

# KENTUCKY WOMEN WRITERS CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 10-12

# OUR PRESENTERS



**Diane Ackerman** is a bestselling poet, essayist, and naturalist whose books include *A Natural History of the Senses*, *I Praise My Destroyer*, *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*, and her latest, *Dawn Light: Dancing with Cranes and Other Ways to Start the Day*. She earned an M.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. from Cornell

University and has received many awards, including a D. Litt. from Kenyon College, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the John Burroughs Nature Award, and the Lavan Poetry Prize, as well as being honored as a Literary Lion by the New York Public Library. She lives in Ithaca, New York, and Palm Beach, Florida.



**Jennifer Chang** is the author of *The History of Anonymity* and has been published in numerous journals and anthologies including the *Boston Review*, the *New England Review*, the *New Republic*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, & *Best New Poets 2005*. She is a Ph.D. student in English at the University of Virginia.



**Erin Cox** develops and represents writers for Rob Weisbach Creative Management, a comprehensive company that provides development, representation, and strategic career management for writers, visual artists, designers, and editors. Erin was most recently

Book Publishing Director at the *New Yorker*, where she oversaw book advertising and developed support for books on the business and editorial sides of the magazine. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.



**Sue Halpern** is a former Rhodes Scholar and Guggenheim Fellow who received her doctorate from Oxford in 1985 and taught ethics and social medicine at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Her books include *Migrations to Solitude*, *Four Wings and a Prayer: Caught in the Mystery of*

*the Monarch Butterfly*, and *Can't Remember What I Forgot: Your Memory, Your Mind, Your Future*. She lives in Vermont and the Adirondacks.



**C. E. Morgan** is a graduate of Berea College and Harvard Divinity School. Her first novel, *All the Living*, was a finalist for the Pen/Hemingway Award and earned her recognition as one of "5 Under 35" best writers in the nation by the National Book Foundation. Her short story "Twins" appeared recently in the

*New Yorker* magazine, and she is at work on a second novel. She lives in Berea, Kentucky.



**Simone Muench** is the author of *The Air Lost in Breathing* (Marianne Moore Prize), *Lampblack & Ash* (Kathryn A. Morton Prize), and most recently *Orange Crush*. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and directs the Writing Program at Lewis University in Chicago,

where she teaches creative writing and film studies.



**Heather Sellers'** *Georgia Under Water* was chosen for the Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers program. Her other books include *The Boys I Borrow*, *Page After Page*, *Chapter After Chapter*, and a forthcoming memoir about face blindness, *You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know*. She was born and raised

in Florida, earned a Ph.D. in English/Creative Writing from Florida State University, and is a professor of English at Hope College in Holland, Michigan.



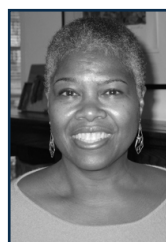
**Patricia Smith** is the author of five volumes of poetry, including *Blood Dazzler*, about Hurricane Katrina, a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award. A four-time champion of the National Poetry Slam, she is the most successful poet in the competition's history and has performed around the world. She is currently

at work on *Shoulda Been Jimmie Savannah*, a memoir in formal verse; the young adult novel *The Journey of Willie J*; and a *Blood Dazzler* collaboration with Paloma McGregor. Patricia is a professor of creative writing at the City University of New York/Staten Island.



**Mary Ann Taylor-Hall** is the author of two novels, *Come and Go*, *Molly Snow* and *At the Breakers*, and a collection of short fiction, *How She Knows What She Knows About Yo-Yos*. She received a B.A. in English from the University of Florida and an M.A. with honors from Columbia University, specializing in dramatic

literature. She studied acting with Herbert Berghof and Uta Hagen and has taught at several schools, including the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University. She lives in Sadieville, Kentucky.



**Valerie Wilson Wesley** is the author of 10 novels including *Playing My Mother's Blues*, the mystery series featuring private detective Tamara Hayle, and several works for children including the *Willimena Rules!* series. She is formerly executive editor of *Essence* magazine. Most of her books have been Blackboard

bestsellers, and many have been published overseas. A graduate of Howard University, she holds masters degrees from the Bank Street College of Education and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. She lives in Upper Montclair, New Jersey.



