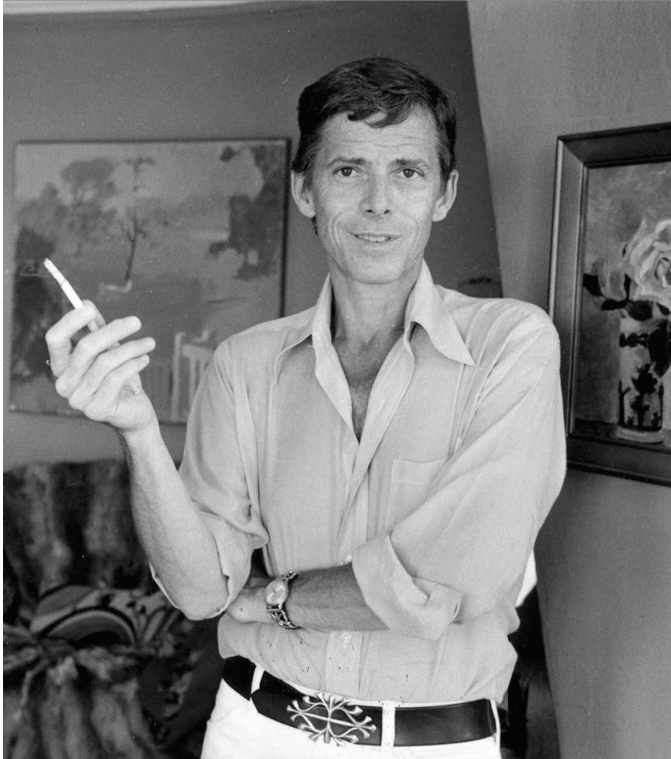


James Merrill

JAMES MERRILL HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



James Merrill photographed by Jill Krementz at his Stonington home in June 1973

SECURING THE FUTURE A Writer's Home, A Home for Writers

SINCE JAMES MERRILL'S DEATH in 1995, more than a hundred writers—from established authors to those just starting out—have lived and worked in the Pulitzer-winning poet's apartment at 107 Water Street, now a National Historic Landmark. A \$2 million endowment is currently being built up to help secure the long-term future of the house and its wonderful programs.

Capital Campaign co-chair Cynthia Elliott explains, "Around 18 months ago the Merrill Family Foundation and Hellen Ingram Plummer Foundation, both long-term grant supporters of the Merrill House, offered us \$1 million in new endowment funds if we could raise an additional \$250,000. Thanks to many generous donors, we reached that goal within a year and now have close to \$1.4 million." Campaign co-chair Charles Clark adds, "One theme of the campaign is James Merrill's own generosity in leaving his house to the SVIA, and its transformation over 25 years into a refuge where young writers can connect with Merrill's legacy in this deeply personal space. Our next goal is to reach \$1.5 million by the end of June 2022, and at least \$2 million by the end of 2024."

Gifts have come from a wide range of Merrill House friends, and for many reasons. For Bill Fowler and Mary Wolf, "It is wonderful that the generous gift of James Merrill of his home to the community has resulted in the community in return generously promoting poets and writers in that community." For Bank Square Books and Savoy Bookstore owner Annie Philbrick it was a personal memory: "The joy

17th Annual Merrill Lecture

POET, TRANSLATOR, AND BIOGRAPHER

Rosanna Warren will give this year's lecture on Thursday, June 2, at the La Grua Center. Previous speakers include Louise Glück, Claudia Rankine, Jorie Graham, Carl Phillips and Marlon James. Warren is the author of numerous collections, including *So Forth*, *Ghost in a Red Hat*, and *Departure*, along with a study of lyric poetry, *Fables of the Self*; and a biography of early 20th century artist and poet Max Jacob. Warren herself studied painting and comparative literature at Yale, graduating in 1976. After several years of writing, painting, and odd jobs in Paris, Venice, and New York, she attended

the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Since 2012 she has been the Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Service Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. The event, moderated by author and *Wall Street Journal* book critic Willard Spiegelman, will be available to watch on James Merrill House social media at a later date.



