

JENNIFER BROWDY, PH.D.

WRITING TO RIGHT THE WORLD

Jennifer Browdy is a writer, scholar and public intellectual in the service of social and environmental justice. Her focus for more than a quarter-century has been on using the power of narrative and storytelling to share the perspectives of those who might not otherwise be heard, particularly women and, increasingly, non-human species. In addition to her college teaching, she has engaged in a wide range of community projects, including conference organizing, community writing workshops and educational events. She founded Green Fire Press to offer more avenues for publication for authors, and has developed a series of online classes and writers' circles for memoirists and fiction writers, always with the goal of inspiring others to "write to right the world."

EDUCATION

MA., Ph.D., Comparative Literature, New York University, 1987, 1994

Dissertation: *Hybrid Encounters: Reading Postcolonial Autobiographies of the Americas*, exploring intersectional narratives of selfhood in a series of multicultural autobiographies, including studies of memoirists such as Audre Lorde, Leslie Marmon Silko, Maxine Hong Kingston, Richard Rodriguez and Rigoberta Menchu.

B.A., magna cum laude, Bard College at Simon's Rock, 1982. Major: English and journalism.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1994 – present: Professor of Comparative Literature Gender Studies and Media Arts at Bard College at Simon's Rock.

2020 – present: Faculty, Open Society University Network (OSUN), international university network funded by the Soros Foundation and administered by Bard College.

2019 – 2022: Chair, Division of Languages and Literature, Bard College at Simon's Rock.

2017 – present: Principal of Jennifer Browdy Consulting Services: author coaching and manuscript review; also online and in-person writing workshops.

2014 – present: Founding Publisher, Green Fire Press. Recent titles include *Nature Culture & the Sacred: A Woman Listens for Leadership*, by Bioneers co-founder Nina Simons; *Wisdom Lessons: Spirited Guidance from an Ojibwe Great-Grandmother*, by Mary Lyons; *A Short Course in Happiness After Loss*, by Maria Sirois, PsyD. Also Editor of the online magazine *Fired Up! Creative Expression for Challenging Times*, produced by Green Fire Press.

2009 – 2016: Founding Director, Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, annual month-long Festival in honor of Women's History Month, also including year-round programming nourishing and supporting women's creative leadership in multiple fields. Also served as founding director of the **Butterfly Leadership Program for Teen Girls**, using writing as a pathway to exploration and empowerment.

2002 – 2015: Founding Director, Annual International Women's Day Conference at Bard College at Simon's Rock, a grant-funded initiative convening diverse speakers to address themes such as politics, arts & education.

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2002 – 2011: Lecturer, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University at Albany SUNY. Taught humanities general education seminars to 80 students per year at Project Renaissance, an experimental, interdisciplinary, writing-intensive “living and learning” community.

1988 – 1991: Graduate Teaching Assistant, Expository Writing Program and Department of Comparative Literature, New York University.

1986 – 1988: Assistant Editor, Monthly Fulbright News Magazine, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), New York.

1984 – 1986: Managing Editor, *New York Business Speaks*, magazine of the New York Board of Trade, New York.

1983 – 1984: Staff Writer, *Law Enforcement News*, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York.

1980 – 1983: Staff reporter, *Berkshire Courier*, Great Barrington MA and *Winsted Citizen*, Winsted CT.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Purposeful Memoir as a Quest for a Thriving Future: Inspiration for Writers and Seekers. Green Fire Press, 2021. 2022 Gold Award Winner, Nautilus Book Awards; 2022 Gold Award, Independent Press Association. A collection of personal essays exploring the inspiring visions of writer-activists such as Joy Harjo, Audre Lorde, Jane Goodall and Wangari Maathai, along with stimulating writing prompts designed to encourage readers to develop their own potential as purposeful memoirists who “write to right the world.”

Women Writing Resistance: Essays from Latin America and the Caribbean (Ed.) An anthology of essays and poetry by contemporary Latin American and Caribbean women writers including Julia Alvarez, Edwidge Danticat, Rigoberta Menchu and 15 others. Beacon Press, 2017. Second Edition.

