Aimee Bender is the author of six books of fiction including The Girl in the Flammable Skirt and The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, an international bestseller. The most recent, The Butterfly Lampshade, was longlisted for the Pen/Jean Stein Award. Her short stories have been published at Granta, GQ, and the Paris Review as well as many others. She lives in Los Angeles and teaches writing at USC.

Kim Johnson is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently Fatal (Persea Books, 2022), and of book-length translations of Virgil and Hesiod. With her spouse Jay Hopler, she edited Before the Door of God: An Anthology of Devotional Poetry. Recipient of fellowships and awards from the NEA, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation, among others, she has published poems and essays in venues including The New Yorker, Slate, and PMLA.

Kim Garza is the author of the novel The Last Karankawas (August 2022, Henry Holt). She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas, where she earned a PhD in 2019. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in Copper Nickel, DIAGRAM, Creative Nonfiction, TriQuarterly, and elsewhere. A native Texan—born in Galveston, raised in Uvalde—she is an assistant professor of creative writing and literature at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Edward Hirsch, a MacArthur Fellow, has published ten books of poems, including The Living Fire: New and Selected Poems (2010), Gabriel: A Poem (2014), and Stranger by Night (2020). He has published six prose books about poetry, among them How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry (1999), 100 Poems to Break Your Heart (2021), and The Heart of American Poetry (2022). He has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pablo Neruda Presidential Medal of Honor. He is the President of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

John Bennion has published a collection of short fiction, Breeding Leah and other Stories (Signature Books, 1991), and four novels: Falling Toward Heaven (Signature Books, 2000), An Unarmed Woman (Signature Books, 2019), Ezekiel’s Third Wife (Roundfire Books, 2019), and Spin (BCC Press, 2022). Another novel, Ruth at the End of the Earth, is forthcoming next year. He has published essays and short fiction in many journals.

Sían Griffiths is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Weber State University. Her work has appeared in Colorado Review, The Georgia Review, Prairie Schooner, American Short Fiction, and Booth among many other publications. She is the author of the novels Borrowed Horses and Scrapple and the short fiction chapbook The Heart Keeps Faulty Time. Her essay collection, The Sum of Her Parts, is newly out from University of Georgia Press.

Maira Kalman has written/illustrated over 30 books for adults and children. She has been a frequent contributor to The New York Times and The New Yorker. She has created textiles for Isaac Mizrahi and Kate Spade and sets for Mark Morris. Other collaborations have been with Nico Muhlly, Alex Kalman, Michael Pollan, David Byrne, John Heginbotham and Gertrude Stein.

Kim Garza

- Oct 21 in 2742 HBLL

Edward Hirsch - Sept 16 in 1104 JKB

The English Reading Series — Fall 2022

Fridays at 12:00 pm

Go to ers.byu.edu to find out more about BYU’s English Reading Series.

Jay Hopler (Tribute Reading) - Sept 30 in 2742 HBLL

Jay Hopler earned an MA from the Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars and an MFA from the Iowa Writers Workshop before going on to complete a PhD in American Studies at Purdue University. At his passing, he was director of the creative writing program at the University of South Florida, in Tampa. His first collection of poetry, Green Squall, won the 2006 Yale Younger Poets Prize, selected by Nobel laureate Louise Glück. His many literary honors included a Whiting Award, the Rome Prize in Literature, two Florida Book Awards, a Lannan Foundation Fellowship, and, in 2022, a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Sian Griffiths - Oct 7 in HBLL Auditorium

Kim Garza - Oct 21 in 2742 HBLL

Maira Kalman - Oct 26 (Wednesday) Location TBA

Kim Johnson - Nov 18 in HBLL Auditorium

John Bennion - Sept 23 in HBLL Auditorium

Eric Freeze - Oct 14 in HBLL Auditorium

Aimee Bender - Nov 4 in 2742 HBLL

Taylor Brorby - Nov 11 in 1104 JKB

Paxman Student Reading - Dec 2 in 2742 HBLL

Three student readers will share their own creative work - one in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction.

If you’re a graduate student interested in sharing your work, look out for application details from the English department mid-October.

Taylor Brorby is the author of Boys and Oil: Growing up gay in a fractured land, Crude: Poems, Coming Alive: Action and Civil Disobedience, and co-editor of Fracture: Essays, Poems, and Stories on Fracking in America. He has received grants and fellowships from the National Book Critics Circle, the MacDowell Colony, the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, Mesa Refuge, Blue Mountain Center, and the North Dakota Humanities Council. He is the Annie Tanner Clark Fellow in Environmental Humanities and Environmental Justice at the Tanner Humanities Center at the University of Utah.