A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

When you look through these pages, I hope you keep in mind the year this report represents: July 2020 - June 2021, the year of remote or hybrid school, the year of masks and sanitizer, the year of six feet apart, even outdoors. At no point were we sure if or when life would return to "normal." We’re still in that space. Thumb through these pages and you will see what a community can do, even under stressful and scary circumstances.

It’s an understatement to say reading and writing helped us cope with 2020 and 2021. Determined to deliver dynamic and meaningful programs in safe and accessible ways, we took to the streets, literally. We painted poems on pavement that appeared only when wet, providing tired parents an excuse to get their cooped-up kids outdoors on rainy days, and we brought our bookmobile to communities all over the region. Our online readings, classes, panels, and workshops offered writers a breadth of options for honing their craft and sharing their love of reading. We also forged new relationships, partnering with organizations as diverse as the Adirondack Explorer and Bowery Poetry in Manhattan. Virtual programming opened up new possibilities, like having teens from all over the country in writing workshops with local kids. As our audience grew larger, so did our hearts.

The outpouring of love and support we received was so touching and honest – it was humbling to learn how much our programs meant to you. It confirmed that the work we do at ACW is necessary and vital.

But it wasn’t only our community that recognized the work we did this year. When the National Endowment for the Arts reported on arts organizations across the country that successfully responded to the challenge of programming meaningfully during COVID, they chose only nine organizations to spotlight. We were one. The only one dedicated to writing.

Of course, we didn’t do this in a vacuum. Without the avid and supportive community reflected in these pages, we couldn’t have done any of this. So yes, this report is a showcase of all that we accomplished during this most exceptional year, but it is also an expression of gratitude, deeply felt, for all of you who have been here for us. Thank you.

–Nathalie Thill
ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR WRITING

bringing people and words together

MISSION

To cultivate:
- the art of writing
- the joy of reading
- the power of language
- an understanding of people
- a sense of place
- a strong, diverse community

GOALS

1. Build and maintain a community of writers, readers, and listeners across disciplines, traditions, ages, and geographies.

2. Honor the rich literary, cultural, and natural history of the Adirondacks.

3. Partner with diverse individuals, organizations, and schools to promote the craft of writing and the practice of reading in our communities.
Since 1999, ACW has served as the premier provider of literary events and programs in the Adirondacks. We've hosted countless writing workshops, pop-up poetry events, writing retreats for adults and youth alike, Howl story slams, open mic nights, and local author showcases. We've done all this without a space of our own.

In August 2020, our Board of Directors decided that the Center should have a ‘center’ to aid ACW in its critical work throughout our region. We began the Changing the Narrative fundraising campaign to support ACW’s expansion into a home of our own. We’re proud to report that we have nearly reached our goal and on August 15, ACW moved into our new home at 15 Broadway, Saranac Lake.

This rented space provides:
- An after school drop-in center where students can write, take workshops, and share their creative endeavors.
- A writers room for all ages to come together, share work, and find undisturbed writing time.
- A small stage for performances and readings with local and emerging authors.
- Program and event space for the many year-round ACW offerings.
- Sufficient office, meeting space, and internet for staff and community members to connect.
- Greater awareness of ACW’s mission and work in the community.

With your help, we can transform our new space into a community hub to foster the next generation of Adirondack writers by providing:
- A summer youth writing camp.
- A teen lounge for high schoolers to build community and access after-school programming.
- Readings and book-making workshops for our youngest writers.
- Writing supplies for those in need.
Our goal—to raise $100,000 by the end of 2021—is within arm's reach. Though we moved to a new space in August, it's crucial that we continue to raise funds to transform this space into the literary nucleus our community needs. Your gift will allow ACW to rent and improve our new location, keeping our initial expenses covered while we continue to provide programs that improve the lives of Adirondack residents of all ages.

This exciting new stage—putting the center in Adirondack Center for Writing—means we can finally bring words and people together in an actual shared space. Your gift to help ACW expand our services will truly change the narrative for so many in our region.

