37th annual

September 10–13, 2015
Thursday, September 10

The Lyric Theatre, 300 East 3rd Street, downtown Lexington
6:00–8:00 p.m.
BuddDDDD Sonia Sanchez: a new documentary film and conversation with Sonia Sanchez and Patrice Muhammad
Free and open to the public

Friday, September 11

All daytime sessions are held at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West 2nd St.

8:00–9:00 a.m.
registration and complimentary continental breakfast

9:00–10:00 a.m., plenary session
reading by Sonia Sanchez, with introduction and Q & A by DaMaris Hill
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. small group workshops
by reservation only
The Obstructions
workshop in poetry with Angela Ball, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room
One Poem, Two Attitudes
workshop in poetry with Kathleen Driskell, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Sexton Room
The Power of Persona Poems
workshop in poetry with Jessica Helen Lopez, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

10:15–11:15 a.m.
“Can the Writing Life Make Peace With Family Life?”
panel discussion with Meghan Daum, DaMaris Hill, Hannah Pittard, and Julie Wrin
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
manuscript meetings with Joy Harris
by reservation only, first floor, Writers Reference Room

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
readings by Jacinda Townsend and Emily Bingham
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

12:30–2:00 p.m.
Boxed lunches will be available for all participants on the first floor.

2:00–3:00 p.m.
Signing with an Agent, with Joy Harris
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room
Small Group Workshops, 2:00–4:15 p.m.

Saturday, September 12

All daytime sessions are held at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West 2nd St.

8:00–9:00 a.m.
registration and complimentary continental breakfast

9:00–10:00 a.m., plenary session

What I Think I’m Doing
fiction craft talk by Ann Beattie
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. small group workshops
by reservation only
The Obstructions
workshop in poetry with Angela Ball, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room
One Poem, Two Attitudes
workshop in poetry with Kathleen Driskell, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Sexton Room
The Power of Persona Poems
workshop in poetry with Jessica Helen Lopez, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room

10:15–11:15 a.m.
Navigating the Changing Marketplace for Your Work
publishing seminar with Joy Harris, introduced by Sena Jeter Naslund
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

11:30–12:30 p.m.
dramatic reading by Carson Kreitzer, with introduction and Q & A by Eric Seale
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

12:30–2:00 p.m.
Group lunches at nearby restaurants: look for board members in the Carnegie Center lobby who will gather and lead parties to these restaurants.

3:15–4:15 p.m.
Publishing Strategies for Poets
panel discussion with Lynnell Edwards, Kristen Miller, Kiki Petrosino, and Katerina Stoykova-Klemer
open to all registrants, first floor, Writers Room

4:30–5:30 p.m.
readings by Angela Ball and Kathleen Driskell
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

6:00–7:30 p.m., Writer’s Reception
by advance purchase only, SingleTree Center Lobby
405 Rose Street, University of Kentucky campus (see map on p. 9)

7:30–9:00 p.m.
All This Useless Beauty: Symbol and Subtext in the Short Story
discussion by Ann Beattie & conversation with Hannah Pittard
free and open to everyone, SingleTree Center Recital Hall, 405 Rose Street

Sunday, September 13

The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, 251 West 2nd St, downtown Lexington

10:00–11:30 a.m. Stars with Accents
readings by Bianca Barghi, Martha Billips, and Allison Joseph, with introduction and Q & A by Katerina Stoykova-Klemer
free and open to the public, first floor, Stuart Room

Small Group Workshops, 2:00–4:15 p.m.
by reservation only
Writing Lives: Loud and Quiet
biography/nonfiction workshop with Emily Bingham, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room
Self Exposure vs. Self-Examination
workshop in memoir and personal essay with Meghan Daum, part 2
by reservation only, second floor, Dunnigan Room
Road Trip: Finding Inspiration in Place
workshop in fiction with Hannah Pittard, part 2
by reservation only, second floor, Dunnigan Room
Conflict Through Character: The Bottom-Up Approach
workshop in fiction with Jacinda Townsend, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

3:05–4:25 p.m.
Young Women Writers and Teen Howl Poets: readings open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

4:30–5:30 p.m.
readings by Meghan Daum and Hannah Pittard
open to all registrants, first floor, Stuart Room

6:00–7:30 p.m.
90 Seconds, Open Mic, emceed by Sara Volpi
Natalia’s Bistro, 112 Esplanade Alley
Please sign up in advance at the registration table.

