narrative history by **Louise Steinman**, was published by The Sam Francis Foundation and will be distributed to libraries and museums worldwide • **Kirsten Stolle's** solo exhibition, *Only You Can Prevent A Forest*, was at Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston, SC. Her artwork accompanies *America's Lost Crops Rewrite the History of Farming*, appearing in October's *The Atlantic* • **Meera Subramanian** is collaborating with illustrator **Danica Novgorodoff** to create a graphic nonfiction novel about youth climate activists. She helped launch a fellowship program, the *Religion & Environment Story Project*, that promotes new narratives to inform and educate the public on the climate crisis • **Laurie Sumiye** was on the Big Island working on a short documentary, *Makana o ke Mele*, about Milli Browning, an Indigenous Hawaiian woman and leader in Hawaiian conservation • **Naoe Suzuki** received the Artist's Grant in Drawing from Massachusetts Cultural Council. Images from her work are integrated in the Broad Discovery Center at the Broad of MIT Institute and Harvard • **Lisa Teasley** will have a story in the W.W. Norton anthology, *Flash Fiction America*. Her story collection, *Fluid* is coming out in 2023 • **Andy Teirstein** released *Restless Nation* featuring the Cassatt and Mivos string quartets, the Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra and soloists Marco Ambrosini and Yair Dalal • **Beth Thielen** received funding from the Puffin Foundation to further her artist book linking abolition to climate action • **John Trotter** had an exhibition of photographs from his project about the human alteration of the Colorado River, *No Agua, No Vida*, at the L'Oeil Urbain photo festival in France • **Meredith Turshen** participated in

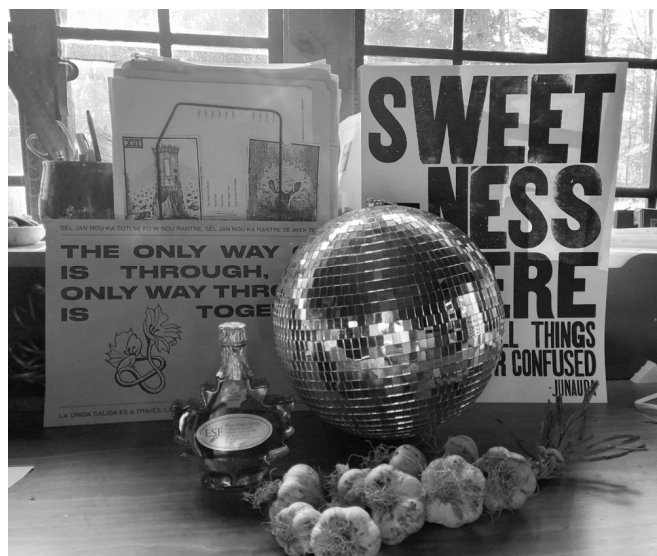
Ingres's Violin: Writers who Paint, a show at the Writer's Room, NYC • **Katrina Tavera** published her second novel, *The Collaborators* • **Barbara Ungar** has poems forthcoming in *Scientific American*, *Crazyhorse*, *Cutthroat*, and *Small Orange* from her book, *After Naming the Animals*, due out in 2023 • **Antonio Vega's** *Django in Pain* won Los Metro from Mexico's Metropolitan Academy of Theatre. He is currently performing in *Quienes están a tu lado* in Mexico • **Laura Von Rosk** was part of a group exhibition, *The Indivisible Spectrum*, at the Painting Center, NYC • **Mfundu Vundia** has written the libretto and produced *Winnie The Opera* and has written the libretto for *Hani*, a chamber opera. He continues to produce *Generations*, a soap in its 30th year of broadcast. • **Dr. Harold (Hal) Weaver's** pamphlet, *Race, Systemic Violence, and Retrospective Justice: An African American Quaker Scholar-Activist Challenges Conventional Narratives*, is being used as a guide in an on-going event aimed at providing reparations for Indigenous South African workers at UK-owned Wilson Rowntree Co. during the apartheid era • The Phillips Collection collected two of **Joyce Wellman's** works: *The Big 5* and *Journey Thru Migration* • **Kellie Wells's** story, *My Dog Lenny Bruce*, was the 2022 winner of the Kurt Vonnegut Prize for Speculative Literature and appeared in the summer issue of the *North American Review* • **Adam Welz** is living in Cape Town finishing his book on climate change and the natural world, to be published by Bloomsbury • **Tracy Winn** is finishing a collection of short stories and would welcome names of agents recommended by BMC people • **Lena Wolff** co-created a public art campaign to boost voter participation in the midterms. She exhibited work at the Berkeley Art Museum, Oakland Museum of California, Haines Gallery and Sarah Shepard Gallery • **Kalima Young's** *Mediated Misogynoir: Erasing Black Women's and Girls' Innocence in the Public Imagination* has been released as an ebook and in hard copy • **Jin Zhu** is working on an experimental video and will have photographs in *Greenhorns' New Farmer's Almanac VI* •



Intern **Juj** leads mushroom-less hike on a rainy day with nonetheless excited session 3 residents; Session 1 resident **Antonio Vega** shows work in progress during open studios; **Alan Brown & alumni** work weekends take a cookie break.

