

2021: Year in Review

We rebounded after a slow 2020 in 2021 and created a host of new programming and bolstered many of our existing programs.

Programming

Free Writing Workshop Celebrates Three-Year Anniversary, Remains Virtual

The weekly writing workshop has been a consistent part of the RSH programming for the last three years. We held our last in-person workshop in March 2020 and have been virtual ever since.



A smaller online group



More joined as we met nearly every week!

The Next Galaxy Writing Retreat

The entire staff banded together and went above and beyond to provide an inspiring 4-day retreat, held on site at Blueberry Hill Inn in Goshen. Bianca Stone and Arisa White each ran their own separate writing workshop each day, and students were free for the rest of the day to enjoy Vermont’s bounty, take Yoga classes with Candace, take a hike on the Moosalamoo Trails, and enjoy nightly on-site readings. The entire staff provided a monumental effort to make this such a success—Leanne worked as Bianca’s TA, Walter and Ben offered technical and spiritual support, and Candace did twice daily yoga and a letterpress event at the Ruth Stone House for all students!



One of the nightly readings during the retreat



Mark and Shanta read during the retreat!



Students look over poems during Bianca's class



Faculty, staff, and students gather for a photo



Candace put together an excellent letterpress trip for students at the Ruth Stone House

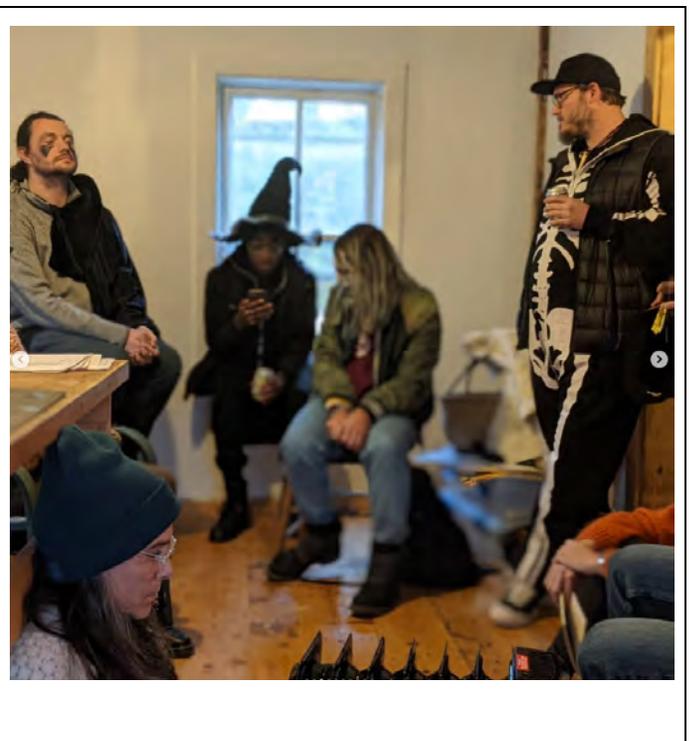


Candace also held twice-daily yoga sessions in the Ski Barn!

<u>X Students</u>	<u>\$22,700</u>
<u>Grant Funding</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>
	<u>\$24,200 (revenue)</u>
<u>Blueberry Hill</u>	<u>\$12,280.35</u>
<u>Office supplies, meals, and other expenses</u>	<u>\$870.93</u>
<u>Teachers</u>	<u>\$4500</u>
<u>Advertising</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<u>Bank Charges and Fees (Paypal, etc)</u>	<u>\$480.61</u>
	<u>\$18,156.89 (total expenditures)</u>
<u>\$6043.11 (net revenue)</u>	

Beer and BroadSides

Candace lead the letterpress efforts while we invited friends and fellow poets to visit the Ruth Stone House, try their hand and printing, and share their poems in a welcoming environment!





Autonomous Publishing

Ben and Candace put together a consultation service to assist writers in creating published literary work. After an initial consultation session, we will provide a combination of manuscript consultation services, book layout classes/one-on-one time/services, and print shop time. Writers can decide what level of care they need in order to complete the project, and can handle certain aspects completely on their own, collaborate with staff, or have staff focus on certain aspects (like book layout) while they focus on other areas. We won't write their poems for them, but we will guide them towards creating beautiful print publications!

Institutional Partnerships

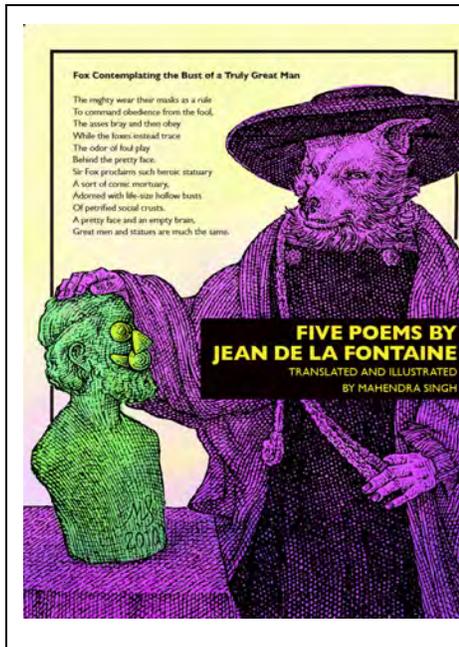
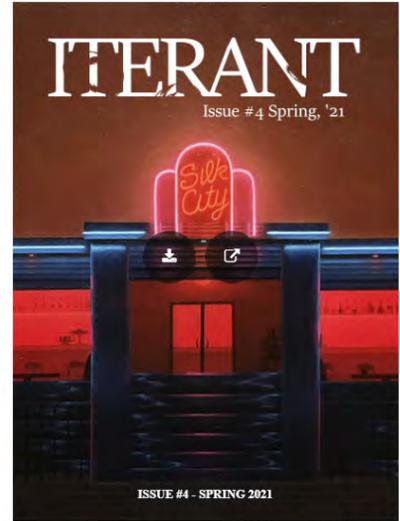
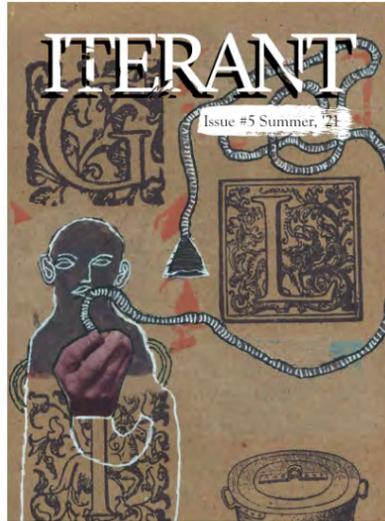


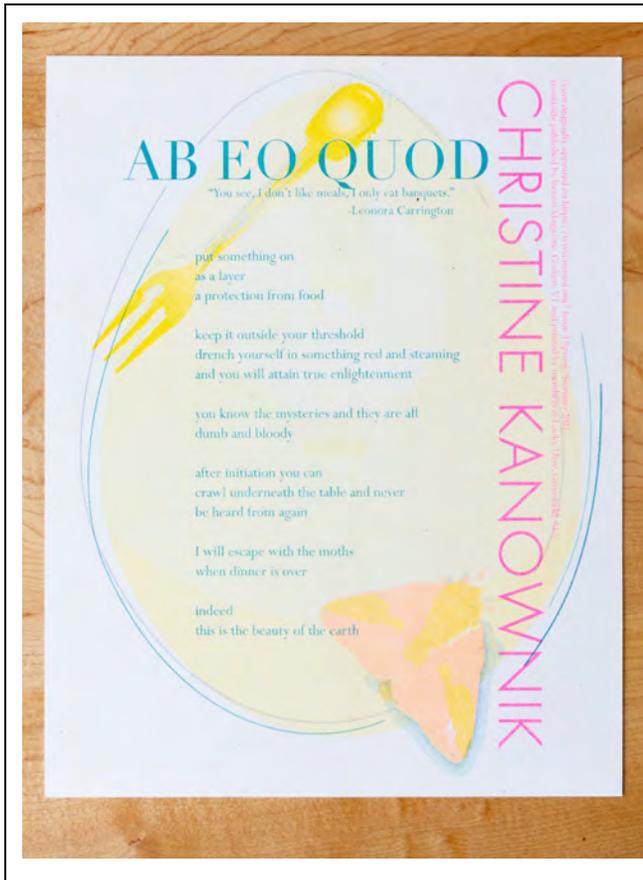
We have begun to work with multiple institutions in an attempt to partner with them and provide programming for their students. We have had meetings with Bennington College's Robert Frost Stone House Museum and Neshobe School in Brandon without providing any programming just yet. Bianca and Ben are teaching a class currently called "Developing & Sustaining a Poetry Writing Practice for the New Year" through the Fletcher Free Library and look to provide more classes throughout the year, free to students!

Iterant

Iterant soared into its second year with one exceptional issue after the other, with one being an entire issue dedicated to poetry comics.

Editor: Walter Stone, Art Editor, Candace Jensen, Editorial Assistant: Leanne Ruell





ITERANT

"and even you forget those brilliant flashes seen from afar" -Ruth Stone



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WE ARE SAFE IN HERE

Issue #6 Fall '21

- BRANDON SHIMODA
- LOISA FENICHELL
- JOHN YAU
- MICK POWELL
- JOHN KOETHE
- BENJAMIN S. GROSSBERG
- SASHA STILES
- SHARON OLDS
- NATALIE SHAPERO
- MOLLY LEDBETTER
- BEN FAMA
- KRISTIN BOCK
- DOROTHEA LASKY

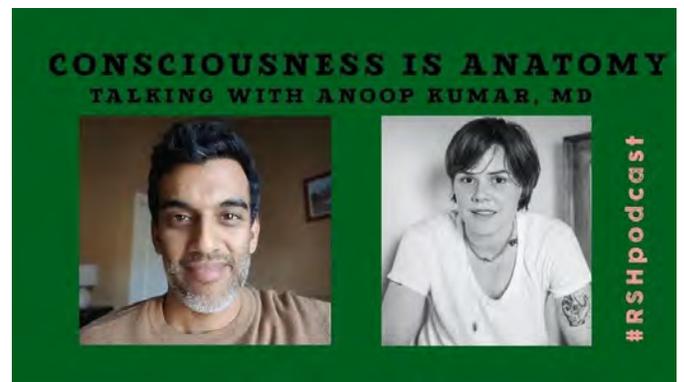
ART: ANDREA KRUPP

POSSIBLE PIG #4



The Ruth Stone House Podcast

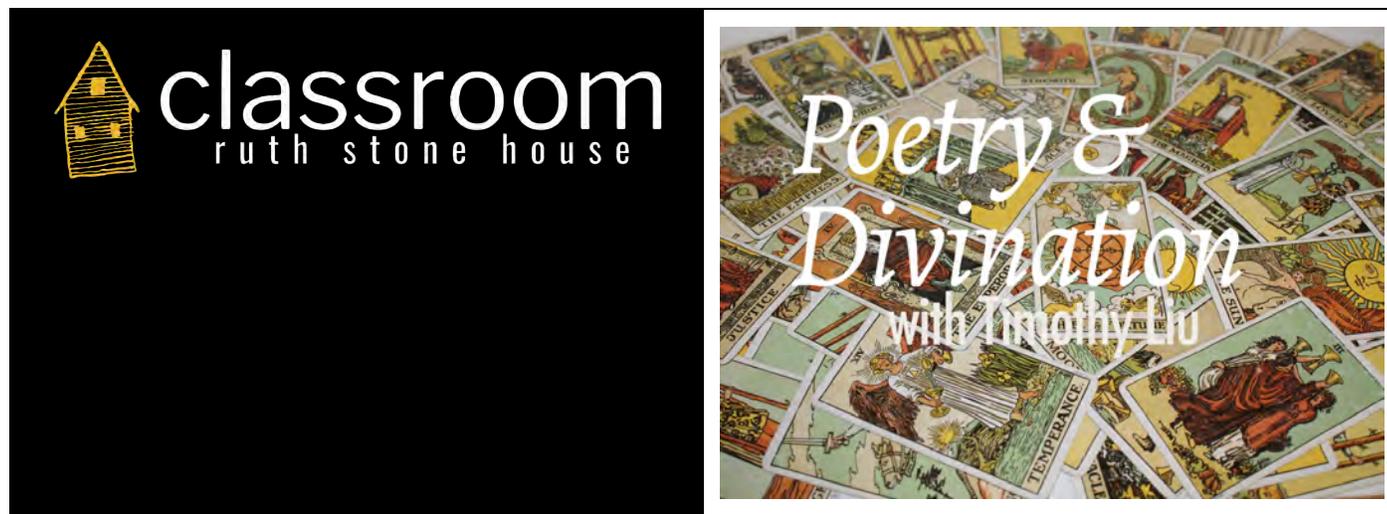
Bianca took the podcast to a whole new level this year, hosting a number of great writers and thinkers and conducting in-depth interviews with them.



2021 included interviews with

Major Jackson	Julia Cohen	Craig Morgan Teicher	Natalie Shapero
Ted Dodson	John James	Nathan Rice	Chariot Wish & Ben Fama
Diana Whitney	Ed Steck	Arisa White	Anselm Berrigan
Zoë Ryder White	James Barnes	Matthew Zapruder	Sarah Arvio
Shanta Lee Gander	Julia Guez & Emily Brandt	Sharon Olds	Josef Kaplan
Justin Marks	Charles Simic	Anoop Kumar	

Launching an Ambitious Online Classroom Offering!



10 Classes offered in 2021:

The Real as Magic with Shanta Lee Gander

Creative Uncertainty with Bianca Stone

The Poetry of Memory with Arisa White (covered by Bianca Stone)

Spiritualized: A Poetry Workshop with Ben Fama

Chapbook Layout Essentials with Ben Pease

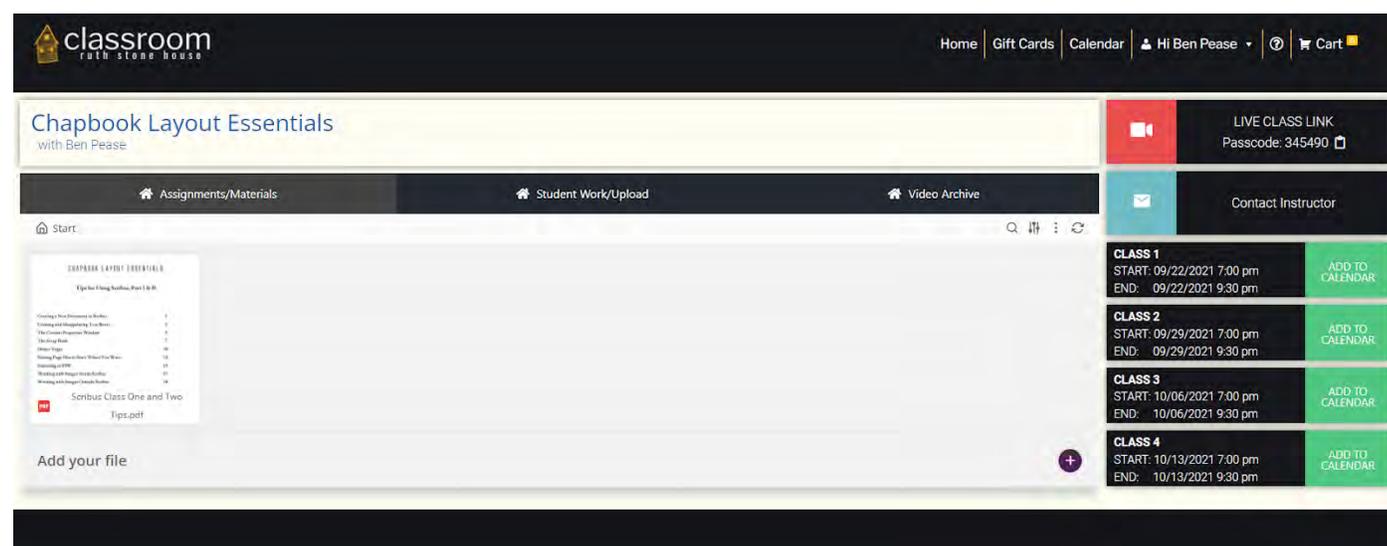
Love's Damage: Writing the Sonnet in Climate of Duress with John James

Emotion and Suspense in Theatre, Poetry and (Non)Fiction with Rita Banerjee

Poetry & Divination with Timothy Liu

Old Soul Beginner's Class with Bianca Stone

Poetry Workshop: The Haunted Image with Mark Leidner



Walter designed a terrific online platform for students that provides easy access to the online class, how to email the teacher, and most importantly, a shared google drive feature that allows both students and teachers to upload and access work!

Grant Seeking

Leanne restarted our grant writing campaign and helped secure \$10,000 in funding!

- The Vermont Arts Council, Cultural Facilities Grant
- Preservation Trust of Vermont, 1772 Foundation Grant
- The Vermont Humanities Council/Vermont Community Fund Project Grant—awarded 5k
- Historic Preservation Grant
- The Vermont Arts Council COVID Relief Grant— awarded 5k

Capital Campaign

RSH staff and the capital campaign subcommittee finalized the case statement and began making “big asks” from large donors. Much research was done on potential donors and we began contacting those who we thought were both willing and able to contribute. We have had about \$75,000 pledged so far, with a major donation of \$50,000 received from Annette and Dale Schuh.

RUTH STONE HOUSE

Case Statement



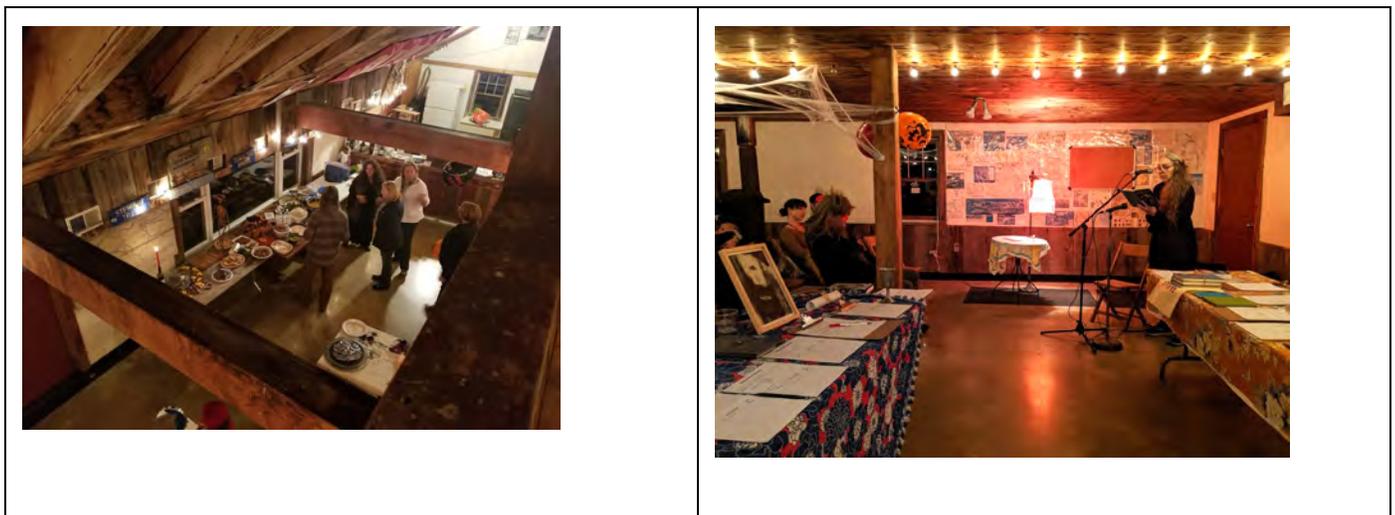
Ruth Stone House Reading Series: Canceled

The Beer and Broadside events were a more casual version of the reading series, most of them held outside for Covid safety reasons, but we should consider a reading series for 2022!



Ruth Stone Year-End Potluck: Canceled

We essentially replaced the Potluck with the final Beer and Broadside event this year



RSH Finances

Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of our "Statement of Activity" for January - December 2021.

Board Votes

1) Mission Statement Addition: Additional Statement Regarding

Vote

Yay: All in favor **Nay:**

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. **RSH encourages our community to integrate deeply-held interests that lie outside of poetry/literature into their craft and programming.**

2) Mission Statement Addition: Diversity and Inclusion Statement

Vote

Yay: All in favor **Nay:**

In the spirit of Ruth Stone's lifelong activism, Ruth Stone House is committed to reshaping communities we touch into those that promote social justice and freedom from oppression, including but not limited to, racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism, and working towards this end through various programming and initiative policies.

Goals for 2022

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.

The Ruth Stone House Podcast and Newsletter

We will look to publish this every month this year!

Capital Campaign

We will continue this into the new year.

Online Classes

More will be offered, including a series on starting a small press!

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.

Poetry Games

Ben has a chapbook-length anthology in the works re: writing prompts influenced by dice rolling, which will include dice he makes. Other ideas include a Ruth Stone House oracle deck and a more involved game that ends in each player writing a poem, and possibly a fellowship for RSH to assist others in creating poetry-inspired games!

Quarterly Membership

The staff is planning on launching a quarterly membership where those who join will receive chapbooks, broadsides, and discounts on classes if they join.

Public School Visits

We will continue to work with Fletcher Free Library on providing classes and seek out other schools who are interested in participating.

Publishing

We plan on continuing making broadsides, new *Iterant* issues, and expand into chapbook publications. An *Iterant* chapbook is nearly ready for publication.

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?

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

Will this be the year for this?

Prepared by:

Benjamin Pease

President, Ruth Stone Foundation (dba Ruth Stone House)

Date: 1/29/2022

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

APPENDIX A

Ruth Stone House, Inc.

Statement of Activity

January - December 2021

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Contributions	66,667.39
Interest income	2.98
Program revenue	
Classes	9,023.50
Total Program revenue	9,023.50
Sales	25,468.25
Uncategorized Income	1,992.06
Total Revenue	\$103,154.18
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	131.48
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$131.48
GROSS PROFIT	\$103,022.70
Expenditures	
Advertising & Marketing	413.76
Bank Charges & Fees	951.51
Conferences and meetings	13,309.89
Insurance	3,334.25
Job Supplies	1,256.37
Occupancy	
Lodging	404.80
Property taxes	3,514.83
Rent & Lease	954.00
Utilities	587.54
Total Occupancy	5,461.17
Office Supplies & Software	974.05
Professional Fees	
Contractors	12,404.50
Legal fees	742.50
Total Professional Fees	13,147.00
Purchases	202.40
Repairs & Maintenance	1,581.09
Royalties	505.00
Shipping, Freight & Delivery	236.25
Taxes & Licenses	75.00
Uncategorized Expense	1,242.16
Website Software & Hosting Fees	2,576.20
Total Expenditures	\$45,266.10
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$57,756.60
NET REVENUE	\$57,756.60