PEN American Center

Annual Report
2008 — 2009
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The Year in Review

Dear PEN Members and Friends,

In this time of worldwide financial challenges, when many nonprofit organizations have cut back or even shut down, supporters of PEN American Center have rallied to our aid, allowing us to continue our work without reductions in programming or staff. We are very fortunate in the Members and supporters who make our work possible, and I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to all of you: the dues-paying Members and Associate Members, the individuals who send us donations, the foundations that support our work, the universities and high schools that partner with us in so many ways, state and local governments, cultural agencies, the NEA, and the volunteers and interns who help with everything we do.

The economic situation remains difficult. Endowment losses have weakened the capacity of foundations to support nonprofit work, and the publishing industry, so close to our aims and interests, faces continuing challenges. Many individuals, too, have seen their financial assets reduced. I want to underline our awareness of these realities. The needs we meet have not diminished, and we hope that, despite this climate, you will respond with continuing generosity. Even in these hard times, we have great expectations!

That is because we know that you recognize, as we do, that PEN American Center has a crucial role to play in these challenging times. We continue to defend persecuted and imprisoned writers and to protect free expression; to spread the essential skills of reading and writing; to support translation and bring writers from abroad to our annual festival; to recognize, through prizes, the best work of our fellow writers; and, above all, to sustain and promote literary culture. PEN remains the only international human rights organization whose members are literary women and men. Our commitment to free expression derives from our vocation, and our distinctive contribution is that we can bring to bear the words and the ideas—the moral force—of writers around the world in the pursuit of these vital goals.

This year, our work on behalf of those ideals had many highlights, among them:

- The release of Mr. Win Tin, the longest-serving political prisoner in the world and the subject of a PEN Freedom to Write campaign, as well as the release of three honorary PEN members: Mr. Aref Dalila and Mr. Michel Kilo of Syria and Mr. Tohti Tunyaz of China.
- Our China Campaign, pursued in concert with the Independent Chinese PEN Center, which sought to protect writers in China during and after its Olympic year and which raised awareness of the continued silencing of our colleagues there.
- PEN’s “Reading Burma” event in September at Cooper Union, attended by over 700 people, raising more than $13,000 for victims of the Burmese cyclone.
- The annual PEN WorldVoices Festival, featuring several Nobel laureates and nearly 200 writers from around the world, covered at length in The New York Times and scores of other media outlets.
• The Prison Writing Program’s first-ever benefit, which celebrated the work of this acclaimed and nearly 40-year-old PEN program.
• Successful Readers & Writers literary workshops for high school students at under served schools, led by writers such as MacArthur “genius grant” recipient Edwidge Danticat.
• Selection of work from PEN America, our literary journal, for Best American Essays, The Pushcart Prize Anthology, and The Utne Reader, plus expanded distribution of the journal in bookstores throughout the U.S. and Canada.

In June, we bade farewell after more than ten years of service to Executive Director Michael Roberts. Having served on the search committee who hired him, I am especially grateful for all he did for PEN American Center. In August, after an extensive search in which I again had the privilege of participating, we were pleased to announce the hiring of our new Executive Director, Steven L. Isenberg. Steve has held many leadership posts, including publisher of NewYork Newsday, Interim President of Adelphi University, Chief of Staff to New York City Mayor John Lindsay, and lecturer in literature at the University of Texas at Austin. It is with great pleasure and high expectations that we welcome him aboard.

On the following pages we have profiled our programs and their accomplishments over the last year. We are extremely grateful to our supporters for making all of this possible. The latest news about PEN is available at our constantly updated website, www.pen.org. You can also find myriad ways to support PEN by going to www.pen.org/support.

We have many exciting plans for the year ahead. Support us, please, by coming to our events, by giving us your time and, if you can, your money. If you are not yet an Associate Member, become one. That way, in the coming year, you will know that the work of PEN American Center is something that you are doing along with the rest of us.

With great thanks and warm regards,

K. Anthony Appiah

K. Anthony Appiah and Steve Isenberg together at the PEN American Center office, New York, NY
Freedom to Write

Since 1921, PEN has been the leading international voice on behalf of persecuted writers and freedom of expression. The world’s oldest human rights organization and the oldest literary organization, PEN pioneered case-based human rights advocacy and is a watchword for the defense of writers and journalists. PEN American Center is the largest of the 144 centers of International PEN in 104 countries. PEN American Center’s Freedom to Write Program defends imprisoned and threatened writers and leads campaigns to end attacks on freedom of expression in the United States and around the world.

>>> Fighting for PEN in China

PEN’s Olympic-year campaign for free expression in China ended on October 17, 2008, when the rules China set for journalists during the Games expired. We quickly found, though, that our work was far from over. On December 8, 2008, Liu Xiaobo, the former president and a current board member of the Independent Chinese PEN Center (ICPC), was detained in Beijing for his involvement in Charter 08, a groundbreaking manifesto calling for political reform, greater human rights, and an end to one-party rule in China, which was signed by thousands of individuals from all walks of life throughout the country. Liu Xiaobo was charged with “inciting subversion of state power” and could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison if convicted. PEN mobilized an international campaign on Liu’s behalf, gathering signatures from Nobel laureates and Members around the world and calling for the renowned literary critic, writer, and political activist’s immediate and unconditional release.

