

BLUE NOTES

BLUE MOUNTAIN CENTER'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2023

Finding Common Cause in the Middle of Nowhere

On a beautiful summer afternoon, Koohan Paik-Mander, a Hawai'i-based journalist, slowly walked around the BMC living room holding a globe, pausing before each person seated on the sofa. She positioned the Earth so that only its liquid hemisphere was exposed. "The Pacific makes up half the world," she said. Then, with her finger hovering above her island home, she continued, "Terrestrial people call Hawai'i the middle of nowhere, but to us, it's the piko, the planet's belly button, the center of the universe."

What followed was a presentation and discussion on the disastrous impacts of militarization on vital ecosystems of The Pacific – one of many conversations that took place at BMC during *War and the Environment*, a ten-day focus residency organized by the Costs of War project. Sharing a commitment to crucial collaborations amidst the intersecting realities of US imperialism, militarism, and ecological devastation, the gathering brought together a dynamic group of researchers, activists, and journalists from the anti-war and environmental movements.

As we witness an unrelenting increase in US militarization across the globe, while just having experienced the hottest seasonal temperatures on record, nothing feels more urgent than bridging the gaps between the myriad humanitarian and ecological crises of our times. For us at BMC, being hours away from any popularly understood "center of the universe" is part of what makes expansive, cross-silo connections possible right in our living room.

A week after Koohan walked around the room holding the globe, the Lahaina wildfire devastated Maui. A month prior, BMC felt the impacts of climate change on the region like never before. Wildfire smoke from Canada muted the otherwise crisp horizon, and historic floods

cracked highways in half, destroying homes and local businesses. Thanks to the research of the Costs of War project, we know that the US military is the largest single institutional greenhouse gas emitter in the world. Their research also tells us that the Russo-Ukrainian war has destroyed 5 million acres of forests in Ukraine in less than six months. We can only brace for the scale of documentation of the devastation currently underway in Gaza and the surrounding region.

There are so many reasons to work towards a warless world, but what if demilitarizing for climate, for the very web of life itself, was one of them?

If there is one thing that spending time at BMC can do, it reminds us of how connected we are – as parts of nature, as people who share food and living space, as generations and communities across history and land. Amidst modern life, these connections can be so obscured. There is something about paddling while your canoeing partner steers, or passing a bowl of food down the long table to someone you have just met, that helps to bring our interdependence back into focus.

As we wrap up another BMC season, we ask you to think of the movements that matter to you. What bridges are missing between them? What needs repair? What conversations must be had? BMC is here to be the middle of nowhere and the center of the universe at once – a place of possibility and return.



The BMC dock floating detached after record flooding.

2023 Programming

*BMC hosted 40 residents this year for our three traditional month-long residencies from June-October. Poets, playwrights, fiction and nonfiction writers, activists, filmmakers, composers, and visual artists worked, swam, explored, ping-ponged, leisured, worked some more, and made the most of their time together. But our season was filled with other programs as well: this year's conference and focus residency season was a rich balance of regional and cultural networks, internal movement building gatherings, and experimental new initiatives. As we begin to plan next season, we are excited to welcome multi-time conference organizer and 2023 resident **John Cavanagh** onto our programming team as a part-time consultant and conference planner. John, Senior Advisor and former Director at the Institute for Policy Studies, brings years of experience helping groups think across issues with a deep commitment to intergenerational dialogue and mentoring the next generation of movement leaders.*

Media practitioners, writers, academics, and newsroom founders convened for the first **Future of Local News: Owning Our Narrative** "work and rest" focus residency. Goals of the gathering included: increasing the number of articles from FLN members about their work, methods, framing, and approaches; time for individual projects and rejuvenation; sharing ideas and experiences; and group conversations about the state of local news and community-based journalism. An unexpected outcome of the gathering was how much participants laughed, created, and played. It was discovered that play – not rest – was the opposite of work.

The Adirondack Food System Network (AFSN) is a collaboration of regional organizations working together as equal partners to better understand system-wide issues, identify gaps, and develop realistic solutions to help strengthen and promote a more resilient food system in the region. Gathering at BMC provided the coalition with an opportunity to develop relationships across the Network, discuss how to put a newly-visioned strategic framework into action over the next three years, and clarify structure and goals going forward. AFSN members, including BMC's own Hamilton Helps initiative, deepened their connection to this collaboration and their relationships with each other.

Bridges to the Land & Justice for Families gathered as partners from the North Country and New York City to engage in cross-regional conversations around the topics of agriculture, food and nutrition, structural oppression, mass incarceration and its impact on families of color, and healing trauma. The group spent much of their time engaging with the natural surroundings (campfires, archery lessons, canoeing, hiking), in long conversations about shared struggles and victories.

Queer Arts: BLAQ is a cohort that centers fellowship and skill-sharing among Black queer artists through resource mapping and organizing around Black liberation. They returned to BMC to envision a multidisciplinary oral history project that chronicles intergenerational exchange within the Black queer community.

Convening literary, visual, and performance artists, the group conducted oral histories via live recorded conversations between members. They intend to accompany this with narrative texts, photography, and performance work that will further illustrate the "interpersonal threads and intimate moments of joy and pleasure that tether Black queer kin across generations." Using these conversations as a starting point, the group plans to develop a transnational collage of Black queer history that will remain active and live beyond our time.



Wooden spoons carved by Justice for the Land participants.

Coming out of a 2010 focus residency, this year's **Costs of War Focus Residency: War and**

The Environment brought together participants from the academic, arts, NGO, and journalistic communities to discuss three major themes: impact of war and military industry/bases on water, forests, and biodiversity; military emissions and climate change; and the relationship between climate change and conflict. Participants presented their work to one another, engaged in dynamic discussions, and spent time working on individual projects.

Invoking Our Aqueous Ancestors and Unfurling Ecologies of Abundance Across and With Beings and Movement, a focus residency situated at the intersection of disability and environmental justice, brought together both disabled and nondisabled artists, writers, and organizers from various communities, including Black, Indigenous,

and people of color, to discuss, reflect, and imagine the future in context of the current ecological crisis. Refusing narratives of scarcity, they developed emergent strategies and stories centered on a future of abundance – where all bodies will thrive. In addition to these discussions, they made a field trip to the Wild Center to facilitate further thinking and grounding in the regional context.

