The Merwin Conservancy
Dear Friends,

When W.S. Merwin died six months ago, he left a legacy of boundless imagination, insight, and literary genius. He wrote over thirty books of poetry and prose, won two Pulitzer Prizes, the National Book Award, and twice served as U.S. Poet Laureate.

William, together with his wife Paula, left another gift: the exuberant, ever-evolving palm forest and home they created together and lived in on Maui for over forty years. From a landscape that was once dry and denuded after decades of neglect, the Merwins made a place that now thrives with color, life, and biodiversity.

This December, The Merwin Conservancy will become permanent custodians of this extraordinary place and its clear, unequivocal message of renewal, possibility, and integrity.

We hope you will join us as we prepare to share the Merwin house and garden as a wellspring for the imagination, and a testament to what can happen when one person’s care for the world is put into daily practice.

With aloha,
In This Issue

2019-20 Memorial Series of The Green Room Announced................................. 03
W.S. Merwin Tribute to Be Held in New York...................................................... 04
Open Garden Days to Expand in 2020............................................................. 07
Merwin Creative Teaching Fellows Publish a Digital Anthology......................... 08
Featured Poem: “The Nomad Flute”................................................................. 09
Two New Ways to Give: The Stewards Program & The Grove Giving Circle... 10

“In gardening, as my wife and I go about it here, what are called concerns—for ecology and the environment, for example—merge inevitably with work done every day, within sight of the house, with our own hands, and the concerns remain intimate and familiar rather than far away. They do not have to be thought about, they are at home in the mind. I have never lived anywhere that was more true.” – W.S. Merwin

www.MerwinConservancy.org
The Green Room Memorial Series

Dr. Pualani Kanaka‘ole Kanahele
In this special presentation of The Green Room, Dr. Kanahele - a dear friend of the Merwins and one of Hawai‘i’s most beloved scholars, kumu hula, and educators - will read and discuss The Folding Cliffs, W.S. Merwin’s epic narrative poem about 19th century Hawai‘i.

October 9th, Honolulu Museum of Art, 7 PM
October 13th, Maui Arts & Cultural Center, 7 PM

Robert Hass & Forrest Gander
In recognition of W.S. Merwin’s work as both a poet and translator, Hass (former U.S. Poet Laureate) and Gander (winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry) will share the stage in a celebration of the beauty of language. Both have had acclaimed careers in translation.

December 11th, Honolulu Museum of Art, 7 PM
December 13th, Maui Arts & Cultural Center, 7 PM

From its inception six years ago, The Green Room has convened an intellectually curious public and sparked conversation about such topics as ecology, botany, wildlife, Hawaiian language and culture, Eastern philosophy, poetry, and climate. Recent speakers have included Richard Powers, MacArthur Fellow and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Overstory; Robin Wall Kimmerer, plant ecologist, author, and Director of the Center for Native People and the Environment, and Lewis Hyde, a scholar, MacArthur Fellow, and award-winning author of The Gift, and most recently A Primer for Forgetting: Getting Past the Past.

In the coming Memorial Series launching on Maui and O‘ahu this October, we will celebrate W.S. Merwin’s love of language, nature and the imagination and will feature readings from some of our most celebrated writers, thinkers, and poets, many of whom were close friends with him. Some are past speakers returning, others joining for the first time. It is sure to be a beautiful and meaningful continuation of this beloved series, and we look forward to seeing you there. This series is made possible by the generous support of our partners at Honolulu Museum of Art and Maui Arts & Cultural Center, and is presented by Aqua Aston Hospitality. Additional support generously provided by Atherton Family Foundation, Halekulani, and Casa de Flores.

Reserve Tickets for the Full Memorial Series as a Green Room Patron
Support this special series as a Green Room Patron with a $500 contribution. We will set aside two tickets for each of our four events, seat you in our VIP section, and welcome you at our VIP pre-event reception.

Visit www.merwinconservancy.org/patrons to learn more.
Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate

In 2019, Harjo became the first-ever Native American poet to earn the title U.S. Poet Laureate, a title W.S. Merwin held twice in his career. The Merwin Conservancy is thrilled to bring her to Hawai‘i for readings from her stunning works of poetry.

January 28th, Honolulu Museum of Art, 7 PM
January 30th, Maui Arts & Cultural Center, 7 PM

Edward Hirsch, Naomi Shihab Nye, Jane Hirshfield, & Kevin Young

For an evening that celebrates W.S. Merwin’s indelible mark on writers worldwide, four leading poets of our time gather together to share the impact Merwin has had on their own lives, careers as poets, and as advocates for the power of language, nature, and imagination.

