Mission

The mission of the Christopher Isherwood Foundation is to contribute significantly to the flourishing of American letters by awarding grants to published novelists.

The Isherwood Foundation is a 501(c)3 Charitable Foundation (ID #31431). Gifts are tax deductible.

2006-2007 Fellowships

Applications for the 2006-2007 Christopher Isherwood Fellowships were due October 1, 2006. Recipients will be announced on our website, www.isherwoodfoundation.org, in January 2007.

IF Fellows, 2001-2006

2001-2002
T. Greenwood
Eric Miles Williamson
In Non-Fiction: James Berg

2002-2003
Anthony Bukoski
Anthony Doerr
Karen Shepard
Gordon Weaver
Liza A. Wieland
Miles Wilson
In Non-Fiction: Jamie Carr

2003-2004
Debra Di Blasi
Daniel Chacon
Brock Clarke
Ann Nietzke
William Orem
Charles Wyatt

2004-2005
Kate Braverman
Daniel Coshnear
Alyson Hagy
Bret Anthony Johnston
John McNally
Nance Van Winckel
In Non-Fiction: Jeff Solomon, Richard Zeikowitz

2005-2006
Barry Gifford
Lucrecia Guerrero
Krandall Kraus
Richard McCann
Ann Pancake
Aimee Parkison
In Non-Fiction: John Whalen-Bridge

About the Fellowships:

Each year the Christopher Isherwood Foundation awards fellowships of $3,000 to fiction writers who have already published a novel or a collection of stories. The awards are very competitive. For information on applying, please visit www.isherwoodfoundation.org.

The Foundation also awards non-fiction grants which are selected by The Huntington, San Marino, California.
From the Paris Review interview:

**On vocation:**

ISHERWOOD: ...There was a general feeling that I might become a monk, but then I decided, rightly or wrongly, that I didn’t have a vocation. But I’ve always remained in touch with Swami Prabhavananda; in fact, I see him every week.

INTERVIEWER: I’ve never been quite sure of what people mean when they talk of a vocation.

ISHERWOOD: Well, would you say there is such a thing as having a literary vocation? Let me put it like this: You know the sort of person who goes around thinking I Wish I Were A Writer, and perhaps he does write a bit; and in the end his friends say well, the trouble was he had no talent. Really, talent is vocation: there is such a thing as having an aptitude for a way of life; not everybody can become a monk.

**On E. M. Forster:**

INTERVIEWER: People have called Maurice sentimental.

ISHERWOOD: So it is, in places. But it’s daring sentimentality. It does honor to Forster as a man. We’re not afraid of what’s called pornography, but we’re terribly afraid of what we call sentimentality—the rash, incautious expression of feeling. And yet that sort of sentimentality is something an awful lot of us need to practice.

—The Paris Review #57, Spring 1974, interview with W. I. Scobie

A memory of meeting Dylan Thomas in Los Angeles, 1950:

I found him alone, in the morning desolation of the long bar. He was a touching, but not in the least pathetic, little figure in a blue serge suit which looked as though he often fought and slept in it. (He often did.) The front of the jacket was sprinkled and smeared with cigarette ash. The impression he made on me was, primarily, of struggle: he seemed to be right in the midst of his life—not off to one side looking at it—and he grappled with it as though it were a policeman.

—Diaries, December 8, 1953, edited by Katherine Bucknell

A dream from the Diaries:

A dream last night:

Don and I were leaving on a journey. Our hosts (presumably) were sending us off. I said to them, “One of my mottoes in life is: Always visit the outlying islands. It’s amazing, the people you find living there. And the others always try to discourage you from going. They say: There’s nothing on it but sheep.”

The feel of this dream wasn’t good. I was too pleased with myself. I was showing off. Because the truth was, I knew that I hadn’t visited the outlying islands. Or only very seldom.

Again and again I find this about dreams: one can analyze them psychologically right along, as they unroll. In the action of real life you can seldom do that.

You watch yourself, in dreams, much more consciously.

—Diaries, November 26, 1959, edited by Katherine Bucknell

New Advisory Board Members

The Foundation welcomes these new Advisory Board Members:

**Dean Hansell** is a lawyer and former Police Commissioner for Los Angeles. His work in philanthropy has produced significant changes.

**Amy French** acts, directs, and produces films in Los Angeles.

**Carola Kaplan**, an Isherwood scholar, is Professor of English at Cal State Poly Pomona.

**Vernon Rosario** is a Harvard-educated psychiatrist whose latest book is *Science and Homosexuality*. He works at UCLA.

**Carolyn See** is the author of five novels and the autobiography *Dreaming: Hard Luck and Good Times in America*.

**Glenn Allen Smith** of Dallas has had plays produced nationwide for many years. His works include *Sister, Curious in L.A.*, and *Manny*.

