



# VOYAGER

North Star\* Liberal Arts / Creative Writing & Literature

vol. 8.6

\* Jinny Beyer Quilt Pattern

October 12, 2018



Villa will celebrate its writers on Thursday November 1st with A Day on Writing. Readings by students who are in Creative writing, DMC, English and other classes as well as faculty and staff are invited to share their creative prose and poetry from 11 -1 in the North room of the Library.

As a preview, there will be a chance to tell us why YOU write on Thursday October 18 in the Bistro from 12:30 to 1 pm.

Contact Joyce Kessel for more information and sign up for a 5 minute slot Nov.1 in the Library.



## 2018 -19 CORE VALUE: TRANSFORMATION

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### MORE HONORS FOR SKALD '18



SKALD '18 has been named a Crown Finalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Their judges select examples from each publication to be featured on the CSPA Student Press Review website over the next several months.

They selected the cover, the "Art History Collage" by Dee Ann Stachowski; and the following spreads that were designed by the staff -- Travis Springer, Shelby Braidich and Emily Kaczynski:

p 20-21 "This Doesn't Need a Title" by Dee Ann Stachowski.  
with the opening of Lyric Hartwell's story "Chasseresse"

p 32-33 Alexandra Lipinski's story "December 24, 1974"  
coupled with Dee Ann Stachowski's "Untitled for Your  
Pleasure"

p 44-45 Rene Miller's " Roswell Park Pediatric Infusion Center  
renderings paired with "Letters from X" by Nina Cray

In addition, Villa may submit two additional pages or spreads of  
our choice that showcase exceptional work Villa students have  
done for this publication.

## **SPEAKING OF SKALD, CALL FOR 2019 SKALD SUBMISSIONS!**

We are now accepting student art and literary work for the  
2019 SKALD publication through February 1, 2019.  
SKALD is Villa Maria's award-winning art and literary  
publication. You can upload submissions and view last year's  
publication online at <http://www.villa.edu/campus-life/skald/>.

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

- 1) There is no limit to the number of pieces you may enter.
- 2) All work must be created through your coursework at Villa Maria College.
- 3) Digital images of your work on USB or online submissions are preferred, but two or three-dimensional works will be accepted and photographed (if selected).
- 4) All work, except digital submissions, must include a Submission Form. That will be forthcoming.
- 5) Images will be printed. Only still frames or renderings may be submitted from animation, motion graphics or film work.  
Submission categories include:

Animation

Fashion Design

Graphic Design

Literature

Photography

Essays

Digital Filmmaking

Fine Arts

Interior Design

Music Lyrics

Poems & Short Stories

Interviews & Reviews

For further details on submitting art/design digital work online visit <http://www.villa.edu/campus-life/skald/>. Please submit all literary and written works directly to Joyce Kessel at [jkessel@villa.edu](mailto:jkessel@villa.edu).

Best regards, SKALD Faculty Advisors

Joyce Kessel, Julie Zack and Bob Grizanti



## CALL FOR WORK

- Do you have a story to tell? Send it Joyce Kessel for a future *Voyager* for consideration: [jkessel@villa.edu](mailto:jkessel@villa.edu). Indicate this is a

*Voyager* submission in the Subject line.



The next Fall Babel event is with Jasmyn Ward. She received her MFA from the University of Michigan and is currently an associate professor of creative writing at Tulane University. She is the author of the novels *Where the Line Bleeds* and *Salvage the Bones*, which won the 2011 National Book Award, and *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, which won the 2017 National Book Award. She is also the editor of the anthology *The Fire This Time* and the author of the memoir *Men We Reaped*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. From 2008-2010, Ward had a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University. She was the John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi for the 2010-2011 academic year. In 2016, the American Academy of Arts and Letters selected Ward for the Strauss Living Award. She lives in Mississippi.

See Joyce Kessel for tickets by **November 8** for this event @ Kleinhans, 8 pm.



JESMYN  
WARD  
THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Photograph of Jesmyn Ward © Beowulf Sheehan



## Lloyd Mitchell, '14, Featured in 'Unsung Heroes,' a Mini Show on the Oxygen Network

Lloyd Mitchell, '14, spends his days chasing panic and tragedy in Brooklyn, New York., as a freelance journalist. Mitchell documents first responders, like the New York Police Department and New York Fire Department, springing into life-saving action at a moment's notice.

