



Ulrike Hahn, *At the Opening*, oil on canvas, 37" x 27", 2002, courtesy of Ann Tower Gallery

*Kentucky* women writers conference  
September 28–29, 2007



## free events

Four free events are offered as part of the conference, the two below, and those advertised on pp. 4 and 5.

Bilingual Children's Reading with / Lectura Bilingüe para los Niños con

# lee byrd

Saturday, September 29, 1:30 p.m./  
sábado, 29 de Septiembre, 1:30 p.m.  
Village Branch / Surcusul Village  
2185 Versailles Road  
859-231-5575 or 859-257-2874  
Lexington Public Library /  
Biblioteca Pública de Lexington



Illustration by Francisco Delgado

University of Kentucky Gender and Women's Studies Program presents the opening of the Kentucky Women Writers Conference

## motherland afghanistan

a documentary film by Sedika Mojadidi

"You won't remain unmoved." LA Weekly

In Afghanistan,  
one in seven women  
dies in childbirth,  
a medical and social crisis  
born of war.

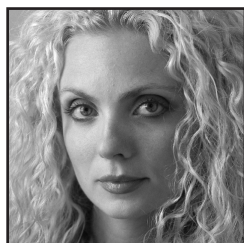
Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007  
7:00 p.m.  
Kentucky Theatre  
214 East Main St.  
Lexington

Join Sedika Mojadidi for discussion / Reception following / Free and open to the public

With generous support from the College of Arts & Sciences, the Anthropology Department, and the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice / Info: 859-257-4207



# meet our presenters



**nickole brown** is a poet and fiction writer who works as Director of Marketing and Development of Sarabande Books, a nonprofit, independent literary press. Her work has been featured in a number of magazines and journals, including *Poets & Writers* and *The Writer's Chronicle*. She co-edited the anthology, *Air Fare: Stories, Poems, & Essays on Flight*. She graduated from Vermont College, studied English Literature at Oxford University, and was the editorial assistant for the late Hunter S. Thompson. Her most recent work, *Sister: Poems*, will be released this fall from Red Hen Press. Nickole lives in Louisville, KY.



**lee byrd**, novelist and publisher, was born and raised in New Jersey but has spent most of her life in the Southwest. She co-founded Cinco Puntos Press, which publishes nonfiction, fiction, and children's literature from the U.S.-Mexico Border region. She has written and published two bilingual children's books, including her most recent: *Lover Boy: A Bilingual Counting Book*. In 1993 her collection of short stories, *My Sister Disappears*, was published and received a Southwest Book Award. Her first novel, *Riley's Fire*, was voted one of the top ten books of 2006 by *People* magazine. Lee has three children and five grandchildren.



**nathalie handal** is the author of two poetry CDs, *Traveling Rooms* and *Spell*, and two poetry books, *The NeverField* and *The Lives of Rain* (shortlisted for the Agnes Lynch Starett Prize/Pitt Poetry Series). She is editor of *The Poetry of Arab Women* (an Academy of American Poets best-seller and winner of the Pen Oakland/Josephine Miles Award) and a co-editor of *Contemporary Poetry of the Eastern World* (Norton, forthcoming). Her plays include *Deir Yassin*, *The Stonecutters*, which had a staged reading at the Loews Theatre in May 2007; *La Cosa Dei Sogni*; and *Between Our Lips*. Handal has been involved as a writer, director, or producer in over 20 films and theatrical productions worldwide. She is currently working on the feature film



**sally jenkins** is an award-winning journalist for the Washington Post and the author of eight books, three of which were *New York Times* best-sellers, most notably *It's Not About the Bike* with Lance Armstrong. Her new book, *The Real All Americans*, tells the story of how a Native American football team from the early 1900s revolutionized the sport. Her work has been featured in *GQ* and *Sports Illustrated*, and she has acted as a correspondent on CNBC as well as on NPR's *All Things Considered*. She lives in New York City.



