February 2020

Dear Library of America Supporter:

The past year was a remarkable one for Library of America. As our 10 millionth series volume came off the press, LOA was presented with the Los Angeles Times Innovator’s Award for its unique role as a champion of the democratic inclusiveness of great American writing. While there is still much work ahead curating our vital and diverse tradition, the award is a gratifying recognition of how far we’ve come.

Library of America’s pursuit of its mission is made possible by the individuals and institutions who support it with contributions—among them the 1,549 donors on this 2020 Honor Roll who gave $100 or more in the past year. As the new year begins, we extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, members, and subscribers, and offer this glance ahead at a few of the highlights of the coming year:

**Free resources for teachers and general readers.** In 2020, through our books, programs, and partnerships, LOA will reach new audiences and raise awareness of essential American writers and texts. In March our LOA in the Classroom initiative will place The Essential Debate on the Constitution in the hands of over 1,000 high school teachers nationwide to support curriculum devoted to civics and the presidential election. In the fall, with The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, we launch Lift Every Voice, a national public humanities initiative developed to increase public engagement with African American poetry. Anchoring the initiative is a major new anthology, the most ambitious ever published, embracing 250 years and nearly 250 poets.

Meanwhile every year Library of America’s free online Story of the Week brings great American writing to tens of thousands of new readers through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. Nearly 500 selections, each with a freshly researched introduction, are now available online. We’re especially pleased to see that Story of the Week selections are being redistributted for use in high school and college classrooms, continuing education programs, and reading groups.

**Forthcoming volumes.** Ernest Hemingway makes a long-anticipated debut with his breakthrough masterpieces from the 1920s. We commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing in all its cross-cultural complexity with fascinating early narratives and documents. Just in time for the presidential election, journalist and bestselling author Nicholas Lemann offers an annotated guide to key historical texts that illuminate five urgent questions confronting our democracy. Plus: exciting literary rediscoveries; further explorations into the groundbreaking fiction of Shirley Jackson and Ursula K. Le Guin; a literary valentine to our most popular pastime, bird watching; and an homage to the classic American westerns of the 1940s and 50s.

Friends like you make all this possible, and we couldn’t do it without you. We hope we can continue to make you proud to be a Library of America supporter in the months and years ahead.

With gratitude and warmest wishes for 2020,

Max Rudin
President & Publisher

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**It’s a Reason to Be Happy, Charlie Brown!**

The 11-year-old kid in the Snoopy sweatshirt stood out from the crowd. Andrew Blauner, editor of Library of America’s special publication The Peanuts Papers: Writers and Cartoonists on Charlie Brown, Snoopy & the Gang, and the Meaning of Life, was at Book Culture in New York City last November to talk about the new volume, and the Snoopy fan impressed him during the Q&A with his sensitive and insightful questions about Schulz and his work.

That evening Ethan Beecher Jospitre, who studies robotics and entrepreneurism after school at Rocket Club in Manhattan, introduced himself to Blauner, and at a follow-up conversation at Rocket Club, Blauner learned that Ethan is hard at work designing an app designed to help people cheer up. Since Ethan himself is always cheered by reading Peanuts comics, he wanted to learn from an expert the secret of Schulz’s impact on his readers.

The two connected over the profound and poignant resonances of the strip. “It was so nice talking to someone who respects Peanuts as much as I do!” Ethan said. “Not all comic strips are supposed to be funny, and most people don’t understand that—but Andrew obviously does.”

Blauner was equally enthusiastic. “Out of all the terrific things that have arisen from the publication and promotion of The Peanuts Papers, nothing has been better than meeting with Ethan,” he said. “Who is such an engaging and thoughtful person. I look forward to seeing what great, valuable, virtuous things he does in the world.”
We gratefully acknowledge these members and donors for their generous commitment to the mission of Library of America.

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**Library of America Honor Roll**

Donors who made gifts between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019
Hollywood Book Lovers Give Starry Support to Joan Didion Volume

In December 2019, having just celebrated her 85th birthday, Joan Didion joined the pantheon of great American writers in the Library of America series, an event greeted with excitement, and an outpouring of generosity, from a distinguished group of Hollywood book lovers.

Many of Didion’s film industry friends and colleagues have come forward in a demonstration of their enduring respect for her contributions to page and screen. Joan Didion: The 1960s & 70s is published with support from:

Harrison Ford, in memory of Melissa Mathison & Earl McGrath

Arlene and Alan Alda
Big Beach
Boaty Boatwright
Susan L. Brody

Lucy Fisher & Douglas Z. Wick
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Didion’s connection to the movie business began in 1964 with film reviews for Vogue (among them a scathing appraisal of The Sound of Music that got her fired). She and her husband, John Gregory Dunne, went on to co-write four screenplays, and their temporary move to Los Angeles became a permanent residence. Not content to have written the definitive farewell-to—New-York essay (“Goodbye to All That”), she soon reinvented herself as the essential L.A. writer of her time and wrote one of the definitive novels of Hollywood, Play It As It Lays. Didion’s remarkable literary gifts, stylish appearance, and vibrant presence on the city’s social scene transformed the introverted writer into an American icon.

Boaty Boatwright, Didion’s longtime film and TV agent, commended Library of America “for offering Didion a permanent place in literature. I consider Joan Didion to be the definitive, greatest nonfiction writer of the twentieth century. The thought of Joan’s work not being in permanent publication for all the future young generations, who will fall in love with her words, is more than one can comprehend.”

Didion’s grand-niece Annabelle Dunne, who with the writer’s nephew Griffin Dunne made the 2017 documentary Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold, acknowledged the timeliness of the LOA publication: “It is truly wonderful to see this honor bestowed upon her, ensuring that her words will be available to readers of all ages for years to come.”