**Kathleen Driskell's** latest collection of poetry *Seed Across Snow* was listed as a national bestseller by the Poetry Foundation. She is associate program director of Spalding University's MFA in writing in Louisville, Kentucky, where she lives with her husband and two teenagers in a country church built before the American Civil War.

**Donna Ison** is an actress, slam poet, and the author of *The Miracle of Myrtle: Saint Gone Wild* and *Flirtini with Disaster*. She serves as a resident playwright for the Kentucky Historical Society. Most recently, Donna helped found the performance troupe Sisters Provocateur and became the Lexington editor of *skirt!* magazine.

**Kate Larken** has been writing, editing, teaching and performing for decades. Besides being a musician and songwriter, she is the publisher and founder of MotesBooks in Louisville.

**Leah Maines** has served as the senior editor for Finishing Line Press since 2002. She has edited over 550 poetry collections and is former Poet-in-Residence of Northern Kentucky University. Maines is the author of two poetry books, *Looking to the East with Western Eyess: New Women's Voices Series, No. 1* and *Beyond the River*.

**Darlene Mazzone** is president of Mazzone Communications in Paducah, KY, and has been a journalist and publisher for more than 20 years. She was formerly a partner in the marketing firm LaneMazzone & Associates. Since 1994 she has been executive editor and publisher of the bi-monthly *Paducah Life* magazine and the annual *Wedding Book*.

**Bianca Spriggs**, Affrilachian Poet and Cave Canem Fellow, is the author of *Kaffir Lily*. She is a freelance instructor of composition, literature, and creative writing, a Kentucky Humanities Council lecturer, and the creator and programmer of the Gypsy Poetry Slam.

**Katerina Stoykova-Klemer** is the author of *The Air Around the Butterfly* and *The Most*. Katerina hosts the literary radio show Accents on WRFL, and is founder and senior editor of Accents Publishing.

**Crystal Wilkinson** is the author of two books, *Blackberries*, *Blackberries*, named Best Debut Fiction by *Today's Librarian* magazine, and *Water Street*. Her forthcoming novel is entitled *The Birds of Opulence*. She is a faculty member in Spalding University's MFA writing program and a visiting professor and writer in residence for Morehead State University.

**Lisa Williams** is the author of *Woman Reading to the Sea*, which won the Barnard Women Poets Prize, and *The Hammered Dulcimer*, selected by John Hollander for the May Swenson Award. She was awarded the Rome Prize in 2004. Originally from Nashville, she is NEH Associate Professor of English and director of creative writing at Centre College in Kentucky.

**Sarah Wylie A. Van Meter** has created a documentary about writer, photographer, and teacher James Baker Hall, and she is currently producing a documentary on the 30-year history of the Kentucky Women Writers Conference. She is a co-director for the Lexington Film League, a nonprofit organization that serves the Kentucky film community. She teaches in the University of Kentucky Art Department.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

# GYPSY POETRY SLAM

A spoken-word competition featuring slam champion PATRICIA SMITH  
with emcee BIANCA SPRIGGS

Opening performance of *Transforming Woman*  
Directed by DONNA ISON

SEPTEMBER 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m. | Downtown Arts Center | 141 E. Main St. | FREE ADMISSION

# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

## 8:30–9:00 AM

Registration and complimentary continental breakfast

## 9:00–10:15 AM

“Page After Page: Inspiration Meets Craft: 10 tips for finishing your book”  
seminar in fiction with **Heather Sellers**, part I  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, library theater

## 2-day small-group workshops (9:00–11:30 am)

“Green Thoughts and Sensitive Plants”  
workshop in poetry with **Jennifer Chang**, part I  
*by reservation only*, 4th floor, conference room B

“Finding Your Voice”  
workshop in nonfiction with **Sue Halpern**, part I  
*by reservation only*, 4th floor, conference room C

“Call & Response: Writing Poetry as a Collaborative Act”  
workshop in poetry with **Simone Muench**, part I  
*by reservation only*, lower level, conference room A

“Confronting the Poem That Strikes You Silent”  
workshop in poetry with **Patricia Smith**, part I  
*by reservation only*, 5th floor, board room