March 18th, Honolulu Museum of Art, 7 PM
March 20th, Maui Arts & Cultural Center, 7 PM

A Tribute To W.S. Merwin

A Special Memorial Event in New York, NY

Monday, October 21st at 8 PM
92nd Street Y
This event is free, but tickets must be reserved at www.92y.org/poetry

In the New York area this October? Please join us as friends and fellow writers gather in Manhattan to read from the work of W. S. Merwin. This event is co-sponsored by the Academy of American Poets, Copper Canyon Press, The Merwin Conservancy, Poets House, and the Poetry Society of America.


Special thanks to our friends at 92nd Street Y for hosting this event.
We thank our generous donors for their investment in conserving and sharing the legacy of W.S. and Paula Merwin, their beloved palm forest and home.

**Founding Circle**

These donors made a seed gift of $10,000 or more at the founding of the Conservancy.

Anonymous (2)
Margaret & Robert Ayres
Helen Bing
Lloyd & Margit Cotsen
Peter Hagedorn & Miriam Trahan
Charles Engelhard Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Gerber
Doug & Liz Kinney
William and Eileen Kay Kistler
William Merwin
Paula Merwin
Stanley Moss
Susan and Roy O’Connor
Patricia O. Smith
Diana & Steven Strandberg

**Merwin Legacy Circle**

Planned Giving, Estate Gifts and Bequests.

Anonymous (2)
Paula and William Merwin
Ruth Merwin Moser
J. Kevin Tighe and Rebecca Fletcher

**Grove Giving Circle**

Through a gift of $15,000 or more, these donors together plant a memorial grove of palms to remember William and Paula Merwin.

Anonymous
Sarah and Tim Cavanaugh
Sacharuna Foundation
Michael Donovan
Carolee Campbell and Hector Elizondo
Jeanne Herbert
Susan and Jac Kean
Arlyna Livingstone and Janie Davis
Michael Moore
Sacharuna Foundation
Jill and Doug Schatz
Swayne Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
Barbara Sweet
William True

**The list that follows includes donors who have made gifts within the last 18 months.**

**$50,000 AND UP**

Anonymous
Aqua Aston Hospitality
Sarah and Tim Cavanaugh
Michael Donovan
Charles Engelhard Foundation

**$10,000 - $49,999**

Atheyton Family Foundation
Robert Becker
Carolee Campbell and Hector Elizondo
Jan Elliott
FIM Group / Mercer Advisors
Jeanne Herbert
Susan and Jac Kean
Arlyna Livingstone and Janie Davis
Michael Moore
Sacharuna Foundation
Jill and Doug Schatz
Swayne Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
Barbara Sweet
William True

**$1,000 - $9,999**

Darlene and John Abt
Tanya and Paul Alston
Robert A. and Margy Ayres
Cynthia Bassett
Matt & Elif Beall
Pam and Ed Bello
Bendon Family Foundation
Noel Pacarro Brown
Laurie Carlson
Susan Casey
Colleen Chartier and Richard Andrews
Maggie and David Cole
Susan Cooper Cronyn
Liz Ellrodt and Scott Schweighauser
Mr. C. Pardee Erdman, Jr.
Florence Foundation
Carrie Fountain
Frost Family Foundation
Halekulani Corporation
Jenny Holzer
Doug and Liz Kinney
C. Christopher Latham and Alida C. Latham
Joan McBride
Dorothy McCoy
Amber Strong Makaiau
Makana Aloha Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. McCue, III
Milkweed Editions
J. Glenn Mills
Timothy Moore
Ruth Merwin Moser
Omidyar Fellows
Joan Dunaway Packer
Eric Paddock
Lee and Stuart Rolfe
Robert Rosen
Heather and Richard Russell
Deborah Rybak
Matthew C. Schwartz and Karen A. Levesque
Peter Shaindlin
Patricia O. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Smith
Howard Sobel and Ileen Smith
Meg and Sam Steere
Catherine St. Germans
Sandra and Earl Stoner
Reva and Bill Tooley
Henry and Janet Valliant
Jonathan and Jane Wells
Whisitt Family Fund at Seattle Foundation
Chevenna Whittier and Chris Hecht
Jana and Howard Wolff

**$100-$999**

Christine Andrews
Judy Anderson
Kelly Arbor
Richard Aronson and Daniel Potaracke
Eric Baizer
Thomas Baldwin
Brian Baron
Suelleen Barton
Andrea Baxter
Dawn White Beatty
Thomas and Judith Beckman
Ms. Margo Berdeshovsky
Kitty Bergel
Berktech Solutions
Joan and Mitch Berman
Dr. Philip Boatright
Keith Boi
Karen Bouris
Suzanne Brace
Susan Brad(t)
Scott Bradley
Sue Bremner
Pamela Brennan
Bennett Brooks
Jackie Buck
Phil Buckner
Karen Trujiilo Burnett
Gen and Chris Campbell
Thomas Cheyne
Michael Claffey and Betsy Hearne
Ted and Boonsuai Clement
Sonnet Coggin and Sam Amoroso
Carla Cooper
Commercial Properties of Maui
Patricia Crandall
Jean Creadick
Kimberley Brickey Cyr
Eva and Brian Daniels
Kiana Davenport
Jennifer Daugherty
Janie and Mark Davis
Fara and Jason Denhart
Ms. Carolyn Dille
Robert Dixon
Suzanne and Don Carlos Dunaway
With Gratitude For Our Donors