What I Forgot...And Why I Remembered: A Journey to Environmental Awareness and Activism Through Purposeful Memoir. Green Fire Press, 2017. 2018 International Book Awards finalist.

The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir: A Writer’s Companion. Green Fire Press, 2017. Winner of a 2017 Nautilus Silver Award.

Writing Fire: Celebrating the Power of Women’s Words. Co-edited with Jana Laiz and Sahra Bateson Brubeck with more than 75 inspired contributors. Green Fire Press, 2017.

Wisdom Lessons: Spirited Guidance from Ojibwe Great-Grandmother Mary Lyons (Ed.) A collection of “wisdom lessons” in poetic form that offer guidance from the Native American tradition for anyone struggling with substance abuse and lack of purpose. Green Fire Press, 2018.

African Women Writing Resistance: Contemporary Voices. Co-edited with Pauline Dongala, Omotayo Jolaosho and Anne Serafin. University of Wisconsin Press, 2010.

SELECTED RECENT ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Scaffolding a Collaborative Humanities Classroom Culture Online: Pedagogical Tools & Techniques.” *Early College Folio* 2, Spring 2022. <https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/earlycollegefolio/vol1/iss2/5/>

“Purposeful Memoir as Another Door into the Work That Reconnects.” *Deep Times Journal*, March 2020. <https://journal.workthatreconnects.org/2020/03/07/purposeful-memoir-as-another-doorway-into-the-work-that-reconnects/>

“Purposeful Memoir as a Path to a Thriving Future,” *The Artful Mind Magazine*, January 2020. https://issuu.com/theartfulmindartzine/docs/tam_decj_2020

“The Paradox of Wise Activism.” *Kosmos Journal*, Fall 2019. https://www.kosmosjournal.org/kj_article/the-paradox-of-wise-activism/

“Talequah is Waiting.” *Kosmos Journal* in partnership with *We, the World: 11 Days of Global Unity*, Fall 2018. <https://www.kosmosjournal.org/news/tahlequah-is-waiting/>

“Moving from the Anthropocene to the Androgynocene: Gaian Leadership for a Balanced World.” *Kosmos Journal*, Spring 2017. <https://www.kosmosjournal.org/reader-essay/moving-from-the-anthropocene-to-the-androgynocene-gaian-leadership-for-a-balanced-world/>

“Seeing Through Native Eyes: Paula Gunn Allen’s Writing as Ritual and Prophecy.” *Weaving the Legacy: Remembering Paula Gunn Allen*. ed. Stephanie Sellers and Menoukha Case. West End Press, 2017.

“Aligning the Personal, Political and Planetary to Create a Transformative Future.” *Kosmos Journal*. Fall/Winter 2015. <http://www.kosmosjournal.org/article/aligning-the-personal-political-and-planetary-to-create-a-transformative-future/>

“Confronting Student Resistance to Ecofeminism: Three Perspectives.” Co-authored with Holly Kent and Colleen Martell. *The Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal*, 2015. <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/sfd/vol1/iss1/3/>

“Global Citizenship in Action: Engaging the Literature and Film of Female Genital Mutilation in the Undergraduate Classroom.” *Teaching Human Rights and Literature*. Elizabeth Goldberg and Alexandra Schulteis, eds. Modern Language Association Options for Teaching Series. NY: MLA Books, 2015.

“Feminist Pedagogies of Activist Compassion: Engaging the Literature and Film of Female Genital Cutting in the Undergraduate Classroom.” *Feminist Pedagogy in Higher Education: Theory and Practice*. Tracy Penny Light, Jane Nicholas and Renee Bondy, eds. Wilfred Laurier UP, 2015.

“When the Grandmothers Awoke.” YES! Magazine article, Spring 2015. This article led to my collaboration with Ojibwe elder Mary Lyons to produce her book, *Wisdom Lessons*.

