



December 2019

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

As the year draws to a close, we have so much exciting Sangam House news to share with all of you.

In November we began our 12th season – and our second year at **The Jamun**, an intimate arts space in Bangalore. The Jamun takes its name from the inspiring tree on the campus and allows our residents to enjoy a green lane in a quiet neighborhood while still experiencing the energy of the city.

This season is being run by our two thoughtful residency managers, **Pascal Sieger** and **Giles Hazelgrove**, both of whom are an integral part of Sangam House operations. We are so grateful to have them involved, as their commitment to Sangam House is so vital to the work we do.

This year we welcomed 15 residents working with 8 languages across all disciplines. In November, we hosted **Lekhana**, our annual literary gathering, working with two venues: The Jamun and **Champaca**, a beloved bookstore and café. The theme was “The Refracted Self,” and discussion topics include everything from memoir writing and the work of the late playwright Girish Karnard to reflections on Kashmiri writing. And in addition to Lekhana, this year we’re also partnering with the **Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)**, to host regular readings featuring our residents throughout the season.

It has been a year of so very many awards and nominations for our alumni. At the beginning of the 2019, **Rajathi Salma** received the Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Award for Poetry from the Jaipur Literary Festival, and Sangam House’s longtime partner, **Kalachuvadu Publications**, won the Publisher of the Year Award, as part of the Publishing Next Industry conference. **Sharanya Manivannan, Amrita Mahale** and **Perumal Murugan** all made the long list for the JCB Prize for Literature, and two of Murugan’s books advanced to the short list. **Poorna Swami** and **Tashan Mehta** were both short-listed for 2020 Toto Awards -- Swami also won the Srinivas Rayaprol Poetry Prize earlier in the year. **Glenn Diaz’s** novel *The Quiet Ones*, won the 2019 Madrigal-Gonzales Prize for Best First Book and **Maxim Loskutoff** won a 2019 High Plains Book Award for his collection of short stories, *Come West and See*. **Priyanka Dubey** made the short-list for the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and she won the Chameli Devi Award for Outstanding Woman Journalist. **Annie Zaidi** won the Nine Dots Prize for innovative thinking in her essay, “Bread, Cement, Cactus,” and **Raghu Karnard** won the prestigious Windham-Campbell Literary Prize.

As for publications, the list is too bountiful to enumerate! The work nurtured at Sangam House is filling bookshops more and more every year. Every month new titles emerge all around the world. We’re doing our best to keep up with some of the most recent covers, which we invite all of you to see on the **Sangam House Library** page of our website. Check back soon for new additions!

Our partnerships with fellow residency programs continue to be central to the extended career support we offer our alumni. This year the **Chennai Mathematical Institute** will welcome **Cindy**



Lynn Brown and **Panagiotis Gavriiloglou**. We wish Cindy Lynn and Panagiotis all the best with a positive and productive experiences in Chennai.

The Yali Project continues to thrive with the generous support of the **Aditi Foundation**. As you may recall, Yali was created to support younger Indian translators and small publishers and to nurture quality translations from one language to another. As such, we bring new and younger translators into contact with a senior translator who mentors them through the work they are translating. While some of the mentoring happens virtually, each year, translators and mentors must come together for a week at Sangam House where they produce a final draft for the publisher.

This year Yali supported **K. Nallatambi's** Tamil translations of two short story collections, one from **Jayant Kikini** and the other from **S. Diwakar**, both of whom work in Kannada. Nallatambi's was mentored by the Tamil writer **Pavannan**, and his translations of Kikini and Diwakar will be published by Kalachuvadu Publications. Yali also supported editorial work on translations of Kashmiri short fiction from **HK Kaul**.

We are so grateful to the Aditi Foundation for making Yali possible -- and to all our sponsors who keep Sangam House going every year including **The Kathleen Brooks Family Foundation, The Reed Foundation, the InKo Centre in Chennai, the Pakriti Foundation, the Bhoomija Trust, Toto Funds the Arts, Neeraj Nevatia, Lavanya Sankaran, Laurie Patton, Bronwen Bledsoe, Samir Ghandi** and **Rachel Saltz**. We are also happy to announce this year that friends of the late poet **Margaret Mascarenhas** have put together funds to start a fellowship in her honor. The Margaret Mascarenhas Fellowship will commence next season.

As Sangam House continues to grow and mature as an organization, we continue to have delightful, new experiences: this year we welcomed **Radhika Indira Iyengar**, who is the daughter of **Abha Iyengar**, a resident from 10 years ago. What better way to measure the time that by supporting multiple generations of writers within a family? We hope to have this opportunity again, as our community becomes richer every year.

We thank all of you for being a part of this community and we wish everyone the very best for 2020.

With continued good wishes,

Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson and Rahul Soni