7:00–9:00 p.m.
Wild Women of Poetry Slam
A spoken word competition with audience judging, emceed by Bianca Springs, with feature poet and celebrity judge Jessica Helen Lopez, and music by Nashville singer songwriter Amarynth Kiah.
Poets Christina Boyd, Lisa Marie and Jordon Roberts will compete for the $500 Faith A. Smith Prize.
free and open in the public, Downtown Arts Center, 141 East Main St.
Angela Ball is professor of English in the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Missouri. She is the author of five poetry collections, including The Museum of the Revolution: 58 Escobitas, Poucette, Quartet, and Night Clerk at the Hotel of Both Worlds; as well as two chapbooks. Her work has been featured in Best American Poetry, on the Writer’s Almanac with Garrison Keillor, and has been frequently anthologized; journals that have featured her poems and translations include FIELD, The New Yorker, Poughkeepsie, The New Republic, Poetry, Grand Street, Partisan Review, and the Atlantic Monthly. For 32 years she served as Poetry Editor for Mississippi Review. She has been named the Distinguished Moorman Professor at the University of Southern Missouri for 2013–15.

Bianca Bargo was born in Knox County, Kentucky, and earned a B.A. in English from the University of Kentucky, where she won UK’s Farquhar Poetry Award and served as managing editor of Limestone. A Journal of Art and Literature. She recently earned an M.Ed. from Eastern Kentucky University, and her work was anthologized in Bigger than They Appear: Antology of Very Short Poems. Her poetry chapbook is How I Became an Angry Woman. She resides in Lexington with her husband, Micah, and their pets.

Ann Beattie is a popular and critically acclaimed short story writer and novelist whose work has been included in four O. Henry Award Collections, in John Updike’s Best American Short Stories of the Century, and in Jennifer Egan’s Best American Short Stories 2014. Among her many awards in the genre, Beattie received the PEN/Malamud Award for achievement in the short story in 2000 and the Rea Award for the Short Story in 2005. Recent works include The State We’re In: Maine Stories, Mrs. Nixon: A Writer Imagines a Life, the novel A Life, and the New Yorker, a collection of 48 stories previously published in that magazine from 1974 to 2006. The writer’s collections include Distortions, Secrets and Surprises, The Burning House, Where You’ll Find Me, What Was Mine, Park City: New and Selected Stories, Perfect Ressalt, and Fuller: New Stories. Equally as prolific as a novelist, Beattie has published eight novels, including Chilly Saturday, Fulling in Place, Love—Always, Picturing Will, Another You, My Life, Starving Dara Palou, and The Doctor’s House. Her writing has been translated into many languages and published in France, Italy, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Japan, and China. The Edgar Allan Poe Post of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Virginia (Emerita), Beattie is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Beattie and her husband, painter/sculptor Lincoln Perry, live in Maine and Key West, Florida. She is currently finishing her next story collection, expected in 2016 from Scribner.

Martha Billips currently serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of English at Transylvania University, her alma mater. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky, where she wrote a doctoral dissertation on the Kentucky novels of Harriette Simpson Arrow. She has published and spoken widely on Arrow and contributed the essay “Harrirette Simpson Arrow: A Writer’s Life” to Kentucky Women: Their Lives and Times. Additional research interests include the work of Lee Smith and that of other star Appalachian women writers “with accents.” She is a native of Pikeville, Kentucky.

Biographer and historian Emily Bingham’s most recent book, Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham, uncovers the unexpected story of her bisexual great aunt. Her previous books are Moreover: An Early American Family and The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal: Essays After I’ll Take My Stand. She has taught at Centre College, University of Louisville, Bellarmine University, and St. Francis High School, and her articles and reviews have appeared in The Journal of Southern History, Newawak, the Wall Street Journal, and New England Review. She has three children and lives in Louisville with her husband, Stephen Relly.
Meghan Daum is the author of 4 books, most recently the collection of original essays The Un��表可中 & Other Subjects of Discussion. She is also the editor of Selfish, Shallow & Self-Absorbed: Sixteen Writers on the Decision Not To Have Kids. Her other books include the essay collection My Misspent Smith, the novel The Quality of Life Report, and Life Would Be Perfect If I Lived In That House, a memoir. Since 2005, Meghan has been an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times, covering cultural and political topics. Meghan has written for numerous magazines, including the New Yorker, Harper’s, and Vogue.

Kathleen Driskell’s newest poetry collection is Next Door to the Dead (University Press of Kentucky, 2015). Her previous full-length poetry collection, Seed Across Snow, was listed as a national bestseller by the Poetry Foundation. In 2012, she published Poek and Poek: A Graphic Poem, a long-poem in comic book form. Her poems have appeared in many nationally known literary journals including Poems and Plays, the Southern Review, North American Review, RivetSp, Themedlands, Greensboro Review, and Rattle, and featured online on Poetry Daily, Voir Daily, and in American Life in Poetry. Her work has been anthologized in What Comes Down In Us: 20 Contemporary Kentucky Poets and The Kentucky Anthology. Kathleen is an Al Smith Fellow of the Kentucky Arts Council and a past regular contributor to WTPL 89.3 FM, an NPR affiliate in Louisville, Kentucky, where she lives with her family. She is Professor of Creative Writing and Associate Program Director of the brief-residency M.F.A. in Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville.

