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Reader: up to \$99: Katherine J. Black, Ellen Furlough, Judy Goldsmith, Hilton Smith, Edward F. Stanton and Melissa A. McEuen

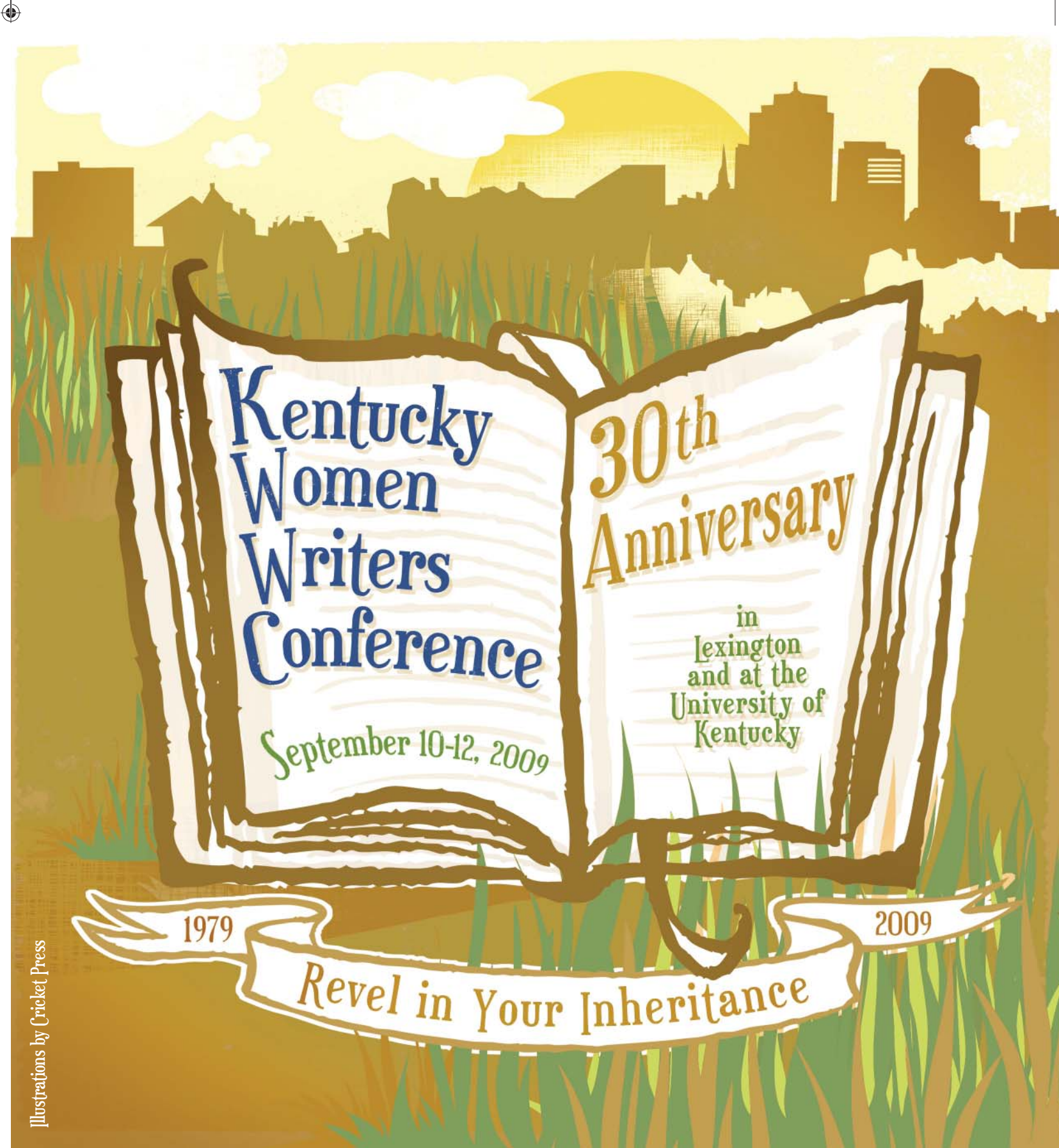
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Event Chairs: Patrice Muhammed, Sonia Sanchez Series * Bianca Spriggs, Gypsy Poetry Slam

Kentucky Women Writers Conference, Inc. & The University of Kentucky — a town-gown partnership



Illustrations by Cricket Press

Meet Our Presenters



Elizabeth Alexander is a poet, essayist, playwright and Yale professor who recently made history as the fourth poet to compose and deliver a poem at a presidential inauguration. Alexander's collections of poetry, which explore issues of race, gender, and politics, include *American Sublime*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, *Antebellum Dream Book*, *The Venus Hottentot*, and *Body of Life*.