Gathering at BMC for the third time, **Justice for the Land** brought together Haudenosaunee leaders and allied representatives from state and federal environmental agencies, land conservation organizations, and the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment for a visioning conversation on recognizing the rights of the land and practicing conservation with respect that incorporates Indigenous stewardship. This year, the conversation focused on active land justice issues in Haudenosaunee homelands, as well as broad-reaching approaches to land justice across bioregions, such as rematriation of land to Onondaga Nation in Tully Valley, and developing a framework for recovery of access to and care of ancestral lands.

The NorthEast Farmers of Color Land Trust works for a “future of food and land sovereignty in the Northeast.” Its goal is to identify and reshape the root causes and systems that marginalize communities, co-create a critical mass of self-determined communities, and embody land-based solidarity. NEFOC Land Trust is in an emergent phase and is now expanding the larger vision of their organization. They gathered at BMC to build trust between staff, board members, communities, ancestors, and future generations while refining working agreements and Land Relationship models.

The advisory board for **The Action Lab’s The Art of Purpose**, a year-long experimental fellowship for organizers and movement practitioners, gathered at BMC to envision and design the initial elements of the program. The Art of Purpose is part of The Action Lab’s work to strengthen its support of social movements by training and coaching fellows to further develop political, relational, and artistic skills to bring back to their organizations and communities. Consisting of scholars, cultural workers, therapeutic professionals, organizers, artists, writers, and journalists, participants worked on developing the curriculum and framework for the fellowship, built deeper connections with each other in BMC’s restorative space, and increased clarity around their aims and goals.



Residents enjoy the woods, composer’s studio, and boathouse.

Next Steps with the Resident Support Fund

Building on previous years of fundraising and increased donations, this year the Resident Support Fund continued to assist residents of color by providing up to \$1,000 per applicant to help offset the costs of attending BMC programming. Since its inception in 2017, the fund has distributed \$50,000 to over 100 residents with \$20,000 directly supporting residents of color in 2023!

The RSF has become foundational to our work. It allows us to extend hospitality, spaciousness, and rest to the lives of our residents. In the words of alum **Maya Binyam**, who wrote the first draft of her 2023 debut novel *Hangman* while at BMC, “The RSF award enabled me to take an unpaid, month-long leave from work and not worry (too much) about covering my expenses, which proved a tremendous relief and helped me focus on my creative work without the attendant anxieties that typically exist around paying bills.”

The generous solidarity of the BMC community in supporting RSF enables this foundational work. We are pleased to report that this year, during our Fall RSF Fundraising campaign, we raised \$20,486 from BMC community donations and matching donors. We are thrilled by your giving spirit, enthusiasm, and trust in BMC, and grateful for your untiring support of your fellow artists and activists.

BMC's 2023 Resident Award Recipients

This year's *Boren Chertkov Award for Labor & Justice* went to **May Jeong**, an award-winning magazine writer and investigative journalist. May has lived and reported in Afghanistan, covering women's rights, presidential elections, and the effects of American foreign policy abroad in the form of resulting civilian casualties. She now works as a reporter for *Vanity Fair*, for which she has primarily been reporting on sex work, how it intersects with the American criminal system, and the ways in which these intersections overlap with questions around gentrification, immigration, and the American empire. At BMC, she worked on completing part of the manuscript for *THE LIFE: Sex, Work, and Love* in America, a book of reported nonfiction that interrogates the relationship between sex work and the American criminal system.



Eliza Evans, the 2023 *Harriet Barlow Commons Residency Award* recipient, is a climate change activist and artist. She was born in a rustbelt steel town and raised in rural Appalachia. She is currently a member of NEW INC, the New Museum's cultural incubator and has participated in residencies such as the LMCC Art Center, the Art Law Program, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UC Santa Barbara, and Bronx Museum AIM. At BMC, Eliza worked on *All the Way to Hell*, a participatory, monumental, site-specific land-based activist art project that converts thousands of individual gestures into a new form of environmental resistance at the intersection of property law, fossil fuel business practice, and bureaucracy.



2023's *Richard J. Margolis Award for Nonfiction* went to **Mara Kardas-Nelson**, a journalist who interrogates inequality in the international development sector and environmental movements. In her work, Mara seeks to investigate why complex political and economic histories are often unknown by development practitioners and what that means for governments and communities that are on the receiving end of these interventions. She has also led a career in public health, working on HIV treatment advocacy in South Africa and supporting the community health system in Sierra Leone as it emerged from the Ebola epidemic. At BMC, Mara worked on finishing her book, *We Are Not Able to Live in the Sky*, about the history of microfinance and its impact on two groups of women in Sierra Leone.



May, Eliza, and Mara.

Building Hamilton County's Social Safety Net

This year was one of great growth for **Hamilton Helps**. With funding from the Adirondack Foundation and Cloudsplitter Foundation, we distributed \$12,000 in local food vouchers to Hamilton County residents facing food insecurity. Through partnerships with the Hamilton County Public Health office, Living ADK, ADK Action, Community Action, senior meal sites, and local food pantries, our food vouchers helped over 50 families purchase produce, meat, cheese, and baked goods from farmers markets in Hamilton County. In collaboration with ADK Action and Public Health, we extended our program to include families participating in WIC programming. Participating families received \$100 in food vouchers and were enrolled in ADK Action's Fair Food program, giving them an extra \$100 a month to spend at participating Hamilton County grocery stores.

In addition to expanded programming, **Hamilton Helps** took on its first summer intern! **Max Shah**, a sophomore and fellow with Colgate College's Upstate Institute, joined BMC's staff this summer to learn how to manage the food voucher program, fundraise at farmers' markets, and research food access and insecurity in Hamilton County - all while being a part the BMC community (doing dishes, driving residents, weeding the garden, and more). In the coming year, we are hoping to sustain the growth of **Hamilton Helps**. We have now experienced what it means to begin to address food insecurity in an increased capacity with our partners, who demonstrate a larger need for direct food aid in our remote county. Our next steps are beginning to revolve around what it looks like to transition the program to another partner or new organization, increasing the impact of the existing program, and strengthening relationships between partners, farmers markets, and regional participants.



