



THE MFA PROGRAM  
*for* WRITERS  
*at Warren Wilson College*

**2026 AWP Conference & Bookfair**  
**Baltimore Conference Center**  
**March 4-7, 2026**



VIRTUAL EVENTS

These virtual #AWP26 events will be prerecorded and made available for registered conference attendees to watch on demand online during the conference in March 2026, and for one month afterward.

**V108. Myths & Motherlands: Migration & Multiplicity in the Chinese Diaspora - VIRTUAL EVENT**

*Angela Sieu, M. Cynthia Cheung, Diana Cao, Nicole Lee (poetry, 2022), Saba Keramati*

A reading from the authors' award-winning work and recent/forthcoming books. In the face of hypernationalism and trade wars, it's essential that we as Chinese diasporic women offer our work as resistance. Poems will touch upon the Chinese diasporic experience—the impact of migration on cultural and linguistic legacy, the idea of homeland, reinterpretations of historical characters and myths, multiplicity in identities and literary form—and work outside this scope. A Q&A will follow.

**V115. Thinking Small, Writing Large: Moving Between Short & Long Forms - VIRTUAL EVENT**

*Paul Jaskunas, Montez Louria, Lauren Alwan (fiction, 2008), Louise Marburg, Lydia Renfro*

Writers working in short forms traditionally use techniques of compression and concision, but what happens when they tackle the scale of a larger work? The novel demands a different approach to structure, pacing, and detail, and shifting from the constraints of brevity to the freedom of a large canvas can sometimes pose daunting challenges. A panel of poets and prose writers who work in both short and long forms discusses the strategies and rewards of tackling the expansiveness of the novel.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**T110. The Lyric “We”**

*Taije Silverman, Cynthia Dewi Oka (poetry, 2019). Eleanor Wilner, Ilya Kaminsky, Reginald Dwayne Betts (poetry, 2010)*  
Room 308, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Poets will read and discuss different forms of the first-person plural voice, exploring how the porousness of an individual voice can expand into, and expand, history. Placing Eleanor Wilner's idea of the transpersonal at the center of our conversation, we will consider the juncture between singular and communal selves as it surfaces in our poetry and often leads to engagement beyond the page. Examining the plural voice, we will celebrate how friendship shapes and sustains both words and worlds.

**T118. Start-Up Literary Centers on Campus: Years 1 & 5**

*Alice Magelsen-Green, Kara Oakleaf, Alexander Chee, Laura Jean Gilloux (poetry, 2025)*  
Room 320, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Join representatives from the Literary Arts Bridge at Dartmouth College and Watershed Lit: Center for Literary Engagement and Publishing Practice at George Mason University for a discussion on the challenges and opportunities in starting a campus literary center. The Bridge is in its first year of operation, while Watershed Lit will be entering its fifth year. Join both organizations as they talk about securing funding, finding space, and building partnerships, as well as the impact on their communities.

10:35 – 11:50 a.m.

T129. **Lily Poetry Review Stage Reading**

**Subhaga Crystal Bacon** (poetry, 1995), *Chloe Miller, Eileen Cleary*  
Bookfair Stage, Hall A-D, Level 100, Baltimore Convention Center

Reading of new books published by Lily Poetry Review Books, featuring Rikki Santer, Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Barbara Carlson, Wendy Drexler, Melody Wilson, Chloe Yelena Miller, and others.

T147. **Don't Box Me In! Crossing Genres & Defying Categorization**

*Art Taylor, John Copenhaver, Richie Narvaez, SJ Sindu, Shannon Scott*  
Room 327, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Buried mere blocks from this year's convention, Edgar Allan Poe left an indelible mark on mystery, horror, and science fiction. His crossing of genre lines feels prescient today, with an increasing amount of modern fiction breaking the boundaries between forms, blending traditions, disrupting conventions, and thriving in ambiguity. Professors and fiction writers both, the panelists explore the landscape of cross-genre fiction and the possibilities for emerging writers.

12:10 – 1:25 p.m.

T154. **When "Normal" Is Overrated: Writing About Disability & Chronic Illness**

*Greg Marshall, Carter Sickels, Mathew Rodriguez, Sara Novic, Rosie Sultan*  
Room 301, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Disability studies might be a newish genre, but it has an unfortunate currency today, given proposed cuts to Medicaid and systemic ableism. But what are the ethics and politics of such writing? How do we manage the public appetite for narratives about "overcoming"? How do we allow our narrators and characters the same complexity, ambiguity, and humor that literature about nondisabled people enjoys? This panel features writers who have created work from both inside and outside the disabled body.