## 10:30–11:30 AM

“At the Breakers”  
reading in fiction by **Mary Ann Taylor-Hall**  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, library theater

## 2-day small-group workshop (11:30 am–1:00 pm)

“Stories with Zing! The Key to Creating Memorable Fiction”  
workshop in fiction with **Valerie Wilson Wesley**, part I  
*by reservation only*, 4th floor, conference room B

## 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

plenary luncheon with **Sue Halpern**  
Portofino Restaurant, 249 East Main, 859-253-9300  
\$15—SOLD OUT

## 1:30–2:45 PM

“You Don’t Look Like Anyone I Know”  
reading in memoir by **Heather Sellers**  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, library theater

“Literary Agents: How to Find One, Keep One, & Be Inspired”  
seminar with **Erin Cox**  
*open to all registrants*, lower level, conference room A

## 2-day small-group workshop (1:30–4:00 pm)

“Pan Out, Zoom In:  
The uses of dramatic scene and narrative summary”  
workshop in fiction with **Mary Ann Taylor-Hall**, part I  
*by reservation only*, 4th floor, conference room C

## 3:00–4:00 PM

“The Importance of Nature, Human and Otherwise, to Writing”  
exchange with **Diane Ackerman** & **Sue Halpern**  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, library theater

manuscript consultations with **Erin Cox**  
*by reservation only*, 4th floor, conference room B  
(ends at 5:15 pm)

## 4:15–5:30 PM

“The History of Anonymity” and “Orange Crush”  
readings in poetry by **Jennifer Chang** & **Simone Muench**  
*free and open to all*, 1st floor, library theater

## 5:30–8:00 PM

Dinner on your own

## 8:00–9:30 PM

“Dawn Light: Dancing with Cranes and Other Ways to Start the Day”  
reading by **Diane Ackerman**  
with Q & A moderated by **Heather Sellers**  
*free and open to all*  
Memorial Hall Theater, 610 South Limestone Street,  
University of Kentucky, 1.3 miles from Carnegie Center  
See page 6 for map and parking.

*All Sunday sessions are held at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West Second Street*

## 8:30–9:00 AM

registration and complimentary continental breakfast

## 9:00–10:15 AM

“Page After Page: Inspiration Meets Craft  
10 tips for finishing your book”  
seminar in fiction with **Heather Sellers**, part II  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, Stuart room

## 2-day small-group workshops (9:00–11:30 am)

“Green Thoughts and Sensitive Plants”  
workshop in poetry with **Jennifer Chang**, part II  
*by reservation only*, lower level, Warren room

“Finding Your Voice”  
workshop in nonfiction with **Sue Halpern**, part II  
*by reservation only*, lower level, Wells Brown room

“Call & Response: Writing Poetry as a Collaborative Act”  
workshop in poetry with **Simone Muench**, part II  
*by reservation only*, lower level, Caudill room

“Confronting the Poem That Strikes You Silent”  
workshop in poetry with **Patricia Smith**, part II  
*by reservation only*, lower level, Roberts room

## 10:30–11:30 AM

“Betty Gabehart Prize”  
readings by winners **Joyce Latham**,  
**Elaine Fowler Palencia**, & **Mariam Williams**  
*open to all registrants*, 2nd floor, Allen room

“Book Publicity”  
seminar with literary agent **Erin Cox**  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, Stuart room

## 2-day small-group workshop (11:30 am–1:00 pm)

“Stories with Zing! The Key to Creating Memorable Fiction”  
workshop in fiction with **Valerie Wilson Wesley**, part II  
*by reservation only*, lower level, Warren room

## 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Sunday brunch parties, see page 7 for details

## 1:00–2:45 PM

“Poems Breaking into Stories/Stories Breaking into Poems,”  
exchange with **Jennifer Chang**, **Simone Muench** &  
**Patricia Smith**, moderated by **Lisa Williams**  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, Stuart room

“Book Publicity continued”  
30-minute break-out sessions with agent **Erin Cox**:  
1:30–2:00 fiction; 2:00–2:30 nonfiction; 2:30–3:00 poetry  
*open to all registrants*, 2nd floor, Allen room

