

A large, light blue decorative swirl graphic that starts from the bottom left, loops upwards and to the right, then loops back down and to the left, ending in a smaller swirl at the top right. The swirl is composed of several concentric, overlapping loops.

Poets & Writers

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

INTRODUCTION

WITH A KEEN UNDERSTANDING of the importance of taking full advantage of digital media, last year Poets & Writers invested a great deal of energy in revamping our Web site and made the most extensive changes to Poets & Writers Online since it was launched in 1996. Over a period of many months, the site was completely overhauled; it relaunched in February 2008. The site now includes job listings, a literary events calendar, and searchable databases of literary magazines and small presses with useful tips to authors from editors and publishers on how to submit work.

Our online Directory of Writers, which includes information on over 7,500 writers and is maintained by our Information Services department, was upgraded to make it possible for authors listed in it to post photos, information on upcoming readings, and links to reviews of their work. Soon after the relaunch, we began to regularly post videos, podcasts, and slideshows, and visitors to the site began to take advantage of its new interactive capabilities by commenting on articles from *Poets & Writers Magazine* appearing on the site. Traffic to Poets & Writers Online has steadily increased since the relaunch; as of this writing we receive over 70,000 unique visitors each month.

With funds raised during our successful capital campaign, our signature Readings/Workshops program expanded to two new cities, New Orleans and Tucson. The R/W program distributed almost \$250,000 to nearly 1,000 writers last year. We're proud that Poets & Writers supports more writers each year than any organization in the country.

Poets & Writers Magazine launched a new feature, "Agents and Editors," which has proven to be one of its most popular columns. Last year, the magazine also ran special sections on topics of great interest to writers: MFA programs, literary agents, conferences and retreats, and literary magazines.

In April 2008, we announced that Tony Hoagland had been chosen as the winner of the second annual Jackson Poetry Prize, which, at \$50,000, is one of the nation's largest awards for a poet. In addition to this prize, Poets & Writers also named fiction writer Shena McAuliffe and poet Andrès Rodriguez from Missouri as winners of the annual Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award.

All of our programs depend on our talented staff; our dedicated Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and volunteers; and our generous donors. We are deeply grateful to them, and we thank you for your interest in Poets & Writers.



Celia H. Currin
President



Elliot Figman
Executive Director

the mission

Founded in 1970, Poets & Writers believes writers make indispensable contributions to our national culture. The organization's mission is to foster the professional development of poets and writers, to promote communication throughout the U.S. literary community, and to help create an environment in which literature can be appreciated by the widest possible public.

Poets & Writers

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A profile of Edwidge Danticat from the September/October 2007 Issue.

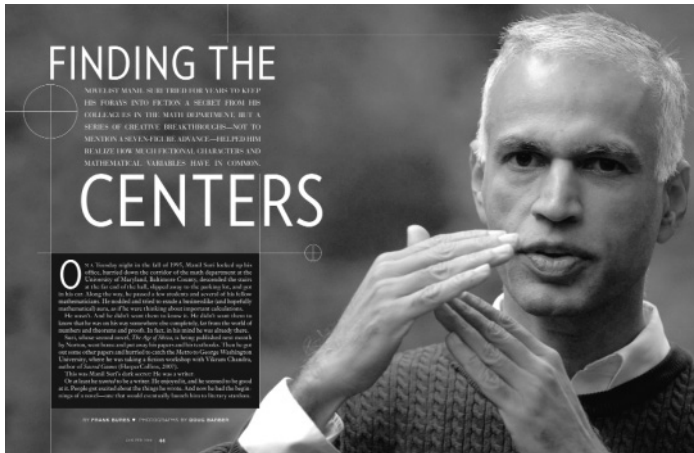
This year *Poets & Writers Magazine* continued its ongoing effort to be the most relevant publication creative writers turn to for inspiration and information as they forge their writing lives.

Poets & Writers Magazine presented several special sections of value to its readers. "The Great MFA Debate," a collection of articles about the benefits of pursuing a creative writing degree, the growing diversity within programs, and new and innovative programs, appeared in the November/December 2007 issue. The January/February 2008 issue focused on literary agents—how best to secure and manage a relationship with them, as well as contact information for twenty-one agents open to new clients. This issue also included the launch of Agents & Editors, a series of in-depth interviews with industry veterans geared toward offering writers expert advice about the publishing process. The March/April 2008 issue returned to annual coverage of literary festivals, conferences, and retreats, and the May/June 2008 issue featured a special

section on literary magazines that included essential information for writers about how and where to submit their work.

In keeping with its aim to champion emerging authors, in the July/August 2007 issue, *Poets & Writers Magazine* published its seventh annual profile of fiction writers and their notable debuts. The November/December 2007 issue's "The Poetry of Beginning" introduced twelve poets with first books in 2007, and during the year the magazine published three installments of the column First, which reveals the process behind a debut's release.

Poets & Writers' commitment to highlighting the diverse voices of contemporary literature was reflected again this year in the range of authors profiled in our magazine pages: Dominican novelist Junot Díaz, whose book went on to win a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Critics Circle Award in 2008; Haitian author Edwidge Danticat, whose memoir won a National Book Critics Circle Award in 2008;



A profile of Manil Suri from the January/February 2008 Issue.