One hundred thousand thanks to everyone who has donated so far!

Ruth Zowader and Philip Anderson
Linda & Sarah Cohen
Doug Deneen and David Kreckman
Dorothy & Jay Federman
Richard Frost
Jim Gould
Nancy Lester

Jerry McGovern
Art and Kathy Morey
Pam Palumbo and Betsey Hall
John and Nancy Rosenthal
Mary Sanders Shartle
Gary and Kathie Smith
Betsy Folwell
and Tom Warrington
Holly & David Wolff
Our programs reach readers, writers, storytellers, listeners, teachers, students, and the greater Adirondack community.

01 Anne LaBastille Memorial Writers Residency, Reading with Residents
02 Anne LaBastille Women’s Writing Weekend
03 Book Hangouts
04 Bookmobile
05 Challenges & Opportunities in Journalism in 2021 & Beyond
06 Find the Lit Mag for You: Publishing One-on-One Sessions
07 High School Writing Retreat
08 Howl Story Slam
PROGRAMS
2020-21

09 Online Writing Classes
- Finding Your Place: Writing Creative Nonfiction
- Nitty Gritty: The Craft Basics of Prose
- Nitty Gritty 2: More Craft Basics
- To Put It Lightly: Writing Poetry
- Writing for Self Discovery

10 Prison Writing Program

11 Raining Poetry Project

12 Unmute Yourself: Writing Workshops for Teens

13 "When Lightning Strikes" Poetry Performance

14 A Wild Idea: How the Environmental Movement Tamed the Adirondacks

15 Writing with Play & Persistence Series
For 16 years, ACW has hosted an annual High School Writing Retreat for teen writers across the North Country. Each retreat offers high schoolers an intimate community comprised of peers and world-renowned poets from a wide range of styles, perspectives, and backgrounds.

This year, 76 students from seven high schools were led by esteemed educators Mahogany L. Browne, Roya Marsh, Jive Poetic, and Jon Sands. During this two-day virtual event, students witnessed performances, practiced their craft in workshops, and studied poetry both on and off the page to learn how to make their writing sing.

Thank you again for putting together another wonderful event for our local students, even in the midst of a pandemic. Jon, Mahogany, Roya, and Jive are incredible role models for the kids, and they give our students an outlet to explore issues that are important to them. My students wrote poetry, shared their work, and loved their new water bottles from ACW. Thank you for all you do to inspire our young writers.

Karyssa Merrihew | English Teacher, Lake Placid High School
ACW created a virtual workshop series for teens anywhere in the country with poets and educators Roya Marsh, José Olivarez, and Jon Sands. What happened? Magic! Students from different time zones met, wrote, and shared their writing. This program was generously supported by Cloudsplitter Foundation and the Lake Placid Education Foundation.

**Student A:** I was surprised by how personal the workshop was. Everybody shared their thoughts and work and gave feedback, creating a sense of community.

**Student B:** I was surprised by how quickly I felt comfortable enough to unmute myself and turn on my camera. Usually, I would never feel comfortable doing that.

**Student C:** I learned that not every poem or even piece of writing needs to have some kind of happy ending or a concrete ending at all. Sometimes you just have to write what you’re feeling in the moment and leave it at that. I think that I have always had trouble with being vulnerable enough to read out my work in front of people but in this workshop, I felt liberated to do that.
The Adirondack Center for Writing and the Saranac Lake Arts & Culture Advisory Board partnered to bring poetry out of the ground throughout downtown Saranac Lake. Community members voted on their favorite poem excerpts, which were then installed using paint invisible to the eye until it rains! Throughout fall 2021, anyone who visits town on a rainy day will be greeted with poetry from locally and nationally acclaimed poets.

