



National Black Writers' Conference

THE CENTER FOR BLACK LITERATURE AT MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
1650 Bedford Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11225
NBWC Hotline: 718-270-4811 • Phone: 718-804-8884 • Fax: 718-804-8832 • Email: nbwc@mec.cuny.edu
Website: www.nationalblackwritersconference.org

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Contact: Brenda M. Greene
718-804-8882

Center for Black Literature to Launch New Literary Publications at Writer's Conference

Brooklyn, N.Y.—The inaugural issue of the *Killens Review of Arts and Letters* will be unveiled at the 10th National Black Writer's Conference, starting March 25th at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York.

According to Dr. Brenda M. Greene, Executive Director of the Center for Black Literature, organizer for the Conference, “the *Killens Review* is dedicated to the memory of the great writer/activist John O. Killens.”

In a mission statement to be published in the debut issue, Dr. Greene wrote, “The *Killens Review of Arts and Letters*, published by the Center for Black Literature, is a journal dedicated to supporting the mission and work of the John Oliver Killens Chair at Medgar Evers College. The objective of the Chair is to provide short residencies for literary writer/activists who embody the vision and spirit of Killens. Through the *Killens Review of Arts and Letters* and through the John Oliver Killens Chair, writers and students will have opportunities to create and expand the canon of literature produced by writers of color. John Oliver Killens, author, activist, social critic, educator and former writer-in-residence at Medgar Evers College, spent four decades writing and working to support black writers and their work.”

Novelist/essayist Fred Beauford will serve as the editor of the *Killens Review*. “I have the utmost confidence in Fred's proven abilities to understand just what kind of publication I have in mind,” Dr. Greene said.

Beauford, Editor-in-Chief/publisher of the *Newworld Review*, managing partner of Morton Books, Inc. and publications director for the Center for Black Literature, said that he and Dr. Greene are on the same page.

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“I studied creative writing with John at Columbia University, and later in his living room in Brooklyn, and his wise guidance, and his insights into what it means to be a creative writer, writing for all of humanity, have seen me through many professional disappointments and triumphs,” Beauford said.

“It is an honor to be editing a literary magazine named for him.”

The Center for Black Literature will also release a new book at the 10th National Black Writer’s Conference coedited by Dr. Greene and Fred Beauford, entitled *Resistance and Transformations; Conversations With Black Writers*, published by Morton Books, Inc, which will feature conversations that took place at the 9th Black Writer’s Conference. The book includes such notables as poet Quincy Troupe; literary activist and journalist Esther Armah; Brooklyn’s own, highly praised novelist Martha Southgate; best-selling author Terry McMillan; *Crisis* magazine’s editor, Jabari Asim; journalist, memoir writer and novelist Nathan McCall, and public intellectual and activist Randall Robinson among others.

“This going to be a great Conference and I am proud that the Center has contributed literature that participants, and others, can share far into the future,” Dr. Greene said.

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