

THE IRREGULAR LITTONIAN





THE LITERARY LIFE

The summer came and went; Shoobies are on their way home and peaceful September at the shore also means that college students go back to class. For Literature Students, that means fresh courses, new concepts, notebooks, and hopefully a new way of looking at things.

We wanted to make sure to update you on the happenings in the Literature Program at Stockton. In these pages you'll find news about faculty, associate instructors, Literature Club, the Visiting Writers' Series, Internships, the *SoJourn Magazine*, *Stockpot Literary Journal*, Library Archival work, and other highlights of community life.

STOCKPOT No. 45



The Stockpot Literary Magazine launched its 45th edition on April 19th 2019 at the Coffeehouse Stage. Co-editors Gabrielle Siwiec and Jamie Walters gathered their editorial staff and the writers along with LITT and other Stockton students for a celebration of all their talent and collective hard work. Registered as an academic club, Stockpot met once a week through the late fall and spring to narrow editorial choices of poems, short stories, original art and creative non-fiction submitted by students. In March and April, Siwiec and Walters worked diligently to complete the layout in In Design with the help of Professor Kinsella. They then proofed the work and had everything proofed again by Professors Novic and King to make sure

the manuscript was ready to go to press. There was much excitement the day the journal was delivered to campus!

The festivities opened with featured fiction writer Sandy Gringas. Other editors included Josef Andress, Ana Beste, Gabrielle Bibus, Sara Brown, Dillon Clark, Katelyn Clark, Jackson Glassey, Laura Melchionne, Shilo Previti, Michelle Servillon. Associate editors were Christopher Curtin, Marissa Luca, Kirolos Sadallah, Caleb Tucker, and Champman Vanderslice. The Stockpot 2018 came in at 104 pages and featured "Geological Map of Central Pennsylvania" by Amanda Schmidt. If you want to be involved with Stockpot, write the editors at rsc.stockpot@gmail.com.

The Really Amazing LITT Bash



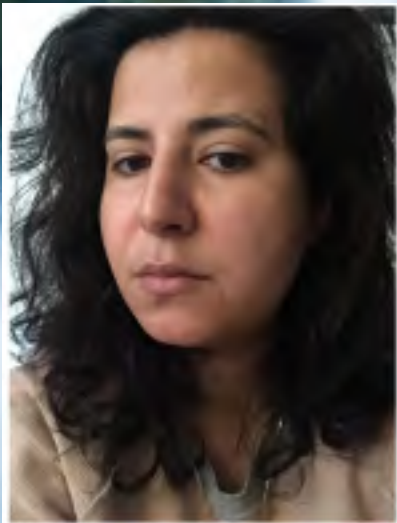
Every year in mid-April, the LITT faculty organize a buffet of food and drink we've made (or "made possible" as Professor Long says when the food is not cooked by us, such as pizza). There are sometimes Professor Holton's Elizabeth Barrett Brownies; Professor Kinsella bakes pig cookies. This year Professor Emily August MC'd the Literary Quizzo with witty rectitude, and disallowed all people with PhD's in literature to help because that would not "be fair." Typically, Professor Miyashiro inducts people into Sigma Tau Delta, the honors society for Literature Students, and Spring Writing Awards are handed out as well for best short and long essays; best fiction story, and best poem. We always invite students to bring family and friends, and enjoy spending time talking with you all and getting to know you outside the classroom .

Photo below: Professor Emily August entertains the Quizzo teams; And LITT majors enjoy some refreshments and end of term destressing. Top photo: Marissa Luca and Tom, Ana Beste on the right, Dillon Clark in the foreground, Alexa McTernan at the far side of the table with glasses.



Winners of the Spring Writing Awards, l to r: Jamie Walters, Kirolos Sadallah, Shilo Previti, Julian Mason, Jessica English, Marissa Luca, and Michelle Servillon. Congrats to the winners of these fiction, poetry, and essay writing awards.

Visiting Writers Series



Visiting Writers Series featured the following writers this year: l to r: **top row** Ravenswood reader and former Poet Laureate of the United States Rita Dove, 10/23 at 6PM in the Campus Center Theater; International Visiting Writer Manuel Becerra visited the region for three weeks and read at Galloway Campus on November 19th; second **row**: Egyptian American poet Marwa Helal read 9/30: On January 29th, Wednesday, at 2:10PM, Stockton Professors Nancy Reddy (GENS) and Cynthia Arrieu-King (LITT) will read together in L-112. Also, the Publishing in the 21st Century panel is Feb. 27th, 6-8 in CC Board of Trustees Room. Events are a great chance to meet successful writers and ask them questions!

