37th annual

kentucky women writers conference

September 10–13, 2015
Thursday, September 10

The Lyric Theatre, 300 East 3rd Street, downtown Lexington

6:00–8:00 p.m.

BuildDD: 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 Street.

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
Self-Exposure vs. Self-Examination
workshop in memoir and personal essay with Meghan Daum, part 1
by reservation only, second floor, Sexton Room
Road Trip: Finding Inspiration in Place
workshop in playwriting with Carson Kreitzer, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room
From “What If?” to “What Now?” to “What Just Happened?”
workshop in Fiction with Hannah Pittard, part 1
by reservation only, second floor, Dunnigan Room
Conflict Through Character: The Bottom-Up Approach
workshop in fiction with Jacinda Townsend, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

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

10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m., small group workshops
by reservation only
Writing Lives: Loud and Quiet biography/nonfiction workshop with Emily Bingham, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Sexton Room
Self-Exposure vs. Self-Examination
workshop in memoir and personal essay with Meghan Daum, part 1
by reservation only, second floor, Sexton Room
Road Trip: Finding Inspiration in Place
workshop in playwriting with Carson Kreitzer, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room
From “What If?” to “What Now?” to “What Just Happened?”
workshop in Fiction with Hannah Pittard, part 1
by reservation only, second floor, Dunnigan Room
Conflict Through Character: The Bottom-Up Approach
workshop in fiction with Jacinda Townsend, part 1
by reservation only, lower level, Caudill Room

Saturday, September 12

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

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

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.

3:00–4:30 p.m.
workshop in poetry with Emily Bingham, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Sexton Room
Workshop in memoir and personal essay with Meghan Daum, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room
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

Sunday, September 13

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

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

10:00–10:30 a.m.
spanning the WPA
by reservation only
writing workshop with Emily Bingham, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Sexton Room

10:30–11:00 a.m.
workshop in memoir and personal essay with Meghan Daum, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room

11:00–11:30 a.m.
free and open to everyone
workshop in memoir and personal essay with Meghan Daum, part 2
by reservation only, lower level, Brown Room

Opening and Closing: Poetry Slam
7:00–9:00 p.m.
90 Seconds, Open Mic, emceed by Sara Volpi
Nashua’s Bistro, 112 Esplande 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 Amythyst Kiah.
Poets Christina Boyd, Lisa Marie and Jordon Roberts will compete for the $500 Faith A. Smith Prize.
Free and open to the public, Downtown Arts Center, 141 East Main St.
Workshop Descriptions

Angela Ball is professor of English in the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is the author of five poetry collections, including *The Museum of the Revolution*, *58 Eschilias, Precocious, 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*, *Poahgahba*, 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 Mississippi 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 Farqahar 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: Anthology 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 *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, and in Jennifer Egan’s *The 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: Maines Stories*, *Mrs. Nixon: A Writer Imagines a Life*, and *The New Yorker Stories*, a collection of 48 stories previously published in that magazine from 1974 to 2006. The writer’s collections include *Dictionarions, Secrets and Surprises*, *The Burning House*, *Where You’ll Find Me*, *What Was Mine, Dark City: New and Selected Stories*, *Perfect Recall*, and *Fillister New Stories*. Equally as prolific as a novelist, Beattie has published eight novels, including *Chilly Summer’s Winter*, *Finding in Place*, *Love—Always, Picturing Will*, *Another You*, *My Life*, *Starring Dana Fulton*, 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 (Emmett), 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 “Harriette 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*, unearths the unexpected story of her bisexual great aunt. Her previous books are *Mordacat: An Early American Family and The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal: Essays After I’ll Take My Stand*. Her work has appeared 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*, *Navawak*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *New Orleans Review*. She has three children and lives in Louisville with her husband, Stephen Reily.
Sonia 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 Carnell 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 Quinto, Tabitha Wyndham, Ursula Rucker, Amiri Baraka, Haki Madhubuti, Jessica Care Moore, Ruby Dee, Yasin Bey, Ayana Mathis, Imani Uzuri, and Bryonn Bain.

Jessica Helen Lopez was recently named the City of Albuquerque Poet Laureate and is a nationally recognized award-winning slam poet, holding the titles of 2012 and 2014 Women of the World City of ABQ Champion. Her first collection of poetry, Always Missing With Them Boys, made the Southwest Book of the Year reading list and was also awarded the Zia Book Award presented by NM Women Press. Her second collection is Count Bounce, and her work has been anthologized in A Bigger Boat: The Unlikely Success of the Albuquerque Slam Scene, Earth Ship: A New Mexica Poetry Collection, Tendem Lit Slam, Adele Wails, Malpais Review, SLAB Literary Magazine, Courage Anthology: Daring Poems for Gutsy Girls, and Lauren Tom Bars: A Modern Poetry Anthology for the Classroom. Lopez is the founder of La Palabra—The Word Is A Woman collective created for and by women and gender-identified women. Her 2012 TED Talk is “Spoken Word Poetry that Tells HERstory.” Lopez is the volunteer coordinator and planning member for the Poetry Slam Incorporated 2015 Women of the World National Poetry Slam Tournament, to be hosted in Albuquerque.
Deborah Bernhardt is the author of Eckdalia (Four Way Books, 2006) and Driftsign (New Michigan Press/DIAGRAM, 2013). She won this year’s Betty Gabeheart Prize in poetry.

Theresa Dowell Blackwiont won this year’s Betty Gabeheart 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 “Grubbs 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 Stop, and she also has three collections of poetry, Caret, The Farmer’s Daughter, and The Highwayman’s Wife. Her short fiction and book reviews have appeared in Conjunctions Review, American Book Review, Ploughshares, and others. She lives in Louisville, where she is Associate Professor of English at Spalding University.

DaMaris Hill is 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. in the University of Kansas. Her work explores the intersections between literary criticism, cultural studies, and digital humanities. Her critical research examines the work of Lucille Clifton, Octavia Butler, Sonia Sanchez, Toni Morrison, and Patrice K. Muhammad.

daMaris Hill is the author of several poetry books in English and Bulgarian, most recently The Porcupine of Mind and How God Punishes. From 2009 to 2015 she hosted Accents radio show on WRFL in Lexington, Kentucky. Katerina is the founder and senior editor of Accents Publishing, launched in 2010. Katerina curates the independent feature film Proud Citizen (directed by Thom Southerland) and acted in the lead role.

Sara Volpi is literary outreach coordinator at Western Kentucky University and a freelance writer, editor, and artist. She has an M.A. in Rhetoric and Composition and a B.F.A. in Creative Writing.

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. BaddDDD 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 Eplandale Alley, 859-259-2754

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

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 Jeanette 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 premiere 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 Gabriel Prizes
Congratulations to Deborah Berendsen 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, *Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham*. 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 Lamper, Amy Miller, Tracy Mischkin, 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).

Recommended Reading

The Museum of the Revolution: 58 Exhibits
Angela Ball

How I Became an Angry Woman
Bianca Bango

The State We’re In: Maine Stories
Ann Beattie

Kentucky Women: Their Lives and Times
Martha Billips

The Unspoken: And Other Subjects of Discussion
Meghan Daum

Next Door to the Dead
Kathleen Driskell

Vvww
Allison Joseph

Self Defense and Other Plays
Carson Kreitzer

Always Messing with Them Boys
Jessica Helen Lopez

Reunion
Hannah Pittard

Shake Loose My Skin
Sonia Sanchez

Saint Monkey
Jacinda Townsend

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