EIGHTH ANNUAL

BIOGRAPHERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 19–21 2017

EMERSON COLLEGE, BOSTON

Bio

BIOGRAPHERS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

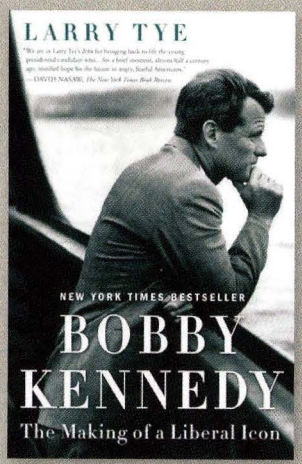


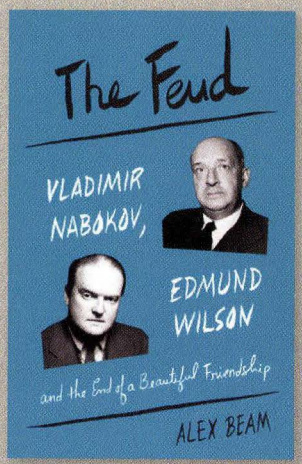


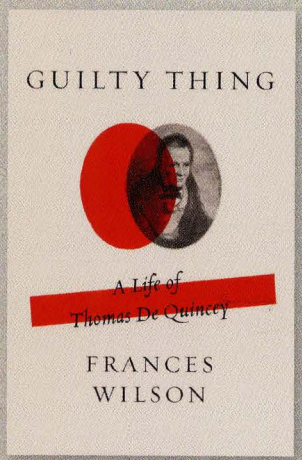
THE 2017 PLUTARCH AWARD

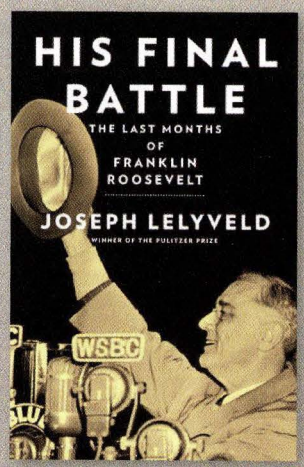
Biographers International Organization is proud to present the Plutarch Award for the best biography of 2016, as chosen by you.

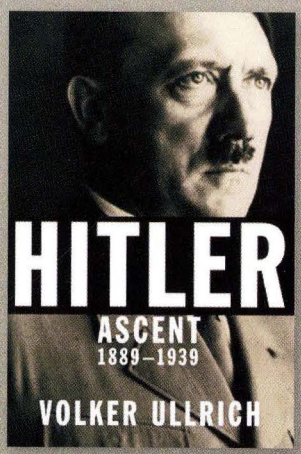
Congratulations to the ten nominees for the Best Biography of 2016:

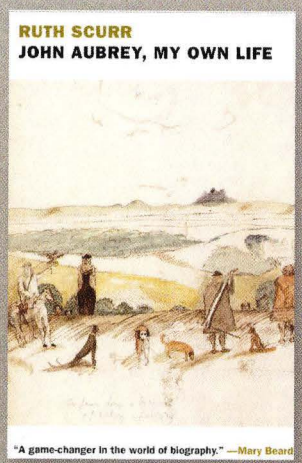


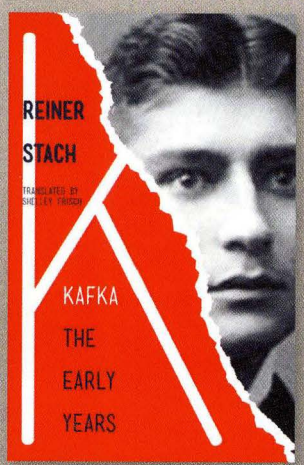


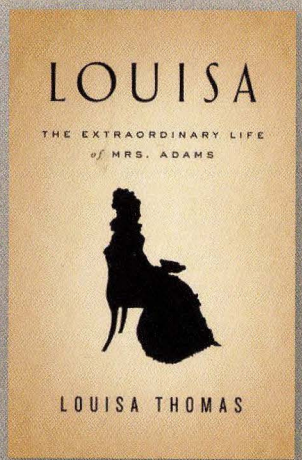


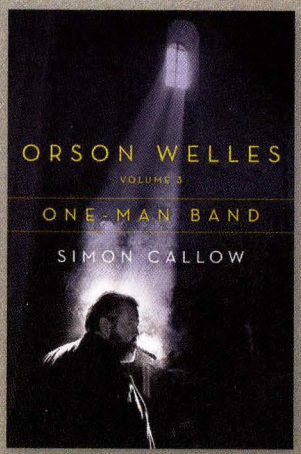


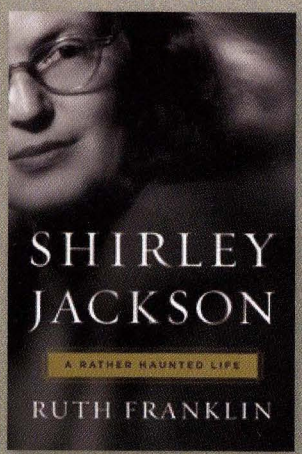












The 2017 BIO Award Recipient: Candice Millard



BIO bestows its top award on an author who has made a major contribution to the art and craft of biography. Candice Millard joins previous BIO Award winners Jean Strouse, Robert Caro, Arnold Rampersad, Ron Chernow, Stacy Schiff, Taylor Branch, and Claire Tomalin.

Millard is the author of best-selling, slice-of-life biographies of Winston Churchill and presidents James Garfield and Theodore Roosevelt. The breadth and depth of her research are matched by her gift for creating fast-paced narratives that bring events in distant eras to vivid life.

The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey (2005)—a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection and an independent booksellers' Book Sense Pick—won the William Rockhill Nelson Award for nonfiction and was a finalist for the Quill Award. *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine & the Murder of a President* (2011), won the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime and the PEN Center USA Award for Research Nonfiction. Other accolades include inclusion in *New York Times* and *Washington Post* "notable books" lists.

Millard's most recent book, *Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill,* was an Indie Next pick and one of the *New York Times* critics' Top Books of 2016. Her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times Book Review, Washington Post Book World,* the *Guardian, Time* magazine, and *National Geographic,* where she was formerly an editor and staff writer. Millard lives in Kansas City with her husband and three children.

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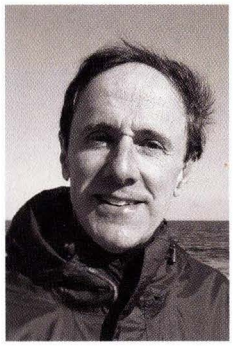
Fearless Future

On our cover: The George Washington Statue in Boston Public Garden

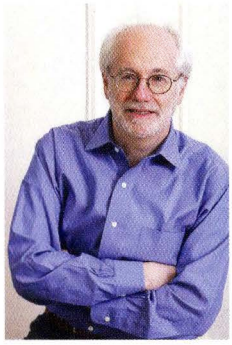
Breakfast Plenary Session

Larry Tye and David Nasaw in Conversation

8:15–9:15AM *LOCATION:* SEMEL THEATER



Larry Tye is a *New York Times* best-selling author whose most recent book is a biography of Robert F. Kennedy, the former attorney general, U.S. senator, and presidential candidate. *Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon* explores RFK's extraordinary transformation from cold warrior to fiery leftist. Tye's first book, *The Father of Spin*, is a biography of public relations pioneer Edward L. Bernays. His other books include *Home Lands*, *Rising from the Rails*, and *Satchel*, a biography of two American icons—Satchel Paige and Jim Crow. From 1986 to 2001, Tye was an award-winning reporter at the *Boston Globe*, where his primary beat was medicine. He also served as the *Globe's* environmental reporter, roving national writer, investigative reporter, and sports writer. Before that, he was the environmental reporter at the *Courier-Journal* in Louisville, and covered government and business at the *Anniston Star* in Alabama. Tye, who graduated from Brown University, was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1993-94. He taught journalism at Boston University, Northeastern, and Tufts. He is currently writing a biography of Senator Joseph McCarthy for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



