



Poets & Writers

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

INTRODUCTION

Last year, our signature Readings/Workshops program continued its nationwide expansion, made possible by our successful capital campaign in 2006, which enabled us to establish an endowment to bring the program to six new cities. In 2007, we began supporting writers participating in literary events in Washington, D.C. and in Houston. In Washington, D.C., we funded events taking place at venues, including Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, Edmund Burke High School, and Busboys & Poets. We also partnered with Arte Publico Press, Nuestra Palabra, and *Literal* magazine to bring writers to audiences in Houston. In addition to the cities noted above, our Readings/Workshops program supports writers and organizations throughout New York State and California, and in Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, and Seattle. Last year, we provided \$215,050 to 732 writers participating in 1,745 events.

Poets & Writers Magazine celebrated its 20th anniversary last year and offered a number of helpful special sections, including a collection of articles on the increasingly popular MFA degree in creative writing. The magazine also took a look at writers conferences, including old favorites like Bread Loaf and Yaddo, as well as some newer destinations—the Macondo Workshop for Latino writers and Soul Mountain for African American writers. We also offered “The Indie Initiative,” our annual feature on small presses looking for new work, and “Big Six,” a snapshot of the country’s largest publishers of literary books.

Our Information Services staff continued to provide trustworthy and personalized answers to hundreds of writers’ questions on topics ranging from vanity presses to literary agents. The Information Services department also added 528 new writers to our online Directory of Writers, bringing the total number of authors listed in it to more than 7,500.

Poets & Writers Online attracted 3,000 visits daily and continued to feature regular news updates and other online-only content from *Poets & Writers Magazine*; a calendar of events funded by our Readings/Workshops program; links to over 1,500 resources for writers; and the highly active Speakeasy message forum. With generous funding from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and an anonymous donor, we began a comprehensive overhaul of our Web site, which will relaunch in early 2008.

In March 2007, Poets & Writers announced Elizabeth Alexander as the inaugural recipient of the Jackson Poetry Prize, a major, new award honoring an American poet. The \$50,000 prize received thousands of national and international press mentions in print and online newspapers and literary blogs.

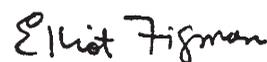
In addition to the Jackson Prize, Poets & Writers also sponsored the Writers Exchange contest and the Amy Awards. Poet Paige Ackerson-Kiely and fiction writer Dorothy Gannon from Vermont, and poet Larry Colker and fiction writer Elaine Beale from California, were our Writers Exchange winners. Shabnam Piryaee, Mrigaa Sethi, and Jessica Max Stein were the winners of the 12th annual Amy Awards contest, which is open to women poets aged thirty and under who live in the New York City metropolitan area and on Long Island.

All of our programs depend on our talented staff, dedicated Board of Directors, Advisory Board, volunteers, and our generous individual and institutional donors.

Thanks so much 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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20 years

A LOOK BACK AT THE CHANGING FACE OF LITERATURE



TOO often, perhaps, anniversary celebrations fall into the self-serving form of an inventory of accomplishments. Over the sound of bells and whistles, through a flurry of brightly colored confetti, one can almost hear the cheer: “We’ve been around *this* long, we must be doing something right!” While it is our sincere hope that, on the occasion of our twentieth year of publication, *Poets & Writers Magazine* might be considered worthy of such a distinction, that kind of self-congratulatory stance is not our only motive for this special section. It’s true we’d like to mark the occasion. But we thought we’d do so by asking a handful of creative writers and publishing professionals—just some of the people who comprise the national

literary community for which this magazine exists to serve *and* observe—to consider the changes (some good, some not so good) that have occurred in their chosen fields during the past two decades. In looking back on the past, they shed some light on the future as well. And, in an effort to provide some recognizable landmarks along the way, we note some of the literary trends and events of each year. From the debates over federal arts funding that made headlines in the late ’80s to the technological advances in publishing that ushered in the new millennium to the recent controversies surrounding truth in memoir, the past twenty years have been filled with challenges and achievements, successes and failures. What will the next twenty bring?

