

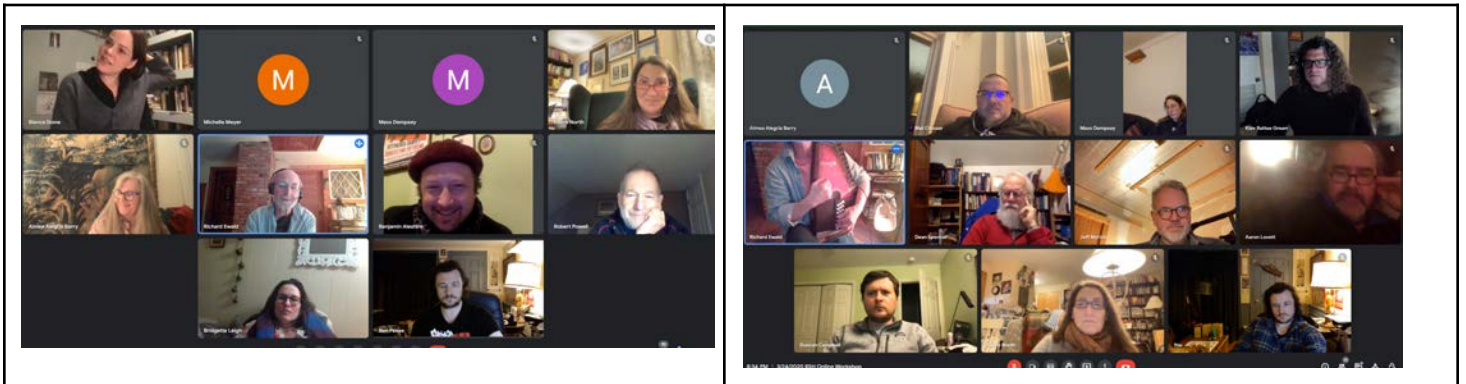
2023: Year in Review

2023 saw extensive renovations to the Ruth Stone House and a continued growth of our programming.

Programming

Free Writing Workshop Celebrates Fifth-Year Anniversary, Remains Virtual

The weekly writing workshop has been a consistent part of the RSH programming for the last four years. We held our last in-person workshop in March 2020 and have been virtual ever since. Ben and sometimes Bianca lead these sessions, alternating between a poetry workshop and poetry craft class each week.



AWP Seattle

The RSH Staff attended the 2023 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Seattle, WA and held a table at the bookfair



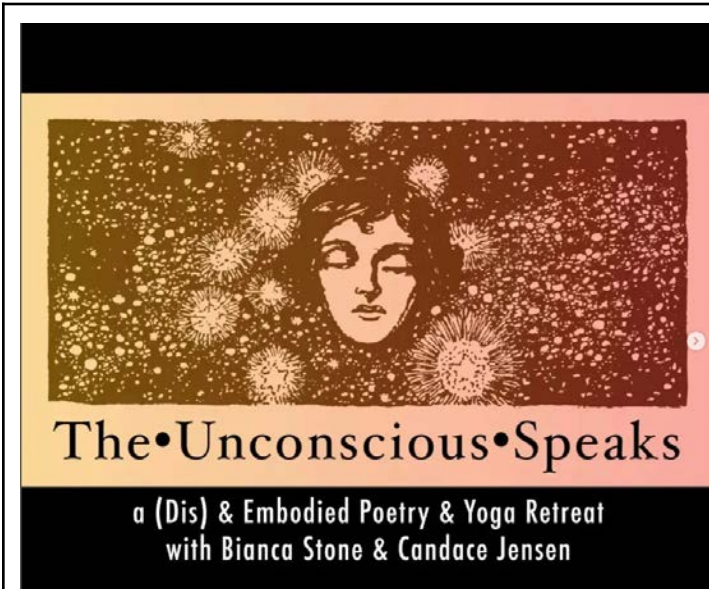
Walter stands in the labyrinth of tables



Copies of *ITERANT* available for purchase

The Unconscious Speaks

Bianca and Candace lead an in-person writing retreat where “Our goal will be to reorient exploration of consciousness through soma (body) and psyche (mind)...Working closely with both poet Bianca Stone, and artist and yoga instructor, Candace Jensen, our intention will be twofold: 1.) To increase our ability to gain access to more generative, creative flow-state, in both writing and editing 2.) To investigate poetic, psychological and philosophical texts that bring multifaceted insight into the powerful relationship between poetic practice and expanding consciousness.”



Promotional Banner for the event



shared and private rooms

Cost: \$1,600 (max) all attendees will get room and board, for one week

Applicants can apply for scholarships, we are doing our best to help anyone who wishes to come to be able to make it; please reach out with any questions

Accommodations in East Callais at the Holden House



Students gather for Bianca's workshop



Candace leads a yoga session



Enjoying time together around the fire



Discussions and fruit around the table

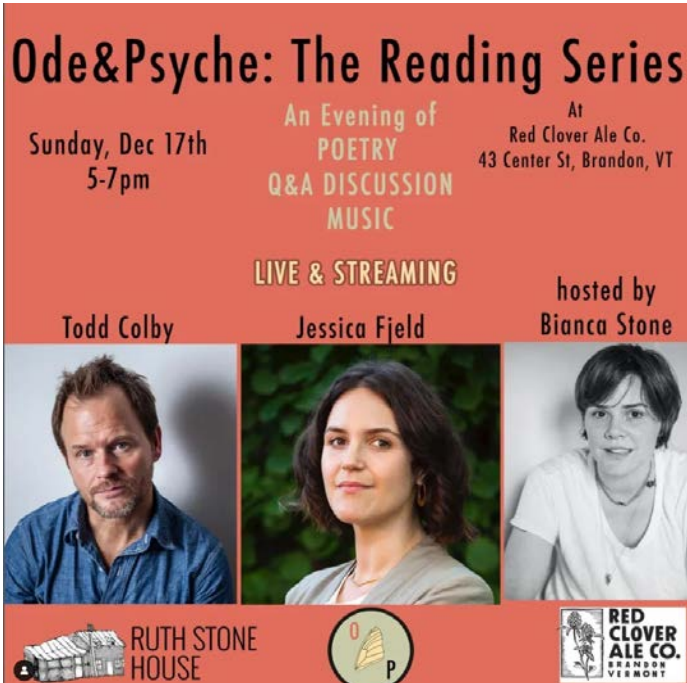
University of Michigan: New England Literature Program

A group from the New England Literature program spent an immersive day at the Ruth Stone House, aiding with renovations, learning about Ruth Stone, and getting in some quality writing time. This program visited the house many years ago, and we are glad to have them back!



Ode&Psyche: The Reading Series

After a hiatus starting with Covid lockdown, we have restarted our reading series under a new guise, a counterpart to Bianca's podcast. Todd Colby and Jessica Fjeld both read.



Ode&Psyche: The Reading Series
An Evening of
POETRY
Q&A DISCUSSION
MUSIC
At
Red Clover Ale Co.
43 Center St, Brandon, VT
LIVE & STREAMING
hosted by
Bianca Stone
Todd Colby Jessica Fjeld
RUTH STONE HOUSE P RED CLOVER ALE CO. BRANDON VERMONT



A full house at Red Clover takes in Todd Colby's reading

Live Music at the House of Poetry!

While this happened in 2024, it was too exciting not to share! Candace invited Jolie to perform, and the RSH went all out to put on an incredible event!



The Ruth Stone House Presents:
JOLIE HOLLAND
with Ben Boye
live music at the house of poetry
DOORS 7pm
MUSIC 8-9
SPACE IS LIMITED
TICKETS ONLY
788 Hathaway Road, Goshen VT



Jolie Holland performs by a photo of Ruth



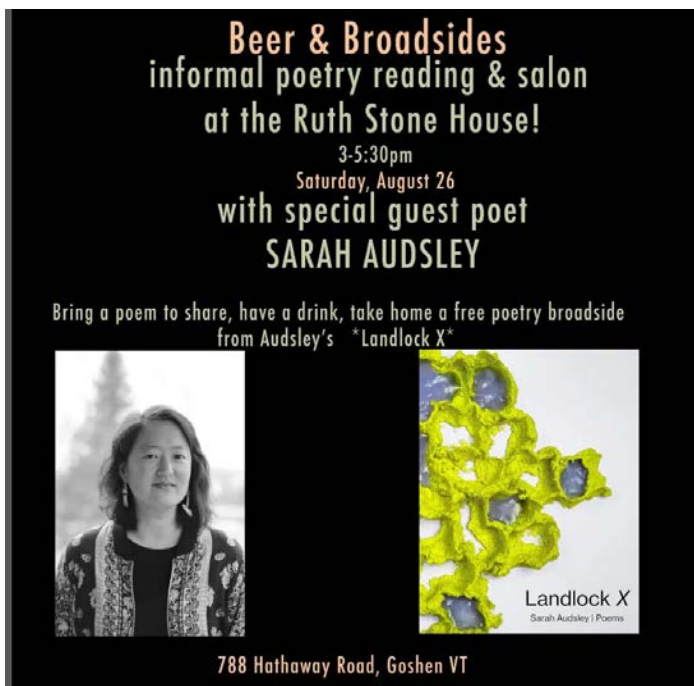
A full house seated for the performance, plus Walter's sound recording setup (video and audio will be available for all of our shows!)



The audience spilled out into the press room!

Beer and Broadsides

The RSH staff worked together to invite friends and fellow poets to visit the Ruth Stone House, try their hand at printing, and share their poems in a welcoming environment!



Sophia Le Fraga reads on the RSH porch



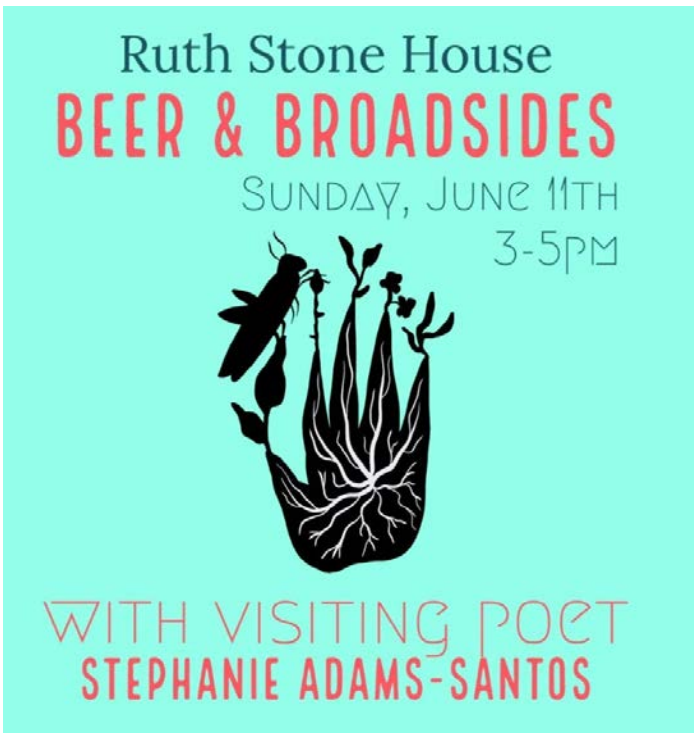
Candace and Sarah printing



The vibe of Beer and BroadSides



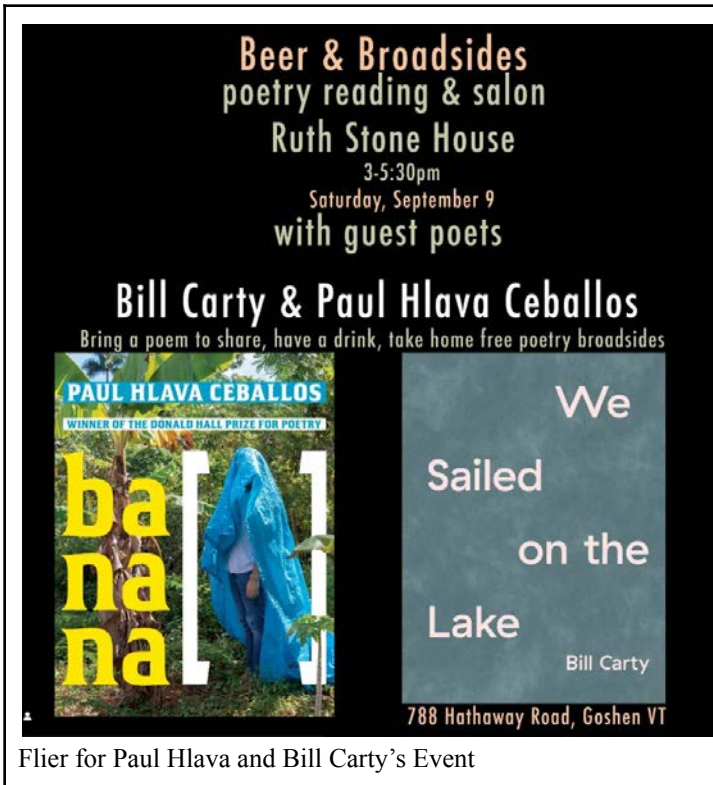
Checking out the prints



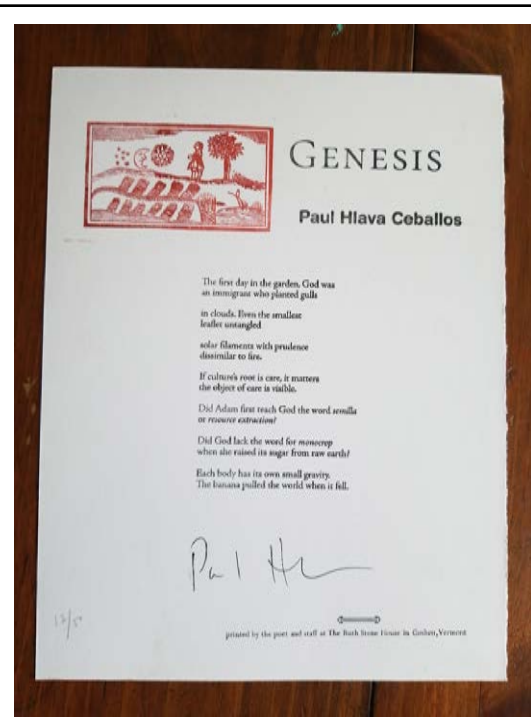
Flier for Stephanie Adams-Santos' Event



Ben and Stephanie and Odette pose for a photo



Flier for Paul Hlava and Bill Carty's Event



Paul's broadside, signed

Property Insurance Compliance Measures

A property insurance inspection brought about a list of “recommendations” that were required to be addressed if our property insurance was to be renewed. A combination of TJJ Construction, RSH Staff, and volunteers went into overdrive to maintain compliance, and our insurance was renewed!



Before photo, broken windows, unpainted, foundation from shed still hanging on



Busted windows boarded up, shed foundation removed, and house painted



The back stairs were rebuilt with handrails added



And a beam was added as required by the Insurance!



Much of the house was repainted



The remaining dry laid stone was re-grouted



There used to be a chimney here, it was half removed and the beam behind it had rotted away



This is the same spot...the beam replaced and the missing siding put back on! This work required guidance from a structural engineer!

Renovations!

Major work was done on multiple areas of the house.



The second floor was torn down to the studs as they like to say.



It was then reframed with additional vaulted rafters that added some necessary support as many of the original rafters were failing (or had already failed).



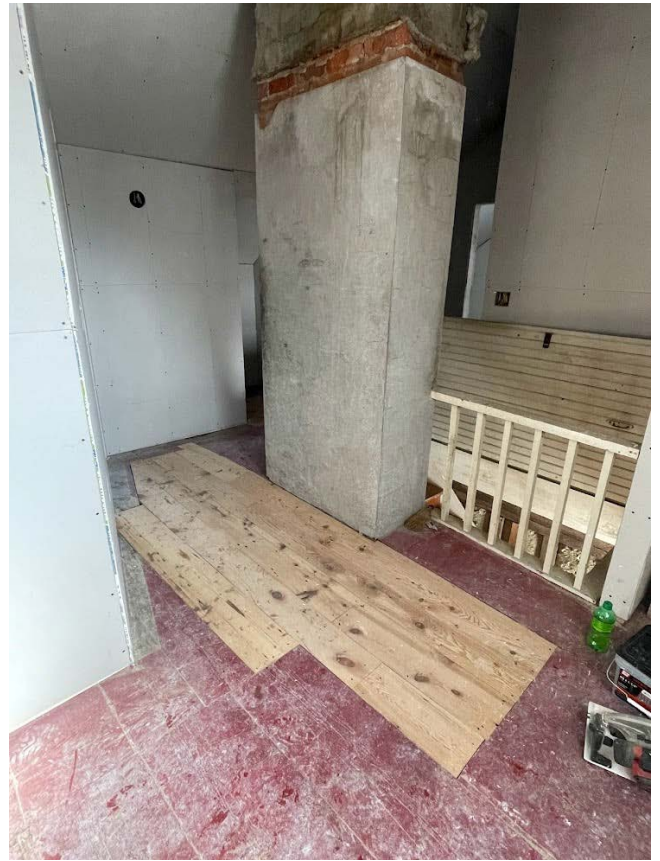
The ceilings and walls were insulated.



All new electrical and drywall also installed and new fixtures in the upstairs bathroom.



Stairs were installed in the hatchway.



A difficult piece of the floor that suffered from decades of the house shifting was repaired



The new furnace, installed with support from a Vermont Cultural Facilities Grant



One of two heat pumps, this one a multi-split, installed at the same time.



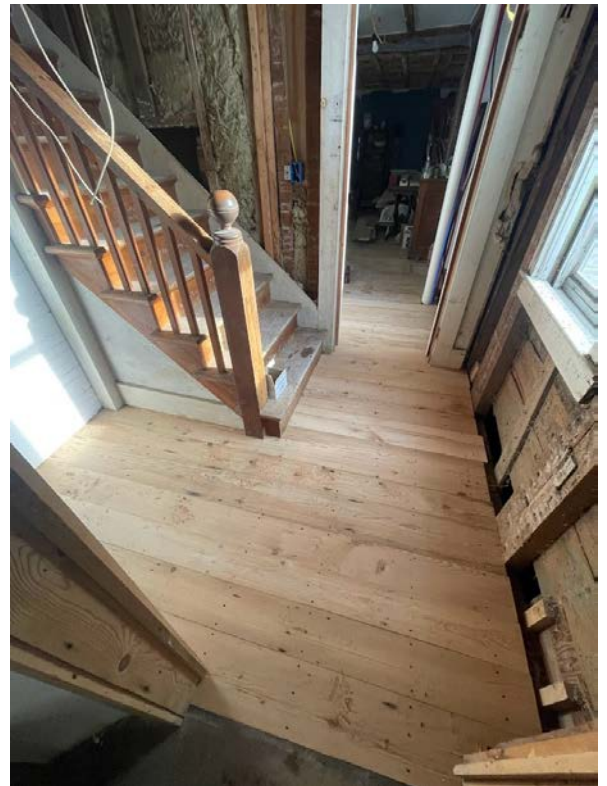
A stretch of new baseboard



Setting of the 1000 gallon propane tank, sized for both heating the house and a backup generator yet to be installed



The ceiling around the fireplace on the fire floor was also installed, the back wall finished by the stairs, and a new sewage pipe installed in a less obvious place. Other minor finishing work was also completed on the first floor.



Let's call this piece of floor the landing, and it was previously the only bit of floor not replaced. A new substructure and donated barnwood flooring installed.



Repairs to the upstairs made it apparent that the roof on the side of the house with dormers needed to be replaced, and the dormers were flashed so poorly that a large chunk of beam needed to be replaced as well.



Newly installed roof and dormer roofs



Opening access between living room and porch entrance



Temporary wall and door installed



Original window with lead paint



Windows scraped and repainted with lead sealing paint and trimmed out

Institutional Partnerships



We love to provide this type of programming where we partner with other institutions, often local libraries or schools, but it often takes a number of meetings over multiple months to schedule a one-day event! We taught workshops at Willowell, the Manchester Library, and to a number of 5th grade classes at Neshobe School in Brandon.



A workshop and discussion, cohosted with the Vermont Council of Teachers of Language Arts



Breakfast and lunch were served as part of the event, and teachers earned credits towards maintaining their certification.

from Jordan

Thank you for coming
I had so much fun with you
thank you so so much



Thank you for coming to my class. We had so much fun. You guys inspired use all to write poetry. I love writeing poems and have lots of fun doing them with my friends.

thank you so much,
Jordan

ITERANT

Itinerant soared into its fourth year with three four issues and a growing subscriber base!

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

Reading Team and Copyediting Assistants: Mat Clouser, Ben Pease



Issue #13 – SUN EATER



Issue #12 – I Want to Convince You



Issue #11 – Poems for the Animal



Issue #10 – Tall Red Straw

ITERANT

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



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DOMINIC DULIN

Novateur (1)

▶ PLAY

I think you threatened
your coworker at FedEx
maybe that was it

but I still have your emails
I reread them sometimes
my heart bleating out

I still don't understand
why you sent me death threats
fake acid wrapped
in soviet propaganda papers



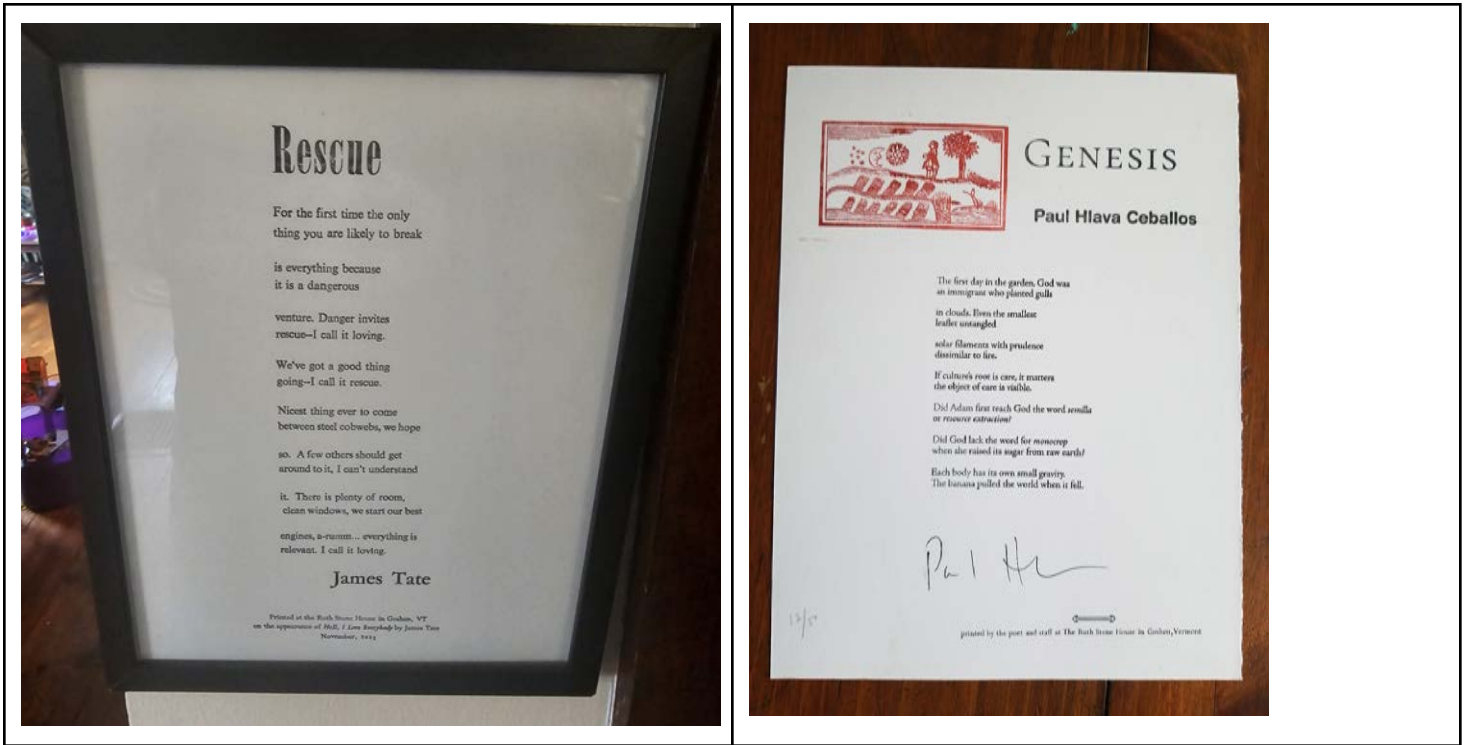
Appears in this issue

I pictured you chasing me



An example page of *Iterant*, showcasing both its elegant design and built-in audio player.

A selection of broadsides printed this year:



The Ruth Stone House Podcast

In keeping with the newer portion of our mission statement, “to integrate deeply-held interests that lie outside of poetry/literature into [...] programming,” Bianca rebranded the Ruth Stone House podcast into the “Ode & Psyche Podcast: Exploring Poetry and Consciousness.”

RUTH STONE HOUSE'S ODE & PSYCHE PODCAST

EXPLORING POETRY & CONSCIOUSNESS 



2023 Podcast Episodes

Thinking, Reading and Imaging the Essay with Hilary Plum
Translation's Strange Gifts + Speaking Patterns of Violence in the Lives of Women & World: Mira Rosenthal
"Distance Avails Not" Hannah Zeavin on the History of Teletherapy & Reorienting Intimacy
"Varied Expressions of the Very Same Thing" with Charif Shanahan
Muse of the Unconscious: mind, body & poetry
THE HUMAN DRIVE: SOPHIE KLAHR ON POETRY, MEMORY, LOOKING & LISTENING
Poetry & Dreams with Ana Božičević
Violence in Language & Finding Repair in Poetry: Paul Hlava Ceballos
Poetry & Dreams with Mathias Svalina
MARISA CRAWFORD, the DIARY & the 90s
A Place Beyond Shame: Ed Steck on the B Horror Film of Life
How Poetry Speaks to Change: Ovid's Metamorphoses with Translator Stephanie McCarter

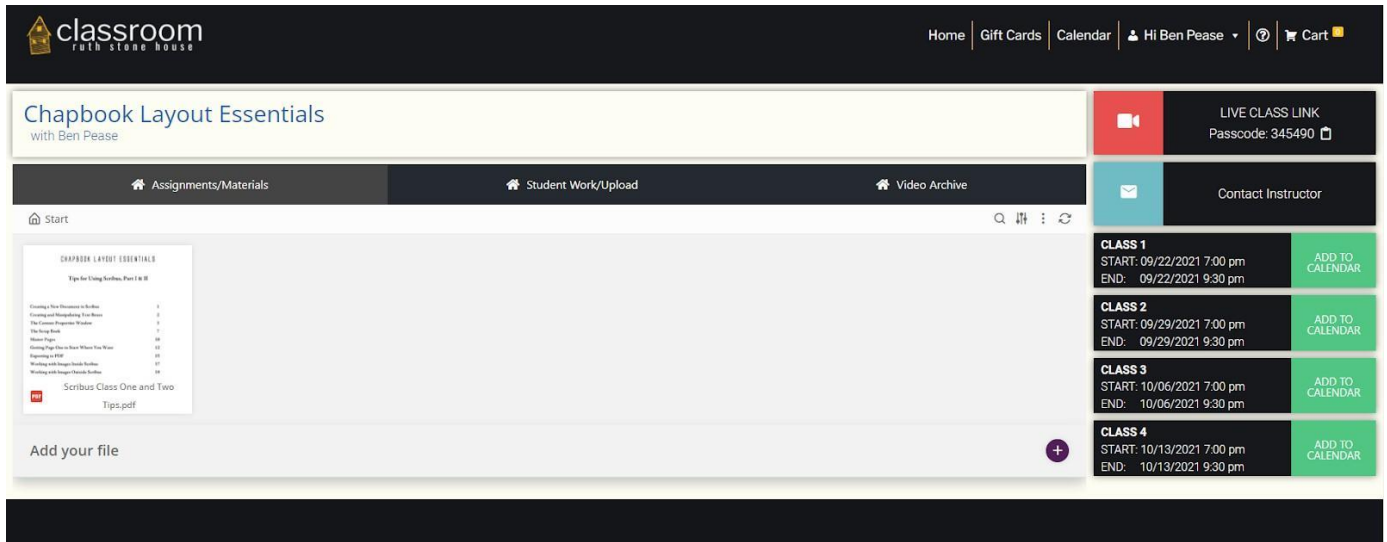
Ruth Stone House (Online) Classroom Enters Its 3rd Year!



8 Online Classes offered in 2023:

1. My Pronouns Make a Sonnet: Queering Poetic Form (2 Sessions)
2. Poetry of the Spirit (3 sessions)
3. The Unsayable: Generative poetry workshop exploring Rainer Maria Rilke (4 Sessions)
4. Dream-Mind Poems with Sarah Arvio (4 sessions)
5. On the Sublime: Writing the Contemporary Ode with John James (4 Sessions)

6. Small Press Series: Running a Small Press Crash Course with Ben Fama (2 Sessions)
7. Small Press Series: Chapbook Layout Essentials with Ben Pease and MC Hyland (4 Sessions)
8. Small Press Series: Small Press Capstone (4 Sessions)



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!

Ghost in the Forest Games

The Light of Mount Horrid Kickstarter was successful, and the book was printed and distributed to those who supported the campaign.



Small Press Classes

A four class series spanning 6 months (from the info session to the individual meetings after the capstone) that covered all the skills required to start a small press. The series was devised and hosted by Ben Pease with Ben Fama, Walter Stone, and M.C. Hyland providing critical support.



Grant Seeking

Leanne continued our grant writing campaign and helped secure over \$80,000 in funding!

- Vermont Community Recovery and Revitalization Program Grant, \$80,000
- Vermont Arts Council Creative Futures Program, \$5,000

Also applied to

- United Way of Addison County Community Impact Grant
- Walter Cerf grant
- Poetry Society of America Capacity Building grant

Capital Campaign

We have recently joined the Addison County Economic Development Committee and will be consulting with them and looking for additional names for the capital campaign.

RUTH STONE HOUSE

Case Statement



RSH Finances

Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of our "Statement of Activity" for January - December 2023.

Board Contributions

Bianca and Ben donated the fee from the Fletcher Library Class, and Ben donated his time for the entire Small Press series

Goals for 2024

Free Writing Workshop

The workshop continues into its fifth straight year!

The Next Galaxy Poetry Initiative

Renovations will continue with work being performed by TLJ Construction and Keyser Energy.

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!

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

The first publication will come into being this year

On-Site Events

With the renovations and heating system occurring in the first quarter of 2023, we will be planning more in-person events at the Ruth Stone House once we are able to utilize the newly renovated space.

Quarterly Membership

Print *Iterant* is now live and a membership is available.

Public School Visits

We will continue to work with Fletcher Free Library, Neshobe, and more 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 the Tabletop Book arena.

Online/In-Person Reading Series

The reading series has returned! And will continue~

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 2024 - 2nd half of 2024

Will this be the year for this?

Prepared by:

Benjamin Pease

Executive Director, Ruth Stone House



Date: 1/27/2024

Ruth Stone House, Inc.

Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Contributions	277,711.26
Interest income	0.81
Miscellaneous Income	
Affiliate income	1.87
Credit card rebates	156.21
Total Miscellaneous Income	158.08
Program revenue	63.60
Classes	17,575.00
Fiscal Sponsorships	3,290.00
Service/Fee Revenue	250.00
Subscriptions	1,385.00
Total Program revenue	22,563.60
Sales	3,713.57
Shipping revenue	146.14
Total Sales	3,859.71
Uncategorized Income	1,976.69
Total Revenue	\$306,270.15
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	1,694.29
Inventory Shrinkage	-39.15
Shipping expense	1,117.66
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$2,772.80
GROSS PROFIT	\$303,497.35
Expenditures	
Advertising & Marketing	233.37
Conferences and meetings	8,755.24
Dues & subscriptions	56.01
Fees	20.00
Grants	810.00
Information technology	3,994.45
Insurance	4,424.75
Job Supplies	330.62
ITERANT printing	2,691.59
Letterpress Printing Supplies	150.00
Total Job Supplies	3,172.21
Merchant fees	903.67
Occupancy	2,664.30
Rent & Lease	16,512.89
Repairs & Maintenance	4,267.36

Ruth Stone House, Inc.

Statement of Activity
January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Utilities	2,583.81
Total Occupancy	26,028.36
Ode & Psyche Research	76.20
Office Expenses	
Bank Charges	85.37
Supplies	1,358.91
Telecommunications	149.90
Total Office Expenses	1,594.18
Professional Fees	3.15
Accounting	6,460.00
Contractors	164,034.72
Legal fees	138.75
Payroll service	93.59
Total Professional Fees	170,730.21
QuickBooks Payments Fees	222.63
Royalties	1,652.50
Travel	5,108.29
Uncategorized Expense	16,773.71
Total Expenditures	\$244,555.78
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$58,941.57
NET REVENUE	\$58,941.57