David Nasaw is the author of *The Patriarch: The Remarkable Life and Turbulent Times of Joseph P. Kennedy*, a "brilliant, compelling" (the *New York Times Book Review*) biography of Joseph P. Kennedy, selected by the *New York Times* as one of the Ten Best Books of the Year and a 2013 Pulitzer Prize Finalist in Biography. His best-selling *Andrew Carnegie* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, the recipient of the New-York Historical Society's American History Book Prize, and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. *The Chief: The Life of William Randolph Hearst* was awarded the Bancroft Prize for History, the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize for Non-Fiction, the Ambassador Book Prize for Biography, and the Sperber Prize for Biography. Nasaw's other publications include *Schooled to Order: A Social History of Public Schooling*, *Children of the City: At Work and At Play*, the "inspiration" for *Newsies*, the Disney film and musical, and *Going Out: The Rise and Fall of Public Amusements*. Professor Nasaw is the Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Professor of History at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and a past president of the Society of American Historians. He received his Ph.D. degree in history from Columbia University.



Panels and Workshops

CORE

The Organized Biographer

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: SEMEL THEATER

Veteran biographers and historians detail and compare research techniques, use of interviews and oral histories, managing your time in the archives, tracking notes, and other practical aspects of biography work.

Moderator

James McGrath Morris is author of *The Ambulance Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War*, as well as several biographies, including the *New York Times* best-selling *Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, The First Lady of the Black Press* and *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power*. He has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*, PBS's *NewsHour*, and C-Span's *Book TV*. He was the founding editor of the monthly *Biographer's Craft* and has served as both the executive director and president of BIO.

Panelists

Brian Jay Jones is a *New York Times* best-selling biographer of "slightly off-center American geniuses" (*Washington Post*). His most recent book, *George Lucas: A Life* (Little, Brown, 2016) was lauded by *Rolling Stone* as "the one biography for casual and die-hard [*Star Wars*] fans alike," and hailed as "whiz-bang" by *People* magazine, which pretty much made his year. His 2013 biography *Jim Henson* was the first comprehensive look at the iconic creator of the Muppets, and got him on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, where he nearly forgot to speak. The immediate past-president of BIO, Jones serves as biographer in residence at the University of Mary Washington, and as associate director of the Great Lives program.

Marla Miller is the author of *Betsy Ross and the Making of America* (Holt, 2010), which was a finalist for the Cundill Prize in History at McGill University (the world's largest nonfiction historical literature prize), and named to the *Washington Post*'s Best of 2010 list. A short biography of Massachusetts gown maker Rebecca Dickinson appeared in the Westview Press series Lives of American Women in summer 2013. In her work as director of the Public History Program at UMass Amherst, Miller also teaches courses that focus on writing history for general readers, including seminars on Writing History Beyond the Academy, History Communication, and the Art and Craft of Biography.

Richard Zacks writes subversive history. The *New York Times* stated in 1994 that the author "specializes in the raunchy and perverse" and ever since then he has been on a slow reluctant march toward respectability. His books include *History Laid Bare* (with Joan of Arc's virginity tests), *An Underground Education* (featuring Edison's electric chair), *Pirate Hunter* (Captain Kidd not guilty), *Pirate Coast* (U.S. Marines first covert op), *Island of Vice* (fumbling Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt), and *Chasing the Last Laugh* (Mark Twain's stand-up comedy world tour). His works have been optioned for movies and translated into Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Finnish.

CRAFT

The Challenges of Writing About the Known

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 210

Writing about a well-known figure usually involves making one's way through voluminous records, a large collection of secondary works, and battling with preconceived notions of your subject. This panel looks into what goes into a new examination of a much-written about or mythical figure.

Moderator

Linda Leavell is the author of *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*, which won the 2014 Plutarch Award, the Modernist Studies Association book award, and the PEN/Weld award for biography. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. She is also the author of *Marianne Moore and the Visual Arts: Prismatic Color*, a book of literary criticism, and for twenty-five years was a professor of American literature. Her current project, under contract with FSG, is a group biography of the Stieglitz circle.

Panelists

Andrew Lownie was educated at the universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh. A former journalist and publisher, he has run his own literary agency since 1988. His books include lives of the writer John Buchan, the spy Guy Burgess (which won the St. Ermin's Hotel Intelligence Book of the Year), and a forthcoming joint life of Dickie and Edwina Mountbatten. He has been a visiting fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, is life president of The Biographers Club, is a trustee of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, and is a reviewer for the *Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

George Prochnik's most recent book is *Stranger in a Strange Land: Searching for Gershom Scholem and Jerusalem*. His previous book, *The Impossible Exile: Stefan Zweig at the End of the World*, received the National Jewish Book Award for Biography/Memoir in 2014 and was shortlisted for the Wingate Prize in the U.K. Prochnik is also the author of *In Pursuit of Silence: Listening for Meaning in a World of Noise* (2010), and *Putnam Camp: Sigmund Freud, James Jackson Putnam and the Purpose of American Psychology* (2006). He has written for the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and the *LA Review of Books*, and is editor-at-large for *Cabinet* magazine.

Tim Riley has written six books about the history of rock music, including a major biography of John Lennon, hailed by the *New York Times* as a "critical tour-de-force" in 2011. He contributes to Tom Ashbrook's *On Point* and other NPR programs. His book reviews appear regularly in truthdig.com, and his byline has run in the *New York Times*, the

Washington Post, the *Huffington Post*, *Slate*, *Salon*, and the independent journal *Radio Silence*. In 2016, he won the National Entertainment and Arts Journalism award at the LA Press Club for Best Book Critic. His current projects include a podcast, Roll Over Beethoven: A Rock Critic's Guide to Classical Music.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Women in Love

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 202

Three prize-winning biographers of formidable women explore how their subjects' romantic attachments enabled and hindered their lives and work—and how and how much the biographer should focus on them.

Moderator

Anne Heller is the author of *Hannah Arendt: A Life in Dark Times* and *Ayn Rand and the World She Made*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a Best Book of the Year by *Time*, *Library Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Daily Beast*, and others. She is a former managing editor of the Antioch Review, fiction editor of *Esquire* and *Redbook*, and executive editor of the magazine development group at Condé Nast Publications, and is a member of the board of directors of Biographers International Organization and of the New York University Biography Seminar.

Panelists

Ruth Franklin is a book critic and biographer. She has written for many publications, including the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and the *New York Review of Books*. Her first book, *A Thousand Darknesses: Lies and Truth in Holocaust Fiction*, was a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature. *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2016 and appeared on Best of the Year lists from NPR, *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the *Boston Globe*, and many more. She lives in Brooklyn.

Charlotte Gordon is an award-winning author whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*, among other publications. Her latest book, *Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley* (Random House) won the National Book Critics Circle award. She has also published *Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Story of America's First Poet* (Little, Brown) and *The Woman Who Named God: Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths* (Little, Brown). A Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Endicott College, Charlotte received her A.B. from Harvard College and her Ph.D. from Boston University. Her website is www.charlottegordonbooks.com.

