

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

2:00–4:00 pm: VCFA READINGS. Alumni and students are welcome to attend and just listen or give a very brief reading of their work (no more than 5 minutes). *Essex Inn, Essex/Windsor Court (2nd floor), 800 So. Michigan Ave.*

5:30–7:30 pm: VCFA DINNER. For faculty, alumni, and students who registered and paid ahead of time. (Sorry, but the restaurant can't accommodate late sign-ups.) *Essex Inn, Park East Gallery (2nd floor), 800 So. Michigan Ave.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

BOOK SIGNINGS (at the Bookfair, VCFA Table, no. 417)

10:30 am–12:00 pm: Nancy Bo Flood, MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults alumna, author of *No-Name Baby*.

2:00–3:30 pm: Douglas Glover, MFA in Writing faculty, author of *Attack of the Copula Spiders*.

10:30–11:45 am: Troubling the Label: When Does a Text Become Feminist? (Arielle Greenberg, Cate Marvin, Amal Amireh, **Eloise Healy**, Ru Freeman) *Continental C, Hilton Chicago, Lobby Level*

10:30–11:45 am: Readers and Me: Connecting Teen Readers through Narrative in Nonfiction (Laura Otto, **Ann Angel**, **Zu Vincent**) *Lake Huron, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: Internationalizing the MFA (**Xu Xi**, Jose Dalisay, Graeme Harper, Marcela Sulak, Andrew Cowan) *Continental A, Hilton Chicago, Lobby Level*

12:00–1:15 pm: Writing the Middle East, Crossing Genre, Crossing Borders (**LeAnne Howe**, Matthew Shenoda, Jim Wilson, **Allison Adelle Hedge Coke**, Hayan Charara) *Wiliford C, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: Writing in the City That Works: Chicago's Literary Values for the 21st Century (**Stephanie Friedman**, Kevin Davis, Dina Elenbogen, Bayo Ojikutu, Matthias Regan) *Crystal Room, Palmer House Hilton, 3rd Floor*

1:30–2:45 pm: Interlochen Arts Academy 50th Anniversary Alumni Reading (**Karin Gottshall**, Mohammed Naseehu Ali, Marya Hornbacher, Faith Shearin, Doug Stanton) *Continental B, Hilton Chicago, Lobby Level*

1:30–2:45 pm: Fifteen Years Outside the Towers: Report from the MFA in Writing at SAIC (Janet Desaulniers, **Carol Anshaw**, Jesse Ball, Rosellen Brown) *Lake Huron, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: Faith and the Creative Writing Class: Helping Students Find the Literary in the Spiritual (Joe Miller, Julia Spicher Kasdorf, **Clint McCown**, Elizabeth Kadetsky, Jeff Gundy) *Lake Ontario, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: Missing Pieces: A Collaborative Experiment (**Alexandra Chasin**, Davis Schneiderman, Teresa Carmody) *Marquette, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: Queer for You: Building an Enduring Readership for LGBT Authors (David Groff, **Nickole Brown**, Tony Valenzuela, Don Weise, Samiya Bashir) *Private Dining Room 2, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: What about Blog?: How Blogging Can Propel Your Career and Polish Your Craft (Sarah Klenakis, Turi Fesler, Claire Bidwell Smith, Rachel Vogel, **Caitlin Leffel**) *State Ballroom, Palmer House Hilton, 4th Floor*

4:30–5:45 pm: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Reading (Steve Davenport, **Philip Graham**, Alex Shakar, John Warner) *Private Dining Room 2, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

4:30–5:45 pm: You Wrote It, Now Promote It: DIY Publicity for the Busy Writer (**Brendan Constantine**, Kim Dower, Janice Eidus, Elise Paschen, Douglas Kearney) *Empire Ballroom, Palmer House Hilton, Lobby Level*

4:30–5:45 pm: American Tensions: Literature of Identity and the Search for Social Justice (William Reichard, Kristin Naca, Barrie Jean Borich, Heid E. Erdrich, **Nickole Brown**) *Honoré Ballroom, Palmer House Hilton, Lobby Level*

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

BOOK SIGNINGS (at the Bookfair, VCFA Table, no. 417)

10:00–11:30 am: Ann Angel, MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults alumna, author of *Janis Joplin—Rise Up Singing*.

1:30–3:00 pm: Nancy Eimers, MFA in Writing faculty, author of *Oz*.

