



The Wallace Stevens Society

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The Wallace Stevens Journal

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gargaillof@apsu.edu

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The Wallace Stevens Journal
Andrew Osborn
aosborn@udallas.edu

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November 2024

Dear Fellow Stevensians,

We wish to send you the very best for your autumn, along with some updates on recent and upcoming happenings in the Stevens world.

Announcement: We are delighted to announce that Nora Pehrson received the 2023 John Serio Award for the best article published in the previous year in *The Wallace Stevens Journal*. She won for her article “As If in a Book: Everyday Reading in Stevens,” which appeared in the Spring 2023 issue (*WSJ* 47.1). The committee was comprised of Bonnie Costello, Christopher Spaide, and Juliette Utard, who served as chair. Congratulations, Nora!

Recent events: The Wallace Stevens Society organized two panels at the 2024 American Literature Association Annual Conference in Chicago, IL. The first session, on Stevens and “the little magazine,” featured presentations by Kathryn Mudgett, Karen Leick, and Clifford Wulfman. The second was an illustrated two-way interview between Liesl Olson and Chicu Reddy about Stevens’s relationship with *Poetry* and their research in the magazine’s archives. On both occasions, Andrew Osborn served as chair.

Upcoming events: The Wallace Stevens Society is thrilled to announce an international conference, “Transnational Conversations, Partial Perspectives,” to be held in Singapore from June 26 to June 28, 2025. The conference will take place at The Arts House, a multidisciplinary venue and cultural hub in downtown Singapore. The event will include a dinner for all participants as well as a tour of the historical districts of central Singapore. For a full call for papers, see the Society’s Call for Papers page: wallacestevens.com/calls-for-papers. If interested, please submit an abstract of 150 words and a brief bio to Dr. Ian Tan at ian.tan@nie.edu.sg by November 30, 2024.

The Society is also organizing a panel on Wallace Stevens’s essays for the 2025 American Literature Association Annual Conference in Boston, MA, in May 2025. The panel invites 300-to-500-word abstracts for presentations that address Stevens’s essays as a contribution to his “theory of poetry,” as an experiment in criticism, and/or in terms of their subsequent legacy. Again, for a full call for papers, see the Society’s Call for Papers page:

wallacestevens.com/calls-for-papers. Please direct all inquiries and submissions (including a brief bio) to William Burns at william.burns.15@ucl.ac.uk and Andrew Osborn at aosborn@udallas.edu (subject heading: ALA25 Stevens) by Monday, January 13, 2025.

The 29th Annual Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash will be held at the Hartford Public Library on November 2 at 2:00P.M. Organized by the Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens, this year's event will feature Charles Bernstein delivering a talk titled "Ocular Truth and the Actuarial Imagination: Wallace Stevens's Not So Plain Senses of Things." More information can be found at www.stevenspoetry.org.

Passing of Helen Vendler: The Society notes with sorrow the passing of Helen Vendler at the age of 90 at her home in Laguna Niguel, California. Vendler wrote two foundational books on Stevens, *On Extended Wings: Wallace Stevens' Longer Poems* (1969) and *Wallace Stevens: Words Chosen Out of Desire* (1986), along with dozens of essays, reviews, and lectures on or inflected by Stevens. A decade ago, *The Wallace Stevens Journal* devoted a special issue, co-edited by Bart Eeckhout, Natalie Gerber, and Lisa Goldfarb, to "Helen Vendler's Stevens" (*WSJ* 38.2, Fall 2014). That issue included "A Selected Chronological Survey" of Vendler's publications on Stevens as of 2014; in the busy, inquisitive years that followed, Vendler continued to write and lecture on Stevens for venues ranging from *The New York Review of Books* and *Liberties* to Harvard University's Woodberry Poetry Room and New York University's Center for Ballet and the Arts. The Fall 2024 issue of *The Wallace Stevens Journal* collects several pieces on Vendler and the late Marjorie Perloff under the title "As You Leave the Room: A Memorial Tribute"; we are grateful to the *Journal's* editor, Andrew Osborn, for soliciting and introducing the pieces.

Website: The Wallace Stevens Society has begun archiving past Society newsletters on its website at wallacestevens.com/newsletter-archive. We have also uploaded a digitized version of all four issues of *The Wallace Stevens Journal's* predecessor, *The Wallace Stevens Newsletter*, which ran from October 1969 to April 1971: see wallacestevens.com/archive.

Donations: The Wallace Stevens Society welcomes donations in support of its work. Please contact George Burns, the Society's Treasurer (gurns6126@gmail.com), if you wish to make a donation.

Call for Help: As you can see, the Stevens world continues to be so active that we may have overlooked some relevant news items. If you know of any events or publications that might escape our attention, please alert our Secretary, Christopher Spaide, at christopher.spaide@gmail.com, or email the Society's general inquiry address, wallacestevenssociety@gmail.com. We appreciate your help.

In closing, the Officers of the Wallace Stevens Society would like to thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at gargaillof@apsu.edu with ideas, responses, and reflections.

Best wishes,
Florian Gargaillo
President