African American poet Afaa Michael Weaver; Asian American novelist Susan Choi; mathematician Manil Suri; physicist Alan Lightman; genre-jumpers Carol Muske-Dukes and Tobias Wolff; as well as up-and-comers Frances Hwang, Valzhyna Mort, Benjamin Percy, and Rishi Reddi.

Press mentions of *Poets & Writers Magazine* appeared in several publications, including the *Boston Globe*, the *Charlotte-Observer*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Pittsburgh-Post Gazette*, the *Writer's Digest*, as well as numerous Web sites including the Daily Record, Mediabistro, and Publisher's Marketplace.

Poets & Writers Magazine also received two awards: Joe Woodward's profile of Carol Muske-Dukes, "The Novelist's Inner Poet," won a Los Angeles Press Club Southern California Journalism Award, and the September/October 2007 issue, featuring Edwidge Danticat on the cover, earned a bronze Eddie Award, given for overall editorial excellence.

Poets & Writers Magazine continues to enjoy strong advertising revenue, which this year totaled \$1,184,191.

Total circulation of the magazine is 60,000.

Major funding for Poets & Writers Magazine was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Poets & Writers' Information Services department continued to offer trustworthy answers to writers' questions about publishing their work. Staff fielded an average of 10 to 15 questions each day from writers, via telephone and e-mail. They updated the Top Ten Topics for Writers section of the Web site, and distributed hundreds of copies of the print brochure to book festivals and writers' conferences.

Information Services also created and now maintains the online databases of literary magazines, small presses, and grants and awards on Poets & Writers Online, as well as the Directory of Writers, which provides contact information and publication credits for over 7,500 writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Last year, more than 500 new writers joined the Directory. Poets & Writers also added new features that made it possible for listed authors to post a photo, a short bio, links to reviews of their work, and information on their upcoming readings. The Directory of Writers is used by writers to connect with one another and by organizers of reading series and conferences who are looking for writers to participate in their events.

Information Services was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Directory of Writers page at pw.org.

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Poets & Writers

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MAGAZINE TOOLS FOR WRITERS CONNECT WITH OTHERS FUNDING FOR EVENTS MY P&W ABOUT US



Fiction writer Leni Zumas . Photograph by Pieter van Hattem



Poets & Writers Magazine

In addition to features from the award-winning print edition, the online version of the magazine includes daily news items, short interviews, and a teachers guide.

- ▶ Grants & Awards Deadlines
- ▶ Daily News
- ▶ Articles on the Writing Life
- ▶ Classifieds-Calls for Manuscripts, Writing Contests, and More

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Tools for Writers

If you're looking for writing competitions, or literary magazines and small presses that welcome both new and established writers, begin here. If you're seeking employment in the literary world, be sure to visit our Job Listings.

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- ▶ Small Presses
- ▶ Job Listings
- ▶ Top Ten Topics for Writers

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Connect With Others

Make your connections in the Speakeasy Message Forum and join discussions about literary agents, conferences, writing contests, MFA programs, and other topics of interest. Search our Directory of Writers to find contact info, publication credits, and bios of over 7,500 authors.

- ▶ Speakeasy Message Forum
- ▶ Directory of Writers
- ▶ Literary Events Calendar

▶ See More

Funding For Events

Poets & Writers can help pay the fees for writers participating in events in New York State and California and in Alaska.

May Swenson POETRY AWARD
deadline Sep 30
Billy Collins JUDGE

GRADUATE EVENING PROGRAMS

Recent and continuing faculty include:

Stuart Dybek
Reginald Gibbons
Aleksandar Hemon
Alex Kotlowitz

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Poets & Writers is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Home page at pw.org.

Launched in 1996, Poets & Writers' Web site has become a key destination for writers looking for information, guidance, and support to help further their work. The site attracts over 2,000 visitors daily.

P&W relaunched its redesigned Web site in February 2008. Notable new features include searchable databases of literary magazines, small presses, and grants and awards; a national calendar of literary events; job listings; expanded listings in the Directory of Writers; My P&W, which allows users to customize their experience on the site; multimedia content;

and lists of the most popular and most e-mailed articles from *Poets & Writers Magazine*.

The site continues to feature online-only content from the magazine, daily news items, and the Speakeasy message forum, which serves as a virtual community for hundreds of writers.

Poets & Writers Online and its redesign was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

MAUREEN EGEN WRITERS EXCHANGE AWARD

Missouri fiction writer Shena McAuliffe and poet Andrés Rodríguez were the 2007 Maureen Egen Writers Exchange award winners.

The award, created in 1984, provides one poet and one fiction writer from one state an all-expenses-paid, weeklong trip to New York City. During their trip, the writers meet with literary agents, editors, publishers, and writers, and give a public reading. The writers are selected based on manuscripts they submit to P&W. This year's judges were poet Major Jackson and novelist Valerie Martin.

Many past winners have gone on to publish books, receive awards, or secure teaching positions. To date, 74 writers from 30 states have participated in P&W's Writers Exchange. Past winners have included fiction writers Sue Monk Kidd, Fae Myenne Ng, Mona Simpson, and Susan Straight and poets Mike Chitwood, Roger Fanning, and David Mura.