Jenny Bent has made a practice of fashioning best sellers whether by spotting new talent or developing mid-career authors. Her list is varied and includes commercial fiction and nonfiction, literary fiction, and memoir. This year Jenny launched The Bent Agency in Brooklyn, NY.



Sallie Bingham published her first novel in 1961 and is the author of over ten books, most recently the short story collection *Red Car*. A noted feminist, she founded the Kentucky Foundation for Women and the Archive for Women's History at Duke University. Her *Passion and Prejudice: A Family Memoir* was published in 1989, and she is currently at work on a second memoir.



Nikky Finney is the author of *Heartwood*, a collection of short stories, and three books of poems, *On Wings Made of Gauze*, *Rice* (winner of a PEN American Open Book Award), and *The World Is Round* (winner of the 2004 Benjamin Franklin Award for Poetry). She's on faculty at the University of Kentucky and at Cave Canem, the writer's center for African-American poets. She is a founding member of the Affrilachian Poets.



Honorée Fanonne Jeffers is the author of three books of poetry, *The Gospel of Barbeque*, chosen by Lucille Clifton as the winner of the Stan and Tom Wick Prize for poetry; *Outlandish Blues*; and *Red Clay Suite*, chosen by Dorianne Lau as second prize for the Crab Orchard Open Competition Series.



Holly Goddard Jones's first book, *Girl Trouble*, appears this month from Harper Perennial. Her fiction has been published in the *Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, the *Gettysburg Review*, the *Hudson Review*, and *Epoch*; in two volumes of *New Stories from the South* (2007 and 2008); and in *Best American Mystery Stories* 2008. In 2007 she was honored with a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. She has taught at Murray State University in Kentucky and this fall joins the MFA faculty at UNC-Greensboro.

Our History: 30 Years of Women Mentoring Women

Thirty years ago the University of Kentucky held its first Women Writers Conference. UK English faculty Linda Pannill had the idea of an annual event. Working with a committee from several UK departments and the Lexington community, Pannill invited Maya Angelou, Toni Cade Bambara, Ruth Stone, Alice Walker, and Ruth Whitman to Lexington to teach, read, and exchange ideas. We are told that Ms. Walker read from a work-in-progress, later published in 1982 as *The Color Purple*.

In 1984–1985 the conference was directed by UK English faculty Jane Gentry Vance, who later served as Kentucky's Poet Laureate. In 1985–1993, the conference was affiliated with Continuing Education for Women and directed by Betty Gabehart. As the conference's longest director, Gabehart established much of the reputation it enjoys today. In 1994–1996, the conference was affiliated with Gender and Women's Studies and directed by English faculty Jan Oaks. In 1997, former conference assistant Patti DeYoung served as director.

In 1998 the conference lost university funding when it was unable to find a sponsoring department, and its advisory board established itself as a nonprofit organization. Its new home became the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, and it was renamed the Kentucky Women Writers Conference. Its director during those years, 1998–2002, was Jan Isenhour, also director of the Carnegie Center, and its work was carried on by a volunteer board.

In 2002 UK President Lee Todd reinstated support for the conference, providing the majority of funding and an unprecedented stability. Additional support from foundations, corporations, and individuals remains critical to our ability to attract writers of the highest caliber. Venues are provided at no cost by several downtown partners, and Transylvania University and Eastern Kentucky University have become generous sponsors.

Directors since then have been Brenda Weber (2003) and Rebecca Gayle Howell (2004–06). Howell launched several free community events that have become signature offerings of the conference, including the Gypsy Slam, the Sonia Sanchez Series, and the Hardwick/Jones keynote reading on mentorship. In 2007, Julie Kuzneski Wrinn became director, from a background in editing and book publishing.

Now the longest running literary festival of women in the nation, the Kentucky Women Writers Conference has become a premier destination for the celebration of women's arts and letters. Born in the early days of Women's Studies and encompassing generations of feminism, the conference has thrived despite shifting literary fashions and eras of uncertain funding. Kentuckians deserve to know this history and to claim credit for it, as a community that has stewarded, through good economic times and bad, such a rare and worthy endeavor.

