



COFFEE HOUSE PRESS ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2010

JULY 1, 2009–JUNE 30, 2010

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

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS has much to celebrate as we consider our achievements during fiscal year 2010, as well as our accumulated achievements, having also completed our twenty-fifth anniversary year. Of course like any literary press, our greatest pride is in our publishing program, and one very gratifying recent development has been our international outreach. Exhibiting annually at the Frankfurt International Book Fair has helped us introduce our authors to audiences we never dreamed we could reach when the press first opened its doors. Following is a list of the twenty-three countries outside of the United States where some of our titles have appeared in English or in translation:

Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain (in Spanish and Catalan), Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Although the economy has recently hurt many worthy arts organizations, Coffee House thrived financially last year, in part because we sold more books for classroom use than previous years. FY10 represented our second consecutive year with an operating budget over one million dollars, and our third consecutive year with earned income over five hundred thousand dollars. According to our audited records, our authors have received 1.4 million dollars in royalties and rights payments since 1984.

We're proud of our past, but we're more excited about the future. We're redesigning our website, we're about to start making some of our titles available in e-book format, and of course we have plans for many wonderful books in the coming years.

The achievements of the past and our plans for the future have been made possible by an ongoing collaboration between our staff, our board, our authors, our readers, our funders, and our many partners in the world of books, including agents, reviewers, booksellers, librarians, distributors, sales reps, subrights agents, and many others. We thank our many partners, and welcome you all to this annual report of our activities during our last fiscal year.

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Allan Kornblum' and the signature on the right is 'Stu Wilson'.

—Allan Kornblum, Publisher and Stu Wilson, Board President

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Transition

Chris Fischbach, who has been with Coffee House Press since 1994, will become Publisher in July 2011. Allan Kornblum's job title will change to Founder/Senior Editor, and in this new role, he will return to his first loves: acquiring and editing new manuscripts, writing about the history of books and publishing, and serving as an advisor to Chris Fischbach. Fischbach has already begun assuming supervisory responsibilities over staff, while Kornblum currently continues to manage the press's financial affairs.



Expansion

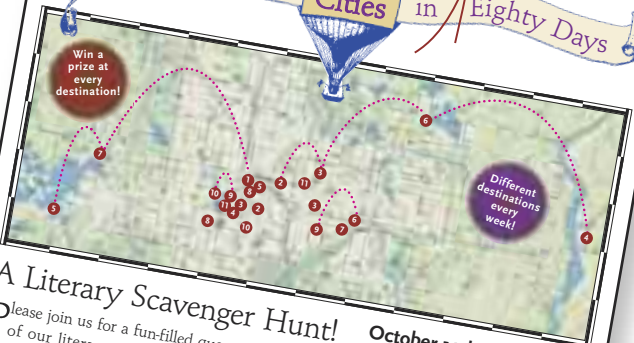
Coffee House Press has invested in our infrastructure:

1. We have upgraded our administrative assistant position to bookkeeper and hired a part-time accountant.
2. We hired a new editor, allowing for an increase in editorial and production capacity.
3. We have hired a development manager who is working with board and staff to build our fundraising capacity.

Collaboration

Minneapolis is regularly cited as one of the most (and even as the most) literary cities in the country, but rarely do we hear what makes us so. Coffee House Press believes that collaborations among the literary nonprofits help to raise the profile of the great work that is produced and enjoyed in our community. Around the Literary Twin Cities, a literary scavenger hunt, kicked off on October 10, 2009, at the Twin Cities Book Festival and was an appropriate example of our commitment to collaboration with other literary nonprofits. Born from a desire to mark the anniversaries of Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, the Loft Literary Center, and Milkweed Editions, we devised a celebration that would be fun for the whole literary community. By partnering with readers, booksellers, museums, and book arts centers, we drew attention to our literary culture—a place rich in bookstores and nonprofit organizations crafting the written word, nurturing writers, and bolstering literary culture nationwide.

Around the Literary Twin Cities in ^{Almost} Eighty Days



A Literary Scavenger Hunt!

Please join us for a fun-filled quest in celebration of our literary culture and the significant anniversaries of Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, Milkweed Editions, and The Loft Literary Center.

October 10 kick-off at the Twin Cities Book Festival
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
 Minneapolis Community and Technical College
 1501 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls.

TEST YOUR LITERARY PROWESS

New Minnesota-themed literary trivia questions every week!
 Visit old favorites and find new ones—26 terrific destinations in all!

