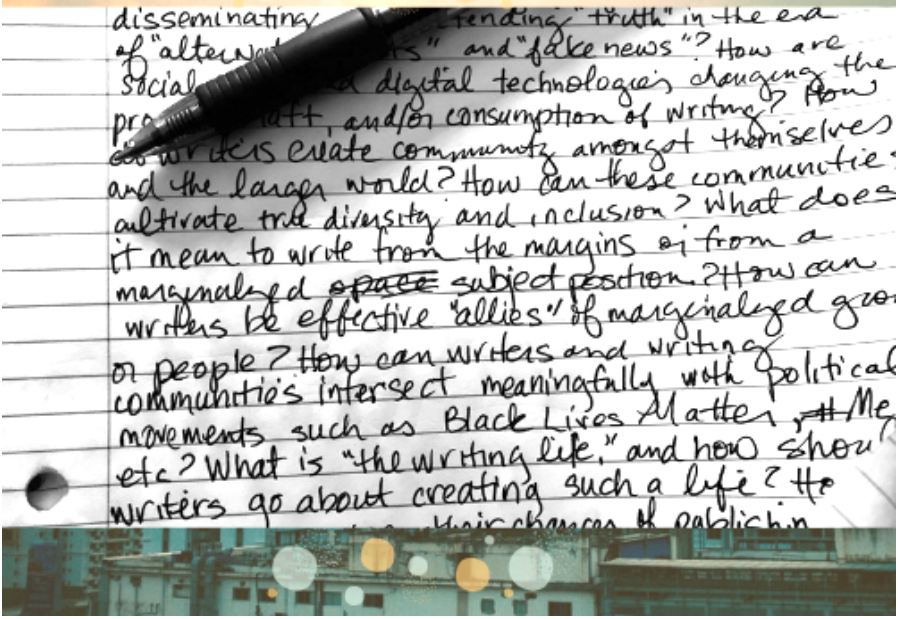
WRITING BY DEGREES
2019 CONFERENCE
"COMMUNITY"



Saturday, April 27, 2019
Registration/Check in: 9:00 a.m
Binghamton University Downtown Center
67 Washington St. Binghamton, NY 13902
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joy Ladin, poet and memoirist

Acknowledgements

This interdisciplinary conference was made possible by the support and contributions from the members of the Writing By Degrees Committee, who participate in meetings and in fundraisers needed to run this event.This conference was organized by Kayla Hardy-Butler (Conference Co-Chair), Jen DeGregorio (Conference Co-Chair), and Jessica Femiani (Media Coordinator) all of whom collaborated in every aspect of this conference, as needed with planning, advertising, and logistics.

Many thanks to Professor Alexi Zentner, our faculty advisor, for his continued support and dedication to this organization and this project.

We would also like to thank the Department of English for its generous contribution with special thanks to Director of Creative Writing Maria Gillan for her advice and guidance, Colleen Burke for being so thorough and helpful, the GEO for its special contribution—with special thanks to President Danielle Schwartz and Treasurer Paul Bachand—and Binghamton University's Office of the President for its generous contribution. This conference was funded in part by GEO, a GSO subsidiary, using Student Activity Funds.

Panel Schedule:

9:00-9:50 am: Registration/Check-in

University Downtown Center's Second Floor: Coffee & light breakfast

10:00-11:00 am: Panels 1 & Panel 2

Panel 1: "Voices in the Dark: A Poetry Reading"

Rm 220A/Moderator: Shin Watanabe

- Joshua Lindenbaum, "'Marching Orders' and Other Poems"
- Matthew McKeague, "Darker Truths: Extra Grim Fairy Tales of Even Grimmer Existence"
- Jen DeGregorio, "'Dressed as the Dead': Writing What's Wrong"

Panel 2: "On Publishing"

Rm 220B/Moderator: Jessica Femiani

- Virginia Shirley, "A Woman Like That: Fictions of Being a Lesbian Author"
- Bernadette Roe, "Notes from the Creative Nonfiction Editor of *Harper Palate*"
- Claudia Cortese, "Notes from an Associate Editor of *Tupelo Quarterly*"