On April 28, 2009, PEN awarded Liu Xiaobo with the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award and launched a postcard campaign directed towards Chinese President Hu Jintao. In September 2009, PEN staff joined with ICPC for a round of visits with House leaders in Washington, D.C., to garner backing for a resolution supporting Liu Xiaobo’s peaceful work and calling on the Chinese government to release him immediately. The resolution passed with near-unanimous support.

>>> Focus on Iran

From the mass arrests of journalists and reform advocates, to the violent suppression of peaceful demonstrations, to the draconian restrictions on international and
domestic media, the summer of 2009 was harrowing for many of our colleagues in Iran—and an extremely discouraging one for all who support their right, and the right of all Iran’s citizens, to speak and write freely. PEN is working to win the release of all writers and journalists currently in prison in Iran, and to bring their voices before international audiences.

In July, following the disputed June 12 presidential elections, PEN American Center joined with PEN Canada to organize an open letter signed by over 100 of the world’s most prominent writers calling for the release of Canadian-Iranian journalist and playwright Maziar Bahari, who has been held incommunicado in Tehran since June 21, 2009. The open letter was featured in press throughout the world, including Newsweek, The Washington Post, and The International Herald Tribune. On July 15, 2009, the same day of the open letter’s release, PEN staged “Iran: A Conversation About the Elections, Protest, and the Future” at the 92nd Street Y, where scholars and journalists Shaul Bakhash, Roger Cohen, Haleh Esfandiari, and Karim Sadjadpour discussed the crackdown and its implications for Iran’s future.

>>> Fighting for writers around the world

PEN acted on behalf of 877 writers in 98 countries in the past year, working to secure their release from prison, forestall harsher treatment, and protect them from threat of arrest, prosecution, or physical attack. Sixty-one of these writers and journalists regained their freedom. PEN American Center staff and volunteers carried out campaigns focused on 108 writers in 33 countries and coordinated joint actions on these and other cases with human rights organizations in the United States and abroad. PEN also carried out media campaigns throughout the year highlighting cases involving writers on every continent.

>>> The Emergency Fund for Writers in Danger

This fund assists writers and their families who, because of imprisonment or persecution, are facing serious financial challenges. Grants are given either for basic emergency sustenance or to help writers who are seeking ways to end the persecution they face.

In the past year, the Emergency Fund delivered direct financial assistance to writers facing persecution in the Gambia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Iraq, as well as exiled writers living in the United States.

Campaign for Core Freedoms

Launched in 2003, the PEN Campaign for Core Freedoms is an advocacy campaign that targets threats to freedom of expression posed by antiterrorism and national security policies in the United States. The campaign strives to:
• protect the personal privacy necessary for the free exploration of information and ideas
• preserve public access to governmental information and to a full range of American and international voices
• promote U.S. policies that reflect a core commitment to individual rights, to preserve these rights at home, and to expand them internationally

PEN expanded its Core Freedoms advocacy significantly following the 2008 presidential elections, pressing for specific reforms—including a renewed affirmation of the importance of freedom of expression and basic human rights even in challenging times. The Campaign focused especially on four areas of concern:

Expanding safeguards for bookstore and library records and reining in National Security Letter powers. This spring, the Campaign for Reader Privacy—PEN’s joint initiative with the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Association, and the Association of American Publishers—launched a new phase in our five-year campaign to restore privacy protections stripped by the Patriot Act. Targeting the new administration and Congress, the Campaign issued a Congressional memo, “Restoring the Safeguards for Reader Privacy,” in April, and has been working to educate Congress before the Patriot Act reauthorization process this fall.

Exposing and limiting the scope of secret surveillance programs and raising awareness of the dangers surveillance poses to freedom of expression. In June, PEN was in court as a co-plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the FISA Amendments Act, and we used the occasion to educate and mobilize our Membership on this issue. We launched a new multimedia resource page featuring information about the National Security Agency surveillance program and readings from the successful joint PEN/ACLU series “Something to Hide: Writers and Artists Against the Surveillance State.” The November 2008 installment, held before an audience of 1,000 at the Miami Book Fair, was broadcast live nationally over C-SPAN’s Book TV. In July, following reports that the NSA surveillance program may be much larger than previously acknowledged and may be illegally intercepting the private communications of Americans, PEN Members carried out a national letter-writing campaign pressing Congress for an investigation and for legislation that brings government surveillance in line with basic constitutional protections.

Ending ideological exclusion. PEN continues to pursue a legal challenge to the U.S. Government’s refusal to allow Muslim scholar Tariq Ramadan entry to the country and to press for an end to ideological exclusion, the practice of denying foreign writers and scholars visas based on their opinions and ideas. In March, PEN called on the Obama administration to reverse this policy, and we renewed the call in July following a federal appeals court ruling that Ramadan had been wrongly denied an opportunity to challenge the grounds for his exclusion.
Eliminating torture and promoting accountability for human rights abuses. Writers around the world have played crucial roles both in exposing and documenting human rights abuses and in promoting national dialogues aimed at assessing responsibility and advancing reconciliation. And so we are engaged in a series of projects that bring the voice of PEN as an organization—and the individual voices of our influential members—to bear on the question of accountability for torture and other human rights abuses in the United States.

Those projects included the joint PEN American Center–American Constitution Society program “Voices Against Torture: Writers and Lawyers on the Way Forward,” featuring Jane Mayer, Anouar Benmalek, Elisa Massimino, Scott Horton, and Dahlia Lithwick, which we staged before a full house of 400 people on December 16, 2008 at Judson Memorial Church in New York. The program continues to draw viewers to our website, and a transcript of the conversation (titled “Speaking of Torture”) was subsequently published, together with an interview with Anouar Benmalek, in *PEN America 10: Fear Itself*.

**PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature**

Exploring the theme “Evolution/Revolution,” the fifth annual PEN World Voices Festival unfolded from Monday, April 27, through Sunday, May 3. The Festival featured 198 writers from across the globe and was announced in March at a special garden luncheon at the headquarters of one of our cultural partners, Instituto Cervantes. The launch was attended by more than 250 people, including members of the press and the publishing industry, as well as Festival partners and participants. Festival founder and chair Salman Rushdie with Paul Auster made special remarks about the importance of literature in today’s world.

PEN World Voices 2009 featured 76 individual programs, including panel discussions, readings, conversations, and performances. These events drew live audiences of nearly 15,000 and reached more than 350,000 people through the Internet. Festival programs took place throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn with satellite events at Washington College in Maryland. Festival participant Emmanuel Guibert held a two-week residency at the college’s Rose O’Neill Literary House, serving as the second PEN World Voices Festival/Washington College Fellow in International Letters.

Other participants included Muriel Barbery, Sebastian Barry, Javier Calvo, Mark Z. Danielewski, Neil Gaiman, Petina Gappah, Nobel Prize-winner Paul Krugman, Nam Le, and Yoshihiro Tatsumi. This year’s PEN/Arthur Miller Freedom to Write Lecture was delivered by the renowned Egyptian writer Nawal El Saadawi.

Nawal El Saadawi speaks with Anthony Appiah at PEN/Arthur Miller Freedom to Write Lecture
tian novelist and psychiatrist Nawal El Saadawi and was followed by a conversation between the author and PEN Board President K. Anthony Appiah. In all, 41 countries and 18 languages were represented in this year’s Festival.

Working with booksellers McNally Jackson and Mobile Libris, PEN made books available for purchase at all Festival events. The strong sales enjoyed by participants’ work have helped build the Festival’s appeal among publishers and authors alike.

PEN World Voices Festival fosters a global dialogue about the world’s critical social and political challenges, while dramatizing the pivotal role of literature in stimulating social change and promoting diversity of thought. In partnership with numerous cultural, literary, and educational institutions, the Festival presents cross-cultural encounters between U.S.-based and foreign writers that embody the unique internationalism of New York City and promote a global perspective.

Public Programs

During the 2008-09 season PEN brought together notable writers and artists from all over the world to exhibit the vital connections that link New York City to nations and people around the globe. Public Programs worked with many departments within PEN to present special events throughout the entire year that underscored our mission—protecting freedom of speech and celebrating literature—and featured acclaimed international and American writers.

On June 10, 2008, PEN presented a special evening of conversation and reading by Nigerian writer Uwem Akpan. Akpan read from his award-winning story collection *Say You’re One of Them* and discussed with *Vanity Fair’s* Anderson Tepper his life in Africa and his 2003 ordination as a Jesuit priest. Nearly 100 people attended the first installment of our year-round programming.

On August 8, 2008—the eve of the 2008 Olympics—PEN honored the more than 40 writers and journalists imprisoned in China in our event “Bringing Down the Great Firewall of China: Silenced Writers Speak.” Before an audience of nearly 500, Edward Albee, Russell Banks, Francine Prose, Hari Kunzru, and other acclaimed writers came together to break the silence that threatens the lives and work of these writers.
On September 23, PEN, the Open Society Institute’s Burma Project, and The New York Review of Books staged a reading featuring suppressed and silenced voices from Burma/Myanmar. Booker Award-winner Kiran Desai, Nobel Prize-winner Orhan Pamuk, Booker of Bookers-winner Salman Rushdie, and others read to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the popular uprising demanding democracy in Burma and the first anniversary of the 2007 Monks’ Uprising. The event also featured a conversation between George Packer and the Venerable U Gawsita, the leader of that uprising. Nearly 700 people attended the Reading Burma event, which raised more than $13,000 for the International Burmese Monks Organization (IBMO), the largest network of Burmese Buddhist monks distributing relief aid to the victims of Cyclone Nargis.

On October 20, PEN’s Prison Writing Program held the first-ever benefit in its 37-year history. The inaugural fund-raiser featured poets Breyten Breytenbach and Suheir Hammad, fiction writers Colum McCann and Wesley Stace, and nonfiction writers Adrian Nicole LeBlanc and Susan Kuklin, among other special guests. They read prize-winning stories and poems written by the men and women who participate in the Prison Writing Program. More than 80 people attended this moving event, which raised more than $4,000—much-needed funds for this important program.

On December 16, PEN and the American Constitution Society hosted a panel, “Voices of Torture,” featuring The New Yorker writer Jane Mayer and novelist Anouar Benmalek along with prominent human rights attorneys to discuss the importance of writing and writers in combating torture. While lawyers have fought for human rights in court, writers have awakened the consciences of nations, reminding citizens of the values that undergird those rights. Despite an early winter snowstorm, more than 300 people attended this evening of literature and law that examined the roles of lawyers and writers in exposing human rights abuses and in reminding nations of their responsibilities.

On February 24, 2009, PEN presented a benefit for our ten-year-old literary magazine PEN America. This celebration of our award-winning magazine featured contributors and friends—including André Aciman, Edward Albee, Anthony Appiah, Lydia Davis, Nathan Englander, Janet Malcolm, Francine Prose, and Sarah Ruhl—reading work by their colleagues that has been published in the journal. Three hundred people attended and the event raised nearly $2,000 for PEN America.