**sedika mojadidi** has produced two experimental documentaries on Afghanistan, *Kabul, Kabul* (2000) and *Zulaikha* (2002), both distributed by Third World Newsreel. She recently completed a documentary feature, *Motherland Afghanistan* (distributed by First Run Features) about her father's work as an ob-gyn in Afghanistan that aired on PBS in February 2007. Her work as a producer has aired on The Learning Channel, The Discovery Channel, A&E, and PBS. Sedika holds Master's Degrees in Film Theory from the University of Florida and in Video from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



**jessica care moore** is CEO of Moore Black Press, and the writer, producer, and star of *SPOKEN!*, a new poetry- and music-driven show on the Black Family Channel. She is the author of two acclaimed books of poetry, *The Words Don't Fit in My Mouth* and *The Alphabet Verses The Ghetto*; two plays, *There Are No Asylums for the Real Crazy Women* (based on the life of Vivienne Eliot, wife of T. S. Eliot) and *AlphaPhobia*; and is featured in three independent films, *Hughes Dream Harlem*, *His/Herstory*, and *Under Da Gun*, featuring Umi and M1 of Dead Prez. She is a leading voice of AIDS activism, performing at the United Nations World AIDS Day; in the AIDS WALK opening ceremonies in NYC, San Francisco, LA, and Atlanta; and in the Hip-Hop-A-Thon Concert for the San Francisco Bay Area. She lives in Georgia.



**naomi shihab nye** was born to a Palestinian father and an American mother. Nye uses her writing to attest to our shared humanity. Nye is the author or editor of more than 20 volumes. Her books of poetry include *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*, *A Maze Me: Poems for Girls*, and *You & Yours*, (a best-selling poetry book of 2006). Other works include seven prize-winning poetry anthologies for young readers, including *This Same Sky* and *The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems & Paintings from the Middle East*. Her new book of essays is entitled *I'll Ask You Three Times, Are You Okay? Tales of Driving and Being Driven* (fall 2007).



**helen oyeyemi** was born in Nigeria in 1984 and has lived in London since the age of four. She completed her first novel, *The Icarus Girl*, before her nineteenth birthday. She graduated from Cambridge University in June 2006 and is now pursuing an M.F.A. at Columbia University in New York City. *The Opposite House* is her second novel.



**ann pancake** grew up in West Virginia. Her collection of short stories, *Given Ground*, won the 2000 Bakeless Prize. Other awards she has received include a Whiting Writers Award, an NEA grant, and a Pushcart Prize. She earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Washington. After teaching at institutions around the world, she is now on the faculty of the low-residency M.F.A. program at Pacific Lutheran University. Her first novel, *Strange As This Weather Has Been* (Shoemaker & Hoard, Sept. 2007), is based on interviews and real events concerning mountaintop removal mining in West Virginia and Kentucky.



**michelle slatalla**, who has written extensively about the big questions people ask in small towns, writes a weekly column for the *New York Times* Thursday Styles section. Formerly a reporter at *Newsday*, where she was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize along with a team of reporters, she also has written regular columns about family life for *Time*, *Rosie* and *Lifetime*. She is the co-author with her husband, Josh Quittner, of three mystery novels and the nonfiction works *Masters of Deception* and *Speeding the Net*. She lives in Mill Valley, California, with her husband and three daughters.

# Friday, September 28

All Friday daytime sessions are held at the Lexington Public Library Central Branch, 140 East Main Street

## 7:30–9:00 a.m.

Registration and complimentary continental breakfast

## 9:00–10:15 a.m.

"Storytelling with Images and Narration"

WORKSHOP in writing for documentary film with **Sedika Mojadidi**  
1st floor, library theater

"Breaking into the House: Generative Techniques for Beginning and Revising Poems"

MASTER CLASS in poetry with **Nickole Brown**  
by reservation only, 4th floor, conference room C

"Hearing Voices: Conjuring the Unconscious: Part I"

TWO-PART MASTER CLASS in fiction with **Ann Pancake**  
by reservation only, 4th floor, conference room B

## free event

jessica care moore



the sonia series presents  
a poet from the new generation

*friday, september 28*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Carrick Theatre, Transylvania*

*300 N. Broadway*

*free and open to the public*

## 10:30–11:45 a.m.

WORKSHOP in fiction with **Helen Oyeyemi**  
1st floor, library theater  
for high school students and the young at heart

"Poetry as Cultural Voice"

WORKSHOP in poetry with **Nathalie Handal**  
4th floor, conference room B

"Heroic Narrative, Ghostwriting, and the Intrigue of Games"

WORKSHOP with **Sally Jenkins**  
4th floor, conference room C

## 12 noon–1:30 p.m.

lunch on your own

See p. 7 for list of restaurants offering discounts to registrants.