The Library of America Joan Didion edition will comprise three volumes gathering her complete works. The inaugural volume, The 1960s & 70s, edited by David L. Ulin, collects the five books that established Didion as one of the most original and influential literary figures of our time: Run River, Slouching Towards Bethlehem, Play It As It Lays, A Book of Common Prayer, and The White Album.
The development of each Library of America edition requires extensive textual research and scholarship, creation of contextual notes and features for the reader, acquisition of rights, and the very high production values of books that typically cost more. Given the modest price of our volumes, sales revenue does not cover these publishing expenses. Our sincere thanks to the following underwriters for providing critical project support:

**GUARDIANS OF AMERICAN LETTERS**

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who, with a generous gift to the Guardians of American Letters Fund, endowed Library of America volumes to keep them permanently in print and available for future generations of readers.

**John Logan**
Endowed *James Fenimore Cooper: Two Novels of the American Revolution*

**Walter E. Robb**
Endowed *Wendell Berry: Essays 1969–1990*

**Berkley Family Foundation**
Endowed *Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Little House Books* (two volumes) in honor of Marjorie Berkley and Lauren Berkeley Saunders

**Pritzker Military Museum & Library**
Endowed *Cornelius Ryan: The Longest Day, A Bridge Too Far*
In Memoriam

Three longtime friends in the Library of America community died in 2019. All were generous supporters who helped make great American writing available for generations of readers to come. We remember them here with gratitude for their commitment and collegialship and express heartfelt sympathy to the Gordon, Kaskell, and McManus families.

**Albert F. Gordon**  
(1936–2019)

Al Gordon grew up in New York City and attended St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire, where he competed in football, squash, and sailing. After earning a B.A. and an M.B.A. at Harvard, he worked for over three decades as an investment banker at Kidder, Peabody & Co., a company led by his father, eventually serving as the firm’s Vice President.

Al was an avid reader with a great love of history—particularly military history. He was a big fan of the LOA in the Classroom initiative that placed the Reporting World War II collection in the hands of high school teachers and students across the country. An active member of the Library of America Fellows, Al and his wife Kathy frequently attended LOA programs and especially enjoyed the annual spring history lecture held at the Century Association in Manhattan.

In 2017, Al and Kathy made a generous gift to support LOA’s strategic initiatives and future operations.

**Peter Kaskell**  
(1924–2019)

Born in Berlin, Peter Kaskell escaped Nazi Germany to attend school in England, but interrupted his education to enlist. He worked in Army Intelligence during World War II, earning a Bronze Star for his service on the Italian front and, years later, the Legion of Honor Croix de Chevalier from the French government for his support of the French First Army as it advanced into Germany.

After earning his B.A. and J.D. from Columbia, Peter began his law career in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation, and Arbitration, working first at White & Case in New York City and then for nearly thirty years at Olin Corporation in Stamford, Connecticut. He was devoted to his Wilton, Connecticut, community, serving on the boards of the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield and the Connecticut Humanities Council, as well as numerous social service organizations.

Together with his wife Joan, Peter endowed LOA’s volume of essential writings by Reinhold Niebuhr as a Guardian of American Letters; their gift was made in honor of his parents, Joseph and Lilo Kaskell, who knew Niebuhr.

**Jason Donald McManus**  
(1934–2019)

Hailing from St. Louis, Missouri, Jason McManus graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina with a degree in philosophy and religion and planned to become a Presbyterian minister, but subsequently earned an M.A. in public administration from Princeton and studied at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar. Jason began working in 1957 as a summer intern with Sports Illustrated, joining Time as a writer two years later and then serving as the magazine’s Common Market bureau chief in Paris, which initiated a lifelong love of France and French culture. As world editor, he directed Time’s coverage of the Vietnam War and oversaw the magazine’s reporting on the Watergate scandal. In 1987, he became Time’s fourth editor-in-chief.

Jason and his wife Deborah showed an extraordinary commitment to Library of America’s mission and work, graciously hosting programs for the LOA Fellows in their home and endowing six volumes as Guardians of American Letters during Jason’s lifetime—including collections of writing by Elizabeth Bishop, Dashiell Hammett, Willa Cather, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Deborah and their daughters Sophie and Mage have recently made a new gift to the Guardians Fund to endow a seventh volume, *Philip K. Dick: VALIS and Later Novels*, in Jason’s memory.
Financials

Library of America had a solid financial performance in fiscal year 2019, bolstered by the growth in its endowment and Guardians of American Letters Fund.

Operating Fund: Income from book sales, representing 70% of all revenue, was stable. Other income (grants and contributions, publication subsidies, and income from the endowment and Guardians Fund) was up 3%, while Operating Expenses were reduced $215,000, or 3.8%, resulting in a $56,000 surplus.

Endowment: The Board Designated Fund and the Guardians of American Letters Fund increased by $938,483 respectively through contributions and investment gains. For fiscal 2019 they contributed $569,000 to LOA's operations.

For fiscal year 2020, sales revenue is expected to increase slightly on rising subscription and webstore sales; contributed income is also budgeted higher. Expenses are expected to increase by about 6%. We project a balanced budget in the Operating Fund.

Endowment: The Board Designated Fund and the Guardians of American Letters Fund increased by $538,661 and $438,483 respectively through contributions and investment gains. For fiscal 2019 they contributed $569,000 to LOA's operations.

For fiscal year 2020, sales revenue is expected to increase slightly on rising subscription and webstore sales; contributed income is also budgeted higher. Expenses are expected to increase by about 6%. We project a balanced budget in the Operating Fund.