



2020 Nomination Form

Application deadline: Friday, February 28 by 5 p.m.

DELIVER TO: City Hall, 101 N. Main St., Winston-Salem,
Marketing & Communications Department, Suite 336

OR MAIL TO: City of Winston-Salem,
Marketing & Communications Department
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Nominee's Stage Name: Penelope Niven Given Name: Penny

Address at Time of Death: 703-B South Marshall St. State: W-S, NC 27101

Winston-Salem Resident: Beginning: 193-194 (year only) To: 2014 (year only)

Category: Music Visual Arts Dance Motion Pictures
 Theater Television Writing Radio

Criteria:

- The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
- The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate). *-obituaries*
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio. A "significant" contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.
- Application must include nominee's performance/accomplishment biography.
- Attach nominee's biography with dates which must include at least 5 years of accomplishments in the arts, culture, or entertainment field.
- Attach a list of nominee's civic/community involvement.
- Attach a copy of nominee's death certificate.

Sponsor: Mary Kirk Huske

Address: 707-C South Marshall St.

City: Winston-Salem State: NC Zip Code: 27101

Email: kirkhuske@gmail.com

Phone: Home: 336 722-6457 Cell: 336 407-9019

Signature: Mary Kirk Huske Date: 1-21-20

MOCK

THOMASVILLE - James E. Mock, 65, of Barnwell Street died Saturday, September 6, 2014. Prominence Funeral Home is servicing the Mock Family.

NIVEN

WINSTON-SALEM



Penelope "Penny" Niven
August 28, 2014

On Thursday, August 28, 2014, beloved mother, acclaimed author, and treasured friend Penelope "Penny" Niven of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, passed away at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center surrounded by her family, whom she deeply loved and cherished.

Penelope Niven was the critically acclaimed author of Carl Sandburg: A Biography, Steichen: A Biography, and, most recently, Thornton Wilder: A Life. She and actor James Earl Jones co-authored Voices and Silences, praised as a classic on acting, and she also penned a memoir, Swimming Lessons. Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet, her biography for children, was awarded an International Reading Association Prize "for

exceptionally distinguished literature for children," one of six books honored among publications from 99 countries.

Niven was awarded two honorary doctorates-one from her alma mater Wake Forest University- three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Thornton Wilder Visiting Fellowship at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, among other honors. She received the North Carolina Award in Literature, the highest honor the state bestows on an author. During the past twenty-five years, she lectured across the United States and in Switzerland, Canada and Wales; served as an editor for various publications; and was a consultant for television films on Sandburg, Jones, and Steichen. She also spent twelve years as Writer-in-Residence at Salem College in Winston-Salem, where an international writing prize was named in her honor, along with the creative writing portfolio prize given each year to a Salem student.

Niven's daughter, Jennifer, is an award-winning author as well, and the two loved doing mother-daughter writing programs and workshops together, which they conducted around the world.

At the time of Niven's death, she was working on several projects. She and Blanton Beik were completing his autobiography in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Up with People. Niven was also continuing her work on

Thornton Wilder-preparing a book titled Wilder on Writing, and editing a Wilder Reader. In October she was to be the keynote speaker at the Burbank Public Library's NEA-funded Big Read celebration of Our Town. Earlier this summer she returned from Barbados, where she was working on a project with world-renowned artist and friend Lonnie Eugene Stewart. As impressive as her career was, Penelope Niven's legacy reaches far beyond her work. She always said her greatest work of art was her daughter, and their profoundly close mother-daughter relationship was inspiring.

Niven was loved by all who knew her-no matter how briefly. Her family recognizes that her passing is a loss not only felt by them, but by the entire community as well. Her words and the joy with which she embraced each day fundamentally enriched lives around the world. As she once wrote, "I want my epitaph to testify that I have been a loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend; and I have taught, written, and lived with joy."

She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Niven, her sisters, Lynn Duval Clark and Doris Barron Knapp, her brother, William O. Niven, Jennifer's fiancé, Louis Kapeleris, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and her great-aunt, Frances Niven Gamble.