## 1:30–2:45 p.m.

EXCHANGE: "Sportswriters and Sports-readers: When the Story Isn't a Fairy Tale"

**Sally Jenkins**, Lexington Herald-Leader sportswriter Alicia Wincze, and Daily Racing Form reporter Glenye Cain.

Moderated by Herald-Leader columnist Mark Story.  
1st floor, library theater

READING: Riley's Fire, by **Lee Byrd**

Q & A on writing a first novel later in life  
5th floor, boardroom

## 3:00–4:15 p.m.

EXCHANGE: "The Business of Small Presses"

**Nickole Brown** of Sarabande Books and **Lee Byrd** of Cinco Puntos Press discuss opportunities in small-press publishing.

Moderated by **Laura Sutton**, University Press of Kentucky  
1st floor, library theater

READING: The Betty Gabehart Writing Contest

Winners in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction  
2nd floor, atrium

## 4:30–5:30 p.m.

READING: *The Real All Americans*, by Sally Jenkins

How a Native American football team from the early 1900s revolutionized the sport.

1st floor, library theater

READING: *Sister: Poems*, by **Nickole Brown**

Q & A on genre-bending—prose, poetry, and fiction  
2nd floor, atrium

## 5:30–7:00 p.m.

dinner on your own

See p. 7 for list of restaurants offering discounts to registrants.

## 7:00 p.m.

Carrick Theatre, Transylvania University

The Sonia Series with **Jessica Care Moore**  
free and open to the public



# Saturday, September 29

All Saturday daytime sessions held at the Carnegie Center,  
251 West Second Street

## 7:30–9:00 a.m.

Registration and complimentary continental breakfast  
1st floor, lobby

## 9:00–10:15 a.m.

"Methods of Historical Memoir"

WORKSHOP with **Michelle Slatalla**  
1st floor, Stuart room

"Always Just Beginning"

WORKSHOP in poetry with **Naomi Shihab Nye**  
by reservation only, 2nd floor, Allen room

"Hearing Voices: Conjuring the Unconscious: Part II"

TWO-PART MASTER CLASS in fiction with **Ann Pancake**  
by reservation only, lower level, Warren room

## 10:30–11:45 a.m.

"Wink"

WORKSHOP on teaching writing to youth with **Naomi Shihab Nye**  
1st floor, Stuart room

WORKSHOP in fiction with **Helen Oyeyemi**

2nd floor, Allen room

"The Word and World on Stage"

WORKSHOP in playwriting with **Nathalie Handal**  
lower level, Warren room

## 12 noon–1:30 p.m.

lunch on your own

See p. 7 for list restaurants offering discounts to registrants.

## 1:30–2:45 p.m.

EXCHANGE: "Lifted: Poets and Journalists Off the Page"

**Jessica Care Moore**, Key NewsJournal publisher

**Patrice K. Muhammad**, and freelance writer

**Mwabi Kaira-Murdock**.

1st floor, Stuart room

READING: *Strange As This Weather Has Been*, by **Ann Pancake**

Q & A on mountaintop removal and art as activism

2nd floor, Allen room

Village Branch–Lexington Public Library, 2185 Versailles Road

BILINGUAL READING: **Lee Byrd** reads from *The Treasure on Gold Street* and *Lover Boy*, two of her best-selling children's books.

Q & A on how a book is made

free and open to the public

*Register Today!*

Two-Day Pass = \$120

One-Day Pass = \$75

Student Pass = \$60

[www.thewomenwritersconference.org](http://www.thewomenwritersconference.org)

free event



Mentorship and Collaboration in Women Writers' Lives

**Naomi Shihab Nye**

with **Nathalie Handal**

Saturday, September 29, 7 p.m.

Memorial Hall, University of Kentucky

## 3:00–4:15 p.m.

EXCHANGE: "Southern Dialect and Colloquial Speech: Portraying Character and Social Class"

**Nickole Brown**, **Ann Pancake**, and **Michelle Slatalla**. Moderated by Appalachian scholar and publisher **Nyoka Hawkins**.

1st floor, Stuart room

READING: The Carnegie Center 2007 Young Women Writers

2nd floor, Allen room

## 4:30–5:30 p.m.

READING: *The Town on Beaver Creek*, by **Michelle Slatalla**

1st floor, Stuart room

READING: *The Opposite House* by **Helen Oyeyemi**

2nd floor, Allen room

## 5:30–7:00 p.m.

dinner on your own; See p. 7 for list of restaurants offering discounts to registrants.