## 2-day small-group workshop (1:30–4:00 pm)

“Pan Out, Zoom In”  
workshop in fiction with **Mary Ann Taylor-Hall**, part II  
*by reservation only*, lower level, Warren room

## 3:00–4:00 PM

“Publishing in the Commonwealth”  
exchange with **Kate Larken**, **Leah Maines**, **Darlene Mazzone**, & **Katerina Stoykova-Klemer**  
*open to all registrants*, 1st floor, Stuart room

“Documenting Writers”  
seminar in film with **Sarah Wylie A. Van Meter**  
*open to all registrants*, lower level

reading by the Carnegie Center’s **Young Women Writers**  
*open to all registrants*, 2nd floor, Allen room

## 4:15–5:30 PM

“Six Steps to Getting Whatever You Want”  
The Sonia Sanchez Series lecture with **Valerie Wilson Wesley**  
*free and open to all*, 1st floor, Stuart room

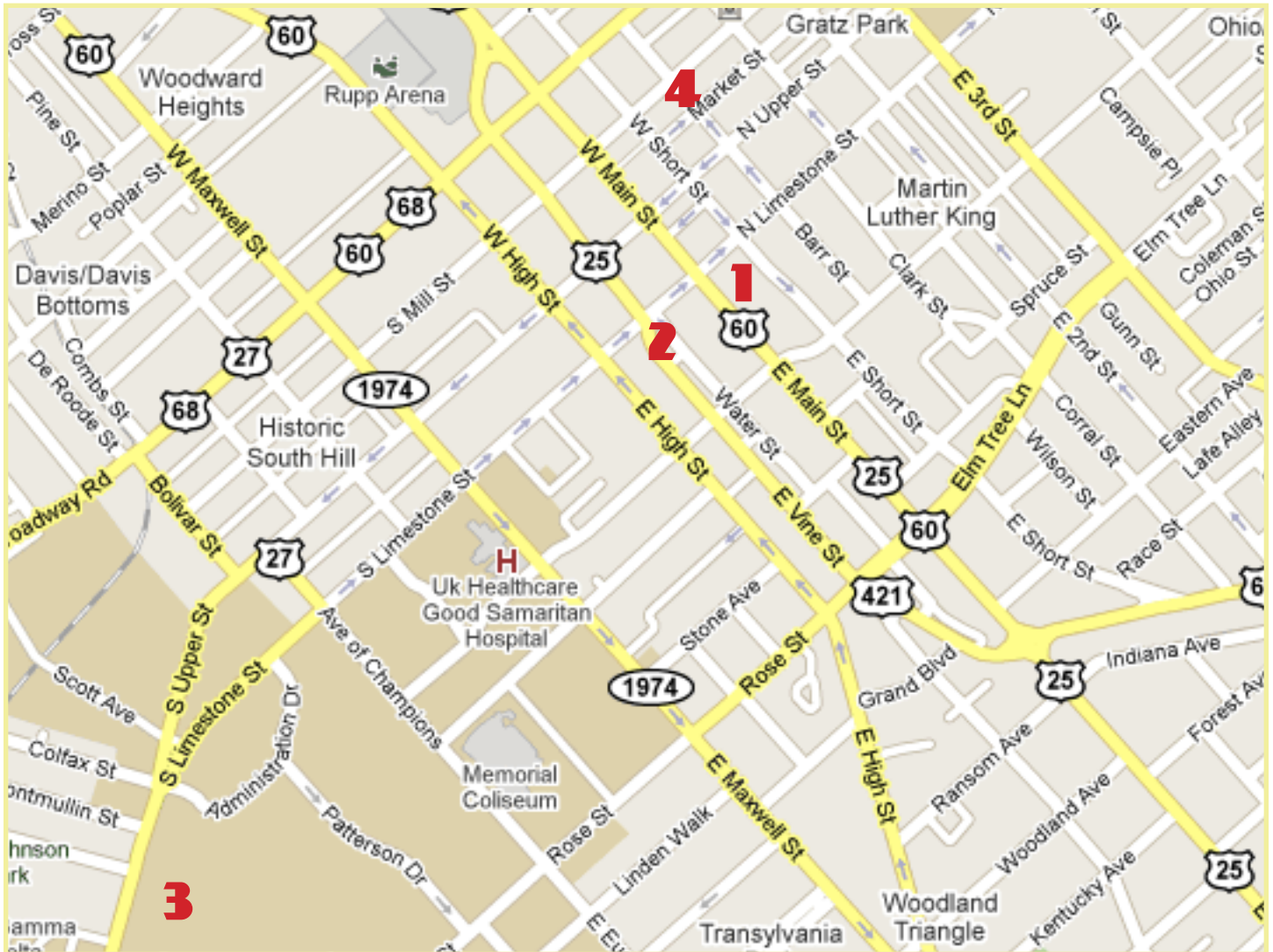
## 5:30–7:00 PM

Dinner on your own

## 7:00–8:30 PM

“Etiquette, Opulence, and Amplitude”  
new work by **Kathleen Driskell**, **C.E. Morgan**  
& **Crystal Wilkinson**  
A Stars with Accents reading for BoomsLang,  
moderated by **Katerina Stoykova-Klemer**  
*free and open to all*, 1st floor, Stuart room

# FINDING THE CONFERENCE



## 1 – FRIDAY NIGHT

7:00–9:00 pm: Gypsy Poetry Slam with Patricia Smith | Downtown Arts Center | 141 East Main St.  
Parking is available on the street and in parking garages on Main Street.

## 2 – SATURDAY DAYTIME SESSIONS

8:30 am–5:30 pm | Lexington Public Library–Central Branch | 140 East Main St.  
Free parking in the library parking garage is available for conference registrants. Bring your ticket to our registration table for validation.

## 3 – SATURDAY NIGHT KEYNOTE READING

8:00–9:30 pm | Reading by Diane Ackerman | Memorial Hall | University of Kentucky | 610 S. Limestone St.  
The best way to avoid UK football-game traffic (kick-off is at 7:30) is to turn onto Bolivar Street from Broadway. Once on Bolivar, take a right on South Upper Street and another right on Scott Avenue. There is street parking on Scott Avenue, and any UK “E” lots are open to the public on weekends. Memorial Hall is across Limestone.

## 4 – SUNDAY DAYTIME SESSIONS & EVENING READING

8:30 am–5:30 pm: | Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning | 251 W. Second St.  