Author Rosanna Warren. Photo: Anne Ryan

I experienced when meeting and hugging Merrill House fellow Sigrid Nunez when she visited my store Bank Square Books following her reading at the La Grua Center will not be surpassed." Committee member Willard Spiegelman noted that artists and writers who were supported by James Merrill's own Ingram Merrill Foundation have now contributed to the Merrill House endowment as a sign of their gratitude. Writer Kathy Fagan said that the grant she received from the Ingram Merrill Foundation "opened a path for me professionally and personally that would not have opened otherwise... This is my public thank you."

The endowment is managed by the James Merrill House Foundation, a 501c3 organization chaired by JMHC committee member Scott Muller, with JMHC Chair Kathryn Burchenal as President. To discuss making a gift to the endowment campaign, please reach out to co-chairs Cynthia Elliot, Charlie Clark, or Ruth Saunders, via Program Director Bergin O'Malley at bergin.jmh@gmail.com.

"The James Merrill House writer-in-residence program has grown into a nationally recognized writers' asset and a local treasure. An endowment to help sustain its viability seems most deserved and appropriate!"

—Tony and Harriet Crane

2022-2023 Merrill House Fellows

EDUARDO C. CORRAL (September 2022) was born in Arizona, the son of Mexican immigrants. He is the author of *Guillotine*, published by Graywolf Press, and *Slow Lightning*, which won the 2011 Yale Younger Poets Prize. In addition, he has received a Whiting Award, a National Endowment for



the Arts Fellowship, and a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University. He teaches in the MFA program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

James Merrill House Committee

Chair

Kathryn Nason Burchenal

Vice-Chair

Penny Duckham

Tony Crane

Jenny Dixon

Cynthia Elliott

Bill Fowler

Geoffrey Little

Sibby Lynch

Laura Mathews

Janet McClendon

Scott Muller

Annie Philbrick

Geoff Phillips

Ruth Saunders

Joanna Scott

David Schulz

Willard Spiegelman

Past Chairs

Randy Bean

Lynn Callahan

Cynthia Elliott

Bill Middleton

Ruth Saunders

Sally Wood

Advisory Committee

Rachel Carley

Deborah Garrison

Margaret Gibson

Daniel Hall

Langdon Hammer

Chip Kidd

David Leeming

Robin Magowan

Paul Merrill

Lorrie Moore

Carl Phillips

Ivy Pochoda

Kate Rushin

Bruce Snider

Stephen Yenser

Director, Programs & Operations

Bergin O'Malley

bergin.jmh@gmail.com

107 Water Street, Stonington, CT 06378

Email: merrillhousefellowship@gmail.com

James Merrill House is a program of the Stonington Village Improvement Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
 Facebook @TheJamesMerrillHouse
 Instagram @jamesmerrillhouse
 Twitter @merrill_house



LAURA KOLBE (October 2022) is a poet, physician, and medical ethicist. Author of the poetry collection *Little Pharma* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021) she is writing a nonfiction book that blends memoir with the history of medicine and the arts. She studied English and American literature at Harvard and University of Cambridge before receiving her MD from University of Virginia. She practices in New York City.

CHRISTOPHER SPAIDE (November 2022) is a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University. His book project, *Lyric Togetherness*, examines plural pronouns and collective voices of American poetry from 1945 to today. He earned his BA from Amherst College and Master of Studies from Oxford University. His essays, reviews, and poems have appeared in *Contemporary Literature*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, *The New Yorker* (online), and *The Yale Review*.



'PEMI AGUDA

(February-March 2023)

is from Lagos, Nigeria. Her novel-in-progress won the 2020 Deborah Rogers Foundation Writers Award.

She has an MFA from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at University of Michigan, and was a 2021 fiction fellow with the Miami Book Fair, and a 2022 MacDowell fellow. Her work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Zoetrope*, *Granta*, *Zyzyva*, *Tor.com*, *American Short Fiction*, and *One Story*.



ROB SCHLEGEL (April-May 2023) is the author of three award-winning poetry collections. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Nation* and *The Yale Review* and elsewhere.