“Resistance as the Secret of Joyful Global Feminist Alliance: Inner Work and Public Acts in *Possessing the*

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Secret of Joy by Alice Walker. In *Two Decades Later: Revisiting Walker's Possessing the Secret of Joy*, ed. Tobe Levin, NJ: Un/Cut Voices Press, 2014.

"Awaken! Calling Upon the Inner Child to Help Mother Earth." *Berkshire Magazine*, Spring 2014.

"Mothering the Self: Writing Through the Lesbian Sublime in Audre Lorde's *Zami* and Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La frontera*. Reprinted in Debra Blake, ed. *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Cengage Learning, 2013.

Review essay of *Breasts: A Natural and Unnatural History* by Florence Williams (Norton, 2012). *Orion Magazine*, October 2012.

"The Politics and Poetics of Global Feminist Alliance or Why I Teach Such Depressing Books." *Educating Outside the Lines: Bard College at Simon's Rock on a 'New Pedagogy' For the Twenty-first Century*. Nancy Yanoshak, ed. NY: Peter Lang, June 2011.

SELECTED RECENT INTERVIEWS

Interview in the Artful Mind Magazine, Spring 2021: <https://www.jenniferbrowdy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/JB-Interview-Nov-2021.pdf>

Faculty profile for Bard College/Simon's Rock website: <https://simons-rock.edu/news/jennifer-browdy-ga.php>

Interview on SPARKS, podcast of the Transformative Language Arts Network, April 2020. <https://anchor.fm/tlanetwork/episodes/Memoir-episode-1-of-3--with-Jennifer-Browdy-ecvcto>

"Memory Work." Hyacinth Podcast, December 2019. <https://www.hyacinthpodcast.com/episodes>

"Purposeful Memoir: A Tool for Awakening Through the Arts." Interview with Alexis Cohen, host of Awakening Through Art Master Class Series. December 2018. <http://www.alexiscohen.org/events/o/jenniferb/>

"Aligning the Personal, Political and Planetary for a Thriving Future." Interview on Audible Café, August 2018. <http://audiblecafe.com/2018/08/episode-6-jennifer-browdy-writer-teacher-editor-coach/>

SELECTED RECENT PUBLIC EVENTS

In-person workshop, "Telling the Truth Through Fiction." Edith Wharton's The Mount, Lenox, Massachusetts, September 2022.

Presentation, "Memory & History." Fort Point Museum, Lahave, Nova Scotia, July 2022.

In-person workshop, "The Art and Craft of Purposeful Memoir." Lunenburg School of the Arts, Lunenburg,

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Nova Scotia, July 2022. Sponsored by the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia.

Host and moderator, online book launch for Dr. Penny Gill, *The Radiant Heart of the Cosmos*. May 2022.

Online workshop, "Purposeful Memoir as a Quest for a Thriving Future," Bard Network Global Teach-in for Climate Justice, March 2022.

Conference Presentation. "Purposeful Memoir as a Quest for a Thriving Future." Transformative Language Arts Network Power of Words Annual Conference, October 2021.

Co-moderator with Thomas Keenan of a talk by performance artist Coco Fusco, "The Right to Have Rights: Cuban Artists Confront the State," sponsored by the OSUN Center for Human Rights & The Arts at Bard College, September 2021.

Presenter: Monthly series of online workshops in purposeful memoir: "Purposeful Memoir as a Quest for a Thriving Future" and "Birth Your Truest Story," with Audrey Kalman. September 2020 – present.

Presenter, "Purposeful Memoir as a Path to a Thriving Future," virtual conference of the Association for the Study of Literature & the Environment, July 2020. <https://youtu.be/7NXZq13UURI>

Presenter, online workshops: "Summoning the Muse," creativity workshops co-led with Jan Seward, PsyD. (April 2020); Birth Your Truest Stories," for the Shuffle Weekend of Words Virtual Literary Festival, co-led with Audrey Kalman (May 2020).