RESIDENT UPDATES

Michael Agresta has a short story in *Makeout Creek* that ends with the words “blue mountain lake,” albeit in reference to a different lake he’s never seen near Taos Pueblo • Jonathan Allen continues his ad intervention project, *Interruptions*, on the subways and streets of NYC • Amir Amirani spent a week at Vermont’s Kopkind Film Camp, after which he remained in the US to complete the final leg of filming for his feature documentary, *The Longest Second*. The trailer for Amir’s *In The Eye of the Storm - The Political Odyssey of Yanis Varoufakis*, can be viewed on YouTube • Nellie Appleby is returning to her childhood hometown of Gaborone, Botswana for two months this winter. She will be reconnecting with friends and the land while making a new body of work during this self-made artist residency • Ina Archer was pleased to participate in the Focus Section of The Armory Show 2023 with a solo booth of new works in collage, watercolor and installation video • Katherine Arnoldi read at the 2022 Whitney Biennial as a part of the Gathering of the Tribes Art Collective. This year she is working on a screenplay and graphic novels • Alice Attie’s new volume of poetry, *Bending Into the Light*, is out with Seagull Books, University of Chicago. In October Alice read at Book Culture and with the Brooklyn Rail • Olive Ayhens is in an environmental group show at the U.N. entitled *Re-Connection in Kinship With Nature* through January. A one-person show, *Secrets In Place*, is at the Tayloe Piggott Gallery in Jackson Hole, WY through February • The Latino Coalition of Weld County, CO announces the Polly Baca Leadership Award named after Polly Baca, who served as Chair of the Democratic Caucus of the Colorado House of Representatives - the first woman to hold that office and the first Hispanic woman elected to the Colorado State Senate • Cynthia Back had two solo exhibits in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal: *Tudo é Novo* at the Galerie de Espaços do Espaço Turismo and *Collagens* at the Escola Secundária Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro • Neelanjana Banerjee and Robin Sukhadia are shuttling their two sons, Kabir (4) and Kailash (8), to piano and JiuJitsu classes. Neela is working on her novel, teaching creative writing at UCLA, and wearing a Whitney Houston t-shirt. Robin is practicing tabla, producing an electronic album with his band Sadubas, and rocking his LA Lakers hat. Both are still drawing inspiration from their time at BMC a decade ago • Anne Basting and Brad Lichtenstein celebrated their 25th anniversary this year and also attended the Emmys to celebrate Brad’s Best History Documentary nomination for his film *American Reckoning* • Helen Benedict’s novel about refugees, *The Good Deed*, will be in bookstores in 2024 • Maya Binyam’s debut novel, *Hangman*, was published by FSG • Celia Bland gave a poetry reading at the Desperate Literature Bookshop in Madrid, Spain. She has work in the recent issues of *On the Seawall*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *The*

Southern Humanities Review and *Ethel* • L.M. Bogad won a \$100,000 Creative Corps Grant, and a \$50,000 Creative Work Fund Grant to support *Sinfonia de la Justicia*, a performance piece with indigenous Mexican farmworkers in the Napa region. It is being translated into Farsi by feminist theater activists in Iran for use in creative activism. He’s working on a show about his family’s armed confrontation with the KKK, (not far from BMC), after they burned a cross on the Bogads’ lawn • Lisa Borders’s novel, *20th Century Girl*, will be published by Regal House in 2025 • Tom Boswell has turned 75. Having lost a four-year struggle with the US military and liberal Madison WI politicians, he is reflecting on what comes next. He may leave Madison and move east • *Dancing Through Prison Walls*, based on a 10-year choreographic residency inside California’s Norco Prison, is guided by Suchi Branfman. It has been touring nationally, amplifying abolition and the terrors of mass incarceration through dance and storytelling. The project received a Creative Corps Fellowship through the California Arts Council and support from the Foundation for Contemporary Art • George Brant debuted the operatic version of his play *Grounded* at the Kennedy Center. He has been commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera Company to write a libretto for a new opera about the Russo-Ukrainian war • Gray Brechin has recorded and released *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* as an audiobook. He continues to work as a Project Scholar for the Living New Deal which is uncovering and revealing the ubiquitous public works legacy of the New Deal • Alan Brown wrote, directed, and is in post-production on *Friends and Foes*, his fifth narrative feature film • Katy Butler gave a keynote speech on how to prepare for a good end of life for the Community Hospital of Monterey, CA. Her second death book, *The Art Of Dying Well* is generating royalty checks! She is writing a memoir/nonfiction narrative/social criticism about sex and pleasure in the age of #MeToo • Ellen Cantarow is retired from journalism. She is writing poetry and an autobiography • Chris Carlsson’s novel *When Shells Crumble*, published by Spuyten Duyvil, describes a future in which the world ends and a new one begins, aided by a bioengineered fungus that evolves during a national emergency and multiple climate catastrophes • Kristin Casaletto had work in *95th Michigan Contemporaries*, Muskegon Museum of Art, and the *2023 North American Biennial* at 808 Gallery, Boston, MA • Elvira Clayton had a solo exhibition at A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY • Christopher Cook is a Senior Writer at The New School for Social Research. He is publishing syndicated op-eds and working on selling his road adventure memoir and a new political journalistic book • Royston Coppenger is in the final stages of editing his novel, *Four and the Mile Road*. His translation of *Phaedra* and his contemporary English adaptation of *The Seagull* were published in 2023 • Kia Corthron’s novel *Moon Mars*, Seven Stories Press,

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was released in paperback. Two of her plays will have world premieres in 2024: *Tempestuous Elements* at Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. and *Fish* at Keen Company/Working Theater at Theatre Row, NYC • **Neil Curry** has had three publications this year: a pamphlet entitled *Things Being Various*, a biography of Horace Walpole, and a collection of poems entitled *A Word with Bede* • **Alexis De Veaux** is touring with her latest work, *JesusDevil, The Parables* from AK Press • **Mashuq Mushtaq Deen's** play *Flood* will have its Chicago premiere in 2024 at Shattered Globe Theatre. He has been published in two anthologies: a narrative essay in *Surviving Transphobia* and a monologue in *Overheard: Fourteen Commissioned Monologues Written by TNB2S + Artists for TNB2S Artists* • **Stephanie Dinkins** was named one of the 100 most influential people in AI by *Time Magazine* in 2023. She was awarded the inaugural LG-Guggenheim Award for artists working at the intersection of society and technology • **Sandi Dollinger** taught theater in Tczew, Poland this summer to 7 to 17-year-olds. She directed *Sea Marks* at the Irish Heritage Museum, Albany, NY. She continues working on her play, *Pokojá*, which focuses on the war in Ukraine • Composer **Emily Doolittle's** *(re)cycling I: metals* premiered at the Rainy Days Festival, Luxembourg. The piece is written for instruments that can be made from items found in the recycling bin or in the kitchen! • **Sunny Drake** launched his theatrical podcast, *Climate Change and Other Small Talk*, with audio dramas from nine theaters around the world. It won two Signal Awards • **Maggie Dubris's** chapbook, *The Favored Child of the Sub-Mariner*, was published by Weed Mines Press. In July, Maggie and **Andy Teirstein** filmed two scenes from their opera, *Broke* • **Dulani's** manuscript was a finalist in the Rose Metal Press open reading period • **Kate Duva** continues to juggle single parenting with writing her novel, *Inside the Wow*, about a 1930s burlesque performer who kidnaps her own baby. Kate has pivoted from teaching to instructional design, using human-centered technologies to facilitate dialogue and social learning • **Maura Dwyer** transformed her visual and written work into a final performance for a series of shows at the Black Cherry Puppet Theater, Baltimore's Center Stage, and the Maryland Center for History and Culture. She's starting her second year of graduate school in urban planning with a focus on creative placemaking and economic justice. She co-programmed Artscape, a free arts festival in Baltimore • **Kathy Engel** is part of new poetic project called *CEASEFIRE CENTO*, an urgent collective call in a time of institutional attempts at silencing, which can be read on *Vox Populi* • **Jacob Forman** is a writer/co-producer on the Paramount+ series *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*, starring David Oyelowo as the legendary Deputy US Marshal • **Kermit Frazier** has been freelance writing for two new PBS children's animation series: *Lyla in the Loop* and *Weather Hunters*, scheduled to premiere in 2024 • **Leslie Fry**