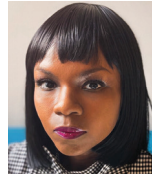
His fourth collection, *Childcare*, is forthcoming from Four Way Books in 2023. Born in Portland, Oregon, he has most recently taught at Whitman College, and in the MFA Program at Portland State University.



MARY-ALICE DANIEL

(June 2023) received the 2022 Yale Series of Younger Poets prize for her debut collection *Mass for Shut-ins*.

Born in Nigeria, she was raised in England and graduated from Yale in 2008. She received her MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan in 2013. Her memoir, *A Coastline Is an Immeasurable Thing* (Ecco/HarperCollins), will be published in November 2022. She lives in Los Angeles.



MAUREEN N. MCLANE (August 2023) is the author of seven books of poetry, two critical monographs on British romantic poetics, and numerous essays on literature and culture. Her memoir, *My Poets* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2012), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Award in autobiography. Professor of English at NYU, she has taught at Harvard, the University of Chicago, MIT, and the East Harlem Poetry Project.



Happy Returns

THANKS TO A GENEROUS GIFT

from Lynn and Jeff Callahan, two former Merrill House writers will visit Stonington this July as Returning Summer Fellows. Congratulations to Molly Anders (September 2014) and Claire Luchette (July 2019)! Selected by random drawing, each will spend one week at the Jackson Apartment, with full access to James Merrill's library and studio. Anders received her MFA in creative writing from Syracuse University and is currently based in London, where she researches and writes about global poverty. Luchette, a fiction writer from Chicago, is author of the novel *Agatha of Little Neon*, a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree.



Lynn Callahan draws the lucky winners' names while husband Jeff, April-May fellow Mehdi Okasi, and JMH Program Director Penny Duckham look on

The Still-Warm Gramophone: Exploring Merrill's Music Library

By Kenneth Bleeth

IN 1967, James Merrill explained to an interviewer that “I cared about music long before I cared about literature . . . Whenever I reach an impasse, working on a poem, I try to imagine an analogy to a musical form.” Correspondences between poetic and musical forms abound in Merrill’s work. But Merrill’s poems also take musical performance as their subjects, as a list of titles will reveal: “The Opera Company,” “Matinées,” “Pola Diva,” “Revivals of Tristan,” “Fidelio from the Met,” “Farewell Performance,” “The Ring Cycle,” “The Ponchielli Complex,” “Trees Listening to Bach,” “Rhapsody on Czech Themes.” The co-subjects of these poems are familiar ones for the reader of Merrill’s work: love’s power, friendship, backstage drama, childhood memories (“the Rhine, / Where everything began. The world’s life. Mine.”)

Music entered Merrill’s life early on, with piano lessons (age 11) and, around the same time, a seat for almost every production at the Metropolitan Opera. Merrill also listened to recordings, which introduced him to artists and repertoire hard to find on the regular concert circuit, and which crucially shaped his understanding of poetry as verbal music. It was British soprano Maggie Teyte’s records of Fauré, Debussy, and Duparc (and later, German lieder recorded by other singers) that first taught him “a way of uttering a line to have it make sense, real human sense.” It’s no accident that in Merrill’s 1972 volume *Braving the Elements*, the final poem, “Syrinx” (a deeply humanized retelling of the myth of the nymph transformed into a reed, played upon, in Merrill’s version, by the “great god Pain”), is immediately preceded by “The Victor Dog,” in which music is filtered through the ears (or perhaps, Merrill suggests, the nose) of Nipper, a mixed-breed dog listening intently to a gramophone—an image that became the trademark of the RCA Victor Company, adorning its record labels along with the slogan “His Master’s Voice”:

Bix to Buxtehude to Boulez.
The little white dog on the Victor label
Listens long and hard as he is able.
It’s all in a day’s work, whatever plays.
.....
From judgment, it would seem, he has
refrained.
He even listens earnestly to Bloch,
Then builds a church upon our acid rock.
He’s man’s—no—he’s the Leiermann’s
best friend,

Or would be if hearing and listening were
the same.
Does he hear? I fancy he rather smells
Those lemon-gold arpeggios in Ravel’s
“Les jets d’eau du palais de ceux qui
s’aiment.”
.....
The last chord fades. The night is cold and fine.
His master’s voice rasps through the
grooves’ bare groves.
Obediently, in silence like the grave’s
He sleeps there on the still-warm gramophone
.....
A little dog revolving round a spindle

Gives rise to harmonies beyond belief,
A cast of stars . . . Is there in Victor’s heart
No honey for the vanquished? Art is art.
The life it asks of us is a dog’s life.