Shena McAuliffe teaches fiction writing and works as the writing program assistant at Washington University in St. Louis, where she received her MFA. Her stories have been published or are forthcoming in *Conjunctions*, *CutBank*, and *Land-Grant College Review*. She received her BA in English at Colorado State University.

Andrés Rodríguez holds a PhD in literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz; an MA in creative writing from Stanford University; and a BA in English from the University of Iowa. His poems and essays have appeared in *Americas Review*, *Bilingual Review*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Lucero*, *Sagetrieb*, *Wilderness*, and other literary journals. He is the author of a collection of poetry, *Night Song* (Tia Chucha Press, 1994), and *Book of the Heart: The Poetics, Letters and Life of John Keats* (Lindisfarne Press, 1993). He lives in Kansas City where he works as a teacher and tutor.



From left to right: Major Jackson, poetry judge; Shena McAuliffe, winner for fiction; Andrés Rodríguez, winner for poetry. Photo: Christopher Smith

CALIFORNIA PROGRAMS OFFICE

P&W's California office supported the western literary community by convening regional roundtable meetings in Los Angeles, Oakland, Orange County, Riverside, San Diego, and San Francisco. The meetings brought together writers, presenters, independent publishers, and others to discuss issues such as funding, publicity, and building an audience.

P&W again partnered with the Mountain Writers Center in Portland, Oregon, and the YMCA Writer's Voice in Billings, Montana, to present *Carried Voices: Writers in the West*, an NEA-sponsored consortium project that aimed to increase access to literature in the rural West. The project toured six award-winning writers to five small towns in Montana and

Oregon. The participating poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers reached a total of 900 audience members at 14 events, which took place at libraries, community colleges, and cultural centers.

At a craft lecture at Montana State University Billings, fiction writer Larry Watson connected with audience members regarding the particular sensibility of the West. "My characters are imaginary, but informed by the landscape, observations, memories, and the populations of the West," he explained. "Memory traps and holds on to what is most meaningful." He also advised aspiring writers to "write as much as you can. Look critically at what you've done. And read."

READINGS/WORKSHOPS

Through its Readings/Workshops program, Poets & Writers offers direct support to writers who give readings or conduct workshops in a variety of venues, including libraries, universities, homeless shelters, senior and youth centers, and museums. Last year, with funds raised during P&W's capital campaign, the program expanded to two new cities, New Orleans and Tucson. In total, 967 writers received \$247,450 from Poets & Writers. These writers participated in 2,086 events that were hosted by 472 organizations, and reached an audience of 104,687 people. P&W's fees to writers were more than matched by the presenting organizations, which provided an additional \$307,633 to writers.

>> Readings/Workshops East

NEW YORK

In New York State, where the Readings/Workshops program began in 1970, P&W cosponsored literary events in all 62 counties. P&W also supported writing workshops for special populations in New York City, including prison inmates, homeless individuals, at-risk youth, and senior citizens.



Poet Aimee Nezbukumatatbil reading at the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at New York University in New York City in February 2008.
Photo: Dustin Parsons

At writing workshops held at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in Manhattan, writer Corie Feiner worked with seniors dealing with cognitive memory loss and physical impairment. Lindsay Goldman, the director of the adult day program, wrote: "Our partnership with Poets & Writers is one of our strongest programmatic assets. The weekly writing session is a designated time for introspection, reflection, and processing, even for those who are unable to write or speak without assistance. Though our clients may be physically and cognitively impaired, they maintain the potential for great growth and achievement.

These writing workshops provide them with tools for self-expression and by extension, self-empowerment."



In June 2008, Poets & Writers held its 7th Annual Intergenerational Reading at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore near Lincoln Center where more than fifty senior citizens and teenagers from P&W-sponsored writing workshops came together to read their work. Photo: Christopher Smith

In July 2008, P&W supported poet Baruch Israel's performance with Sacred Slam, a nonprofit based in New York City whose mission promotes respect for diversity and the peaceful resolution of conflict through arts and education. According to project director and founder Ian Koebner: "The diversity of performers, ranging from spoken-word poets to Julliard-trained flutists, matched the diversity of the audience: from native New Yorkers to over 60 youth from Israel, Northern Ireland, Palestine and South Africa....Baruch Israel brought together the best of conventional wordsmithing with the improvisational skills of the jazz greats. His positive messages, which were grounded in urban reality, resonated with everyone in the audience."

At a reading by Roger Bonair Agard at Irene's Coffee and Jazz House in Geneva, NY, in February 2008, host Lauren K. Alleyne reported, "The crowd was a mix of seniors, high school students in groups with their parents, and some college students from the nearby Hobart and William Smith Campus. After I introduced Roger, he stepped up, turned off the mike and began weaving through the crowd and reciting his first poem. Geneva had not seen anything like it, and loved it! Afterwards, a woman grabbed my hand and said, 'Thank you for bringing him—this was good for my soul!'"

ATLANTA

Writer Anne Bucey read at an International Women's Day Poetry event that P&W supported in March 2008, which was cosponsored by the Louise Runyan Performance Company. She reported, "it took place in a packed photography gallery in an uptown

Atlanta neighborhood. The audience of men and women, old and young, black and white was warm and responsive. The endorsement of P&W was significant. Not only did it affirm and compensate the performing artists, but it drew more people who know of P&W's reputation for recognizing writing talent."