"strip the daisy (lifting up the edges of my understanding)" by Victoria Ahmadizadeh Melendez.

received the 2023 Governor's Award for Artistic Excellence in Vermont where she continues to make sculpture • **Amy Godine** is hoping fellow alums will find interest in her book, *The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier* (Cornell University Press), a comprehensive history of a community of Black suffrage-seeking pioneers in the Adirondack wilderness before the Civil War. Her 2016 exhibit on this history, *Dreaming of Timbuctoo*, is viewable in the Upper Barn at the John Brown Farm State Historic Site, Lake Placid, NY • **Nancy Graham** continues to do theater and film under the name Noa Graham. She has appeared in *Indecent* which won a best ensemble award from the Connecticut Critics Circle, and in an improvised short, *You Know Where to Find Me*, currently making the festival rounds and available as a staff pick on Vimeo • **Lindsey Guile** has been busy exhibiting her work in group exhibitions as well as a solo show, *Uncensored*, at the Gillette Gallery, Garrison, NY. She is preparing for two solo exhibitions in 2024. She is a 2023 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching • **Sabine Heinlein** is a staff writer at *Wirecutter/The New York Times*. She gave a lecture at Maryland Institute College of Art and had an essay published in the anthology, *My Last White Boyfriend and Other Epiphanies* • Scratchboard drawings for **Robbin Légère Henderson's** graphic narrative, *My Father's Shadows: the Depression, God and the FBI*, were shown in the exhibition *Shadows* at Arts Benicia, CA. More work will be shown in 2024 at Avenue 50 Gallery, LA. She curated *Mission Gráfica: Reflecting a Community in Print* for the San Francisco Public Library, based on the book of the same title featuring, among others, **Juan Fuentes** and **Jos Sances** • **Erica Harris** wants to know if there is a photo of **Ben** carrying his Ferns, Fungus, and Fun tote bag • **David Hill** has been invited to attend the World Science Fiction Convention in Chengdu,

China, and to sit in on a panel discussion of his literary body of work. *Science Fiction World* published an issue focusing on his stories. He lives in rural NC ● **Adam Hochschild's** article, *As Facism Threatened Europe, an Ambitious Play Warned Americans to Pay Attention*, was published in the November 2023 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* ● **Robin Holcomb** joyfully performed her music across North America and Europe. Dates in NYC and New England are upcoming ● **Wayne Horvitz** has been busy with performances in Austria, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands and two new releases coming this fall. One is of a live concert from 1989, the other is various trios created virtually during Covid with a host of great improvisers ● **Denise Iris's** film, *Supersymmetry*, won the Merit Award in the Experimental category at the University Film and Video Association Annual Conference. It had its UK television premiere and is screening in Greece at the Athens International Experimental Film Festival ● **Carla Cantrelle Jablonski** directed a play, is acting whenever she can, and continues to teach for the Alda Center for Communicating Science. She has three novels-in-progress ● **Andrew Ellis Johnson** is participating in *Picturing the Constitution* at the Old Stone House, Brooklyn, NY through January, 2024 ● Composer and pianist **Jung Sun Kang** will perform two pianos, percussions, and choir versions of Carmina Burana in 2024 at the Church of the Heavenly Rest, NYC ● The one-person exhibition *Annetta Kapon: Proxy Gallery 10 Years* was held at the Floating Gallery, LA ● **Mara Kardas-Nelson's** book, *We Are Not Able to Live in the Sky*, a critical history of microfinance, will be published by Metropolitan/Holt in 2024 ● **Julia Spicher Kasdorf** directs the Creative Writing Program at Penn State University, University Park. Her book of poems, *As Is* (Pitt, 2023), engages environmental degradation, domestic stress, and extractive capitalism in the old spirit of making it up as we go along in Northern Appalachia ● **Donna Kaz** played the lead in New Circle Theatre's production of *Louise the Destroyer*. She led the 2nd annual All Write Columbia Writers Conference at the Spencertown Academy of Arts ● **Keith Kelleher's** most recent podcast on a local Chicago progressive's show is about the WGA/SAGAFTRA/UAW strikes and labor's recent upsurge ● **Billy Keniston** is enjoying teaching History and African Studies at St. Lawrence University. His book, *Undercover Stories: The Parallel Lives of Jenny Curtis and Craig Williamson*, has passed the peer review stage and will soon be published by Wits University Press ● **Sarah K. Khan's** recent solo show, *Pleasure & Defiance*, was at Cove Street Arts, Portland, ME ● **Lucretia Knapp** had two video shorts screened at Microscope Gallery, NYC. *Avant-Barb(ie)* featured 13 artists whose works spanned nearly 60 years and were made prior to the 2023 blockbuster, *Barbie* ● **Ellen Kozak's** solo exhibition, *Night Paintings and 5-Channel Video Installation*, will be at the David Richard

