



HUDSON  
VALLEY  
WRITERS  
CENTER

Summer 2020

## ANNOUNCING: ONLINE GALA

Dear friends:

During this uncharted time we all face, the Hudson Valley Writers Center has managed to continue **connecting, communicating and creating**, but now in a virtual world. To ensure the safety of our entire community—students, guests and staff—we have successfully transitioned our complete program of workshops and readings to an online format.

Consequently, we will hold our annual benefit on Friday evening, **OCTOBER 30, 2020, at 7 pm**, via Zoom. In line with our mission to celebrate the highest quality literature across genres, we are proud to honor **Jericho Brown** (winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry); **Susan Choi** (Winner of the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction); **Toi Derricotte** (Finalist for the 2019 National Book Award in Poetry); **Katharine Holabird** (author of the *Angelina Ballerina* series of Children's Literature); and **Leslie Jamison** (Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize). All authors will read from their latest works and join us for live discussion that evening.

We will also hold a "live online" auction, offering items specifically attuned to what people may want and need in this challenging environment, such as cultural experiences, learning opportunities, health and sports packages (and of course fine wine!).

### How can you get involved?

- **Buy tickets**
- **Invite guests to your virtual table** where you can enjoy the evening together in your own "private Zoom room" before and after the readings.
- **Help us fundraise** and/or fill your table by sharing your own personalized fundraising page with your network.
- **Become a Sponsor** with a choice of levels, as a business, individual or organization
- **Donate** items for our auction
- **Contribute** to the Writers Center at whatever level is possible
- Help us **spread the word** to your network!

Buy tickets, fundraise, donate and learn more about any of the above by visiting [writerscenter.org/gala](http://writerscenter.org/gala), or fill out the form that follows.

Businesses donating auction items or becoming sponsors will immediately receive promotional benefits across our many online platforms, including our website, social media, newsletters, and visual and spoken recognition on the night of the gala. One of the silver linings of holding our classes and now our benefit online is the increased national audience we can attract. With the caliber of honored authors and an intense publicity campaign, we expect a large and diverse audience for our benefit, significantly increased over previous in-person galas. We hope you will join us.

## Who we are, what we do:

Founded as a nonprofit in 1988, the Hudson Valley Writers Center in Sleepy Hollow, NY now provides an online platform for students and writers to gather for instruction across all genres; convene with emerging and established authors at readings; participate in monthly Open Mics, Open Writes, and other creative collaborations, and support each other through every stage of their development as writers. We offer scholarships to all ages and run outreach programming to bring free creative writing instruction to underserved youth in our region.

## More about the Featured Authors of our Online Gala 2020:



**Jericho Brown** is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Brown's first book, *Please* (2008), won the American Book Award. His second book, *The New Testament* (2014), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best of the year by *Library Journal*, *Coldfront*, and the Academy of American Poets. He is also the author of the collection *The Tradition* (2019), which was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award and the winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His poems have appeared in *Buzzfeed*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Time*, and *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry* anthologies. He is an associate professor and the director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University in Atlanta.



**Susan Choi's** first novel, *The Foreign Student*, won the Asian-American Literary Award for fiction. Her second novel, *American Woman*, was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize. Her third novel, *A Person of Interest*, was a finalist for the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award. In 2010 she was named the inaugural recipient of the PEN/W.G. Sebald Award. Her fourth novel, *My Education*, received a 2014 Lammy Award. Her fifth novel *Trust Exercise* (April 2019) won the National Book Award for Fiction. Her first book for children is *Camp Tiger* (May 2019). A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, she teaches fiction writing at Yale and lives in Brooklyn.



**Toi Derricotte** is the author of *I: New & Selected Poems* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019), which was a finalist for the National Book Award; *The Undertaker's Daughter* (2011); and four earlier collections of poetry, including *Tender*, winner of the 1998 Paterson Poetry Prize. Her literary memoir, *The Black Notebooks* (W.W. Norton), received the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Non-Fiction and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Her honors include, among many others, the 2012 Paterson Poetry Prize for Sustained Literary Achievement, the 2012

PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry, the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, three Pushcart Prizes, and the Distinguished Pioneering of the Arts Award from the United Black Artists. Professor Emerita at the University of Pittsburgh, Derricotte co-founded Cave Canem Foundation (with Cornelius Eady); served on the Academy of American Poets' Board of Chancellors, 2012-2017; and currently serves on Cave Canem's Board of Directors.