11:10-12:10 pm: Panel 3 & 4

Panel 3: "Encounters: A Reading of Creative Nonfiction"

Rm 220A/Moderator: Mark Fabiano

- Heather Humphrey, "Group Think"
- Carolyn Keller, "خيار: or What the Saudi Women Taught Me"
- Amy S. Parker, "Gracepoint"

Panel 4: "Returns and Reappearances: A Reading of Poetry and Creative Nonfiction"

Rm 220B/Moderator: Adam Gellings

- Carla D. Barger, "Transclass Poetry: Witness from the Liminal Space"
- Mercia Kandukira, "Road Crossing Worries"
- Macaulay Glynn, "Old Friends"

12:20 - 1:20 pm: Lunch with Maria Gillan
**Lunch and refreshments will be provided*

1:30-2:20 pm: Panels 5 & 6

Panel 5: "Teaching and Writing: A Critical Conversation"
Rm 220A/Moderator: Thea Anderson
- Heather Humphrey, "Collaborative Learning and Revaluing the Writer's Voice in the Creative Writing Workshop"
- Angelica Davis, "ESL Perspective on Academic Writing in the Community"
- Lisa Marie Paolucci, "Writing Of and Through Community: Interpreting Italian American Teachers' Pathways to Teaching"

Panel 6: "Grieving Experience: A Reading of Poetry and Creative Nonfiction"
Rm 220B/Moderator: Jen DeGregorio
- Bernadette Roe, "Hold Infinity"
- Michael Rizzo, "Dead Reckoning: How My Brother's Suicide Affected My Family, the Neighborhood, and Me"
- Matt Petronzio, "Leave Me Steady: Poems on Grief and Connectivity"

2:40-3:40 pm: Panels 7 & 8

Panel 7: "Bodies (of Text): A Critical Conversation and Reading"
Rm 220A/Moderator: Joy Ladin
- Claudia Cortese, "Monsters Nowhere/Monsters Everywhere: Writing the Fat Body into Being"
- shane carreon, "A Broken Whole: Some Notes on Lineation"
- Aimée DuPont, "Unhusk Me: Poems on the Pregnant and Aging Body"

Panel 8: "Binghamton Poetry Project Participants and Instructors Write Community: A Discussion and Reading"
Rm 220B/Moderator: Tasnim Bishara
Jessica Femiani, Adam Gellings, Barbara Bernstein, Sandy Rozek, Anita A. Shipway, and Joe Elder

3:50-4:00 pm: Exquisite Corpse Reading: A Collaboration
Rm 220A

4:00-5:00 pm: Keynote Address by Joy Ladin
Rm 220A

Lunch With Maria Mazziotti Gillan

Maria will give a joint reading and craft talk during lunch and will be available for a question and answer session.

Maria Mazziotti Gillan is the winner of the 2014 George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature from AWP, the 2011 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award from *Poets & Writers,* and the 2008 American Book Award for *All That Lies Between Us.* She is the Founder/Executive Director of the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College, editor of the *Paterson Literary Review* and, starting September 2018, has been appointed a Bartle Professor at Binghamton University (SUNY) and Professor Emerita of English and Creative Writing. She has published 23 books, including *What Blooms in Winter* (NYQ Books, 2016) and *Girls in the Chartreuse Jackets* (Cat in the Sun Books, 2014). Visit her website at www.mariagillan.com.

Keynote Address

"The Future is Trying to Tell Us Something, And I've Been Trying to Hear"

By Joy Ladin

Joy Ladin is the author of nine books of poetry, including 2017's *The Future is Trying to Tell Us Something: New and Selected Poems*, *Fireworks in the Graveyard*, and Lambda Literary Award finalists *Impersonation* and *Transmigration*. Her memoir of gender transition, *Through the Door of Life*, was a 2012 National Jewish Book Award finalist. A new work of creative non-fiction, *The Soul of the Stranger: Reading God and Torah from a Transgender Perspective*, came out in 2018 from Brandeis University Press. Her work has been recognized with a National Endowment of the Arts fellowship and a Fulbright Scholarship, among other honors. She holds the David and Ruth Gottesman Chair in English at Stern College of Yeshiva University.