Megan Marshall is the author of the new biography *Elizabeth Bishop: A Miracle for Breakfast*. She is the winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in biography for *Margaret Fuller* and the author of *The Peabody Sisters*, which won the Francis Parkman Prize and the Mark Lynton History Prize and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2006. She is the Charles Wesley Emerson College Professor in the Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing at Emerson College, where she teaches narrative nonfiction and the art of archival research in the M.F.A. creative writing program.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Going Indie

9:30–10:30AM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 233

Traditional publishing does not always offer an avenue to get your biography to readers. This panel explores the pros, cons, and practical challenges of becoming a DIY author/publisher.

Moderator

Kenneth D. Ackerman, a writer and an attorney in Washington, D.C., is a long-time veteran of senior positions both in government and private law. As a writer, Ackerman has authored five major books: *Boss Tweed: The Corrupt Pol Who Conceived the Soul of Modern New York; Dark Horse: The Surprise Election and Political Murder of President James A. Garfield; Young J. Edgar: Hoover and the Red Scare, 1919-1920; The Gold Ring: Jim Fisk, Jay Gould, and Black Friday 1869*; and his most recent, *Trotsky in New York 1917: A Radical on the Eve of Revolution*. When not writing, he continues his practice at OFW Law, Washington's leading firm dealing with agriculture and food, and lives with his wife, Karen, in Falls Church, Virginia.

Panelists

Jane Karker is the founder and president of Maine Authors Publishing & Cooperative in Rockland, Maine, and the newly established Boston Writers Publishing & Cooperative in Waltham, Massachusetts. She comes to publishing after more than twenty years in the printing and publishing industry. Karker founded Maine Authors Publishing & Cooperative to offer a totally different, cooperative approach to self-publishing, with a vision of making self-publishing affordable for authors while holding to the same standards that traditional publishing does. Her model includes Amazon distribution and a trade catalog sent to local bookstores and shops, followed by a sales representative who forms relationships with buyers on behalf of the authors.

Melinda M. Ponder is the author of *Katharine Lee Bates: From Sea to Shining Sea*, a life and times biography of the poet of "America the Beautiful" to be published July 4, 2017, by Windy City Publishers. She has published two books on Nathaniel Hawthorne, and is professor of English and coordinator of the English and Women's Studies programs at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

R. Scott Williams is the chief operating officer and senior vice president of sales and marketing at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Williams earned his degree in journalism from the University of Memphis. He then held positions at several advertising agencies and organizations, including Elvis Presley Enterprises. He currently serves on the board of the D.C. chapter of the American Advertising Federation and on the board of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Williams is the author of *An Odd Book, How the First Modern Pop Culture Reporter Conquered New York* and

The Forgotten Adventures of Richard Halliburton: From Tennessee to Timbuktu.

CORE

Keeping It in the Family: Writing About Family Matters

10:45–11:45AM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 202

A discussion of how a biographer deals with family matters historically as compared to how a biographer deals with family matters connected to one's own DNA. Methods of research, aesthetic distance, empathy—or lack of it—as well as concerns about publication of family-related biographies will be explored.

Moderator

Julia Markus is a novelist and biographer, the recipient of one NEA and two NEH awards, as well as the Houghton Mifflin Literary Award for her novel *UNCLE*. Her biographies include *Dared And Done: The Marriage of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning*; *Across an Untried Sea*, a study of nineteenth-century women artists who were lovers of women; and *J. Anthony Froude, The Last Undiscovered Great Victorian*. Her most recent biography, *Lady Byron and Her Daughters*, is a startling reevaluation of the poet's maligned wife and their daughter Ada Lovelace and was shortlisted for the prestigious Elma Dangerfield Prize. She is professor of English and director of creative writing at Hofstra University. Her website is juliamarkuswrites.com.



Panelists

Honor Moore's most recent book is *The Bishop's Daughter: A Memoir*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, a *Los Angeles Times* Favorite Book of the Year, and a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. Her poems and prose have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, the *American Scholar*, *Salmagundi*, *Freeman's*, and elsewhere. *The White Blackbird, A Life of the Painter Margarett Sargent by Her Granddaughter* (1996, reissued 2009) was a *New York Times* Notable Book. In progress is a memoir of her mother, a fourth poetry collection, and, edited with Alix Kates Shulman, *Writing the Women's Movement* for Library of America.

Carla L. Peterson is professor emerita in the Department of English at the University of Maryland. Her field of expertise is nineteenth-century African-American literature, history, and culture. She has published numerous essays in this area as well as two books: *"Doers of the Word": African-American Women Speakers and Writers in the North, 1830-1880* (Oxford, 1995) and *Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York City* (Yale, 2011), a social and cultural history of black life in nineteenth-century New York City as seen through the lens of family history. *Black Gotham* was awarded the 2011 prize for the best book on New York history by the New York Society Library and was a finalist for the Gilder-Lehrman 2011 Frederick Douglass Prize. Peterson's new project is titled *All Things Are Becoming New: Taste and the Making of African American Modernity in Antebellum New York and Philadelphia.*

Anne Boyd Rioux is the author of *Constance Fenimore Woolson: Portrait of a Lady Novelist*, which was chosen as one of the ten best books of 2016 by the *Chicago Tribune*. She is currently at work on her next book, *The Story of Little Women*, supported by an NEH Public Scholar Award and to be published by W. W. Norton in 2018. She is also a professor of English at the University of New Orleans. Her website is anneboydrioux.com.

CRAFT

The Challenges of Writing About the Unknown

10:45–11:45AM LOCATION: SEMEL THEATER

The records of lesser-known figures are often scarce and the interest in such persons among publishers is weak. Biographers with experience in exploring the lives of unknown subjects share the challenges—and opportunities—of bringing to light a story the world knows little about.

Moderator

Sonja D. Williams is a 2016 Phyllis Wheatley Book Award finalist for her biography *Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom* (University of Illinois Press), about pioneering National Radio Hall of Fame broadcast dramatist, journalist, and Chicago-based activist Richard Durham (1917–1984). Williams has served as a journalist and media trainer in Africa, the Caribbean, and throughout America. Her radio documentaries have won numerous awards, including three consecutive George Foster Peabody Awards

for Significant and Meritorious Achievement and a DuPont-Columbia University Journalism Award. Williams is a professor in the Howard University Department of Media, Journalism, and Film in Washington, D.C.

Panelists

Pamela Newkirk, Ph.D., is a multifaceted scholar, author and award-winning journalist. Her latest book, *Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga* (HarperCollins)—a NAACP Image Award and Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Legacy Award winner and a top pick by NPR and other media outlets—illuminates how racial mythology distorted the historical accounts about a young African exhibited in the Bronx Zoo monkey house in 1906. Newkirk's first book, *Within the Veil: Black Journalists, White Media*, (NYU Press), examines how race influences news coverage. Her insightful articles on race, media, and African-American culture have appeared in major newspapers nationwide.

Marlene Trestman, author of *Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin* (LSU Press, 2016), is currently at work on a collective biography, *The Most Fortunate Unfortunates: Children of New Orleans's Jewish Orphans' Home, 1855-1946.* Both books draw on experience. Lawyer-turned-author Trestman, who has won funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, American Jewish Archives, and Supreme Court Historical Society, had a personal relationship with Margolin, prompted by their common childhood experiences; Margolin grew up in the orphanage, and Trestman was a ward of its successor agency.

