

## Donor Spotlight: Making the Time to Read with Zibby Owens

Zibby Owens, writer and host of the hit podcast “Moms Don’t Have Time to Read Books,” was one of a number of donors who supported the Poets & Writers COVID-19 Relief Fund this spring. We spent some time getting to know her.

**Question:** The title of your podcast, “Moms Don’t Have Time to Read Books,” pokes fun at the idea that mothers are too busy for literature—but we know how important books are even to the busiest of people! What motivated you to start the podcast?

**Answer:** Yes! I’m a huge book lover. As a mom of four kids, I have always made time to read, but it can be hard. I’m always the one recommending books to friends, and always want to help my fellow moms save time by getting their literary fix—fast!—when life gets in the way.

**Q: What book made you a reader?**

**A:** I remember at age eight finishing *Charlotte’s Web* long after my bedtime, hiding in the bathroom, and crying. I couldn’t believe a book could make me cry. I was hooked.

**Q: With the shift to shelter-at-home and remote work, how has the podcast evolved under “the new normal”?**

**A:** I’ve upped the frequency of the podcast so now I release podcasts daily, seven days a week. I also launched an IGTV series for twelve weeks in which I interviewed up to four authors daily, live, on Instagram. So I got busy!

**Q: Do you have any recommendations for readers currently stuck at home?**

**A:** I’d tell readers stuck at home to try to take advantage of the slower pace to read more. I know life is still nuts. With distance learning and four kids and work and housework, it’s a LOT for me. I get it. Grab pockets of time and just read a couple of pages instead of checking Instagram again. If you let reading into the fabric of daily life, it will make the days better, richer, more vibrant. And pick something to read that you love, not that you feel like you “should” read. No one is reading but you.

**Q: You generously contributed to the Poets & Writers COVID-19 Relief Fund earlier this spring and I believe also contributed to the Book Industry Charitable Foundation. What motivated you to support these causes?**

**A:** Yes, I’ve been very motivated to help during this time, especially to support people in the literary community—from writers and booksellers to providing books for children and schools that need them. I think books are absolutely fundamental to the human existence and I want to help be the conduit that allows stories to reach more people. The right book can change everything.

Photo: Rachel Eliza Griffiths



IN MAY, ED ROBERSON WAS SELECTED AS THE FOURTEENTH RECIPIENT OF THE JACKSON POETRY PRIZE. THE PRIZE IS AWARDED ANNUALLY BY POETS & WRITERS TO AN AMERICAN POET OF EXCEPTIONAL TALENT. ENDOWED BY JOHN AND SUSAN JACKSON, THE PRIZE CARRIES A MONETARY AWARD OF \$70,000 AND AIMS TO PROVIDE WHAT POETS NEED: TIME AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO WRITE. THE JUDGES FOR THIS YEAR’S AWARD WERE POETS NIKKY FINNEY, ANNE WALDMAN, AND ROBERT WRIGLEY.

ASKED WHAT WINNING THE JACKSON POETRY PRIZE MEANS TO HIM, ROBERSON RESPONDED WITH A STORY: “YEARS AGO, I GOT VERY SICK,” HE SAID. “A NIGERIAN WOMAN IN THE KITCHEN WITH OTHER FAMILY WOMEN SAID TO MY FACE, ‘YOU HAVE BIG MIND. YOU DO GREAT THINGS MAYBE. BUT WE LOVE YOU. YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF BASIC THINGS, TOO. YOU NEED TO COME IN HERE AND EAT.’ THEY ALWAYS MADE ME EAT. IFOMA AND HER FAMILY PROBABLY SAVED MY LIFE. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS. THIS AWARD IS LIKE THAT. IT SAYS, NICE WORK, ED, WE LOVE YOU, BUT YOU NEED THIS, TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BASIC THINGS, TOO.”



## NEW BOOKS BY FRIENDS

### CREATIVE NONFICTION

#### PETER ALSON

*The Vig: Confessions of an Ivy League Bookie*  
Arbitrary Press: August 2020

#### ALIZA DUBE

*The Newly Tattooed's Guide to Aftercare*  
Running Wild Press: July 2020

#### PAMELA GAY

*I'm So Glad You're Here: A Memoir*  
She Writes Press: May 2020

#### CHRISTINE HEMP

*Wild Ride Home: Love, Loss, and a Little White Horse, a Family Memoir*  
Arcade/Skyhorse (Simon & Schuster: Distributor): February 2020