T171. **Enduring Ephemeral Forms: On Poetry Chapbooks & Building Community**

*David Haydon, Zoe Tuck, Dujie Tahat* (poetry, *nd*), *Aishvarya Arora, Brian Teare*  
Room 301, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Chapbooks have a countercultural history and democratizing ethic. This panel of poets, editors, and publishers discuss the challenges and opportunities of this short form. They'll offer insights into contests that support debut authors, chaplets that commemorate reading series, alternative modes of production, such as letterpress and risograph printing. We'll consider how chapbooks create enduring connections and contribute to an essential, living archive of work by queer, BIPOC, and feminist authors.

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

T195. **Choice & the Lyric Body**

*Majda Gama, Amanda Shaw* (poetry, 2020), *Joanna Furman, Kyoko Mori, Sandra Beasley*  
Room 328, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Panelists of diverse backgrounds will engage in a craft-based discussion about how the choice to be childfree informs our art, including what it took to be "successful" at our craft. If choice is a spectrum, how do we write past stereotypes about people without children without stigmatizing other reproductive choices? We will share multigenre work, along with craft tips about tone, the lyric "I," and how to challenge stock narratives of caregiving to include communal and ecological stewardship.

**T196. From Panel to Print: Three Book Projects That Originated at AWP**

*David B. Olsen, Eric Freeze, Lisa Hadley* (fiction, 2009), *Lizette Wanzer, Chloe Martinez* (poetry, 2009)

Room 329, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Bands often test out new material on the road and then head into the studio when the tour ends to record it. What if we approached conference panels with something similar in mind? What if a productive conversation didn't stop at the sound of polite clapping but instead found new form as a book? Writers and editors from past AWP panels discuss the unique paths that led them from working out ideas in public to collaborative publishing projects, including edited collections and coauthored books.

**3:20 – 4:35 p.m.**

**T204. Narrative Constellations: Exploring the Boundaries of the Novel-in-Stories**

*Cynthia Reeves* (fiction, 2006), *Michael Martone, Rachel Cantor, Laura Bonazzoli, Sidik Fofana*

Room 309, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Novels-in-stories create layered, novelistic worlds through linkages ranging from traditional to experimental. This panel explores the novel-in-stories as constellation, from building classic connections among stories through character, theme, object, and setting to yield a unified whole, to pushing the boundaries of bridging “pieces” that may or may not stand alone. Panelists discuss how the novel-in-stories differs from a story collection or novel, and unravel the form's many possibilities.

**T210. Swirl & Vortex: A Celebration of Larry Levis**

*Mai Der Vang, David St. John, Carolyn Forché, John Murillo, Kevin Young*

Room 318-319, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

The poetry of Larry Levis increasingly occupies a legendary place among poets, teachers, and readers. Over his career, his poetic lines broadened to accommodate the cinematic aperture of his observations on American empire, poverty, landscape, migrant workers, political violence, addiction, and art. Five contemporary poets will celebrate and read from Levis's poetry to mark Levis's eightieth year, thirty years since his death, and the long-awaited publication of his collected poems.

**T217. ADHD & the Writer: Strategies to Harness Your Superpower**

*Christina Chiu, Shelly Sanders, Robin Black* (fiction, 2005), *Marcus Burke*

Room 328, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Writing happens to be one of the most challenging tasks for many people with ADHD, and yet, you choose it for a reason—you're amazing at it! Even still, it's frustrating to miss deadlines, and it's tough to find motivation when you feel like you're lugging a fifty-pound backpack. These award-winning authors share strategies that transform their ADHD “deficit” into a superstrength. Come to listen, learn, and troubleshoot strategies for success.

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Offsite: The Kimbilio Reading Series Presents Danielle Evans, Rickey Fayne, Deesha Philyaw, Rion Amilcar Scott, Jacinda Townsend**

*Danielle Evans, Rickey Fayne, Deesha Philyaw, Rion Amilcar Scott, Jacinda Townsend*, with **David Haynes**

Enoch Pratt Central Library, Wheeler Auditorium; 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

You are cordially invited to a night of unforgettable storytelling and celebration as Kimbilio fellows and faculty take the stage at the historic Enoch Pratt Library (400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore MD 21201) on Thursday March 5th at 7:00 pm ET. Listen to five extraordinary voices in the contemporary African American diaspora: Danielle Evans, Rickey Fayne, Rion Amilcar Scott, Deesha Philyaw and Jacinda Townsend. Experience stories that bend time, break rules, and challenge expectations. We hope to see you there!