Readers & Writers

The newly revised PEN Readers & Writers program provided nearly 800 teens with writing workshops, in-school author visits, and panel presentations for young audiences.

Twenty New York City public high schools received Readers & Writers resources, including our seven Partner Schools, which provided the core of all program audiences: Bronx Academy of Letters; Marie Curie High School of Nursing; Queens High School of
Teaching; East Side Community High School; Brooklyn High School for Collaborative Studies; Enterprise, Business and Technology High School; and Urban Action Academy.

>>>Literary Workshops

In Readers & Writers literary workshops, published authors lead in-school classes through close textual study, writing exercises, and discussions of the writing life. This year’s teaching writers and speakers included Edwidge Danticat, Chelsea Lemon Fetzer, Mitchell Jackson, Dave Johnson, Eliel Lucero, Megan Mostyn-Brown, Christopher Stackhouse, and Rita Williams-Garcia.

>>>Writing Institute

For the fifth year, PEN offered intensive weekend and summer programming that simulates the experience of a professional writers workshop. Readers & Writers offered three introductory or “open” workshops, 16 invitation-only Summer Writing Workshops, and three Edmont Fellowships—one-on-one author instruction over several weeks for outstanding participants in the 2007 Summer Writing Workshop. Teaching writers for the Writing Institute include Geoffrey Bankowski, Jacqueline Jones LaMon, Caitlin McDonnell, and Dante Micheaux. Guest writer presenters included Tayari Jones, Mary Morris, Tracy K. Smith, and Doug Wright.

>>>Young Scholars and Literature

Young Scholars and Literature produces literary panel discussions, readings, and Q&A sessions at New York City universities and arts institutions to broaden high school students’ cultural experience. Events are participatory and dynamic, presenting prominent and emergent authors. Events in 2008–2009 included “Lost in America,” with Calvin Baker, Joseph M. Marshall III, and Esmeralda Santiago; “Justice and Literature,” featuring sociologist David Brotherton, Ph.D. with Moustafa Bayoumi, Gordon Korman, and Susan Kuklin; “The Inspired Scientist,” with Majora Carter, Tijs Goldschmidt, Kimiko Han, Sandeep Jauhar, and Harriet Washington; and “Personal Evolution, Social Revolution,” with Benjamin Anastas, Edwidge Danticat, Dany Laferrière, Laila Lalami, and Colum McCann.

Open Book

Open Book continues its work to increase the participation of African, Arab, Asian, Caribbean, Latino, and Native American writers within PEN and the literary culture at large. In addition to vigorous work to support PEN membership outreach, Open Book co-sponsored a fall panel with the National Book Critics Circle on the relationship between review media and writers of color. At the
2009 Associated Writing Programs Conference, Open Book presented a panel discussion on cultivating reading audiences featuring Achy Obejas, Tyehimba Jess, Roger Sedarat, and Luis Alberto Urrea.

Prison Writing

The PEN Prison Writing program continues to provide writing instruction and mentoring services to men and women behind bars across the country. Through individual mail correspondence, PEN Members provide criticism, training in the craft of writing, and guidance in the fundamentals of grammar and style. Incarcerated writers respond to mentors’ suggestions and learn to appreciate the importance of revision in the shaping of their work. The PEN Prison Writing program distributed 8,000 copies of the revised edition of its publication *Handbook for Writers in Prison* to writers in prison at no charge.

The Prison Writing program also produces the annual PEN Prison Writing Contest, which drew more than 1,900 submissions for the 2008 Prison Writing Awards. Contest winners received cash prizes, and photos and biographies of the winners were posted on the PEN website. On June 30, WBAI’s Cat Radio Café with Janet Coleman featured prize-winning manuscripts read by Marie Ponsot, Sapphire, Michael Keck, Claudia Menza, and Jackson Taylor. Prize-winning works were also featured at the inaugural Prison Writing Program Gala held on October 20th at the Parsons School of Design (see Public Programs for a description of the event). At this year’s Brooklyn Book Fair, the program hosted a raffle of donated magazine subscriptions and books producing additional revenue for the Prison Writing Program.

In April, the Prison Writing Program produced the 2009 PEN World Voices panel “Prison Deform,” featuring Jose Dalisay, Hwang Sok-Yong, Khet Mar, and committee member Susan Rosenberg, moderated by program director Jackson Taylor. Panelists discussed prison as a metaphor and as a particular kind of political exile. They also discussed how political prisoners will often emerge from prison unbowed, while other citizens emerge “deformed” from their time spent behind bars.

Prison Writing continued its advisory role with the Anne Frank Center USA. The Center sent a second round of 100 blank diaries and copies of *The Diary of Anne Frank* to the Committee’s list of contest winners and mentees, asking that the diaries be filled and returned within six months for inclusion in a traveling installation.

International Program

Now composed of 144 PEN centers in 102 countries, International PEN promotes literature, defends freedom of expression, and strengthens world literary fellowship on five continents.
PEN continues to work region by region to support the development of PEN centers in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. This past year, we concentrated on implementing a plan for PEN in Latin America and building a network of PEN centers in North Africa and the Middle East.