“Police officers, fire fighters, EMTs,” said Mitchell. “These people are showing up at your worst possible times. It’s their job, and I have to be there, too. My role is to show people how hard police officers and fire fighters care for their community, and to capture members of public safety saving lives.”

Mitchell’s dedication to demonstrating the heroism of these dedicated public servants brought him a unique opportunity: to appear on *Unsung Heroes*, a mini show produced by the Oxygen Network.

“The Oxygen network actually approached me with the opportunity,” said Mitchell. “They saw my work on Instagram and Google and really wanted me to be a part of the show. They told me the back-story idea of the show was around three people: a New York Police Department crime scene technician, a courtroom sketch artist and a news photographer.

Appearing on the show, which began airing in March 2017, took a lot of preparation. “I was asked about 10 questions in an office environment,” said Mitchell. “I was also interviewed in a studio setting where I spoke about my job as a photojournalist. We had to coordinate a day for the film crews and staff to hang out with me, and we ended up working two house fires in Brooklyn.”

Although arduous, Mitchell says the whole experience was incredible. “It was interesting having a bunch of people following me around as I showed them how I work, from the initial call, to getting to the scene, to editing the photographs,” he said. “We were getting ready to do an interview and I had to stop them because of a house fire with reported people trapped



in a section of Brooklyn. As we arrived at the scene, a firefighter broke the second floor window of the dwelling and the glass exploded. The director said to me ‘I can’t believe this stuff really happens. You have the coolest job.’”

Mitchell, who was born and raised in Brooklyn, had recently returned to his hometown after graduating from Buffalo’s Villa Maria College with a Bachelor’s degree in Creative Writing and Literature.

“I started off majoring in photography at Villa,” he said. “But I had a difficult time with the drawing curriculum. Even so, I continued to take photos and was always around the scenes that involved the Buffalo Police Department and Buffalo Fire Department. I wrote about these experiences for my creative writing classes. I never showed my photos to anyone because the content was really heavy.”

Mitchell feels Villa Maria College helped him prepare for his career as a photojournalist. “My creative writing classes helped develop my critical thinking skills,” he said. “And I learned how to speak to the public for interviews and how to speak with cops to gain access to a scene. One of my creative writing professors, Dr. Ann Rivera, told her students to always have a plan. Photojournalists always need to have a plan. I literally can go from plan A to plan G in a matter of minutes. I’ve always remembered this and some other tips from my professors.”

After graduation, Mitchell began to establish himself as a photojournalist in his hometown. “I broke in to the industry in 2014 with help from Todd

Maisel of the New York Daily News,” he said. “I met him at a fire in East New York. He ended up running into a building, and he told me to follow him. We ended up taking all these different types of photographs of people being rescued, and of firefighters as they were fighting back the flames. He kind of just said, ‘stick with me, and I’ll get you where you gotta go from here on out.’”

Although it was a scary experience to follow a stranger into a burning building, the bravery and spontaneity has paid off. “Since that day, my photographs have been featured in the New York Post, New York Daily News, Fire Engineering Magazine, and Fire Rescue Magazine,” said Mitchell.

One photograph in the New York Times "was a full-on fire on DeKalb Avenue. I remember e-mailing it to Andrew Hinderaker, and he said, ‘yeah, we’re gonna take this and use it in print.’” Mitchell recalled. “I thought he was kidding, but I opened up the New York Times the next day and, boom, my photograph is [there]. I never thought that would happen.”

Mitchell, who now covers 17 different areas in the Borough of Brooklyn, choose this career path because he believes that people need to see first responders on a day-to-day basis. “I want people to see the bravery that it takes to be a police officer, firefighter and EMT,” he said. “First responders try really hard to make people’s lives better doing their worst possible time. I want that to be seen during a fire, shooting or car crash. I want people to witness to their tragedy and heroism.”

In addition to freelancing at the Canarsie Courier, Mitchell works as a

freelance photojournalist for Reuters. "I'd never thought I would get hired at Reuters, especially being so young," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what assignments I get there and seeing how I grow from working with such talented news editors and news photographers."