CLASS OF 2019

On May 9, 2019, the graduating seniors of the Literature Program processed at Commencement. This was the third Stockton University graduation to take place at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. The keynote speaker was Congressman Jeff Van Drew who mentioned fighters like Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Muhammad Ali and encouraged students to continue being the fighters they've already proven themselves to be. The crowd emptied out to a festive DJ playing on the beach. Present for the ceremony or not, all the graduating seniors this year made their parents, friends, and professors very proud! We wish all these graduates great luck with their future plans and hope to hear their news in the months and years to come.



Top: LITT grad Jenna Finan and friend; Lower photo l to r: LITT grads Jamie Walters, Shilo Previti, Gabrielle Sewiec, Kirolos Sadallah. They were accompanied by friends Jenny D'Agosto, Julian Mason, and Olivia Mason.

Literature Club Activities

Literature Club is a place where people, Literature majors and non-Literature majors alike, can come together and meet people that have the same interests. We take part in Stockton's University Weekend and Get-Involved Fair, as well as host a number of game nights and other activities during the semester— some of these events allows us to collaborate with other organizations on campus. During the spring semester, Literature Club hosts our big Marathon Reading Fundraiser, which is our biggest event of the school year. We choose an organization to raise money for and then we settle on a book to read. While people are reading, other people are running a bake sale table.

Below: Stockton's Free-to-Be Child Care Center on Dr. Seuss Day: Gabby Bibus and Ana Beste Middle and Right: Marathon Reading with proceeds going to the Funny Farm Rescue Sanctuary in Mays Landing. Below right:, I to r; Rawan Maarouf, Sa'Miyah Wright, poet Danez Smith and Nudar Chowdhury at the Dodge Poetry Festival.



VISITING FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS: ARNAB ROY



Professor Roy writes: "This year, I'll be visiting assistant professor in the literature program at Stockton University. I received my PhD in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies from the University of Connecticut with a specialization in South Asian literary studies. My research is in the field of literary universals, an emerging field of study that examines conceptual patterns across linguistically or culturally diverse literatures. My book project, *Perception of Universalism in Indian Literature*, draws on interdisciplinary work from the fields of postcolonial theory, literary cognition, narrative empathy, and human rights to analyze literary responses to colonialism in a range of modern works of South Asian literature.

Summer of 2019 has been a particularly eventful time for me both professionally and personally. It marked a bitter-sweet moment as my graduate school years came to an end after a successful dissertation defense and graduation. This was also the period when I taught my last literature class at the University of Connecticut and bade tearful goodbyes to my wonderful students there. And finally, this summer became extra special when I received and accepted the offer to be a part of the fantastic Stockton community. Beside professional activities, I had some fun as well. My parents visited me from India to celebrate my graduation, and we made a fun family trip to Florida, where we indulged in a variety of activities including tracking alligators in the Everglades and lazing around on the sunny beaches of Miami. "

CHERITA HARRELL



Professor Cherita Harrell writes:

"My time at Stockton University has reinforced the importance of partnering with students to ensure they achieve college and career readiness. Stockton students are unique in their understanding of fellowship and community. They understand the importance of taking risks and challenging themselves and their peers.

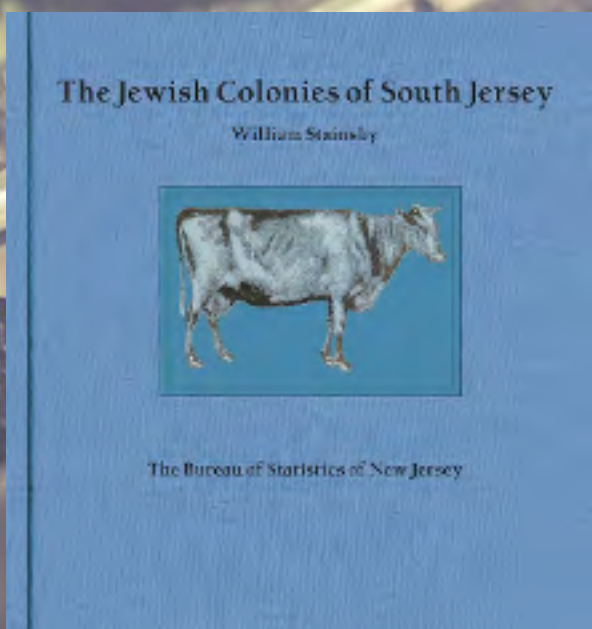
As the Vera King Farris Fellow for 2019-2010, I hope to continue to challenge students. I hope to encourage students to consider how their lived experiences inform their social and academic growth. I also hope to challenge students to reflect on their personal experiences and consider how these experiences will encourage them to engage with creative work that examines how race, class, gender, sexuality, language, and other aspects of identity intersect and produce power relations.

