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, 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:


 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

Featuring writers:
Jericho BROWN
Susan CHOI
Toi DERRICOTTE
Katharine HOLABIRD
Leslie JAMISON
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 by October 1, 2020. For more sponsorship opportunities and further virtual promo package details, email 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 Luny 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 or printed and mailed to Hudson Valley Writers Center at address below. You can also visit our 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

Our deepest gratitude for your loyalty and ongoing support!

The Gala Committee 2020