

# A View From the Mountain

a newsletter from the Lillian E. Smith Center



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## Grant pays for trail enhancement



A grant from the Bright Wings Foundation funded development efforts this year at the Audubon Society-certified wildlife sanctuary at the LES Center. The gift allowed Piedmont College to design and print a new nature Trail & Map Guide, complete with a detailed map showing the Center's two hiking paths: the Reservoir Trail and the Bottomland Loop Trail. The brochure includes descriptions of the trails, along with information of interest to birdwatchers, plant enthusiasts, and scientists. The grant also paid for five new directional signs for the trails and two foot-bridges to carry hikers safely across creeks. Bright Wings Foundation was established by Mrs. Martha H. Ellis and primarily supports interests such as youth and nature projects in north Georgia. We are truly grateful for the investment in our efforts from the Foundation that this gift represents.

## Planned Giving

Planned gifts are a perfect way to provide fellowships for artists in residence at the Center or scholarship funds for students enrolled in the Lillian E. Smith Scholars Program at Piedmont College.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[aamason@piedmont.edu](mailto:aamason@piedmont.edu)  
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### LES Center Advisory Board

- James F. Mellichamp, Chair
- Nannette Curran
- Nancy Smith Fichter
- Robert W. Fichter
- Margaret Rose Gladney
- Sue Ellen Lovejoy
- Tommye Scanlin
- John Siegel
- W. Austin Smith
- Ann Suich
- John H. Templeton
- Bill Tribby

# Spirit of Lillian Smith comes through in one-person play

Lulu Fogarty, a New York-based actress and playwright, presented “Lillian Smith: Being Heard” on August 30 at Piedmont College in Demorest. Students from the Piedmont College Theatre Department were joined by faculty and staff and community members to see the life, work, and legacy of Lillian Smith come alive on the stage in this creative and provocative one-woman show.

“This production asks the audience to consider who they choose to segregate themselves from and why,” Fogarty explains. “In a post 9/11 America, where immigration, gay rights, gun control, and protesters proclaiming ‘Black Lives Matter’ occupy the headlines, who are we really afraid of?” The show concludes that, while we have come a long way toward creating a world of acceptance, there is still a long way to go.

Fogarty was gracious enough to stay on stage after the lights went up and answer questions from many of the students and other audience members. She finished off the evening with the students on stage for a fine group photograph.



*Lulu Fogarty answers questions after the show.*

# LES Center Advisory Board meeting

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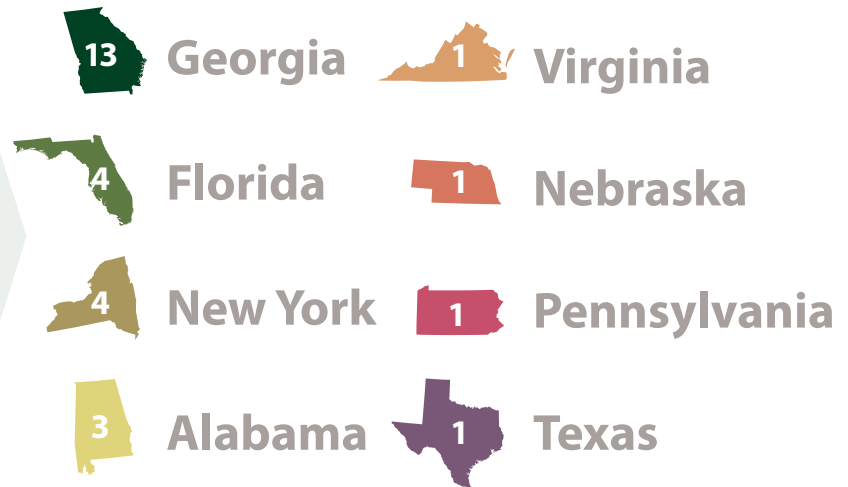


The 12 members of the Advisory Board came to the LES Center in October for their annual meeting. The group enjoyed a reception hosted by Piedmont College on the new deck of the Common Room the evening before the meeting. The Advisory Board includes family members and friends who were the governing board of the LES Foundation, which gifted the Center and its operation to Piedmont College in 2013. Piedmont College also welcomed two new members to the Advisory Board at this meeting: Tommye Scanlin and Sue Ellen Lovejoy.



