

A NIGHT OF POETRY & FICTION

2014 CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Welcome

Paget Henry
Professor of Africana Studies and Sociology
& Interim Chair
Brown University

Introductions

Jackson Brown
Managing Editor of Callaloo
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

READINGS

Poetry

Vievee Francis
Gregory Pardlo

Fiction

Maaza Mengiste
Ravi Howard

Upcoming Event

5:30 PM, Friday, June 6, 2014
Churchill House, Brown University
155 Angell St., Providence, RI

Two brief lectures and a discussion on publishing featuring Jamaal May, *Kenyon Review* Fellow, and Andrew Colarusso, Freelance Writer & Editor.

Callaloo is sponsored by Texas A&M University in College Station and published quarterly by the Johns Hopkins University Press in Baltimore.

Vievee Francis is the author of *Horse in the Dark* (Northwestern University Press, 2012) which won the Cave Canem Northwestern University Poetry Prize for a second collection, and *Blue-Tail Fly* (Wayne State University, 2006). Her third book, *Forest Primal*, is slated for release in 2015 (Northwestern University Press). Her work has appeared or will appear in numerous print and online journals, textbooks, and anthologies, including *POETRY*, *CURA*, *Best American Poetry 2010*, *Best American Poetry 2014*, and *Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of African American Poetry*. A participant in both the *Callaloo* and Cave Canem Workshops, she has also been a Poet-in-Residence for the Alice Lloyd Scholars Program at the University of Michigan. In 2009 she received a Rona Jaffe Writer's Award, and in 2010, a Kresge Fellowship. She is currently a Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC.

Ravi Howard was, in 2008, a finalist for The Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award and for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for his debut novel, *Like Trees, Walking*. In 2008, he won the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. He has also published in a number of periodicals, including *Callaloo*, *Massachusetts Review*, and the *New York Times*. This Montgomery, Alabama, native and Howard University graduate received the MFA degree in creative writing from the University of Virginia, where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the literary magazine *Meridian*. As a former television producer for NFL Films, he received a 2004 Sports Emmy for his work on HBO's *Inside the NFL*. Of his fiction he has said, "While the writing process takes authors to internal places, for many of us the path also requires external journeys. While working on my first novel, I lived in New Jersey and Maryland. I made several trips to Alabama to research the novel. I benefited from walking the same streets my characters did, moving in their footsteps and their communities." He lives in Atlanta, Georgia, where he teaches creative writing at Atlanta Metropolitan State College.

Maaza Mengiste is a Fulbright Scholar and the award-winning author of *Beneath the Lion's Gaze*, selected by the *Guardian* as one of the 10 best contemporary African books. The novel was named one of the best books of 2010 by *Christian Science Monitor*, *Boston Globe*, *Publishers Weekly*, and other publications. Her fiction and nonfiction writing can be found in the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, *BBC Radio 4*, *Granta*, and *Lettre International*, among other places. Maaza has won fellowships from Yaddo, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Prague Summer Program, and the Emily Harvey Foundation. She was the 2013 Puterbaugh Fellow and a runner-up for the 2011 Dayton Literary Peace Prize, as well as a finalist for a Flaherty-Dunnán First Novel Prize, an NAACP Image Award, and an Indies Choice Book of the Year Award in Adult Debut. Her second novel, *The Shadow King*, is forthcoming.