Get Involved

Saturday Luncheon

To join a group at a downtown restaurant where we've reserved tables, look for volunteers in the lobby who will lead parties to Alfalfa, 141 E. Main St.; Cheapside, 131 Cheapside; and Third Street Stuff, 257 N. Limestone.

Poster Exhibit

Visit our poster exhibit on the 2nd floor of the Carnegie Center. The posters and brochures displayed are a vital part of the conference's history.

Are You Camera Ready?

Funded by the Kentucky Arts Council, filmmaker Sarah Wylie Ammerman and oral historian Arwen Donahue are making a documentary film on the history of the conference. If you see them toting cameras or microphones, think of something interesting to say and don't be shy!



Conference Staff

Julie Kuzneski Wrinn, Director
Vaughan Ashlie Fielder, Webmadam,
Designer, & Program Coordinator



Venues and Parking

1: Friday: daytime sessions

Public Library, Central Branch, 140 E. Main
Free parking is available in the Library's parking garage. Bring your garage ticket to our registration table for validation.

2: Friday Evening: Sonia Sanchez Series

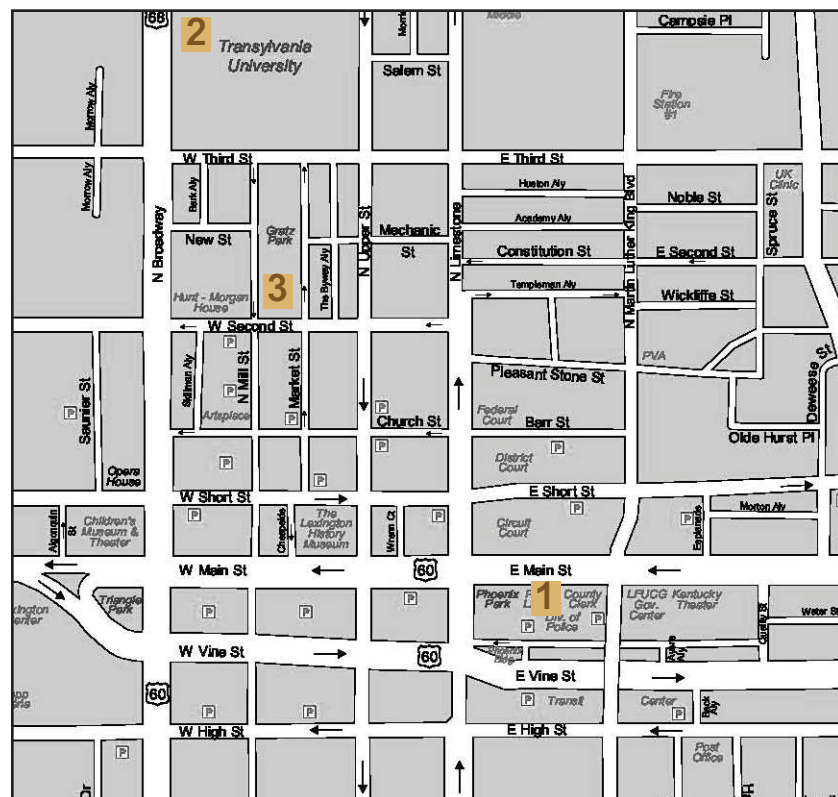
Coleman Recital Hall, Transylvania University, 300 N. Broadway; Heading north on Broadway or Limestone, Transylvania's campus is between Third and Fourth streets. Coleman Recital Hall is located in the Mitchell Fine Arts Center. The closest parking lot is at the rear of the building on Fourth Street, between Broadway and Upper.

3: Saturday: daytime sessions

Carnegie Center, 251 West Second St.
Street parking is plentiful on weekends.