Throughout the year, International PEN worked with new and established PEN centers in Latin America to achieve center sustainability, create on-the-ground programs and activities that advance PEN’s mission and values in the region, and make PEN a visible and active leader in the region’s civil society. In September 2008, PEN held its annual World Congress of Writers in Bogotá, Colombia, showcasing PEN’s expanding presence in the Americas and bringing together writers and the leaders of PEN centers to review and plan projects.

PEN American Center contributes significant financial and human resources to these center development efforts. We also work to foster new PEN centers and partner with new and emerging centers on specific projects. This past year, we mentored a group of writers in Cambodia, whose literary culture was nearly decimated by the Khmer Rouge, in the process of chartering a PEN center. Cambodian PEN will be formally recognized as a center this year. We also partnered with the Independent Chinese PEN Center—which is doing frontline, on-the-ground freedom of expression work in the People’s Republic of China—on an ongoing campaign to protect and expand the freedom to write in China.

PEN America: A Journal for Writers and Readers

PEN’s award-winning literary journal expands the reach of PEN programs, publishing conversations, literary tributes, and talks delivered at PEN events along with fiction, poetry, and essays by Members, Literary Award-winners, and winners of the PEN Prison Writing Contest.

During the past year, we expanded distribution of the journal in bookstores throughout the United States and Canada, and the journal received recognition from several prestigious anthologies.
**PEN America 9: Checkpoints**, launched at PEN’s New Members/New Books Party in October 2008, examines the literal and metaphorical barriers that scar the globe, with new writing from China, Cuba, Israel, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere, along with a tribute to Chinua Achebe—featuring his remarks—and conversations between American and international writers.

Several pieces from *PEN America 9* received wide recognition in the literary world: “Ghost Writers,” an essay by Cynthia Ozick, was selected for the 2009 edition of *Best American Essays*; “Soap and Ambergris” by Saudi Arabian novelist Yousef Al-Mohaimeed received a Pushcart Prize; and two other stories, “Reunion” by the Chinese writer Xiaolu Guo and “Their Last Visitor” by the Korean writer Young-ha Kim, were selected for a forthcoming Pearson anthology.

*PEN America 10: Fear Itself*, launched at the 2009 PEN World Voices Festival, addresses current economic anxieties as well as lingering fears of terrorism, global warming, and other contemporary crises. “Public Demons,” in which the Guatemalan journalist and publisher José Rubén Zamora recounted a military raid of his house, was selected for reprinting in the November 2009 issue of *The Utne Reader*.

**Literary Awards**

The 2009 PEN Literary Awards were presented on May 19 at Elebash Recital Hall at The Graduate Center, CUNY, in New York City. For the first time, PEN partnered with Anchor Books to celebrate the 2009 PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories. PEN Secretary Roxana Robinson made opening remarks, and poet Billy Collins was the master of ceremonies. Many of this year’s winners and judges were in attendance.

- The PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction ($25,000) is given to a distinguished living American author whose body of work in English possesses qualities of excellence, ambition, and achievement over a sustained career that places him or her in the highest rank of American literature. The 2009 award went to Cormac McCarthy.

- The PEN/Robert Bingham Fellowship for Writers ($35,000) is given to an exceptionally talented fiction writer whose debut work—a first novel or collection of short stories published in the previous year—represents distinguished literary achievement and suggests great promise. The 2009 Bingham Fellow was Donald Ray Pollock for *Knockemstiff* (Doubleday).
The PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation honors a translator whose career has demonstrated a commitment to excellence through his or her body of work. The 2009 recipient was Michael Henry Heim.

The PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography ($10,000) is given to the author of an outstanding biography. This year’s award went to Richard Brody for *Everything is Cinema: The Working Life of Jean-Luc Godard* (Metropolitan Books).

The PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction ($10,000) is given for a distinguished book of general nonfiction possessing notable literary merit and critical perspective and illuminating important contemporary issues. The 2009 award went to Steve Coll for *The Bin Ladens: An Arabian Family in the American Century* (The Penguin Press).

The PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Awards for Drama recognize a master American dramatist and an American playwright in mid-career. The 2009 honorees were Sam Shepard—best known for his plays *Buried Child*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *A Lie of the Mind*, *The Tooth of Crime*, and *Fool for Love*—and Nilo Cruz, author of *Anna in the Tropics*, *Two Sisters and a Piano*, *A Park in Our House*, and *Beauty of the Father*.

The PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry ($5,000) recognizes the high literary character of the published work to date and the promise of further literary achievement of a new and emerging American poet of any age. The 2009 recipient was Jeffrey Yang, author of *An Aquarium* (Graywolf Press).

The PEN/Phyllis Naylor Working Writer Fellowship ($5,000) provides a children’s author with a measure of financial support to complete a book-length work in progress. The 2009 fellowship went to Carol Lynch Williams, author of the forthcoming *A Glimpse Is All I Can Stand*.

The PEN Translation Prize ($3,000) is given for a distinguished book-length translation from any language into English. The 2009 award went to Natasha Wimmer for her translation from the Spanish of Roberto Bolaño’s *2666* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux).