In the future, Mitchell hopes to continue working on the streets of Brooklyn and wants to keep telling compelling stories. He would like to work on a few projects that are not news related and would love to shoot some international news stories.



## **DEJA WALKER '18 REACHES OUT WITH AN UPDATE**

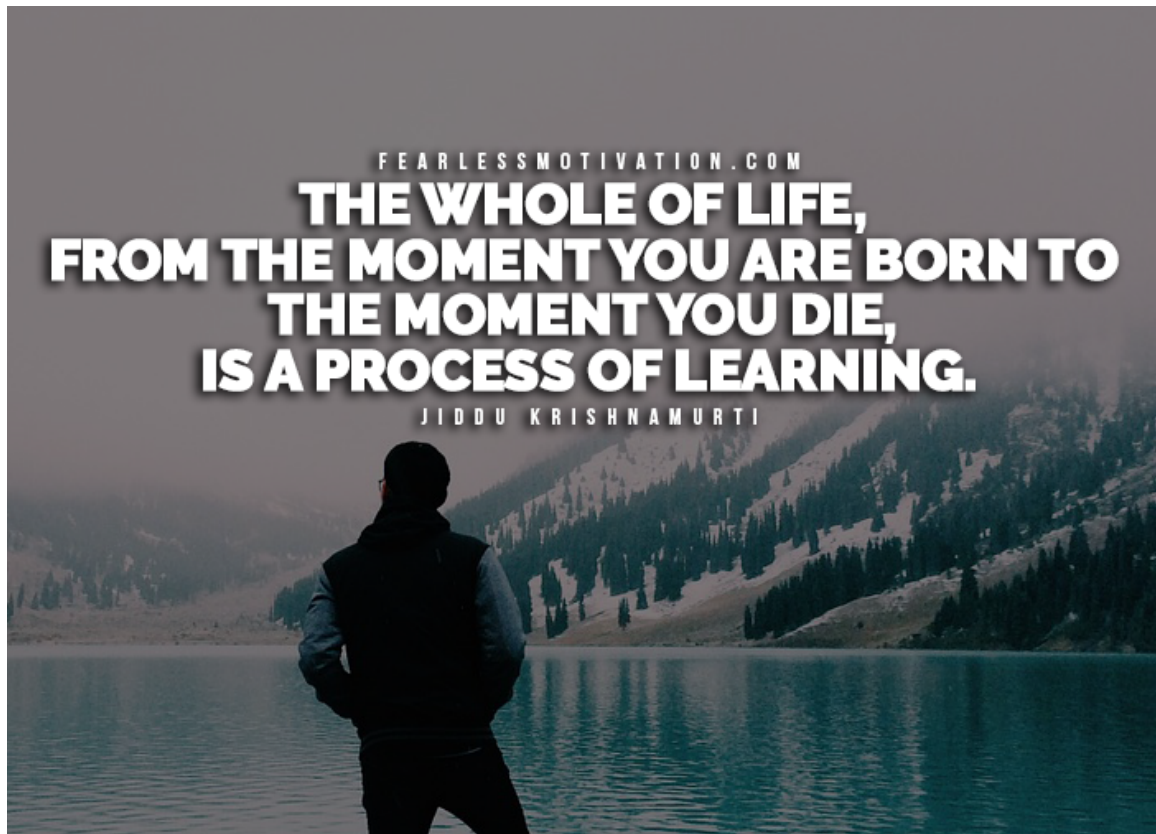
Deja Walker is working with AmeriCorps and they decided to site me with the financial initiative "WEDI" on the West Side of Buffalo and have also placed her to run the after-school program (with two others) named "FLY" at West Buffalo Charter school. She works with immigrants or refugees, the majority of the girls and boys are from Somalia, the rest are either from Thailand or Burma. They're between the ages of 11-13 but "OH MY GOODNESS many of them are VERY "teenager".

"I have formed such great relationships with my female students, they look at me as an older sister. There's one student that I've formed a really close bond with and have begun mentoring. She's from Eritrea and is even teaching me her language, Tigrinya! She's so sweet. In return I offered to teach her some Spanish. Her mother also liked me so much when I went to meet her that she invited me to dinner the next day, and prepared the largest spread of food I've ever indulged in. It's so strange to see hospitality like that."

