



kentucky
women writers
conference

SEPTEMBER 15–18, 2011

OUR PRESENTERS



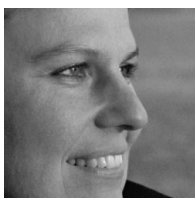
Tananarive Due is the American Book Award-winning author of nine books, ranging from supernatural thrillers to a mystery to a civil rights memoir. Her newest novel, *My Soul to Take* (2011), continues the saga of African immortals with healing blood

and is a sequel to *Blood Colony* and *The Living Blood*. Due currently teaches creative writing in the MFA program at Antioch University, Los Angeles. Due lives in Southern California with her husband, their son, Jason, and her stepdaughter, Nicki.



Lynnell Edwards's third book of poetry, *Covet*, will be released in October 2011. She is the author of two previous collections of poetry, both from Red Hen Press: *The Highwayman's Wife* (2007) and *The Farmer's Daughter* (2003). She is associate professor of

English at Spalding University and received her doctorate in English from the University of Louisville.



Katja Esson is an independent filmmaker based in New York City who mixes documentary and narrative genres. Esson's newest work is *The Poetry of Resilience*, a film about five poets who survived human atrocities and their stories of transformation.

Her documentary short *Ferry Tales*, which turns the unlikely setting of the Staten Island Ferry Powder Room into a celebration of sisterhood, received an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Short in 2004 and aired on HBO.



Krista Franklin is a poet and visual artist from Dayton, OH who lives and works in Chicago. Her poetry and mixed medium collages have been published in lifestyle and literary journals such as *Copper Nickel*, *RATTLE*, *Indiana Review*, *Ecotone*, *Clam* and

Callaloo, and in the anthologies *Encyclopedia Vol. II*, *F-K* and *Gathering Ground*. Franklin is a Cave Canem Fellow.



Kim Dana Kupperman is the author of a critically acclaimed collection of essays, *I Just Lately Started Buying Wings: Missives from the Other Side of Silence* (Graywolf, 2010), which received the 2009 Katharine Bakeless Nason Prize in Nonfiction from the Bread Loaf

Writers' Conference. She is the founder of Welcome Table Press, dedicated to publishing and celebrating the essay in all its forms. Kupperman currently works as managing editor of the award-winning quarterly literary journal, *The Gettysburg Review*, where she also coordinates an annual summer writers conference. She teaches nonfiction at the Fairfield University MFA in Creative Writing. Photo by Bill Dowling



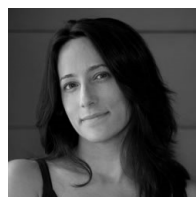
Francine Prose is the author of thirteen novels, including *Blue Angel*, a finalist for the 2000 National Book Award; *My New American Life* (April 2011); *Goldengrove* (2008); *Hunters and Gatherers* (2008); and *A Changed Man* (2006). Nonfiction works

include *Reading Like a Writer* (2006), a New York Times best-seller; *Caravaggio* (2010), a biography of the painter for the Eminent Lives series; *Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife* (2009). Prose has also written four children's books and co-translated three volumes of fiction. She has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a 1989 Fulbright fellowship to the former Yugoslavia, two NEA grants, and a PEN translation prize. In 2006 she was awarded the first Dayton Literary Peace Prize in fiction for *A Changed Man*. In 2009 Prose was elected into the Academy of Arts & Letters. She lives in New York City.



Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of three poetry collections: *Lucky Fish* (January 2011); *At the Drive-In Volcano*, winner of the 2007 Balcones Prize; and *Miracle Fruit*, winner of the Tupelo Press Judge's Prize in Poetry. Her writing has

been published in several anthologies, she and was awarded an NEA Fellowship in Poetry and the Pushcart Prize. She is associate professor of English at the State University of New York-Fredonia. Photo by Dustin Parsons



Danzy Senna's newest work is *You Are Free* (2011), a collection of short stories. Her best-selling debut novel, *Caucasia* (1998), which sparked a newfound focus on biracial cultures in America, was the winner of the BOMC Stephen Crane

Award for First Fiction and an Alex Award from the American Library Association. Senna's second novel, *Symptomatic* (2005), is a psychological thriller that continues her examination of race. In her memoir *Where Did You Sleep Last Night? A Personal History* (2009), Senna looks back at her parents' divorce and their wildly opposing backgrounds. Senna lives in Los Angeles.