A memorial service will be held in Niven's hometown of Waxhaw, North Carolina, at the Waxhaw Methodist Church this Saturday, Sep-

tember 6, at 1:00 p.m. There will be an additional service in Winston-Salem, which was home to Niven for over twenty years. That service-to celebrate Penny's life, her contributions, and the many lives she impacted-will be held Monday, September 8, at 11:00 a.m. at Wake Forest University's Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society (<http://www.cancer.org/>) or the CP3 Foundation (the Chris Paul Foundation: <http://www.cp3foundation.org/>).

Online condolences may be made through www.salemnh.com

Shaken Tony Stewart seeks healing on track / B1

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

August 30, 2014 75 cents

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◀ How did teams fare in the second week of prep football? / B1, B6, B7

WFU alumni making documentary about cult gaming glove / A4



LOUIS KAPELERIS

Penelope Niven died Thursday at age 75.

Noted biographer Penelope Niven dies

BY LYNN FELDER
and MICHAEL HEWLETT
Winston-Salem Journal

Penelope Niven, 75, an acclaimed biographer who lived in Winston-Salem, died Thursday, a day after driving herself to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Niven was the author of several notable biographies, a memoir and an award-winning children's book. Her daughter, Jennifer Niven, is also an award-winning writer of fiction and nonfiction. The two women frequently presented writing workshops together.

Caroll Leggett, a neighbor in Academy Park, said Niven, who traveled nationally and internationally to give lectures, readings and book signings, drove herself to Wake Forest Baptist on Wednesday and immediately went into a coma.

Emily Herring Wilson, a

poet and biographer, said Niven died Thursday.

Wilson first met Niven in 1962.

"She was just a beautiful person inside and out," Wilson said. "She was extraordinary. She was a great public speaker and teacher.

"I heard her speak

so many times, often at Salem College. She was funny, intelligent and generous."

Wilson said many people have lost a close friend in Niven and that her family has lost a great family member.

"Her loss will just have

NIVEN, Page A10

as a player for the Detroit Tigers, hitting a double in his first at-bat in a game against the New York Highlanders. (The Tigers won, 5-3.)

The "Hot Line" communications link between Washington and Moscow went into

In 1984, the space shuttle Discovery was launched on its inaugural flight.

In 1989, a federal jury in New York found "hotel queen" Leona Helmsley guilty of income tax evasion, but acquitted her of extortion.

— The Associated Press

underscores

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WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Niven
From Page A1

a great impact in all those areas," Wilson said.

Among Niven's most notable work was the biography she wrote on editor and writer Carl Sandburg.

While visiting Sandburg's home, Connemara near Flat Rock, Niven discovered that many of his papers had not been sorted through — he did the last third of his work at Connemara — and she volunteered to organize the documents. What she found inspired her to pursue further research. New York-publisher Scribner published "Carl Sandburg: A Biography" in 1991.

"It was an important biography," Wilson said. "And it launched her career."

"Stelchen: A Biography," about photographer Edward Steichen, was published in 1997, and "Thornton Wilder: A Life" was published in 2012.

In 1993, Niven co-authored with James Earl Jones "Voices and Silences," a book that earned praise as a classic on acting. She also wrote a memoir, "Swimming Lessons," and "Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet," a biography for children.

She received an International Reading Association Prize "for exceptionally distinguished literature for children" for "Adventures of a Poet" in 2003.

A native of Waxhaw, Niven received a bachelor's degree from Greensboro College and a master's degree in English from Wake Forest University, where she studied with Ed Wilson, WFU provost emeritus and Emily Herring Wilson's husband.

In a 1991 interview with the Winston-Salem Journal, Niven said her parents

encouraged her to use her imagination. She had two imaginary girlfriends, Goddy and Dreena, as well as an imaginary boy named Yellow, who married her when she was 3.

"My parents read to me and we talked," she said. "I grew up with words in ways I've come to cherish."

And Niven spread that love of writing to others. Wilson said Niven was always eager to help other writers and that Niven helped her find a publisher for her first book.