CHICAGO

Daniel Godston from the Borderbend Arts Collective writes about Ed Roberson's performance at the Velvet Lounge as part of the Second Annual Chicago Calling Arts Festival in October 2007, "Roberson did an amazing job performing with musicians Douglas Ewart [rainsticks, saxophones, invented instruments] Zimbabwe Nkenya [upright bass], Gary Sykes [drums] and Mike Nelson [conch shells and trumpet]. Roberson's poetry is suffused with an acute awareness of language play, race politics, jazz, and other dynamics. His poetry meshed well with the musicians' approaches."

DETROIT

P&W supported three workshops at the Blushing Sky Writers Playground at the Detroit International Academy for Young Women with poet Quraysh Ali Lansana. Cheri L. R. Taylor, project director, wrote, "After reading and studying Quraysh's book, *They Shall Run: Harriet Tubman Poems*, my students were bursting with questions and requests for Quraysh to read and discuss several poems from the book. It was inspirational and the students were highly engaged. The day ended with students reading their own poems on the theme: Can one woman make a difference in the world? My students are still talking about the event."

NEW ORLEANS

P&W's first funded event in New Orleans was a writing workshop sponsored by James Nolan of the Loyola Writing



Mark Yakich reading at Attema Gallery/Press Street Press in New Orleans in June 2008.

Institute on May 14, 2008, with writer Christine Wiltz. She wrote, "During a tornado watch, undaunted by the Katrina experience, the audience, composed of 30 men and women ranging in age from their early 20's to their 60's, came out in their rain gear and proved a lively group. In our post-Katrina times, we need these kinds of events more than ever to show that this aspect of the city is alive and not just well, but thriving with people eager to share their love of books and writing."



Split This Rock Festival in Washington, D.C. in March 2008. Photo: Bonnie Marcus

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sarah Browning, founder of Split This Rock Festival: Poems of Provocation and Witness, described Poets & Writers' support as "adding incalculable luster and legitimacy" to this first-time event which drew hundreds of poets to Washington, D.C. on March 2008 to speak out about the Iraq War and other social issues. Poets & Writers supported five of the festival's feature poets: Stephen Kuusisto, Alix Olson, Alicia Ostriker, Ishle Park, and Patricia Smith. "There were forces holding us close, braiding the personal and the political, the joy of creating and sharing poems that matter," said Browning. Each of the six readings attracted audiences of 250 to 400.

READINGS/WORKSHOPS SUMMARY

	<i>California</i>	<i>New York</i>	<i>Atlanta</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Detroit</i>	<i>Houston</i>
Writers funded	412	385	37	16	23	20
Events sponsored	736	1,060	59	23	36	34
Audience reached	56,351	32,544	3,492	1,412	1,544	1,278
Writers' fees paid by P&W	\$61,550	\$153,250	\$6,000	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Writers' fees paid by cosponsors	\$162,221	\$96,856	\$4,150	\$4,400	\$4,256	\$5,650
Cosponsoring organizations	155	236	16	9	9	10
Organizations participating for the first time	48	72	7	5	5	5
Counties in which events took place	42	62	1	1	1	1

>> *Readings/Workshops West*

CALIFORNIA

P&W continued its outreach to rural and underserved communities in California, supporting readings and workshops in 42 counties. After the Pan Valley Institute's Tamejavi Festival in Fresno in September 2007, project director Myrna Martinez Nateras said, "The grant allowed us to support poets who come from communities—such as the Hmong and African American communities—that we work with on a daily basis. These communities usually do not get support for their artistic development and are often overlooked when it comes to other funding opportunities."



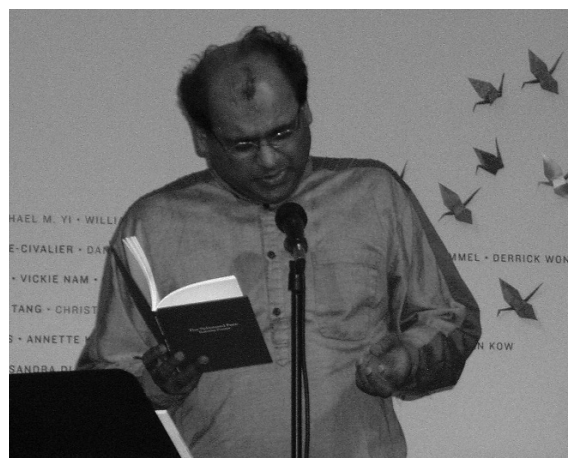
Dorothy Allison and her fiction students at Lambda Literary Foundation's first annual Writers Retreat, held at the American Jewish University in Bel Air, CA in August 2007. Photo: Morgan Gwenwald



Poet A. K. Toney leads a workshop for teens at Stella Middle Charter Academy in Los Angeles in February 2008. Photo: Cheryl Klein

As part of an ongoing partnership with the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, P&W cosponsored a seven-session poetry workshop for teenagers at Stella Middle Charter Academy. The students studied the La Brea Tar Pits (where prehistoric mammals were trapped and preserved) and wrote poems about their own feelings of entrapment and freedom under the guidance of poet A. K. Toney. "The teens learned about poetry as a medium for telling the truth. While peer pressure, school structure, and family and neighborhood dynamics can, at times, feel like entrapment, poetry is an option of freedom," Toney reported.