The beauty of this project is that a rainy day is when you need poetry the most. *A lot of people are intimidated by poetry, and one of the biggest things ACW does is to democratize the art form. We bring art to where people are to remove any intimidation.*

—Nathalie Thill | ACW Executive Director

**Raining Poetry Project**

The Adirondack Center for Writing and the Saranac Lake Arts & Culture Advisory Board partnered to bring poetry out of the ground throughout downtown Saranac Lake. Community members voted on their favorite poem excerpts, which were then installed using paint invisible to the eye until it rains! Throughout fall 2021, anyone who visits town on a rainy day will be greeted with poetry from locally and nationally acclaimed poets.

The beauty of this project is that a rainy day is when you need poetry the most. *A lot of people are intimidated by poetry, and one of the biggest things ACW does is to democratize the art form. We bring art to where people are to remove any intimidation.*

—Nathalie Thill | ACW Executive Director
ACW towed its adorable mobile bookstore to residents and visitors across the Adirondack region, setting up at local ice cream stands. Folks and families in small towns that don’t have their own bookstores could peruse and purchase new and used books at a Pay What You Can rate. The Bookmobile visited ice cream shops from Inlet to Wilmington, providing a COVID-safe opportunity for readers of all ages to find new books in an open-air setting.

Special thanks to our book suppliers: Bookstore Plus in Lake Placid, The Book Nook in Saranac Lake, and TREES in Bolton Landing. The Bookmobile was generously supported by Ruth Zowader and Philip Anderson.

PoemVillage

Each April, hundreds of poems pour into inboxes and are hidden as pocket poems throughout Saranac Lake for National Poetry Month. Poems are submitted by writers from all over our community and then placed in storefront windows along Main Street and Broadway.

PoemVillage is generously supported by Adirondack Health, ArtsyLadyMsD, Geomatics Land Surveying, International Paper, Play ADK, Spencer Boatworks, and Tell Media.
I have soaked up every bit of quiet and beauty, both inside and outside the lodge. I don’t typically get to talk writing with anyone, so the encouragement from and fellowship with the other residents has had a profound effect on me. I didn’t think I should even apply or could ever belong. I’m so glad I was wrong.
I really needed a community after everything this year. I had been holding my breath until I got here, and when I did I could breathe again, write, read, and jog. This was such a necessity for me to be here, to be heard, and to share—this residency has made my year.

Amy Holman’s extraordinary knowledge of poetry journals, along with a sharp eye and ear for what might be a good match between my poems and these journals was immensely helpful. I appreciated especially her laser-like focus, especially coupled as it was with such attention to detail. A rare combination! —Participant

I was thrilled to be given so many different journals to choose from, several of which I hadn’t known about. Ms. Holman was so knowledgeable and helpful. —Participant

Find the Lit Mag for You

This service offered writers one-on-one publishing advice with editor Amy Holman. Each participant received personalized feedback on excerpts of their manuscripts and a list of literary magazines selected for relevance to the writer’s style, themes, and content.

The sessions were held virtually, including local and national attendees.

My story collection was sold to Algonquin. I’m so grateful to all of you—our time together, and our keeping in touch since then, have kept me buoyed when it seemed like it was never going to happen!

An opportunity for a respite with new friends

Kate Doyle | 2020 Resident Writer

Find the Lit Mag for You

Jane Boxall | 2020 Resident Writer

ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR WRITING IMPACT REPORT 2020-21
FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

**When Lightning Strikes: Virtual Performances**

In collaboration with NYC's legendary Bowery Poetry Club, we presented six outstanding performance poets for a night of unforgettable readings. This free, virtual event managed to bring together poetry fans from the Adirondacks and Brooklyn, and with the event streaming on Facebook Live, audiences joined from all over the world.

**Challenges & Opportunities in Journalism in 2021 & Beyond**

ACW partnered with Adirondack Explorer to present a panel of eight renowned journalists and publishers to discuss the state of journalism today. It was a peek behind the curtain into the choices veteran and emerging journalists make daily.

