



MASTER PRESS RELEASE (For Media Planning Purposes)

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TO MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PRESS: This master document is designed to contextualize the Conference as well as highlight key events. One-page media alerts are available. Please inquire.

17TH NATIONAL BLACK WRITERS CONFERENCE PROMISES TO BE THE BIGGEST LITERARY EVENT OF THE YEAR!

Speakers Include Percival Everett (of *American Fiction* fame), Edwidge Danticat, Michael Eric Dyson, Karen Hunter, Kevin Powell, Jacqueline Woodson, Marc Lamont Hill, and Other National Best-Selling, Award-Winning Black Writers!

IN-PERSON at MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE (BROOKLYN): MARCH 20 – 23, 2024

Brooklyn, NY --- The **Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York (CBL)** announces that the **17th National Black Writers Conference (NBWC2024)** will be held in person from **Wednesday, March 20 to Saturday, March 23, 2024**. This year's theme, *All That We Carry: Where Do We Go From Here?*, is based on the National Book Award-winning work by **Tiya Miles**, *All That She Carried, The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake* (Penguin Random House, 2021). Miles is confirmed to participate in the Conference.

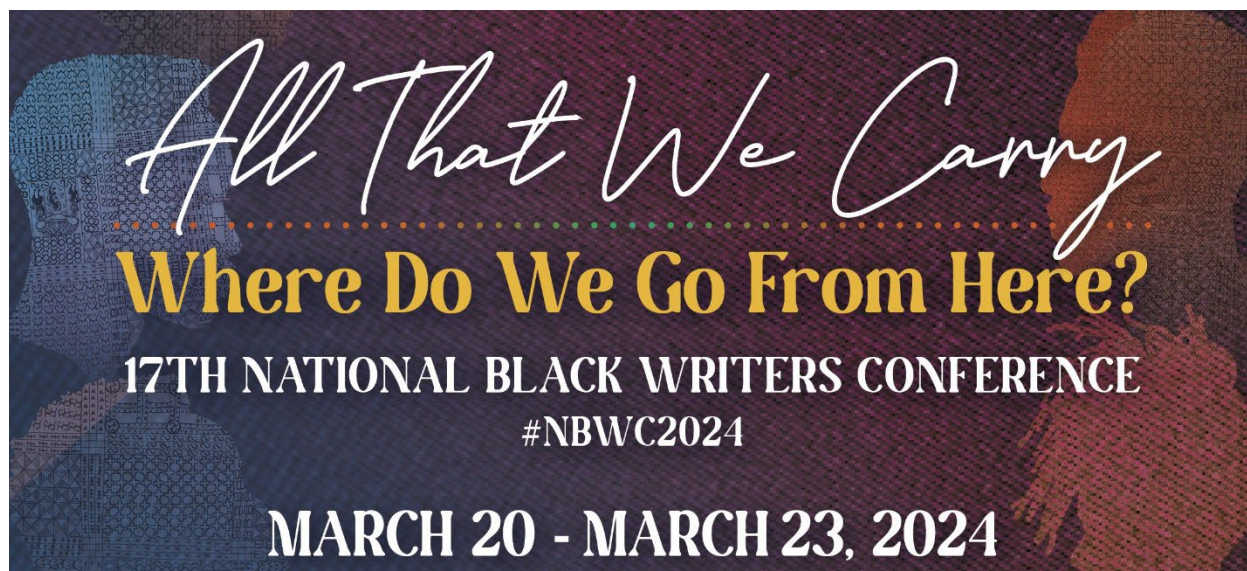
The roundtable discussions and other events of this four-day public gathering will explore many perspectives in literature. Conference Director, **Dr. Brenda M. Greene** shares that "we will focus on the value of history in literature, examine the impact of environmental and systemic racism, assess the impact of social media, and reflect on the need for peace and emotional healing."

Confirmed speakers include **Percival Everett** (of *American Fiction* fame), **Edwidge Danticat**, **Michael Eric Dyson**, **Karen Hunter**, **Kevin Powell**, **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Marc Lamont Hill**, **Bettina Love**, and other national best-selling authors and award-winning writers (see page 5).