We are grateful to our 2022 Donors & Volunteers

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Community offerings: donated disco ball from intern Aspen, maple syrup from collaborator organization Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, garlic from the garden and posters donated by session 3 residents Becca & Junauda.

If we have accidentally omitted your name from this list, please let us know so we can properly thank you.

DONATE ONLINE: We encourage you to make your contribution to BMC online, and to set up monthly donations if you are able! You can find the link to BMC's PayPal account at bluemountainenter.org/support by clicking on the DONATE button.

BMC's RSF Auction Donors and Winners

Thank you to those who participated in BMC's first-ever auction for the Resident Support Fund!

Al Santana • Alan Brown • Alison Cornyn • Alison Mandaville • Allison Barlow • Alyce Santoro
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Kirsten Stolle ● Kristin Jones ● Kyung Eun You ● Laurie Sumiye ● Leslie Fry ● Lisa Chen ● Lisa Graves ● Lynne Nathan ● Marcy Hermansader ● Marianne Hirsch ● Marti Evanoff ● Maureen McLane ● Merry Wang ● Micah Perks ● Michael Bedford ● Michael Foster ● Mike Glier ● Minal Hajratwala ● Mindy Nierenberg ● Niaz Dorry ● Nica Horvitz ● Onnesha Roychoudhuri ● Paul Shore ● Peter Cramer ● Rachel Herzing ● Renee Catacalos ● Richard Reider ● Richard Trenner ● Ron Slye ● Rosalyn Bodycomb ● Rose Inman ● Ryan Felder ● Ryder Cooley ● Sarah Farahat ● Sarah Sutro ● Scott Hoshida ● Sejal Shah ● Stacie Crocetti ● Sumitra Rajkumar ● Suzanne Opton ● Teresa Basilio ● Tessa Barlow Ochshorn ● Thomas Barlow ● Tona Wilson ● Tracy Winn ● Trevor Nathan ● Wayne Horvitz ●

Facilities: Expanding Access at BMC

Our beloved work weekend crew returned for the first time since 2019, and got BMC into great shape to start the year. Facilities improvements continued with a focus on accessibility. We found an excellent log worker to build beautiful railings for the porch of our newly renovated wheelchair accessible annex cabin. We also built a portico roof over the kitchen doorway to make a safe landing for wheelchair access to the building, and hope to create an appropriately designed earthen ramp to the main entrance of the Clubhouse next.

We were fortunate to find a local stonemason to rebuild the stone patio outside the kitchen entrance. His crew continues to work by the front steps and around the clubhouse. In December our log craftsman will return to rebuild the exterior log landing to the Grey Cottage. Projects like these are never ending when you have four buildings over 100 years old – but skilled craftspeople, careful planning and generous donors keep BMC looking the same, but better. As always, program staff, interns and volunteers help out enormously on maintenance projects, and we are grateful for the help of **Wes Keays** and the Eagle Nest caretaking crew, as well as super volunteers **Jim Grass**, **Matt Goldowitz**, **Suzy Parker**, **Jim Zack** and **Lynne Nathan**.



Rustic railings for the annex; session 1 resident Amal Murkus planting trees with Aspen; Merry & Ben patching holes on the screen porch roof.

Adirondack Community Connections

The last few years have seen BMC staff reflecting on our mission and how it connects with the well-being of our neighbors and Adirondack community. Alongside and guiding these efforts have been in-depth conversations with friends, alum and allies about the history of our region and the realities and remnants of settler colonialism. Acknowledging that we occupy Haudenosaunee land, committing to honoring Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples of past, present and future, and recognizing the current social and economical inequalities within our community all help us to articulate and realize our commitment to social justice.