Participants

Thea A. Anderson hails from upstate New York. She received an MA in English from Rochester University and is currently a Ph.D. student in English at Binghamton University (SUNY).

Tasnim Bashara is a Ph.D. student in English at Binghamton University (SUNY).

Barbara Bernstein wrote computer software for years, and relocated from Brooklyn, NY, to Triangle in Broome County and converted an old barn into her studio. Barbara is a glass sculptor who writes fiction and the occasional poem.

shane carreon is author of *travelbook* (2013), *History of Consolacion* (2014), and *Then, Beast* (2017). Ze received an Academy of American Poets College Prize, Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards Honorable Mention, Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature, and the Nick Joaquin Literary Award for fiction. Ze likes translation and graphic books.

Carla Barger is a poet and Ph.D. student at Binghamton University (SUNY). She also holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has appeared in *decomP magazinE, Green Hills Literary Lantern, Anti-Heroin Chic*, and elsewhere. You can find out more about Carla at www.CarlaBarger.com.

Claudia Cortese's *Wasp Queen* won the Devil's Kitchen Award in Emerging Poetry from Southern Illinois University. *Black Warrior Review, Crazyhorse, Gulf Coast*, and *Kenyon Review,* among others, have published her work. Cortese writes reviews for *Muzzle Magazine* and is an associate editor at *Tupelo Quarterly*. Cortese teaches at Montclair State University.

Jen DeGregorio is a Ph.D. student in English at Binghamton University (SUNY), where she is also an instructor with the Binghamton Poetry Project. Her writing has appeared in *Apogee, The Baltimore Review, The Collagist, The Cossack Review, Literary Hub, PANK, The Rumpus, Spoon River Poetry Review, Third Coast, Women's Studies Quarterly*, and elsewhere.

Aimée DuPont holds an MFA in poetry from Hunter College, where she taught creative writing and composition. Presently she serves as Director of Operations at Khronos LLC. Her poems have appeared in *Miscellany* and she has been the recipient of a Mary M. Fay Award and an Academy of American Poets prize.

Joe Elder is a retired clinical social worker who now spends much of his time writing and enjoying poetry. A familiar figure in Binghamton poetry circles, he can often be found at workshops and open mics. His work appeared in the online journal *Ragazine* and is forthcoming in the Spring 2019 issue of *Paterson Literary Review.*

Mark Fabiano is pursuing a Ph.D. in English at Binghamton University (SUNY). His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly, The Saturday Evening Post, Confrontations, Poets & Writers, Muses India, University of Edinburgh Journal of Culture and Arts*, and elsewhere. He

has an MFA from George Mason University and MA degrees from Wright State University and Ohio University.

Jessica Femiani's poetry and essays have been published in the *Paterson Literary Review*, a finalist for the Allen Ginsburg Poetry Award; Jessica is an instructor in Binghamton University's Writing Initiative and is also pursuing a Ph.D. in English in creative writing at Binghamton University (SUNY).

Adam J. Gellings is a poet and instructor from Columbus, Ohio. A 2019 Pushcart Prize nominee, he is the recipient of a Creative Writing Fellowship from the Marion Clayton Link Endowment at the Binghamton University (SUNY). His poems have appeared in the journals *Atlanta Review, Prelude,* and *Salamander,* and in the anthologies *Best New Poets 2017, A Rustling and Waking Within: Poems Inspired By The Arts in Ohio* (OPA Press), and *The Columbus Anthology* (Belt Publishing). He received his MFA in creative writing from Ashland University.

Kayla Hardy-Butler is a second year Ph.D. student in English at Binghamton University (SUNY) where she specializes in creative writing (fiction concentration) and Africana studies; she is a Clifford D. Clark Fellow and Humanities New York Fellow. She holds a B.A and M.A in English literature, both from The University of Akron. Her upcoming fellowship project with Humanities New York is titled *The Minority Youth Writers Lab,* a literary outreach project that seeks to bring creative writing access to minority or otherwise underrepresented youth in Broome County, New York.