**Sylvia Thompson** has published several cookbooks. She is working on a novel and lives in Los Angeles.
On the Rise of Isherwood Scholarship
by David Shepard

In the last years of the twentieth century, two volumes of Isherwood’s personal writings, edited by Katherine Bucknell, were published as *Diaries Volume 1, 1939-1960* and *The Lost Years: A Memoir 1945-61* (HarperCollins, 1997 and 2000 respectively). These gave us access to his contemporaneous recollections for the first time; the *New York Times Book Review* called Isherwood “a born diarist, eager to register his anxieties and if need be, to savage himself for his failings in the seclusion of his journal even as he is scoring amorously, socially and professionally in the eyes of the world.... these pages [form] ... a whole social directory of the famous, the clever, the neurotic, the unhappy and the sinful....” These diaries chronicle his life in America, from his arrival in New York to his death. George Rasmussen’s *The Repton Letters* (Stone Trough Books, 1997) was also published the same year as the first *Diaries*.

Isherwood’s centenary brought additional successes; in 2001, scholars James J. Berg and Chris Freeman brought a collection of interviews with Isherwood to print as *Conversations with Christopher Isherwood* (University Press of Mississippi). Though presented through interview and review, their collection offers spontaneous pictures of the author on the spot. Both the diaries and the conversations trace the arc of his life from his arrival in the United States until his death, and provide a broad overview. Berg is also in the process of producing a collection of lectures Isherwood gave in California during the 1960s. This book, *Isherwood on Writing*, is scheduled for publication by University of Minnesota Press in the Spring of 2007.

In 2005, Lisa Colletta published *Kathleen and Christopher: Christopher Isherwood’s Letters to his Mother* (University of Minnesota Press). Tenderness emerges even in his careful craftsmanship of letters that are, as Colletta says in her introduction, “little dramas in themselves.” These may be pictures from a camera, but they show the hand of a masterful cameraman – one who cared enough about his mother not only to write her but to write her well.

Another collection of letters, Richard Zeikowitz’s book project, *On Writing, Pacifism, and Homosexuality: The Correspondence between E. M. Forster and Christopher Isherwood*, presents a record of these two major British writers’ lives from the 1930s to the 1960s. The letters of the 1930s reveal the two writers thinking through concerns large and small, contrasting how each comes to grips with the rise of fascism in Europe and threat of war with two parallel but very different stories of devotion between each and his respective partner. In the war years, the letters juxtapose the strikingly different worlds in which Forster and Isherwood were embodied the conflict of young men in the 1930s held up to war-hero fathers; those who compensated by turning to excess exemplified the Truly Weak Man. Only in overcoming this bravado, in Isherwood’s pacifism and Vedanta spirituality, could one come to the patient wisdom of the Truly Strong Man. Izzo traces how Isherwood’s depiction of this conflict influenced Auden and his generation as well as later writers. This complements his *Isherwood Encyclopedia* (McFarland & Co., 2005), a reference work. In 2000, Berg and Freeman made a greater claim in their tribute *The Isherwood Century: Essays on the Life and Work of Christopher Isherwood*. This collection of critical essays, memoirs, portraits by Don Bachardy, and interviews argues that Isherwood had a greater influence on the twentieth century at large; the book earned a Lambda Literary Award and was highly praised by the *Los Angeles Times* and *Publishers Weekly*. Together, these books take issue with Isherwood’s own assessment of himself as “both remote and obscure.” A new biography, *Isherwood, A Life Revealed* by Peter Parker, was also published in 2004 by Random House.

Two more books examine common themes in Isherwood’s work and other authors: Norman Page’s *Auden and Isherwood: The Berlin Years* (Palgrave Macmillan, 1998) explores why the Berlin of the 1930s was such a profound literary influence on the titular authors and many others. *A Spiritual Bloomsbury: Hinduism and Homosexuality in the Lives and Writings of Edward Carpenter, E.M. Forster, and Christopher Isherwood* by Tony Copley (Lexington Books, 2006) studies how these men sought answers in Hindu spirituality for the questions they faced about their sexuality.

With these new primary-source documents, criticism has also flourished. David Garret Izzo’s *Christopher Isherwood: His Era, His Gang, and the Legacy of the Truly Strong Man* (University of South Carolina Press, 2001) analyzes Isherwood’s heroic archetypes: the Truly Strong and the Truly Weak Man. These two archetypes embodied the conflict of young men in the 1930s held up to war-hero fathers; those who compensated by turning to excess exemplified the Truly Weak Man. Only in overcoming this bravado, in Isherwood’s pacifism and Vedanta spirituality, could one come to the patient wisdom of the Truly Strong Man. Izzo traces how Isherwood’s depiction of this conflict influenced Auden and his generation as well as later writers. This complements his *Isherwood Encyclopedia* (McFarland & Co., 2005), a reference work. In 2000, Berg and Freeman made a greater claim in their tribute *The Isherwood Century: Essays on the Life and Work of Christopher Isherwood*. This collection of critical essays, memoirs, portraits by Don Bachardy, and interviews argues that Isherwood had a greater influence on the twentieth century at large; the book earned a Lambda Literary Award and was highly praised by the *Los Angeles Times* and *Publishers Weekly*. Together, these books take issue with Isherwood’s own assessment of himself as “both remote and obscure.” A new biography, *Isherwood, A Life Revealed* by Peter Parker, was also published in 2004 by Random House.