In 2020, BMC, with the assistance of our friends and neighbors, launched Hamilton Helps to address food scarcity in our county. Thus far we have raised \$3,200 which has been converted into food vouchers that have been redeemed by 150 seniors and families at farmers markets across Hamilton County. Hamilton Helps intends to sustain and grow the healthy food voucher program and to increase its reach in other areas of service. With this in mind, program manager **Ryan Felder** invited community partners to BMC in November to brainstorm. The day-long meeting convened public health officials, food pantries, farmers, market organizers and regional agriculture organizations to discuss the scarcity of food access in our county and the systemic problems we continue to encounter. In the coming year, Hamilton Helps plans to expand cooperation with our partners to provide more comprehensive food access, hire an intern to help manage the program, and increase the voucher amount for seniors, qualifying families and individuals from \$20 to \$50.

Staff Updates

Aspen Adams is preparing for her next adventure—traveling to Antarctica to live and work at McMurdo Station for the Austral Summer ● Harriet Barlow and David Morris visited BMC in August and were happy to see the handsome work on the accessibility cottage and the copper tiles on the roof over the porch ● Bill Buxton will be sitting close to his fireplace this winter ● Charlie Catacalos has been settling into New England life, playing songs with new friends and designing exhibitions at the Berkshire Museum ● Sawyer Cresap and Adam Bailey both finished their masters programs this spring and are back-in-place in the Blue Line working for local nonprofits ● Sebastian (Sebi) Crocetti is studying architecture and enjoying life in the Canadian maritimes ● Ryan Felder will spend the winter in New Haven writing about the theological origins of private property ● Thomas Giardini is learning, training, thinking, and enjoying the synchronicity ● Jane Gillette and Louise Howard waxed poetically about the BMC walk-in refrigerator. “It’s like a toy store,” says Jane. “I go inside and think of all the possibilities.” Louise agrees. “Cooking for our guests is a pleasure. I try to match breakfast entrees by color, texture and taste. The walk-in provides fantastical options!” ● Zohar Gitlis is living in an intentional interfaith community in NYC where, like BMC, food, conversation, and tarot cards are always plentiful. Despite being very content, she longingly looks at her 90-miler plaque everyday, dreaming about the golden tamarack needles on Raquette River ● Kaleela Greenlee has been busy with school and working on artwork for an exhibition next semester. She moved into an apartment in Dorchester, Boston ● Lizzie Hessek is still glad she quit her job and moved to Montreal ● Nica Horvitz intends to spend the winter replicating BMC by baking Sis’s recipes, gossiping, and being as offline as possible ● Sophie Kazis spent the past year producing a documentary podcast called *American Terror*, which tracks the rise of far-right extremist groups in the U.S. She’s also been writing songs ● Wes Keays says “Love is the answer” ● Sheila Kinney continues to serve as president of the Worthington (MA) Library, which still uses a card catalog ● Kei Kurimoto writes: “I received the gift of time with my beautiful father, the mending of wounds, the deep honor of walking him across the bridge, and witnessing the innate wisdom that the body knows how to die. Letting go and beginning again” ● M.J. Lang says of her first season at BMC: “What an amazing experience, being a part of the BMC crew! A chance to work in a wonderful environment and meet some really cool and creative people ” ● Hannah Lee misses BMC like crazy. She has a new job at the Minnesota Legislature, where, despite the many late nights, there is no Table of Endless Speculation ● After leaving BMC, Juj Lepe reunited with their family in San Diego, CA and was bewildered by the change in flora - cacti and palm leaves! Their future is unknown but bright ● Intaba Liff-Anderson continues to be in awe of the deeply inspiring community of people who bring their visions of a more balanced and just world to BMC. She is very pleased with the abundance of our gardens this year and the local farms we are privileged to support ● Darren Lee (dee) Miller, who now goes by Dee, was awarded a NCAA Emerging Arts Administrators Fellowship, and will be participating in the 2022 FotoFocus Biennial ● Sandy Schmitt is going to her winter double life where she’s training to live on Mars. She told Merry and Ryan it was okay to lie on her update ● Ben and Jamie Strader are enjoying their last year living with their daughter Anna (one of just a handful of Eagle Nest lifetime residents), as she plots her escape/graduation and heads off to college – just when she was finally trained to be a BMC kitchen helper ● Merry Wang is taking suggestions on how to make her life updates more interesting than being a program manager and laying down in different places (BMC, California). Perhaps she will take up gaming again, or learn Excel and get a few swords ●

Merry, session 1 resident Abbey, & interns Kaleela & Aspen waiting to be rescued by Wes on a Blue Mt Lake island; Zohar, Ryan, Nica & Lizzie at Work Weekend; housekeeping angel Mary B; kitchen sprites Jane & Louise; Chef Intaba at mushroom level; Ben & Anna Strader.



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