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57 POETS & WRITERS

From the January/February 2007 Issue

This year Poets & Writers celebrated two decades of publication of *Poets & Writers Magazine*. We marked the occasion by including in our January/February 2007 issue the special feature “20 Years: A Look Back at the Changing Face of Literature.” Accompanied by a timeline of *Poets & Writers Magazine*’s past, “20 Years” comprised short essays by authors, editors, agents, and other industry professionals on the changes they have witnessed firsthand in the creative writing and publishing fields since 1987.

In keeping with our aim to champion emerging writers, in the July/August 2006 issue, we published our sixth annual profile of up-and-coming fiction writers and their notable debuts, and the November/December 2006 issue’s “Finishing the First,” an in-depth feature on twelve poets who published their first books in 2006.

As a way to help inform the decisions our readers face as they forge their writing lives, we compiled several special sections this year. “Matters of Degree,” in our November/December 2006 issue, offered a collection of articles on the increasingly popular MFA degree in creative writing; “Writers Retreat Annual,” in our March/April 2007 issue, provided a glimpse inside the country’s oldest retreats—Bread Loaf, Sewanee, Squaw Valley, and Yaddo—as well as some newer destinations—the Macondo Workshop for Latino writers and Soul Mountain for African American writers. To provide publishing advice, we offered “The Indie Initiative” (September/October 2006), our annual feature on small and independent presses looking for new work, and “Big Six” (May/June 2007), a snapshot of the country’s largest publishers of literary books along with their imprints, key players, and the major titles that have established their reputations. >>

Poets & Writers' organizational commitment to highlighting the diverse voices of contemporary literature was reflected in profiles of esteemed authors such as Iranian American author Nahid Rachlin; Chicana novelist Helena María Viramontes; American poetry legends Alice Notley and Lawrence Ferlinghetti; Pulitzer Prize winners Paul Muldoon, Richard Ford, and David Remnick; and the next generation of award winners, including novelists Emily Barton, Jennifer Egan, Nathan Englander, and Gary Shteyngart, and memoirists Tom Bissell and Daniel Mendelsohn.

Press mentions and interviews with *Poets & Writers Magazine* editors appeared in several print publications, including *Newsday*, *Newsweek International*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Sacramento Bee*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and Arizona's *Sentinel-Record*, as well

as numerous blogs such as Mediabistro's GalleyCat and MBToolbox, the National Book Critics Circle Board of Directors' Critical Mass, and Big Bad Book Blog.

Poets & Writers Magazine continues to enjoy strong advertising revenue, which this year totaled \$1,075,767.

Total circulation of the magazine is 60,000.

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

INFORMATION SERVICES

Our 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 on topics ranging from first book contests to applying to MFA programs. Information Services is also responsible for maintaining the online Directory of Writers, which now lists the publication credits and contact information for over 7,500 writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Last year, 528 new writers were added to the Directory.

The Directory is a great resource for writers trying to get in touch with one another, for organizers of reading series and conferences, and for anyone interested in meeting fellow writers who live in their area.

Utilizing the advanced search function, users of the Directory can search for writers by multiple criteria such as the city they live in, where they've been published, and whether or not they give readings. People wishing to apply to be listed can do so by completing a simple online form. Those writers who are already listed can update their information by logging in with a user ID and password.

Staff also distributed hundreds of copies of our Top Ten Questions Writers Ask brochure (see right) to book festivals and writers' conferences.

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



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, from schools and libraries, to shelters, senior centers, and book festivals. Last year, with funds raised during P&W's capital campaign, the program expanded to Houston and Washington, D.C. In total, 732 writers received \$215,050. The writers participated in 1,745 events that were hosted by 403 organizations, and reached an audience of 93,634 people. P&W's fees to writers were more than matched by the presenting organizations, which provided an additional \$282,297.

