

2020: Year in Review

We cancelled pretty much every aspect of programming we had planned for 2020 due to the pandemic with a few notable exceptions. Simply making it through the year, intact, felt like a success, and while we should acknowledge what we were planning and unable to do (so we might revisit it when possible), we will first highlight what we did accomplish!

Welcome Our New Staff!



Candace Jensen, Letterpress Director, Executive Staff



Leanne Ruell, Editorial Assistant and Grant Writer

Programming

Free Writing Workshop Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary, Goes Completely Virtual

The weekly writing workshop has been a consistent part of the RSH programming for the last two years. We held our last in-person workshop in March 2020 and have been virtual ever since. While an abrupt and jarring change, both workshop leaders and students alike have found the connection and time dedicated to poetry invaluable.



We actually held in-person workshops early in the year!



A smaller online group in May 2020



More joined as we met nearly every week!

The Next Galaxy Poetry Initiative

This is our program where RSH Staff and volunteers restore the Ruth Stone House!



Board Treasurer Rod Pease works on cleaning the floors. They had gathered a thick layer of construction dust since being initially installed. We cleaned and sanded them before applying the natural oil.



Applying the Tung Oil! We applied around eight coats, with 24-48 hours (if not more) in between coats



A new storm door (and eventually stairs) installed on the front! We also painted the front of the house!



Walter painted a lot of lattice in 2020



This photo fails to convey how completely a mess the chapel used to be!



Owen Schuh was instrumental in cleaning out this beautiful old structure!



Walter was inspired by how old and hole-ridden the existing screen around the porch was



Looking good AND again a haven from all the flies and mosquitoes!



A volunteer fastidiously paints a ceiling panel.



Scraping the side of the house is as fun as it looks.

The Ruth Stone House Podcast and Newsletter

Bianca kept the podcast going, and she provided an interesting variety of content, from short, thought-provoking readings of single poems, to long-form interviews with the likes of Ben Aleshire, Candace Jensen, and Major Jackson.



Iterant



Walter got one week off at the beginning of the pandemic and used that free time to teach himself how to build websites. *Iterant* was born soon after. Not just another online journal, *Iterant* features some of the finest poetry and art around. The below poets were published alongside visual art from Candace Jensen and Charles Mason, III.

MATTHEW ZAPRUDER	LAUREN HUNTER
SHANTA LEE	MARK LEIDNER
SHARON OLDS	S. STARKWEATHER
RITA BANERJEE	CHARD DENIORD
DARA WIER	EMILY PETTIT
MELANIE M. GOODREAU	MAJOR JACKSON
MRB CHELKO	ANA BOŽIČEVIĆ
ROSANNA BRUNO	KARIN GOTTSALL
& ANNE CARSON	ALISON PRINE
TIMOTHY LIU	LEANNE RUELL
	CANDACE JENSEN
	RUTH RODRIGUEZ

The Ruth Stone House Letterpress Room

First, please take a moment to admire the letterpress room itself:



Second, Candace as Letterpress Director, got things going right off and invited poets from across VT to visit RSH and letterpress their own poems, as part of an ongoing chapbook project with The Putney Library.



A tribute to what could not be!



CANCELED THIS YEAR

The biggest disappointment: Our weeklong poetry residency at Camp Thorpe, down the street from Ruth’s house, was cancelled for 2020. Bianca, alongside Ariana Reines, Caconrad, Dorothea Lasky, and Airea D. Matthews, were to teach a week-long poetry intensive with hiking, yoga, basketball, and other fun outdoor activities in between. We even did a soft launch...on March 2nd, 2020

The Ruth Stone House
Published by Bianca Stone · March 2, 2020

Oh it's happening. 😮 We are super excited to unveil the new program this summer: CAMPGROUND. A week-long poetry intensive hosted at Camp Thorpe, down the road from the Ruth Stone House. Readings, campfires, music, craft lessons, hiking--this will be a truly magical event, made electric by our unparalleled staff of poets" Ariana Reines, CA Conrad, Airea D. Matthews, Dorothea Lasky, and Bianca Stone.

BE THERE. Find out everything, and apply now:
<https://campground.ruthstonehouse.org/>

276 People Reached 41 Engagements **Boost Post**

You and 17 others 1 Comment

Love Comment Share

Most Relevant

Comment as The Ruth Stone House

Ruth Stone House Reading Series: Cancelled

We were unable to host any readings in 2020 due to the pandemic.



Ruth Stone Year-End Potluck: Cancelled

Our annual potluck in Goshen, VT at the Blueberry Hill Inn Ski Center, was cancelled due to the pandemic.



