



## A Weekend at the Riviera

On April 13-14, the museum hosted the Riviera Reading Retreat. Throughout the weekend, participants gathered to talk about three novels connected to American expatriates Gerald and Sara Murphy, whose Riviera home, called Villa America, hosted writers such as Hemingway in the 1920s. Two novels were by writers who knew the Murphys, *The Sun Also Rises* (Hemingway) and *Tender Is the Night* (Fitzgerald). The third novel was a fictionalized history of the Murphys called *Villa America* (Liza Klaussmann). In addition to discussions of these books, the participants joined in other fun activities to experience the background of the novels. On Saturday evening, the participants were joined by members of the community for A Night on the Riviera, an evening of cocktails and *tapas* in the Pfeiffer-Janes House. Our next reading retreat will be held in September and will focus on World War I. We hope you can join us!



*Some of sights from A Night on the Riviera.*



### Director's Corner

This fall we will commemorate the centennial of the end of World War I through a series of special programming. We've included a card with this newsletter that lists all of these events, and information about them is also available at our website. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate a moment important to American history, as well as central to understanding Hemingway's career.

I'd like to especially highlight the first event, Hemingway's Kansas City. Kansas City was Hemingway's first home as an adult, and through his time at the *Kansas City Star* he began to develop his characteristic style. Kansas City is also home to the National World War I Museum and Monument. On Memorial Day weekend, we'll visit this monument as well as sites relating to Hemingway. We've developed a flexible itinerary with options available to every price range. If you think you might be interested in joining us, let me know.

Hope to see you soon,  
Adam

## **Kate Osana Simonian Announced as Writer-in-Residence**

We are thrilled to announce our inaugural writer-in-residence. Kate Simonian of Texas Tech University will spend the month of June in residence at the museum and will serve as a mentor for other writers at the museum's June Writers' Retreat (June 4-8). The residency is made possible by an underwriting sponsorship by Piggott State Bank.

Kate Osana Simonian is an Armenian-Australian essayist, short story writer, and novelist hailing from Sydney. She is on a Presidential Fellowship at Texas Tech, where she is completing a Creative Writing PhD. She holds an MFA in Fiction from Brooklyn College (CUNY) and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Technology Sydney. Her work has been published by, or is forthcoming in, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Colorado Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Passages North*, *Post Road*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *Best Australian Stories*. She has won various honors, including the Nelson Algren Award, a Truman Capote Fellowship, and a Tennessee Williams Scholarship to Sewanee Writer's Conference. Along with acting as an associate editor for *Iron Horse*, she is the fiction editor for *Opossum: A Literary Marsupial*, a journal on the intersection of literature and music.

In addition to serving as a mentor for the June retreat, Simonian will spend the month working on her own writing in the Barn-Studio where Ernest Hemingway penned portions of *A Farewell to Arms*. She will also live in the community, in a loft apartment on the Piggott Square which is a part of the Inn at Piggott.

We are thrilled to have Kate with us this summer. We believe she is an excellent fit for our community.



*Kate Osana Simonian*



### **Papa's Upland Bird Hunt**

For the second year, the museum was proud to host a celebration of Hemingway's hunting legacy in Northeast Arkansas—Papa's Upland Bird Hunt.

When Ernest visited Piggott, one of his favorite pastimes was quail hunting on Crowley's Ridge. In February, twenty hunters (above) from around the country came to Clay County for a Continental style bird hunt, hosted by Rector's Liberty Hill Outfitters.

We believe this is a great opportunity for hunters from around the country. Ernest Hemingway is one of America's best-known sportsmen, and we are lucky to share in his legacy.

This event was sponsored by Andy's Frozen Custard, Cameron Mutual Insurance, First National Bank-Piggott, Hamilton Farms, State Representative Joe Jett (paid for by State Representative Joe Jett), Olympus Construction, Inc., Piggott State Bank, and Southern Brown Rice.

*Thanks to a generous donation, we've added a couple of pieces of Stickley furniture to the museum. The furniture, refurbished by Marvin Gatewood, was given in memory of Ella Jane Ritchie Gordon, Mildred Gordon Horne, Margaret Horne Dansby and Claude Gordon Horne by Margaret Jane Dansby Gatewood and Pamela Gail Horne. Stop by the museum and have a look!*



**For more information about upcoming events, visit us at [hemingway.astate.edu](http://hemingway.astate.edu).**