>> *Readings/Workshops East*

NEW YORK

Last year we cosponsored literary events in all 62 counties of New York State. Grants from the Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, the Concordia Foundation, and the Abbey K. Starr Charitable Trust enabled us to continue our work with teens and seniors by funding writing workshops at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center in the Bronx; Carter G. Woodson Center, JASA Storefront Senior Center, and Jobs for Youth Apprenticeship in Brooklyn; Lenox Hill Senior Center at St. Peter's Church, Lenox Hill HEP Program, Penn South Senior Center, Goddard Riverside Community Center, Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, Stanley Isaacs Community Center, and Urban Word in Manhattan; Queens Community Center in Queens; and PAL (Police Athletic League) in Staten Island.

ATLANTA

We funded 31 writers at venues in Atlanta, including the Academy Theatre, Atlanta Vet Center, Callanwolde Arts Center, Charis Circle, Composition Gallery, Decatur Book Festival, and the Shrine of the Black Madonna. Additional events in Atlanta were cosponsored by *Five Points* literary magazine; Indie Book Store; Natural Reignz, Inc., and Poetry Atlanta. Ann Lynn, who facilitated the workshops at the Atlanta Vet Center with women veterans from the Gulf War, said of the workshops: "It's hard to put into words what this experience meant. It was like great poetry, which is in the end un-paraphraseable—like wading into deep water for two hours each week with six other women, all intent on making sure no one drowned, each one throwing out a hand when it was needed."

CHICAGO

We continued funding events in Chicago sponsored by presenters like the Discrete Reading Series and Young Chicago

Authors, as well as a number of new presenters, including the Iran House of Greater Chicago, THE2NDHAND, and the Nellie Prather Foundation. Director of Iran House Simin H. Rasmussen wrote, "As a cultural organization offering free events to the general public, this was our first event where we were able to provide an honorarium to a writer for his or her presentation."

DETROIT

P&W staff visited Detroit in May 2007 and held an informational meeting about our R/W program. We had an enthusiastic turnout of about 30 people, including writers and sponsoring organizations in the area, many of whom were learning about our program for the first time. The meeting was hosted by M.L. Liebler at the Scarab Club in Detroit, an established venue for arts and culture. We funded events in Detroit with a number of presenters, including Springfield Arts, Links Hall, and Lit Fest.



Teens and seniors who have participated in workshops funded by P&W gather after an inter-generational reading of their work, which was held at Barnes & Noble's Lincoln Triangle store in New York City. Photo: Christopher Smith

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The literary community in Washington, D.C. warmly welcomed Poets & Writers, as we began our first year of funding writers and events in the city. We supported events at 11 venues in the city, including Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, Edmund Burke High School, Busboys & Poets, CentroNia, and the Writer's Center.

After a workshop cosponsored by the Hurston/Wright Foundation at the University of the District of Columbia, writer Doreen Baingana expressed her appreciation for R/W funding: "I think it's great that P&W is supporting writers as we share our gifts with our communities. As an African American writer living in D.C., I was especially grateful to have made a

READINGS/WORKSHOPS SUMMARY

	California	New York	Atlanta	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Seattle	Washington, D.C.	Total
Writers funded	374	260	31	10	9	7	27	14	732
Events sponsored	647	913	46	17	9	24	57	32	1,745
Audience reached	50,273	27,031	2,586	617	1,035	1,630	9,689	773	93,634
Writers' fees paid by P&W	\$65,025	\$129,050	\$5,000	\$2,700	\$2,300	\$2,250	\$4,825	\$3,900	\$215,050
Writers' fees paid by cosponsors	\$153,272	\$99,675	\$1,615	\$1,550	\$3,650	\$4,750	\$14,585	\$3,200	\$282,297
Cosponsoring organizations	152	197	14	7	3	5	14	11	403
Organizations participating for the first time	51	54	10	2	1	5	12	11	146
Counties in which events took place	45	62	1	1	1	1	1	1	113

real connection with the African American students who do not take writing opportunities for granted. To be paid to do what I love is a real blessing!"