The PEN Award for Poetry in Translation ($3,000) is given for a book-length translation of poetry. This year’s award went to Marilyn Hacker for her translation from French of *King of a Hundred Horsemen* by Marie Étienne (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

The PEN/Nora Magid Award for Editing ($2,500) honors a magazine editor whose high literary standards and taste, throughout his or her career, have contributed significantly to the excellence of the publication he or she edits. This year’s honoree was Hannah Tinti, editor of *One Story*.
Beyond Margins Awards

The Beyond Margins Awards are administered by the Open Book Program, which strives to increase the participation of African, Arab, Asian, Caribbean, Latino, and Native American writers within PEN and the literary culture at large. These awards celebrate three gifted custodians of language and literature whose exceptional works often do not attract the exposure they need or deserve. The following were the recipients for 2009:

- Uwem Akpan for Say You’re One of Them (Little, Brown and Company)
- Juan Felipe Herrera for Half the World in Light: New and Selected Poems (University of Arizona Press)
- Lily Hoang for Changing (Fairy Tale Review Press)

Translation Fund Grants

The PEN Translation Fund supports the translation of book-length works of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and drama that have not previously appeared in English or have appeared only in an egregiously flawed translation.

- Eric Abrahamsen for his translation from the Chinese of My Spiritual Homeland by Wang Xiaobo
- Mee Chang for her translation from the Korean of Garden of Youth by Oh Junghae
- Robyn Creswell for his translation from the French of The Clash of Images by Abdellattah Kilito
- Brett Foster for his translation from the Medieval Italian of Elemental Rebel: The Rime of Cecco Angiolieri by Cecco Angiolieri
- Geoffrey Michael Goshgarian for his translation from the Armenian of The Remnants by Hagop Oshagan
- Tess Lewis for her translation from the German of That Didn’t Reassure the Children by Alois Hotschnig
- Fayre Makeig for her translation from the Persian of Mourning by H.E. Sayeg
- Arvind Krishna Mehrotra for his translation from the Hindi of Poems of Kabir by Kabir
- Frederika Randall for her translation from the Italian of Deliver Us from Evil by Luigi Meneghello
- Daniel Shapiro for his translation from the Spanish of Missing Persons, Animals, and Artists by Roberto Ransom
- Chantal Wright for her translation from the German of A Handful of Water by Tzveta Sofronieva
The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories

Since 1919, twenty stories have been chosen each year and collected in the annual O. Henry Prize Stories, designed to strengthen the art of the short story. Now in partnership with PEN, the PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories continues the tradition of recognizing excellence in the short story and encouraging writers and readers alike to celebrate the form. The following writers received this honor in 2009:

Graham Joyce  
Kristen Sundberg Lunstrum  
E. V. Slate  
John Burnside  
Mohan Sikka  
L. E. Miller  
Alistair Morgan  
Roger Nash  
Manuel Muñoz  
Caitlin Horrocks  
Ha Jin  
Paul Theroux  
Judy Troy  
Nadine Gordimer  
Viet Dinh  
Karen Brown  
Marisa Silver  
Paul Yoon  
Andrew Sean Greer  
Junot Díaz

Membership

There are currently 3,438 Members of PEN American Center. These are men and women who meet the PEN Member qualification of having published two or more books of a literary character or one book of exceptional distinction, i.e. winning a major national prize. In 2008-09, we welcomed 168 new and 32 returning Members. Our center’s Membership base has grown in every region of the country and among distinguished practitioners of every literary form: novelists, nonfiction writers, poets, essayists, playwrights, journalists, translators, editors, literary agents, and publishers.

- Many Members are continuing PEN’s nearly 90-year-old activist tradition by spearheading human rights work and literary programming. Over 200 Members sat on the committees that guide the organization, and an additional 243 participated in casework that directly impacted the lives of writers. This year, the PEN World Voices Festival drew 140 volunteers, over 50 Members participated in public programs, hundreds contributed to PEN.org and PEN America, and thousands signed petitions and were active in PEN campaigns.

- Associate Members, those belonging to our nonprofessional tier of Membership, now total 950. This group of committed supporters has quickly become an indispensable addition to PEN American Center, providing a broad base of volunteers and online activists who share PEN’s core values.
• On October 6, 2008, Vice President Jessica Hagedorn and the Membership Committee welcomed 191 new and 84 returning Members at the annual New Members/New Books Party, held at Housing Works Bookstore Café. Hundreds of Members and their guests were in attendance to reconnect with fellow authors, translators, and editors, as well as PEN staff.

• Writers’ conferences and book festivals provide important gathering places for the literary community and the reading public, in addition to offering opportunities for PEN-sponsored programming. (See the Public Programs section in this report.) PEN American Center hosted tables and booths at the Brooklyn Book Fair (Brooklyn, NY, September 16); the Miami Book Fair (Miami, FL, November 9-11); the Independent & Small Press Book Fair (New York, NY, December 1-2); the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference (Chicago, IL, February 11-14); and Book Expo America (New York, NY, May-June).

Membership Committees

>>>Children’s/Young Adult Book Authors Committee

In 2008-2009, the Children’s/Young Adult Book Authors Committee sponsored a panel called “Crossing Cultures, Changing Skins: Writing Across Race, Ethnicity, Class and Culture.” As part of the PEN World Voices Festival, four panels were held, including one on Darwin and evolution, and one on picture-book writing and new media. The committee also continued its support of the Martin Luther King Jr. School in New Orleans with author visits and helped administer the $5,000 Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Working Writer Fellowship. Its online forum, PEN PALS, featured a conversation between Caldecott Medalists Paul Zelinsky and Brian Selznick.