Susan Stewart is a poet, critic, translator, and Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University. Her five books of poetry include *Columbarium* (2003), which received the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Red Rover* (2008);

and *The Forest* (1995), which received the Literary Award of the Philadelphia Athenaeum. Stewart's collected essays on art, *The Open Studio: Essays in Art and Aesthetics*, were published by the University of Chicago Press in 2004. Her other books of criticism include the forthcoming *The Poet's Freedom: A Notebook on Making*.

Sallie Bingham is the author of over ten books, most recently the short story collection *Red Car* (Sarabande, 2008). Her newest collection of stories is entitled *Mending* and will be published by Sarabande in October 2011. In 1985 she founded the Kentucky Foundation for Women. She also established the Sallie Bingham Archive for Women's History at Duke University.

Sherry Chandler's first full-length collection of poetry, *Weaving a New Eden*, was released by Wind in March of this year. She was awarded the 2002 Betty Gabehart Prize, and her work has appeared in many print and online magazines and anthologies, including *Kestrel*, *qarrtsiluni*, *Soundzine*, *Poemeleon*, and the *Louisville Review*. She lives on a farm in Bourbon County, Kentucky, with her husband and son.

Jan Isenhour was executive director of the Carnegie Center from 1998 to 2011 and had served as assistant director since the center opened in 1992. She has published creative non-fiction in *Wind* magazine, and in 2009, as a member of the KaBooM Writing Collective, received grants to support the publication of the anthology, *When the Bough Breaks*. She is in the process of completing and shopping a novel, *Old Beauties*, partially set in a retirement community.

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers is the author of three books of poetry, *The Gospel of Barbecue* (2000), which was chosen by Lucille Clifton as winner of the 1999 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize and was a featured publication of the Academy of

American Poets' Poetry Book Club; *Outlandish Blues* (2003); and *Red Clay Suite* (2007), chosen by Dorianne Laux as the second prize in the Crab Orchard Open Competition. Honorée is a native southerner but now lives on the prairie where she is associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma and teaches creative writing.

Elizabeth Oakes is the author of three volumes of poetry: *The Farmgirl Poems*, which won the 2004 Pearl Poetry Prize, *The Luminescence of All Things Emily* (Wind), and *Mercy in the New World* (Wind). Another volume, *Leave Here Knowing*, will be released in the summer of 2012 (Wind). She and her husband, John, an artist, are the co-owners of Ethereal Publications. She is currently writing a book on boomer retirement.

Jane Gentry Vance was born in central Kentucky and now lives in Versailles in Woodford County. Her most recent full-length collection of poems is *Portrait of the Artist as a White Pig* (2006). She is also the author of *A Garden in Kentucky* (1995) and *A Year in Kentucky* (2008). She co-edited, with Frederick Smock, *Five Kentucky Poets Laureate: An Anthology*. In 2007 she was appointed Kentucky Poet Laureate for 2007 and 2008.

Naomi Wallace's major plays include *One Flea Spare*, *And I and Silence*, *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, *Things of Dry Hours* and *The Fever Chart: Three Short Visions of the Middle East*. Wallace is writing new plays for the Public Theatre and the Oregon Shakespeare festival.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

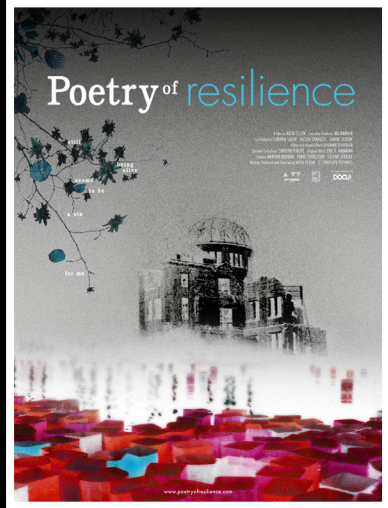
tananarive due

Reading from her newest novel

My Soul to Take

“An engrossing—can’t put it down—
spooky, sexy, intelligent whirlwind of a
ride.” —Jewell Parker Rhodes

5:00 p.m.
The Wild Fig Bookstore
1439 Leestown Road
859.381-8133



a work in progress by **KATJA ESSON**

7:00 p.m., The Kentucky Theatre
214 East Main Street

opening with *Waterbody*, a film by Bianca Spriggs

Free & Open to All

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

All daytime sessions are held at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West Second Street. Shuttle provided to luncheon.