7:00–8:30 pm | Stars with Accents | Street parking on weekends is plentiful.



## SUNDAY LUNCHEONS

To join a group at a downtown restaurant where we've reserved tables, look for volunteers in the Carnegie Center lobby who will lead parties to Doodles, 262 N. Limestone; Cheapside, 131 Cheapside St.; and Third Street Stuff, 257 N. Limestone.

## 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. Or simply email us your feedback at [womenwriters@uky.edu](mailto:womenwriters@uky.edu).

## STAY IN TOUCH

To join our listserv, email us at [womenwriters@uky.edu](mailto:womenwriters@uky.edu), or find us on 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 only way to protect the conference's future is through an endowment. Donors may endow a lecture series, a writing contest, or scholarships for students. With leadership from our Board of Advisors, we aim to secure the Women Writers Conference for the next 30 years and beyond.

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Women Writers of Kentucky

## RECOMMENDED READING

Diane Ackerman  
*Dawn Light: Dancing with Cranes  
& Other Ways to Start the Day*

Jennifer Chang  
*The History of Anonymity*

Sue Halpern  
*Can't Remember What I Forgot*

C.E. Morgan  
*All the Living*

Simone Muench  
*Orange Crush*

Heather Sellers  
*You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know*

Patricia Smith  
*Blood Dazzler*

Mary Ann Taylor-Hall  
*At The Breakers*

Valerie Wilson Wesley  
*Playing My Mother's Blues*

These titles & more will be sold during the conference by Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

## CONFERENCE ETIQUETTE

The Lexington Public Library and the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning have supported the Kentucky Women Writers Conference by graciously donating their space, time, and staff. Please respect classrooms by picking up after yourself and recycling cans and bottles in available receptacles. Be kind and courteous to the individuals who have donated their time and energy to make our conference a success.

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