>>>Translation Committee

The Translation Committee consists of approximately 400 professional translators dedicated to enhancing the status and visibility of literary translation, making international literature more widely available in the United States, and ensuring that translators are given proper credit for their work. Its principle activities include organizing panels and readings in the context of the annual PEN World Voices Festival, providing grants for translation projects through the Translation Fund, and awarding literary prizes for published translations of poetry and belles-lettres.
This year, the Translation Fund awarded grants to 11 translators working in a variety of languages and genres, ranging from an epic Armenian novel to 15th-century Indian poetry. Translation was also a frequent topic at this year’s PEN World Voices Festival, “Evolution/Revolution.” There were readings of poetry in translation and bilingual readings as well as conversations on the art of translation. One of the Festival’s most successful events was the second annual translation slam at the Bowery Poetry Club. We have also begun posting online translation slams, featuring multiple translations of a single work.

>>> The Women’s Literary Workshop

The Women’s Literary Workshop, now in its 17th year, met seven times and hosted their annual reading and reception at the PEN office on September 22. The Writers’ Roundtable, inaugurated in 2004, hosted three sessions at Paragraph, the writers’ space near Union Square, with discussions led by Masha Hamilton, Nicholas Dawidoff, and John Wray. These sessions were moderated by PEN Members Barbara Fischkin and Jennifer Vanderbes.

Writers’ Fund

The PEN Writers’ Fund gives grants of up to $2,000 to professional writers in acute financial crisis due to an unforeseen emergency. In 2008-09, the Committee allocated $53,870 to 30 writers, editors, and translators suffering from a range of medical and professional crises.

Recipients included: a playwright who is disabled, a writer with HIV/AIDS, a Native American novelist suffering from a debilitating disease, and a notable writer from Africa who relocated to the United States under political pressure and needed assistance to keep his family from eviction.

The Committee also expanded its online database of emergency resources for writers and recruited Fund representatives from across the country.
PEN American Center Branches

Regional branches give voice to Members nationwide and provide opportunities for direct engagement in the causes PEN cares about most. There are three branches of PEN American Center.

>>>PEN New England

PEN’s New England chapter produced a full year-round calendar of events promoting literature, defending freedom of expression, and celebrating the region’s literary community. The Freedom to Write Committee expanded its Prison Writing program, presented the Vasyl Stus Award to Nurmuhemmet Yasin, and convened a panel discussion entitled “Fairly Unbalanced: Writing Political Satire in the Twenty-First Century.” Other highlights for the year include a monthly reading series featuring notable New England authors; the Annual Membership Party celebrating authors whose books were published during the year; a memorial tribute to David Foster Wallace, “In His Own Words,” featuring several of the writer’s good friends; two “Discovery Evenings”; a roundtable discussion, “The Task and Craft of Nature Writing: Nature and the Written Word,” featuring Sy Montgomery, Katy Payne, and John Elder; the Annual PEN Hemingway & Winship Awards ceremony; and “A Tribute to John Updike” featuring Nicholson Baker, Charles McGrath, William Pritchard, and Elizabeth Updike Cobblah.

>>>PEN West

PEN West hosted four events in the 2008-2009 season, featuring readings and talks with Irvin and Marilyn Yalam; Sanda M. Gibbert and Huang Xiang; Frances Dinkelspiel and Paula S. Fass; and Alev Lythe Creutier and Sharnush Parsipur. Our annual celebration in honor of local PEN Members and associates who published books during the year was held April 24 at the home of PEN West President Brenda Webster.

>>>PEN Northwest

PEN Northwest administers the annual Margery Davis Boyden Wilderness Writing Residency, now in its 18th year. In exchange for routine caretaking, the resident receives the profound solitude of a remote homestead in Oregon’s Rogue River Canyon and the support of a $5,000 stipend. The current holder of the residency, Nick Neely, is a nonfiction writer and the editor of The LBJ: Avian Life, Literary Arts.
PEN.org

PEN.org continues to bring PEN’s advocacy work and literary programs to a steadily expanding international audience by providing a dynamic platform unencumbered by physical boundaries. Visitors from around the world come to the PEN website to find fiction, poetry, essays, articles, and dramatic writing from some of the world’s most provocative writers. They also find advocacy resources, plus audio and video of PEN events. With over 2,300,000 visitors and 45,000,000 hits in the last year, traffic to the PEN website remains high, firmly establishing PEN.org as an online literary and human rights destination.

>>>Building an Online Community

Membership
The Membership area allows PEN Members to find Member-specific news; support PEN campaigns; join open-enrollment Committees; volunteer; pay dues; and post listings of recent publications, upcoming events, and links to their websites or blogs. All PEN Members and Associate Members are invited to create a personalized web page and blog on the PEN website. PEN.org hosts over 400 Member web pages and 85 blogs providing dispatches from abroad; reportage from domestic and international book fairs; book reviews; and commentary on poetry, prose, politics, and human rights advocacy issues, as well as extensive coverage of the PEN World Voices Festival.

Monthly Newsletter
Distributed to more than 11,000 recipients each month, the PEN Newsletter keeps Members, Associate Members, and friends of PEN current on PEN news, events, and human rights advocacy.

>>>Extending PEN’s Reach

PEN World Voices Festival
During the fifth annual PEN World Voices Festival, visitors had access to event schedules; author biographies; ticketing and program information; and original poems, essays, and fiction written by Festival authors exclusively for PEN. Those unable to attend the Festival had access to events through streaming video, downloadable audio recordings, photo galleries, PEN blogs, and subscriptions to PEN podcasts. Traffic during the Festival month surged, with 6,500,000 hits, 250,000 visits, and a daily average of 8,500 unique visitors.