The primary goal of my research is to explore the interlocking forms of social, economic, political, and ideological oppression that students encounter, as well as create spaces that are not only inclusive, but that also promote liberating learning environments. As a fellow, I am excited to teach Writing about Literature and Cultures and Ethnic Relations, and I am eager to assist students with achieving academic excellence."

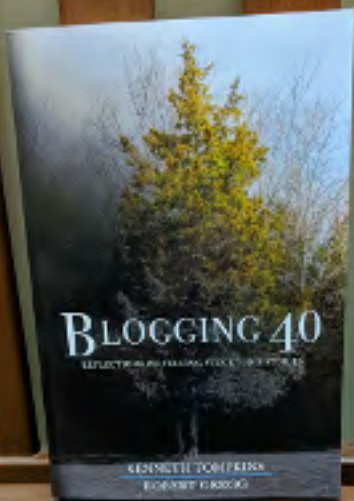
STUDENT EDITING, PUBLISHING, AND ARCHIVAL PROJECTS

Professor Kinsella sends this photo update about the editing and publishing internships offered in the Literature Program and the publications that come out of the South Jersey Culture and History Center: "The first is our most recent re-publication--William Stainsby's report on the Jewish colonies of South Jersey for the NJ Bureau of Statistics (1901) (Lower left). Two student editors helped pull it together. The second photo features several issues of *SoJourn*, a full color high quality magazine which all the editors work on (bottom r). (Clockwise facing page) *Blogging 40*, essays about Stockton history written by Ken Tompkins and Rob Gregg; 3

interns helped pull that one together. Then the senior seminar visiting Special Collections in the library and chatting with Heather Perez, the archivist, last spring; Jessica Chamberlain standing in front of the oldest bar in New Jersey, at Cedar Bridge Tavern; Jessica wrote up her review of the newly reopened tavern for the forthcoming issue of *SoJourn*. Additionally, the seniors on Stockton's Cedar Bog Bridge, about to hear a tall tale from Kinsella. Then our publications for sale in the Stockton bookstore (with two store interns). Finally, Samantha Hutnick hawking our wares at this year's Pinelands Short Course."



HANDS-ON



FACULTY UPDATES

INCLUDING:
UPCOMING PROJECTS
FOR AY 2019-2020!

Professor Emily August During summer 2019, Professor August traveled to an academic conference in Manchester, England, where she delivered a paper on one of her favorite books to teach: Matthew Lewis's weird, wild, Gothic masterpiece *The Monk*. She then traveled to Scotland to research old medical textbooks at the University of Edinburgh library archives. She also found time to explore some old abandoned castles in the Scottish countryside.

Professor Deb Gussmann continues to be engaged with her research on Catharine Sedgwick. Sedgwick Stories, the online collection of Sedgwick's short stories that she edits (and which many Stockton students have contributed to as transcribers), currently features 75 stories and was recently listed in the MLA International Bibliography. Along with her co-editors Patricia Kalayjian (Cal State-Dominguez Hills) and Lucinda Damon-Bach (Salem State), Deb just received a National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions Grant to edit the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Online Letters. This three-year grant will lead to a digital edition of Sedgwick's correspondence, starting with her earliest letters from 1796 up to about 1826 when she began to be nationally recognized as an author. Deb is also collaborating on a non-Sedgwick related project with her colleague Natasha Weston, a book currently titled "Women's Choices, Women's Voices" that focuses on interviews and surveys about choices women make and the value of choice, understood broadly and philosophically, politically, and personally, for women. Deb has enjoyed teaching her Senior Seminar on Literary Recovery, as well as Literature by Women and Feminist Theory this fall with some new texts and new digital (and analog) assignments. It's a busy and exciting year!

Professor Kristin J. Jacobson During the 2018-2019 academic year Kristin Jacobson was on sabbatical.

She completed revising and editing a book manuscript and traveled to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as a Fulbright Specialist. The book, *The American Adrenaline Narrative*, will be published by the University of Georgia Press in 2020. She also began work on new research related to American regionalism and contemporary climate fiction (aka cli-fi). In June Jacobson presented part of this new research at the biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. She also shared work related to her new research at the 2019 Modern Language Association conference and with educators in Komotini, Greece as part of Fulbright-Greece's train the trainer program. Jacobson was in Greece to attend the European Association of American Studies Women's Network Symposium and present a paper on HBO's *Westworld*. In the fall she will return to teaching at Stockton and will also serve as the program advisor for the new dual-degree in Literature and American Studies. The new degree program offers students the opportunity to complete a B.A. in Literature and an M.A. in American Studies in five years. Information on the new degree track can be found by clicking here.

Professor Adalaine Holton has been working on an article on Arturo Schomburg's 1926 trip to Europe to collect documents and other materials related to African diaspora history for a special issue of *African American Review*. One of the most influential bibliophiles of the African diaspora, Arturo Schomburg compiled a vast collection of books, historical records, and artwork from a range of Afrodiasporic communities, and his collection formed the basis of what is now the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Schomburg's most famous essay, "The Negro Digs Up His Past," which appeared in *The New Negro* (1925), outlines a philosophy of historical recovery as a basis

for black inclusion, achievement, and liberation. But, as Adalaine suggests in this new essay, Schomburg's faith in the promises of historical recovery may have been more tenuous and hesitant than his essay in *The New Negro* would seem to suggest. Professor Holton presented a portion of this article at the American Studies Association conference in November 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia. In March 2019, Professor Holton attended the American Association of Colleges and Universities Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference in as part of her work with Stockton's Faculty of Color Recruitment and Retention Teaching Circle. She looks forward to teaching Senior Seminar in Spring 2020 on the topic of Slavery and the Literary Imagination.

Professor Cynthia King completed the first of a two year term as Program Coordinator for the Literature Program and worked with other creative writing faculty on a proposal for a BFA degree in creative writing. She also has initiated a series of writing workshops and events that can take place in the Atlantic City dorms in collaboration with Residential Life: a Spoken Word Women's History Month reading and a journaling for Veterans event are planned for Spring 2020. She hopes to take students to the Split This Rock conference in DC this coming spring. Cynthia also works with Professor Judy Copeland of GENS on the International Writer's stay and facilitates an internship for creative writers that allows them arts admin experience by shepherding the visiting writer and an independent study area of their choice

in creative writing. In Fall 2019, Michelle Severon helped Manuel Becerra, a visiting poet from Mexico, navigate during his three week residency at Stockton.

Over the summer, Cynthia traveled to Europe, saw a beautiful exhibition of Seamus Heaney's poetry and James Joyce's house in Dublin, read with fiction writer Agri Ismail in Stockholm's English Bookshop, and wrote short fiction about war trauma, its aftermath, and care-taking at the Somos Artist House in Berlin. There, she made friends with two digital visual artists Marcia Vaitsman and Corinna Brendt: all are interested in language, and artificial intelligence. Cynthia is glad to speak with anyone about CW internships, and poetry: cynthia.king@stockton.edu

Professor Tom Kinsella Tom Kinsella continues to work with students on a variety of literature-related internships. In recent semesters one to two students per semester have interned at Stockton's Special Collections, in the Bjork Library. Under the supervision of Stockton's curator for special Collections, Heather Perez, and working with Kinsella, students have worked to arrange, describe and study collections ranging from the Cape May Jazz Fest archives to the mid-twentieth-century letters of local poet Emma Van Sant Moore. Over the past three years, dozens of students have joined Kinsella in the Editing Internship. Together they have created a student-staffed regional press, publishing two issues of a local history journal per year and also republish-



Back row l to r: Sara NoviĆ, Deb Gussman, Emily August, Adam Miyashiro, Cynthia King, Adalaine Holton. Front row l to r: Kristin Jacobson, Marion Hussong, Nathan Long and Tom Kinsella: Literature Program Faculty.

ing or publishing for the first time books of interest to South Jersey history and culture. Editing interns are introduced to copy and line-editing and also to layout and design. A handful of students each semester have also been helping Kinsella develop Stockton's Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration Project. See stockton.edu/stories/ to sample their work. Kinsella would very much like to speak with any interested students in more detail. Track him down in his office--H-202h--or send him an email and schedule an appointment at thomas.kinsella@stockton.edu.

