



MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE of The City University of New York

The Center for Black Literature

FOR RELEASE: Immediately
SOURCE: Medgar Evers College, CUNY
CONTACT: For Press Information:
Chris Hundley, 718-270-6926
For Program Information, 718 270-6976

CBL Advisory Board

Dr. Myrlie Evers-Williams
Honorary Chair

Brenda M. Greene, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Dale Allender
*Associate Executive Director,
National Council of Teachers
of English*

Patrick A. Buddington
*Chief Marketing Officer
IMC Communications Group*

Richard Jones Jr.
*Executive Dean,
Accreditation and Quality
Assurance and Institutional
Effectiveness, Medgar Evers
College, CUNY*

Louise Mirrer
*President and CEO
New-York Historical Society*

Richard Wesley
*Writer, Goldberg Chair,
Department of Dramatic
Writing, New York
University*

John Edgar Wideman
*Writer, ASA Messer
Professor of African
American Studies &
English, Brown University*

Marcia White
*President
Personalized Skincare*

Schawannah Wright
*Manager of Community
Involvement, Brooklyn
Museum of Art*

The Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College Celebrates The Ninth National Black Writers Conference Black Writers: Reading and Writing to Transform Their Lives and the World

NEW YORK - The Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, CUNY will host the ***Ninth National Black Writers Conference (NBWC) Black Writers: Reading and Writing to Transform Their Lives and the World on Friday, March 28, 2008 through Sunday, March 30, 2008.*** The Conference is dedicated to the centennial of Richard Wright's birth. Featured authors include Randall Robinson, Cornel West Julia Wright and the notable Susan L. Taylor as the Honorary Conference Chair. Over the course of the three -day conference, the Medgar Evers College campus in Brooklyn, NY, will be filled with patrons from across the country experiencing panel discussions, youth workshops, talkshops, author readings and signings, in addition to an array of vendors in the NBWC marketplace. Early registration at discounted rates for the bi-annual conference has already begun.

The 2008 ***Ninth National Black Writers Conference: Black Writers: Reading and Writing to Transform Their Lives and the World*** draws upon Marita Golden's concept of the transformative power of literature and focuses on the ways in which black writers use literature to transform their lives and the larger global community. It examines this concept of literature as transformative from historical, cultural, and political perspectives. Described by Walter Mosley as "the most significant gathering of black writers in the country," the National Black Writers Conference is the largest gathering of its kind in North America. It has been described by Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes as a glorious opportunity to meet fellow writers and scholars and a fertile environment for creativity! Initially conceived in 1986 by the late author John Oliver Killens, the Conference has consistently attracted a stellar array of writers and scholars including Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Alice Walker, and others. Dr. Brenda Greene, Director of the National Black Writers Conference and Executive Director of the Center for Black Literature states that, "Black writers and artists have had a tremendous impact on our global culture. This Conference offers writers, booksellers, scholars, youth and the general public opportunities to engage in conversations on the ways in which black literature impacts their lives and the lives of others. Language and story are important to our survival. Through our stories we create memories and history. Our stories represent our lifeline to the past, present and future."



-more-

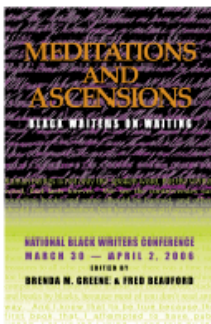
As part of its tribute and recognition to black writers, there will be a special Awards Program and VIP Reception on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Conference attendees must register for this program. Sonia Sanchez will receive the lifetime literary award. Other honorees include Susan L. Taylor, Randall Robinson, and Cheryl and Wade Hudson of Just Us Books.

The Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza will host a special Pre-conference Reading on March 9th at 1:30 pm by acclaimed author John Edgar Wideman. The NBWC's list of confirmed authors for the main program consist of such literary visionaries, scholars, poets, and publishers as Amiri Baraka, Jerry Ward, Brenda Marie Osbey, Thulani Davis, Quincy Troupe, Kevin Powell, David Durham, Terry McMillan, Nancy Rawles, Jabari Asim, Valerie Kinloch, Eisa Ulen, Thomas Bradshaw, Valeri Boyd, Regina Brooks, Martha Southgate, Tayari Jones, Thomas Glave, William Jelani Cobb, Angela Dodson, Jaira Placide, Kassahun Checole, Quraysh Ali Lansana, and Thomas Ellis Sayers, just to name a few.

This year's Conference has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Assemblyman Karim Camara, the Big Read and the Washington Mutual Savings Bank. The Center for Black Literature is also partnering with AALBC.com (African American Literature Book Club), the Brooklyn Public Library, the PEN American Center, the Brooklyn Literary Council, The BIG READ, The Links Incorporated and the Caribbean Research Center.

For further information about this historic literary event and for conference updates, please call 718 270-4811, email:nbwc@mec.cuny.edu, or visit the conference website at www.mec.cuny.edu/nbwc .

Meditations and Ascensions: Black Writers on Writing



The NBWC approaching conference date is at the wake of the publishing of the proceedings of the 2006 Eighth National Black Writers Conference published by Third World Press. Contributors to *Meditations and Ascensions: Black Writers on Writing* include Marita Golden, Walter Mosley, Ishmael Reed, Herb Boyd, Haki R. Madhubuti, Valerie Boyd, Elizabeth Nunez, Samuel Delany, Tananarive Due, Valerie William Wesley and many more. The book was edited by Dr. Brenda M. Greene and Fred Beauford and includes a foreword by Myrlie Evers, activist and widow to the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers. Production is in progress for the highly anticipated book. There is an opportunity to order the book as well as with an early registration.

Available for Pre-Order