8:30–9:00 a.m.

registration and complimentary continental breakfast

9:00–10:15 a.m.

“Plotting Memorable Fiction: The Relationship Between Plot and Character,” craft talk with **Tananarive Due**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

small group workshops, 9:00–11:30 a.m.

“Writing What You Don’t Know: Fiction As Transformation”
workshop in short story with **Sallie Bingham**, part I
by reservation only, lower level, Warren Room

“The Ninth Letter: Developing Voice and Persona in First-person Narrative”
workshop with **Kim Dana Kupperman**, part I
by reservation only, lower level, Wells Brown Room

“The Story That Didn’t Happen: Beyond Autobiographical Fiction”
workshop in fiction with **Danzy Senna**, part I
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

10:30–11:30 a.m.

“Covet” & “Lucky Fish”
poetry readings by **Lynnell Edwards** and
& **Aimee Nezhukumatathil**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

“Documentary versus Narrative Storytelling”
seminar with **Katja Esson**
open to all registrants, second floor, Allen Room

11:45am–1:30 p.m.

plenary luncheon, *see below*

expressing our feminine power through
creative voice

plenary luncheon featuring
Academy Award–nominated director
KATJA ESSON
11:45 a.m. | Portofino Restaurant
249 East Main Street | 859.253.9300
Shuttle departs at 11:40 a.m. SOLD OUT

1:30–2:45 p.m.

Gabehart Winners Reading
readings by winners **Theresa Dowling** (fiction),
Sara J. Grossman (poetry) & **Marya Smith** (nonfiction)
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

“Working with Editors,”
seminar with **Kim Dana Kupperman**
open to all registrants, second floor, Allen Room

small group workshops, 1:30–4:00 p.m.

“Line/Drive: Muscle, motion, and the work of the line in your poem,” workshop with **Lynnell Edwards**, part I
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

“Writing the Poetry of Your Dreams”
workshop in poetry with **Krista Franklin**, part I
by reservation only, lower level, Wells Brown Room

“Landscapes & Light: Poetry and the Natural World”
workshop in poetry with **Aimee Nezhukumatathil**, part I
by reservation only, lower level, Warren Room

3:00–4:15 p.m.

“You Are Free,” reading in fiction by **Danzy Senna**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

manuscript consultations with **Kim Dana Kupperman**
by reservation only, first floor, Writers Reference Room

4:30–5:30 p.m.

“The Art of Collaboration, from Civil Rights to Hollywood”
Sonia Sanchez keynote with **Tananarive Due**
free and open to all, first floor, Stuart Room

5:30–7:00 p.m.

dinner on your own

7:00–9:30 p.m.

Gypsy Slam, *see below*

GYPSY POETRY SLAM



featuring poet and visual artist
KRISTA FRANKLIN
poet **BIANCA SPRIGGS** hosting the show
Downtown Arts Center, 141 East Main St.
7:00 p.m., open mic @ 6:30 p.m.
Sign-ups for open mic begin at 6:00 pm

All daytime sessions are held at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West Second Street.

8:30–9:00 a.m.

registration and complimentary continental breakfast

9:00–10:15 a.m.

“The Persona Poem: Remembering Women’s Lives”
panel discussion with **Sherry Chandler**, **Honorée Fanonne Jeffers**, and **Elizabeth Oakes**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

small group workshops, 9:00–11:30 a.m.

“Writing What You Don’t Know:
Fiction As Transformation”
workshop in short story with **Sallie Bingham**, part II
by reservation only, lower level, Warren Room

“The Ninth Letter: Developing Voice and Persona
in First-person Narrative”
workshop with **Kim Dana Kupperman**, part II
by reservation only, lower level, Wells Brown Room

“The Story That Didn’t Happen:
Beyond Autobiographical Fiction”
workshop in fiction with **Danzy Senna**, part II
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

10:30–11:30 a.m.

“Translating Poetry,” seminar with **Susan Stewart**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

“Book Reviewing as Critical and Creative Practice:
The Hows and Whys of Getting Started”
seminar with **Lynnell Edwards**
open to all registrants, second floor, Allen Room

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 p.m.