If we seek the poem’s experiential beginnings, the evidence is near at hand in the Merrill apartment. In the pocket-sized vestibule that links the main living area to Merrill’s half-hidden study is a collection of almost one thousand recordings (mostly LPs, plus a handful of CDs) crammed into two wooden bookcases, the structure resting on a pediment of 78 rpm albums. (Across the room is a turntable that has seen better days, but still functions.) This library of recordings contains almost all of the music that appears in “The Victor Dog”: lots of Bach (three versions of *The Art of the Fugue* with its intricate contrapuntal “mazes”); Boulez’s daring (some say incomprehensible) *Le Marteau sans maître*; the Schumann *Piano Concerto*, its opening chords evoking the Caspar David Friedrich-like “tall willow hit / By lightning”; “Der Leiermann,” the chilling final song of Schubert’s *Winterreise*, performed by the now mostly forgotten Hungarian tenor László Csabay; Ravel’s complete piano music, including the early composition “Jeux d’eau” that emerges, redecorated, in Merrill’s invented title “Les jets d’eau du palais de ceux qui s’aiment”; *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*, its credentials as “acid rock” resting on a possible acronym hidden in “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds”; and “the calypso[s] raw bay rum” distilled in the recorded supplement to *Divine Horsemen: The Voodoo Gods of Haiti*, an ethnographic film by Maya Deren, Merrill and David Jackson’s friend and a prominent voice in the poet’s *Book of Ephraim*.

Some of Merrill’s LPs are signed by per-



A ceramic “Nipper” keeps watch over the Merrill Apartment, delighting fellows and other visitors. Photo: Sibby Lynch

formers who were friends: the harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick playing Bach and Scarlatti; Brahms and Bizet from the duo-pianists Arthur Gold and Robert Fizdale; and no fewer than eight inscribed LPs (“To Jimmy & David, with best wishes and alohas with abiding sincerest love”) from De Wayne Fulton, who, according to Wikipedia, “popularized the harp by taking it from concert stage to drawing room to barroom.”

One could assemble a brief concert program marking phases in Merrill’s life by playing excerpts from his record collection—Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, in 1939 and again fifty years later; “Songs of Amherst College”; Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, conducted by Wilhelm Furtwängler at the 1950 Salzburg Festival (a friend gave Merrill tickets to the dress rehearsal); Bernard de Zogheb’s ballad opera *Phèdre*, performed in New York City by The Little Players, a puppet troupe admired by Merrill and supported by his Ingram Merrill Foundation; recordings of Greek folk melodies and dance music by Mikis Theodorakis—the sounds of the tavernas in Athens happily frequented by Merrill and Jackson; *Cole Porter: Sung by Hubbell Pierce*, a suave Southerner whom Merrill first heard perform these songs in the Orso restaurant bar in Rome, and who later designed the bat wallpaper for the sitting room in the Stonington apartment.

Visitors who run an eye over the expanse of Merrill’s LPs will surely feel the poet’s presence. And for writers who live and work in the James Merrill House, the recordings may well serve as more than simply a ghostly archive. Kamran Javadizadeh, the Merrill House resident this past February and March, explained that, each morning, he’d select a book of poems from Merrill’s library and an LP from one of the shelves and play the recording while reading something from the volume. With the music in the background, he’d write about the mix of word and sound as a limbering-up exercise—an *étude*—that might also provide

continued on page 5

To Our Donors

THANK YOU ALL, for your support of the James Merrill House, this wonderful literary treasure in our midst. Your generous contributions allow us to provide residencies for writers throughout the year, all of whom find the Merrill House a uniquely inspiring place to live and work.