DISCOVER BOOKISH HAUNTS UNIQUE TO OUR AREA

- Coffee House Press, Mpls.
- Graywolf Press, Mpls.
- Milkweed Editions, Mpls.
- The Loft Literary Center, Mpls.
- Ureia Hight/Vivian Edgar's, Mpls.
- University of Minnesota Bookstore, Coffman Memorial Union, Mpls.
- Barnes & Noble, Roseville (Franklin Mall)
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts Museum Shop, Mpls.
- Midway Books, St. Paul
- Back to Books, Hudson, WI
- Once Upon a Crime, Mpls.
- Big Brain Comics, Mpls.
- Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior
- Mpls. History Center Store, St. Paul
- Lake County Booksellers, White Bear Lake
- The Bookcase, Wayzata, St. Paul
- Common Good Books, St. Paul
- Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Mpls.
- Wild Runners, Mpls.
- Red Balloon Bookshop, St. Paul
- Walker Art Center Shop, Mpls.
- Birchbark Books, Mpls.
- True Colors/Amesque Co-op, Mpls.
- Magera & Quinn Booksellers, Mpls.
- Misenbaker Books, St. Paul

WIN FABULOUS PRIZES

- At each week's destination you will receive a passport stamp and a unique prize for questions answered correctly. Once the scavenger hunt is over, turn in your completed passport for a chance to win even more prizes! Three passports will be drawn at random for special prizes, and the chance to win a grand prize worth over \$1,000.
- Every book published by Coffee House Press, Graywolf Press, and Milkweed Editions in 2009 (over 50 books!).
- Minnesota Public Radio and the Star Tribune, in collaboration with The Loft Literary Center.
- A membership to The Loft Literary Center

Pick up your passport **HERE** and join the hunt!



Celebrate Minnesota Literature!
 TWINCITIESLIT.WORDPRESS.COM
 BANDING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE LITERARY ARTS



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

In its twenty-fifth year of publishing, Coffee House Press presented a monumental list of innovative, boundary-pushing books. Following the success of *Firmin*, Sam Savage's *The Cry of the Sloth* received enormous praise for its portrayal of the literary life, with starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal*, and was honored as one of the Best Books of the Year by *Publishers Weekly*. Selected by Powell's, the largest independent bookstore in the world, for its Indiespensable box program, *The Cry of the Sloth* was made into a handsome limited special edition with a soft velour cover, silver foil stamping, and specially designed endsheets. The collectors' set also included a 3.25" square-scored and die-cut box featuring Brian Evenson's story "Invisible Box" from *Fugue State*, signed by the author, with art by Zak Sally, as well as a letterpress broadside, designed and printed by Allan Kornblum, featuring an excerpt from Edward Sanders' poem "Whispering Books" (from *Let's Not Keep Fighting the Trojan War: New and Selected Poems 1986–2009*). This box of Coffee House literary and bookish delights went out to 800 subscribers.



Karen Yamashita's major new novel, *I Hotel*, includes thirty-one illustrations by two different artists; sections written as the script for a documentary film; a graphic novel section; and a section with typography intended to reflect the movement of a dance. All these innovations are in support of a book about the spirit of an era beginning in 1968 and ending ten years later.

Karen celebrated the book launch and read *I Hotel* to a packed store at East Wind Books, a community bookstore situated close to the *I Hotel* location and whose owner was one of the principal activist fighters in the day. In Karen's words, the event was "a dream come true on so many levels. . . . During the reading . . . we got all out laughter and guffaws and at the end, audible weeping and sobbing in the audience. I couldn't finally look up because I thought I would cry and be unable to finish."



RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

I Hotel

by Karen Yamashita
Finalist, National Book Award



The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir

by Kao Kalia Yang
Finalist, PEN USA Literary Award



Beats at Naropa

An anthology edited by Anne Waldman
and Laura Wright
Finalist, Colorado Book Award –
anthology category

Fugue State

by Brian Evenson
Finalist, Shirley Jackson Award –
short story collection category

Blood Dazzler

by Patricia Smith
Finalist, Poet's Prize

The Cosmopolitan

by Donna Stonecipher
Semifinalist, Poetry Center Book Award

Portrait and Dream: New and Selected Poems

by Bill Berkson
Winner, Balcones Poetry Prize of 2009
Finalist, Northern California Independent
Booksellers Association poetry book of the year

Extraordinary Renditions Book Trailer

by Andrew Ervin
Finalist, First Annual Moby Awards

Ray of the Star

by Laird Hunt
Finalist, PEN USA Literary Award



EDUCATION

Books in Classrooms

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS continues to serve teachers by providing books that represent the full diversity of American cultures and literary techniques. Each year our books find their way into more classrooms, where they introduce students to new ideas and cultures. We are now averaging sales of approximately 15,000 books each year to teachers, schools, and college bookstores, and that number continues to grow. In a world still torn by racial and religious strife, our books have the potential to inspire students to create a more tolerant society.