**Katharine Holabird** is the award-winning author of *Angelina Ballerina* and a new children's book series about a lovable little fairy called *Twinkle*. Katharine grew up in a family of architects and artists in Chicago, and as a child she loved to perform and dance with her three sisters. She graduated with a BA in Literature from Bennington College, and started writing children's books in 1983. Since then, *Angelina Ballerina* books have sold millions of copies, been translated into 20+ languages, and *Angelina* has become a children's classic.



**Leslie Jamison** was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Los Angeles. A graduate of Harvard College and the Iowa's Workshop, she is the author of the essay collection *The Empathy Exams*, a *New York Times* bestseller; the novel *The Gin Closet*, a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, the memoir *The Recovering*; and most recently the essay collection, *Make it Scream, Make it Burn*. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, and the *Oxford American*, among others, and she is a columnist for the *New York Times Book Review*. She teaches at Columbia University and lives in Brooklyn



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**HVWC GALA: ONLINE**  
**FRI OCT 30 | 7 PM**  
[writerscenter.org/gala](http://writerscenter.org/gala)

Featuring writers:  
**Jericho BROWN**  
**Susan CHOI**  
**Toi DERRICOTTE**  
**Katharine HOLABIRD**  
**Leslie JAMISON**

**W** HUDSON VALLEY WRITERS CENTER

The poster features a large, stylized 'W' logo in the background. On the left side, there are two rows of small portrait photos of the featured writers. The top row shows Jericho Brown, Susan Choi, and Toi Derricotte. The bottom row shows Katharine Holabird and Leslie Jamison. The text on the right provides the event details and the organization's name.

## HVWC BENEFIT GALA, OCT 30, 2020

### AD LEVELS

\_\_\_ **Bard \$750**: Social media + newsletter + group mention in gala slideshow

\_\_\_ **Wordsmith \$500**: Newsletter + group mention in slideshow

\_\_\_ **Scribe \$250**: Group mention in slideshow

### SPONSORS

\_\_\_ **Laureate \$5,000+**: 2 VIP tables of 10 + all ad perks + SHP chapbook collection + fine wine assortment + HVWC Reading Series naming rights for 6 months

\_\_\_ **Publisher \$3,000**: 2 VIP tables of 10 + all ad perks + SHP chapbook collection + fine wine assortment

\_\_\_ **Literati \$1,500**: VIP Table of 10 + SHP chapbook collection

*METRICS on reach of your logo/ad will depend on promo package you choose. **All levels of ads/sponsorship will be featured on our website!***

**Gala attendance**: 500+ expected online of our most active cultural supporters (vs. 175 at our usual in-person event)

**Social media**: Facebook (6,600 followers); Instagram (1,500 followers); Twitter (1,500 followers)

**Newsletters**: sent weekly to 1,600+ active subscribers

**Website**: Average 3,000 users each month/10,000 page views

*\* Please supply high resolution digital image/logo with up to 2 lines text to [admin@writerscenter.org](mailto:admin@writerscenter.org) by October 1, 2020. For more sponsorship opportunities and further virtual promo package details, email: [krista@writerscenter.org](mailto:krista@writerscenter.org) or call 914.332.5953.*

### AUCTION DONATIONS

My donation is \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ being sent separately.      Please contact me for details.

Description for Gala auction/web promotion: *(a separate sheet may be attached)*:

Estimated value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Suggested Minimum Bid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any restrictions, time limits, etc. on donation?

### TICKETS/CONTRIBUTIONS

**I will attend**: Number of seats \_\_\_\_\_ at \$150\*     Virtual Table for 10 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$1,500 (grouped together for after-party)

**Please send a Bruise chapbook (free with ticket purchase) to below address**      yes      no thanks, I'll pass on the free book

**I am unable to attend, but would like to donate \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Each ticket buyer who chooses will be shipped a free copy of new SHP Conversation Series chapbook: Toi Derricotte's and Dawn Lunny Martin's *A Bruise is a Figure of Remembrance*.*

## CONTACT/PAYMENT INFO

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL for ads, tickets, donations listed above: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Check enclosed (payable to **Hudson Valley Writers Center**)    MasterCard    Visa    AmEx    Discover

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This form can be emailed to [admin@writerscenter.org](mailto:admin@writerscenter.org) or printed and mailed to Hudson Valley Writers Center at address below. You can also visit our [writerscenter.org/gala](http://writerscenter.org/gala) to book or learn more about any of the above.*

300 Riverside Drive, Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591 | 914.332.5953 | [writerscenter.org/gala](http://writerscenter.org/gala)



Our deepest gratitude for your loyalty and ongoing support!

The Gala Committee 2020