With much appreciation,
Kathryn Burchenal & Penny Duckham
Chair & Vice Chair

Landmark Society (\$2,500+)

Beth Black &
Randy Bean*
Melanie Cava &
Todd Drevo
Charles T. Clark*
Barbara &
Chris Dixon*
Mary Wolf &
William Fowler*
Robin Magowan*

107 Society Members (\$1,000+)

Frances C. Ashley*
Deborah Beal*
Diana & Ted Beck*
Lynn & Jeff
Callahan*
Charles E Clapp, III*
Harriet & Tony
Crane*
Alessandra Devine
& Patrick Dorsey*
Penelope Duckham*
Cynthia Elliott &
Douglass Rice*
Mr. & Mrs. James
Higgins*
Sylvia Lynch &
Michael Schefers*
Laura Mathews &
David Laurence*
Bill Middleton*
Caroline & Scott
Muller*
Cormac O'Malley*
Ruth Saunders &
Jonathan White*
Willard Spiegelman
& Kenneth Bleeth*
Sally & Clement B.
Wood*

\$500-\$999

Dee & Nelson++
Aldrich*
John & Judith
Alexander*
Damon & Sally Ball*
Rebecca & Jim
Evarts*
Deborah Garrison

Barbara & Marc
Ginsberg*
Joanna Scott+ &
James Longenbach+
Sharon Lynch &
Peter Perenyi*
Alexandra McCagg*
Bob & Virginia
Montgomery*
Dorothea Moore*
Beverly & Geoffrey
Phillips*
James Quinn &
Chris Zhang*
Jim & Julia Streit*
Judith & John
William

\$250-\$499

Mary Bomba
Jenny Dixon & John
Boone*
Kathryn & David
Burchenal*
Jennifer Clarvoe+
Henri Cole+
Dorinda Elliott &
Adi Ignatius*
Janet Gezari*
Daniel Hall*
Beth & Charles
Harding*
Bill Hargreaves*
Susan Clapp &

Charles Hatton*
Nancy & Owen
Hughes*
Deb Kotchen*
Diana & Malcolm
Leslie*
Meg Lyons &
Geoffrey Little*
Catherine & Bruce
Littman*
Anna Maria &
Wright Palmer*
Annie & Ben
Philbrick*
Candy & Tom
Sanford*
Mark Wunderlich+

Up to \$249

Sarah Ball*
Anne B. Bartholet*
Betsy Bartholet
Ann & Alan
Blanchard*
Jane & Neal Bobruff*
Nicholas Boggs+
Gigi Bradford & Jim
Stanford*
Elizabeth Tobin
Brown*
Daniel Leonard &
Roger Brown*
DeeDee & Jim
Buffum*

Betsy Carr*
Virginia & Frank
Colassano*
Lois & Richard Cole
Michael Collier+
Anne C. Connerton*
Barbara Zabel &
Thomas Couser*
Sally Daughton*
Sarah Dove*
Judith G. duPont*
Denise & Richard
Easton*
Peter Filkins*
Marcia Fix*
Catherine Freeman*
Sandy Fromson*
Margaret Gibson
Geraldine Nager
Griffin*
Alice & John
Groton*
Jennifer Grotz+
Uta Gosmann &
Langdon Hammer*
Lynn & Stephen
Hazard*
Barbara Petty Heuer*
Mary Hivnor*
Elizabeth E.
Hopkins*
Walter Hunter
Jane Keener*
Patricia Kleeman*
Joan Boughton &
Henry Kleeman*
Peter Kline*
Saren Langmann*
Pam & David Leeming*
Amanda Lindberg*
Deborah Greger &
William Logan
John Lowe, III*
B.J. Gainer &
David Luce

Sheila Lyons*
Alexandra Marvar
& Hartford
Gongaware
Antonio & Shaun
Mastroianni
Kari McCabe & Nate
McBride*
Janet McClendon &
Alan Vaskas
Janvier Miller
Regan Morse*
Lisa Mueller &
Gara LaMarche
Sandra Murray
Dan O'Brien+
Louise O'Callahan*
Diana & Page Owen*
Joyce & Francis
Pandolfi*
Brittany Perham*
Margaret Perkinson*
Susan Gallick &
Jonathan Post*
Marya Ursin &
Daniel Potter*
Jeffrey Pritchard*
Vicki & Dan Quinn*
Lori & James
Reidel*
Joan & Carl Reiser
Betty Richards*
Karen & William
Rutherford*
Eleanor Ked & Peter
D. Schaffer*
Katy Homans &
Patterson Sims*
Martha Snyder*
Carla & Rowland
Stebbins*
Betsy & Dave
Stevenson*
Nina & Paul
Stimson*

