



CITYLIT PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY PRESENTS:

WORDS ON THE WINDS OF CHANGE

A MONTH-LONG VIRTUAL CELEBRATION FOR
READERS AND WRITERS WITH A DAYLONG PROGRAM
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021



CITYLIT
PROJECT



ENOCH PRATT free LIBRARY

#citylitfest2021 | @citylitproject | @citylitproject | CityLitProject

FEATURED SESSIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Tales of a Different World

In an exhilarating tale of colliding worlds, **EMILY ST. JOHN's** *The Glass Hotel* paints a breathtaking portrait of greed and guilt, love and delusion, and the infinite ways we search for meaning in our lives. In **JENNY OFFILL's** funny and urgent *Weather*, the foreboding sense of doom commands a family and presents a nation in crisis, and how we weather it. Both authors will be in a conversation moderated by **Marion Winik**, author of *The Big Book of the Dead*.

7:00 - 8:00 pm: Zoom Webinar

8:00 - 8:30 pm: Zoom Meeting: The Writer's Room*

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Terrance Hayes: A Poet of These Times – How We Breathe

Author of *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin* and National Book Award winner (for *Lighthouse*), **TERRANCE HAYES** reads and discusses his work in light of the upheavals of 2020. **Clint Smith**, poet, staff writer at The Atlantic, and author of the forthcoming *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America* moderates.

7:00 - 8:00 pm: Zoom Webinar

8:00 - 8:30 pm: Zoom Meeting: The Writer's Room*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

"A Little Romance: Reading Chekhov to Understand Love"

A **Master Class** with *Lincoln in the Bardo's* **GEORGE SAUNDERS**: In this class, we'll first read, in advance, Chekhov's masterpiece, "The Lady with the Pet Dog." Then, in a virtual format, Booker-Prize winning author Saunders will offer us his take on the story, as he has done since 1997 in his class on the Russian short story in translation, offered to his MFA students – some of the best young writers in America. At the end, we'll have a chance to dive even deeper into this story, through an open Q&A session. Paying attendees will receive a Zoom invitation days before the event goes live. Saunders rarely teaches a Master Class outside of the University but he joins us for this special Reimagined event.

7:30 - 8:30 pm (\$10. Pay what you can. Donate for more events like this.)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, MARCH 31 & APRIL 7

The Joy of Grief: Finding Life in Death

A Grief Writing Workshop with Gayle Danley & Kimberley Lynne

GAYLE DANLEY and **KIMBERLEY LYNNE**, two teachers guide participants through the processing of grief with the lamp of creative writing. Using poetry, fiction, and memoir prompts and guided meditation, the teachers will help students navigate the swamp of sorrow and travel on to nurturing healing. Both faculty members battle grief from the loss of loved ones but are not social workers or ministers.

6:00 - 7:30 pm

FESTIVAL FINALE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Somewhere in the Reflection: A Visual Presentation curated by Nia June, APoetNamedNate & Kirby Griffin

In this session, film and poetry collide to explore the meaning of identity by holding a mirror to the maddening yet liberating process of self-discovery. Experience some of Baltimore's most captivating filmmakers and poets as they share their stories about race, gender, childhood, love, and freedom. Curated by Baltimore creatives poets **NIA JUNE**, **APoetNamedNate** and photographer **KIRBY GRIFFIN**. Featuring the works of **Black Chakra**, **Sharayna Christmas**, **Gyasi Mitchell** & more!

7:30 - 9:00 pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 20: DAY-LONG PROGRAM

10:00 am – 5:30 pm EST through Zoom Webinar

(A singular link to be utilized the entire day except for The Writer's Room with Nikky Finney. Visit Current Events at citylitproject.org.)

10:00AM - 12:00PM by ZOOM

One-on-One 30 Minute Critique Sessions with Rosalia Scalia, Karen Houppert, Bret McCabe, Rebekah Kirkman, Laura Ballou, and Chelsea Fetzer (\$10)

<https://clf2021-edit-critique.eventbrite.com>

Fiction. Memoir. Creative Nonfiction. Poetry. Screenplay.

*Guidelines: Five pages of poetry OR prose
Double-spaced | 12 pt. font | 1 inch margin
Numbered pages | Name must be included*

10:00AM - 11:00AM

FEATURED OPENING EVENT

The Wolf You Feed

Join novelists **BRANDON HOBSON**, National Book Award Finalist (*Where the Dead Sit Talking*) and **KELLI JO FORD**, debut novel-in-stories, *Crooked Hallelujah* in a conversation about their accomplished works, and learn the strife of stricken families and bonds that form between generations, mother and daughter, and the legacy of family. Brandon's novel *The Removed* is steeped in Cherokee myth and history, a story of "calcified grief", a fractured family reckoning with the tragedy of a son's death from police violence. Kelli Jo's debut novel-in-stories where a young Cherokee woman tries to break a generational cycle of broken families while finding strength in an enduring bond with her mother. The session title is based on an old Cherokee saying about the battle between two wolves that exists inside each of us. A grandson asks his grandfather which wolf wins. The elder gently replies, "The one you feed." **Tyrese Coleman**, author of *How We Sit* will moderate.