Gallery, NYC in 2024 ● **Petra Kuppers's** poetry collection, *Diver Beneath the Street*, which investigates true crime and ecopoetry at the level of the soil, will appear with Wayne State University Press in 2024 ● **Jim Lardner** is active in the fledgling DC chapter of Third Act and, when sufficiently worked up over some issue, writes a piece about it for the *New Yorker* ● **Joan Larkin's** sixth book of poems, *Old Stranger*, will be published by Alice James Books in 2024 ● **Nam Le's** book-length poem, *36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem*, was published by Knopf ● **Mark Lipman** continues to lead a soundscape mapping project in Point Reyes National Seashore. His scientific research permit from the National Park Service allows him to make overnight recordings outside of designated campgrounds ● **Zefyr Lisowski** was awarded a 2023 NYFA/NYSCA Fellowship in Nonfiction ● **David Lloyd** has poems in the current issues of *Poetry Wales*, *Scintilla*, and *Red Poets*. His poems were featured in the Writer's Corner section of the eco-critical anthology, *Weaving Words Into Worlds* ● **Angie Sijun Lou** is finishing the final year of her PhD in Creative Writing at UC Santa Cruz. This winter she will submit her linked story collection to publishers and will begin working on a novel ● **Josh MacPhee** completed two book projects: *Graphic Liberation: Image Making and Political Movements*, and *Defend/Defund: A Visual History of Organizing Against the Police*, both published by Common Notions Press ● **Juliette Majot** had a solo show of her paintings at the Pink Slip Gallery, Minneapolis, MN ● **Sara Marcus's** book, *Political Disappointment: A Cultural History from Reconstruction to the AIDS Crisis*, was published by Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Her previous book, *Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution*, was published in Spanish ● **Jane McAleve**y was interviewed by the *New Yorker* about her role in transforming the labor movement. The profile highlights McAlevey's "whole worker" method, a strategy she has used in numerous organizing efforts including a blitz to bring 25,000 home health-care workers into the fight against issues such as lack of affordable housing, insufficient public transportation, and the need for debt relief ● **Mary McDonnell** received a Dow Visiting Artist and Scholar Award. She engaged the Japanese Gardens and Dow Gardens for a public discussion on how creativity, gardening, and the natural world connect and influence each other, held at the Theodore Roethke Home Museum, Saginaw, MI ● After serving as co-commissioner of the U.S. Pavilion at the 2022 Venice Biennale, **Jill Medvedow** has had a busy year. She was recently inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, appointed a fellow at the Harvard Divinity School, and published her first children's book, *Kangaroo*. **Gregory Maguire** and **Jill** recently appeared together at Brookline Booksmith ● **Oscar Melara** and **Kate Connell** continue their work with their Chispa Art Cart (recently on display at

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ICA SF), their Portfolio of Southeast SF Artists and their Cultural Map of Southeast SF, a participatory mapping project • **E. Ethelbert Miller** is a writer and literary activist living in Washington D.C. • The 3D spatial radio opera, *No One is Forgotten*, with a libretto by **Winter Miller** based on her play of the same name, was released by Emitha Records and Dallas Opera. It is available on iTunes and Spotify • **Jason de Lara Molesky** co-edited the academic anthology *Cli-Fi and Class* (UVA Press). He is a postdoctoral fellow in the environmental humanities at Harvard University. Starting in Fall 2024, he will be an assistant professor of English at Saint Louis University •



“There is no mineral of futurity” by Kathy Wu.

David Moore completed a 6 x 10 foot painting commission for the Millennium Partners at Winthrop Place, Boston, MA. He left full-time public school teaching to devote time to painting, photography, video, documentaries, and music • **Pan Morigan** is still singing and writing songs every day and has a poetry collection out by Querencia Press titled *5 Spirits in my Mouth*. Her co-edited short story collection, *Trouble the Waters, Tales from the Deep Blue*, is up for a World Fantasy Award. Pan has her own short story collection forthcoming from Querencia Press • **Mankwe Ndosi**, Culture Worker, is practicing collaboration with the land and the people of the land. She is seeding the conditions for Mourning Clubs and Regeneration Collectives in Minneapolis, learning the marimba, and song/dreaming solo, and with her beloveds • **Nancy A. Nichols** announces that her book, *Women Behind the Wheel: An Unexpected and Personal History of the Car*, will be published by Pegasus Books in 2024 • **Mindy Nierenberg** had an installation on reproductive justice in the show *Transforming Violence* at Boston’s Piano Craft Gallery. Two pieces included in the exhibition *Monumental*

Miniatures at the Bristol Art Museum, RI focused on the pressures of mothering • **Koohan Paik-Mander** is co-organizing the Techno-Fate Collective, comprised of leading scholars, activists, Indigenous thinkers, human rights leaders, environmentalists, and artists. The goal is to build a robust, multi-faceted counter-movement to the accelerating ecological and social disruption caused by AI and other new technologies • **Thomas Paquette** is creating a series of paintings focusing on old growth and primary forests of the north and northeast for exhibitions in 2025 • **Alex Park** came to BMC with a box full of research materials for a book about the rise of the global fast food industry. Now he’s writing and watching this project shape up in ways that he wanted it to, but in a form that’s very different from what he had anticipated • **Amy Pleasant’s** paintings were featured in *Spotlight* at Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. She had a solo exhibition, *Family Album* at the Canton Museum of Art • **Paul Rachman’s** screenplay, *Claudine Nineteen*, has been published by (Screen)Play Press • **Sumitra Rajkumar** is The Action Lab’s new Senior Fellow for Cultural Strategies, where she will be initiating the Art of Purpose Fellowship • **Andrea J. Ritchie’s** latest book, *Practicing New Worlds: Abolition and Emergent Strategies*, was started at BMC during the 2019 Black BMC Focus Residency. It hits bookshelves this month! She’ll be on the road in 2024 for a round the world journey of rest, reflection, and connection with Black feminist and abolitionist organizers across the globe. Send her your travel recommendations! • **Lilliam Rivera** sold her debut adult novel, *Tiny Threads*, to Del Rey Books • **Jean Rohe & Liam Robinson**, (Robinson & Rohe), released *Into the Night* on Righteous Babe Records. Many of the songs on the album were written at BMC! • **Jon Sands** is writing in Brooklyn and teaching the Emotional Historians workshop which you can find more about on Instagram • **Alyce Santoro** has moved to a small village in northern New Mexico where she looks forward to farming and helping to maintain the local acequias (centuries-old system of community irrigation ditches) • **Catherine Sasanov** had an essay in *Who We Lost: A Portable COVID Memorial*. She continues work on her first book of nonfiction, *The Last & Living Words of Mark* • **John Schlesinger** presented an installation with performances as part of CFEVA’s Post Open Studio Tour 2023 • **Josh Seidenfeld** is fundraising for Messier, a “Headspace for Creativity” app to help people build a more consistent creative practice. He’d love to collaborate with BMC Alumni so please reach out • **Sejal Shah** and **Wendy Call**, who met at BMC 21 years ago, spent October at Cornell College co-teaching a somatic writing class called *Writing, Movement, and the Body*. Wendy has two books of poetry in translation forthcoming in 2024 from publishers Deep Veillum and Milkweed. Sejal’s second book, *How to Make Your Mother Cry: Fictions*, a short story collection/genre queer text, will be published in