Niven was awarded two honorary doctorates, three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Thornton Wilder Visiting Fellowship at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, among other honors.

She received the North Carolina Award in Literature, the highest honor the state bestows on an author. Over the past 23 years, she lectured throughout the United States and in Switzerland, Canada and Wales; served as an editor for various publications; and was a consultant for television films on Sandburg, Jones and Steichen.

Niven retired after 12 years as writer-in-residence at Salem College, where an international writing prize was named in her honor, along with the creative writing portfolio prize given each year to a Salem student.

On her website, Niven wrote, "I want my epitaph to testify that I have been a loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend; and I have taught, written, and lived with joy."

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The New York Times | <http://nyti.ms/1q4mJu5>

ARTS

Penelope Niven, Carl Sandburg Biographer, Dies at 75

By PAUL VITELLO SEPT. 7, 2014

Penelope Niven was a high school English teacher, nearing 40, when she began work on a biography of Carl Sandburg. She had never written a book before. She didn't have a Ph.D. in literature and hadn't even been that familiar with Sandburg's work.

But the volume she produced 14 years later, "Carl Sandburg: A Biography" (1991), was groundbreaking and helped revive interest in a nearly forgotten poet, Lincoln biographer and literary folk hero of his time.

Ms. Niven died at 75 on Aug. 28 in Winston-Salem, N.C., apparently of an aneurysm, her daughter, Jennifer Niven said.

Ms. Niven followed the Sandburg book with biographies of two other fading luminaries of the Depression and World War II generation — Thornton Wilder, the novelist-playwright who created the perennial American stage favorites "Our Town" and "The Skin of Our Teeth;" and Edward Steichen, the photographer also known as curator of a traveling photo exhibition, "The Family of Man," that drew millions to its message of universal human kinship during a postwar world tour.

Her subjects shared certain qualities: Each had a fundamentally optimistic view of life; all had been embraced by the public and dismissed, to a greater or lesser extent, by critics for their supposed sentimentality and Reader's Digest-accessibility.

Ms. Niven brought a spirited defense to the reputation of each, and was praised for illuminating their stories with details from personal documents and unpublished works.

In later years, Ms. Niven told friends that she had always considered herself a writer but had never found her subject or the time — as a teacher and a mother and wife who moved her household across the country several times in the course of her husband's career — before she almost stumbled into her work as a late-blooming biographer of the nearly lost voices of an era.

She came to the Sandburg project in the 1970s after volunteering to help reorganize an exhibition of his effects and papers at the National Park Service museum at his former home near Flat Rock, N.C. When that became an obsession, it connected her to Sandburg's heirs and agents, who connected her to Steichen's (the two men were brothers-in-law) and to Wilder's.

"She used to say that the book you're supposed to write finds you," not the other way around, said her daughter, who is also a writer, of fiction and nonfiction. "She was 'the wife' and 'the mom' for us — that's what women did in her era," Jennifer Niven said. "She was just glad the opportunity came along to start being a writer, too."

Ms. Niven wrote five books in addition to the Sandburg biography: "Steichen: A Biography" (1997); "Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet," a biography for children (2003); "Swimming Lessons," a 2004 memoir; "Thornton Wilder: A Life," published in 2012; and "Voices and Silences," the 1993 autobiography of James Earl Jones, for which she as a co-writer with the actor.

It described how Mr. Jones, traumatized and virtually mute from the ages of 6 to 14 because of a disabling stutter, became one of the stage's most

distinctive voices.

Penelope Niven was born in Waxhaw, N.C., on April 11, 1939, to Olin Niven, a postal inspector, and Eleanor Niven, a teacher. She received her bachelor's degree from Greensboro College, in North Carolina, and a master's degree in English from Wake Forest University.

She was a high school English teacher in Winston-Salem, suburban Maryland and Richmond, Ind.; and after publishing her Sandburg biography, she spent 12 years as writer-in-residence at Salem College, in Winston-Salem.