Suzanne & Timothy
Tyler*
Lissa Van Dyke*
Helen Vendler*
George P. Ververis, Jr.*
Stuart Vyse*
Harold & Liz White
Susannah & Wiley
Wood*
Andrew & Ellen
Wormser*
Greg Wrenn+
Eugene and Georgia
York

* Donor for 5+ years
+ Former Merrill Fellow
++ Deceased

Grants

ARPA (American
Rescue Plan Act)
grant funds from
Stonington
Borough
CT Humanities
Hellen Ingram
Plummer Foundation
Merrill Family
Charitable Trust

With Special Thanks

Bank Square Books
and Savoy
La Grua Center
Ocean Community
YMCA
Stonington Borough
Merchants
Association
Stonington Borough
Warden &
Burgesses
Stonington
Community Center
Stonington Free
Library
Stonington Historical
Society
Stonington Village
Improvement
Association
Stonington Non-
Profit Roundtable
Yale Series of Younger
Poets

We hope we have
acknowledged all our
donors and gifts. If
you find errors, let us
know by emailing
bergin.jmh@gmail.com

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Special thanks to friends of the Merrill House whose generous contributions to the James Merrill House Foundation have helped ensure the continuity of our programs in perpetuity.

John & Judith Alexander, Deborah Beal, Randy Bean & Beth Black, Kevin Bowdler & Anne Fix, George Bradley, Dodie Bump, Kathryn & David Burchenal, John Burt, the Butler Family Foundation, Jeff & Lynn Callahan, Elliot & Kay Cattarulla, Charles T. Clark, Christopher Corkery, Tony & Harriet Crane, Jenny Dixon & John Boone, Penelope Duckham, Cynthia Elliott & Douglass Rice, Irving Feldman, David Ferry, William Fowler & Mary Wolf, Marc & Barbara Ginsberg, Lucia & David Greenhouse, Rachel Hadas, Charles Hatton & Susan Clapp, Karl Kirchwey, Rick & Laurie Larkin, Susan Lindberg, Geoffrey Little & Meg Lyons, Sylvia Lynch & Michael Schefers, Casey & Stuart Malcom, Kathleen Bonann Marshall, Laura Mathews & David Laurence, Janet McClendon, Bill Middleton, Dorothea Moore, Scott & Caroline Muller, Cormac O'Malley, Annie Philbrick, Geoffrey & Beverly Phillips, James Quinn & Chris Zhang, Tom & Candy Sanford, Ruth Saunders & Jonathan White, Joanna Scott & James Longenbach, Rosanna Warren Scully, Robert Shaw, Dave Smith, Willard Spiegelman & Ken Bleeth, Chase Twichell, Stephen Wade, Sally & Clement B. Wood, and Stephen Yenser.

What's New?

Catching up with past Merrill Fellows

NICHOLAS BOGGS (December 2020–January 2021) I've been awarded the inaugural Walter O. Evans Fellowship for the Study of Race or Slavery at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale, where I will be in residence for Fall 2022 finishing up the James Baldwin biography I worked on at JMH.

LYDIA CONKLIN (September 2012) My book, *Rainbow Rainbow*, is coming out May 31st, published by Catapult in the US and Scribner in the UK. Also, I'm moving to Nashville to start a new job at Vanderbilt.

JOHN COTTER (December 2021–January 2022) My short story "The Gold Thread" appeared in *Joyland Magazine* in February.

MOIRA EGAN & DAMIANO ABENI (Spring 2015) Damiano's next translations will include Ocean Vuong's poetry collection, *Time Is a Mother*, as well as the fourth edition of *Nuova Poesia Americana*, presenting American poets to the Italian reading public. I (Maira) am happy to announce that *Amore e Morte: poesie nuove e scelte* has entered the world, featuring my homage to James Merrill, "Dear Mr. Merrill."