“Very compelling to see how eight journalists from such diverse experiences all contributed thoughts on many of the topics raised—from business strategies to conveying truth and facts in journalism. —Event Attendee
I enjoyed the guided exercises in the workshop. They elevated me to another place as a writer. —Participant | Writing with Play & Persistence

I found the workshop delightful and got to revisit strategies I've used over the years. It was a time to be blessedly creative. Chris is a welcoming, encouraging presenter and I loved his specific comments about the readings. —Participant | Writing with Play & Persistence

For 19 years, ACW has offered year-round classes in various genres for the student writers at Ray Brook Federal Correctional Institute. At the longest-running federal prison writing program in the country, these students learn invaluable creative and technical writing skills.

With the challenges of the pandemic, classes transitioned to mailed correspondence and had record-high student sign-ups. More than ever, these students face immense challenges and these classes offer an essential outlet for education and reflection.

READ | “Stories of Release: Inmates Become Writers” at bit.ly/writersrelease
ACW BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ken Aaron
Douglas Deneen
Dorothy Federman
Nancy Lester
Jerry McGovern
Pam Palumbo
Nancy Rosenthal
Cary Smith

ADVISORY BOARD
Russell Banks
Mahogany L. Browne
Joseph Bruchac
Adam Falkner
Jim Gould
Sue Halpern
Christine Jerome
Christine McDonald

NOT A BOARD MEMBER BUT NATHALIE TREATS THEM AS SUCH
Beverly Bridger
Linda & Sarah Cohen
Elizabeth Folwell
Mary Sanders Shartle

ACW STAFF

Nathalie Thill
Executive Director

Baylee Annis
Assistant to the Director

A STORYTELLER TELLS A TALE AT THE HOWL STORY SLAM
# ANNUAL BUDGET

## JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NYSCA</strong></td>
<td>MANAGEMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$14,600</td>
<td>$94,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOUNDATION SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>WRITERS HONORARIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$21,300</td>
<td>$17,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS</strong></td>
<td>OTHER PROGRAM COSTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$44,351</td>
<td>$13,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANNE LABASTILLE RESIDENCY</strong></td>
<td>OPERATING COSTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$12,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INCOME TOTAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXPENSES TOTAL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$135,308 [136,001]</td>
<td>$137,469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>($2,161)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A Preliminary, unaudited results*

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: 3-YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING**

$98,500 pledged

---

**A NOTE FROM NATHALIE THILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

"You and the rest of the widespread community of ACW have been there for each other when we all needed it most. Reading and writing have provided a source of comfort for so many, and the ACW family has weathered all the highs and lows together.

ACW has been there for you, now we’re counting on you to be there for ACW. Give now with the included giving envelope or online at bit.ly/giveacw."
THANKS TO ALL

MAJOR FUNDERS

Estate of Anne LaBastille
New York State Council on the Arts

ORGANIZATION, BUSINESS, & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Adirondack Foundation: Evergreen Fund
Adirondack Fragrance Farm
Adirondack Health
ArtyLadyMsD.com
Bookstore Plus
Charles R. Wood Foundation
Cloudsplitter Foundation
Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties
DeLeon Design Group
Eudora Watson Consulting
Geomatics Land Surveying
International Paper
Lake Placid Education Foundation
Literary Arts Emergency Fund
Nancie Battaglia Photography
News Corp Giving
North Country Public Radio
Old Forge Library Association
Spencer Boatworks
Tell Media
Village of Saranac Lake
Vista Court Books

PATRONS ($1000+)

Ruth Zowader & Philip Anderson
Linda & Sarah Cohen
Douglas Deneen
John & Margot Ernst
Dorothy & Jay Federman
Richard Frost
Tony Holtzman
Nancy Lester
Jerry McCovern
Pam Palumbo & Betsey Hall
John & Nancy Rosenthal
Mary Sanders Shartle
Gary and Kathie Smith
Betsy Folwell & Tom Warrington
Bob & Blaikie Worth