Established at Medgar Evers College in 1986 by revered novelist [John Oliver Killens](#), the Conference is a public gathering of literature lovers from all walks of life in the United States, as well as from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and Australia. The Conference attracts some of today's most celebrated best-selling writers and scholars across several genres and generations, including recipients of the NAACP Image Award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur "Genius" Fellows, *New York Times* best-sellers; poet laureates; and other distinguished guests.

For registration, room locations, and more details, visit www.CenterForBlackLiterature.org. General Conference inquiries are directed to info@CenterForBlackLiterature.org or (718) 804-8883.

Media inquiries are directed to (718) 756-8501 (office) or CBLpr@akilaworksongs.com.



NBWC2024 HIGHLIGHTS

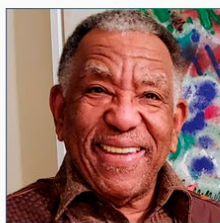
CBL recognizes writers and literary professionals of distinction at every conference and symposium. The 2024 National Black Writers Conference Honorees are the legendary publisher **PAUL COATES** of Black Classic Press, award-winning novelist **PERCIVAL EVERETT** (the groundbreaking film *American Fiction* is based on his novel *Erasure*), esteemed scholar and award-winning author **PENIEL E. JOSEPH**, and award-winning novelist **BERNICE MCFADDEN**. All are confirmed to attend.

OTHER 2024 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- a poetry slam (a pre-conference event; March 19)
- film screenings and talkbacks (a pre-conference event; March 19)
- **Farah Jasmin Griffin** in conversation with **Michael Eric Dyson** (a free event; March 20)
- a variety of interactive, spirited roundtable conversations (March 22 – March 23)
- a presentation of scholarly papers (a virtual event; March 21)
- five engaging talkshops (March 23)



Meet the 17th National Black Writers Conference (NBWC2024) Honorees! See them in person at the Summit Keynote and the Award Ceremony in March at Medgar Evers College! Contact CBL Communications for interviews. CBLpr@akilaworksongs.com



Paul Coates



Percival Everett



Peniel E. Joseph



Bernice McFadden

NBWC2024 PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, March 20

Opening Keynote: *All That We Carry, Where Do We Go From Here?* | 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Farah Jasmine Griffin in conversation with Michael Eric Dyson | Emcee: Brenda M. Greene

Thursday, March 21

Re-Envisioning Our Lives through Literature (ROLL) Youth Program

- 10:00 am to 12:00 pm - Jennifer Baker in conversation with Jason Reynolds
- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Renée Watson in conversation with Cheryl Hudson and Wade Hudson

***Virtual Scholarly Presentations on Conference Theme* | 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Sponsor: The African American Studies Committee of the College Language Association

***Dramatic Reading from the Dr. Edith Rock Writing Workshop for Elders* | 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

***Tiya Miles in conversation with Brenda M. Greene* | Emcee: TBD | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Friday, March 22

***Technology, Social Media, and the Fight for Racial Justice* | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

■ **Confirmed:** Marc Lamont Hill, Bettina Love, Wesley Lowery, and Emily Raboteau

Moderator: Jelani Cobb

***The Healing Power of Literature* | 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

■ **Confirmed:** Patricia Spears Jones, Kalisha Buchanan, Marita Golden, and Kevin Powell

Moderator: Rachel Eliza Griffiths

***Black Writers' Letters to America* | 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

■ **Confirmed:** Victoria Christopher Murray, Pamela Newkirk, Thabiti Lewis, and Khalil Gibran Muhammad | Moderator: Donna Hill

Summit Keynote: *A Conversation with the 2024 Honorees*

Friday, March 22, 2024 | 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

2024 Honorees: Paul Coates • Percival Everett • Peniel

Joseph • Bernice McFadden

Moderator: **Gloria J. Browne-Marshall**

Emcee: **Wallace Ford**

Saturday, March 23

***Wild Seeds Alumni Reunion* | 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

This special event is reserved for alumni of CBL's Wild Seeds Retreat for Writers of Color.