11:00AM - 12:30PM

ReThinking How We Do Story: Real Talk About Craft and the Changing/Unchanging Landscape of Writing & Publishing

A 90-minute craft intensive about the changing dynamics of craft as we've been taught - from structure to plot to point of view. Learn from authors who dare you to revisit the elements of

fiction; to unlearn and relearn how to reimagine the story you mean to tell. What does it mean to boldly examine your own work which may exist outside of the cultural norms, and who does that norm serve anyway? The year 2020 may have further exposed racial inequities and upended our sense of normalcy but it also cast a closer look at who gets to tell and own the story. Tune in to a conversation that will awaken and challenge you. This session includes the changing/unchanging landscape of the publishing industry, what it means for people not readily represented in the profession, and how to prepare a manuscript so it gets 'seen'. Panelists include **JENNIFER BAKER** (*Everyday People: The Color of Life*), **MATTHEW SALETTES** (*Craft in the Real World*), **FELICIA ROSE CHAVEZ** (*The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop*), and **COURTNEY MAUM** (*Before and After the Book Deal*) with **Susan Muaddi Darraj** moderating.

1:00PM - 2:00PM

THE MATTERING OF WORDS: A Reading & Talk with Poet Nikky Finney

NIKKY FINNEY reflects on the past year, the necessity of poetry, and the importance of historical context in understanding the world we live in. Nikky won The Sewanee Review's 2020 Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry and is the recipient of the 2020 Wallace Stevens Award, a \$ 100,000-lifetime achievement honor presented by the Academy of American Poets. Academy judges praised Finney for her "fierce moral conviction" and as a bard "for the African diaspora." Her latest collection of poems is *Love Child's Hotbed of Occasional Poetry*, a twenty-first-century paean to the sterling love songs humming throughout four hundred years of Black American life. Poet **Saida Agostini** will moderate this session. A reading, commentary, and audience Q & A.



(CONTINUED ON BACK)

2:00PM - 3:00PM

Who's Missing? & Who's Here Now? Children's and Young Adult Literature

Three authors shed light on the many stories framed either around a historical context or referencing omission from the literary landscape. Join **RANDI PINK** (Angel in Greenwood), **SAADIA FARUQI**, **LAURA SHO VAN** (authors of *A Place at the Table*) in a discussion about writing as activism; the importance of representation; why it's important to tell this story; and what other stories we need to see in the world. **LaTrisha Milton**, Young Adult Services Coordinator for the Enoch Pratt Free Library will moderate.

3:00PM - 4:15PM

The Writer's Room': Poet to Poet with Nikky Finney

Zoom Meeting. Please register with Eventbrite.
<https://clf2021-nikky-finney.eventbrite.com>

4:15PM - 5:30PM

The 'State' of Baltimore: Where We Stand

Panelists discuss critical issues in Baltimore with the intention of shedding light, along with a broader view of justice, equality, art, and dignity in today's Baltimore. Expect a lively discussion with co-editor **JOSHUA DAVIS** (*Baltimore Revisited, Stories of Inequality and Resistance in a U.S. City*), reporter **BRANDON SODERBERG** (*I Got A Monster: The Rise and Fall of America's Most Corrupt Police Squad* – co-written with Baynard Woods), author and cultural worker **ALANAH NICHOLE DAVIS**, with moderator **NNEKA N'NAMDI**, whose lived experience gave birth to Fight Blight Bmore, a social and environmental justice tool for residents to identify, report and track blight.

The Writer's Room*

After the public program, which will be held as a Zoom Webinar, those attending who wish to engage further with the featured authors about craft should register for The Writer's Room through Eventbrite. The Writer's Room is a new Festival highlight designed to engage festival attendees, who are also writers, in an informal conversation with the featured guest authors. Participants are encouraged to come prepared with questions. They will receive a link to attend an informal Zoom Meeting through Eventbrite where featured authors will join attendees virtually face to face. Featured guest artists are open to discussing different aspects of writing including questions about craft, research, writing process, challenges, and questions about publication.

The Zoom Meeting link for The Writer's Room will also be shared in the chat during the main talk.

The Village

CityLit Project recognizes these organizations as part of its Village, local, regional and state-wide organizations that serve readers and writers. CityLit supports these organizations by displaying their information at signature events and on our website. We realize many individuals and organizations ... bookstores, entrepreneurs, reading series, and more — do their level best to provide services, information, and opportunities to grow and enhance the lives of poets and writers. This is our way of supporting them and amplifying their work.

<https://www.citylitproject.org/about-us/the-village/>

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Artist U | • Maryland Writer's Association | • The Poet & The Poem from |
| • A Revolutionary Summer | • Mason Creative Writing | The Library of Congress |
| • The Baltimore Review | • Midwest Writing & Editing | • The Inner Loop |
| • Doerr&Co | • The Modell Lyric | • Writers & Words |
| • Furious Flower Poetry Center | • Passager | • Yellow Arrow Publishing |
| • Howard County Poetry & | • Pen Parentis | • Zora's Den |
| Literature Society | • Poe Baltimore, The Edgar Allan Poe | |
| • Iceland Readers Retreat | House & Museum | |
| • Libraries Without Borders | | |

The CityLit Festival is supported by these partners and sponsors:

