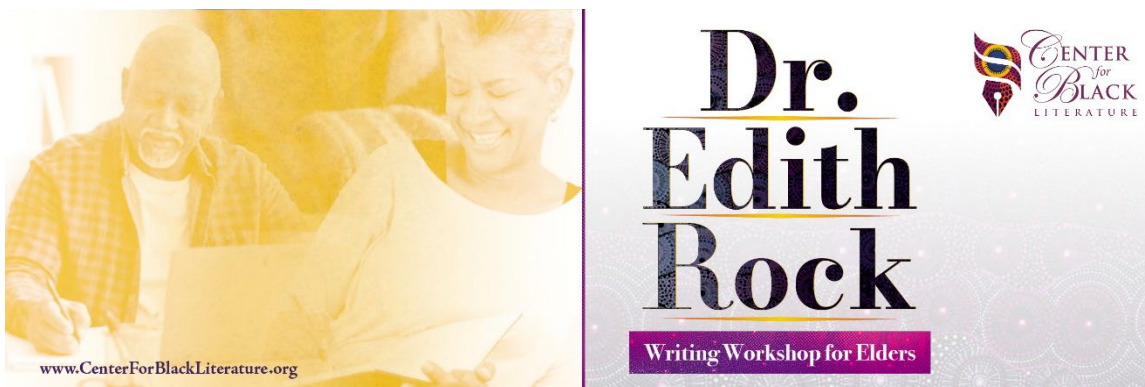




**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 1, 2022 [UPDATED]

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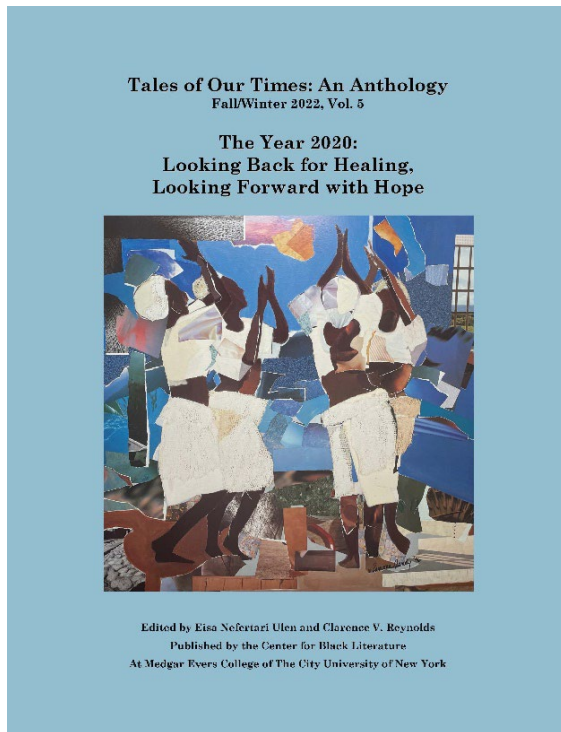


## **In Celebration of Its 5th Anthology and on the Eve of Its 20th Anniversary, the Writing Workshop For Elders Will Host a Book Launch: December 7, 2022**

Brooklyn, NY -- As part of its *John Oliver Killens Reading Series* monthly program, the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College (CBL) will present a special event featuring members of the [Dr. Edith Rock Writing Workshop for Elders](#) program. Thirteen writers from New York City and beyond are featured in *Tales of Our Times Anthology. The Year 2020: Looking Back for Healing, Looking Forward with Hope*. The recently published anthology (Fall/Winter 2022) will celebrate the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the workshop in 2023 as well as insightful and sometimes humorous reflections from a special population within the larger African American community—writers 60 years and older. The free, in-person event will take place on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022**, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm ET at Medgar Evers College (in the Edison O. Jackson Auditorium located at 1638 Bedford Avenue in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY). Attendees will enjoy select readings from the anthology, a discussion followed by a question-and-answer session, and a book-signing. RSVP is recommended via Eventbrite. The registration link is on the home page of CBL's website at [www.centerforblackliterature.org](http://www.centerforblackliterature.org). All are welcome.

The *Tales of Our Times* anthology will include a section titled *Letters to America*. Some of the

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works in that section are *Time for a Change* by **Lena E. Hall**; *Oh, America!* by **Ebun Adelona**; *When Will You Be Ready?* by **Shirley V. H. Cooper**; *Wake Up, America* by **Joan Corbett**; *Sadness* by **William Craig**; *Letter to America* by **Elder Flournoy II**; *What Is America to Thee* by **Rebecca Plunkett**; *The Satin-Lined Coffin* by **Glenda Pollard**; *Letter to America* by **Teresa M. Snyder**; *Aim* by **Claudette Joy Spence**; *Greetings, America* by **Sylvia Jones Suescan**; and *Greetings, America* by **Cynthia Goodison Tompkins**.

The *Dr. Edith Rock Writing Workshop for Elders*, founded in 2003, is intended to preserve the memoirs of elders throughout the African Diaspora whose lives span a major part of the twentieth century and beyond. The workshop began as the *Writing Project for Older African Americans*. Its

purpose was to gather information from older African Americans whose history is likely to be distorted or lost for lack of original documentation. At the workshop, members are encouraged to recall the past so that their recollections would be crafted into inspirational memoirs and stories. To date, the workshop has published five anthologies. **Eisa Nefertari Ulen** is the long-time coordinator of the program.

Typically, the annual program runs from October through May. There is an application process for joining the group and a one-time suggested registration fee. No one is turned away, however.

Those interested in learning more about the program are directed to Clarence V. Reynolds, director of literary programs, at (718) 804-8883 or [reynolds@centerforblackliterature.org](mailto:reynolds@centerforblackliterature.org).

For general information about the Center, visit [www.centerforblackliterature.org](http://www.centerforblackliterature.org) or contact [info@centerforblackliterature.org](mailto:info@centerforblackliterature.org). Media inquiries are directed to [pr@akilaworksongs.com](mailto:pr@akilaworksongs.com).

The *Dr. Edith Rock Writing Workshop for Elders* is sponsored by the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, CUNY; Poets & Writers; and the Amazon Literary Partnership. The Center receives generous support from the NYC Council Brooklyn Delegation and the Office of NYC Council Member Charles Barron. Also, the Center for Black Literature is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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