In addition to her daughter, Ms. Niven is survived by two sisters, Lynn Duval Clark and Doris Barron Knapp, and a brother, William. She and her daughter's father, Jack McJunkin, were divorced in 1987.

Ms. Niven's "Thornton Wilder: A Life," the first major biography of that writer in 30 years, drew on previously undisclosed family papers, and a vast correspondence between him and members of the literary pantheon of his time, including Gertrude Stein, Hemingway and Joyce. Charles Isherwood, writing in *The New York Times*, praised her sympathetic, "deeply researched and fluidly readable" account of Wilder's complicated family life and deeply serious literary mind.

"Few writers have emerged from the crucible of the biographer's attentions in recent years with their reputations as honorable human beings intact." He added that from Ms. Niven's decade of research and writing, "Wilder does."

Her Steichen biography helped clarify Steichen's contributions to 20th-century American art — and distinguish them from those of Alfred Stieglitz, his better-known fellow founder of photography as an art form, wrote a reviewer in *The Washington Post*, George Slade. Ms. Niven revealed Steichen — the passionately artistic, relentlessly experimental, and more optimistic of the two photographers — as the more essentially American artist, he wrote.

Ms. Niven had been volunteering at the Sandburg historic site for about three years when she decided that there was material for a book in the

thousands of letters and manuscripts in the house where Sandburg had lived for 22 years before his death in 1967. She did not have herself in mind.

“There were letters in the closets, manuscripts under the eaves, and under the beds,” she said to an interviewer in 1991, describing what she had told Lucy Kroll, Sandburg’s former agent, when she had paid a visit to the house one day. Someone needed to write a book. But who?

Jennifer Niven recalled Ms. Kroll’s reply: “I think it’s you.”

The relationship Penelope Niven had developed by then with Ms. Kroll and the Sandburg family gave her access to records that no previous biographers had, said George Hendrick, an emeritus professor of English at the University of Illinois and editor of many Sandburg collections.

Professor Hendrick said Ms. Niven’s book achieved many worthy objectives, but said one was the most important: “It reintroduced Sandburg to a generation of college students who had literally barely heard of him.”

Correction: September 9, 2014

An obituary on Monday about Penelope Niven, the author of an acclaimed biography of the poet Carl Sandburg, misstated the name of the town in North Carolina where she was born. It is Waxhaw, not Waxhew.

A version of this article appears in print on September 8, 2014, on page B8 of the New York edition with the headline: Penelope Niven, Carl Sandburg Biographer, Dies at 75.

PENELOPE NIVEN (MA '62, D. Litt. '92)

By Kerry M. King ('85)



As she entered middle age, Penelope "Penny" Niven (MA '62) reflected on an unfulfilled dream. "When I was 5 years old I dreamed of being a writer. When I was 40, I finally did something about it," Niven wrote in the Summer 2012 Wake Forest Magazine. "I stepped over the threshold in my 40s loving my life, but taking stock: 'Not very long ago I was 5 and dreaming

about being a writer,' I thought. Before long I'll be 80 — and full of regret if I don't honor the dream that belonged to my 5-year-old self."

Niven did pursue her dream and although her dream at the time didn't include writing biographies, she eventually embraced what she called "the daunting effort to do justice to another life."

When Niven died on Aug. 28, 2014, in Winston-Salem at the age of 75, she left behind award-winning books on the lives of poet Carl Sandburg, novelist-playwright Thornton Wilder and photographer Edward Steichen. She was a "late-blooming biographer of the nearly lost voices of an era," *The New York Times* wrote.

Niven's first book, "Carl Sandburg: A Biography" (1991), was published when she was 52. She followed that with an autobiography of James Earl Jones, "Voices and Silences" (1993), that she co-wrote with the actor, and two more biographies — "Steichen: A Biography" (1997) and "Thornton Wilder: A Life" (2012). She also wrote "Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet" (2003), a biography for children, and "Swimming Lessons," her 2004 memoir.