## 7:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE: Memorial Hall, University of Kentucky

"Mentorship and Collaboration in Women Writers' Lives"

The Hardwick/Jones Lecture Series with **Naomi Shihab Nye** and **Nathalie Handal**

free and open to the public

# venues and parking

## Thursday evening

Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street: **1**

Parking: Free parking is available at the Annex Garage, just west of the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Main Street, half a block's walk from the Kentucky Theatre

## Friday day

Public Library–Central Branch , 140 E. Main Street: **2**

Parking: The library has its own parking garage. Take your ticket from the Lexington Public Library parking garage to the registration table and we'll stamp it for free.

## Friday evening

Carrick Theatre, Transylvania University, 300 N. Broadway: **3**

Parking: Heading north on Broadway or Limestone, Transylvania's campus is between Third and Fourth streets. Carrick Theatre is located in the Mitchell Fine Arts Center. The closest parking lot is at the rear of the building on Fourth, between Broadway and Upper.

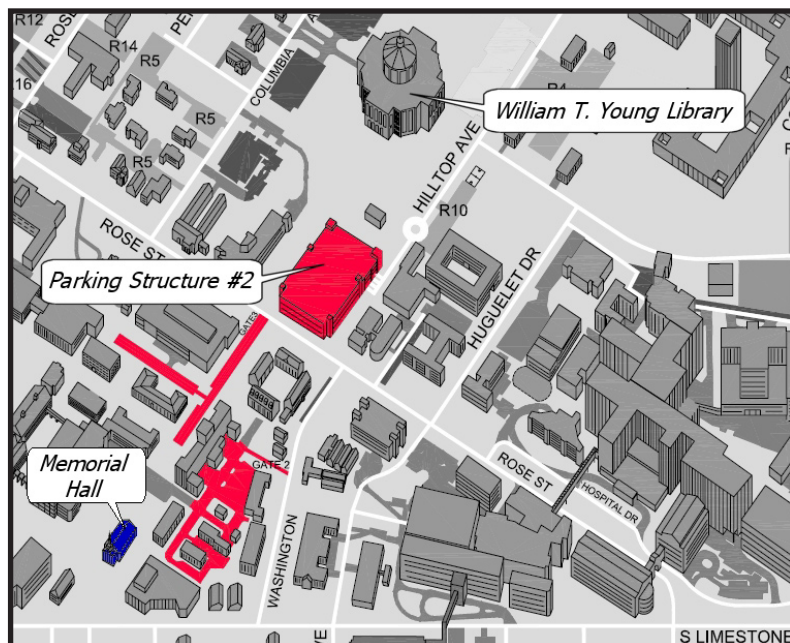
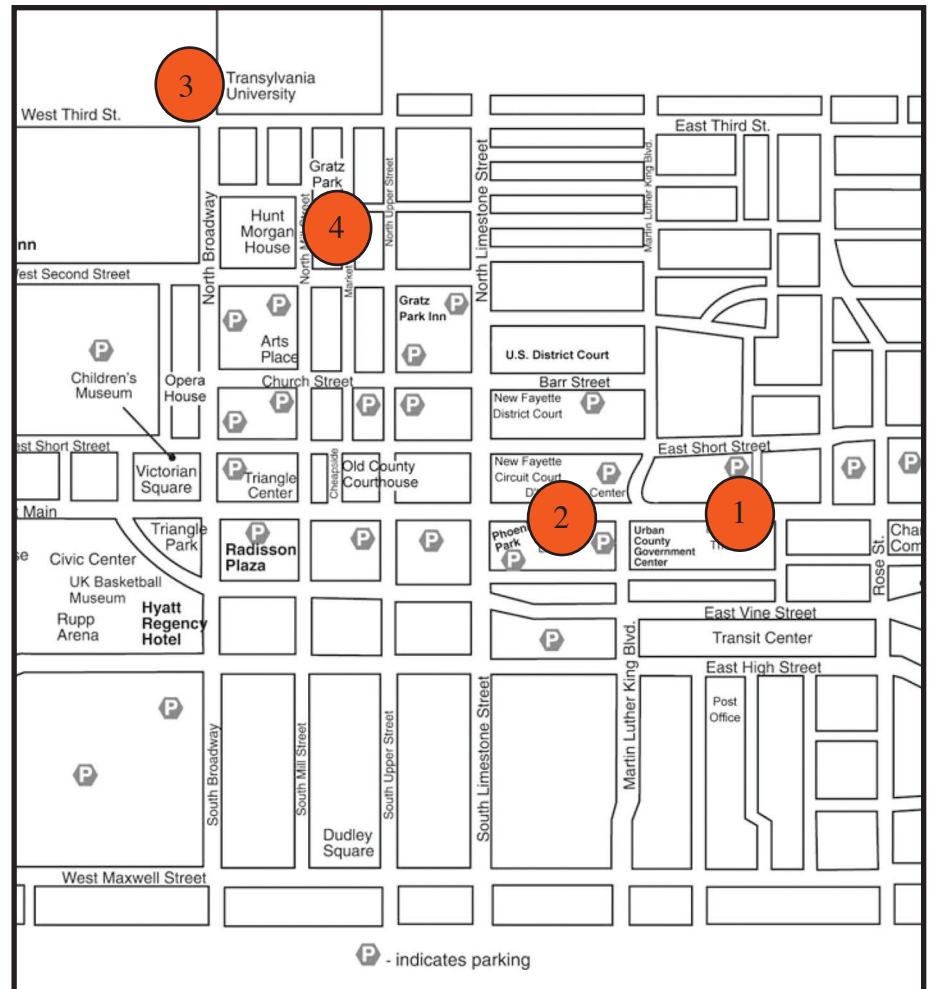
## Saturday day