BENEFACTORS ($500-999)

Stacey Annis
Jay Annis
Tom Curley
Caroline and Serge Lussi
Art & Kathy Morey
Chase Twichell
Connie Weatherup
Beverly Bridger & Michael Wilson

DONORS ($100-499)

Michael Collins & Kathe Fox
Woody & Sandy Gandy
Daniela Gitlin
Amy Godine
Lilace Guignard
Maureen Hall
Jane Haugh
JC & Nancy Hotchkiss
Nancy Howard
Jery Huntley
Bill Hutchens
Gregory Jeffers
Christine Jerome
Mike & Bonnie Joyce
Kathryn Joyce
Roger Kessel
Jeanine Laverty
David Mason
Brian & Judi Merriam
Craig Milewski
Rosemary Miner
Lisa Morey
Rebecca O’Neill
Bengt & Polly Ohman
Meredith Prime
Amy Quinn
Ellen Rocco
Tori Rogers
Lee & Linda Rosenstock
Antonia Ness & Bill Ryckman
Mary Scott
Daniel Francis Sheehy
Leslie Sittner
Greg and Marge Smith
Alison Strack
Kirk Sullivan
Sally Svenson
Jennifer Swain
Elisabeth Treadwell
Rex Trobridge
Francis & Sally Ward
Elizabeth Whalen
Elise K Wiley
Holly & David Wolff
Katherine Wyckoff
Fran Yardley
Lori Yost

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

Ruth Zowader & Philip Anderson
Linda & Sarah Cohen
Doug Deneen & David Kreckman
Dorothy & Jay Federman
Richard Frost
Jim Gould
Nancy Lester
Jerry McCovern
Art & Kathy Morey
Pam Palumbo & Betsey Hall
John & Nancy Rosenthal
Mary Sanders Shartle
Gary and Kathie Smith
Betsy Folwell & Tom Warrington
Holly and David Wolff

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Council on the Arts
## OUR SUPPORTERS

**JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021**

### FRIENDS ($50-99)

- Stuart Bartow
- Jeff Bigelow
- Erin Cass
- Paul Castellani
- Anna Bowers & Joe Connelly
- Ruth Dandrea
- Sandy Danussi
- Patricia Davidson
- Heather DeLeone
- David & Shirley Donohue
- Kathy & Lonnie Ford
- Kelsey Francis
- Linda Freedland
- Phil Gallos
- Alice and Craig Gilborn
- Jacqueline Goodwin
- Christine Grenoble
- Sunita Halasz
- Tony Hall
- Bob Miner & Elaine Handle
- Jean and Stewart Holmes
- Audrey Hyson
- Lee & Nancy Keet
- Ellen Percy Kraly
- Timothy Leach
- Todd Lockwood
- Linda Marshall
- Kathleen McCoy
- Chris Millis
- Dorian Gossy & Roger
- Mitchell
- Richard Monroe
- Norman & Victoria Morey
- Chris Morris
- Kate Moses
- Annette Nielsen
- MaryKate Owens
- April Peterson
- Tim & Deborah Reilly
- Carol Reyell
- Carlos Reyes
- Susan O'Brien & Doug Roode
- Catherine Sajna
- Rosemarie Sheperd
- Marsha Stanley
- Daniel Way
- Bibi Wein
- Jeani Silberman & Lance
- Weiss
- Mark Werstein
- Eleanor Worth