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

F115. **The Art & Craft of the Craft Book**

*Gayle Brandeis, Heidi Czerwiec, Jason Schneiderman, Jehanne Dubrow, Matt Bell*

Room 314, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

While we often think of craft books as dry, didactic documents, they can be provocative, engaging, and even fun. Five writers from across genres will discuss their experiences writing such texts and address questions like: How might craft essays and lectures evolve into book-length projects? How do you develop an imaginative thesis and a creative structure? How do you overcome self-doubt and trust in the authority of your voice? And how do you make craft appealing to the reader?

F122. **Beauty vs. Fidelity: The Poetry Translator's Gamble**

*Barbara Hamby, Andrea Jurjevik, Ariel Francisco, Dzvinia Orlowsky (poetry, 1991), Silvia Valisa*

Room 323, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

What makes a great translation of poetry? Is it an accurate transcription of language, or transfer of tone, image, and poetic sensibility? In spring 2025, Silvia Valisa and Barbara Hamby organized a graduate seminar at Florida State University to explore this question. They invited nine experienced translators to share their work. Some of those poet/translators join this panel to examine the tension between accuracy and poetic transcendence and what informed their decisions.

F125. **Even Strange Ghosts Can Be Shared: A Roundtable on the Legacy of Jack Spicer**

*Daniel Benjamin, Hoa Nguyen, Chris Nealon (poetry, 1993), Ariana Reines, Maria Damon*

Room 326, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

A key figure of the San Francisco Renaissance, poet Jack Spicer (1925–1965) forged a poetics of queer resistance, mysticism, and linguistic subversion. This roundtable celebrates the 2025 centenary of Spicer's birth and the recent publication of *Even Strange Ghosts Can Be Shared: The Collected Letters of Jack Spicer* (Wesleyan, 2025). In a roundtable including critical reflection and dialogue, poets and scholars discuss Spicer's influence on experimental poetics and queer literary practice.

F127. **Poetry & the Sacred**

*James Davis May, Jared Harel, Megan Pinto (poetry, 2018), Hayan Charara, Philip Metres*

Room 328, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Daily news reports and think pieces describe how institutions are under attack and how things that were once considered sacred are no longer revered. The profane seems to be threatening both secular and religious ideals ranging from habeas corpus to empathy. For as long as we've had notions of the sacred, we've turned to poetry to help us find and define it. In this panel, poets from multiple religious and secular perspectives will discuss how their work connects to the sacred.

10:35 – 11:50 a.m.

F134. **Said & Unsaid: Crafting Silence in Poetry**

*Randall Mann, Allison Adair, Gabriel Bates, Sandra Lim*

Room 302, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Of the poet's tools, Li-Young Lee praises the "different colors and shades" of silence, while Jane Hirshfield calls intersections of language and silence "thresholds" for the "marriage of said and unsaid." This panel explores the craft of silences: pauses, line breaks, blank space, hesitation, disruption, and implication. Using models from their own and others' work, panelists reveal how silences shape poems, heighten consciousness, manage risks of miscommunication, and counteract daily chatter.

12:10 – 1:25 p.m.

**F160. Come as You Are: Writers with ADHD**

**Robin Black** (fiction, 2005), **Chloe Martinez** (poetry, 2009). *Kyowa Fagin Maples, Rebecca Makkai, Lawrence-Minh Bui Davis*  
Room 307, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

At #AWP23, a panel on ADHD and writing drew a huge crowd of curious, excited, brilliant ADHD writers. That conversation sparked *Chaos, Creativity, Completion: New Approaches to Writing and ADHD* (University of Chicago Press, 2026). At this reading, contributors will read from their essays, which ask how we can write in ways that embrace rather than mask our neurodiversity; tell of diagnoses that can come as midlife revelations; and go beyond traditional writing advice to find practices that work for us.

**F166. A Lifetime to Write: Fifty Years of the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers**

**Yanyi, Alix Ohlin, Nina McConigley, Christopher Castellani, Rita Banerjee**

Room 316, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

How does one create “a lifetime to write”? This panel highlights the MFA program’s roots in creating the low-residency model, a radical, inclusive means to a creative writing education for caretakers, workers, and people of nontraditional backgrounds. Panelists will speak to program changes decade by decade through writing practices, low-residency teaching, and program policies over the years, as well as new directions, such as the recent launch of the creative nonfiction writing track.