Here's an update from **Professor Nathan Long**: "This past year on a sabbatical from teaching, I got to read a great number of books, and revise and send out a lot of stories—I'm excited to say I got twelve stories, four flash fictions, and a short essay accepted. (Oh, and I wrote a draft of a novel.)

But what's more interesting perhaps is the travel I did in-between. In December, my partner and I took a train for four days across the US, sleeping in a broom closet-size compartment. Surprisingly, on the second day the attendant pointed out a small door to my left (a coat closet) I'd somehow overlooked. It was cozy, but still, at every stop, even at five in the morning, we'd put on our coats and run through the streets, just to get exercise and space.

We both worked for hours in our cubical, the large picture window looking out onto the endless small towns and the fields of golden grasses dappled with snow. Once, I woke to see the blueish white mountains of Montana. The next day, we crossed the eastern desert of Washington, then caught a bus to Vancouver Canada, where we skied and visited friends before making our way slowly East again.

Later in the summer, I got to travel—for free!--on the Queen Mary II, a 12-story ocean liner with 16 elevators, seven dining rooms, a planetarium and the largest library at sea. I was transporting a friend's French bulldog, Cassius, to England for her [like you do--ed.], since he wasn't allowed to fly. I had my own (windowless) bedroom but Cassius, unfortunately, was in a cage in a room with 18 other dogs. I walked him several times a day on the small deck outside the kennel, even when I was seasick and a storm whipped 40-mile-an-hour winds across the ship. His pee flew off into the wind, his poop sailed across the deck like tumbleweed, and Cassius became nearly

airborne himself.

Otherwise, I enjoyed the incredibly elaborate meals and afternoon tea, the lectures and the library, while the endless expanse of ocean drifted by, at half the speed the train had crossed America. By the end of the seven-day voyage, Cassius and I had become good friends, both glad to have landed in England."

Professor Adam Miyashiro He has a book chapter co-written with Dr. Su-Fang Ng (Virginia Tech) forthcoming in the MLA Options for Teaching volume on the global Alexander Romance, an article forthcoming in *postmedieval* on *Beowulf*, an article on race and the Middle Ages in *Literature Compass*, and his plenary lecture at ISAS will be published in *Anglo-Saxon England*. He is also contributing a chapter on Race and the Environment in late medieval literature for the multi-volume *Bloomsbury Cultural History of Race in the Renaissance and Early Modern Age* and a chapter on toxic masculinity and the idea of chivalry in *Chivalry: Medieval Contexts and Modern Portrayals*, to be published by the Medieval Institute Publications. In the summer, he participated in Stockton's Why the Humanities Matter Institute--magnificently organized by Literature professor Dr. Adalaine Holton--where he led a workshop entitled *Oceania in the Popular Imagination: Myths and Realities*, which explored the various dimensions of how Pacific Islanders are represented in popular media as opposed to the real challenges Pacific peoples face with globalization, climate change, and environmental destruction.

Dr. Miyashiro continues to serve his local medievalist community as an Executive Board member of the Delaware Valley Medieval Association, and on the editorial board of *Early Middle English*, and has been elected as Vice President of the Stockton Federation of Teachers. Dr. Miyashiro is currently developing a new course in on "Medieval Women Writers," which looks at women writers from around the premodern world in Europe, Asia, and North Africa. He continues to advise Stockton's Literature Club and Sigma Tau Delta, the Literature Honors society, and Students for Justice in Palestine, and is currently organizing a winter clothes drive for kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiians) who are protecting Mauna Kea from development of the Thirty Meter Telescope.

Professor Sara Nović sends this update: "Hey all--Sully was born at the end of July, a day late and just in time for Leo season. He's really into eating, cuddling, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and black and white stuff. He tolerates me reading *the New Yorker* aloud to him (but not the fiction). The dog is nonplussed and continues his rigorous napping schedule. I, on the other hand, may never sleep again." Professor Nović also celebrated the release in October of her book *America is Immigrants* from Random House. The book features beautiful write-ups and portraits of immigrants from around the United States. Each biography is accompanied by a beautiful illustration by Alison Kolesar. Sadly, Professor Nović resigned her position during her maternity leave and we will miss her greatly.



Left top: Professor Nović and her husband welcomed Sullivan to the world at the end of July 2019 in Philly. How cute is that baby! He has since progressed to turning over by himself, lounging on Cragen the dog, and generally being quite wakeful. Top: Professor August travels through Scotland. We hear that she drove "on the left" British style in quite a fancy BMW sedan. She never thought she would care, but she now appreciates the prowess and luxury of German auto-engineering. Bottom: Professor Long travels across the Atlantic on the Queen Mary with Cassius, a dog co-traveler who probably really missed the grass. Left bottom: Professor Jacobson with her students at the International University of Kyrgystan, February 2019.