<i>New Orleans</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>Tucson</i>	<i>Washington, D.C.</i>	<i>Total</i>
9	34	9	22	967
18	72	11	47	2,096
578	4,687	633	2,168	104,687
\$2,750	\$5,050	\$2,450	\$3,900	\$247,450
\$550	\$20,450	\$6,100	\$3,000	\$307,633
7	15	6	9	472
7	6	6	8	169
1	1	1	1	112



Indram Amirtbanayagam reading at the Asian American Writers' Workshop in New York City in May 2008. Photo: Nicole Sealey

SEATTLE

In Seattle, P&W supported 72 literary events, working with organizations including the Richard Hugo House, Seattle Poetry Slam, Youth Speaks Seattle, and the Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival. In June 2008, After poet Deborah Turner read with Voices Rising, an arts organization serving LGBTQ people of color, project director Storme Webber said, "Community involvement is key to the success of Voices Rising. Poets & Writers provides powerful support and affirmation of our work."



Poet Lynne Thompson signs books after a reading at the Seattle Public Library, Douglass-Truth Branch in March 2008, an event sponsored by the Washington Center for the Book. Photo: Mayumi Tsutakawa

HOUSTON

In the first full year of programming in Houston, P&W supported 34 readings and workshops, featuring writers like

Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Zara Houshmand, and Mary Ruefle. In June 2008, after a reading and workshop with Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say, poet Gwendolyn Zepeda said, "This is my second event made possible by P&W.... Every reading and event I do increases my exposure to audiences and improves my reputation as an artist."

TUSCON

In January, P&W began funding readings and workshops in Tucson, Arizona, a midsize city that is home to a large writing community. R/W West director Cheryl Klein traveled to Tucson, where she hosted a well-attended informational meeting about the program at Casa Libre, a local writers center, and met with representatives from the Tucson-Pima Arts Council and the University of Arizona's acclaimed Poetry Center and Native Voices Symposium. P&W supported events with a number of literary organizations, including Antigone Books, Kore Press, and POG: Poetry in Action.

The Readings/Workshops program was made possible with support from the Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Axe-Houghton Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Cowles Charitable Trust, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, New York Times Company Foundation, Abbey K. Starr Charitable Trust, an anonymous donor, and the Friends of Poets & Writers.

WRITERS FOR WRITERS AWARDS

Each year since 1996, P&W has presented the Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award, which honors writers who have volunteered time or donated money to writers' causes, advocated on behalf of writers, or made an exceptional contribution affecting the lives of writers. The 2008 recipients were Toi Derricotte, A. M. Homes, and Peter Straub. The awards were presented to the honorees at P&W's benefit dinner in New York City on March 19, 2008, by Susan Isaacs, chairman of P&W's Board of Directors. More than 350 guests attended the gala dinner, which raised more than \$355,000 to support P&W's programs. The writer John Hodgman served as the evening's master of ceremonies.



From left to right: John Hodgman, master of ceremonies; Toi Derricotte, honoree; Peter Straub, honoree; A. M. Homes, honoree; and Elliot Figman, P&W executive director. Photo: Carolina Kroon

Toi Derricotte cofounded the nonprofit organization Cave Canem in 1996 to counter the underrepresentation of African American poets in writers' workshops and literary programs. She has published four books of poems, and her memoir, *The Black Notebooks* (Norton, 1997), was a recipient of the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

A. M. Homes chairs the PEN Emergency Writers Fund, which assists writers in need. She also serves on the Boards of PEN American Center, The Writers Room, and Yaddo, and the advisory board of Poets & Writers. Homes has published several novels and short story collections. Her book *The Safety of Objects* (HarperCollins, 1999) was released as a feature film in 2003. Her most recent book, *The Mistress's Daughter*, was published in 2007 by Viking.

Peter Straub is a longtime supporter of many small literary organizations dedicated to helping emerging writers. He is a prolific author and his fiction has received numerous awards, including the Bram Stoker Award and the International Horror Guild Award. His latest book, *5 Stories*, will be published by Borderlands Press in August 2008.

Generous underwriting of Poets & Writers' 2008 annual dinner was provided by:

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2008 ANNUAL DINNER LITERARY TABLE HOSTS

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JONATHAN AMES
KEVIN BAKER
MELISSA BANK
ANDY BOROWITZ
DA CHEN
SUSAN CHOI

CAROL HIGGINS CLARK
MARY HIGGINS CLARK
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
ALICE ELLIOTT DARK
NELSON DEMILLE
CORNELIUS EADY
JANET FITCH

NICK FLYNN
SHIRLEY HAZZARD
SUSAN ISAACS
MAJOR JACKSON
ERICA JONG
CAROL MUSKE-DUKES
FRANCINE PROSE

NAHID RACHLIN
ROGER ROSENBLATT
MICHAEL THOMAS
PATRICIA VOLK
AFAA MICHAEL WEAVER
HILMA WOLITZER
MEG WOLITZER

THE AMY AWARDS

In 2005, P&W began sponsoring an annual poetry contest open to women age thirty and under who live in the New York City metropolitan area and on Long Island. Paula Trachtman and Edward Butscher established the award in memory of Amy Rothholz, Ms. Trachtman's daughter. The 2008 winners were Shabnam Piryaee, Mrigaa Sethi, and Jessica Max Stein. The winners will be awarded a cash prize and will give a public reading at the New York Society Library in September 2008.