**F171. Foothills, Bays & Freeways: Mid-Atlantic Poets**

*Jona Colson, Joseph J. Capista* (poetry, 2016), *Leona Savick, Alyse Bensel, Arden Levine*

Room 323, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

The Mid-Atlantic region is uniquely situated at the crossroads of culture, politics, and place. Poets offer perspectives on how the Mid-Atlantic, from the Susquehanna Valley to the Chesapeake Bay, has shaped their creative practices and read from work that showcases this influence.

**F173. Writing Beyond the Mother Tongue**

*Karol Lagodzki, Ali Araghi, Samuel Kolawole, Roohi Choudhry*

Room 325, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

International writers in the US work in a liminal space between at least two cultures and languages even if they write in English. They face a question: How to represent, or “translate,” the culture that’s familiar to them but not to most of their readers? What does it mean to be a writer from an “alien” culture in an insular society? The panelists, with backgrounds rife with experiences of colonialism, war, and migration, will discuss how existing in the interstices has shaped their fiction.

1:45 -3:00 p.m.

**F180. War & the Living World: The Intersection of History, Biology & Poetry**

*Sean McLain Brown, J.C. Todd* (poetry, 1990), *Anne Fisher-Wirth, Lucille Lang Day*

Bookfair Stage, Hall A-D, Level 100, Baltimore Convention Center

Panelists will read and discuss poetry on environmental impacts of war, a subgenre of both ecopoetry and war poetry. The victims of war are not only humans, but also flora and fauna found in areas of armed conflict. Although war has been damaging ecosystems worldwide throughout history, people are now becoming more aware of how war affects plants, animals, soil, air, and water. This panel will address how poetry can deepen our understanding of war’s relentless reshaping of landscapes worldwide.

**F189. Hard to Get: How Queer & BIPOC Poets Use Allusions to (Re)write the Culture**

*Jennifer Chang, Brendan Som, Francine J, Harris, Jenny Johnson* (poetry, 2011)

Room 316, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Reginald Shepherd argued that “poetry isn’t hard enough,” listing among other difficulties the use of allusions as integral to the pleasures of being truly engaged by a poem. While we commonly associate allusions as barriers to comprehension (think *The Waste Land* and *The Cantos*), this panel considers allusion not as an alienating force, or at its worst another tool of cultural white supremacy, but as a literary device used by queer and BIPOC writers to experiment with exclusion and access.

F197. **Home, Belonging & Agency in Diasporic Fiction**

*Soran Gorkemli, Daniel Tam-Claiborne* (fiction, 2020), *Elysha Chang, Nawaaz Ahmed, Roohi Choudhry*

Room 326, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Migration and social upheavals complicate what are already differential perceptions and experiences of home and belonging. This session will feature five writers who will read from their debut fiction. Set in diverse locales from Asia to Africa, Middle East, and North America, their global, diasporic storytelling about identity, including ethnicity, gender, race, and sexuality, showcases their characters' agency in navigating home/lands and their relationship to un/belonging.

F199. **Slow Down: Patience, Poetry & Poets**

**David Baker**, *Kimiko Hahn, Linda Gregerson, Philip Metres*

Room 328, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Poems reward patience. Reading one deepens with time. Writing one may take weeks, months; publishing even longer. Yet poets feel intense pressure to rush—deadlines, professional reviews, a hyperactive scrutiny on social media. Our panel considers the paradox of colliding tempos, relating poetry the art to poetry the career. (Is it a career?) We offer professional guidance, publishing strategies, and our own testimony in examining how we read, how we write, how we work alone and in community.

3:20 – 4:45 p.m.

F202. **Half of the Birdsong: Poetry Working Toward Personal Truth, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press**

*Michael Wiegers, Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Richard Siken*

Ballroom II, Level 400, Baltimore Convention Center

In this extraordinary pairing, two poets showcase poetry's ability to reveal profound truths. In Gabrielle Calvocoressi's poems, the ocean becomes a cistern in which lyric springs forth both brave vulnerability and a commitment to hope. In Richard Siken's poems, precise storytelling excavates the past by way of a confrontation with the experience of having a stroke. Both write from within the middle of a life—queer, scarred, seeking renewal—from within an architecture resonant with sound.