Joy Harris established her own literary agency in New York City in 1990. She works primarily with literary fiction, strongly-written commercial fiction, narrative nonfiction across a broad range of topics, memoir and biography, and is drawn to a clear, original voice, an engaging point of view, and strong characters. She takes great pleasure in finding new literary voices, and over the course of her career has had the joy of representing many bestselling and champion of spoken word. She is among the earliest poets to embrace social media as a tool for reaching new audiences and engaging with her readers. She is the author of the forthcoming Listen to Me (2016) and Ruminating, which has been chosen as a Millions’ Most Anticipated Book, a Chicago Tribune Editor’s Choice, a BuzzFeed Top-5 Great Book, a Best New Book by People magazine, a Top-10 Read by Bustle magazine and LibraryReads, a Must-Read by TimeOut Chicago, and a Hot New Novel by Good Housekeeping. Her first novel, The Fates Will Find Their Way, was an Oprah Magazine selection, an Indie Next pick, a Powell’s Indiespensible Book Club Pick, and a “best of” selection by the Guardian, the Chicago Tribune, Details Magazine, the Kansas City Star, Chicago Magazine, Chicago Reader, and Hudson Bookstore. She is the winner of the 2006 Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction Award, a MacDowell Colony Fellow, and a consulting editor for Narrative magazine. She is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where she lives with her husband, W. Andrew Ewell. Follow her on Twitter @brushpittard.

Sonia Sanchez was born on September 9, 1934, in Birmingham, Alabama, earned a B.A. in Political Science from Hunter College in 1955, and emerged as a seminal figure in 1960s Black Arts Movement as a poet, playwright, teacher, activist, children’s author, and champion of spoken word. She is among the earliest poets to have incorporated urban black English into her poetry and she was one of the first activists to secure the inclusion of African American studies in university curricula. Deemed “a lion in literature’s forest” by poet Maya Angelou and winner of major literary awards including the American Book Award, Sanchez is best known for 17 books of poetry that explore a wide range of global and humanist themes, particularly the struggles and triumphs of women and people of color. Among her many honors are the Robert Creeley Award, the Frost Medal, the Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the Lucaert Mott Award, the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Peace and Freedom Award from Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the Pennsylvania Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Humanities, a National Endowment for the Arts Award, and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts. Sanchez has lectured at more than 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has read her poetry in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Nicaragua, the People’s Republic of China, Norway, and Canada. She was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University, where she began teaching in 1977, and held the Laura Cornell Chair in English there until her retirement in 1999. In the film BadDDD Sonia Sanchez, the poet’s life unfolds in readings and jazz-accompanied performances of her work, with appearances by Questlove, Talib Kweli, Ursula Rucker, Amiru Birda, Haki Madhubuti, Jessica Care Moore, Ruby Dee, Yasin Bey, Ayana Mathis, Imari Uzuri, and Brynnon Bain.

Jacinda Townsend’s debut novel, Saint Money, won the 2015 James Trefusis Cooper Prize, awarded biennially by the Society of American Historians to the best novel concerning American history, and was named Honor Book by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. She is a former Fullbright fellow and graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and teaches creative writing at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Joy Harris is the author of the forthcoming Listen to Me (2016) and Ruminating, which has been chosen as a Millions’ Most Anticipated Book, a Chicago Tribune Editor’s Choice, a BuzzFeed Top-5 Great Book, a Best New Book by People magazine, a Top-10 Read by Bustle magazine and LibraryReads, a Must-Read by TimeOut Chicago, and a Hot New Novel by Good Housekeeping. Her first novel, The Fates Will Find Their Way, was an Oprah Magazine selection, an Indie Next pick, a Powell’s Indiespensible Book Club Pick, and a “best of” selection by the Guardian, the Chicago Tribune, Details Magazine, the Kansas City Star, Chicago Magazine, Chicago Reader, and Hudson Bookstore. She is the winner of the 2006 Amanda Davis Highwire Fiction Award, a MacDowell Colony Fellow, and a consulting editor for Narrative magazine. She is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where she lives with her husband, W. Andrew Ewell. Follow her on Twitter @brushpittard.

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Deborah Bernhardt is the author of *El Salvador* (Four Way Books, 2006) and *Divinity* (New Michigan Press/DIAGRAM, 2013). She won this year’s Betty Gebhart Prize in poetry.

Theresa Dowell Blackinton won this year’s Betty Gebhart Prize in fiction. She also writes travel articles, essays, and guidebooks, and has been published in numerous magazines and newspapers. She currently lives in Durham, NC, with her husband and daughter and works as a freelance editor and a volunteer ESL teacher.