A native of Waxhaw, North Carolina, Niven graduated from Greensboro College and received a master's in English literature from Wake Forest. What she learned at

Wake Forest, she once wrote, "by word and deed would take root and flourish over a lifetime — and help equip me to write biography. ... Ed Wilson ('43) was the catalyst for my passion to know the person who became the author or actor or photographer."

Niven taught high school English and college literature and composition in North Carolina and several other states. She hadn't planned to write a biography of Sandburg when she volunteered to help organize his papers at his home, now a National Historic Site, near Flat Rock, North Carolina. As she delved into his life and conducted oral histories with his family and friends, she suggested to Sandburg's agent that there was enough material for a new biography. Sandburg's agent had the perfect author in mind: Niven.

That led to her next subjects, Steichen and Wilder. At Niven's memorial service, relatives of Steichen and Wilder praised her work. "She understood absolutely everything, and she missed absolutely nothing," said Steichen's granddaughter, Francesca Calderone-Steichen. Added Wilder's nephew, Tappan Wilder, "She was born knowing how to swim in paper. ... Thanks to Penny the doors and windows are open to Thornton's life and art."

Niven had lived in Winston-Salem for the last 20 years and was writer-in-residence at Salem College for a dozen years. She received a number of literary awards, including the North Carolina Award in Literature and three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities. But she often said that her greatest achievement was her daughter Jennifer, an award-winning author as well; they often appeared at writing programs and workshops together.

In addition to her daughter, Niven is survived by two sisters and a brother.

Niven, fittingly, summed up her own life, once writing: "I want my epitaph to testify that I have been a loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend; and I have taught, written, and lived with joy."

wife, **Bette Marie Braswell Auld ('47)**. He is survived by three children; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas Hubert Gibson ('49), Aug. 28, 2014, Davidson, NC. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Gibson was in sales and then vocational counseling with

the Virginia Employment Commission in Bristol for 25 years.

Edith "Henry" Rawls Isaacs ('49), Aug. 7, 2014, Virginia Beach, VA. She was a member of the Wake Forest Strings Society. Isaacs taught English at Virginia Beach High School and was a former president of the Knoxville,

TN, Council of Federated Garden Clubs and the Knoxville Chapter of the Association for Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Fred W. Isaacs Jr. ('50)**, and two daughters. Isaacs is survived by three daughters; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Library is a fitting tribute to author, neighbor

The miniature building on South Marshall Street blends in perfectly with its surroundings.

To passersby scooting past on bikes and in cars, it looks at a quick glance like a dollhouse. It has two stories, a real black-shingled roof and glass paneled windows that mimic design features in the Academy Park condominiums just behind it.

And that's the point. Penny's Little Free Library is a labor of love, conceived of and constructed by Academy Park residents as a tribute to Penelope Niven. (Penny to her friends and neighbors), an acclaimed writer and biographer who died two years ago.

"No one is gone as long as someone calls their name,"



Scott Sexton

ssexton@wsjournal.com

wrote Carroll Leggett, one of Niven's neighbors, in an online tribute announcing its dedication.

Honoring a life's work

Building a little library is a fitting memorial for Niven.

She was the author of several biographies — poet Carl Sandburg and actor James Earl Jones among them — wrote her own

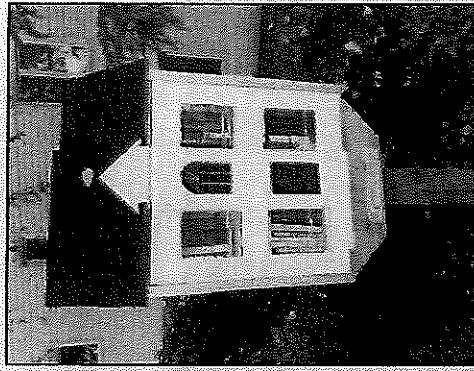
memoir and an award-winning children's book.

Niven traveled extensively on the lecture circuit and organized writing workshops. She received two honorary doctorates, a fellowship at Yale University and others from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

She was a big deal in the literary world even if she didn't act like one.

"Her humanity was amazing," Leggett said. "This gentle lady, who won international awards, also played the wash tub bass. We had talked one day of putting together a little band."