>> *Readings/Workshops West*

CALIFORNIA

P&W sponsored readings and workshops in 45 of California's 58 counties, and continued its outreach to rural and underserved communities, especially in California's Central Valley. After a performance by poet Joshua Huerta, Juan Guerrero of the Wittman Village Community Center in Visalia reported, "The audience was composed of low-income Hispanic and Southeast Asian individuals... We operate our program in the poorest area of our city. Without this type of support, [our program] would be nonexistent."

P&W partnered with the California Center for the Book to sponsor workshops with poet Susan Wooldridge in rural Northern California libraries and also workshops for Spanish-speaking and bilingual audiences with poet Tim Z. Hernandez in the Central Valley.

With support from the Teichert Foundation, P&W sponsored writing workshops for teens at three public libraries in the Sacramento Valley. "All three groups responded very well to the lessons we taught and were eager to share their new work at the close of each session," reported poet Rae Gouirand, who co-taught the workshops with fiction writer Juli Case. "We had 'hungry' participants who were specifically seeking programming in creative writing that was age-appropriate and publicly accessible—the workshops definitely served an existing need."

SEATTLE

In its first full year of operation in Seattle, the R/W program supported 57 literary events featuring 27 writers, including Dorothy Allison, Charles Simic, and Seattle's Poet Populist, Jourdan Imani Keith.

After a reading with Ravenna Press at the Richard Hugo House, fiction writer Norman Lock reported, "I have found through the years that a writer is served beyond all expectation by meeting his audience. I count the reading among the high-water marks of my career and am grateful to Poets & Writers."

HOUSTON

In January 2007, P&W expanded the R/W program to Houston, Texas. After holding an introductory meeting of presenters at the literary center Inprint, and meeting individually with other members of the Houston arts community, P&W funded its first Houston literary event—a reading by poet Suheir Hammad with *Voices Breaking Boundaries*. Other prominent and grassroots Houston literary organizations, including Arte Publico Press, *Gulf Coast*, *Nuestra Palabra*, and *Literal* magazine, received support in the inaugural year of the R/W program in Houston.

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

POETS & WRITERS ONLINE



The redesigned Poets & Writers Online will feature enhanced content and customizable features.

Since Poets & Writers launched its Web site in 1996, it has become a key destination for writers looking for information, guidance, and support to help further their work. Last year, the site attracted 3,000 visitors daily. The site continues

to feature daily news items, online-only content from the magazine, a searchable archive of past issues, an interactive calendar of all the writers and events funded through P&W's Readings/Workshops program, an always expanding page of links to other Web sites, and the Speakeasy message forum, which serves as a virtual community for hundreds of writers.

This year, with generous funding from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and an anonymous donor, we began a comprehensive redesign of the site, which will launch in early 2008. Notable new features will include searchable databases of literary magazines, small presses, and grants and awards; classified job listings; a national calendar of literary events; and My P&W, which will allow users to tailor their experience on the site to their own interests by saving favorite articles from the magazine and contest deadlines. Our Directory of Writers will be expanded to allow listed writers to include bios, photos, and dates of upcoming readings. Finally, the site will feature increased online-only and multimedia content produced by *Poets & Writers Magazine*.

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

CALIFORNIA PROGRAMS OFFICE

In addition to providing funding for literary events through the Readings/Workshops program, P&W's California office supported the western literary community in a variety of ways. P&W convened a total of eight regional roundtable meetings for individuals working in the literary field in Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, 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 participated in *Carried Voices: Writers in the West*, an NEA-sponsored consortium project with the Mountain Writers Center in Portland, Oregon, and the YMCA Writer's Voice in Billings, Montana. The project increased access to literary events by touring 14 award-winning writers to 18 towns in rural Montana, Oregon, California, and Wyoming. The participating poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers reached a total of 1,500 audience members at 34 events.

"Many students who attend Clackamas are from small, rural communities," said Professor Susan Mach of Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, where poets Tom Crawford, Dorianne Laux, and Clemens Starck visited. "Bringing writers to campus helps students become aware that a writing life exists beyond pages in a textbook. Hearing a poet discuss how she struggles with shaping a line, or a fiction writer detail research he conducted for a novel, is instructive and inspiring, and exposes students to an aspect of culture that exists beyond the Internet or multiplex cinema."