Carnegie Center, 251 West Second Street: **4**

Street parking is plentiful on weekends, and the Carnegie Center is providing free parking passes to place on your windshields.

Public Library–Village Branch , 2185 Versailles Road

Parking: This library is about 2 miles west of downtown. You will leave downtown heading west on W. Main Street, which becomes Versailles Road. Turn right immediately after Long John Silvers onto Village Road. Village Branch is located in that strip mall, right next door to Save A Lot.



## Saturday Night

Memorial Hall, University of Kentucky  
610 South Limestone Street  
Red Areas are available parking.

Directions to Parking Structure 2, traveling from the Radisson Hotel, corner of W. Main Street & Broadway:

Drive south on Broadway for 3 blocks. At Maxwell Street, turn left and drive about 5 blocks to Rose Street. Turn right on Rose Street and drive 3 blocks to Columbia. Parking Structure #2 is on the left side of Rose just past Columbia. See the map to the left.

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*Never go hungry...*

# downtown Lexington

These locally-owned bars and restaurants are offering discounts to conference registrants.

## a la Lucie

159 N. Limestone St., 252-5277

American eclectic cuisine with a French flair reminiscent of France's West Bank where white tablecloths and leopard print converge.

## Alfalfa

141 E. Main St., 253-0014

Feeding vegetarians and carnivores alike with innovative and eclectic homemade eats for over 35 years. Live music most nights and the works of local artists featured on brick walls.

## Bigg Blue Martini

369 W. Vine St., 231-9000

A premier downtown hotspot, offering over 20 martinis. Inside the Radisson lobby, with views of Triangle Park, live piano music Friday nights, and live jazz on Saturday nights.

## Bombay Brazier

102 W. High St., 389-7107

Fine North Indian cuisine (rivaling London's Brick Lane) served in an intimate atmosphere in the historic Jefferson Davis building.

## Good Foods Chapter 2

Central Library lobby, 140 E. Main, 422-6802

Soups, salads, and sandwiches made fresh with organic ingredients, plus pastries, fair trade coffees, a full espresso bar, assorted beverages and deserts, and sushi delivered daily.

## Grotto

314 S. Ashland Ave., 266-8008

With a passion for Kentucky-derived ingredients, Grotto sets itself apart with its eclectic food selections and Mexican and southwestern influences, as well as a very robust "by the glass" wine list.

## Mia's

120 S. Upper St., 455-9903

Live music and art-donned walls round out a menu featuring the likes of Hot Brown Escargot, all served up with kitschy-glitz style.

## Natasha's Bistro Boutique

112 Esplande, 259-2754

Serving New American Cuisine, meaning everything from ratatouille and pizza to Asian salads, pastas and stir fries. An urban bistro in a space with a warehouse/theatre feel, "Definitely too funky to franchise."

## Stella's Kentucky Deli

143 Jefferson St., 255-3354

Simple, high quality foods that emphasize the superior flavors and textures of fresh, local ingredients. All sandwiches, salads, soups, and desserts are made by hand, in house, using seasonal ingredients.

## Third Street Stuff & Coffee

257 N. Limestone, 255-5301

Like walking into a fairy tale with a punk edge, this music and art venue serves up soups and sandwiches (and the likes of Lucky Charms cereal) with fair trade coffees and espresso drinks.