NBWC2024 PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE continued

Saturday, March 23

Talkshops | 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

- **Publishing.** Leader, **Tracy Sherrod**, Vice President; Executive Editor at Little, Brown
- **Book Proposals and Finding an Agent.** Leader, **Regina Brooks**, Founder and President of Serendipity Literary Agency
- **Poetry.** Leader, **Darrel Alejandro Holnes** | Afro-Panamanian American award-winning author of *Stepmotherland* and *Migrant Psalms*
- **Fiction.** Leader, **Kalisha Buchanon** | Author of *Upstate* and *Speaking of Summer*
- **Memoir.** Leader, **Patrick Dougher** | Award-winning artist; author of *If By Some Impossible Miracle: Coming of Age in Underground New York*

The Power of Historical Narratives | 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

■ **Confirmed:** W.B. Garvey, Maryemma Graham, Ayana Mathis, and A.J. Verdelle
Moderator: **Diane Richards**

Black Writers Crossing Boundaries and Borders | 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

■ **Confirmed:** Edwidge Danticat, Kwame Dawes, Stéphane Martelly, and Patrick Nganang
Moderator: **Jasmine Claude Narcisse**

Myth and Reality: The World of Publishing for the Black Writer | 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

■ **Confirmed:** Regina Brooks, Karen Hunter, Christopher Jackson, Lisa Lucas, and Jamia Wilson
Moderator: **Yahdon Israel**

17th National Black Writers Conference Awards Ceremony

Saturday, March 23

7:00 pm to 7:45 pm

PAUL COATES

The National Black Writers Conference
Margaret T. Burroughs Award

PERCIVAL EVERETT

The National Black Writers Conference
John A. Williams Award

PENIEL E. JOSEPH

The National Black Writers Conference
W.E.B. Du Bois Award

BERNICE MCFADDEN

The National Black Writers Conference
Toni Morrison Award

Emcee/Host: **Jacqueline Woodson**

Opening Remarks: **President Patricia Ramsey**, Medgar Evers College

Closing Remarks: **Brenda M. Greene**, Center for Black Literature

NBWC2024 CONFIRMED SPEAKERS AT-A-GLANCE (partial list)

A.J. Verdelle	Lisa Lucas
Ayana Mathis	Marc Lamont Hill
Bernice McFadden	Marita Golden
Bettina Love	Maryemma Graham
Brenda M. Greene	Michael Eric Dyson
Cheryl Hudson	Pamela Newkirk
Christopher Jackson	Patricia Spears Jones
Darrel Alejandro Holnes	Patricia Ramey
Diane Richards	Patrick Dougher
Donna Hill	Patrick Nganang
Edwidge Danticat	Paul Coates
Emily Raboteau	Peniel E. Joseph
Farah Jasmine Griffin	Percival Everett
Gloria Browne Marshall	Rachel Eliza Griffiths
Jacqueline Woodson	Regina Brooks
Jamia Wilson	Renée Watson
Jasmine Claude Narcisse	Stéphane Martelly
Jason Reynolds	Thabiti Lewis
Jelani Cobb	Tiya Miles
Jennifer Baker	Tracy Sherrod
Kalisha Buchanan	Victoria Christopher Murray
Karen Hunter	Wade Hudson
Kevin Powell	Wallace L. Ford II
Khalil Gibran Muhammad	W.B. Garvey
Kwame Dawes	Wesley Lowery
	Yahdon Israel

MEDIA CONTACTS | DIGITAL DIRECTORY

- Media inquiries are directed to CBLpr@akilaworksongs.com or (718) 756-8501.
- Center for Black Literature's Digital Directory:
 - Website: www.centerforblackliterature.org
 - Facebook: [@CenterForBlackLiterature](https://www.facebook.com/CenterForBlackLiterature)
 - Facebook: [@NationalBlackWritersConference](https://www.facebook.com/NationalBlackWritersConference)
 - X/Twitter: [@Center4BlackLit](https://twitter.com/Center4BlackLit)
 - Instagram: [@Center4BlackLit](https://www.instagram.com/Center4BlackLit)
 - YouTube: [@CenterForBlackLiteratureMedgarEversCollege](https://www.youtube.com/CenterForBlackLiteratureMedgarEversCollege)

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