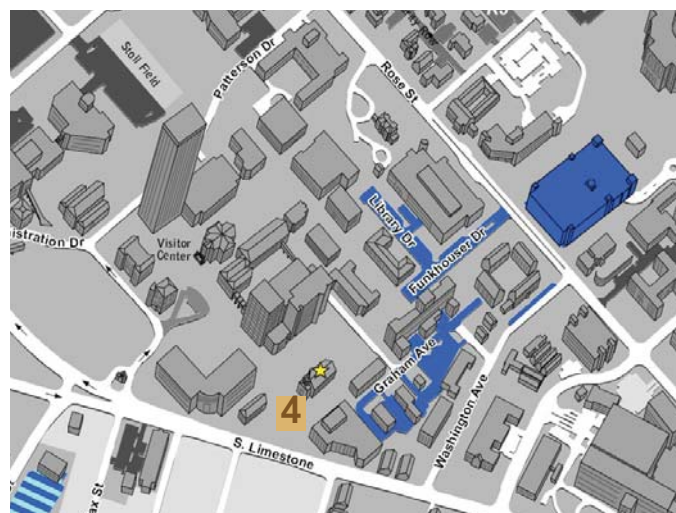
4: Saturday Evening: Keynote reading

See below for a map and parking at the University of Kentucky



Keynote Reading

Join Elizabeth Alexander and Honorée Fanonne Jeffers at Memorial Hall on the University of Kentucky's Campus on Saturday Evening. Parking areas open on weekends are highlighted in the map to the left in blue.



Gina McCauley was named on *Essence* magazine's list of the 25 Most Influential African Americans of 2007 for *What About Our Daughters?*, a blog dedicated to combating negative portrayals of African American Women in popular culture. She is the founder of *Blogging While Brown*, the first international conference for bloggers of color.



Rachel McKibbens is known for her visceral stage presence and devotion to slam poetry. One of the most respected poets in the spoken word community, she is an eight-time National Poetry Slam team member, a three-time NPS finalist, a 2007 New York Foundation for the Arts poetry fellow, and a Pushcart nominee.



Christine Schutt's second novel, *All Souls*, set in a Manhattan prep school for girls where a beloved student battles a rare cancer, was a finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize. Her first novel, *Florida*, was a finalist for the 2004 National Book Award.



Susan Vreeland is recognized internationally for historical fiction on art themes. Her newest novel, *Luncheon of the Boating Party*, reveals Renoir's masterpiece, the personalities involved in its making, and the vibrancy of late nineteenth-century Paris. *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* (Book Sense Book of the Year finalist; and *NYTimes* bestseller) traces an alleged Vermeer painting through the centuries and shows the power of art to influence lives.

Special Guests



Lynnell Edwards is the author of two books of poetry, *The Highwayman's Wife* (2007) and *The Farmer's Daughter* (2003), both from Red Hen Press. She teaches at Bellarmine University and the University of Louisville.

Liz Fentress, an actor, director, and playwright, formerly served as associate producer of Horse Cave Theatre. Her play *The Honey Harvest* won the North American Actors Association annual playwriting competition and was staged in London's West End.

Carrie Green's poems have appeared in *Gulf Stream* and are forthcoming in *ABZ*. She is a reference librarian at the Jessamine County Public Library.

Donna Ison is the author of a comic novel, *The Miracle of Myrtle: Saint Gone Wild* (Arctic Wolf, 2009), and serves as the resident playwright for the Kentucky Historical Society.

Kate Larken has been writing, teaching and performing for decades. She is the publisher and founder of MotesBooks in Louisville.

Betty Peterson is a professor of English at Somerset Community College and has seen five of her plays produced on various Kentucky stages.

The **KaBooM Writing Group** is Mary H. Alexander, Susan Christerson Brown, Jan Isenhour, Leatha Kendrick, Gail M. Koehler, Lynn Pruett, and Pam Sexton.

Friday, September 11

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

8:30–9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION and complimentary continental breakfast

9:00–10:15 a.m.

“Re-visioning Your Fiction”—part 1
2-DAY SEMINAR with **Susan Vreeland**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, library theater

“Book Reviewing as Critical and Creative Practice: The Hows and Whys of Getting Started”
SEMINAR with **Lynnell Edwards**
open to all registrants, 5th floor, boardroom

2-DAY WORKSHOP IN POETRY—part 1
with **Honorée Fanonne Jeffers**
by reservation only, 4th floor, conference room C

10:30–11:45 a.m.

“Luncheon of the Boating Party”
READING in historical fiction by **Susan Vreeland**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, library theater

“From Query to Book Tour and Beyond”—part 1
2-DAY SEMINAR with **Jenny Bent**
open to all registrants, 5th floor, boardroom

“Finding the Sack of Blood in Your Poem: Image”—part 1
2-DAY WORKSHOP IN POETRY with **Rachel McKibbens**
by reservation only, 4th floor, conference room C

12:00–1:30 p.m.

lunch on your own, or
30TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON with **Sallie Bingham**
Portofino Restaurant, 249 E. Main, 859-253-9300
\$15 * SOLD OUT

1:30–2:45 p.m.