ALUMNI UPDATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019

Jamie Walters, LITT 2019, was accepted to the New York University Masters in Fine Arts in Fiction program and will start in the fall. She traveled to Greece and Italy this past summer.

Jenna Finan, LITT 2019 has been accepted into the Rutgers Master of Information Program for Spring 2020.

Sa'Miyah Wright, LITT and EDUC 2019, will start teaching at Frankford Elementary in Philadelphia this fall. It's an absolutely terrifying, challenging, but fulfilling experience for me. He was excited to see that his communication and lingual skills in creative writing actually helped a lot in communicating with clients and staying very organized in a company where one missing piece could cost millions!

William Barnett, LITT 2016, is an Admissions Operations Assistant at Rutgers Law School.

Marissa Langel, LITT 2014, is Senior Library Assistant at Ocean County Library.

Vohla Autuhkovich, LITT 2013 is a Player Development Executive at Oceans Resorts, Atlantic City, NJ.

Daniel Carbone, LITT 2012, is an Associate Attorney at Bathgate, Wegener, and Wolf.

David Quayle, LITT 2013, works as an Online Content Manager at Comcast. He writes, "In my senior year, I started writing for The Press of Atlantic City (basically by bothering them until they gave me assignments). From there, I got a full time job as an online content editor at a medical publishing company called Slack Incorporated, where I was a two time winner of a Grand Apex Award for the coverage of the American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions. I am currently working as an online content manager at Comcast and freelancing for Web MD and Alert Media."

Stephanie Cawley, LITT 2011, has been working in arts administration and teaching classes in writing. This past fall, she became the new

director for the Murphy Writing Programs at Stockton. She also has two books of poetry coming out in 2020, one entitled

Emily Hereema-Smith, LITT 2008, is an occupational therapist at Hackensack Meridian Health in Hackensack, NJ.

Tim Merle, LITT 2006, sifts through the newsfeeds and rendering data into articles as Interactive News Indexer at Dow Jones.

Scott Mulraney, LITT 2001 is Copy Supervisor with CDM Princeton, a healthcare advertising agency. My role requires a wide variety of skills: writing, creative thinking, research, data visualization, project management, public speaking, people management, just to name a few.

Dina DeSalvo, LITT 1983, works as Senior Technical Editor at Gemini Technologies Inc.

Have an update? Send it to us as a message on our Facebook page or on IG: @LITTatStockton and look for our new Snapchat @LITTatStockton.

DRAWING AGAINST OBLIVION: REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN



An unknown young girl who passed away in the Holocaust, drawn in a charcoal portrait by Manfred Brockelmann

Here's an update from Professor Marion Hussong who, sad to say, will be retiring this spring:

"My electronic book, titled *Drawing against Oblivion -- Remembering the Children* is finished. " Click [here](#) to find the digital edition of the book.

Those of you who were here in 2016 will remember that Stockton exhibited 34 *Drawing against Oblivion* portraits of children murdered in the Holocaust.

This book is the result of research I conducted after the exhibition. At that time the portraits were shown at our art gallery, we did not know much about many of the children included in the show. Now we have facts and context to understand their tragic stories.

The book also serves as a guide on how to do your own research, utilizing easily accessible search tools.

I decided to go the electronic route with this project because *Drawing against Oblivion* is such an international project. In the last five years, the portraits as well as the two *Drawing against Oblivion* films (both featuring Stockton) have been exhibited and screened in multiple countries. People from around the world reach out to our *Drawing against Oblivion* team, and I wanted the information to be easily accessible.

Dr Hussong is now working on a digital critical bibliography titled *Shaping the Nazi Woman: Propaganda for Girls under Hitler*. The bibliography currently comprises several hundred primary sources and is still growing. It should be completed by June 2020.

I wish all of you a good academic year and I hope you will take a moment to look at the book."

We so appreciate Dr. Hussong's love of children's literature, her deep scholarship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies , her contributions to the field, and her way of putting a very human touch in all she does. We'll miss you , Marion!!



A tropical beach scene with turquoise water and a blue sky with clouds. The text "UNTIL NEXT TIME" is centered in the image.

**UNTIL NEXT
TIME**