# 2017 Residency Season Wrap-up

Piedmont College hosted **28** residents at the LES Center this year, with fields of interest including fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction, visual arts, and music. There were **11** new residents and **17** returning LES Center Fellows. This year, our residents came to us from eight different states.



One of our new residents this year is Houston composer and librettist Dr. Michael Remson, who has performed throughout the United States and in Europe. Remson has dedicated more than 25 years to a dual career as a working artist and arts administrator/advocate. A dual Irish-American citizen, Dr. Remson grew up in New York City and completed doctoral studies in composition and libretto writing with Grammy Award-winning composer Carlisle Floyd, composer Robert Nelson, and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee. His most recent opera, *The Sun and the Moon* (with Mary Carol Warwick), premiered in May 2017 by the Houston Girls chorus, and *Three Skeleton Key* premiered in June 2016 at the Lone Star Lyric Theater Festival. Dr. Remson serves as Executive and Artistic Director of AFA, a leading mid-sized nonprofit arts organization and Houston's largest independent provider of music education programs for young people.

"Thank you for this extraordinary experience," Dr. Remson said following his residency at the LES Center. "It's been incredibly productive and restful, something I'm not even sure I realized how much was needed when I got here. I've been creative and fairly rejuvenated in the process. I hope I get the chance to come back. This is a beautiful place and ideal for the way I like to work."

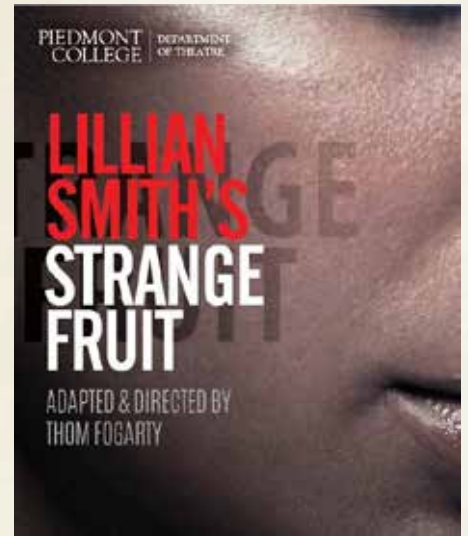
As always, we are grateful to John Templeton, John Siegel, Bill Watts, and Pearl Fortson for all their efforts in making sure that the artist retreat program at the LES Center runs smoothly each year. Thanks!



## Diane Roberts coming to Piedmont College

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Author and journalist Diane Roberts will be a guest presenter at Piedmont College on March 29, 2018. She will meet with Piedmont College students in the afternoon and give a lecture that evening. Dr. Roberts is a professor at Florida State University and wrote an article about Lillian Smith titled “Stay and Resist” in the Fall 2016 issue of *Oxford American*. She has been a commentator for NPR since 1993, starting out at *Weekend All Things Considered* then moving to *Weekend Edition Sunday* in 1996. She is the author of four books, the most recent of which is *Tribal: College Football and the Sacred Heart of America* (HarperCollins, 2015). Previous books include *Dream State* (Free Press, 2004), a history of Florida through her strange and varied family; *Faulkner and Southern Womanhood* (UGA Press, 1993); and *The Myth of Aunt Jemima* (Routledge, 1994). She has written op-ed pieces for *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, and *The Times of London*. She is a political columnist for *The St. Petersburg Times* in Florida and makes documentaries for BBC Radio in London, where she also spends part of the year. She teaches creative writing at Florida State University in Tallahassee.



## “Lillian Smith’s Strange Fruit” script available

We are pleased to announce the play, “Lillian Smith’s Strange Fruit,” re-adapted for the stage by Thom Fogarty, is now registered with the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress. More than 40 cast and crew members from the Piedmont College Theatre Department helped bring this production back to life in the fall of 2015 under the direction of Mr. Fogarty. Based on Smith’s bold debut novel, the play follows an interracial relationship in a small 1920s Georgia town and speaks to the effects of hate and separation on the lives of people and their communities.



The script is available upon request by schools, colleges, production companies, and theaters interested in the possibility of producing the play. Call us for details at 706-894-4204.



# Residency Awards available

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Thanks to generous donations from two LES Center Fellows, Piedmont College is offering two different residency awards providing a two-week retreat for the winners in 2018.