"Overall, my job is going great, in my mind I'm in the process of adopting three of the children. Hahaha. They give me such a sense of joy and have inspired a new painting series I'm working on."

Walker is also beginning to run a Girls Club all about self-esteem development and positivity, as well as social issues.

She graduated from Villa in May 2018 with a B.F.A. in Fine Arts.



# MY EXAM DAY

morning



exam starts



exam ends



I passed



I failed



# THE VILLA BOOK PROJECT



## Here is Set #1 of Reading Suggestions:

DIANE HANDZLIK, Assistant to the Registrar. *These works are set in a universe where fairy tales and mythologies, both pagan and Judeo-Christian, come alive with its figures existing alongside the mundane (a.k.a. normal humans). A six-book fantasy series by Claire Cassandra.*

*City of Bones*

*City of Ashes*

*City of Glass*

*City of Fallen Angels*

*City of Lost Souls*

*City of Heavenly Fire*

JENNIFER D'ALESSANDRO, Instructor Business Administration. *In addition to the Bible which greatly impacts my life:*

*Grit* by Angela Duckworth

*Invisible Influence* by Jonah Berger

*The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni

*The Key to Everything* by Matt Keller

JOHN FUCILE, Instructor Digital Filmmaking

*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac

*Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig

*A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf

*12 Rules for Life* by Jordan Peterson

*Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* by Marshall McLuhan

*Sex, Art and American Culture* by Camille Paglia

BECKY DETLEF, Financial Aid Counselor

*Nothing to Envy* by Barbara Demick

*Escape* by Carolyn Jessop

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

*Ain't No Makin' It* by Jay MacLeod

*Flowers in the Attic* by V.C. Andrews

JOYCE KESSEL, Professor Creative Writing & Literature *It is so difficult to narrow this down and by tomorrow I may have a totally different list, yet I am asking and challenging others to do this with me. Deciding not to add poetry and poets still made it hard.*

*Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott – it helped me through a very difficult time

*Last Night in Twisted River* by John Irving – I could pick almost anything by him, but this one is a thinly veiled autobiography of a writer and a mystery

*San Manuel Bueno Martyr* by Miguel de Unamuno, *The Deputy* by Rolf Hochhuth and anything by Hermann Hesse in many ways defined my own student reading years

*The Adventures of Cancer Bitch* by S.L. Wisenberg “Wisenberg has written a book of tremendous value for anyone who has ever had cancer or anyone who has ever worried about getting it; in short, everyone.”— Rachel Shukert, author, *Have You No Shame? and Other Regrettable Stories*

*The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafron – Dr. Will introduced me to the book and writer, the concept of a secret cemetery of forgotten books is so magical to me

## SET #2

SANDRA REICIS, Professor Interior Design

*The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn – an historical novel about the real-life Alice Network – a group of British female spies operating in

German occupied France during World War I and then following into the aftermath of World War II.

*Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly – This is historical fiction based on the true story of Caroline Ferriday and the Polish women who survived the Ravensbrook Concentration Camp.

*Paris* by Edward Rutherfurd – A multi-generational historical novel based in Paris... it's both a romance and a thriller.

*Sisters of Fortune: America's Caton Sisters at Home and Abroad* by Jehanne Wake – This is the story of 4 sisters and their lives in America and English society. They were the original Dollar Princesses.... Before the Victorian era. I loved the way the book wove American, Canadian, English and French history together as the sisters and their families travelled, married and socialized in the world of aristocracy, royalty and politics.

*The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon – set in Barcelona, this is both a romance and a thriller and it all starts with a book. I would love to recommend this to the students who are planning to travel to Barcelona in May.

DARBY RATLIFF, Admissions Counselor

*The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell

*A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra

*Shine Shine Shine* by Lydia Netzer

*The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach

*Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann

DR. WILL MEYER, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences



*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013, Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis)

*Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache* by Keith H. Basso (1996, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque)

*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (1988[1993 translation], HarperCollins, San Francisco)

*The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz-Zafón (2001[2004 translation], Penguin Books, New York)

*The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge* by Carlos Castaneda (1968, University of California Press, Berkley)