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## RECOMMENDED READING

Nickole Brown, *Sister: Poems*, 2007

Lee Byrd, *Riley's Fire*, 2006

Nathalie Handal, *The Lives of Rain*, 2005

Sally Jenkins, *The Real All Americans*, 2007

Jessica Care Moore, *The Alphabet Verses The Ghetto*, 2003

Naomi Shihab Nye, *I'll Ask You Three Times, Are You Okay?* 2007

Helen Oyeyemi, *The Opposite House*, 2007

Ann Pancake, *Strange As This Weather Has Been*, 2007

Michelle Slatalla, *The Town on Beaver Creek*, 2006

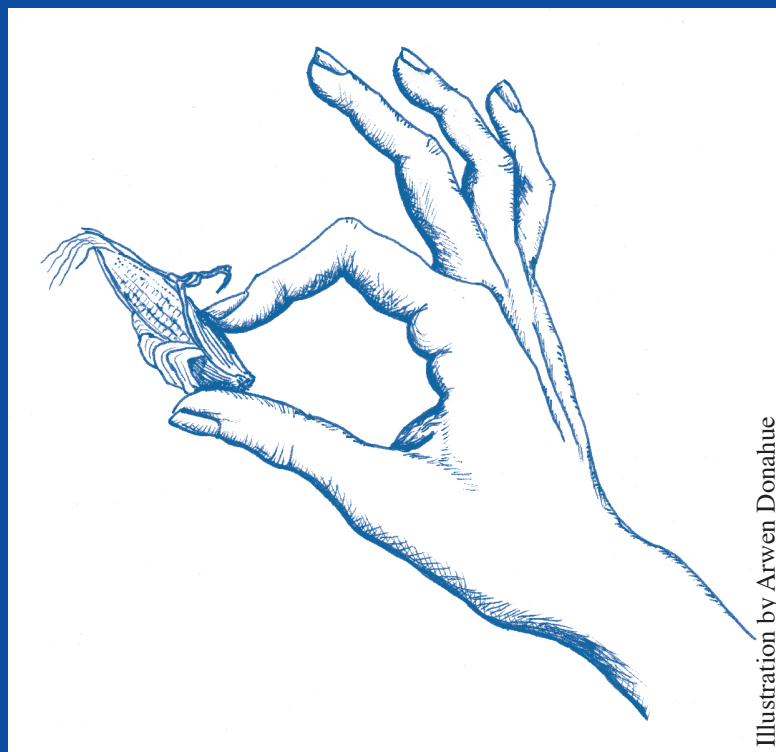


Illustration by Arwen Donahue





Conference presented by:

**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
Women Writers of Kentucky



*Thank You!*

Our deepest thanks to President Lee Todd and Associate Provost Philipp Kraemer, University of Kentucky, for their commitment to the literary community and Women Writers of Kentucky. Without the sustained devotion of the Friends of the Women Writers Conference and The Sonia Committee, this year's event would not be possible: Renee Boss, Doretha Burton, Sarah Van Arsdale Combs, Ann Grundy, Lori-Lyn Hurley, Ashley Lamb, Patrice Muhammad, Mwabi Kaira-Murdock, Jan Oaks, Tiffany Lauderdale Phillips, Phillis Rambsy, Jene' Schoenfeld, and Meg Upchurch. Many thanks to Jennie Level, Miki Wright, John VanMeter, and Jessica Fisher for the extraordinary generosity of *Nougat*. Kate Black of UK's Gender & Women's Studies orchestrated Movie Night and let us take credit for it. UK's publicity and development professionals have embraced this year's event with great enthusiasm: Gail Bennett, Verona Cumberledge, Whitney Hale, Danielle Montague, and Jenny Wells. The University Press of Kentucky has been an invaluable source of inspiration and example.

—Conference staff Julie Wrinn & Vaughan Fielder

## Organizations

Fifth Third Bank  
Keeneland Foundation  
Kentucky Foundation for Women  
LexArts  
Transylvania University  
University of Kentucky

## In-Kind Donations

Ann Tower Gallery  
Atlanta Bread Company  
Bluegrass Baking Company  
Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning  
Good Foods Chapter 2  
Highbridge Springs  
Joseph-Beth Booksellers  
Lexington Public Library, Central and Village Branches  
Nougat  
Third Street Stuff and Coffee  
University Press of Kentucky  
WUKY