The McClure-Scanlin Visual Art Residency Award will provide a complimentary two-week retreat at the Center for an artist working in fiber/textiles, photography, painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, etc. This award is made possible through a generous gift to Piedmont College from Tommye Scanlin, a member of the LES Center Advisory Board and a long-time LES Center Fellow. Primarily working in handwoven tapestry, Tommye is an artist who observes and responds to her surroundings for inspiration. One of her tapestries, "Because of Memory," is a depiction of the rock formations on the chimney that marks Lillian Smith's grave at the LES Center. Tommye and her husband, Thomas, are giving this award in honor of their mothers, who were both supportive of education and of following one's chosen passions in life.



*Gabriele Stauf*



*Tommye Scanlin*

The Gabriele Stauf Residency Award is an ongoing annual opportunity that provides a complimentary two-week retreat at the Center for an educator who has a minimum of six years of experience and who is working on a project that would benefit from a residency. This award also provides the winner with a copy of *A Lillian Smith Reader*, edited by Margaret Rose Gladney and Lisa Hodgens, published by UGA Press. Dr. Stauf is Professor Emerita of English at Georgia Southwestern State University and has enjoyed several residencies at the LES Center through the years. She is currently working at Kalani Oceanside Retreat, a well-established non-profit center in Hawaii. She serves as the facilitating architect for the development of a certificate-granting educational program on permaculture and sustainability living. She is taking advantage of a life-long reverence for nature, her concern for the future of our earth, and a belief in the on-going evolution of the consciousness of our species.



The deadline for application for these awards is March 1, 2018. The Center accepts applications at [www.piedmont.edu/artist-retreat](http://www.piedmont.edu/artist-retreat). Applicants should indicate their desire to be considered for these awards in the supporting documentation accompanying their application.



Left: Wiggie Cottage; Right: Art Studio

## Donations of property

Two new facilities were added to the LES Center at the beginning of 2017, thanks to generous donations from the owners of the properties, Nancy and Robert Fichter. Wiggie Cottage is located across Highway 76 East from the main part of the Center and has been used by artists for retreats for many years. This property is bordered by the creek just below Laurel Falls and is located close to the site of the original home and girls' camp belonging to the Smith family going back to the early 20th century. Piedmont College will continue to use Wiggie Cottage as a residence for visiting artists. The other facility is Robert Fichter's art studio, which is tucked away in the trees just down the lane from the Common Room Cottage. Robert was kind enough to allow artists in residence at the Center to use the studio, and we plan to continue making it available to visual artists going forward.

Anyone familiar with the LES Center knows that the Fichters are at the very heart of what we do and have played instrumental roles in the development and success of all the Center's activities. Contributions from the Fichters have come in so many different forms, beginning with their tireless efforts in establishing the residency program 17 years ago. They were instrumental in the smooth transfer of the Center's property and operation to Piedmont College and continue to serve faithfully as members of the Advisory Board. Thank you, Nancy and Robert, for your generous support of the LES Center!



Bell-Scott



Goluboff

## 2017 Lillian Smith Awards

The annual Lillian Smith Awards ceremony was held September 3rd at the Decatur Library as part of the AJC Decatur Book Festival. One of the winners this year was Patricia Bell-Scott for *The Firebrand and the First Lady, Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice*. "I wanted to know what drew together the granddaughter of a mixed-race slave reared in North Carolina, and a native New Yorker, whose ancestry entitled her to membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution," Bell-Scott said. "I wanted to understand the nature of their unlikely friendship, and how it changed over time."

The other winner was Risa Goluboff for *Vagrant Nation: Police Power, Constitutional Change, and the Making of the 1960s*. Her compelling account of how legal change can fuel much broader social changes rewrites the history of the civil rights, peace, gay rights, welfare rights, and sexual and cultural revolutions. As Goluboff links the human stories of those arrested to the great controversies of the time, she makes coherent an era that often seems chaotic.

The awards are sponsored each year by Piedmont College along with the Southern Regional Council, UGA Libraries, and the Georgia Center for the Book.

# PIEDMONT COLLEGE

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“ I donate to the Lillian E. Smith Center not only as an alumna and staff member of Piedmont, but as an advocate for social justice. Fostering a diverse learning environment outside of the traditional classroom is an important part of student success, and sharing Lillian Smith’s vision of social change upholds the Piedmont College values of service and community activism. ”

Laura E. Briggs ('16)  
Associate Director of Alumni Relations  
Piedmont College

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