

SCWA 2022

Annual Writers' Conference

Faculty



Amy Elizabeth Bishop joined Dystel, Goderich & Bourret in 2015 after interning for them in 2014. At DG&B, she's cultivating a wide-ranging list in literary and upmarket fiction, expert-driven narrative nonfiction, and select YA, with a special interest in BIPOC voices. Her list includes titles such as *The Last Story of Mina Lee* by Nancy Jooyoun Kim (a Reese's Book Club selection and NYT bestseller) and *The Silence of Bones* by June Hur (a Junior Library Guild selection and Edgar Award nominee). Before diving into the world of publishing, she graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a degree in Creative Writing. Though she grew up upstate, she currently resides in Woodside, Queens. You can find her on Twitter at @amylizbishop. **QUERYFEST, AGENT Q&A**

Jonathan Bohr Heinen's writing has appeared in the *Cimarron Review*, *Florida Review*, *Four Way Review*, *The Boiler*, *Arroyo*, and *Tusculum Review*, among other places, and has received special mention in the Pushcart Prize anthology. The first chapter of his novel was published by *CRAFT Literary* when he won third place in their 2019 First Chapters Contest. He teaches at the College of Charleston, where he serves as managing editor for *Crazyhorse*, and is a staff member for the Sewanee Writers' Conference. **SLUSHFEST, SUBMISSIONS STRATEGIES**





Gary Jackson was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas and is the author of the poetry collections *origin story* (University of New Mexico Press, 2021) and *Missing You, Metropolis* (Graywolf Press, 2010), which received the 2009 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. He's also the co-editor of *The Future of Black: Afrofuturism, Black Comics, and Superhero Poetry* (Blair Publishing, 2021). His poems have appeared in numerous journals including *Callaloo*, *The Sun*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Copper Nickel*. The recipient of Cave Canem and Bread Loaf fellowships, he's also been published in *Shattered: The Asian American Comics Anthology* and was featured in the 2013 New American Poetry Series by the Poetry Society of America. He's an associate professor at the College of Charleston where he's currently the director of undergraduate creative writing and teaches in the MFA program. He serves as an Associate Poetry editor at *Crazyhorse*.

POETRY ROUNDTABLE, IN CONVERSATION WITH ASHLEY M. JONES

Felice Laverne's publishing career has always been rooted in championing bold voices and writers from marginalized communities. After obtaining her bachelor's degree in English, Creative Writing, from Georgia State University, she started her career at About Words Agency directly after college where she worked as an agent until leaving to complete her master's degree in Publishing at Kingston University in London, England. There, Felice specialized in Diversity & Inclusion in Publishing, which drove her career-long passion for marginalized voices the world had never heard before. After years of then partnering with major houses as a book editor and ghostwriter, including having edited phenomenal big-name books such as Zerlina Maxwell's *The End of White Politics* (Hachette) and Paola Ramos' *Finding Latinx: In Search of the Voices Redefining Latino Identity* (Vintage), among so many others, she is now back to her roots as a literary agent with a growing list of bold titles. **AGENT Q&A, SLUSHFEST, MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUES**

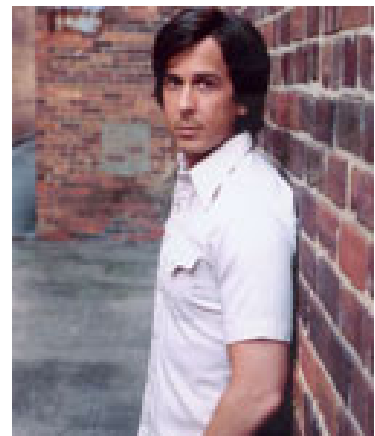




Ashley M. Jones is the Poet Laureate of the State of Alabama (2022–2026). She holds an MFA in Poetry from Florida International University, and she is the author of *Magic City Gospel* (Hub City Press 2017), *dark // thing* (Pleiades Press 2019), and *REPARATIONS NOW!* (Hub City Press 2021). Her poetry has earned several awards, including the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award, the Silver Medal in the Independent Publishers Book Awards, the Lena–Miles Wever Todd Prize for Poetry, a Literature Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Lucille Clifton Poetry Prize, and the Lucille Clifton Legacy Award. She was a finalist for the Ruth Lily Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg

Fellowship in 2020, and her collection, *REPARATIONS NOW!* was on the longlist for the 2022 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry. Her poems and essays appear in or are forthcoming at *CNN*, *POETRY*, *The Oxford American*, *Origins Journal*, *The Quarry by Split This Rock*, *Obsidian*, and many others. She co-directs PEN Birmingham, and she is the founding director of the Magic City Poetry Festival. She teaches in the Creative Writing Department of the Alabama School of Fine Arts, and she is part of the Core Faculty of the Converse University Low Residency MFA Program. She recently served as a guest editor for *Poetry Magazine*. **KEYNOTE, POETRY WORKSHOP: What's Form Got To Do With It? New Explorations in an Inclusive, Intersectional Formalism; IN CONVERSATION w/Gary Jackson**

Brad Land studied creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he received his MFA, and Western Michigan University, where he served as nonfiction editor of *Third Coast*. He has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony and now lives in South Carolina. His first book, *Goat: A Memoir*, received widespread praise from critics for the author's remembrance of the impact violence had on his life. A contributor to *USA Today* called the book "a raw and engaging account," and *Boston Globe* critic DeWitt Henry wrote that *Goat* "reads as credibly as



first-rate fiction." It was made into a major motion picture in 2016. His second book, *Pilgrims of the Earth*, was published by Random House. **SC WRITERS PANEL**