2024 ● **Paul Shore** had work exhibited in the International Fine Print Dealers Association fair in NYC. The prints are from his *ManhattoLand* project ● **Leslie Sills** was honored as a Distinguished Alumni and the Recipient of The IDEAL Award, for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Leadership at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Boston University ● **Susanne Slavick** exhibited in *Family Tree* at the Erie Art Museum. The exhibit travels to Wilkes University and Muhlenberg College galleries in 2025 ● **Holly Wren Spaulding** is celebrating 10 years as the founding director of Poetry Forge, an online school for poets and secret poets. She recently received a visit from **Sejal Shah**, whom she met at BMC in 2010 ● **Louise Steinman** will be a guest curator for PEN World Voices Festival 2024. She organized two events for the Skirball Cultural Center: *The Feminist Fight Forward: Lessons from 50 Years of Ms.* and an interview with Anne Berest, author of *The Postcard*. Her work will be in the catalog for the Monk retrospective at Haus Der Kunst, Munich ● **Kirsten Stolle's** text-based collages were featured in two museum exhibitions: *Art on Paper*, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC; *Altruistic Genius: Buckminster Fuller's Plans to Save the Planet*, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC ● **Sarah Sutro** showed oil paintings in *A Look Back: Spiral on the Water* at Bright Ideas, North Adams, and has a watercolor painting in *Blue: the Celebration of a Color* at the Somerville Museum, Somerville, MA ● **Naoe Suzuki** exhibited her participatory installation about water, *Flow*, at Nature Positive Hub during NY Climate Week in NYC. It was funded by World Wide Fund for Nature. Her solo show, also titled *Flow*, was held at Lincoln Arts Project Gallery, Waltham, MA ● **Lisa Teasley** is on tour with her story collection *Fluid*, published by Cune Press. She is working on a commissioned opera libretto for Long Beach Opera, titled *The Passion of Nell*. It will premiere in 2025 ● **Sheree Renée Thomas** was honored with the 2023 Octavia E. Butler Award and the Locus Award. Named a 2023 Hugo Award Finalist, she recently published *Nine Bar Blues: Stories from an Ancient Future* and *Panther's Rage*. She co-edited two anthologies: *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction* and *Trouble the Waters: Tales from the Deep Blue* ● **Mark Thompson** is a contributing author and photographer to Travel Media ● **John Trotter** was a recipient of a 2022 Brooklyn Darkroom Cyanovan residency and used it to travel to the Green River headwaters in Wyoming to photograph snowpack for his ongoing project, *No Agua, No Vida: The Human Alteration of the Colorado River* ● **Barbara Ungar's** collection of poetry, *After Naming the Animals*, about confronting the sixth extinction, is forthcoming from The Word Works ● **Tom Varner** has been busy playing, composing, and teaching at Cornish College. His two new releases are *Sound Vespers*, a nonet, and *Out of the Mud*, a duo ● **Antonio Vega** is currently in Mexico City rehearsing the live version of his

show *Django in Pain* to be performed Off-Broadway, NYC ● **Laura Von Rosk** was a 2023 recipient of a \$10,000 Individual Artist Grant from the NY State Council on the Arts ● **Scott Wallace** is an associate professor at University of Connecticut and author of *Central America in the Crosshairs of War*, a book of photography



"Jimmy Roses (Don't You Worry)"
by Ina Archer.

and text to be published in 2024 by GFT Publishing ● **Keith Morris Washington**, in conjunction with the Adirondack Experience, visited BMC this summer in preparation to paint a landscape of where a Black man was lynched near Blue Mountain Lake in 1932 as part of his ongoing series *Within Our Gates: Site and Memory in the American Landscape* ● Activist-scholar **Hal Weaver** received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Haverford College Alumni Association. He is collaborating with the Quaker United Nations Office to apply the actions of retrospective justice, including reparations, and to facilitate healing for the injustices of a UK Quaker company in South Africa during apartheid ● **Debra Weisberg** was a 2023 Sam and Adele Golden Foundation Artist resident ● **Joyce Wellman's** current exhibitions include *The Oracle Said Be Still* at IA&A at Hillyer in DC ● **Adam Welz** gave a talk at Paul Smith's College VIC on his book, *The End of Eden: Wild Nature in the Age of Climate Breakdown*, (Bloomsbury) ● **Gary J. Whitehead** was selected as 2023-2024 Bergen County Teacher of the Year and was a finalist for New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. He completed a fifth poetry book manuscript, *Seeing Double*, two poems from which are forthcoming in *Raritan Review* ● Disabled Indigenous artist and disability cultural activist **moira williams** received a grant from Humanities New York for the upcoming *Speculative Crip Ecologies and Rituals in the Age of Multispecies Disability with Culture Push*, NYC. moira is leading an online and in-person workshop as part of the 2024 exhibitio and convening *Crip'd Ecologies Unfurling Expanded Ecologies* at Root Division, SF, CA. The workshop is Access Desires + Affirmations = Desired ACCESSIBILITY ● **Bob Worth**, a long time friend and supporter of BMC and the Adirondacks, died in May at age 92. He and his wife Blaikie graciously hosted the BMC admissions meetings for over 25 years in their Manhattan apartment ● **Pete M Wyer** can't believe it's exactly 10 years since his first life changing visit to BMC! He's currently in a forest on Bainbridge Island writing music in response to the landscape ●

BLUE NOTES

We are grateful to our 2023 Donors & Volunteers:

Adirondack Foundation • Ally Acker • Iddo Aharony • Victoria Ahmadizadeh Melendez • Emma Akpan • Dorothy Albertini • Ian Allen • Tareq Baconi • Ann Bailey • Sawyer & Adam Bailey • Allison Barlow & the Barlow-Ochshorn Family • Harriet Barlow & David Morris • Toby Barlow • Thomas Bass • Anne Basting & Brad Lichtenstein • LR Berger • Charles Biggs • Rosalyn Bodycomb • Jim Boorstein • Katie Booth • Lisa Borders • Andrew Boyd • Leslie Brack • Alan Brown • Matthew Burry • Irene Buszko • Daniel Cantor • Charlie Catacalos • John Cavanagh & Robin Broad • Lynne Cherry • Catherine Chieco • Onnesha RoyChoudhuri • Stuart Clarke • Elvira Clayton • Edward Coffey • Henri Cole • Chuck Collins • Ellen Collins • Dan Connell • Alison Cornyn • Donald Creedon • Tanya Dawkins • Anuradha Desai & Michael Sheridan • Alexis DeVeaux • Christopher Devoe • Shari Diamond • Jan Dove • Carol Downs & Charlie Rose • Robert Doyle & Mark Thompson • Carmen Einfinger • Eric Enderlin • John Feffer • Gene Fellner • William Finnegan • Lisa Funderburg • Dylan Gauthier • Joan Ginneccchini & Stan Kaplan • Zohar Gitlis • Matt Goldowitz • Liese Greensfelder • Lindsey Guile • Ann Hagedorn • Roger Haile • Andrea Hairston & Pan Morigan • Valerie Hanlon • Billy Hayes • Karin Hayes & Paul Rachman • Robin Henderson • Marcy Hermansader • Leslie Hirst • Robin Holcomb & Wayne Horvitz • Mimi Holmes • Andrew Hsiao • Timothy Huang • Kathleen Hulser • Immy Humes • Tessa Huxley & Andrew Reicher • Narrative Initiative • Kayhan Irani • Susan Ito • Christine Jerome • Conrad Johnson • Kyle Kajihiro • Peter Kardas • Joel Katz • Helen Kauder & Barry Nalebuff • William Keniston • Sarah Khan • Elaine Kim • Robin Wall Kimmerer • Sheila Kinney • Hugh Knox • Kei Kurimoto • Emma Lardner • Joan Larkin • John Brown Lives! • Eric Laursen • Adrian LeBlanc • Jerry Lieblich • Intaba Liff-Anderson • Mark Lipman & Helen Cohen • Lynell Lohr • Don London • Anne Mackinnon • Josh MacPhee • Anne Makepeace • Kate & Oscar Malera • John Malpede • Jan Mammy • Alison Mandaville • Diane Margolis • Henry Margolis • Susanne Mason • Jane McAlevey • Justine McCabe • Maureen McLane • Jill Medvedow & Richard Kazis • Holly Metz • Winter Miller • Ari Montford • Susan Moon • David Morse • Scott Moyer • Holly Mulder • Carla Murphy • David Myers • Rebecca Nagle • Rachel Kauder Nalebuff • Lucas Nathan • Lynne S. Nathan • Trevor Nathan • Nasrin Nawab • Mindy Nierenberg • Robert Nixon & Anne McClintock • Danica Novgorodoff • Leslie Nuchow • Suzanne Opton • Suzy Parker • Janice Paul • Micah Perks • Sarah Pharoaon • Howardena Pindell • Andrea Quijada • Paul Rachman • Carol Rainwater • James Rine • Andrea Ritchie • Andy Robinson & Jan Waterman • Liam Robinson & Jean Rohe • Ms. Rockefeller • Alex Rodriguez • Katherine Rogers • Ruby Rose • Paul Rucker • Sheron Rupp • Enrique Sacerio-Gari • Lurie Sandell • Jonathan Sands • Alyce Santoro • William Schuck • Sejal Shah • Nathaniel Shara • Elizabeth Shores • Leslie Sills • Louise Smith • Holly Wren Spaulding • Vincent Stanley & Nora Gallagher • Kirsten Stolle • Fred Strader • Naoe Suzuki • Madeline Talbott & Keith Kelleher • Jonathan Tasini • Jeff Toman & Candice Stover • Stephanie Urdang • Shontina Vernon • Laura VonRosk • Scott B Wallace • Soren Walljasper • Harvey & Rhona Weinstein • Joyce Wellman • Judy Wentworth • moira Williams • Antonia Wilson • Tracy Winn • Judy Wolf • Laura Wolf-Powers • Jerilea Zempel • Liz & Aaron Zuege •

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

A Caretaker's Report: What is BMC Without Maitenance?

Record flooding this summer disrupted life as usual at BMC, including submerging the boat-house under a foot of water. Program staff, residents, Eagle Nest Superintendent **Wes Keays** and his new assistant **Matt Bean** waded into the boathouse to rescue furniture, rugs, and floating sections of dock. Later, after the rocks from the Grey Cottage path had been recovered, the dock furniture spread out to dry, and breakfast served, it was time for our caretakers to jump into action.

Luckily our new Facilities Coordinator **Mic Wronkoski** was there to lead the charge. Mic joined us in April and has been taking on a variety of projects to care for our well used buildings and grounds. In the days following, Mic teamed up with Wes and Matt to repair what was broken. In the meantime, we looked out at the isolated dock and were reminded that without maintenance, BMC, like the dock stuck out in the lake, would be incomplete.

It has been a steady and varied season of projects. After the flood-water cleanup, Mic turned his attention to a more daunting task. He partnered with retired stonemason **Kent Greggson** to repoint and support the large stone staircase that reaches the living room landing stairs. Kent first worked



A partially submerged boathouse.

on the staircase in the early 1990's, and was seeking someone to take over this physically demanding work. With Kent's tutelage, Mic now has the staircase as good as old.

Mic has also been helping us with several capital improvement projects - all oriented toward improving access, guest comfort, and efficiency. First up will be several upgrades to the Gray Cottage, including an accessible bathroom and entryway. Next we will install new heat pump systems for several cabins, with the goal of lowering our carbon footprint. In the spring we will add a new path connecting the Clubhouse and Annex. We will also replace the portable ramp to the main porch with a permanent earthen ramp. We would like to extend a special thanks to the many alumni and advocates who have given us encouragement and insights for making BMC more accessible.

As we take on these essential capital improvements, the day to day maintenance continues. We are very grateful for Wes and Matt who are always

on board for emergencies and repairs. A huge shout out also to the amazing Work Weekend volunteers who joined us in late April to kick off our season. They raked, washed windows, and prepared our garden for its most productive year ever. Several of them returned in October to help us wrap up the season, put the garden to bed, wash windows (again), and give the residential and housekeeping staff the year-end boost they needed. Our volunteers wrapped our season from beginning to end in a wonderful embrace.

DONATE TODAY: To continue this work of maintaining BMC with integrity, we need your help. With many new projects and ongoing care for our buildings and grounds, we look to our community to support BMC with the funding and pitching in needed to keep it going. Next year's Work Weekend is scheduled for **May 2-5, 2024**. Send us an email if you'd like to be a part of it. And, as always, you can make a financial contribution by visiting www.bluemountaincenter.org/support.

