



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Seward Announces \$15,000 Grant for Bright Hill Press

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**ONEONTA, 08/07/17** – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today announced a special state grant of \$15,000 to support [Bright Hill Press & Literary Center of the Catskills](#).

**“Bright Hill Press is a truly unique resource that has inspired and educated thousands of children and adults over the past twenty five years, enhancing lives in so many ways,”** said Senator Seward. **“This state grant will allow the non-profit organization to expand programming and reach more individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to take classes.”**

Bright Hill Founding Director Bertha Rogers noted, “When Ernest Fishman and I began Bright Hill 25 years ago, we couldn’t have seen this beautiful future; it’s been my great and abiding pleasure to work with the children and youth of our community, to watch them develop into fine adults who continue their relationship with the organization. This gift will enable Bright Hill to continue its commitment to learning; and we are deeply grateful for Senator Seward’s efforts on our behalf.”

Bright Hill Executive Director Beatrice Georgalidis said, “Senator Seward is a champion of education. He recognizes the important role the literary arts play in encouraging intellectual growth, and economic development. Communities rich in educational and creative opportunities can attract a strong workforce and successful firms, as well as help sustain a positive quality of life. We truly appreciate the Senator’s support of Bright Hill’s mission and programming.”

Senator Seward revealed the grant via a special video message during Bright Hill’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala. The funds will support ongoing educational programs, literary workshops, and artistic exhibitions. Additionally, a portion of the funds will be directed to youth programming geared toward science, technology, engineering and math along with special youth scholarships.

**“After 25 years, Bright Hill has established itself as a respected arts education program which truly enriches our region’s quality of life. I am pleased to help expand the program’s reach and look forward to seeing the results of the exciting new offerings,”** Seward concluded.

Bright Hill Press is an independent, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit corporation dedicated to increasing audiences' appreciation of the writing arts and oral traditions that comprise American literature, and to encouraging and furthering the tradition of oral poetry and writing in the Catskills and beyond.