Gretchen Duplanty
John Elmensdorp
Thea Engesser
Helen Druitt English
Mary Feeney
Lisa Fernandez
Susan Tracy Flanagan
Severine von Tscharner Fleming
Carolyn and Robert Florek
Clara Flower
Leslie Freimuth
Pamela Frierson
Deborah Garcia
Keith Geller
J. Ruth Gendler
Dr. Darcel Gilbert
Elizabeth Gilbert and Shaun Donovan
Katharine Gilbert
Jack and Janet Gillmar
Leslie Gise
Paula Gocker
John Grim and Mary E Tucker
Mary Anna and Steve Grimes
James and Priscilla Growney
David and Joan Grubin
Catherine and Warren Guthrie
Mark Haddad
Amanda Hagoog and Daniel Spoth
Beverly Harner
Steven Harris
Hilary Harts
Shannon Hartzler
Mr. Peter Hay
Judith K. Healey
Camille Helminski
Rebecca Henderson
Jeanne Herbert
Ashley Hesjedal
James Hessler
Christine Hether
Chelsea Hill
Charles Hobson
Sarah Hofstadter
Beverly Hogue
Amy and Martin Hoover
Steven Hopkins
Jessamy Hornor
Donna Howard
Sean Michael Hower
Marian Huff
Kaye Hurtt
Barry and May Hyman
Linda Inouye
Island Design Center
Donna James
Jenny and Bob Janas
Frederick Jones
Whitney Jones
Peter Kafka
Jordan and Aaron Kandell
Philip Kay
Edmund Keeley
Garrison Keillor
Richard Kelley
Judith Kerman
Judy Kern
Stephen Kessler
Michael Kieran and Teresa Vast
William and Eileen Kay Kistler
Robin Wall Kimmmerer
Mary Jane Knecht
David Koenig
Diana Koin
Liz Kuhlman and Dave Mickelsen
Paul Lee
Takako Lento
The Allen Levesque Family
Susie Lewis
Pam and Don Lichtry
Ian Lind
Sven-Olof Lindblad and Kristin Hettermann
Dr. Thomas Lovejoy
Deborah and David Lycette
Matthew Lynch
Macdonald Builders Legacy Fund
Marissa MacNaughton
Alexander Maksik & Madhuri Vijay
Jon and Leslie Maksik
Lillian A. Mangum
Jeff and Suchin Marcus
Kristin Markham
Mauna Ala Hiking Club
Rita Marlowe
Andy Mason
Kate Maughan
Denise Mazzanti
Judy McCorkle and Tom Reed
Donna and Dick McCullough
Kelly McHugh-White
Vicki and Peter Merriman
Michael Merritt
Mikel and Amy Mesh
Rosalyn Meyer
Jonathan Middlebrook
Ceseli Milstein
Patricia and Richard Missler
Craig Mitchell
Rolf Moan
Dean Moore
Margaret Morgan
Thomas Morris
Chris Morton
Emily Naunheim
Michael Newton
Lelan Nishek
Dr. M. Puakea Nogelmeier
Naomi Shihab Nye
Laura O'Hara and Louis Weinstein
Susie O'Keefe
Susan O'Shaughnessy
Ms. Carol Owen
Janet Pauli
Andrea Perkins and Deyaa Mounir
James Pickrel and Carolyn Woolley
Jody Plant and Louis Borgenicht
Charlton Price
Kathleen and Fred Pfieger
Virginia Pfieger
Kathryn Powers
Richard Powers
Jarold and Dorothy Ramsey
Andrew Rayner
Ms. Mary Anne Mayer Redmond
Michael Redmond
Leslie Resnick
Jillian and Robin Ridgington
Phil and Lynn Ritter
Eva Roberts
Janet Marie Roberts
John Romain/The Inn at Hana
Bay
Stephen Roos
Steve Ruley
Richard Rycroft
Majken Ryherd
Clyde and Gerrienne Sakamoto
Frederick Howard Sands
Bruce Schauble
Susie Schelsinger/BrownBag Farm
Martha Schut
Pam and Bill Schwartz
Vollie Scott
Natalie Shaindelin
Michelle Sheehan
Patricia Sheehan
Sherrill Sheehan
Pauline and Bill Shelden
Barbara Sheridan and Richard Cooper
Glenn, Uta & April Shiotani
Richard Skidmore
Lisa Sodetani
Kathleen Spalding
Laurie Sterling
Larry and Anne Stevens
Mele Stokesberry and Chuck Carletta
Barry Sultanoff
Montana Svoboda
Kelvin & Janice Taketa
Monica Tap
Mary Ann Taylor-Hall
Michael Tekula
Sara Tekula and Joseph Imhoff
J. Kevin Tighe and Rebecca Fletcher
Irene Tokuda
Lila Townsend
Wyatt and Roderick Townley
Randall Tree
Emily Tuommons
Patricia Tuommons
Ann Uhrich
Lisa and Randall Underwood
David and Martha Vockrodt-Moran
Shiloh Wall
J. Watumull Fund
Jenn Welch-Brown
Michael Wiegers
Kathryn and Tom Whittaker
Carol and Gaylord Wilcox
Tina Wilson
Sylvia Wolf and Duane Schuler
Lisa Wood
Susan Yap
Larry Zimmerman
Open Garden Days