Niven was 75 when she died. She'd driven herself to the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center on a Thursday and passed away that Saturday.



SCOTT SEXTON/JOURNAL

A Little Free Library on South Marshall Street in Academy Park has been dedicated to the memory of biographer Penelope Niven.

Friends and neighbors were taken aback by the suddenness of her death. Once the shock and some of the sadness wore off, talk about what they might do to honor her memory started.

They eventually settled on building a Little Free Library at Academy Park.

The beauty of these libraries is in their simplicity. After paying a nominal fee to register with LittleFreeLibrary.org, a small, weather-proof structure is built to house a collection of books. Anyone interested can peruse the titles inside and reach in to borrow one, returning it when finished.

A man from Wisconsin named Todd Bol started the drive in 2009. His idea was to put them

SEXTON, Page A11

Sexton

From Page A4

in communities around the world to promote literacy and the love of reading — something sorely lacking these days.

There are more than 40,000 little libraries in all 50 states and 70 countries. Locally, there are free libraries at the William G. White Jr. YMCA, the Sawtooth Center and several neighborhoods, among other locations.

"To be honest, what gets me excited was how excited other people get (about them)," said Alan Shelton, an architectural design student who built Penny's library. "I haven't seen anybody not get excited about it. I like the way our little community has embraced it."

Range of titles offered

The titles inside Penny's library are diverse. Some are weighty and thought-provoking. Others, not so much, light reading designed to entertain or fill a lazy afternoon on the beach.

A curious reader could pick a memoir by Sonia Sotomayor, a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court or a Tolstoy novel.

There are titles by Nora Roberts and Tom Clancy as well.

Because of the nature of a free library, nobody worries too much if a book stays missing. "If somebody steals a book, what are they really going to get?" Shelton said. "What are they going to do with it? Read it? That's OK."

Reading is the point, after all.

Shelton said he purposefully designed Penny's library to fit in with the community where she lived. "I wanted it to look like it belonged," he said.

He succeeded, and neighbors believe it's a fitting tribute to their friend. Leggett told a story about Niven bringing Jones to Academy Park while working on a book called "Voices and Silences," which reviewers called a classic on acting.

"She didn't trust her cooking entirely so she ordered carry-out collards from Sweet Potatoes for his dinner," he wrote in an e-mail. "They 'entertained an angel unawares.'"

The best part, to me, was that the neighbors honored a friend two years after her passing. Who wouldn't like that?

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presents

Penelope Niven



Sunday, November 12, 2013, at 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Recital Hall, Elberson Fine Arts Center

About the Author

PENELOPE NIVEN is the author of critically acclaimed biographies of poet Carl Sandburg and photographer Edward Steichen, and playwright and novelist Thornton Wilder, as well as *Swimming Lessons*, a memoir, and *Voices and Silences*, coauthored with the actor James Earl Jones. She is the recipient of three fellowships from the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Thornton Wilder Visiting Fellowship at the Beinecke Library at Yale, the North Carolina Award in Literature, and other fellowships and awards. Niven lectures in both the U.S. and abroad, and she has served as a consultant for television films about Sandburg, Steichen, and Jones. She lives in North Carolina.

About her Subject

THORNTON WILDER was a pivotal figure in the 20th century, both as a novelist and playwright, winning the Pulitzer Prize three times—once for fiction (*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*) and twice for drama (*Our Town* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*). He wrote for an about everybody—a fact international audiences still embrace. *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, *The Eighth Day*, and his other novels are still read in the United States and abroad. His plays, especially the iconic *Our Town* and the revolutionary *The Skin of Our Teeth*, are still performed on stages around the globe.

*Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the College
and the Center for Women Writers.*

Program

WELCOME

METTA SÁMA

Director of Center for Women Writers
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

INTRODUCTION

DR. EDYTA OCZKOWICZ

Associate Professor of English

FEATURE

PENELOPE NIVEN

RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING

Please, silence your cell phones and other electronic devices during the event.