

Center for Humanities & the Arts Newsletter

April 2020

Dear CU Boulder Community & Supporters of the CHA,

These are trying and uncertain times we are living in. I don't know what each of you are grappling with, but I know we are all feeling the stress of the shelter-in-place orders here in Colorado and globally, as well as the grim news about COVID-19 in our local communities and around the world. I have been thinking about what the CHA can do in these dark times, and I truly believe that now more than ever we need humanities & the arts to provide solace, inspiration, and relief. I have found myself tearing up at YouTube videos of [virtual orchestras](#) and stories of [people helping others](#). I have been turning to [essays that give me hope](#), [narratives that make me laugh](#), and films and [tv serials](#) that provide a [brief escape](#) from the reality of this global pandemic.

The CHA has a tab on our website, "[Coping with COVID-19](#)" that has resources about the novel coronavirus, such as [CU Boulder's COVID19 page](#), and for teaching, such as a [Google folder with sharable Google sheets](#) for faculty to fill out about their Spring 2020 teaching—the idea behind these sharable sheets (there is one for each arts and humanities subject/discipline at CU Boulder) is that if a History professor is teaching a unit on the Japanese American internment here in Boulder and there are faculty at UCLA and UConn who are also teaching on this subject, they can share resources and thus divide the labor of online teaching. We would appreciate anyone

reading this newsletter to share the Google sheets with faculty across the nation in various fields.

Finally, we have been trying to think about how we can foster community connections during our physical isolation and social distance. So we have come up with ideas for [Monday Movie Nights](#), a [CHA Virtual Book Club](#), [Pandemic Posts](#), and Shelter Project Micro-Grants. You can read more about them below and on our [website](#).

May you and your loved ones be safe and healthy and may we all be able to gather together in fellowship and community very soon.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ho

P.S. Though I'm not holding in-person office hours for the remainder of the semester, I'd be more than happy to chat by phone or Zoom with anyone who would like to do remote office hours with me Wednesdays, 10-12pm—here's the [link to my office hours](#) to sign up.

CHA Pandemic Blog

A space for the CU Boulder community to share their thoughts, observations, concerns, fears, hopes, and musings about life under the current pandemic conditions we are all experiencing in Boulder, Colorado, the US, and the globe. We welcome all perspectives on living in the midst of a global pandemic—scholarly, personal, artistic, philosophical. If you are interested in writing a Pandemic Post (between 500-700 words) please contact Jennifer.Ho@colorado.edu, the CHA director, who has written the first Pandemic Post, "[What Is Normal?](#)"

Spring 2020 CHA Virtual Events/Programs for Community Connection

Monday Movie Nights

Please join CHA Director Jennifer Ho and guests to participate in [Monday Movie Nights](#). Each Monday at 7pm MDST we will watch a movie and invite people to comment on the [CHA Facebook page](#) (if it proves popular we may move to a special Slack channel—if you don't have Slack, please go to this [website](#) to learn more about the free app—this is not a plug for them but rather simply informational). If you're interested in being one of the guest hosts for these movie nights and/or would like to suggest a film other than the ones selected, please contact Jennifer.Ho@colorado.edu – as guest viewers become confirmed, we will update our [CHA website](#) with the schedule and the film.

Monday, April 6: [The Farewell](#) with Associate Professor [Cheryl Higashida](#) (English) (free on Amazon Prime and \$4.99 on YouTube)

Monday, April 13: [Frida](#) with [Sandra Firmin](#), Director CU Boulder Art Museum (\$3.99 on iTunes, Vudu, and Amazon)

Monday, April 20: [Bombshell](#) with [Kelsey Simpkins](#), Science Writer, Strategic Media Relations (\$3.99 on iTunes and Amazon for a limited time as of this writing)

Monday, April 27: [The Last Black Man in San Francisco](#) with guest TBA (free on Amazon Prime and \$3.99 on YouTube)

Monday, May 4: [The Miseducation of Cameron Post](#) with guest TBA (free on Kanopy with a CU Boulder identiky and check local public libraries for Kanopy access, Free on Hulu, \$3.99 on Amazon and YouTube)

CHA Book Club

For the first [CHA Virtual Book Club](#), we are very pleased to partner with the [Center for the Humanities](#) at the University of Miami to read and discuss Ross Gay's essay collection *The Book of Delights* (Algonquin Books 2019), which the jacket blurb describes as:

“one of today's most original literary voices offers up a genre-defying volume of lyric essays written over one tumultuous year. The first nonfiction book from award-winning poet Ross Gay is a record of the small joys we often overlook in our busy lives. Among Gay's funny, poetic, philosophical delights: a friend's unabashed use of air quotes, cradling a tomato seedling aboard an airplane, the silent nod of acknowledgment between the only two black people in a room. But Gay never dismisses the complexities,

even the terrors, of living in America as a black man or the ecological and psychic violence of our consumer culture or the loss of those he loves. More than anything else, though, Gay celebrates the beauty of the natural world—his garden, the flowers peeking out of the sidewalk, the hypnotic movements of a praying mantis.”

Gay was recently part of a [This American Life episode on delight](#), which is one reason his publisher, Algonquin Books, is sadly sold out of *The Book of Delights*. Boulder Bookstore has no copies either, but you can get a hard copy on Amazon as of the writing of this newsletter, though we encourage you to find a copy through an [independent bookstore](#) or to purchase an [e-book through either Amazon](#) or through

[IndieBound](#). There is an independent bookstore in Craig, CO, [Downtown Books](#), that does sell e-books and you can buy a copy of *The Book of Delights* [through their site here](#).

Since the book is comprised as a series of 102 short essays, we will divide the book into quarters so people can participate as they can, with synchronous meetings happening on Thursday evenings from 8-9pm MDST for people who live in Colorado (Zoom links to follow). People in Miami/Florida will have their own synchronous meetings happening in EDST. We also have a Slack group dedicated to talking about *The Book of Delights* open to both CU Boulder [Center for Humanities & the Arts](#) and University of Miami [Center for the Humanities](#) participants. You can download the [free Slack app here](#) and watch a tutorial for those unfamiliar with using Slack.

The reading and Zoom synchronous meeting schedule for those signed up through CU Boulder's CHA is as follows:

Thursday, April 9: Chapters 1-25
Thursday, April 16: Chapters 26-50
Thursday, April 23: Chapters 51-75
Thursday, April 30: Chapters 76-102

The reading and Zoom synchronous meeting schedule for the University of Miami Center for the Humanities is as follows [please note that they are in EDST, 2 hours ahead of MDST]:

By April 17: Chapters 1-25
By April 24: Chapters 26-50
By May 1: Chapters 51-75
By May 8: Chapters 76-102

Because the University of Miami's Center for the Humanities is slightly behind the CHA schedule, if you would like to participate in any of their synchronous Zoom sessions, please contact Dr. Meg Homer, mkh81@miami.edu, to learn about registering for any activities they have planned.

If you'd like to sign up for the CU Boulder CHA cohort, [please fill out this form](#). This virtual book club is open to anyone interested in participating, whether they are affiliated with CU Boulder or University of Miami, live in Colorado or Florida, or are somewhere in the world and want to join in a discussion of Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*.

Shelter Projects: CHA Micro-Grant

Working in collaboration with the University of Georgia's Wilson Center for Humanities & Arts and the National Humanities Center, we will be providing micro-grants for Shelter Projects that promote arts and humanities in these difficult times and that document the many ways our community is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned for more details!

If you no longer wish to receive the CHA newsletter, please email cu-cha@colorado.edu and include your name and email in the body of the message and we will remove you from our lists. Thank you.