Major support for P&W's California programs office has been provided by the James Irvine Foundation and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Additional support was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Teichert Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

WRITERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Vermont poet Paige Ackerson-Kiely and fiction writer Dorothy Gannon were the 2006 Writers Exchange program winners.



From left to right: Dorothy Gannon, WEX winner for fiction; poetry judge Marilyn Chin; Paige Ackerson-Kiely, WEX winner for poetry; and Bonnie Rose Marcus, director of the program. Photo: Christopher Smith

The program, created in 1984, awards 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 of their work. The writers are selected based on manuscripts they submit to P&W. Judges for the Vermont contest were novelist Meg Wolitzer and poet Marilyn Chin.

While in New York, the winners met with agents Gail Hochman and Lisa Bankoff, poets Edward Hirsch and David Lehman, and editors from Atria Books, Viking, and the *New Yorker*.

Many past winners have gone on to publish books, receive awards, or secure teaching positions as a result of their participation in the program. To date, 72 writers from 29 states have participated in P&W's Writers Exchange. The roster of past winners includes the fiction writers Sue Monk Kidd, Fae Myenne Ng, Mona Simpson, and Susan Straight, and poets Mike Chitwood, Roger Fanning, and David Mura.

CALIFORNIA WRITERS EXCHANGE

Last year, thanks to special funding from the James Irvine Foundation, Poets & Writers was also able to offer writers from California the opportunity to experience the Writers Exchange in New York. P&W received over 1,300 entries for the California Writers Exchange contest. Poet Charles Harper Webb selected Larry Colker of San Pedro as the winner in the poetry category; novelist Cristina García selected Elaine Beale of Oakland as the fiction winner.

In May, Ms. Beale and Mr. Colker traveled to New York City with P&W's California staff. There they met with literary agents, editors at the *New Yorker* and the *Paris Review*, and writers including Michael Cunningham, Vivian Gornick, and David Lehman. They also gave a reading at Housing Works Used Book Café.

After the trip, Ms. Beale reported, "[California WEX] boosted my confidence, and produced some really positive connections. It provided me with more of an 'insider's view' of how the world of publishing works, and demystified some of its workings.



From left to right: Cheryl Klein, director of the California office; Elaine Beale, California WEX winner for fiction; Larry Colker, California WEX winner for poetry; and Jamie FitzGerald, California programs associate. Photo: Christopher Smith

It encouraged me to complete my novel manuscript and to follow up on trying to get an agent and publisher."

The California Writers Exchange was made possible by a special grant from the James Irvine Foundation.

WRITERS FOR WRITERS AWARDS

Each year, P&W presents its Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award to three 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. On February 27, 2007, over 330 guests attended P&W's benefit dinner in New York City, at which the eleventh annual Writers for Writers Awards were presented by Susan Isaacs, chairman of P&W's Board of Directors, to E. Ethelbert Miller, Francine Prose, and Susan Richards Shreve. The gala dinner, which raised \$408,000 to support P&W's programs, was chaired by Maureen Mahon Egen, a P&W Board member and former Deputy Chairman and Publisher of Hachette Book Group USA. The author and radio personality Kurt Andersen served as the evening's master of ceremonies.



P&W Board president Celia H. Currin; honoree Susan Richards Shreve; P&W executive director Elliot Figman; benefit chair, P&W Board member, and former deputy chairman and publisher of Hachette Book Group USA Maureen Mahon Egen; honorees E. Ethelbert Miller and Francine Prose; P&W Board chairman Susan Isaacs; and master of ceremonies Kurt Andersen. Photo: Christopher Smith

The poet E. Ethelbert Miller was honored for his tireless advocacy for literature and writers in the Washington, D.C. area over three decades. As director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University, a post he has held since 1974, Mr. Miller has mentored countless young writers, connecting them with opportunities to hone their craft, build an audience, and publish their work. At Howard, he founded the Ascension Poetry Reading Series, which was one of the most influential literary series in Washington, D.C.