Duncan Murrell has been in publishing for more than twenty-five years in a variety of roles: book editor, writer, author, publisher, and teacher. He is the founder (with fellow Algonquin Books alum Chuck Adams) of CraftBook Editorial. During his career he's edited New York Times bestsellers for Algonquin Books, Warner Books, Grand Central, and Thomas Nelson. He directed the writing program at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies, where he taught creative nonfiction and documentary writing courses, and he has also spent a semester as the visiting writer in UNC Wilmington's Department of Creative Writing. He is a contributing editor at *Harper's Magazine* and *The Oxford American* magazine, and has an MFA in fiction from Bennington College and a masters in journalism from Northwestern University. **MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUES & PANELS**

Maria S. Picone/수영 is a Korean American adoptee who won Cream City Review's 2020 Summer Poetry Prize. She has been published in *Tahoma Literary Review*, *The Seventh Wave*, *Fractured Lit* and *Best Small Fictions 2021*. Her work has been supported by Lighthouse Writers, GrubStreet, Kenyon Review, and Tin House. She recently won the Jasper Project's inaugural Lizelia Augusta Jenkins Moorer Poetry Chapbook Prize. She is a 2022 Palm Beach Poetry Festival Kundiman Fellow and managing editor at *Chestnut Review* and *The Petigru Review*. Her website is mariaspicone.com, Twitter @mspicone. **MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUES & PANELS**





Jessica Lee Richardson goes by Jess/she/her and is the author of the short story collection, *It Had Been Planned and There Were Guides*, which won the FC2 Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize and was longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Award. Her work can be found in *Adroit*, the *Commuter* at *Electric Lit*, *New Delta Review*, the *Rupture*, *Slice*, and *Willow Springs* among other magazines and will soon be featured in *Neon Door's* opening exhibit. She's an Associate Professor of Fiction at Coastal Carolina University and lives snuggled up to the Atlantic Ocean and some super bold cardinals. You can find more at

www.jessicaleerichardson.com. **FICTION WORKSHOP: SETTING AS STRUCTURE**

David Lerner Schwartz teaches writing and literature at the University of Cincinnati where he is a doctoral student. His work has been published in *New Ohio Review*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Witness*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Literary Hub*, *New York* magazine, *The Rumpus*, and more. His writing has been supported by grants and fellowships from UC's Department of English and Niehoff Center for Film & Media Studies; Bread Loaf Writers' Conference; St. Albans School, where he served as the 38th writer in residence; and the Bennington Writing Seminars, from which he holds an MFA. David has a BA from Tufts University and works as the fiction editor of *Four Way Review*. **PROMPTS BY THE BEACH, SLUSHFEST**



Ed Southern is the author of the SIBA bestseller *Fight Songs: A Story of Love and Sports in a Complicated South*. His stories and essays have appeared in *The Bitter Southerner*, the *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Sports Literate*, *A New Decameron*, *storySouth*, and elsewhere. Since 2008 he has been the executive director of the North Carolina Writers' Network. **NONFICTION WORKSHOP: WEAVING IN RESEARCH WITHOUT LOSING THE THREAD**

Leigh Stein is an author, a cultural critic, and a book development expert. She is the author of five books, including the critically acclaimed satirical novel *Self Care* (Penguin, 2020) and the poetry collection *What to Miss When* (Soft Skull Press, 2021). Her non-fiction writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New Yorker* online, *Allure*, *ELLE*, *Poets & Writers*, BuzzFeed, The Cut, Salon, and Slate. Leigh's status as a working writer, along with her publishing experience and relationships with agents and book editors, makes her uniquely positioned to help writers sell their books. **TAILGATE ADD-ON**



WORKSHOP: HOW TO PITCH YOUR BOOK; FICTION WORKSHOP: WANTS AND NEEDS, PLOTTING BEGINS WITH CHARACTER



Amber Wheeler Bacon is a writer, editor and teacher. She has an MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars and is on the board of directors of the SCWA. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Epiphany*, *Five Points*, *Post Road*, *New Ohio Review*, *Crazyhorse* and *Witness*. You can find her writing online at *Ploughshares*, *CRAFT*, *Fiction Writer's Review* and *New South*. She is the recipient of the 2022 Lit/South Award for flash fiction, a 2021 scholarship from Bread Loaf Environmental, and 2018 Breakout Writers Prize sponsored by The Author's Guild and. Her story collection, *We Were Vessels*, was one of five finalists for the 2020 Hub City Press's C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize and a finalist for Moon City Press's 2020 Short Fiction Award. She has been a staff reader for *Ploughshares* and a fiction editor at *Four Way Review*. She currently serves as daily editor at the *Southern Review of Books* and a reader for *CRAFT Literary*. She teaches English at Coastal Carolina University. **SUBMISSIONS STRATEGIES, SC WRITERS PANEL**

Susan Zurenda taught English for 33 years on the college level and at the high school level to AP students. Her debut novel, *Bells for Eli* (Mercer University Press, March 2020; paperback edition March 2021), has been selected the Gold Medal (first place) winner for Best First Book—Fiction in the 2021 IPPY (Independent Publisher Book Awards), a Foreword Indie Book Award finalist, a Winter 2020 Okra Pick by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance, a 2020 Notable Indie on Shelf Unbound, a 2020 finalist for American Book Fest Best Book Awards, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for 2021. She has won numerous regional awards for her short fiction. She lives in Spartanburg, SC. **SC WRITERS PANEL**