Faculty, online class: "The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir," Transformative Language Arts Network, March – May 2020.

Presenter, February 2020: Winter Tonic Memoir Workshops, a series of four at Elixir Café, Great Barrington MA.

Presenter, September 2019 – February 2020: Monthly purposeful memoir workshops, in person in Great Barrington and Lenox MA.

Host and co-facilitator, Work That Reconnects day-long workshop, co-sponsored by the South Berkshire Climate Change & Consciousness Hub, Living the Change Berkshires and the Alliance for a Viable Future. Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington MA. November 2019.

Host and co-facilitator, Deep Adaptation Dialogue. Co-sponsored by the South Berkshire Climate Change & Consciousness Hub, Living the Change Berkshires and the Alliance for a Viable Future. Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington MA. October 2019.

Workshop: "Purposeful Memoir as a Path to a Thriving Future." Bioneers Conference, San Rafael CA, October 2019.

Workshop: "Purposeful Memoir as a Path to a Thriving Future." 16th annual Transformative Language

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Arts Network “Power of Words” conference, Scottsdale AZ, September 2019.

Workshop: “The Alchemy of Purposeful Memoir: Seeking Joy,” Writers’ Federation of Nova Scotia, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, July 2019.

Workshop: “The Alchemy of Purposeful Memoir: Seeking Clarity,” South Shore Public Library, Lunenburg Nova Scotia, July 2019.

Workshop: “The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir,” Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, June 2019.

Host and facilitator, Screenings and community discussions on presentations by Joanna Macy, Pat McCabe, Bill McKibben & Charles Eisenstein from the Findhorn Climate Change & Consciousness Conference (CCC19), April 2019; Monterey Community Center, Monterey MA and Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Great Barrington MA.

Workshop: “Climate Change and Consciousness: Aligning the Personal, Political and Planetary for a Viable Future.” Alliance for a Viable Future, Sheffield MA, April 27, 2019.

Curator, host and contributor, “Climate Change & Consciousness: A Community Reading.” Deb Koffman’s Artspace, Housatonic MA, April 16, 2019. Sponsored by the South Berkshire Climate Change & Consciousness Hub.

Presentation: “The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir.” Lenox Library Distinguished Lecture Series, Lenox MA, January 27, 2019.

Co-host and faculty, Women & Leadership Summit, a Bard network daylong event for students and faculty from 3 Bard campuses. November, 2018.

Writing workshop: “Giving Thanks Through Purposeful Memoir.” The Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge MA, November 2018.

Presentation: “The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir.” WriteAngles Conference, Mount Holyoke College, November 2018.

Presentation: “Purposeful Memoir as a Path to Thriving Leadership.” International Leadership Association Annual Conference, West Palm Beach FL, October 2018.

Writing workshop: “Making Magic on the Mountain.” Bascom Lodge, Mount Greylock State Reservation, MA, September 2018.

Writing workshop: “The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir,” Mahone Bay Centre, Mahone Bay NS, July 2018, sponsored by the Writers’ Federation of Nova Scotia.

Reading and writing workshop: “The Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir,” Vogler’s Cove Community Center, Vogler’s Cove Nova Scotia, July 2018.

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Lecture: "Navigating Climate Change in Uncertain Times: Cultivating Personal and Political Resilience Through Purposeful Memoir." OLLI Distinguished Lecture Series, Berkshire Museum, May 2018.

Writing workshop, "Navigating Climate Change Through Purposeful Memoir." Earth Day Expo, Dalton MA, April 2018.

Salon Talk and Workshop: "Nourishing Our Bodies, Our Spirits and the World: Lessons of the Worldwrights." Elixir Café, Great Barrington MA, March 2018.

Reading: "Writing Fire: Celebrating the Power of Women's Words," International Women's Day reading featuring 12 writers, hosted by the Lenox Library, Lenox MA, March 9, 2018.

Co-host and workshop leader, Women & Leadership Summit, a Bard network daylong event for students and faculty from 3 Bard campuses. November, 2017.

Writing Workshop, co-led with Audrey Kalman. "Birthing Our Truest Stories." Book Passage, Corte Madera CA. October 2017.

Doing Hope in Troubled Times: Purposeful Memoir as a Path to Thriving, Alone and Together. Book talk. LaHave Islands Marine Museum, Bell Island, Nova Scotia, July 2017.

Writers as Climate Activists, reading and discussion as part of the 2016-17 Reading Series at the Forbes Library, Northampton MA, May 2017.

"Journalism in the Age of Fake News and Alternative Facts." Four Freedoms panel participant, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge MA. May 2017.

Reading and Writing Workshop. "Pipelines, Politics and Prose: Getting Personal About Our Planet." Sandisfield Arts Center, Sandisfield MA. May 2017.

Reading and book talk, *What I Forgot...And Why I Remembered*. The Bookstore, Lenox MA, April 2017. Similar reading and book talk presented at The Bookloft in Great Barrington MA, May 2017.

Earth Day Celebration: "So Much Is In Bud: Cultivating Hope in an Age of Fear." Reading and writing workshop with Ellen Meeropol and Jana Laiz, April 2017.

Panel moderator and participant: "The Liberal Arts Within, Outside and Beyond the Institution: Extending the Campus, Reimagining the Learner." Architecture of Partnership Conference, Bard College at Simon's Rock. April 2017.

Faculty Forum Reading and Book Talk. *What I Forgot...And Why I Remembered: A Journey to Environmental Awareness and Activism Through Purposeful Memoir*. Bard College at Simon's Rock, February 2017.

Symposium organizer and host: "Just Journalism," a symposium on social justice ethics, reporting and

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writing for social change, featuring panelists Anastasia Stanmeyer, Eugenie Sills, Jenn Smith, Siobhan Connally and Nichole Dupont. Co-sponsored by Multicultural Bridge, Berkshire Magazine and Simon's Rock; held in conjunction with the "Just Journalism" class. Daniel Arts Center, Bard College at Simon's Rock, January 2017.

Performance. "Tales from the Grassy Bank." Spoken word piece performed at "Rocking the Constitution," Alternative Inauguration Protest Event sponsored by the Women's March of Western MA. Colonial Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Group, Pittsfield MA. January 2017.

Writing Workshop. "Writing the Journey of Your Life: Herstory, Your Story," weekend writing retreat sponsored by the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, at the Rookwood Inn, Lenox MA, June and November 2016.

Writing Workshop: "Finding Your Mountaintop: Writing Your Way to Clarity," sponsored by the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers at Bascom Lodge, Mt. Greylock State Reservation, North Adams MA. September 2016.

Writing workshop: "Write the Change You Want to See in the World," four-day intensive workshop co-led with Jana Laiz. Bard College at Simon's Rock, August 2016.

Reading and Panel Discussion: "Green Visions: Writing the Environment in Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Prose." With Jan Krause Greene, Thea Iberall, Tess Taylor and Jane Yolen. Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, March 2016.

Lecture, "The Butterfly Effect: How Cultivating Leadership in Women and Girls Can Change the World." The Tuesday Club, Stockbridge, November 2015.

The Butterfly Effect Leadership Program, a week-long writing-intensive workshop for teen girls, The Mount, Lenox, August 2016; pilot program held July 2015.

Pre-conference workshop for educators: "Aligning the Personal, Political and Planetary Through the Elemental Journey of Purposeful Memoir." American Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference (ASLE), University of Idaho, Moscow, June 2015.

Paper presented: "Teaching Ecofeminism: Forming Radical Pedagogies and Creating Social Change in College Classrooms (and Beyond)," Seneca Falls Conference, Seneca Falls, NY, Oct. 2014.

Public talk: "The Personal is Planetary," Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series, Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire, September 15, 2014.

Panel chair and moderator: Political Trauma and Literary Alchemy: *Testimonios* and the Regenerative Power of Language," special session at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Boston MA, January 2013. Panelists: Nicole Caso, Martha Elena Montoya Velez, Alicia Partnoy, Maria del Carmen Sillato, Mariela Wong.

Paper presented: "Changing the narrative and crafting alliances between Western and indigenous

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worldviews to create a sustainable global future,” at the annual meeting of the Peace and Justice Studies Association, at Tufts University, October, 2012.

Chair & moderator for special panel, “Living and Working in the Borderlands,” at the Barnard Center for Research on Women conference, “Activism and the Academy: Celebrating 40 Years of Feminist Scholarship and Action,” featuring poets Margaret Randall and Ruth Irupe Sanabria, as well as Simon’s Rock senior Michelle Gonzalez. September, 2011.

COURSES DEVELOPED AT BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON’S ROCK

Media, Journalism and Writing

Narrating the Anthropocene: Analyzing and Creating the Stories of the 21st Century
Just the Facts: Media Production & Consumption in the Age of Fake News & Alternative Facts
Leadership, Writing & Public Speaking for Social and Environmental Justice
Media Advocacy for Social and Environmental Justice
Leadership Strategies for Social and Environmental Justice
Green Visions: Environmental Writing and Eco-cinema
Media Studies Practicum: Writing for Social and Environmental Justice
Media Studies Practicum: Reporting & Writing Techniques for Print Journalism Doing
Digital Media: From Mainstream to Livestream
Zines Blogs & Indies: Explorations in Alternative Media
Introduction to Media Studies: Theory and Praxis
Introduction to Journalism
Introduction to Creative Writing
Art of Autobiography
Writing & Thinking Workshop
Writing to Right the World

Gender Studies and Human Rights

Global Feminisms
Doing Theory: Feminist, Postcolonial, Queer
Human Rights, Activism & the Arts
Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Human Rights
Gender and Violence I: Intimate Violence
Gender and Violence II: Military Culture & War
Women Writing Activism: Changing the World
Explorations in Gender, Culture and Society
An Unfinished Revolution: Intro to Women’s Studies
Sister Outsiders: Women Writers on Power, Politics & Sexuality
Women & Leadership

Literature and Women’s Human Rights

Women Write the World
Women Writing Resistance in Africa
Women Writing Resistance in the Middle East
Women Writing Resistance in Latin America

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Women Writing Resistance in the Caribbean
Writing with Fire: Literature of the Caribbean

General Education

First Year Seminar I & II: The Examined Life
Sophomore Seminar: Voices Against the Chorus
Writing & Thinking Workshop

Bard Academy

American Multicultural Literature
American Literature of Resistance

Open Society University Network/Bard College (online)

Women & Leadership
Women Write the World
Leadership, Writing & Public Speaking for Social & Environmental
Justice

RECENT GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Bard Open Society University grant for class speaker Amisha Ghadiali, for Spring '22 Leadership & Public Speaking class.

Bard Center for Civic Engagement Engaged Liberal Arts and Sciences grant for “Leadership, Writing & Public Speaking for Social & Environmental Justice” class, Spring 2022, for class speaker Amisha Ghadiali.

Bard Early College Open Society University Network Fellow, 2021-22, collaborating with international faculty on the development of Early College general education course syllabi.

Bard Center for Civic Engagement Engaged Liberal Arts and Sciences grant for “Sister Outsiders: Women, Power & Politics” class, Spring 2021, for speakers Margaret Randall, AnaLouise Keating, Pooja Prema.

Bard Center for Civic Engagement Engaged Liberal Arts and Sciences grant for “Women & Leadership” class, Fall 2020, for speakers Nina Simons and Veronica Chambers.

2010 – present, many Bard College/Simon’s Rock Faculty Development Fund grants to support conference participation, book subventions and campus events.

2009 – 2016, Berkshire Festival of Women Writers funding included major grants from the Brabson Family Foundation, the Sellon Charitable Trust, the Wyomissing Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and many businesses and individual donors.

REFERENCES

Available on request.