Remaining Open Garden Days in 2019*:
Wednesday, October 9th
Saturday, November 16th
Wednesday, December 11th
Saturday, December 28th

Upcoming Dates in 2020*:
Wednesday, January 8th
Saturday, January 18th
Wednesday, February 5th
Saturday, February 22nd
Wednesday, March 4th
Saturday, March 14th
Wednesday, April 8th
Saturday, April 18th
Wednesday, May 6th
Saturday, May 25th

This free public program invites the community to hike through William and Paula Merwin’s extensive and wild garden of palms. Led by knowledgeable staff, these 3-hour intimate and rejuvenating experiences share the land, the vision, and the poetry of our founder, and inspire conversations about possibility through the lens of ecological restoration and the power of imagination.

Due to popular demand, we will be offering two programs per month in 2020.

Join us! Submit a request here: www.merwinconservancy.org/open-garden-days

“I’m still floating in that vibrant pure essence of the garden. I’ve never felt so connected and literally immersed, it seems, in my surroundings. You created and shared a rare experience.”
— recent Open Garden Day participant

*Registrations are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and Open Garden Days fill up at least a month or two in advance. Early requests are encouraged. Dates for the second half of 2020 will be published in our Spring newsletter.
Now at the end of their fellowship year, the fifteen Merwin Creative Teaching Fellows are reflecting back on a transformational program that brought them together on Maui’s North Shore for mini-residencies in W.S. Merwin’s garden twice, first with poets Naomi Shihab Nye and Cathy Song in June 2018, and again in April 2019 with indigenous environmental scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer. These Hawai‘i educators have been reflecting on W.S. Merwin’s poetry, ecological stewardship, and ways of living—especially his emphasis on valuing attention and imagination—and designing ways to bring these habits of mind into the lives of their 1,500 students throughout the state. The result of these studies, conversations, and reflections has culminated into a curated digital anthology for teachers edited and designed by Conservancy staff and our partners at The Creative Core. Now, teachers around the world can access and use these lessons, thereby bringing the teachings of the garden to classrooms everywhere.

To download the Fellows’ Anthology for Teachers, visit www.merwinconservancy.org/fellows-anthology-2019
The Nomad Flute

You that sang to me once sing to me now
let me hear your long lifted note
survive with me
the star is fading
I can think farther than that but I forget
do you hear me
do you still hear me
does your air
remember you
oh breath of morning
night song morning song
I have with me
all that I do not know
I have lost none of it
but I know better now
than to ask you
where you learned that music
where any of it came from
once there were lions in China
I will listen until the flute stops
and the light is old again

– W.S. Merwin

Copyright © 2008 by W. S. Merwin.
In December, The Merwin Conservancy ‘ohana will become permanent custodians of the palm forest and Merwin house. Please join us in securing the future of this extraordinary place. Together we will share it with generations to come.

**Make a Memorial Gift to Tend the Garden and the Vision**
Your gift will ensure that the land and beloved palms are tended in perpetuity, with the same care and attention that William and Paula devoted to their garden. Visit [www.merwinconservancy.org](http://www.merwinconservancy.org) to make a donation securely online.

**Become a Steward through Monthly Giving**
Sustain our growth and deepen your impact through a recurring gift. Become a Steward at [www.merwinconservancy.org/donate](http://www.merwinconservancy.org/donate)

**Join the Grove Giving Circle with a Major Gift**

Plant one of the potted keiki palms that William left on the shadehouse shelves. As the Conservancy flourishes, so too will the grove of palms we will plant together.

For more information, visit [www.merwinconservancy.org/grove](http://www.merwinconservancy.org/grove)

Contact Sonnet Coggins, Executive Director, at 808-579-8876 to learn more.
The Merwin Conservancy
P.O. Box 809 | Haiku, HI 96708
(808) 579-8876

Featured images of Merwin’s garden generously donated by our friend, photographer Larry Cameron.