Quincy Whitney, primary *Boston Sunday Globe NH Weekly* arts journalist for fourteen years, has been a Eugene O'Neill Critic Fellow, Salzburg Seminar Fellow (Modern Novel, Biography as a Mirror on Society), Metropolitan Museum of Art Research Fellow, and a 2013 Hosking Houses Trust Fellow (U.K.). Her first book, *Hidden History of New Hampshire*, is the best-selling New Hampshire title for History Press (Acadia), now in its fifth edition. Her second book, *American Luthier: Carleen Hutchins—the Art and Science of the Violin* (ForeEdge), was one of ten biographies selected for the 2017 PEN America—Jacqueline Bograd-Weld Award for Excellence in Biography.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Boston or New England Lives

10:45–11:45AM *LOCATION:* WALKER, ROOM 233

Each BIO Conference offers a panel focusing on the lives of subjects with ties to the region. In this session, eminent biographers of New England figures will discuss their work.

Moderator

Louise W. Knight is a biographer and historian. The author of *Citizen: Jane Addams and the Struggle for Democracy* and *Jane Addams: Spirit in Action*, she is currently working on a biography of two antebellum Southern-born, abolitionist-feminists. The book, titled *American Sisters: Sarah and Angelina Grimké and the First Fight for Human Rights*, will be published by Flatiron Books, an imprint of Macmillan. She is a visiting scholar at the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program at Northwestern University, where she has also taught rhetoric. A former president of the Frances Willard Historical Association, she lives in Evanston, Illinois.

Panelists

Eve LaPlante has published essays and nonfiction books. *Seized* is a narrative portrait of a common brain disorder that can alter personality. *American Jezebel* tells the true story of the colonial heretic and founding mother Anne

The 2017 William B. Crawley Lecture Series

Great Lives

Biographical Approaches to History and Culture

Since 2004, the University of Mary Washington has presented a public lecture series/academic course titled "Great Lives: Biographical Approaches to History and Culture." During that time, it has become a major cultural and educational attraction in the region of Virginia between Richmond and Washington, D.C.

Offered annually, Great Lives brings to campus between 15 and 20 major biographers who speak to students enrolled in the course as well as hundreds of area residents who attend the lectures free of charge. Total attendance for the recently completed spring series exceeded 10,000.

Although the University of Mary Washington is a public institution, the Great Lives program is largely supported by private funds. Beginning in 2004 with a grant from a generous benefactor, funds have been substantially augmented each year by local patrons who are devoted to the program.

The innovative combination of an academic course and a public lecture series is unusual, if not unique, in the country. The fact that it is not just a public series, but also an academic course, adds a significant dimension to the program. Students are instructed on the evolution of the genre, then introduced to some of its most prominent contemporary practitioners. The result is an extraordinary opportunity for interaction among biographers, students, faculty, and the general public.

BIO is grateful for the support and enthusiasm of William Crawley, director of Great Lives, and Brian Jay Jones, associate director.

Bio Biographers International Organization

University of Mary Washington

Hutchinson. *Salem Witch Judge*, LaPlante's biography of the 1692 judge who became an abolitionist and feminist, won the 2008 Massachusetts Book Award for Nonfiction. *Marmee & Louisa*, her dual biography of Louisa May Alcott and her mother, Abigail, was named a top ten book of the year by NPR. LaPlante collected and edited a companion volume to *Marmee & Louisa*, a compilation of Abigail May Alcott's writings entitled *My Heart Is Boundless*.

Louisa Thomas is the author of two biographical works: *Louisa: The Extraordinary Life of Mrs. Adams*, released last April, and *Conscience: Two Soldiers, Two Pacifists, One Family–A Test of Will and Faith in World War I*, published in 2011. She is a contributing writer to the *New Yorker*'s website, a former senior editor and sportswriter for ESPN's Grantland, and a former fellow at the New America Foundation. Her work has been published in, among other journals, the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Paris Review*.

Larry Tye is a *New York Times* best-selling author whose most recent book is a biography of Robert F. Kennedy, the former attorney general, U.S. senator, and presidential candidate. *Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon* explores RFK's extraordinary transformation from cold warrior to fiery leftist. Tye's first book, *The Father of Spin*, is a biography of public relations pioneer Edward L. Bernays. His other books include *Home Lands, Rising from the Rails*, and *Satchel*, a biography of two American icons—Satchel Paige and Jim Crow. From 1986 to 2001, Tye was an award-winning reporter at the *Boston Globe*, where his primary beat was medicine. He also served as the *Globe*'s environmental reporter, roving national writer, investigative reporter, and sports writer. Before that, he was the environmental reporter at the *Courier-Journal* in Louisville, and covered government and business at the *Anniston Star* in Alabama. Tye, who graduated from Brown University, was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1993-94. He taught journalism at Boston University, Northeastern, and Tufts. He is currently writing a biography of Senator Joseph McCarthy for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Parallel Lives

10:45–11:45AM *LOCATION:* WALKER, ROOM 210

Ever since Plutarch, some biographers have chosen to track the lives of several subjects in a single volume. Panelists will discuss both the narrative challenges and the unique opportunities for illumination that such biographical works offer.

Moderator

Joshua Kendall is the author of *The Man Who Made Lists*, about the creation of *Roget's Thesaurus*, and *The Forgotten Founding Father*, a biography of Noah Webster, the lexicographer responsible for *Webster's Dictionary*. His latest book is *First Dads: Parenting and Politics from George Washington to Barack Obama*. He is also an award-winning journalist, with work in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Psychology Today*, and the *Boston Globe*, among other publications. He is an associate fellow of Yale's Trumbull College.

Panelists

Alex Beam, a native of Washington, D.C., began his career in journalism as a researcher at *Newsweek* magazine in 1977. From there he moved to *Business Week* as a correspondent in Los Angeles, and then as bureau chief in Moscow and Boston. He has been writing for the *Boston Globe* since 1986. He is the author of several nonfiction books, including *American Crucifixion: The Murder of Joseph Smith and the Fate of the Mormon Church* (2014) and *The Feud: Vladimir Nabokov, Edmund Wilson, and the End of a Beautiful Friendship*, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2016.

Kate Bolick's first book, *Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2015. A contributing editor for the *Atlantic*, Bolick is also a freelance writer for the *New York Times*, *Slate*, and *Vogue*, among other publications, and host of Touchstones at The Mount, an annual interview series at Edith Wharton's country estate, in Lenox, Massachusetts. She teaches creative nonfiction at New York University and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

James McGrath Morris is author of *The Ambulance Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War*, as well as several biographies, including the *New York Times* best-selling *Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, The First Lady of the Black Press* and *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power*. He has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*, PBS's *NewsHour*, and C-Span's *Book TV*. He was the founding editor of the monthly *Biographer's Craft* and has served as both the executive director and president of BIO.

Lunch and Keynote Address by Candice Millard, winner of the 2017 BIO Award

12–1:30 PM LOCATION: GYM

The BIO Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the art and craft of biography.

Round Table Discussions

1:45–2:45 PM LOCATION: GYM

Round tables offer a chance to network with biographers working in your field, share resources, and solve common problems. Conference participants are invited to register for one of the following topical round tables, with a leader present at each table to facilitate discussion.