#### JOANNE LEEDOM-ACKERMAN, Editor

*The Journey of Liu Xiaobo: From Dark Horse to Nobel Laureate*  
Potomac Books of University of Nebraska Press: April 2020

#### EILEEN OBSER

*Only You*  
Sunbury Press: April 2019

#### LORI TOBIAS

*Storm Beat—A Journalist Reports from the Oregon Coast*  
Oregon State University Press: September 2020

#### GENE TWARONITE

*My Life as a Sperm: Essays from the Absurd Side*  
Absurd Life Press: February 2020

#### STEPHEN WOLF

*An Imperfect Warrior—TRAUMA: One Man's Quest for Strength, Positivity and Faith through Adversity.*  
Self-published: May 2020

### FICTION

#### HENRY ALLEY

*Men Touching*  
Chelsea Station Editions: March 2019

#### PETER ALSON

*The Only Way to Play It*  
Arbitrary Press: August 2020

#### CAREN ANN APPEL

*To Kill a Mocking Girl*  
Crooked Lane Books: May 2020

#### LOIS BAER BARR

*Lope de Vega's Daughter*  
Red Bird Chapbooks: September 2019

#### BONNIE BRAENDLIN

*Shakespeare's Secrets*  
The Ardent Writer Press: August 2020

#### MARTY CORREIA

*Pigeon Mothers*  
My Viral Novel: May 2020

#### MICHAEL J. COSTA

*Time-Traveling Adrian Laos and the Frozen Pharaoh*  
Kingdom of Niihau: January 2020

#### HELEN DAVIS

*The Silent Runner War*  
Dead Fish Books: May 2020

#### JUDY DEARLOVE

*Play On!*  
RCWMS Press: November 2019

#### CAI EMMONS

*Vanishing*  
Leapfrog Press: March 2020

#### MARK FISHMAN

*Thirteen Heavens*  
Guernica Editions: June 2020

#### GINNY FITE

*Blue Girl on a Night Dream Sea*  
Black Opal Books: September 2019

#### ANN MARTI FRIEDMAN

*A Fine Tapestry of Murder*  
Headline Press: August 2020

#### JEFFERY HESS

*No Salvation*  
Down & Out Books: May 2019

#### JANICE MARGOLIS

*Termination Shocks*  
University of Massachusetts Press: April 2019

#### MARGARET POWERS MILARDO

*Boundaries*  
Evening Street Press: November 2019

#### STONE MILAZZO

*The Faith Machine*  
Running Wild Press: May 2020

#### LYNN C. MILLER

*The Unmasking: A Novel*  
University of New Mexico Press: October 2020

#### ROBERT PERRON

*The Blue House Raid*  
The Ardent Writer Press: March 2020

#### TOM ROBERTS

*Lost Scrolls of Archimedes*  
Raven Cliffs Publishing LLC: March 2020

#### DIANNE ROMAIN

*The Trumpet Lesson: A Novel*  
She Writes Press: September 2019

#### SARI ROSENBLATT

*Father Guards the Sheep*  
University of Iowa Press: November 2020

#### LB SEDLACEK

*Four Thieves of Vinegar & Other Short Stories*  
Alien Buddha Press: February 2020

#### LIZA NASH TAYLOR

*Etiquette for Runaways—A Novel*  
Blackstone Publishing: August 2020

#### JUDITH TEITELMAN

*Guesthouse for Ganesha*  
She Writes Press: May 2019

#### STANLEY TRICE

*High School Rocket Science (For Extraterrestrial Use Only)*  
Self-published: May 2020

#### LILY TUCK

*Heathcliff Redux*  
Atlantic Monthly Press: February 2020

#### PAUL VIDICH

*The Coldest Warrior*  
Pegasus Books: February 2020

### POETRY

#### KERRY BRACKETT

*Surviving Myself*  
Guerrilla Ignition Publishing: April 2020

#### ROBERT EASTWOOD

*Locus/Loci*  
Main Street Rag Press: November 2019

#### JANE EBIHARA

*A Reminder of Hunger and Wings*  
Finishing Line Press: February 2019

#### TERRI GLASS

*Being Animal*  
Kelsay Books: September 2020

#### AMY GORDON

*Deep Fahrenheit*  
Prolific Press: April 2019

#### LINDA HILLRINGHOUSE

*The Things I Didn't Know to Wish For*  
NYQ Books: May 2020

#### ALICE JONES

*Vault*  
Apogee Press: July 2020

#### PETER KAHN

*Little Kings*  
Nine Arches Press: June 2020

#### LEATHA KENDRICK

*And Luckier*  
Accents Publishing: April 2020

#### CLAIRE KRULIKOWSKI

*Lying in the Arms of God: Poems of a Sacred Romance*  
Self-published (via KDP): March 2020