“Mending” & “I Just Lately Started Buying Wings”
readings by **Sallie Bingham** and **Kim Dana Kupperman**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

Young Women Writers Reading
open to all registrants, second floor, Allen Room

small group workshops, 1:30–4:00 p.m.

“Line/Drive: Muscle, motion, and the work of the line
in your poem,” workshop with **Lynnell Edwards**, part II
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

“Writing the Poetry of Your Dreams”
workshop in poetry with **Krista Franklin**, part II
by reservation only, lower level, Wells Brown Room

“Landscapes & Light: Poetry and the Natural World”
workshop in poetry with **Aimee Nezhukumatathil**, part II
by reservation only, lower level, Warren Room

“Revising Revising”
one-day workshop in poetry with **Susan Stewart**
by reservation only, second floor, Dunnigan Room

3:00–4:15 p.m.

“Reading Like a Writer,” craft talk with **Francine Prose**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

manuscript consultations with **Kim Dana Kupperman**
by reservation only, first floor, Writers Reference Room

4:30–5:30 p.m.

poetry reading by **Susan Stewart**
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

5:30–7:30 p.m. *dinner on your own*

8:00–9:30 p.m. keynote, *see below*

an evening with
Francine Prose
and **DANZY SENNA**

Saturday, September 17, 2011, 8:00 p.m.
University of Kentucky, Memorial Hall | *free & open to all*



STARS WITH ACCENTS

Sunday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.

with Katerina Stoykova-Klemer, host of
WRFL's Accents - a radio show for
literature, art, culture

Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning
251 West Second Street, Lexington

Free and Open to all



photo by Mick Jeffries
Courtesy of Business Lexington

Jan Isenhour



Honoree Fanonne Jeffers



Jane Gentry Vance

CONFERENCE VENUES

1

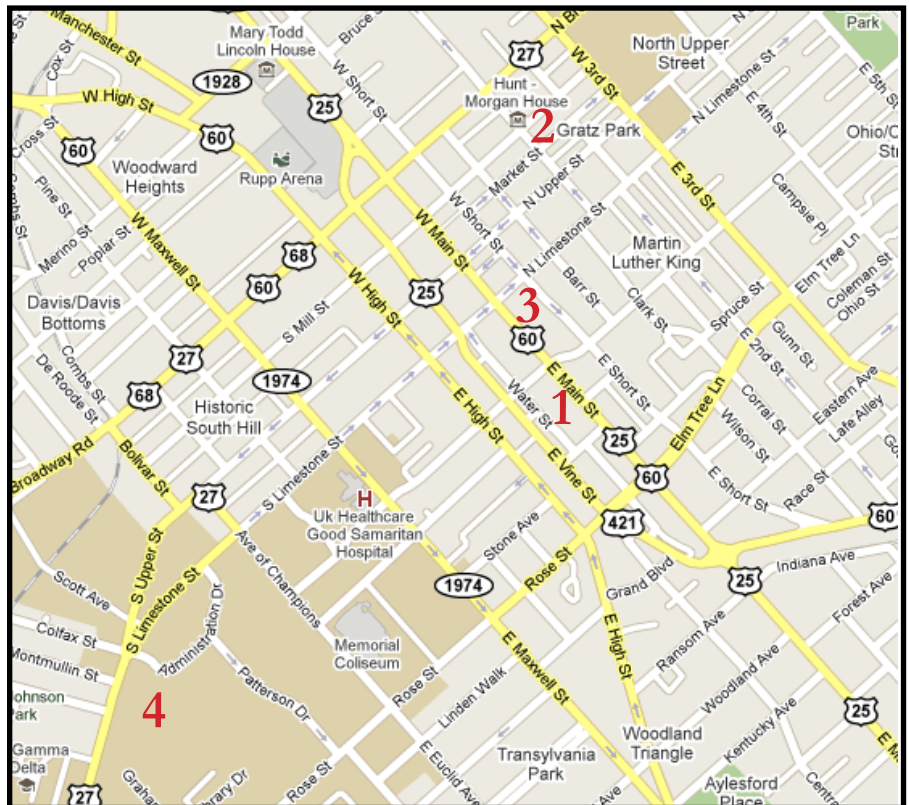
THURSDAY NIGHT

Films by Katja Esson and Bianca Spriggs
The Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street
There is free parking in the City Annex
Garage; the entrance to the garage is next to
the Fayette County Clerk's office.