THE JACKSON POETRY PRIZE

In April 2008, Poets & Writers announced Tony Hoagland as the recipient of the second annual Jackson Poetry Prize. The \$50,000 prize honors an American poet of exceptional talent who has published at least one book of recognized literary merit but has not yet received major national acclaim. The award is designed to provide what all poets need—time and the encouragement to write.

Tony Hoagland was selected by three esteemed judges: the poets Philip Levine, Robert Pinsky, and Ellen Bryant Voigt. Poets were nominated by a panel of their peers who remain anonymous. The prize received thousands of national and international press mentions in print and online.

On May 21, 2008, Tony Hoagland gave a reading at the Nabi Gallery in New York City to celebrate the prize. A video of the occasion was posted on YouTube and on P&W's Web site.



From left to right: Robert Pinsky, Jackson Poetry Prize judge; Tony Hoagland, winner of the second annual Jackson Poetry Prize; Philip Levine, Jackson Poetry Prize judge; Elliot Figman, P&W executive director. Photo: Christopher Smith

Tony Hoagland is the author of three volumes of poetry: *What Narcissism Means to Me* (Graywolf, 2003); *Donkey Gospel* (Graywolf, 1998), winner of the James Laughlin Award of The Academy of American Poets; and *Sweet Ruin* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1993), winner of the Brittingham Prize in Poetry; as well as a collection of essays about poetry, *Real Sofistakashun* (Graywolf, 2006). His poems and critical essays have appeared widely in journals and anthologies such as *American Poetry Review*, *Harvard Review*, and *Ploughshares*. He is the winner of the 2005 O. B. Hardison, Jr. Poetry Prize. Awarded by the Folger Shakespeare Library, this is the only national prize to recognize a poet's teaching as well as his art. Hoagland also received the 2005 Mark Twain Award, given by the Poetry Foundation in recognition of a poet's contribution to humor in American poetry. Hoagland currently teaches in the poetry program at the University of Houston. He is also on the faculty of the Warren Wilson low-residency MFA program.

The prize was made possible by a significant donation from the Liana Foundation and is named for the John and Susan Jackson family.

POETS & WRITERS IN THE FIELD

Each year, Poets & Writers distributes thousands of complimentary copies of *Poets & Writers Magazine* and other materials to literary festivals, conferences, and organizations around the country. In addition, P&W staff attended several of these events where they had the chance to interact with the writers we serve every day. In 2007-2008, P&W staff attended the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in New York City, the Brooklyn Book Festival, the Decatur Book Festival, the Harlem Book Fair, the Latino Book and Family Festival, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Fair, the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, and the Queens Arts Connection.

A generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts supported staff travel to out-of-state events.



R/W East staff members Francheska Melendez and Maren Vespia at the Harlem Book Fair in July 2007. Photo: Jennifer Benka

P&W distributed approximately 10,500 complimentary copies of *Poets & Writers Magazine* and other materials to literary festivals, conferences, and organizations, including (alphabetical by state):

READING AND WRITING FOR SUCCESS
WORKSHOPS
Little Rock, AR

THE ALAMEDA LITERATI BOOK FAIR
Alameda, CA

LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK FESTIVAL
Los Angeles, CA

SAN DIEGO BOOK FAIR
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New Orleans, LA

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Brunswick, ME

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WASHINGTON CHAPTER
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R/W East staff members Bram Hsieh and Nicole Sealey at the Decatur Book Festival in Atlanta, Georgia in August 2007. Photo: Bonnie Marcus



In September 2007, R/W West staff members Cheryl Klein and Jamie FitzGerald visited Houston to meet with writers and presenters and to host a booth at the Latino Book and Family Festival, where they gave away over 200 copies of Poets & Writers Magazine.

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Poets & Writers is grateful for every gift, but due to space limitations, listed here are donors who gave \$500 or more between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, toward annual giving or the benefit dinner.

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Poets & Writers extends a special thank-you to these generous individuals who have pledged to remember Poets & Writers in their wills.

Philip & Marjorie Appleman
Carol J. Makovich
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Paula Trachtman

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Poets & Writers is grateful for the generosity of our Board of Directors and the many individuals who contributed to its Writers Matter endowment campaign. Listed below are those whose contributions were received between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

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2008 INTERGENERATIONAL READING *All Photographs taken by Christopher Smith*



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Poets & Writers is grateful to all foundations, corporations, and governmental organizations whose fiscal support helps make its programs and services accessible to writers. Below is a listing of all institutions contributing \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

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SPONSORSHIP

Poets & Writers continued its longtime partnership with Barnes & Noble Booksellers in 2008. With B&N's support, Poets & Writers reached new audiences across the country and increased the organization's visibility. In addition, Barnes & Noble continued to underwrite the annual Writers for Writers Awards benefit dinner.

In June 2008, teens and senior citizens from P&W-sponsored writing workshops in NYC came together at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore near Lincoln Center to read their work. The event included 51 readers, who ranged in age from 12 to 91.