“The Art of Blogging: Microactivism in the New Millennium”
SEMINAR with **Gina McCauley**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, library theater

“Putting Your Story in Its Context”
WORKSHOP IN MEMOIR with **Sallie Bingham**
by reservation only, 5th floor, boardroom

2-DAY WORKSHOP IN POETRY—part 1 with **Nikky Finney**
by reservation only, 4th floor, conference room C

“Text and Subtext”—part 1
2-DAY WORKSHOP IN FICTION with **Holly Goddard Jones**
by reservation only, lower level, conference room A

3:00–4:15 p.m.

“Playwriting: From Page to Stage to Page”
EXCHANGE with **Sallie Bingham, Liz Fentress, Kate Larken, and Betty Peterson**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, library theater

“Betty Gabehart Prize”
READINGS by winners **Emma Bolden** and **Lisa Dordal**
open to all registrants, 5th floor, boardroom

“Sustaining a Fiction”—part 1
2-DAY WORKSHOP with **Christine Schutt**
by reservation only, conference room C

4:30–5:30 p.m.

READING with **Holly Goddard Jones** and **Nikky Finney**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, library theater

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Dinner on your own

HAPPY HOUR READING: 90 Seconds Open Mic
Natasha’s Bistro, 112 Esplanade, 859-259-2754
Please sign up in advance at the registration table.

7:30–9:00 p.m.

“What About Our Daughters?”
SONIA SANCHEZ SERIES lecture with **Gina McCauley**
Coleman Recital Hall, Transylvania University,
300 N. Broadway, *free and open to the public*

9:00 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC: **Wishing Chair**
Natasha’s Bistro, 112 Esplanade, 859-259-2754, \$10

All daytimes sessions on Saturday are located at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 W. 2nd St.

8:30–9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION and complimentary continental breakfast

9:00–10:15 a.m.

“Re-visioning Your Fiction”—part 2
2-DAY SEMINAR with **Susan Vreeland**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, Stuart room

“Online Resources for Creative Writers”
SEMINAR with **Carrie Green**
open to all registrants, 2nd floor, Allen room

2-DAY WORKSHOP IN POETRY—part 2
with **Honorée Fanonne Jeffers**
by reservation only, lower level, Warren room

10:30–11:45 a.m.

“Red Car”
READING IN FICTION by **Sallie Bingham**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, Stuart room

“From Query to Book Tour and Beyond”—part 2
2-DAY SEMINAR with **Jenny Bent**
open to all registrants, 2nd floor, Allen room

“Finding the Sack of Blood in Your Poem: Image”—part 2
2-DAY WORKSHOP IN POETRY with **Rachel McKibbens**
by reservation only, lower level, Warren room

12:00–1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY LUNCHEON PARTIES. *See p. 7 for details.*

1:30–2:45 p.m.

“Collective Energy: Taking Our Writing to the Next Level”
EXCHANGE with **KaBoom Writing Group**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, Stuart room

READING: The Carnegie Center’s **Young Women Writers**
open to the general public, 2nd floor, Allen room

Saturday, September 12

2-DAY WORKSHOP IN POETRY—part 2 with **Nikky Finney**
by reservation only, 1st floor, Still room

“Text and Subtext”—part 2
2-DAY WORKSHOP IN FICTION with **Holly Goddard Jones**
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

3:00–4:15 p.m.

“Poetry and Spirituality”
EXCHANGE with **Elizabeth Alexander, Nikky Finney, and Honorée Fanonne Jeffers**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, Stuart Room

“Sustaining a Fiction”—part 2
2-DAY WORKSHOP with **Christine Schutt**
by reservation only, 2nd floor, Allen room

MANUSCRIPT CONSULTATIONS with **Jenny Bent**
Individual meetings with 5 registrants, chosen by lottery
by reservation only, 1st floor, Still room

4:30–5:30 p.m.

“All Souls”
READING with **Christine Schutt**
open to all registrants, 1st floor, Stuart room

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Dinner on your own

7:30–9:00 p.m.

“Voices and Visions in Contemporary American Poetry”
HARDWICK/JONES KEYNOTE READING
with **Elizabeth Alexander** and **Honorée Fanonne Jeffers**
Memorial Hall Theater, 610 S. Limestone Street,
University of Kentucky
Located 1.3 miles from Carnegie Center.
See p. 6 for map and parking.
Free and open to the public.