F205. **Twist! New Directions for Teaching Poetic Turns**

*Michael Theune, Alexis Sears, Kim Addonizio, Kim Noriega, Matthew Olzmann* (poetry, 2009; faculty)

Room 302, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Turns, significant shifts in rhetorical and/or dramatic trajectory, are vital elements in poetry. As poetry writing pedagogy has only recently begun to systematically focus on volta-like turning, new techniques and materials for teaching turns are still emerging. "Twist!" offers workshop-tested lessons, prompts, and activities that will help developing writers engage the turn as invention exercise, drafting tool, revision strategy, and performance feature. Advanced undergraduate and above.

F212. **Script Curious: How Book Writers Can "Beat Their Own Path" into Screenwriting**

*Elizabeth Searle, David Shields*

Room 316, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Shields and Searle—cowriters on the feature film *I'll Show You Mine* (Duplass Bros.)—discuss segueing into scripts and analyze popular scriptwriting templates. Searle cracks open the "nutshell technique" and McKee's *Story* (a book that Shields finds "useless"). Shields deconstructs Freytag's pyramid (seven beats), Aristotle's three-acts (fourteen beats), and Syd Field's seven beats (five in Shields's version). Learn how two book writers "beat the odds" into feature film writing and how they find ways to "beat the beats."

F216. **Haints, Haunts & Other Shape-Shifters**

**Sarah Stone**, *Beth Alvarado, Julie Juanita, Lilian Howan*

Room 321-322, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

What calls us to tell tales of spirits made restless by loneliness, passion, and personal or historical grievances and injustices? How, in today's endangered world, do we find new ways to write speculative fiction about ghosts, the uncanny, haints and haunts, shape-shifters, and the dead who refuse to stay dead? Five fiction writers from varied backgrounds and storytelling traditions share work, literary models, and craft strategies for the fierce and sometimes playful art of writing the uncanny

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Offsite: Writeaways Workshops and Retreats -- Meet and Greet**

**Mimi Herman** (fiction 1991), *John Yewell*

Bar and lounge Hilton Garden Inn Baltimore Inner Harbor 625 S. President Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202

Writeaways, the international writing workshop and retreat program, with locations in France, Italy, Ireland, New Mexico, and North Carolina, invites you to a happy hour get-together. Join Writeaways co-founders Mimi Herman and John Yewell at the bar and lounge of the Hilton Garden Inn, Baltimore Inner Harbor, about a mile from the convention center. Arrive any time from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, make new friends, hang out with us, and find out more about Writeaways!

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Offsite: Dual Practice: Debut Novelists on Writing Fiction & Making Visual Art**

**Leah DeForest** (fiction, 2020), *Deborah Hutton, Margaret Brown*

Creative Alliance, The Patterson Building, 3134 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224

In this "Time's Breath" art exhibition public opening and artist talk, Boston-based author Leah De Forest, Senior Editor of Bloom, an online magazine devoted to authors whose first major work was published when they were age 40 or older, and forthcoming debut novelist (*Any Kind of Known Tomorrow*), discusses balancing art practices and the craft of writing fiction with Deborah Brown English (*Time's Breath*), and artist and debut novelist, Margaret Hutton (*If You Leave*).

**Offsite: Autumn House Press and Friends Reading**

*Marian Crotty, P. Scott Cunningham, Ren Cedar Fuller, Anthony Immergluck, Meredith Nnoka, Jasmine Reid, Grace Spulak* (fiction, 2024), and *Lauren D. Wood*

V-NO Wine Bar & Shop, 905 S Ann Street, Baltimore, MD 21231

Join Autumn House Press for an evening celebrating eight of our authors. The event will feature readings from their newest AHP books, including poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. We're also delighted to welcome featured readers from Four Way Books, Carnegie Mellon University Press, and Barrow Street Books.

6:00 – 8:45 p.m.

**Offsite: Offsite Reading: Serious Poets, Playful Poems**

*Scheduled readers: Rita Dove, Kim Addonizio, Dorothy Chan, Chen Chen, Sasha Debevec-McKenney, Benjamin Garcia, Mickie Kennedy, Timothy Liu, Matthew Olzmann* (poetry, 2009; faculty), and *Paul Tran*

American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM), 800 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230

Register for a free offsite reading at the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM), including private after-hours exhibit access. Friday, March 6, 2026. 800 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230 Reception and private viewing of museum starts at 6pm; reading starts at 7pm.