PETER FILKINS (Spring 2012) This spring I was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Fulbright Research Fellowship to Austria for spring 2023. I will be a resident at Hawthornden Castle in Scotland in September.

JENNIFER GROTZ (November 2020) The book I co-translated with Piotr Sommer, published last fall, was awarded Best Book of Poetry in Translation from PEN America. Also, *Still Falling*, the book of poems I completed a draft of at JMH, was accepted by Graywolf Press and will be appearing in May 2023.

WALT HUNTER (September 2020) *Some Flowers*, my poetry book, will be out this spring along with, we can only hope, some flowers. I'm heading to London to read from it with the87press, a neat outfit.

JULIA GLASS (October 2015) I have a new novel out called *Vigil Harbor*. The epigraph, from E. E. Cummings, is one I stumbled on in a book from JMH's library on the top floor.

SIGRID NUNEZ (December 2018–January 2019) My news is that the film version of *The Friend*, starring Naomi Watts, starts production this spring. Also, director Pedro Almodóvar has just acquired film rights to *What Are You Going Through*.

Gramophone

continued from page 3

material to be fine-tuned at a later date. A poet or novelist may feel, at times, "vanquished" by the prospective demands of any given "day's work." With luck, doing this work at a desk that sits only a few feet away from all that music hiding in "the grooves' bare grooves" may usefully shake things up and allow the "sound of sheer feeling" that Merrill attributes to music and song to share the stage with the unadulterated verbal sense that seems the writer's primary coin. "To combine the two," Merrill said, "is always worth dreaming about."



A vestibule at 107 Water Street contains almost one thousand LPs collected by James Merrill. Photo: David Schulz

DAN O'BRIEN (June 2013) My poetry collection, *Our Cancers*, recently had a wonderful review in the Times Literary Supplement. I've locked up the stage rights to Jay Parini's *Borges and Me*, and plan to turn my attention to that in the months ahead; along with a new manuscript of prose poems, *Survivor's Notebook*.

WILL SCHUTT (Fall 2011) My latest work, *Brief Homage to Pluto and Other Poems*, translations of poems by the contemporary Italian poet Fabio Pusterla, is due out from Princeton University Press in April 2023.

TERESE SVOBODA (November 2015) I have two forthcoming novels, *Roxy and Coco* and *Dog on Fire*. I have a poem in the latest Harvard Review, one forthcoming in the *Plant-Human Quarterly*, and four forthcoming stories in *Conjunctions* and others. I recently spoke on a panel for the Authors Guild on rejection.

YANYI (YYP, June 2019) My second book, *Dream of the Divided Field*, came out this March from One World. It is a continued attempt to answer questions that may dog me for life—how, in all this, can I find myself? What—or who—can help me stay? What does art, or love, have to do with it?

Visitors Center Launches

THE FORMER BARBER SHOP

on Water Street has been transformed into the Merrill House Visitors Center. Stop by to browse and purchase books by James Merrill, first poet laureate of Connecticut, as well as our current and past writing fellows, learn about our upcoming events, or snap a pic in front of the gigantic mural of the Pulitzer-winning poet's storied residence. We'll be open Thursday to Sunday, noon to 6pm, through Labor Day.

James Merrill House
107 Water Street
Stonington, CT 06378

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

For more information about our programs, visit us
at jamesmerrillhouse.org and follow us on Facebook
and Instagram.

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Annual Merrill Lecture with poet
and author Rosanna Warren,
La Grua Center, 5pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Open House Day
James Merrill House
& Visitors Center
107 Water Street,
Stonington, 12-4pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Virtual reading by Merrill Fellow
Lauren Sandler on JMH Facebook
and YouTube, 5pm

For details visit
jamesmerrillhouse.org



FAREWELL TO A BELOVED NEIGHBOR

The lights are still on at The Hungry Palette clothing and fabric store. We miss our wonderful, longtime tenant, Sandy Bragdon, who died earlier this year. But she lives on in her colorful prints. Stop by the shop at 105 Water Street to pick up one of her treasures.