Fiction writer and essayist Francine Prose was honored for actively defending authors from censorship and persecution

through her work with the PEN American Center. Ms. Prose was a cofounder of its Freedom to Write program, which defends authors who are imprisoned, threatened, or attacked in the course of carrying out their work. It also protests book bannings in schools and counters legal challengers to the First Amendment.

Novelist Susan Richards Shreve was honored for her work, over 25 years, to bring writers and readers together as a founder and Board member of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation. The Washington, D.C.-based foundation awards a fiction prize to five writers each year and sponsors literary events. Ms. Shreve was also instrumental in the creation of the organization's Writers in the Schools program, which brings over 75 authors a year into public high schools to share their work with students and encourage the next generation of readers and writers.

Generous underwriting of Poets & Writers' 2007 annual dinner was provided by:

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THEODORE C. ROGERS

THE AMY AWARDS

Shabnam Piryaei, Mrigaa Sethi, and Jessica Max Stein were the winners of the 12th annual Amy Awards contest. The contest is open to women poets aged thirty and under who live in the New York City metropolitan area and on Long Island. The winners were awarded a cash prize and gave a public reading in October at the New York Society Library. Ms. Piryaei is a graduate student at New York University and has poetry forthcoming in *The Florida Review*. Ms. Sethi is also an MFA candidate at NYU, and Ms. Stein teaches English at the City University of New York.

Paula Trachtman and Edward Butscher established the award in memory of Amy Rothholz, Ms. Trachtman's daughter. Poets & Writers began administering the award in 2005.



From left to right: Paula Trachtman with Amy Award winners Mrigaa Sethi, Shabnam Piryaei, and Jessica Max Stein. Photo: Tim Gyves

THE JACKSON POETRY PRIZE

In March 2007, Poets & Writers announced Elizabeth Alexander as the inaugural recipient of the Jackson Poetry Prize, a new, major award for poetry. 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.



Elizabeth Alexander, winner of the inaugural Jackson Poetry Prize. Photo: Christopher Smith

Ms. Alexander was selected by three esteemed judges: the poets Lucille Clifton, Stephen Dunn, and Jane Hirshfield. The new prize received thousands of national and international press mentions in print and online.

Soon after the announcement, Ms. Alexander gave a reading at a P&W donor event to celebrate the prize, and video from the occasion was posted on YouTube and on our own Web site, marking the organization's first foray into online video content.

Elizabeth Alexander is a poet, essayist, playwright, and teacher. She is the author of four books of poems, including *American Sublime* (Graywolf Press, 2005), which was one of three finalists for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize. She is also a scholar of African American literature and culture, and published a collection of essays on the subject, *The Black Interior* (Graywolf Press, 2003). She has read her work across the U.S. and in Europe, the Caribbean, and South America. Her poetry, short stories, and critical prose have been published in dozens of periodicals and anthologies. She is a professor at Yale University and lives in New Haven, Connecticut.

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 (for a full list, please see opposite page). In addition, P&W staff members attend several of these events, where they have the chance to interact with the writers we serve everyday. Following are some highlights from 2006–2007.

Atlanta, GA

In March 2007, the Association of Writers and Writing Programs held its annual conference in Atlanta. In addition to interacting with hundreds of attendees who visited P&W's booth, P&W staff also participated in the conference. Director of R/W (East) Bonnie Rose Marcus moderated a panel with several of our R/W sponsors from Atlanta, including Megan Sexton from *Five Points* literary magazine, Collin Kelley from Poetry Atlanta, Rochelle Spencer from Spellman College, and Mark Fitten from the *Chattahoochee Review*. In 2006, P&W also participated in the first annual Decatur Book Festival.

California

Throughout 2006–2007, staff from P&W's California office conducted numerous outreach events and informational sessions. They provided information to budding writers at the *Los Angeles Times* Book Festival in April and the inaugural Leimert Park Village Book Fair in Los Angeles in June.



