

Kentucky State Poetry Society

2018 Poetry Festival

(Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, Berea College)

**Book sales by Brier Books throughout the festival*

Friday, October 5

6:30—8:00 pm

Welcome and Reading by Berea College Authors

Opening Remarks: Tina Parker and Chris Green

Poetry Reading: Shanita Jackson, Leemu Hall, Tom Hunley, Julie Hensley, Barbara Wade, Dorothy Schnare, Vicky Hayes, and Libby Jones

Saturday, October 6

9:00—9:30 am

Light breakfast

9:30—10:30 am

Generative Poetry Workshop—"Questions: Tapping into the Power of Uncertainty" with Libby Jones

"Live the questions now," says the poet Rilke. Poems are driven by questions rather than answers. This workshop explores the role of questions as/in a poem. After reviewing question poems by Mary Oliver and Pablo Neruda, we'll try our hand at generating questions about a subject. Along the way, we'll discuss how structure, tone, and imagery function within a series of questions, and what role might be played by answering or responding to questions.

10:30—11:30 am

Kentucky Presses and Publishing Panel

Broadstone Books, Workhorse, Rabbit Catastrophe Press, Shadeland House Modern Press

Tasha Cotter, Moderator

11:30—1:00

Lunch and KSPS Board Meeting

1:00—2:00 Generative Poetry Workshop—"Chapbook Challenge" with Christopher McCurry

Think you can write a chapbook in an hour? With a few parameters and helpful hints, you will do just that. This workshop is active and will give you a sure-fire, writer's block bursting strategy.

2:00—3:00 Grants, Fellowships, and More Panel
Kentucky Foundation for Women, Kentucky Arts Council,
Kentucky Humanities Council, Bluegrass Writers Studio
Tasha Cotter, Moderator

3:00—3:30 Break

3:30—4:00 KSPS Contests: Awards and Reading

4:00—5:00 Generative Poetry Workshop—"Big Poems, Little Places" with Lynnell Edwards

In this workshop, we'll take our inspiration from postcards collected from near and far. Constraining ourselves to the images and evocations suggested by postcards we'll explore how density of sound, economy of line, and care with syntax can create marvelous and mighty bursts of poetry. A generous supply of postcards will be supplied for the workshop; however, participants are encouraged to bring postcards they have collected to swap, share, and if interested, initiate a poetry pen-pal project.

5:00—5:30 Reception

5:30—6:30 Poetry Talk—"Home as Metaphor" with Kathleen Driskell

Sunday, October 7

10:00-11:30 Open Mic with featured poet Carolyn Grace

*Brunch provided

Meet the Authors:

Kathleen Driskell is professor of Creative Writing at Spalding University, and Program Director of the low-residency MFA in Writing Program. Her works include *Blue Etiquette*, *Next Door to the Dead*, and *Seed Across Snow*. An AI Smith Fellow of the Kentucky Arts Council, she lives with her family in an old country church built before the Civil War.

Lynnell Edwards is the author of three full-length collections of poetry, most recently *Covet* (Red Hen Press) and a chapbook, *Kings of the Rock and Roll Hot Shop* (Accents Publishing). Her book reviews have been published widely, and she is also the author of a smattering of short fiction that has been published in *New Madrid*, and *Connecticut Review*, among others. She is professor of English and the Associate Program Director for the Spalding University Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing.

Carolyn Grace manages to be from everywhere and nowhere all at once, having lived in most regions of the USA, but she now lives in Cincinnati, OH for reasons she can't quite explain. A recent Berea College graduate, she studied music and poetry, and although she makes money doing other things because of capitalism, music and poetry are still her core personal pursuits. She lives with her partner Grant, and the vague suspicion that things might turn out alright after all.

Leemu Kutu Hall is a Senior majoring in African and African American studies at Berea College and would describe herself as being born to dance. However, poetry was and continues to be a favorite avenue for pinpointing scars in need of healing. Poetry, a spiritual nourishment, has afforded her many opportunities, such as interning for Crystal Wilkinson and teaching youth poetry, but most importantly has allowed for a deeper understanding of history and self-integration.

Vicky Hayes has written songs, poems, and fiction for decades. She is the co-author of *Balance of Five*, and her poems have been published in *Appalachian Heritage*, *Appalachia Inside Out*, and *Kentucky Magazine*. Hayes and her partner have established a nonprofit community pottery studio and artist support group on a twenty-one acre farm at Bob Town.

Julie Hensley is the author of the chapbook, *The Language of Horses*, and the books, *Viable: Poems* and *Landfall: A Ring of Stories*. An associate professor at Eastern Kentucky University and core faculty member of the Bluegrass Writers Studio low-residency MFA Program, she lives in Richmond with her husband, the writer R. Dean Johnson, and their two children.

Tom C. Hunley is a professor in the MFA/BA creative writing programs at Western Kentucky University, where he has taught since 2003. His latest poetry collection is *Here Lies* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press). New poems of his are forthcoming in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Wordgathering*, and *Lost River*.

Shanita Jackson is an activist, poet, storyteller, and lover of all things colorful! Hailing from North Carolina, she is an African and African-American studies major with a double minor in theater and creative writing at Berea College. This past summer, she completed a teaching artist internship under Crystal Wilkinson at the Wild Fig in Lexington. Recent publications include *KRCC Voices* and the *Anthropology of Appalachian Writers: Charles Frazier Volume IX*.

Libby Falk Jones is Professor Emerita of English at Berea College and past president of Kentucky State Poetry Society. She is the author of two books of poems, *Above the Eastern Treetops, Blue* (Finishing Line, 2010) and, with four other Berea poets, *Balance of Five* (Berea, 2015). She is a member of Bluegrass Writers Studio at Eastern Kentucky University.

Christopher McCurry is the co-founder of Workhorse, a publishing company and community dedicated to the working writer. He teaches high school English and writes poetry.

Dorothy Hopkins Schnare is one of the five poets published in the anthology *Balance of Five*. Her most recent publication is a sonnet in the spring issue of *The Heartland Review*, a finalist in the 2018 Joy Bale Boone Poetry Contest. She turned 80 (2x40) this summer, and each new day is a beginning.

Barbara Wade is Professor Emerita at Berea College, where she taught literature and writing courses, including modern poetry and creative writing. Her poetry has appeared in various periodicals, in three anthologies, in her chapbooks, *Inside Passage The Long Summer*, and *Braving Life*, and in the co-authored *Balance of Five*. Barbara lives outside Berea on a hillside farm and finds much of her inspiration in nature.

Kentucky State Poetry Society thanks the following for their sponsorship and/or donations:

- Berea College Loyal Jones Appalachian Center
- Bluegrass Writers Studio
- Eastern Kentucky University Department of English & Theater