

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.



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

TONE 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
Briarthorse 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

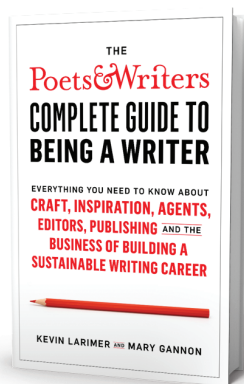
CLEVELAND WALL

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 Taeckens. 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.

ED ROBERSON: 2020 JACKSON PRIZE WINNER

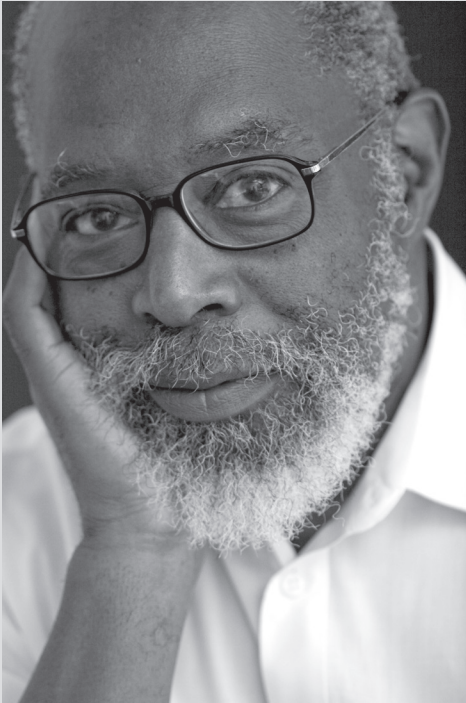


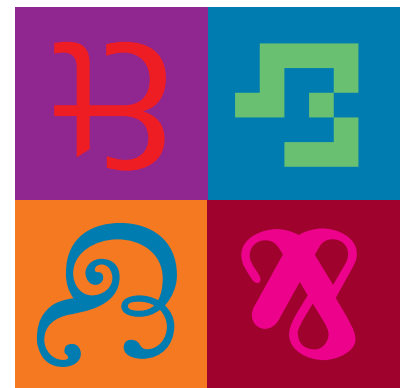
Photo: Rachel Eliza Griffiths

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. Ifeoma 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."

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