Jamie FitzGerald and Cheryl Klein of P&W's California office at the Asian Pacific American Book Festival in May. Photo: Bronwyn Mauldin

In May, P&W was a proud cosponsor of the first annual Asian Pacific American Book Festival in Los Angeles, which featured writers including Victoria Chang, Sesshu Foster, and Amy Uyematsu.



Francheska Melendez and Maren Vespa of P&W's main office at the Harlem Book Fair in July. Photo: Jennifer Benka

New York, NY

Poets & Writers participated in two major literary festivals in New York City in 2006. In July, we once again hosted a booth at the Harlem Book Fair, and in September, we participated in the first annual Brooklyn Book Festival. Both events drew enthusiastic crowds from all over the city.

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

P&W distributed over 11,500 complimentary copies of *Poets & Writers Magazine* and other materials to literary festivals, conferences, and organizations, including (alphabetical by state):

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BOOK FESTIVAL Los Angeles, CA	ESSENCE OF MOTOWN LITERARY CONFERENCE Detroit, MI	MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE WRITERS' WEEK Purchase, NY
LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE BOOK FAIR Los Angeles, CA	FLATHEAD RIVER WRITERS CONFERENCE Whitefish, MT	MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM Schenectady, NY
LITERACY NETWORK OF GREATER LOS ANGELES Los Angeles, CA	NATIONAL LATINO WRITERS CONFERENCE Albuquerque, NM	FIELDSTONE SECONDARY SCHOOL Thiells, NY
LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK FESTIVAL Los Angeles, CA	BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL Brooklyn, NY	NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING Cullowhee, NC
RED HEN PRESS Los Angeles, CA	BROWNSVILLE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL Brooklyn, NY	FREE EXPRESSIONS: WRITING THE BREAKOUT NOVEL Montreat, NC
PETALUMA ARTS COUNCIL Petaluma, CA	LEGION OF LIT MAGS Brooklyn, NY	COLUMBUS WRITERS CONFERENCE Columbus, OH
POETRY OUT LOUD Sacramento, CA	MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CENTER FOR BLACK LITERATURE Brooklyn, NY	OREGON STATE POETRY CONFERENCE Ashland, OR
SAN DIEGO BOOK FAIR San Diego, CA	ADELPHI UNIVERSITY Gaden City, NY	FREE EXPRESSIONS: WRITING THE BREAKOUT NOVEL Hood River, OR
SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE San Francisco, CA	EASTERN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY Napanoch, NY	MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WRITERS' CLUB CONFERENCE Blue Bell, PA
WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION, SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER San Mateo, CA	92nd STREET Y BOOK FAIR New York, NY	PHILADELPHIA WRITERS' CONFERENCE Philadelphia, PA
SANTA BARBARA BOOK & AUTHOR FESTIVAL Santa Barbara, CA	ASSOCIATION OF JOINT-LABOR MANAGEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS New York, NY	PENNWRITERS, INC. CONFERENCE Pittsburgh, PA
EDEN WRITERS CONFERENCE Santa Clara, CA	BARUCH COLLEGE New York, NY	WORDFEST Philadelphia, PA
NAPA VALLEY WRITERS' CONFERENCE St. Helena, CA	BLUESTOCKINGS BOOKS New York, NY	FREE EXPRESSIONS: WRITING THE BREAKOUT NOVEL Warwick, RI
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2007 WRITERS FOR WRITERS AWARDS *All Photographs taken by Christopher Smith.*



Benefit chair and P&W Board member Maureen Mahon Egen addresses more than 330 guests who attended the 2007 Writers for Writers Awards dinner.



Novelist Da Chen and friend of P&W Diana Raab.



Honoree Francine Prose and Jane Friedman, President & CEO of HarperCollins Publishers Worldwide and a P&W Board member.

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Poets & Writers is grateful to all foundations, corporations, and governmental organizations whose fiscal support helps make our programs and services accessible to writers. Below is a listing of all institutions contributing \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007.