#### RONALD LANDS

*Final Path*  
Finishing Line Press: May 2020

#### RICHARD LYONS

*Heart House*  
Emrys Press: January 2020

#### TIM MAYO

*Notes to the Mental Hospital Timekeeper*  
Kelsay Books: November 2019

#### GERALD MCCARTHY

*Door in the Wall*  
Spuyten Duyvil Publishing: January 2020

#### PETER MURPHY

*Mean Time*  
Moonstone Press: September 2019

#### GRACE C. OCASIO

*Family Reunion*  
Broadstone Books: March 2020

#### FRANK PAINO

*Obscura*  
Orison Books: May 2020

#### MICHAEL POAGE

*An Incident That Might Lead To Something*  
Spartan Press: March 2020

#### ELIOT SCHAIN

*The Distant Sound*  
Sixteen Rivers Press: April 2020

#### LB SEDLACEK

*The Poet Next Door*  
Cyberwit: February 2020

#### JUDITH SMALL

*Second Tongue*  
Brighthorse Books: November 2019

#### BEVERLY STOCK

*The Prayerful Poet*  
Elm Hill/HarperCollins Christian Publishing: May 2020

#### LUKE TURNER

*crown confessions vol. 1*  
Self-published: March 2019

#### LESLIE ULLMAN

*The You That All Along Has Housed You: A Sequence*  
Nine Mile Books: April 2019

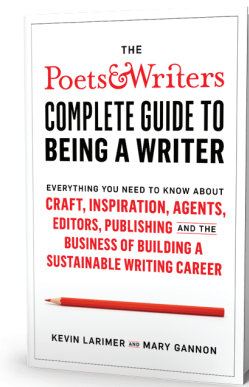
#### CLEVELAND WALL

*Let X=X*  
Kelsay Books: September 2019

#### AVERY YOUNG

*neckbone: visual verses*  
Northwestern University Press—TriQuarterly: June 2019

## THE POETS & WRITERS COMPLETE GUIDE TO BEING A WRITER



We are proud to announce the publication of *The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer* by **Kevin Larimer** and **Mary Gannon**. The volume condenses fifty years' worth of inspiration, advice, and resources into one indispensable resource.

Here are a few of the nice things publishing professionals have had to say about our book:

**“A book of benefit to well-practiced as well as novice writers, full of useful advice, pointers, and prompts.” — Kirkus Reviews**

**“This book clears the mist for emerging and established writers and provides a comprehensive answer to every question a writer might ask.” — Nicole Aragi, literary agent, founder of Aragi, Inc.**

**“Leave it to Poets & Writers to give us the comprehensive guide to the writer's life. Here is the inspiration to feed your dreams as well as the nuts-and-bolts advice to put food on the table. I wish this excellent resource had been around when I was starting out!” — Tayari Jones, author of *An American Marriage***

The book's launch came right at the start of nationwide shelter-at-home orders, so we had to completely rethink our book launch and marketing plan. Still, we are stoked about this book!

We were fortunate to work with editor Jofie Ferrari-Adler and the entire team at Avid Reader Press, a Simon & Schuster imprint, to bring this book into the world during a time of uncertainty and upheaval. In April, we launched our first ever Instagram Write-a-thon event as a replacement for our in-person events—taking a bit of our own advice to be proactive about marketing, whatever the circumstance. Our followers enjoyed a week of writing prompts, advice, and Action Items from the book. We also partnered with the Center for Fiction to host a virtual panel on writing as an act of generative good. Larimer and Gannon were joined by novelist Nicole Dennis-Benn, publisher and editor Jamia Wilson, literary agent Annie Hwang, and indie publicist Michael Taekens. A host of spectacular folks!

“It was an absolute joy to put this book together,” say Larimer, who serves as editor in chief of *Poets & Writers*. “Mary and I are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with our editor, Jofie, and we're pleased with the reception so far. The work of writers is so incredibly important, perhaps now more than ever, as they use their craft to make sense of an increasingly complex present—and to envision a better future—and I'm certain that this creative resource will be a valuable companion no matter what lies ahead. We look forward to getting it into the hands of many more writers in the coming months!”

Order your copy at [pw.org/completeguide](http://pw.org/completeguide).