2

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DAYTIME; SUNDAY NIGHT

Friday & Saturday daytime sessions
Sunday Night: Stars with Accents
The Carnegie Center, 251 West Second Street
During Friday daytime sessions, FREE
validated parking is available in the Feather-
stone Central parking garage (162 N Upper
Street). This garage is not available for use
on the weekends. On Saturday and Sunday,
free street parking is plentiful.



3

FRIDAY NIGHT

Gypsy Poetry Slam with Krista Franklin | Downtown Arts Center, 141 East Main Street
Parking is available on the street and in parking garages on Main Street.

4

SATURDAY NIGHT

Francine Prose and Danzy Senna | Memorial Hall | University of Kentucky | 610 S. Limestone St.

UK football game traffic should subside by the 7:00 p.m. kickoff. The best route to Memorial Hall from downtown is to turn left onto Bolivar Street from Broadway. Once on Bolivar, take a right on South Upper Street and another right on Scott Avenue.

Faith A. Smith Poetry Prize

We have a new top honor in the Gypsy Poetry Slam: the Faith A. Smith Poetry Prize, established by Frank X Walker. "I wanted to support the Gypsy Slam because anywhere there are women speaking with that much courage and conviction it reminds me of my mother." The new prize will award \$500 to the winner of the slam on September 16, and an existing prize of \$300 will be awarded to the runner-up. Competing this year are Radhiyah Ayobami, Michelle Benningfield, Mahogany Browne, Charkera Ervin, Rae Hodge, Ciara Miller, Ariel Robello, and Andrea Tomlinson.

2011 Betty Gabehart Prize Winners

Gabehart winners receive \$200 and free admission to the conference for themselves and one guest. They will read their winning pieces during the conference. Congratulations to: Theresa Dowling of Silver Spring, Maryland, for the short story "To Live Without Air;" Sara J. Grossman of Somerset, New Jersey, for the poem "Anatomy of a Field;" Marya Smith of Elizabeth, Illinois, for creative nonfiction, "Straddling Centuries with a Jam Dish"

Prize for Women Playwrights

Congratulations to Keliher Walsh, a Los Angeles-based playwright who won the Prize for Women Playwrights by the Kentucky Women Writers Conference for her full-length play, *Year of the Rabbit*. The prize carries a \$500 cash award and a fully staged theatrical production by Balagula Theatre, where it will open as a world premiere on March 25, 2012. Naomi Wallace served as judge for the contest and selected Walsh's script from three finalists.

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Explore the Arts in Lexington

One Flea Spare, a play by Naomi Wallace, will be performed at Balagula Theatre on September 1–4 and 11–14. A portion of tickets purchased on Tuesday, September 13, will go to the Kentucky Women Writers Conference.

The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces

Artists from the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Near and Middle East have created thirty-three works that examine the veil and its stereotypes. On display at the University of Kentucky Art Museum, July 31–October 9, 2011. The museum is open Tuesday–Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, noon to 8:00 p.m.

Lexington Gallery Hop

Visit a few galleries before heading to the Gypsy Slam on Friday, September 16. LexArts' Gallery Hop, a self-guided tour of the visual arts in downtown Lexington, will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Patrons visit the sites of their choosing, beginning at any location. A Gallery Hop brochure is included in your conference tote bag.

Speak Your Mind

Please give us feedback on the conference so we can respond to your needs and preferences. Evaluation forms with a SASE are included in tote bags and at the registration table. We will also distribute an online feedback form following the conference.

Suggest a Session for Next Year

Have an idea about a session or panel discussion that you think would be a great part of our conference? We would love to hear your ideas. You may send in your suggestions to kentuckywomenwriters@gmail.com or mail a note to: 232 East Maxwell Street; Lexington, KY 40506.

Stay in Touch

Email kentuckywomenwriters@gmail.com to join our list-serv. You may also find us on Twitter @KYWomenWriters or Facebook. For the truly committed, give us your snail-mail address to receive our annual spring newsletter.

Contribute

We pay our presenters fairly and feature many free events. Thus, ticket sales cover only about 10 percent of operating costs, and the best way to protect the conference's future is through an endowment. Donors may endow a lecture series, a writing contest, or scholarships for students. For more information, contact Julie Wrinn at julie.wrinn@uky.edu or 859.257.2874.

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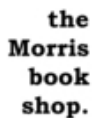
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