Christina Hope Boyd is a 40-year-old wife, mother, activist, and college student at North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C. Christina and her husband started a business called “Grobbs Kitchen” two years ago, which has created employment opportunities and revenue to build economic strength in the minority community.

Lynnell Major Edwards’ recent chapbook is *Kings of the Rock and Roll Hot Shop*, and she also has three collections of poetry, *Core*, *The Farmer’s Daughter*, and *The Highwayman’s Wife*. Her short fiction and book reviews have appeared in *Connecticut Review, American Book Review*, *Ploughshares*, *New Madrid*, and others. She lives in Louisville, where she is Associate Professor of English at Spalding University.

DaMaris Hill is an assistant professor of creative writing and African American and Africana Studies at the University of Kentucky. She is a creative writer and scholar. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Her work explores the intersections between literary theory and Africana Studies. She is Assistant Professor of English at Spalding University.

Eric Seale currently serves as artistic director of Actors Guild of Lexington (AGL), just having served as the company’s producing artistic director for five years, leaving the company last fall. Currently he is a freelance performer and director who lives in the Central Kentucky area. He will produce and direct *The Silver Wristman* by Lydia Blaisdel, winner of KWWC’s Prize for Women Playwrights, premiering in Lexington on November 5–7, 2015.

Bianca Spring is an award-winning poet and the author of *Kafka’s Life and How Southerners Become Dragons*, as well as the forthcoming collections *Call Her By Her Name and The Galaxy Is a Dark River*. A Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Kentucky, Bianca serves as the Managing Editor of *plank!* *The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture*, assistant poetry editor of *Ape* *Magazine*, and literary arts liaison at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning.

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Conference Venues

1. Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
   - Friday, Saturday, Sunday
   - 251 West Second Street, 859-254-4175
   - All daytime events take place here

2. BaddDDDD Sonia Sanchez film and conversation with Sonia
   - Thursday evening
   - Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center
   - 300 East Third Street, 859-280-2201

3. Writers Reception and Ann Beattie keynote
   - Friday evening
   - Singletary Center for the Arts
   - 405 Rose Street, 859-257-1706

4. 90 Seconds Open Mic
   - Saturday evening
   - Natasha’s Bistro & Bar
   - 112 Earlhamale Alley, 859-259-2754

5. Wild Women of Poetry Slam
   - Saturday evening
   - Downtown Arts Center
   - 141 East Main Street, 859-421-2550

Special Guests

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Faith A. Smith Poetry Prize
This top honor in the Wild Woman of Poetry Slam was established by Frank X Walker in memory of his mother and awards $500 to the winner. This year we held early rounds online, where poets could submit video performances and viewers could vote. Congratulations to the top 4 vote recipients: Christina Boyd of Durham NC, Lisa Marie of Covington KY, Jordan Roberts of Logan UT, and Jeannie Woller of Logan UT. They will compete on Saturday night in the 10th anniversary of our slam, the last year it will be directed and emceed by Bianca Spriggs—don’t miss this extraordinary event (see p. 3 for details).

Prize for Women Playwrights
We award a biennial playwriting prize to bring more scripts by women to the stage. Congratulations to Lydia Blaisdell of Austin, TX, whose winning script, The Silent Woman, will premier on November 5–7 in Lexington, produced and directed by Eric Seale. The Silent Woman tells the strange, true tale of a painter living with an effigy of his ex-lover in 1919. We received over 300 submissions, reviewed blindly by our judging panel of theater professionals, Mylissa Crutcher, Tonda Fields, Kathryn Newquist, and Eric Seale. Playwright Carson Kreitzer chose the winner.

2015 Betty Gabelhart Prizes
Congratulations to Deborah Berendt for “Oil” and other poems; to Theresa Dowell Blackinton of Durham NC for the short story, “Next Time, the Whale”; and to Katherine McCord of Sykesville MD for her memoir excerpt, And One More Thing About the CIA. Don’t miss their reading at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Judged by our Board, each winner receives $200, conference admission for herself and one guest, and the opportunity to read her winning manuscript at the conference. Each year the submission deadline is June 1.

Postgraduate Scholarships
Congratulations to our 2015 scholarship recipients, Susan S. Daniels, Natalie Lampert, Amy Miller, Tracy Mishkin, Carrie Muehle, and Paige Sullivan. If you are enrolled in graduate school and living on limited funds, this scholarship is for you. It provides free general admission to the conference, including enrollment in a workshop, a $200 value, thanks to multi-year pledges by two anonymous donors. Applications of a cover letter and a five-page writing sample are due June 1 and are reviewed for merit and need by a committee of the director and one advisor.

We welcome students from the Family Care Center whose participation is sponsored by a generous donation from our Board of Advisors (listed on p. 12).