In Memory Of

We were heartbroken to learn of the death of our friend and former Eagle Nest Assistant Caretaker **David Chenier**. David became a fixture on the Eagle Nest grounds back when he was a teenager. He eventually used the skills he learned on the property - cutting trees and maintaining trails under the mentorship of caretakers **Bill Laprairie** and **Wes Keays** - in his employment with Elkin Tree Service, where he worked for the last five years in his hometown of Indian Lake.

David was known for his wry sense of humor, his caring nature as a father and friend, and his deep love for his Adirondack home. Our fondest memories of David are of him sharing that appreciation by taking BMC staff beyond the boundaries of Eagle Nest property to explore local swimming holes, forest trails, and fishing spots. David was 32. He will be greatly missed.



David on the banks of the Indian River.

Staff Updates

Adam Bailey and **Sawyer Cresap** tied the knot this summer right here in the Adirondacks ● **Harriet Barlow** reports a five-star reunion at BMC this August. Former staff **Michelle Markeley**, **Laura Wolf-Powers**, **Allison Barlow**, **Luke Nathan** and **Carol Downs** plus assorted extended family were there. "Everyone was deeply impressed by the improvements that Ben showed us. We were also reassured by all that was familiar. The Buddha Garden was unsurpassed in memory, thanks to the steady labors of **Lynne Nathan** and BMC's current staff. All in all, it was a joy" ● **Mary Brandis**, the housekeeping angel of BMC, is so grateful to be helping the residents to be comfortable in clean sparkling rooms. "I love BMC" ● **Cali Brooks's** daughter **Maisie** has fledged, leaving Cali with an empty nest. She remains busy with an over-full life as the Adirondack Foundation she directs continues to grow, doing ever more good in the region. Ben is an Advisor to the Foundation ● **Bill Buxton's** winter goal is to take his oldest dog, (a 12-year old **Dobie**), for three walks each week ● **Noga Cabo** is planning her first tour for Spring 2024 following the recent release of her debut solo EP *Lady Sun* under the artist name **NOGA** ● **Charlie Catacalos** is finishing out their second year in the Berkshires, making exhibitions, playing music, and spending many late nights at their new favorite place, the local ceramics studio ●

BLUE NOTES

Ryan Felder is publishing their first academic article in the *Anglican Theological Review* titled *Sacramental Action in Response to "Urban Crisis": An Incarnational Critique of the General Convention Special Program* ● As **Willa Ferrer** finishes up her last year of college, her days are packed with thesis work, taking lots of photos, training for softball season and, of course, playing pickleball whenever possible ● **Thomas Giardini** is still dreaming about trucks ● **Lena Giordano** is enjoying her first semester at UVM. She loves her classes so far and has been exploring the surrounding nature with her friends ● **Zohar Gitlis** is at Brown University in Providence, RI in pursuit of a PhD in Religion and Critical Thought ● **Lizzie Hessek** is very sad to miss closing weekend at BMC this year due to her fieldwork in Grenoble ● **Nica Horvitz's** favorite moments of the year include: hiking to a 12th century Swiss-Italian pilgrim church with her dad and brother, making art with friends, swimming around a Blue Mountain Lake island, and clashing with Ryan about how to give a teenage bear space on the Eagle Nest bridges ● **Louise Howard** had fun altering **Anna Strader's** two prom dresses ● **Sophie Kazis** has gone freelance, now splitting her time between audio journalism and managing a comprehensive oral history project to collect and archive the lifespan of and learnings from the former community organization ACORN ● **Sheila Kinney** is serving her tenth year as Board President of the Worthington Library in western MA ● **Kei Kurimoto** is studying Q'ero Inca Indigenous energy medicine in Peru in order to help mother earth and humans heal the balance of the masculine and the feminine ● A highlight of **Ken Lang's** last year was getting to see Harriet and David in California. Work has taken an interesting turn into doing strategy and development for a group consulting to renewable energy developers. He is now obsessed with "agrivoltaics" ● This summer **Juj Lepe** moved from Chicago to Madison to become a graduate student! Juj spent the autumn watching leaves change, touching mushrooms, and eating poems for breakfast ● **Intaba Liff-Anderson** writes "The land, water, and people at BMC continue to nourish and expand my heart. As the garden abundance this year demonstrates, the Earth provides and it is a privilege to nurture it and the BMC mission." Intaba hopes to visit more warm climes this winter, expanding her awareness and sharing BMC love ● **Ian MacLeod** has been busy reading, writing, and finding people lost in the Tahoe forests while trail running or in local libraries due to lack of alphabetization ● **dee miller** recently moved to the southeast side of Columbus, OH where they will make new portraits, plant trees, and grow food with their neighbors ● **Suzy Parker** backpacked the Juan de Fuca trail in Vancouver, BC in August and survived despite many obstacles: multiple ladders in need of repair, ropes that didn't reach the bottom of anything, downed trees, swinging bridges, missing handrails, giant boulders, dangerous cliffs, high tides, low tides, rain, mud, and bears ● **Aly Pong** is concocting a life-time plan to be by the water – maybe the ocean, preferably a lake ● **Sandy Schmitt** spent the month of November in Florida with her newest grandchild, Violet ● **Ben and Jamie Strader** are adapting to the joys and melancholy of a half-empty nest and are giving way too much attention to their youngest son Jackson, a Junior at Indian Lake Central School. Ben is on the strategic planning committees for the Cloudsplitter and Adirondack Foundations, helping them to focus on the basic needs of Adirondack residents ● **Max Shah** has been thrown back into the grind of Colgate classes, but is often reminded of his BMC days. His acapella group performed a benefit concert for Community Action in Madison County, an organization he was introduced to while working for BMC's Hamilton Helps project. His "farewell" letter from the BMC staff is pinned to his dorm wall and he often reflects on and appreciates everything BMC had to offer him ● **Merry Wang** has spent her 3rd season at BMC leaning into the cute and functional via vending machine-themed sticky notes and overalls. She hopes this will help her prepare for her Saturn Returns, or at least her presidential campaign ● Ten years and one gender transition since arriving at BMC as an intern, **Judy Wentworth** (2013, 2014) now feels her life clicking into place with art exploration and community service at its core! She is profoundly grateful to the BMC staff, residents, and conferees for serving as some of her most important possibility-models ● **Mic Wronkoski** is still searching for enlightenment... that one can of Eagle Nest green paint, and where that darn squirrel is getting in ● **Wes Keays** says: "love is the answer" ●

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Staff throughout the season. Thank you to each and every person who helped care for BMC this year!