Heather Humphrey is currently working on a Ph.D. in creative writing at Binghamton University. She is the Editor-in-Chief for Harpur Palate, director of the Binghamton Poetry Project, and Editor-at-Large for Street Light Press. Heather's poetry and book reviews can be found in Paterson Literary Review, Edison Literary Review, Shrew, The Scattered Pelican and others. Follow on twitter and instagram: @bigred9094.

Mercia Kandukira is a Fulbright Scholar and a first year MA English creative writing student at Binghamton University (SUNY). Though none of her work is published yet, Mercia has six years' teaching experience and writes about political and social issues in her community. She writes poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

Carolyn Keller is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Binghamton University (SUNY). She specializes in fiction, creative nonfiction and personal narrative, cultural rhetorics and composition, and race and gender in English Renaissance theater. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Paterson Literary Review* and *Santa Fe Writers Project Quarterly.*

Matt Petronzio is an editor, journalist, and poet based in New York City. He's the co-founder and co-curator of the Kill Genre reading series in New York City's West Village, and he holds an MFA in poetry from Hunter College of the City University of New York. His poems have appeared in *Powder Keg, PANK, InDigest, Ghost Ocean,* and elsewhere. You can find more at mattpetronzio.com and on Twitter at @mattpetronzio.

Joshua Lindenbaum's poetry has appeared in *HEArt Online, Breadcrumbs, Yes Poetry, Five:2:One, The Bangalore Review, 3Elements Review*, and elsewhere.

Dr. Matthew McKeague teaches media courses as an Assistant Professor at Kutztown University. Previously, he has been a film critic and comedy writer in Los Angeles. Matt's research analyzes humor in media, and he writes comedic fiction, such as 2016's *Darker Truths: Extra Grim Fairy Tales of Even Grimmer Existence.*

Lisa Marie Paolucci is a doctoral student in English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Paolucci also serves as the Assessment Coordinator and Teacher Certification Officer of the Education Department at St. Francis College, where she has also been an Adjunct Lecturer. In addition, she was a high school English teacher for seven years at a public school in Brooklyn.

Amy Suzanne Parker is a Ph.D. student in the English-Creative Writing program at Binghamton University (SUNY). Her work has appeared in *Punchnel's*, *The Mighty, Witch Craft Magazine, Oregon East, ENTROPY*, and *Burrow Press.* Originally from Florida, she writes about her home state, mental health, the environment, and other topics.

Awarded a Hertog Research Fellowship, **Michael Rizzo** teaches creative writing at Hunter College and works as a Story Analyst. Current projects include his memoir *Dead Reckoning: How My Brother's Suicide Affected My Family, the Neighborhood, and Me* and the historical novel *Crank the Machine: What Drove the Drivers, 1900-2020*.

Bernadette Roe received an honorable mention in the 2018 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards. Her work has appeared in *Gandy Dancer, Caffe Beano Anthology*, *Streetlight Press*, and her poetry chapbook was published by the Canadian publisher BHouse Publications. Bernadette is

Sandy Rozek is an educator, a mother, a grandmother, and an artist, living in Maine, New York. In the last year, she unexpectedly picked up the pen, and is running the inkwell dry.

Anita A. Shipway is one of the Whitney Point Poets. The "A" in her name is her maiden-name initial because there is another Anita Shipway in Broome County. Sisters they are not, but sisters-in-law they are, and neither deserves to be blindsided when appearing in print.

Virginia Shirley is an original founder of Writing By Degrees and has had her work published in the *Blithe House Quarterly, Northern Virginia Review, Calliope, Triliteral,* and many others. Virginia is an Assistant Professor of English at SUNY Broome Community College.

Jack Taylor was born in Jericho Long Island during the Great Depression. He lives in Whitney Point and was the postmaster at the Whitney Point Post Office for many years.

Shin Watanabe was born in Gainesville, Florida and has lived in New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Nevada. He studied philosophy at the University of Minnesota and received an MFA in poetry at the University of Las Vegas. Shin is currently a PhD candidate in English with a creative dissertation in poetry at Binghamton University.

Notes: