



COFFEE HOUSE PRESS ANNUAL REPORT



FY09

JULY 1, 2008–JUNE 30, 2009

MISSION

The mission of Coffee House Press is to publish exciting, vital, and enduring authors of our time; to delight and inspire readers; to contribute to the cultural life of our community; and to enrich our literary heritage. By building on the best traditions of publishing and the book arts, we produce books that celebrate imagination, innovation in the craft of writing, and the many authentic voices of the American experience.

VISION

Literature. We will promote literature as a vital art form, helping to redefine its role in contemporary life. We will publish authors whose groundbreaking work helps shape the direction of 21st-century literature.

Writers. We will foster the careers of our writers by making long-term commitments to their work, allowing them to take risks in form and content.

Readers. Readers of books we publish will experience new perspectives and an expanding intellectual landscape.

Publishing. We will be leaders in developing a sustainable 21st-century model of independent literary publishing, pushing the boundaries of content, form, editing, audience development, and book technologies.

VALUES

- Innovation and excellence in all activities
- Diversity of people, ideas, and products
- Advancing literary knowledge
- Community through embracing many cultures
- Ethical and highly professional management and governance practices



NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

FISCAL YEAR 2009 marks a time of historic change for Coffee House Press. From its inception as a small press publisher twenty-five years ago to its current million-dollar annual operating budget, Coffee House has survived and thrived. We braced ourselves for the recent economic chill, but found that by thinking ahead to warmer climes—through strategic planning, a new location and succession planning—we are poised to forge ahead in the pursuit of supporting authors and exciting readers with twenty-first century literature.

We spent a lot of this year putting into words how we've evolved—and where we're going. For years, we've relied on our instincts to distinguish what makes a Coffee House book unique, and distinguished our authors are indeed—from Sam Savage's international bestseller *Firmin* about a literate rat to Kalia Kao Yang's award-winning tale of becoming an American in *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*. Looking ahead, we wanted to capture that independent spirit and continue this legacy for generations of authors and readers to come.

What we have always done best, and what we will continue to do well into the future, is push boundaries. Our work celebrates the imagination, literary craft, and the authentic stories of a diverse America. Through form, presentation and style, we support authors and thrill readers with daring works of art that come alive on the printed page.

Thanks to many factors coming together, including unprecedented financial support, Herculean volunteer efforts, our magnificent staff and a roster of some of America's most significant writers, we are extraordinarily proud to present this annual report. Now, as ever, good books are brewing at Coffee House Press.



—Allan Kornblum, Publisher and Jennifer Haugh, Board President



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Old Location: When the building we had called home for nineteen years was sold in May 2008, the Minnesota philanthropic community rallied to our need and provided the funds we needed to find a new home, to wire it and equip it for our needs, to pack up our old office, and to move to our new office.

New Location: We found a beautiful new home near the Mississippi in ArtSpace's historic Grain Belt Brewery Bottling House. Our new home provides a well-lit, inspiring place to brew new books. We're hoping to be here for the next fifty years.

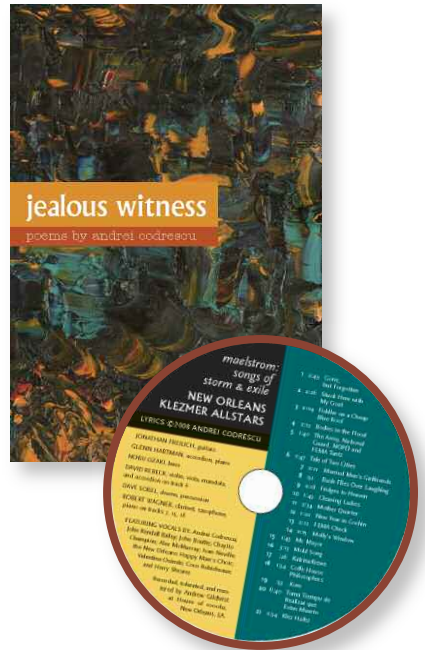
Celebration: Our housewarming benefit in October 2008, featuring Coffee House poet Andrei Codrescu as guest speaker, provided a fitting conclusion to our successful move.



ANNUAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New Books: Coffee House Press took on new challenges in our fall 2008 and spring 2009 seasons. Andrei Codrescu's book included our first musical CD. Akilah Oliver's book included a section with color photographs of graffiti and Mark Nowak's book included Ian Teh's stunning color photographs of coal mines in China and the United States. The deckle edges on Norah Labiner's novel added a nice touch. The majestic size of Bill Berkson's selected poems highlighted the importance of this fifty-year collection. All in all, it was an exciting and productive year for our publishing program. Here are the books we published during fiscal year 2009:

- *Famous Suicides of the Japanese Empire*, a novel by David Mura
- *Jealous Witness*, poems by Andrei Codrescu, music CD by the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars
- *Blood Dazzler*, poems by Patricia Smith
- *Body Clock*, poems by Eleni Sikelianos
- *The Steel Veil*, poems by Jack Marshall
- *The Cosmopolitan*, poems by Donna Stonecipher
- *A Toast in the House of Friends*, poems by Akilah Oliver
- *German for Travelers*, a novel by Norah Labiner
- *The Hebrew Tutor of Bel Air*, a novel by Allan Appel
- *Fugue State*, stories by Brian Evenson
- *All Fall Down*, stories by Mary Caponegro
- *Beats At Naropa*, lectures and essays edited by Anne Waldman and Laura Wright
- *Portrait and Dream, New and Selected Poems*, by Bill Berkson
- *Coal Mountain Elementary*, poems by Mark Nowak, photographs by Ian Teh
- *The Spoils*, poems by Ted Mathys



RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Ange Mlinko

The Poetry Foundation's Randall Jarrell Award in Poetry Criticism

Ron Padgett

Shelley Memorial Award Winner

Jealous Witness, poems by Andrei Codrescu

Finalist, Balcones Poetry Prize

Rounding the Human Corners, poems by Linda Hogan

Finalist, Oklahoma Book Award

Famous Suicides of the Japanese Empire, a novel by David Mura

Finalist, Minnesota Book Award

Skirt Full of Black, poems by Sun Yung Shin

Winner, Asian American Literary Award

Blood Dazzler, poems by Patricia Smith

Finalist, National Book Award

Things I Must Have Known, poems by A.B. Spellman

Nominee, NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work—Poetry

Honorable Mention, Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award

The Last Communist Virgin, stories by Wang Ping

Winner, Association for Asian American Studies Book Award

The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir, by Kao Kalia Yang

Winner, Minnesota Book Award

Winner, Minnesota Readers Choice Award

Winner, Skipping Stones Honor Award

Winner, Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award



REVIEWS AND READINGS

Each year more than 200,000 books are published in the United States and more than half of them never receive a single review, nor are most of their authors ever invited to give a reading. Last year Coffee House Press books received 231 reviews in print and electronic media, while our authors gave 318 readings and workshops at bookstores, libraries, schools, community centers and coffee houses across the country.

National Book Foundation
Celebrating the best of American literature

2008 National Book Award Finalist
Poetry

Patricia Smith
Coffee House Press
www.coffeehousepress.com

Blood Outside
Patricia Smith

Patricia Smith's "The Day After Tomorrow" is a brilliant collection of poems that explore the complexities of race, class, and identity in America. Her work is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition.

The Providence Journal
BOOKS
A ride down some dark roads
Deborah Tall explores adolescent angst, madness and Morrison's history of violence

The Green Curtain
Deborah Tall

Deborah Tall's "A Ride Down Some Dark Roads" is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition. Her work is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition.

PW
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Fugue State
By Brian Evenson. Nov. 11. \$14.95.

At the heart of Brian Evenson's brilliant new collection of stories is a story dealing with the capacity of characters to transcend the common parameters of time and space. The stories are a testament to the power of the imagination and the human condition.

metro times
Oct 29th - Nov 4, 2008

ARTS & POETRY
Thinking outside the flood
The poet as witness to disaster

By Thomas Center

THE POET AS WITNESS TO DISASTER: THE POET AS WITNESS TO DISASTER: THE POET AS WITNESS TO DISASTER. The poet as witness to disaster. The poet as witness to disaster.

Time Out New York
Nov 20, 2008

Book review
Fugue State

By Brian Evenson
At the heart of Brian Evenson's brilliant new collection of stories is a story dealing with the capacity of characters to transcend the common parameters of time and space.

BOOKFORUM
Nov 20, 2008

FUGUE STATE
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Nov. 11. \$14.95.

At the heart of Brian Evenson's brilliant new collection of stories is a story dealing with the capacity of characters to transcend the common parameters of time and space.

Foreign Policy
Interview with David Mura

David Mura is a brilliant and moving exploration of the human condition. His work is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition.

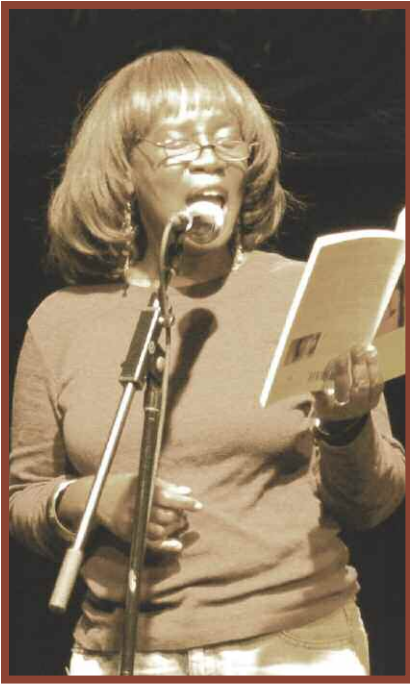
St. Paul Pioneer Press
Nov 20, 2008

Book review
Mind-bender

By Norah Labiner
Physicists: the hidden, mysterious, ghostly... Minneapolis author Norah Labiner's "Current for Travelers" with childlike joy.

The Belle of Minneapolis
By Norah Labiner

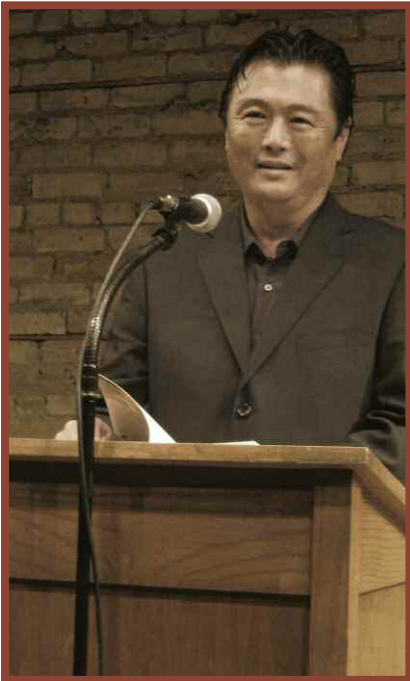
Norah Labiner's "The Belle of Minneapolis" is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition. Her work is a powerful and moving exploration of the human condition.



EDUCATION

Books in Classrooms: Our staff works hard to get our books into the hands of teachers, who in turn, are using our books in high school and college classrooms across the country. We are particularly gratified by the response to Kao Kalia Yang's *The Latecomer*, which is being extensively used in middle schools, high schools, and colleges in Minnesota and Wisconsin. During FY09 we sold more than 20,000 copies of our books for classroom use.

Internships: During our twenty-five year history, Coffee House Press has actively served as an incubator for publishing talent. Former staff and interns currently hold positions at major houses such as Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt, and at top small presses such as Graywolf, Copper Canyon, and Milkweed Editions. During FY09, fifteen young people interned at Coffee House Press, acquiring skills in editing and marketing, and learning about the structure of a publishing house. We are pleased to report that three FY09 interns have already found positions at magazines or publishing houses. In an email, Regina Eckes, the new Advertising and Promotions Assistant at HarperCollins, told us that "Getting back to New York was my goal, and it wouldn't have been possible without having this internship on my resume." We are proud of this continuing contribution to the local and national literary communities that we serve.



LOOKING AHEAD

We began our 2009 fiscal year during particularly important time in the life of Coffee House Press. After a period in which earned and donated income had plateaued, the organization had been growing again; book reviewing, bookselling and book production had been changing as rapidly as new technologies will allow; and according to repeated surveys, book reading had been declining in recent years. Finally, founder Allan Kornblum had reached his sixties, and after handling the changing administrative needs of an organization that grew from a \$40,000 to a \$1,000,000-plus annual budget, he expressed a desire to return to his first loves: acquiring manuscripts and letterpress printing.

A grant from the Bush Foundation made it possible for the organization for staff and board to work with consultants to create an updated mission, vision and values, accompanied by six overarching goals, a three-year strategic plan, and a leadership transition plan. We looked at our internal and external environments and identified opportunities and obstacles, which our plan addresses. We believe the initiatives we plan to implement will enable us to build on our record of substantial accomplishments, and enable us to continue meeting the sometimes conflicting challenges of serving as an arts organization *and* as a publishing business, during a period of rapid change.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Coffee House Press eliminated its deficit in restricted and unrestricted funds during FY09, as a result of income from the translation rights, strong sales of our books, and increased donated income. Following is a summary of the numbers from our audit.

Statement of Activities	FY09	FY08
Earned Income	\$960,919	\$530,141
Donated Income	429,139	257,531
Total Income	\$1,390,054	\$787,672
Program Costs	\$1,029,881	\$744,785
Management & Fundraising	209,270	137,776
Total Expenses	\$1,239,907	\$881,561
Change in Net Assets	\$150,907	\$(93,889)
Beginning Balance	(14,570)	79,319
Ending Balance	\$136,337	(\$14,570)
Balance Sheet	FY09	FY08
Current Assets	\$766,502	\$306,202
Property & Equipment	29,659	21,825
Other Assets	2,800	3,475
Total Assets	\$798,961	\$331,502
Current Liabilities	\$554,558	\$209,875
Long-Term Liabilities	108,066	137,197
Total Liabilities	\$662,624	\$346,072
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$31,337	\$(90,570)
Temporarily Restricted	105,000	76,000
Total Net Assets	\$136,337	(\$14,570)
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$798,961	\$331,502

FY09 DONORS

FY09 DONATED INCOME

Corporation, Foundations, and Government

\$50,000 and above

Bush Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Target

\$10,000 – \$49,999

Patrick and Aimee Butler
Family Foundation
Jerome Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Minnesota State Arts Board

\$1,000 – \$9,999

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Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation

\$100 – \$999

Abraham Associates Inc.
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Ameriprise Financial Employee Giving
(David Hoyt)
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Mary McDermid

In Memory of

Woessner Freeman Family Foundation
in memory of David Hilton

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Sally French
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Mary McDermid
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Stu Wilson

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

\$5,000 and above

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Bill Berkson
Stephen and Isabel Keating

\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Kathryn and Dean Koutsky
Kenneth Koch Literary Estate
Mary McDermid
John Sjoberg
Mary Strand and Thomas Fraser
Stu Wilson and Melissa Barker

\$500 – \$999

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 Peter and Jennifer Nelson
 Deborah Reynolds
 Charles Steffey and Suzannah Martin
 Warren Woessner
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\$100 – \$499

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 Pat and Dave Barker
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 Rick Simonson
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 Robert and Susan Warde
 Susan Welch
 Marjorie Welsh
 Carol Yamamoto
 Karen Tei Yamashita

\$1 – \$99

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Susan Wheeler
Daniel and Carol Wilson



COFFEE HOUSE PRESS

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Chris Fischbach, Associate Publisher
Andrea M. Satter, Development Manager
Anitra Budd, Editorial Assistant
Linda Koutsky, Design and Production Manager
Molly Mikolowski, Marketing and Publicity Director
Esther Porter, Publicist
Teri Hageman, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

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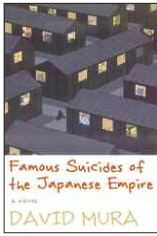
Board Members Emeritus

Warren Woessner
Isabel Keating

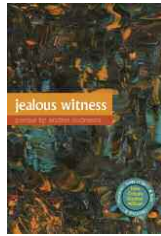


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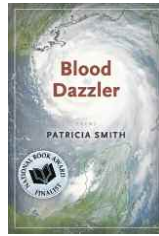
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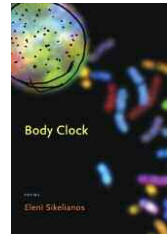
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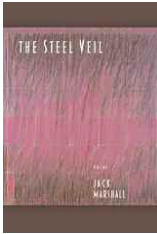
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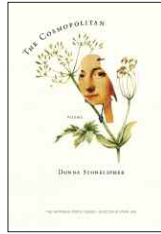
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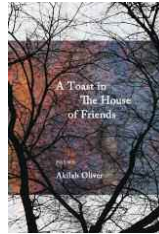
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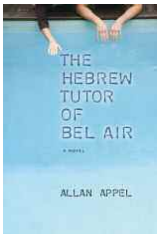
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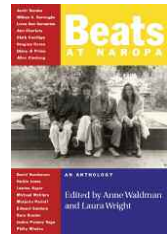
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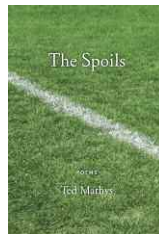
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