9:00–10:15 am: Rivering: A Reading Contemplation (**Allison Adelle Hedge Coke**, Wang Ping, Jan Beatty, Lee Ann Roripaugh, Natalie Diaz) *Lake Michigan, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

9:00–10:15 am: Redefining Lyric: Five Poets Featured on PoemoftheWeek.org Read Their Work (Robert Wrigley, Nicole Cooley, **Tim Seibles**, Daniel Khalastchi, Sandy Longhorn) *Waldorf, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

9:00–10:15 am: Is the Midwest Reshaping Creative Nonfiction? A Tribute to Fourth Genre (E.J. Levy, Kyoko Mori,

Maureen Stanton, Ryan Van Meter, **Patrick Madden**) *Wabash Room, Palmer House Hilton, 3rd Floor*

10:30–11:45 am: The Writer in the World: A Look at Immersion Writing (**Robin Hemley**, **Melissa Pritchard**, Joe Mackall, Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Christopher Merrill) *Continental B, Hilton Chicago, Lobby Level*

10:30–11:45 am: iPoetry: Teaching Hybrid Poetics in the Creative Writing Workshop (Steve Westbrook, Charlotte Pence, **Brendan Constantine**, James Ryan) *Lake Huron, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: The Rankings Game: MFA Programs Respond to the Poets & Writers Creative Writing Program Rankings (Elise Blackwell, Allison Joseph, Brighde Mullins, Frederick Reiken, **Robin Behn**) *Continental B, Hilton Chicago, Lobby Level*

12:00–1:15 pm: How Far is Too Far? Facing Self-Censors and Publishing Censors When Writing about Coming-of-Age for Young Adults (Laura Otto, **Ann Angel**, Daniel Kraus, **Penny Blubaugh**, **Ricki Thompson**) *Joliet, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 (continued)

12:00–1:15 pm: *Measuring Creativity: What Do Grades Have to Do with Artistry?* (**Cass Dalglish**, Heather Gibbons, Kate Green, Ellen McGrath Smith, Cary Waterman) *Lake Erie, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: *American Poets Respond to Major Global Trauma* (Linda Hogan, Pamela Uschuk, **Richard Jackson**, William Pitt Root, Martín Espada) *Waldorf, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: *Robert Gover: A Life of Radical Realism* (Christopher Klim, Robert Gover, **Thomas Kennedy**, Duff Brenna, Matt Ryan) *Wiliford B, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

1:30–2:45 pm: *Reinventing Realism: The Craft of Alice Munro* (Catherine Brady, Rachel Hall, **Kim Aubrey**, Michael Byers, Alice LaPlante) *Lake Erie, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

5:30–7:00 pm: **ALL VCFA GATHERING.** *Blackie's, 755 So. Clark St. (Clark & Polk)*

6:30–7:30 pm: **MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults 15th Anniversary Reception.** *Essex Inn, 800 So. Michigan Ave. Park East Gallery 2nd floor*

7:30–8:30 pm: **MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults 15th Anniversary Reading.** *Coe Booth & Franny Billingsley, Essex Inn, Windsor Court (2nd floor)*

1:30–2:45 pm: *The Sound of Meaning, the Meaning of Sound: What Poets and Children's Book Writers Can Learn from Each Other* (Jacqueline Briggs Martin, Phyllis Root, **Franny Billingsley**, Christine Heppermann) *Lake Michigan, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

1:30–2:45 pm: *Anytown, USA: Representing Place in Fiction* (Ron Hansen, Ladette Randolph, Eric Goodman, Sherrie Flick, **Robert Vivian**) *Wiliford C, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: *Bridging the Gaps of Race, Gender, and Culture in Children's and Young Adult Literature* (**Kekla Magoon, René Colato Laínez, Debby Dahl Edwardson, Bridget Birdsall**) *Joliet, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: *Your Family Stories: Research, Writing, and Representation* (Lee Martin, **Ellen Cassedy**, Nancy K. Miller, **Harrison Candelaria Fletcher**, Tracy Seeley) *Lake Erie, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: *Will Write for Food: Writers Working Outside Academia* (Chloe Miller, Alison Hicks, **Patricia Lewis**, Valerie Martinez, August Tarrier) *Lake Michigan, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