- First-time Biographers
- First-person Narration
- Biographies of Family Members
- Group Biography
- Women's Lives
- Sexuality in Biography
- U.S. History Before 1945
- U.S. History After 1945
- Literary Biography
- Celebrities and Popular Culture
- Visual and Performing Arts

CRAFT

Slice of a Life

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 202

As the popularity of cradle-to-grave biographies has decreased, the demand for so-called "slice of life" biographies has grown. This kind of biographical work is tricky and requires particular writing skills. Biographers of highly successful slice-of-life books will talk about their strategies and share tips about how to shape the narrative.

Moderator

Will Swift is a biographer, a historian, and a practicing clinical psychologist. His *Pat and Dick: The Nixons, An Intimate Portrait of a Marriage* (2014) was shortlisted for the 2015 Plutarch Award and was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. His previous books are *The Roosevelts and the Royals* (2004) and *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm* (2008). A founding board member of BIO, Swift chaired its Awards Committee, is a member of the 2016 Plutarch Committee, and co-founded the BIO mentorship program. He particularly enjoys discovering facts which help repair historical reputations.

Panelists

Joseph Lelyveld's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Move Your Shadow: South Africa, Black and White* (1986) is an account of South Africa before the end of apartheid. His first biography, *Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle With India*, allowed him to span his interests in South Africa and India. He wrote about his childhood and family in *Omaha Blues: A Memory Loop*. Lelyveld's most recent book, *His Final Battle: The Last Months of Franklin Roosevelt*, was longlisted for the Plutarch Award this year. A former correspondent and editor of the *New York Times*, he has also written for the *New York Review of Books*.

Candice Millard's three best-selling books have been named one of the best books of the year by publications from the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post*. Her first book, *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection.

Her *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine & the Murder of a President*, won the PEN Center USA award for Research Nonfiction. Her most recent book, *Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill*, was named a *New York Times* top ten book of the year and Amazon's number one history book of 2016.

Patricia O'Toole's third biography, *The Moralist: Woodrow Wilson and the World He Made*, will be published next year by Simon & Schuster. Her last, *When Trumpets Call: Theodore Roosevelt After the White House*, was hailed by the historian John Morton Blum as "the wisest, most perceptive, best informed and most graceful study of Theodore Roosevelt ever published." Her first, *The Five of Hearts: An Intimate Portrait of Henry Adams and His Friends*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. She lives in Camden, Maine.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Controversy: What Kind to Court, What to Avoid

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 233

"Banned in Boston" used to also mean a boost in book sales. Controversy generates media attention—but also foreseeable perils. Biographers whose books have either disclosed controversial information about their subjects or who were controversial themselves discuss their experiences.

Moderator

Deirdre David published her first biography, *Fanny Kemble: A Performed Life*, in 2007, after a long career teaching and publishing books about Victorian literature, nineteenth-century women writers, and the history of the novel, and editing two editions of the *Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*. She followed *Fanny Kemble* with *Olivia Manning: A Woman at War* (2013), and her most recent biography, *Pamela Hansford Johnson: A Writing Life*, will be published by Oxford University Press in September 2017.

Panelists

Debby Applegate's first book, *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher* (Doubleday), won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. Her second book, *Madam: The Notorious Life and Times of Polly Adler*, is forthcoming from Doubleday. She was a Sterling Fellow in American Studies at Yale, where she earned her Ph.D., and is a graduate of Amherst College. She lives in New Haven, Connecticut, with her husband, the business writer Bruce Tulgan.

Kitty Kelley is an internationally acclaimed writer whose last five biographies have been number one *New York Times* best sellers: *His Way: The Unauthorized Biography of Frank Sinatra*; *Nancy Reagan*; *The Royals*; *The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty*; and *Oprah*. In 2012, she published *Capturing Camelot: The Iconic Images of Stanley Tretick* and donated royalties to the D.C. Public Library Foundation. In 2013, she published *Let Freedom Ring* to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington, with royalties going to the Children's Defense Fund. In 2017, on Martin Luther King Day, she published her first children's book, *Martin's Dream Day*, with royalties going to Reading Is Fundamental. She is under contract to write a social history of Georgetown.

John Taylor "Ike" Williams's legal practice emphasizes media and entertainment law, including the creation, production, and licensing of intellectual property, particularly in the areas of publishing, film, television, and music. He is the co-author of *Perle, Williams & Fischer on Publishing Law*. Williams is also a founding partner of The Kneerim & Williams Agency, LLC, a literary and dramatic rights agency. As a lawyer or agent, he represents book to movie and production companies in the placement or acquisition of dramatic rights. He has lectured widely on intellectual property and entertainment law and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Beyond the Book Review

3:00–4:00PM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 210

Experienced authors know well that researching, writing, and selling a book is only half the battle. Getting your book known to readers in this new digital world is a whole different challenge, and one that now (in all but a few cases) falls squarely on the shoulders of the writer.

Moderator

Lisa Napoli is the author of *Ray & Joan: The Man Who Made the McDonald's Fortune and the Woman Who Gave It All Away*. Her first book, *Radio Shangri-la*, is a chronicle of her time in and around Bhutan, where she went to start a radio station at the dawn of democratic rule. A veteran reporter, Napoli has worked at the *New York Times*, CNN, the public radio show *Marketplace*, and many interesting but failed startup ventures. She's a native of Brooklyn but found herself living in Los Angeles over a dozen years ago.

Panelists

Andrew Richard Albanese is senior writer for *Publishers Weekly*. He has covered publishing and information technology since 1999 and has written for numerous publications, including *Lingua Franca* and Salon.com. Prior to joining *Publishers Weekly* he was a reporter and editor at *Library Journal* and an editor of American history at Oxford University Press.

Rachel Cass is the head buyer at Harvard Bookstore in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she has worked in various capacities since 2006. She earned a B.A. in mathematics from Vassar and an M.A. in mathematics from Brandeis. Part of her job involves planning in-store events.

Marjorie Kehe is the *Christian Science Monitor*'s books editor. She holds a bachelor of arts in English from Principia College, a master's degree in Italian language and literature from Middlebury College, and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from New York University. Before joining the *Monitor* in 1998, she worked as a business writer, covering subjects ranging from metals markets to the restaurant industry.

Taryn Roeder is the associate director of publicity at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She manages Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Boston-based publicity team and works on the publicity campaigns for dozens of books a year. Best-selling authors she's worked with include Temple Grandin, Lesley M. M. Blume, Paul Tough, Amy Stewart, Jami Attenberg, Dale Russakoff, Jade Chang, and the late longtime Boston Mayor Tom Menino. She has an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in English/creative writing from Barnard College. She lives with her two sons.

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Off the Page and Onto the Stage, Screen, and Broadcast

3:00–4:00PM *LOCATION:* WALKER, ROOM 503

Biographers discuss the opportunities and challenges of producing an original biography in media other than the printed page and of adapting biography to film, theater, opera, and radio.

Moderator

Cathryn Keller is a museum consultant and filmmaker. She has written and produced films for public television and consulted on a feature documentary on artists Ilya and Emila Kabakov. Currently writing the biography of a modern yoga pioneer, she served as a senior adviser on the Smithsonian exhibition *Yoga: The Art of Transformation*. Former publisher/editor of *El Palacio* and other museum magazines, she has contributed to the *Washington Post*, the *East Hampton Star*, *Sculpture*, and other publications. She has written about art, artists, and museums for the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Museum of New Mexico.

Panelists

Kate Clifford Larson is the author of three critically acclaimed biographies: *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* (2015), a *New York Times* best seller; *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero* (2004), optioned by HBO for an original movie; and *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* (2008). She has been a consultant and interpretive specialist for numerous public history initiatives and films, and is currently consulting historian for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, an All-American Road, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and National Monument in Maryland.