**PROGRAM EVENTS 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.**

**6:30 MFA PROGRAM FOR WRITERS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reading**

Lord Baltimore Hotel; 20 W. Baltimore St.

Baltimore Theater (mezzanine level)

Doors open at 6:00.

**7:30-10:30 MFA PROGRAM FOR WRITERS Reception**

Lord Baltimore Hotel; 20 W. Baltimore St.

Royal Board Room (19<sup>th</sup> floor)

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**S111. The New Embodied Lyrics of Wild, Wild Tech**

**Jennifer Steinorth** (poetry, 2015), *Katherine Yang*, *Urayoan Noel*, *Kathy Wu*, *Erica Meitner*

Room 309, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Digital networks, IT, and computational technologies riddle twenty-first-century experience, yet these paradigms are largely absent from contemporary poetry. What do we miss ignoring the clicks that make hearts race, when algorithmic hegemonies go unchecked? How can we leverage evolving technologies for more embodied poetics? Through discussion, brief readings, and speculative prompts, our motley crew will explore IT's mercurial presence in contemporary lyric genres—the better to grasp IRL entanglements.

10:35 -11:50 a.m.

**S142. Bringing Social Justice into the Writing Classroom**

*Thaddeus Rutkowski*, *Joanna Sit*, *Randi Hoffman*, *Thomas Kneeland*, **Samuel Kolawole**

Room 321-322, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Now more than ever, it is important to bring ideals of social justice and human rights into college classrooms. How will scholarship and community come together to shape the academic landscape for our students? This panel gathers a diverse group of lecturers and professors who focus on the moral component of their writing assignments. Panelists will explain how they integrate ethics and equity into their classroom discussions and will share practical knowledge gained from their experiences.

**S155. SWANA Writers Caucus**

*Pinar Banu Yanar*, *Aliah Lavonne Tigh*, *Sophia Babai*, **Tariq Luthun** (poetry, 2018), *Rabha Ashy*

Room 307, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

This will be a town hall–style meeting, creating a much-needed space for SWANA writers to build and connect within AWP. We invite established and emerging writers, editors, students, scholars, and organizers, and aim for the caucus to facilitate networking and exchange on literary endeavors, craft, publishing, poetics, and praxis. Our caucus seeks to empower and center the voices of underrepresented Americans with roots in SWANA cultures and communities.

**S165. Visible & Invisible Baltimores**

*Jess Row*, **Rachel Webster** (poetry, 2004), *Susan Muaddi Darraj*, *Susan Steinberg*, *Kate Crane*

Room 321-322, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Crabs, John Waters, and *The Wire*, right? There's much more to Baltimore: its central place in African American and Jewish American history; its role as a port city, a place of transit and passage; its wildly diverse working-class communities; its radical disparities of wealth, influence, and power. On this panel, five writers with Baltimore roots will discuss how their work speaks to the city's complicated and often-misunderstood nature.

**S166. Smart, Scintillating & Unapologetic: Badass B\*tches over Sixty**

*Kathryn Kysar*, *Denise Low*, *Mary Moore Easter*, **Lynette D'Amico** (fiction, 2013), *Susan Kiyo Ito*

Room 323, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

Five women in their sixties to eighties explore their writing careers as acts of resistance, resilience, and reflection. We will consider the liberations and barriers of aging and how they are exacerbated or enhanced by the intersectionality of identities from Asian, Black, Queer, and Indigenous perspectives, how our (in)visibility affects publishing, and how the current political climate affects our work in this culture that celebrates the new and the now. Audience involvement included in conversation.

1:45 to 3:00 p.m.

**S182. Poetics, Politics & Ethics of Memory, Imagination & Mourning in the Elegy**

*Samyak Shertok, Prageeta Sharma, Saddiq Dzukogi, Victoria Chang* (poetry, 2005), *Diana Khoi Nguyen*

Room 315, Level 300, Baltimore Convention Center

The conventional (pastoral) elegy opens with lament, rises to praise, and concludes in consolation. But what happens when we're unable to grieve or there's no closure? When the traditional form fails to reflect our grieving experiences, how can we reinvent it? This panel considers the limitations and possibilities of the elegy by exploring the politics of memory and mourning, radical empathy for the problematic loved ones, anticipatory grief, and memory and imagination as the door to the dead.