4:30–5:45 pm: *Containing Multitudes: Shifting Voices in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction* (**Sue William Silverman, Connie May Fowler, Xu Xi, Robert Vivian, Philip Graham**) *Waldorf, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

4:30–5:45 pm: *In Celebration of Eleanor Ross Taylor* (Catherine Barnett, Jean Valentine, **David Wojahn**, Kevin Prufer, Ed Skoog) *Wiliford A, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

7:00–8:15 pm: *Attack of the Copula Spiders: A Book Launch with Douglas Glover.* A Reception Hosted by Biblioasis. *Private Dining Room 4, Hilton Chicago Hotel 3rd Floor*

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

BOOK SIGNINGS (at the Bookfair, VCFA Table, no. 417)

10:30 am–12:00 pm: **Patricia Lee Lewis**, MFA in Writing alumna, author of *High Lonesome*.

1:00–2:30 pm: **Debby Dahl Edwardson**, MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults alumna, author of *My Name is Not Easy*.

9:00–10:15 am: *Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus* (**LeAnne Howe**, Gordon Henry, Stephen Graham Jones, Susan Power, Phillip Carroll Morgan) *Joliet, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

9:00–10:15 am: *On Reinventing the Creative Writing Workshop: Four Bold New Approaches* (Steve Fellner, Anne Panning, Michael Martone, **Robin Hemley**, Valerie Miner) *Marquette, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

10:30–11:45 am: *Low Res, Full Res, No Res: The Poet and the Terminal Degree* (Christopher Salerno, Amy Gerstler, **Bob Hicok**, Timothy Liu, Robin Reagler) *Wiliford C, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: POL as PLO, Poetry Out Loud as a Poetry Liberation Organization (**Phyllis Meshulam**, Tobey Kaplan, Iris Dunkle, Gwynn O'Gara) *Lake Huron, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: *The Art of Collaboration: Writers, Artists, and Editors on Marrying Visual Art and Text* (Catherine Cortese, Jessica Pitchford, **Frank Giampietro**, Denise Bookwalter, Jodee Stanley) *Marquette, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: *BOA Editions 35th Anniversary Reading* (Peter Conners, Dorianne Laux, Michael Waters, Craig Teicher, **Wendy Mnookin**) *Waldorf, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

12:00–1:15 pm: *A Call to Arms, Imagining a Better World: Celebrating the Long Tradition of Chicago Activist Writers* (Gary Johnson, Bill Ayers, Kathy Kelly, Haki Madhubuti, **Irene Zabytko**) *State Ballroom, Palmer House Hilton, 4th Floor*

1:30–2:45 pm: *Marketing the Literary, or Putting Some Poetry into Your PR [WITS Alliance]* (Robin Reagler, Alison Granucci, Loyal Miles, Tree Swenson, **Kristine Uyeda**) *Boulevard Room A,B,C, Hilton Chicago, 2nd Floor*

1:30–2:45 pm: *There Really Is a Kalamazoo: Making the Third Coast Home* (Richard Katrovas, Thisbe Nissen, **Nancy Eimers, William Olsen**, Jaimy Gordon) *Continental A, Hilton Chicago, Lobby Level*

1:30–2:45 pm: *Blueprints: Bringing Poetry into Communities* (Katharine Coles, **Alison Hawthorne Deming**, Lee Briccetti, Christopher Merrill) *Marquette, Hilton Chicago, 3rd Floor*

1:30–2:45 pm: *VCCA Turns Forty!: An Anniversary Reading* (Sarah Browning, Lex Williford, **Patricia Spears Jones**, Paul Lisicky, Andrea Hollander Budy) *Crystal Room, Palmer House Hilton, 3rd Floor*

3:00–4:15 pm: *Writing About Social Issues in Children's & Young Adult Books* (Renee Watson, **Coe Booth**, Shadra Strickland) *Lake Michigan, Hilton Chicago, 8th Floor*

4:30–5:45 pm: *Poetry Reading: Pitt Poetry Series* (Ed Ochester, Toi Derricotte, Ross Gay, Julia Spicher Kasdorf, **David Wojahn**) *International Ballroom South, Hilton Chicago, 2nd Floor*

4:30–5:45 pm: *New Childrens and Young Adult Voices: A Cross-Genre Reading* (**Penny Blubaugh, Zu Vincent, Tami Lewis Brown**, Kiara Koenig, J.L. Powers) *Crystal Room, Palmer House Hilton, 3rd Floor*