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Poets & Writers continued its longtime partnership with Barnes & Noble Booksellers in FY 2007. With B&N's support, Poets & Writers reached new audiences across the country and increased the organization's visibility. In addition, B&N continued to underwrite the annual Writers for Writers Awards benefit dinner. We would also like to thank the *New Yorker* for continuing its support as Media Sponsor.



P&W Supporter Gary Brotmeyer and poet Paul Muldoon.



Novelists Jennifer Egan and Gary Shteyngart stand to be recognized with their fellow writers.



Joanna and Nicholas J. Vergoth, a P&W Board member and senior vice president, Lake Book Manufacturing, Inc., and novelist Nabid Rachlin.

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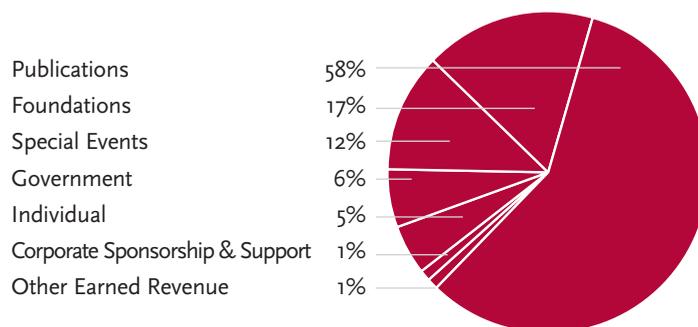
TREASURER'S REPORT 2006–2007

Poets & Writers closed the fiscal year with a strong fiscal report. The organization reported an operating surplus of \$60,160 for the year. Earned income remained healthy and accounted for 61% of the organization's revenue. Advertising revenue from *Poets & Writers Magazine* increased 10.7% over the prior year, and the annual dinner was a great success, grossing over \$400,000.

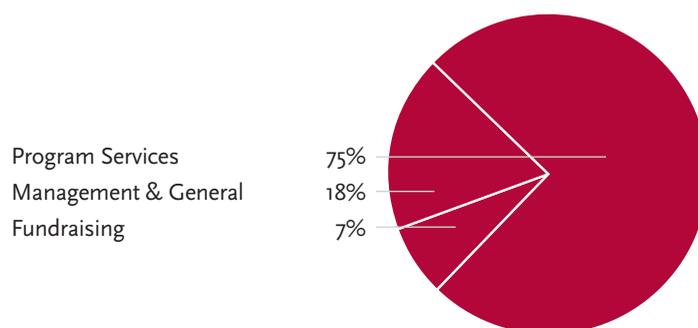
Expenditures for programs represented 75% of total expenses of \$3,375,435.

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, 2007. 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 the development office.

2007 SOURCES OF INCOME



2007 ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



INCOME	2007	2006
Public Support	\$1,272,818	\$1,105,594
Earned Revenue	2,076,204	2,010,400
Other Income	62,254	77,287
Total	3,411,276	3,193,281

EXPENSES	2007	2006
Program Services	\$2,540,700	\$2,296,969
Management & General	603,837	629,705
Fundraising	230,898	258,488
Total	3,375,435	3,185,162

Revenue Over/Under Expenditures	\$35,841	\$8,119
Unrealized & Realized Gains	22,319	(5,347)
Board-Designated Endowment Gift	3,000	3,000
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	61,160	5,772

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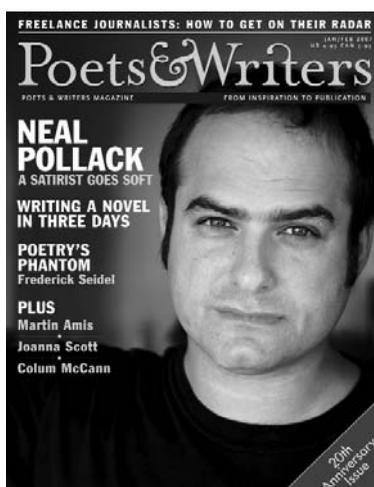
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R. Erica Doyle

Nathan Englander

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T'ai Freedom Ford

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All of the writers listed below received fees from Poets & Writers to support their giving 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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