James Reston Jr. is author of seventeen books, including national and international best sellers. His book *Warriors of God*, about the Third Crusade of Richard the Lionheart and Saladin, has been translated into 13 languages. His plays include *Galileo's Torch*. His NPR documentary on Jonestown won the Prix Italia and a Dupont-Columbia award. Reston was David Frost's adviser for the 1976-1977 Frost/Nixon interviews, seen by 57 million people worldwide. His narrative of that experience inspired the London and Broadway hit play *Frost/Nixon* (by Peter Morgan), featuring Reston as a major character; Ron Howard's Hollywood adaptation was nominated for five Academy Awards.

CORE

The Birth of a Biography

4:15–5:15PM *LOCATION:* WALKER, ROOM 210

An agent, an editor, and a publicity expert take us inside a publishing house, demystifying the process through which a biography is acquired, shaped, assembled, and sent out into the marketplace.

Moderator

Beverly Gray, who once developed 170 low-budget features for B-movie maven Roger Corman, is the author of *Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers*. Gray has also published *Ron Howard: From Mayberry to the Moon...and Beyond*. She teaches online screenwriting workshops for UCLA Extension's world-famous Writers' Program, and her popular blog, "Beverly in Movieland," covers movies, moviemaking, and growing up Hollywood-adjacent. In November 2017, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the film's release, Algonquin will publish her *Seduced by Mrs. Robinson: How* The Graduate *Reshaped Hollywood and Defined a Generation*.

Panelists

Gayatri Patnaik, editorial director at Beacon Press, was previously an editor at both Palgrave Macmillan and Routledge. In her fifteen years at Beacon, she has published Cornel West, Kate Bornstein, Marcus Rediker, and Mary Frances Berry. She acquires in U.S. history, with a focus on African-American



Each month, members of BIO receive an informative newsletter devoted to the art and craft of biography.

The Biographer's Craft features news about the business, interviews and articles with biographers about techniques, notification of books sold to publishers, new biographies coming into stores, research tips, and more.

It's just one more benefit of your BIO membership.

history and race/ethnicity/immigration. She began Beacon's ReVisioning American History series as well as its LGBTQ series, Queer Action/Queer Ideas, and has developed books in a series about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her acquisitions include *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Jeanne Theoharis, winner of the 2014 NAACP Image Award.

Wendy Strothman founded a literary agency in Boston in 2003 after a long career as publisher. She was publisher of trade books at Houghton Mifflin, where she oversaw adult, reference, and children's publishing, and edited books by Philip Roth, Arthur Schlesinger, and John Kenneth Galbraith. As agent, she represents Pulitzer Prize for Biography winner David Kertzer, NBCC and Pulitzer winner David Brion Davis, Pulitzer feature-writing winner Amy Ellis Nutt, and Pulitzer finalist James Scott, as well as historians Ray Arsenault (writing a biography of Arthur Ashe), David Blight (biography of Frederick Douglass), and Martha Hodes (*Mourning Lincoln*).

Lissa Warren is vice president, senior director of publicity, and acquiring editor at Da Capo Press—an imprint of Perseus Books, a division of the Hachette Book Group. She is the author of *The Savvy Author's Guide to Book Publicity*. A sucker for dual biographies in particular, she has publicized biographies of a host of U.S. presidents, as well as Patrick Henry, Henry Clay, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Winston Churchill, Alan Greenspan, Genghis Khan, Ralph Nader, Walt Whitman, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, Shakespeare forger William Henry Ireland, Frederick Law Olmsted, Paul McCartney, and the Rolling Stones.

CRAFT

Biography and Style

4:15–5:15PM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 202

A dialogue between James Atlas and Patricia Bosworth about breaking all the rules of biography and making it work anyway.

Panelists

James Atlas is the author of *Delmore Schwartz: The Life of an American Poet*, which was nominated for a National Book Award, and *Bellow: A Biography*. His memoir about his career as a biographer, *The Shadow in the Garden: A Biographer's Tale*, will be published this summer. He is also the founder of the Penguin Lives. In his long career as a journalist and critic, he has been on the staffs of the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and the *Atlantic*.

Patricia Bosworth is the biographer of Diane Arbus, Jane Fonda, and Marlon Brando, which was published in the Penguin Lives series. She is also the author of two memoirs, *Anything Your Little Heart Desires* and *The Men in My Life*, an account of her turbulent career as an actress. A longtime contributor to *Vanity Fair*, she won the Front Page Award from the Newswomen's Club of New York in 1999 for her profile of Eliza Kazan.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR BIOGRAPHY?

BIO's mentoring program offers the advice of biographers in many fields of expertise. Whether you are just starting to think of a subject, working on your manuscript, or deciding how to launch your book, our mentors can help with questions large and small. We offer you a selection of mentors suited to your topic. You choose the number of hours you need, for mentoring by phone, e-mail, or Skype. The fee is $60/hour. For more information, and to sign up, contact Will Swift: drwswift@gmail.com

ISSUES IN BIOGRAPHY

Whose Lives Matter, and Who Should Be Writing Them

4:15–5:15PM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 233

In biography, as in history and current affairs, the lives of people of color and disenfranchised figures are given short shrift. Biography offers a unique opportunity to correct this imbalance, but it also raises issues of what has come to be known as "cultural appropriation"—can a biographer write effectively and accurately about a race, a culture, an ethnicity not his own? Must such an effort ultimately end in misunderstanding, or can it lend a fresh perspective?

Moderator

Patricia Bell-Scott is professor emerita of women's studies at the University of Georgia, co-founding editor of *SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women*, and former contributing editor to *Ms. Magazine*. Her recent book, *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice*, was a finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Award for Excellence in Nonfiction, longlisted for the National Book Award, and named to best of the year lists by the *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Kirkus*, and *Booklist*.

Panelists

Kavita Das worked in social change for fifteen years on issues ranging from homelessness, to public health disparities, to racial justice, and now focuses on writing about culture, race, feminism, social change, and their intersections. Nominated for a 2016 Pushcart Prize, Das's work has been published in the *Atlantic*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *NBC News Asian America*, *Guernica*, *Quartz*, *McSweeney's*, the *Rumpus*, *Colorlines*, and elsewhere. She's at work on a biography about the Grammy-nominated Hindustani singer Lakshmi Shankar, who played a pivotal role in bringing Indian music to the West, to be published by Harper Collins India.

Janice P. Nimura is the author of *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey From East to West and Back*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2015. Her book reviews and essays have appeared in newspapers including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Newsday*. She lives in New York, where she is at work on her second book: a biography of Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, pioneering nineteenth-century doctors.

Ray Anthony Shepard is a grandson of a slave and retired editor-in-chief of Houghton Mifflin's School Division. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska Teachers College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he received a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. His debut young adult biography, *Now or Never: 54th Massachusetts Infantry's War to End Slavery*, will be published in September. The story chronicles the army lives of George E. Stephens and James Henry Gooding, free black men from the North who risked enslavement and their lives to follow Frederick Douglass's urging "We can get at the throat of treason and slavery through the State of Massachusetts."

CORE

Truth and Revelation: Lessons From Presidents' Lives

4:15–5:15PM LOCATION: WALKER, ROOM 503

In the year of a contentious new U.S. president in the White House, Pulitzer Prize winners Kai Bird and Fredrik Logevall, together with prize-winning journalist and biographer John Farrell, explore the current trend toward looking at presidents as people whose power and individual agency can affect the course of history—for good and bad. Carter, Nixon, and Kennedy under the critical microscope—with interesting lessons for all biographers.