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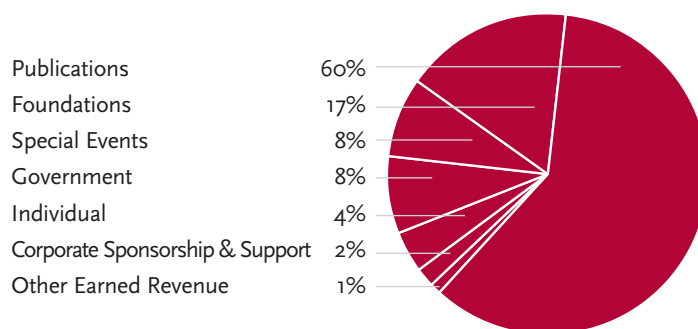
TREASURER'S REPORT 2007–2008

Poets & Writers closed the fiscal year with a strong fiscal report. Although the organization reported an operating deficit of \$121,085, this was due to a relocation to new offices. Earned income remained healthy and accounted for 61% of the organization's revenue. Advertising revenue from *Poets & Writers Magazine* increased 4.1% over the prior year, and the annual dinner was a great success, raising \$355,280.

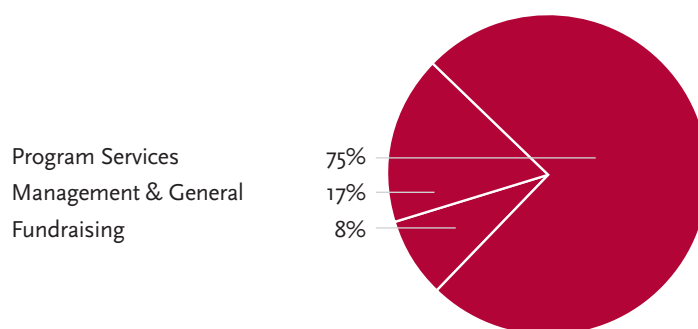
Expenditure for programs represented 75% of total expenses of \$3,524,233.

The accounting firm of Pustorino, Puglisi & Co., LLP, performed an audit of Poets & Writers' financial statements and offered an unqualified opinion that the statements fairly represent its financial position as of June 30, 2008. Following are summaries of the statements of operations and functional expenses from that audit, a complete copy of which is available upon request by writing Poets & Writers' development office.

2008 SOURCES OF INCOME



2008 ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



INCOME	2008	2007
Public Support	\$1,301,599	\$1,272,818
Earned Revenue	2,058,731	2,076,204
Other Income	43,170	62,254
Total	\$3,403,500	\$3,411,276

EXPENSES	2008	2007
Program Services	\$2,655,483	\$2,540,700
Management & General	594,563	603,837
Fundraising	274,187	230,898
Total	\$3,524,233	\$3,375,435

Revenue Over/Under Expenditures	(\$120,733)	\$35,841
Unrealized & Realized Gains	25,242	22,319
Board-Designated Endowment Gift	0	3,000
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$95,491)	\$61,160

POETS & WRITERS MAGAZINE CONTENTS



JULY/AUGUST 2007

Volume 35, Number 4

FEATURES

- A Novelist's Inner Poet:
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- Little Miracles: A Profile of Lydia Davis
- Skywriter: A Profile of Ron Carlson
- Truth, Lies, and Outsider Art:
A Profile of Greg Bottoms
- First-Fiction Annual

NEWS AND TRENDS

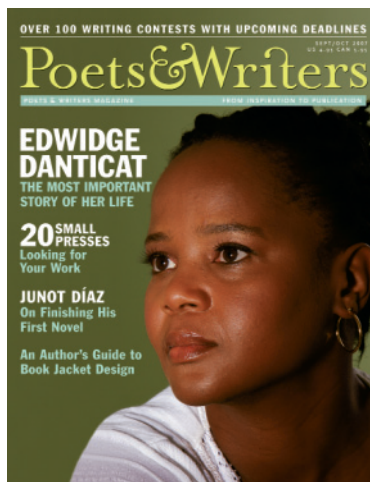
- Not a Bird, Nor a Plane
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- Small Press Points
- The Written Image

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- Chasing the Whale: A Profile of Junot Díaz
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SPECIAL SECTION: OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

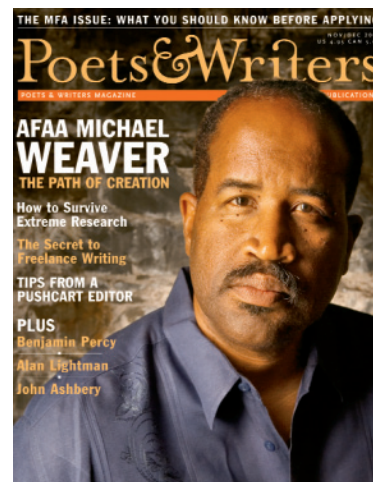
- Eight Great and New: Literary Start-Ups
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- Finding the Centers: A Profile of Manil Suri

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- Q&A: Alice Quinn's Poetic Providence