Internship Program

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS continues to actively serve as a valuable education and training resource for future careers in the publishing industry. Former employees 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. We have incorporated new aspects into our intern program, including use of an online post-internship evaluation survey in order to continuously improve the program; standard orientation and exit processes; and a learning objectives contract written in consultation with the intern supervisor. The contract helps interns clarify their goals for the program, and helps ensure that every intern is getting as much as possible from the experience, including responsibilities in editing and marketing and learning about all aspects of publishing. We are proud to make this contribution to local and national literary communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee House Press is investing in and implementing major infrastructure improvements: a dynamic, interactive website launches in November; a comprehensive database redesign will support fundraising, marketing, and administrative purposes; and its first five e-books—*The Latehomecomer* by Kao Kalia Yang, *Firmin* and *The Cry of the Sloth* by Sam Savage, and *Ray of the Star* and *The Exquisite* by Laird Hunt—will be released this fall. All of these efforts will contribute to one of the most major milestones for the Press—the leadership transition from founder Allan Kornblum to Chris Fischbach next spring—and our vision of redefining the role of literature in contemporary life and pushing the boundaries of book technologies and audience development.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Coffee House Press completed its fiscal year 2010 in the black due to income from translation rights, strong sales of our books, and increased donated income. Following is a summary of the numbers from our audit.

Statement of Activities	FY10	FY09
Earned Income	591,242	429,139
Donated Income	673,386	960,919
Total Income	1,264,628	1,390,058
Program Costs	898,722	1,029,881
Management & Fundraising	188,904	209,270
Total Expenses	1,087,626	1,239,151
Change in Net Assets	177,002	150,907
Beginning Balance	136,337	(14,570)
Ending Balance	313,339	136,337
Balance Sheet	FY10	FY09
Current Assets	561,389	766,502
Property & Equipment	45,607	29,659
Other Assets	92,800	2,800
Total Assets	699,796	798,961
Current Liabilities	310,118	554,558
Long-Term Liabilities	76,339	108,066
Total Liabilities	386,457	662,624
Unrestricted Net Assets	85,839	31,337
Temporarily Restricted	227,500	105,000
Total Net Assets	313,339	798,961
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	699,796	798,961

FY10

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT DONORS

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

Bush Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Minnesota State Arts Board
National Endowment for the Arts
Target

\$10,000–\$49,999

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Jerome Foundation

\$1,000–\$9,999

Buuck Family Foundation
Fredrickson & Byron
Institute Cultural Romania
Lenfestey Family Foundation
National Poetry Series
Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation
Woessner Freeman Family Foundation (in honor of founder Allan Kornblum)
Z Press

\$100–\$999

Dorsey & Whitney
Rehael Fund – Roger Hall and Nor Hale of The Minneapolis Foundation
Rehael Fund – Roger Hall and Nor Hale of The Minneapolis Foundation
E. Thomas Binger and Rebecca Rand Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Woman's Club of Minneapolis

BENEFIT SPONSORS

2 Anonymous Sponsors
Around Town Literary Guides
Blue Ray Media
Consortium Book Sales and Distribution
Dorsey & Whitney
Fredrickson & Byron
Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth
Jeffrey Sugarman
Thank you to our many silent auction donors

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Chowgirls
The Foundation
Millennium Printing
Sally French



FY10 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Baristas (\$5,000 and above)

Isabel and Stephen Keating
Richard and Amber Sakai
Jeffrey Sugerman
Anonymous

Roasters (\$1,000–\$4,999)

Artspace Projects, Inc.
Melissa Barker
Bill Berkson
Sally French
Jennifer Ann Haugh
Kenneth Koch
Lenfestey Family Foundation
Mary and Malcolm McDermid
Sjur Midness and Briar Andresen
Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth
David Smith
Mary Strand and Thomas Fraser
Stewart Wilson
Woessner Freeman

Brewers (\$500–\$999)

Chris Fischbach
Anselm Hollo
Jeff Hom
John Sjoberg
Chuck Steffey
Betty Jo Zander



Percolators (\$100–\$499)

Emil and Marion Angelica
Allan Appel
Patricia Beithon
Madeline Betsch
Thomas and Elizabeth Boyd
Patrick Coleman
John and Page Cowles

Wendy and Douglas Dayton
John W. Dayton
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Paul Von Drasek
Jordan Ellenberg
Elaine Equi
Roger and Janis Fischbach
Doug France
Rachel Fulkerson
Pam Gagnon
Hans Gallas
Frieda Gardner and Susan Oppenheim
Dobby and Kathy Gibson
Julie Haight
Howard and Nicole Haugh
Allison Hedge Coke
Al Heinen
Stuart R. Hemphill
Allan Kornblum
Rena Kornblum
Seymour Kornblum
Jack Marshall
Harry Mathews
Fiona McCrae
Jean B. McDermid
Stephen McDermid
Amanda Nadelberg
Naomi Nadelberg
Peter Nelson
Robert Olds
Ron Padgett
Deborah Reynolds
Tom Rosen
Joyce Rude
Sam Savage
Julie Schaper
Sarah Schultz
Gail See
Matthew Semanoff
Motoyuki Shibata
Daniel and Maureen Smith



Matthew and Elizabeth Spohn
Marla Stack
Emily Anne Staples
Joanne Von Blon
Robert and Susan Warde
Ann and Michael Wilczynski
Woman's Club of Minneapolis
Margaret Wurtele

Tasters (\$99 and under)

Sam Abrams
Elizabeth Altmann
Ameriprise Financial
Nicole Andonov
Jack Aylward
Beth Brody
Emilie Buchwald
Polly Carden
Gary Carlson
Kobi Conaway
Alicia Conroy
Patricia A. Davis
Jessica Deutsch
Mary Doty
Ruth Dukelow
Karen Erickson
Elliot Figman
Don and Arvonne Fraser
Dorothy Hansen
Margaret S. Harder
Philip M. Harder
Annamary Herther
Rebecca Heyns
Bob Holman
Margaret Hornbacher
Houghton Mifflin
David Hoyt
Andrea Johnson
Mary P. Kasimor
Kennedy-Logan Family
Judith Kitchen
Peggy Korsmo-Kennon






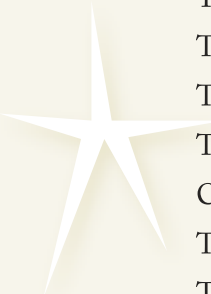



Linda Koutsky
Joel Levine
Calvin Logue
Takao Makihara
Chris Martin
Diane Matza
Patrick McAvey
Raymond McDaniel
Stephen Minot
Jacquie Moody-Fuller
Paulette Myers-Rich
Judith Nelson
Lon Otto
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Esther Porter
Robert and Joan Rohlf
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Christine Rosholt
Carol Roth
Andrea and Joseph Satter
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Jeffrey Scherer
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Kim Severson
Steve and Nancy Shapiro
Leslie Simon
Erik and Robin Skarstad
Joseph Snyder
Donald Socha
A. B. Spellman
David and Delores Steinlicht
Helen Faith Sullivan
Kristin Thiel
Xuesi C. Thor
David Unowsky
Sherri West and John MacDonald
Susan Wheeler
Daniel and Carol Wilson



What the Stars Will Bring

by Greg Hewett

FROM THE BOOK OF POEMS *Darkacre*



When there's nothing left
Consider the stars fading overhead,
A stranger passing on the bridge,
Random words overheard.
Forget astrology.
Take the stars literally,
The bridge as metaphor,
The stranger as familiar.
Take metaphor as metaphor.
Carry the stranger over
To Orion at zenith,
To a noir hero
In the shadows of the pier.
Every step desire.
Every step disaster.
It isn't written in the stars.
It is written in a constellation
Of syllables collapsing
Along your synapses
Into electric silence.

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS

Staff

Allan Kornblum, Publisher
Chris Fischbach, Associate Publisher
Anitra Budd, Managing Editor
Linda Koutsky, Design and Production Manager
Jessica Deutsch, Marketing and Sales Director
Tricia O'Reilly, Publicist
Andrea M. Satter, Development Manager
Teri Hageman, Office Manager / Bookkeeper

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
(612) 338-0125

Good books are brewing at www.coffeehousepress.org



The Cry of the Sloth
by Sam Savage



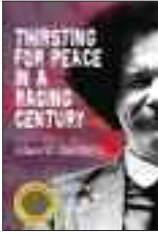
Ray of the Star
by Laird Hunt



The Abyss of Human Illusion
by Gilbert Sorrentino



Entrepôt
by Mark McMorris



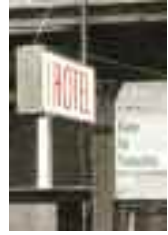
Thirsting for Peace in a Raging Century
by Edward Sanders



Let's Not Keep Fighting the Trojan War
by Edward Sanders



Catch Light
by Sarah O'Brien



I Hotel
by Karen Tei Yamashita



Drowning Tucson
by Aaron Michael Morales



Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder
by Travis Nichols



Shoulder Season
by Ange Mlinko



Find the Girl
by Lightsey Darst



Darkacre
by Greg Hewett

*Thank you for helping us to
keep good books brewing
at Coffee House Press*