### MEMBERS ($40)

- Ken Aaron
- Jim & Mary Abendroth
- Jill Adams
- Anne Alsina
- Cynthia Baerman
- Lisa Balschunat
- Vanessa Banti
- Rob Barrett
- Jackie Beattie
- Karen Beekley
- Lisa Bellamy
- Russell Bellico
- Madeline Bishop
- Sandy Edgerton Bissell
- Roger Black
- Karen Boldis
- John Borel
- Lisa Bramen
- Christopher Bruno
- Bob and Janet Cabat
- Jim Carlisle
- Robin Caudell
- Cara Chapman
- Mina Clark
- Chris Cohan
- Sara Conti
- Judith Coopy
- Ted Cox
- Cheryl Daigle
- Marly Davies
- Theresa Devane
- Jan DeWaters
- Betsy Dinrberger
- Elliott Drinkwater
- Lorraine Duvall
- Mary Esch
- Ana Estevez
- Michael Farmer
- Andrew Fitzgerald
- JoAnn Flammer
- Francis Flavin
- Debra Fowler
- Dennis Fredette
- Richard Frost
- Ellen & Ed Gaultieri
- Louise Gava
- David Graham
- Judyann Grant
- Caroline Hambley
- Hannah Hanford
- James Hart
- Deborah Havas
- Nicole Hawley
- Brian Heinz
- Rick Henry
- Eric Holmlund
- Leigh Hornbeck
- Gail Huntley
- Willie Janeway
- William Jewett
- Leslie Karaslin
- Sylvia Karman
- Peggy Kennelly
- Jacqueline Keren
- Kristin Kimball
- Nancy Kimball
- Sarah Knutson
- Felicia Krieg
- Ginger Kuenzel
- Paul Lamar
- Jane Lammets
- Dale Langlois
- Karen & Gary Lee
- Loretta Lepkowsi
- Emma Levitt
- Debbie Limoli
- Melinda Little
- Eileen Mack
- CS Manegold
- Samantha Marocco
- Joe Martens
- Judyth Martin
- Tom & Joy McCabe
- Linda McKenney
- Bernice Mennis
- Todd Miller
- Eric Mondschein
- Don Morgan
- Martin Morrell
- Ann Mullen
- Shawn Murphy
- Dan Mussman
- Susan Newell
- Candace O'Connor
- Amanda Oldacre
- Molly Ormsbee
- Michelle Ouellette
- Linda Peckel
- Lynda Peer
- Jennifer Perry
- Edward Pontacoloni
- Lynne Poteau
- John Quenell
- Laura Rappaport
- Sue Rau
- Betty Rivard
- John Rivett
- Dan Roche
- Charles Rohls
- Doug Rose
- Tim Rowland
- Tanya Roy
- Matthew Ryan
- John Ryan
- Sharon Sayles
- Juliet Scott

- Calli Shelton
- Susan Shetler
- Bridget Shevlin
- Laurel Skarbinski
- Jonathan Slater
- Ruth Smith
- Lauren Smith
- Emmett Smith
- Zoe & Jason Smith
- Thomas Snider
- David Sommerstein
- Rachel Sorensen
- Barbara Southworth
- Johannah Spero
- Jared Stanley
- Anne Sterling
- Annie Stoltie
- Dan Sullivan
- Mark Tatro
- Janine Taylor
- William Thayer
- Betsey Thomas-Train
- Aaron Todd
- Susan & Richard Todd
- Philip Turner
- Charles VanAnden
- Michael Virtanen
- Philip Von Bargen
- Melinda Walton
- Brian Ward
- Charles Watts
- Julie Welch
- Doug Welch
- Robert Whitaker
- Renate Wildermuth
- Joe Williams
- JN Winchester
- George Woodzell
- Celia Wu
THE YEAR IN NUMBERS
July 2020 - June 2021

WRITERS PRESENTED
423
We engage with new and experienced voices on stage, as presenters, and in our displays.

UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS
20,795
Reaching across social and geographic boundaries has been a big focus this year.

TACKLING SOCIAL ISSUES
32%
One-third of our programming this year helped to address social issues we're facing in our region.

YEARS OF CLASSES
19
We run the longest-running federal prison writing program in the country.

EVENTS THIS YEAR
36
In-person and online events help us create a wide range of opportunities for everyone.

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED
741
We provide performances and workshops specifically designed to inspire people under age 18.

www.adirondackcenterforwriting.org