SPECIAL SECTION: TALENT SEARCH

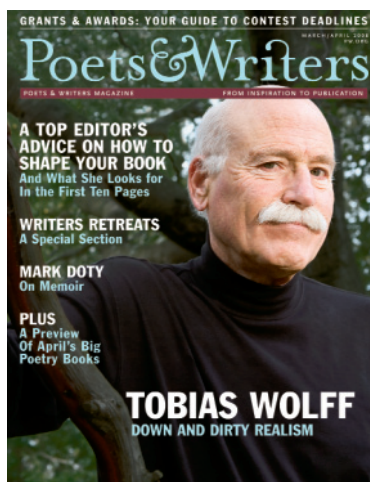
- Calling All Agents: How to Attract Their Attention
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> East

NEW YORK (by county)

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Allegany

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Bronx

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Vivek Narayanan

Nikki Williams

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Chimamanda Ngozi

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Denise Duhamel

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Cattaraugus

Michael Czarnecki

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Chautauqua

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Ken Waldman

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Matthew Lippman

Laurie Stone

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Susannah Risley

Bertha Rogers

Dutchess

Charles Bernstein

Peter Gizzi

Reginald Shepherd

Donna Steiner

Susan Stewart

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Peter Johnson

Essex

Jack Gantos

Roger Mitchell

Franklin

Michael Czarnecki

Fulton

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Genesee

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Peter Kane Dufault

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All of the writers listed below received support from Poets & Writers to give readings and workshops. This list is a testament to Poets & Writers' commitment to provide support for a diverse group of writers at all stages in their careers.

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All of the writers listed below received support from Poets & Writers to give readings and workshops. This list is a testament to Poets & Writers' commitment to provide support for a diverse group of writers at all stages in their careers.

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> *West*

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Mixed Roots Film &
Literary Festival
North Figueroa Association
PEN Center USA West
Red Hen Press
Ruskin Art Club
Smell Last Sunday
Reading Series
Smiley's Books
South Pasadena Public Library
Stella Middle Charter Academy
Valley Contemporary Poets
Madera
Friends of Oakhurst
Branch Library
Poetic Matrix Press
Marin
Enterprise Resource Center
Marin County Free Library,
Fairfax
Marin Poetry Center
Marin Poetry Festival
Mariposa
National Park Service
Mendocino
Friends of Coast
Community Library
Grace Hudson Museum
& Sun House
Mendocino Coast Writers
Conference
Third Thursday Poets
Writers Read
Modoc
Modoc Forum
Monterey
California Rodeo Salinas
Monterey Cowboy Poetry
& Music Festival
Monterey Public Library
Napa
Friends of the St. Helena
Public Library
Napa Valley
Writers' Conference
Nevada
Nevada County Poetry Series
R.L. Crow Publications
Orange
Casa Romantica Reading Series
CSU Fullerton
Tebot Bach, Inc.
Placer
Martha Riley
Community Library
South Placer
Heritage Foundation
Plumas
Plumas County Library, Quincy
Sierra Valley Grange
Riverside
Mt. San Jacinto College

Palm Springs Art Museum
Riverside County Library
Riverside Public Library
Small Wonder Foundation
Trap Door Poetry
UC Riverside-Palm Desert
Sacramento
American River College
Cosumnes River College
CSU Sacramento
Ethel Hart Senior Center
Luna's Café
Malikspeaks
NRP Productions
Poetry Unplugged
Sacramento Poetry Center
Status Unknown
The Saxophone Poets
San Bernardino
Upland Public Library
San Diego
African American Writers
& Artists, Inc.
Barnes & Noble/
Grossmont Center
Border Voices Poetry Project
CSU San Marcos, Arts
& Lectures
Grossmont College
Oceanside Public Library
Red CalacArts Collective
San Diego Book Arts
San Diego Public Library
San Diego Writers, Ink
Southwestern College
Reading Series
Sushi Performance & Visual Art
San Francisco
California Poets in the Schools
Center for the Art of Translation
Galeria de la Raza
Intersection for the Arts
Italian-American Political
Solidarity Club
Kearny Street Workshop
Modern Times Bookstore
San Francisco Boys Home
SF Center for the Book
Small Press Traffic
The Beat Museum
The Translation Project
University of San Francisco
San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival
San Mateo
Skyline College
Santa Clara
De Anza College
MACLA
Poetry Center San Jose
Santa Cruz
Cabrillo College BELA Division
Poetry Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Museum of
Natural History
UC Santa Cruz, Creative Writing
Shasta
Central Valley High School
F.F.A. Booster Club
Siskiyou
Mount Shasta Writers Series

Siskiyou County Library, Yreka
Solano
Third Eye Collective
Sonoma
Healdsburg Arts Council
Petaluma Arts Council
Petaluma Poetry Walk
Redwood Writers
Santa Rosa Junior College
Sebastopol Center for the Arts
Stanislaus
Modesto Junior College
Tehama
Tehama County Library
Trinity
Trinity County Library
Tulare
Cowboy Cultural Committee
Hodges Community Center
Wittman Village
Community Center
Ventura
Arcade Poetry Project
Moorpark College
Oxnard College
Solo Press
Ventura College
Yolo
Davis Branch Library
UC Davis
UC Davis Arboretum
HOUSTON
Arte Publico Press
Art Institute of Houston
Flamenco Poets Society
Gulf Coast
Houston Public Library
Literal, Latin American Voices
Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers
Having Their Say
Spacetaker
Texas Southern University
Voices Breaking Boundaries
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Inside the Writers' Workshop
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Poetry Center
University of Arizona,
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