Moderator

Nigel Hamilton, a senior fellow in the McCormack Graduate School, UMass Boston, is the author of the best-selling *JFK: Reckless Youth*, which was made into an ABC TV mini-series; a two-volume biography of Bill Clinton; and *American Caesars: Lives of the Presidents, From Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush*, published in 2010. He is currently completing the final volume of his *FDR at War* trilogy.

Panelists

Kai Bird is the executive director and distinguished lecturer of CUNY Graduate Center's Leon Levy Center for Biography. With co-author Martin J. Sherwin he won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography for his *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. He has also written biographies of John J. McCloy and McGeorge Bundy and a memoir, *Crossing Mandelbaum Gate: Coming of Age Between the Arabs and Israelis*. His most recent book is *The Good Spy: The Life and Death of Robert Ames*. He is currently working on a biography of President Jimmy Carter.

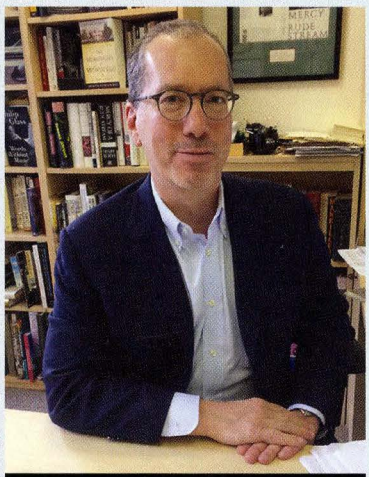
John A. Farrell has had a prize-winning career as a newspaperman, notably at the *Boston Globe*, where he worked as White House correspondent and on the Spotlight team. His *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century*, a biography of the late Speaker of the House, won the 2001 Hardeman prize for the best book on Congress. His *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned*, a biography of the great American defense lawyer, won the 2012 *Los Angeles Times* book award for best biography. His latest biography, on which he has worked for many years, is *Richard Nixon: The Life*.

Fredrik Logevall hails from Stockholm, Sweden, and is Belfer Professor of International Affairs at Harvard. His *America's Cold War: The Politics of Insecurity*, written with Campbell Craig, was published in 2009, and his *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam* won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for History as well as the 2013 Francis Parkman Prize and Arthur Ross Book Award from the Council on Foreign Relations. He has now switched to become a biographer, in order to undertake a one-volume life of John F. Kennedy.



Networking Reception and Presentation of the **Plutarch Award**

5:30–7:00PM in GYM



Robert Weil, editor-in-chief and publishing director of Liveright, will receive the fourth BIO Editorial Excellence Award in November.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on the evening of **Wednesday, November 8**, at the Leon Levy Center for Biography, for the presentation of the fourth annual BIO Editorial Excellence Award to **Robert Weil**, editor-in-chief and publishing director of Liveright, an imprint of W.W. Norton.

Weil has had a celebrated publishing career, beginning in 1978 at Times Books. He became senior editor at St. Martin's Press in 1988; a decade later, he moved to W.W. Norton as executive editor. Named to his present positions in 2011, he is dedicated to editing books of consequence.

Several of Weil's authors will be part of the presentation. He will be introduced by **Annette Gordon-Reed** (author of *"Most Blessed of the Patriarchs": Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* and *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, winner of the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize).

A panel of biographers—including **Ruth Franklin**, winner of the 2017 National Book Critics Circle Award for *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life*—will be moderated by **Linda Gordon** (*Dorothea Lange: A Life Beyond Limits*, winner of the Bancroft Prize).

The Leon Levy Center for Biography is at 365 Fifth Avenue in New York City. Ticketing information will be available later this year in *The Biographer's Craft* newsletter and on the BIO website.

Sunday

10:00AM–NOON

Sunday morning will afford attendees a chance to participate in one of the following optional in-depth workshops. They will be held in the Press Room on the mezzanine floor of the Omni Parker House, 60 School Street (between Beacon and Tremont Streets, a short walk from the Emerson campus).

Assembling Your Book

James McGrath Morris

Now that you have written the book, how do you deal with photos, illustrations, permissions, footnotes and endnotes, and copyright issues? This workshop is a complete guide to all aspects of preparing your manuscript for publication.

James McGrath Morris is author of *The Ambulance Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War*, as well as several biographies, including the *New York Times* best-selling *Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, The First Lady of the Black Press* and *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power*. He has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered*, PBS's *NewsHour*, and C-Span's *Book TV*. He was the founding editor of the monthly *Biographer's Craft* and has served as both the executive director and president of BIO.

Making a Book Trailer

Carl Rollyson

Making trailers: How to begin, where to broadcast, how to follow up, deciding what to show. The workshop will show different kinds of trailers and generate ideas for your own biographies.

Carl Rollyson's biographies include *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath, A Real American Character: The Life of Walter Brennan, Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews, Marilyn Monroe: A Life of the Actress,* and *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography.* His books about biography include *Biography: A User's Guide* and *Confessions of a Serial Biographer.* His reviews of biographies have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal,* the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the *New Criterion*, and other publications. He is at work on *This Alarming Paradox: The Life of William Faulkner.*

Writing Your First Biography

Julia Markus

How does one weave a narrative that keeps the reader interested while at the same time being faithful to the facts? This workshop will deal with how to introduce your subject in a way that will attract the reader (and hopefully the agent/ publisher). You are free to bring in the opening section of your work to read and discuss in the workshop. Or perhaps you have met an obstacle on the way and wish to bring in other pages to read and discuss. Then again, perhaps you are having some difficulties in relating the subject of your biography to another person of importance to his or her life. Bring in your pages—with some copies to be returned if possible—or just bring in your questions.

Julia Markus is a novelist and biographer, the recipient of one NEA and two NEH awards, as well as the Houghton Mifflin Literary Award for her novel *UNCLE*. Her biographies include *Dared And Done: The Marriage of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning*; *Across an Untried Sea*, a study of nineteenth-century women artists who were lovers of women; and *J. Anthony Froude, The Last Undiscovered Great Victorian*. Her most recent biography, *Lady Byron and Her Daughters*, is a startling reevaluation of the poet's maligned wife and their daughter Ada Lovelace and was shortlisted for the prestigious Elma Dangerfield Prize. She is professor of English and director of creative writing at Hofstra University. Her website is juliamarkuswrites.com.

Book Proposals

Andrew Lownie

Biographer and literary agent Andrew Lownie will take participants through all the steps in creating a salable proposal.

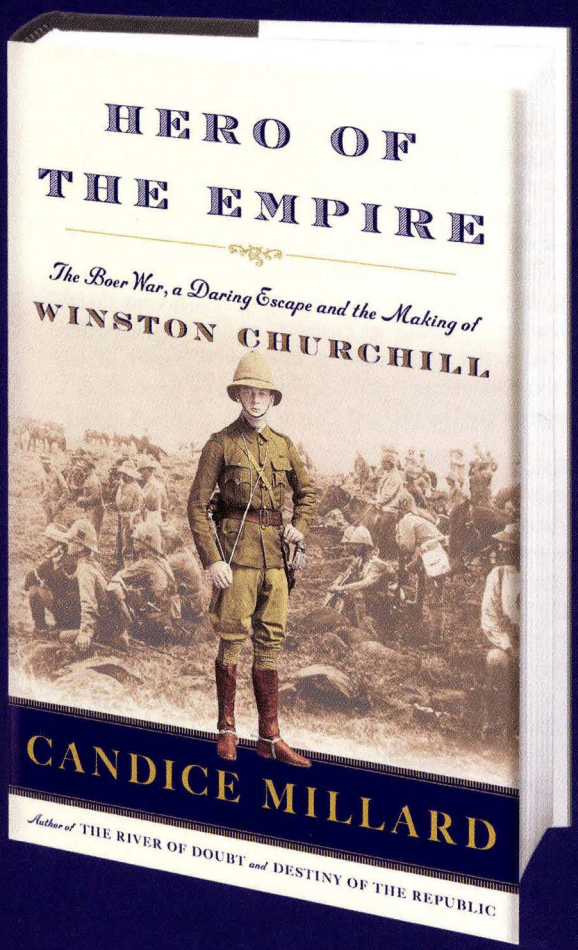
Andrew Lownie was educated at the universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh. A former journalist and publisher, he has run his own literary agency since 1988. His books include lives of the writer John Buchan, the spy Guy Burgess (which won the St. Ermin's Hotel Intelligence Book of the Year), and a forthcoming joint life of Dickie and Edwina Mountbatten. He has been a visiting fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, is life president of The Biographers Club, is a trustee of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, and is a reviewer for the *Times* and *Wall Street Journal.*

CONGRATULATIONS

CANDICE MILLARD

Recipient of the 2017 BIO Award





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Since 1897

The 2017 Coaching Program

BIO would like to thank the following biographers for their participation in our third annual coaching program. These accomplished biographers are providing half-hour, one-on-one coaching sessions to those who have paid and arranged for such sessions in advance. In addition, BIO now provides a year-round mentoring service via email, phone, or Skype. For more information, see the advertisement on page 13 of this program or email Will Swift at drwswift@gmail.com.

The Coaches

Kate Buford's award-winning *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe* (Knopf, 2010; University of Nebraska, 2012) was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. *Burt Lancaster: An American Life* (Knopf/Da Capo/Aurum UK) was named one of the best books of 2000 by the *New York Times*. Buford has written for the *New York Times* and other publications and has appeared on many radio and television shows, including *Charlie Rose*, *History Detectives*, and *Reel Sports*. She was a commentator on NPR's *Morning Edition* and APM's *Marketplace* from 1995 to 2004. She serves on the board of BIO.

Cathy Curtis is the author of *Restless Ambition: Grace Hartigan, Painter* (Oxford University Press, 2015), the first biography of a prominent 1950s New York artist whose life was as colorful as her paintings. A former staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, Curtis holds a B.A. from Smith College and an M.A. in art history from the University of California, Berkeley. Her next biography, *A Generous Vision: The Creative Life of Elaine de Kooning*—about a glamorous, free-spirited artist and writer at the social center of the Abstract Expressionists—will be published on September 1, 2017, inaugurating the Oxford Cultural Biographies series.

Carla Kaplan, Davis Distinguished Professor of American Literature at Northeastern University and chair of the *Signs* editorial board, writes on African-American and women's literature and culture. Her trade books include the award-winning *Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters* and *Miss Anne in Harlem: The White Women of the Black Renaissance* (both *New York Times* Notable Books) and a forthcoming life of muckraking activist Jessica Mitford. Kaplan has also edited and authored numerous scholarly books and editions and received fellowships from the NEH Public Scholar Program, Cullman Center, DuBois Institute, Ransom and Beinecke Libraries, Guggenheim Foundation, and elsewhere.

Linda Leavell is the author of *Holding On Upside Down: The Life and Work of Marianne Moore*, which won the 2014 Plutarch Award, the Modernist Studies Association book award, and the PEN/Weld award for biography. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. She is also the author of *Marianne Moore and the Visual Arts: Prismatic Color*, a book of literary criticism, and for twenty-five years was a professor of American literature. Her current project, under contract with FSG, is a group biography of the Stieglitz circle.

Justin Martin is the author of four biographies featuring subjects ranging from a Federal Reserve chairman, *Greenspan: The Man Behind Money* (1999), to a pioneering landscape architect, *Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted* (2011). His most recent is a group biography, *Rebel Souls: Walt Whitman and America's First Bohemians* (2014). Martin prides himself on being a thorough researcher and reporter. Armed with the facts, he aims to render his subjects in novelistic fashion and considers it the highest compliment when someone says: "your book reads like fiction." Martin, a former member of BIO's board, lives in New York City.

Carl Rollyson's biographies include *American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath, A Real American Character: The Life of Walter Brennan, Hollywood Enigma: Dana Andrews, Marilyn Monroe: A Life of the Actress,* and *Amy Lowell Anew: A Biography.* His books about biography include *Biography: A User's Guide* and *Confessions of a Serial Biographer.* His reviews of biographies have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal,* the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the *New Criterion*, and other publications. He is at work on *This Alarming Paradox: The Life of William Faulkner.*

Will Swift is a biographer, a historian, and a practicing clinical psychologist. His *Pat and Dick: The Nixons, An Intimate Portrait of a Marriage* (2014) was shortlisted for the 2015 Plutarch Award and was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. His previous books are *The Roosevelts and the Royals* (2004) and *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm* (2008). A founding board member of BIO, Swift chaired its Awards Committee, is a member of the 2016 Plutarch Committee, and co-founded the BIO mentorship program. He particularly enjoys discovering facts which help repair historical reputations.

Biographers International Organization would like to thank Emerson College and its Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing for their generous sponsorship of this year's conference and Arts Emerson for the use of the Semel Theater. Thanks also to the Massachusetts Historical Society and its New England Biography Seminar for generously sponsoring the Friday event and reception.

Notes

Schedule—Saturday, May 20, 2017

CO Core C Craft I Issues in Biography

7:00–8:00AM	**Registration** SEMEL THEATER			
7:30AM	**Breakfast Serving Begins** SEMEL THEATER			
8:00–8:15AM	**Welcome by BIO President Will Swift** SEMEL THEATER			
8:15–9:15AM	**Breakfast Plenary Session:** Larry Tye and David Nasaw in Conversation SEMEL THEATER			
9:30–10:30AM	The Organized Biographer CO SEMEL THEATER	The Challenges of Writing About the Known C WALKER, ROOM 210	Women in Love I WALKER, ROOM 202	Going Indie I WALKER, ROOM 233
10:45–11:45AM	Keeping It in the Family: Writing about Family Matters CO WALKER, ROOM 202	The Challenges of Writing About the Unknown C SEMEL THEATER	Boston or New England Lives I WALKER, ROOM 233	Parallel Lives I WALKER, ROOM 210
12:00–1:30PM	**Lunch and Keynote Address by Candice Millard, winner of the 2017 BIO Award** GYM			
1:45–2:45PM	**Round-Table Discussions** GYM—SEE PAGE 10 FOR LISTING			
3:00–4:00PM	Slice of a Life C WALKER, ROOM 202	Controversy: What Kind to Court, What to Avoid I WALKER, ROOM 233	Beyond the Book Review I WALKER, ROOM 210	Off the Page and Onto the Stage, Screen, and Broadcast I WALKER, ROOM 503
4:15–5:15PM	The Birth of a Biography CO WALKER, ROOM 210	Biography and Style C WALKER, ROOM 202	Whose Lives Matter, and Who Should Be Writing Them I WALKER, ROOM 233	Truth and Revelation: Lessons from Presidents' Lives CO WALKER, ROOM 503
5:30–7:00PM	**Networking Reception and Announcement of the 2017 Plutarch Award Winner** GYM			