2020 Annual Report: Finances		
Cash on hand 01/01/20		\$2,166.37
Income 2020	Donations	\$12,812.53
	Total Income 2020	\$14,978.90
Expenses	Total Expenses 2020	\$11,984.45
Cash on hand 12/31/2020		\$2,994.45
Prepared by Rodney W. Pease on January 23, 2021		

Fixed expenses		
Taxes estimated for 2021	\$	4,100.00
Insurance due in October 2021 est.	\$	2,800.00
Green Mountain Power	\$	125.00
Aabanaki	\$	1,000.00
Total to stay in Business	\$	8,025.00

Board Votes

1) New Mission

Vote

Yay: unanimous **Nay:**

Legacy

The Ruth Stone House (RSH) was established in 2013, and serves to fulfill the poet Ruth Stone's wish that her physical and literary estate would be used for the furthering of poetry and the creative arts. The organization was created to both cultivate and celebrate the works and legacy of the poet herself and also maintain her historic property in Goshen, VT.

Community and Practice (The Dream School)

RSH creates and nurtures a community that supports making the literary arts, particularly poetry and bookmaking, a vital and enriching aspect of people's lives. RSH welcomes anyone who wishes to take part in the rigorous study and creation of poetry, no matter what stage in a person's career or development. We provide writers the opportunity to engage in high-level literary classes and events. This is primarily enacted through workshops, craft classes, writing retreats, letterpress printing, and other events.

Publishing and Creative Autonomy

RSH is a letterpress studio and publisher that not only brings exciting new work into the world, but also encourages writers to become involved in the publishing process themselves. RSH houses a fully-operational letterpress studio where both professional prints are made and writers have the opportunity to learn the typesetting process. Beyond this, RSH is interested in providing the gamut of skills needed to publish work on one's own, from editing, book design, and publicity, with the intention of creating new literary communities and presses that can create and celebrate new work on their own terms.

Add 4th section

2) Establishing Committees & Subcommittees

Vote

Yay: unanimous **Nay:**

1. 1) **Major committees include the following and shall consist of at least two board members and one executive staff member each with a chair for each:**
 - a. **Fundraising**
 - b. **Programming**
 - c. **Renovation**
 - d. **Administrative / Finances**

2. **Major committees shall meet on a quarterly basis and create both plans in their area of interest and subcommittees to address specific problems or opportunities.**

3. **Other members of the subcommittee can come from outside the board or staff. Particularly, we are looking for other members to have specific expertise that relates to the subcommittee's purpose. The Subcommittee's purpose must have a clear connection to RSH's mission in order to proceed.**

4. **The Subcommittee will complete the New RSH Subcommittee Form, approved by the Executive Director. The subcommittee will then work to provide the stated deliverable by the given due date. Executive Director will update board monthly on ongoing subcommittees.**

3) Formalized RSH Board Responsibilities

Vote

Yay: unanimous Nay:

1. Minimum Board Member Responsibilities

- a. Be a member of at least one major committee**
- b. Assist with fundraising by making individual donation requests via mail or social media**
- c. Donate at least \$1,000 annually**
- d. Attend board and committee meetings and participate in voting**

2. Advisory Board Member Responsibilities

- a. Be a member of at least one subcommittee**
- b. Pledge a yearly donation (\$1,000 recommended)**

NEW RSH SUBCOMMITTEE

Name: Ruth Stone/Poetry in Public Schools

Chair: Didi Jackson

Members:

Bianca Stone	

Purpose: RSH will visit classrooms to discuss poetry and Ruth Stone's life and work.

Connection to Mission:

First Deliverable: Scheduled date when RSH will visit a class

Due Date: 1/30/2021

Approved by Executive Staff Member

Ben Pease	
	1/14/21

Goals for 2021

Free Writing Workshop

The workshop continues into its second straight year!

The Next Galaxy Poetry Initiative

Renovations with anyone who will help continue, lead by Ben and Walter.

The Ruth Stone House Podcast and Newsletter

We will look to publish this every month this year!

Capital Campaign

We plan on launching the capital campaign in the spring!

Online Classes

We plan on offering month-long and weekend intensive writing workshops and skills classes.

Letterpress Activities

Once it warms up, we will continue using the letterpress to finish the Putney Library chapbook and create letterpress book covers and broadsides.

Public School Visits

Didi is running a test subcommittee to begin a series where we visit virtual (and eventually real) classrooms to discuss poetry, publishing, and Ruth Stone! The Engagement Lab

Publishing

We plan on continuing making broadsides and expand into chapbook and full length publications, but to what extent is not yet clear.

- Chapbooks
- Broadsides
- Full length collection
- Risograph-printed anthology?

Online/In-Person Reading Series

Is it time to fire the series back up?

The Ruth Stone House Silent Auction and Potluck

Will the tradition continue, with great local fare, poets and awesome items to bid on?

Campground: Weeklong Writing Retreat at Camp Thorpe

We are not actively working on relaunching this in 2021, but it may appear under a different guise.

Ruth Stone Symposium Planning for 2021 - 2nd half of 2021

Alicia mountain

Prepared by:

Benjamin Pease

President, Ruth Stone Foundation (dba Ruth Stone House)

Date: __2/01/2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Pease', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.