
From: Lisa New <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 17, 2017 7:19 PM
To: Jeffrey Epstein
Subject: thank you to friends of Poetry in America

Dear Jeffrey: (and please see personal e.s. under my signature!)

I am writing now, as I have for the last several years, to update you on the work that Poetry in America and Verse Video Education have done in the last year. Below, I detail the accomplishments of 2017 and, below that, some projects I hope to complete in 2018. But first: my deepest thanks to you who have contributed financially, intellectually, creatively, and in so many other ways to Poetry in America's work.

Some of you receiving this letter have generously supported Verse Video Education, the independent non-profit production company (a 501(c)(3)) I founded in 2015. Verse Video Education now partners with WGBH television as well as with Harvard University (and others) to make the highest quality educational media for broad audiences. Whether you supported me by sharing your own interpretive talents on camera or by helping me to land elusive talent; whether you provided me funding, or equipment, or business wisdom, or organizational advice, or a space in which to film, or just plain interest in the work-- I am immensely grateful. Making media-- and especially television-- is complex, and expensive, and I could not have navigated the road from professor to professor/producer/director without you.

Others of you have supported my humanities work at Harvard, and, in particular, Harvard's efforts to provide distance education of all kinds. Now along with partners at the Bok Center, HarvardX, the Graduate School of Education, and the Extension School, I produce educational content for a wide global community of learners. Increasingly, Poetry in America not only distributes state-of-the-art humanities content within and beyond Harvard's gates, but we also train, mentor, and support a growing number of Harvard undergraduates and graduate students with interests in education, media, and the public humanities. These students now comprise a vibrant community of young Harvard humanists gaining experience in online teaching, curriculum design, educational policy, international education, video production, video editing, and more. By supporting Poetry in America, you also support forward-looking humanities education at Harvard. (Update: those of you who are alumni of Harvard College are now eligible to receive class credit for your donations to Poetry in America projects.)

It's thrilling for me to report that our two largest efforts of the last few years are both coming to fruition.

Poetry in America's 13-episode television series, along with its parallel PBS LearningMedia Collection for educators, will air on PBS stations nationwide beginning in April 2018. Click here <<https://vimeo.com/24690154>> for a sneak peek at our 90-second series trailer (password: Poetry90). Featuring such guest interpreters as those in the trailer-- and dozens of others-- each half-hour episode of the series offers a deep dive into one important American poem. Discussions on a second season have begun!

Meanwhile, our Harvard partners at the Extension School and the Graduate School of Education have agreed, for a limited time, to make the full suite of Poetry in America online courses accessible to learners all over the world, offering a steep reduction in course fees. Students and teachers worldwide can now take any Poetry in America course-- at any credit level-- for \$200. (Take a look at our 2018 offerings here. <<http://www.poetryinamerica.org/wp>

content/uploads/2017/11/2-Spring-and-Fall-2018-PiA-Course-Publicity.pdf>)=Those of you who support individual schools or school networks: please not= that through 2018 groups of five teachers or students can take any Poetry=in America course for \$1000 and receive graduate, undergraduate, or profes=ional development credit-- and, that group's facilitator can recei=e free tuition. Please feel free to distribute our offerings to educators =hose work you support anywhere in the world.

Harvard =80 s highly unusual decision to slash tuition for the next year follows =he great success of Poetry in America's first course for educators-- Poetry in America for Teachers: The City from Whitman to Hip Hop. In rec=gnition of this course, David Coleman (president of the College Board) has=offered support to allow us to continue developing and providing access to=the highest quality educational and professional development humanities co=ntent. In 2018, as I lay out below, we seek to expand the scope of our offe=ings, and to work with our many partners to broaden access to all learners=

Thank you for your support for th=s work, and warmest best to you all in this holiday season.

Sincerely,
Lisa

P.S. and thank you so much, Jeff=ey, for your amazing support , without which much of what I've managed=in the last few years would never have happened. My next course for =eachers, , as you'll notice, has shifted from art to environment--not =ecause of any less passion on my part for arts content but really be=ause of greater enthusiasm among others for poetry/science for the classro=m. I would like to hear more from you about what you think kids/schools ne=d in this area. Larry tells me you have views; as I move out of my central=areas, I will need advice xxoolisa

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Poetry in America is now rai=ing funds to complete an exciting group of new projects. Those in the pipe=ine include:

The Poetry of Earth, Sea and Sky

With co=mitments now in from the Poetry Foundation, Harvard's Center for t=e Environment, NextGen Climate, Nautilus Magazine, and more, Poetry in Ame=ica is now embarking on the development of our second course specifically =or teachers: Poetry in America for Teachers: The Poetry of Earth, Sea and =ky. This course will offer teachers innovative ways to blend humanities an= science instruction and will provide them with classroom-ready materials.=Via our partnership with the Bok Center, Harvard College and GSAS students=will have the opportunity to build content, and skills, as they craft medi=, curriculum, and digital architecture for this second Poetry in America c=urse for teachers.

Medicine and Media

In partnership =ith Harvard-trained physician and ER creator Neal Baer, poet-physician Raf=el Campo, the Arts and Literature Initiative of Harvard Medical School, an= the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard, Poetry in Amer=ca will develop media around humane communication for medical practitioner= and students. Our initial collection of content will focus on breast canc=r health and LGBTQ health, and this project will provide the opportunity f=r students at Harvard Medical School and in the college to explore deeper =egisters of communication on vital matters of health. Content developed fo= this project has the potential to become a television episode.

Poetry in America for Chinese Learners

With seed funding from a Harvard graduate, Poetry in America is now developing content in a variety of formats (for-credit courses as well as short-form video assets to stream on internet platforms) for Chinese learners. Content will aim to offer new modes of humanities instruction to a broad global audience. We hope to expand our offerings beyond poetry to include other content in the humanities, including material on Shakespeare and World Literature.

Poetry in America: the Television Series (Season 2) Plans for Season 2 are developing, and we hope to embark on a second season as soon as funds allow. On-camera interpreters already filmed or ready to film with us include Katie Couric, Yang Lan, Billy Collins, Julie Taymor, Yusef Komunyakaa, Eve Ensler, Ray Dalio, Kay Redfield Jamison, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Al Gore, Jorie Graham, Maurice Clarett, Jason Collins, Neal Baer, Danielle Ofri, Tom Steyer, and many others.

-- Elisa New

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