Jamie M. Carr’s *Queer Times: Christopher Isherwood’s Modernity* (Routledge, 2006) examines Isherwood’s sense of narrative time— for example, the structure of *Kathleen and Frank*— as a form of gay liberation, protesting traditional psychiatric accounts—brought to the forefront in *A Single Man*— of homosexuality as delayed maturation. Isherwood re-evaluates the idea of maturation by questioning progress in his narrative structure.

These books add to the legacy of critical work on Isherwood since the 1970s: Carolyn Heilbrun’s *Christopher Isherwood* (Columbia University Press, 1970), Claude Summer’s *Christopher Isherwood* (Ungar, 1980), Paul Piazza’s *Christopher Isherwood: Myth and Anti-Myth* (Columbia University Press, 1978), and Lisa M. Schwerdt’s *Isherwood’s Fiction: The Self and Technique* (Macmillan, 1989).
Advisory Board Directory, 2006

Clytie Alexander lives in New York. She has had recent exhibitions at the Galleria architettura arte moderna in Milan and at the Ben Shahn Galleries. Peter Alexander is a painter and sculptor living in Santa Monica. His work is in the collections of the L.A. County Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Winni Allard is the former Director of the Santa Monica Libraries. Tom Baker is an executive with Reader’s Digest magazine. A.J. Langguth’s latest book is Our Vietnam. A professor at the University of Southern California, he has published novels, histories, and biographies.

John Friedl is the former Provost at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Richard Dellamora is a psychologist, is President of the Human Interaction Research Institute in Los Angeles. His plays include The Isherwood Century, which won a Lambda Literary Award. He formerly directed the Performing Arts Program at USC.

Ronald Christ is publisher of Lumen Books and former professor of English at Rutgers University. Robert Nelsen is a writer and Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Dallas.

The Deep, The Detective, Bullitt, and many other films. She was born in Weybridge, Surrey, and lives in Los Angeles. Weasel Creek magazine. is Public Affairs Director for the Menil Collection in Houston.

Richard Fredricks lives in Los Angeles. He was a leading baritone at the New York City Opera and performed at the New York Metropolitan Opera as well. Chris Freeman is the co-editor, with James Berg, of Conversations with Christopher Isherwood and of The Isherwood Century, which won a Lambda Literary Award. John Friedl is the former Provost at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Lynn Gardner is a psychologist and professor in Flagstaff, Arizona. Tess Gallagher has published several books of poems and is the widow of Raymond Carver. Constance Gee is an authority on art and public policy and a professor at Vanderbilt University.

E. Gordon Gee is Chancellor of Vanderbilt University. Peter Gowland of Los Angeles has had photographs on over one thousand magazine covers. Fred Granade is a lawyer in Bay Minette, Alabama. Phyllis Green is a sculptor living in Santa Monica. Richard Fredricks lives in Los Angeles. He was a leading baritone at the New York City Opera and performed at the New York Metropolitan Opera as well.

Donald E. Hall is Jackson Distinguished Professor at West Virginia University. N. Katherine Hayles is Professor of English and Design/Media Arts at UCLA. Guy Hector is a former model who works in film. Hildegarde Heidt is lives in Pacific Palisades and is a foundation supporter. Edwin Honig is a poet and translator. A professor emeritus at Brown, he has been knighted by the Presidents of both Spain and Portugal.

Bill Imhoff lives in Pacific Palisades and is a foundation supporter. J. David Johnson is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky. David Koslow is a lawyer and businessman in Los Angeles. John Ladner is a judge in Los Angeles. A.J. Langguth’s latest book is Our Vietnam. A professor at the University of Southern California, he has published novels, histories, and biographies.

Chris Pasles writes for the Los Angeles Times. He formerly directed the Performing Arts Program at USC.

W. Theophilus Brown is a painter who lives in San Francisco. Katherine Bucknell lives in London and is editor of The Isherwood Diaries. He writes for the Los Angeles Times.

Stockard Channing has won two Emmy Awards, two SAG Awards, and a Tony, and received an Oscar nomination for the film Six Degrees of Separation. Michael Childers is a photographer who lives in Los Angeles. Rod McKuen, poet and composer, has 63 gold and platinum records worldwide as well as over thirty collections of poetry. T. K. Meier, President of Elmira College, is a Defoe scholar.

Charles Connell is the former Academic Vice President of the University of Northern Arizona. Ron Martin lives in New York. He is Past Chairman and Fellow, International Association of Business Communicators. E. Gordon Gee is Chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

Patsy Covey is Academic Vice President of the University of South Alabama. Ron Martin is owner of the Upstairs Gallery in Arlington, Texas. He formerly directed the Performing Arts Program at USC.

Michael Childers is a photographer who lives in Los Angeles. Ron Martin is owner of the Upstairs Gallery in Arlington, Texas. He formerly directed the Performing Arts Program at USC.

Dan Luckenbill works in Special Collections at UCLA. Michael Maclennan, producer, wrote Queer as Folk, and also is well known for his plays. J. T. Martin is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky. David Koslow is a lawyer and businessman in Los Angeles. John Ladner is a judge in Los Angeles. A.J. Langguth’s latest book is Our Vietnam. A professor at the University of Southern California, he has published novels, histories, and biographies.

Jean McViter edited Black Alabama. She has served on numerous boards for writers and the humanities. Rod McKuen, poet and composer, has 63 gold and platinum records worldwide as well as over thirty collections of poetry. T. K. Meier, President of Elmira College, is a Defoe scholar.

Armistead Maupin is the author of Tales of the City and, most recently, The Night Listener. He lives in San Francisco. He formerly directed the Performing Arts Program at USC.

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Richard Pate is a lawyer in Point Clear, Alabama. Robert Phillips holds a distinguished chair at the University of Houston and directs their creative writing program. He has published twenty-five books, including his latest book of poems, *Spinach Days*.

Felice Picano is a novelist who lives in San Francisco. Joan Agajanian Quinn writes for *Art Review* and other publications and hosts her own television program on the arts in Los Angeles. Joan Raines is a partner in the New York literary agency Raines & Raines. Michelle Richmond of San Francisco has followed her AWP Award story collection with a new novel, *Dream of the Blue Room*.

Frances Kroll Ring’s book *Against the Current: As I Remember F. Scott Fitzgerald*, has been made into a film. Doris Roberts has won an Emmy and was chosen as *TV Guide*’s Supporting Actress of the Year in a Comedy Series (2001). She is featured in “Everybody Loves Raymond.” James Schevill has published books of poems, plays, and a novel. He formerly directed the creative writing program at Brown University. Rainer Schulte is founding president of the American Literary Translators Association. He has published numerous books of poetry as well as collections of world literature. He is Professor of Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Michael F. Shugrue is a former president of The College English Association. His edited books include the widely used text *The Conscious Reader*. John Sledge is the Book Editor of the *Mobile Register*. Stephen Smith writes fiction and recently worked for the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Gary Stephens is a film writer who lives in Chicago. Geoffrey Strachan is a translator and former publisher of Methuen London Ltd. Gloria Stuart was nominated for an Academy Award and won a Golden Globe for her role as Rose in *Titanic*. She recently published her autobiography *I Never Stopped Hoping*.

Jeanie Thompson is a poet and heads the Alabama Writers Forum. Ryan Tranquilla, a poet and arts consultant, is the past director of the California office of Poets & Writers. Brenda Vaccaro won a Golden Glove Award and was nominated for an Academy Award for her work in *Once is Not Enough*. Kay WalkingStick is Professor of Art at Cornell University and recently exhibited at the June Kelly Gallery in New York and the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. Her work is included in Jansen’s *History of Art*. Paul Wonner is a painter who lives in San Francisco.

Thomas Wortham, Chair of English at UCLA, is the editor of *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. Michael York has starred in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cabaret*, and the *Austin Powers* series. Richard Zeikowitz is a scholar who lives and teaches in Mobile.

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**In Memoriam**

Artie Shaw, legendary big band leader, musician, composer, and author.
Angelina Jolie
Lee Walcott and The Ahmanson Foundation
The Huntington Foundation
Gloria Stuart
Brenda Vaccaro
Doris Roberts
Jacqueline Bisset
Leslie Caron
Armistad Maupin
Thomas Wortham
Mary Gard Jameson
Tom Backer
Andrew W. Solt
Claudia G. Falkenburg
Russel Kully
Howard Bragman
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Michelle Phillips
Ronald Christ
Dennis L. Dollens
Barbara McCormick
Gene Oppenheim and Patricia Hoffman
Michael Shugrue
James O. Tibbs
Robert Phillips
Christian J. Matuschek
Jorn Jacob Rohwer

Frances Kroll Ring
Eric Miles Williamson
David Scott Milton
Lee S. Reem and Irene A. Reem Ttee
Tom Baker
Kay WalkingStick
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Jacqueline Bisset
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