Human Rights Advocacy
With automated e-mail blasts, online petitions, letter-writing campaigns, and a Rapid Action Network for writers in peril, the
PEN website has become an invaluable platform for domestic and international human rights campaigning. In 2008, PEN mobilized Members and non-Members alike for aggressive campaigns to protest the imprisonment and persecution of writers in China, Iran, Cuba, and Turkey, and to challenge the constitutionality of U.S. government surveillance programs.

Podcasts and Audio Archives
With more than 500 individual audio clips available for download directly from PEN.org or through iTunes, PEN’s Audio Archive is a rich resource of conversations, panel discussions, readings, and tributes featuring today’s greatest writers and thinkers. In 2009, more than 600,000 audio files were downloaded by visitors from as far away as China, Iraq, Australia, and Chile.

Video
PEN now offers more than 80 streaming videos of recent conversations, panel discussions, readings, and exclusive online interviews. PEN videos are available primarily on the PEN website and YouTube, but have also been embedded on the websites of other organizations such as The Atlantic, The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and ArtsJournal, creating a viral approach to disseminating PEN’s work. In just one year, PEN’s videos have been watched more than 40,000 times by both a domestic and international audience.

Online Features
To focus new and renewed attention on literature of outstanding merit, PEN.org publishes regular online features from the work of PEN Literary Awards, Beyond Margins, and Prison Writing Contest winners, as well as Translation Fund recipients and PEN World Voices Festival participants.

Expanded Web Presence
PEN has an established following on several social networking websites, including facebook, MySpace, Flickr, and YouTube, where PEN’s content and mission reaches new and ever-expanding audiences. RSS feeds and podcasts make it easy for people to follow PEN’s Human Rights Campaigns, press releases, and literary features.

>>>Online Resources

Resources for Writers in Crisis
Resources for Writers in Crisis is a free online database of nonprofit initiatives and government programs. Listings in the database range from emergency funding and health insurance to crisis support, advocacy, and emergency shelter.
Translation Resources
PEN’s Translation area offers an extensive directory of working translators; a Translation Handbook; Reviewers’ Guidelines for Translated Books; information on translation grants and awards; and PEN Recommends, a listing of important literature yet to be translated into English.

Grants & Awards
With a redesigned interface, new search engine, and more than 2,000 up-to-date listings, PEN’s Grants & Awards database offers the most comprehensive online catalog of grants, awards, fellowships, and residencies available to writers of all income brackets, genres, and levels of achievement. Thousands of subscriptions have been sold since Grants & Awards was launched in 2005.

In Memoriam

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is complete. If you know of a PEN Member who has passed away in the last year and who is not listed here, please contact us so we can acknowledge him or her in our next report.
Financial Report

>>> Donors

Below is a list of contributors to PEN American Center from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. They include PEN Members (*) and Associate Members (°) who gave above membership dues; trustees; individuals; foundations; corporations; and government agencies. Contributions have been designated for PEN’s 2009 Literary Gala, the 2009 Authors’ Evenings, the 2009 PEN World Voices Festival, the 2009 Literary Awards, specific PEN programs, and the PEN General Fund. In addition, donations were made in memory of Aaron Asher, Hortense Calisher, Herbert Englander, and Richard Seaver. We are enormously grateful to all those who have supported PEN’s work and are delighted to acknowledge their generosity.

CATEGORY I ($400,000 and above)
The Kaplen Foundation

CATEGORY II ($100,000 - $200,000)
Open Society Institute/The Foundation to Promote Open Society; Penguin Group (USA)

CATEGORY III ($50,000 - $99,999)
Bloomberg; FJC – a Foundation of Donor Advised Funds; The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; Lannan Foundation; LJK Literary Management; Random House, Inc.; Rodale; John* & Louisa Troubh

CATEGORY IV ($25,000 - $49,999)
Amazon.com; The Bank of New York Mellon; Condé Nast Publications; The Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation; Institutusjonen Fritt Ord; Wendy Gimbel* & Douglas Liebafsky; HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.; Instituto Cervantes; Arthur L. Loeb; Steven* & Ann Pleshette Murphy; National Endowment for the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency; Daniel & Joanna Rose; Annette Tapert* & Joseph Allen; Lily Tuck*; Anonymous

CATEGORY V ($15,000 - $24,999)
Roger Altman & Jurate Kazickas; Atlas & Co.; Clara Bingham*; Barbara Goldsmith*/The Barbara L. Goldsmith Foundation; Hachette Book Group; The Halcyon Company; The Honorable & Mrs. Earle I. Mack; The New Yorker; The Laura Pels Foundation; The Estate of Rochelle Ratner; Benjamin Taylor*; Rodman Drake & Jacqueline Weld*; The Wylie Agency
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Expense

Personnel $1,385,492
Program Consultants 159,824
Event & Development Consultants 90,375
Professional & Administrative Fees 46,764
Rent & Occupancy 188,809
Office Supplies & Expense 47,141
Electronic Communications 61,040
Print Communications 264,756
Awards, Grants, & Other Support 264,924
Event & Meeting Expense 171,732
Travel 206,123
Book Purchases & Distribution 10,199
Other Program Expense 23,421
Other Administrative Expense 13,974
Total Expense Before Depreciation $2,934,574
Surplus (Deficit) Before Depreciation $63,716
Depreciation 78,020
Total Expense After Depreciation 3,012,594
Surplus (Deficit) After Depreciation $(14,304)

CATEGORIE IX ($500 - $999)
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Expenses by Catagory

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