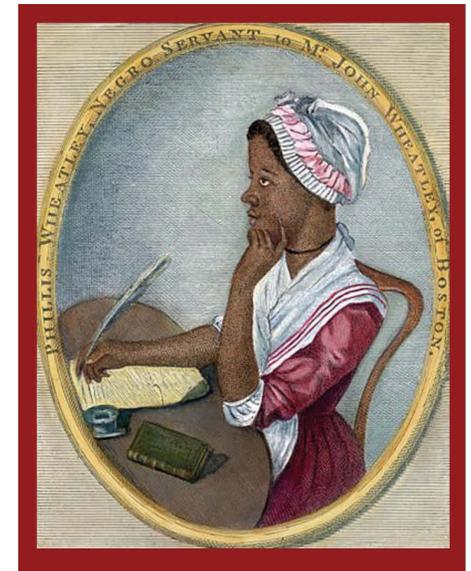
Gregory Pardlo is the author of *Totem*, which received the APR/Honickman Prize in 2007, and *Digest*, forthcoming from Four Way Books in 2014. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, and two editions of *Best American Poetry*, as well as anthologies including *Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. He is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and a fellowship for translation from the National Endowment for the Arts. An Associate Editor of *Callaloo*, he currently serves as Visiting Writer for the MFA program at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY.

CALLALOO

along with
Brown University
and
Texas A&M University
presents

A NIGHT OF POETRY & FICTION

2014 CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP



5:30 PM, Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Brown University
George Houston Bass Performing Arts Space
Churchill House
155 Angell Street
Providence, Rhode Island

ABOUT *CALLALOO*

Founded in 1976 by its editor, Charles Henry Rowell, *Callaloo* is a quarterly journal sponsored by Texas A&M University (College Station, TX) and published by the Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore, MD). It began as a small journal devoted to the literature of the Black South, but during its thirty-plus years of continuous publication, *Callaloo* has become the premiere journal focusing on the literature and culture of the African Diaspora. Although the journal publishes poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, visual art, interviews, and literary and cultural criticism, *Callaloo* is, says its editor, “more than a literary journal. It is a de facto literary and cultural center, organizing and coordinating a variety of activities that serve to exhibit, preserve, critique, and promote African Diaspora literary and visual culture.”

As a literary journal, *Callaloo* has received positive national attention, including a commendation from *Every Writer's Resource*, which recently ranked *Callaloo* as one of the top fifteen literary magazines in the United States. The journal has long been—and continues to be referred to as—“the premiere literary and cultural journal of the African Diaspora.” With that commendation and others has come, says its editor, “*Callaloo's* continuing responsibility of identifying, recording, and promoting the literature and visual culture of the Diaspora, as well as publishing the engaging and provocative commentaries on its myriad artistic and other cultural forms.”

Although it is a literary and cultural journal, *Callaloo*, for a number of years, has offered annual creative writing workshops and hosted retreats, readings, symposia, performances, scholars, and creative writers together at the institutions and in the communities where the office of the journal is housed. *Callaloo* has also sponsored lectures, literary readings, and conferences across

the United States and in such countries as Brazil, England, Cuba, Mexico, and Ethiopia.

In 1997, the Editor of *Callaloo* founded the CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP as an outreach program to historically black colleges and universities—for example, to Morehouse College, Morgan State University, North Carolina Central University, Spelman College, Fisk University, Xavier University of New Orleans, and others. And as the national need for creative writing workshops increased, the editor expanded and opened the CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP to a number of new and emerging writers from across the United States. With now growing international interest in the workshops, as well, *Callaloo* has expanded the reach of this program even wider, offering the first CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP at Goldsmiths, University of London, in 2013 for new and emerging writers from the United Kingdom and, in 2014, the inaugural workshop in Barbados, hosted by the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill. Offering sessions in poetry writing and in fiction writing, the workshop now admits, on a competitive basis, participants from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. A number of distinguished poets and fiction writers have led sessions of the workshop on the craft of poetry and fiction—e. g., John Edgar Wideman, Mat Johnson, Thomas Glave, Tayari Jones, Lucille Clifton, Terrance Hayes, Percival Everett, Toi Derricotte, A. Van Jordan, Yusef Komunyakaa, Edwidge Danticat, Natasha Trethewey, and Tracy K. Smith.

When the Editor of *Callaloo* founded the CALLALOO CONFERENCE in 2007, he stated its purpose as a contemporary necessity: to bring together creative writers and academics to discuss issues about the work they produce, and the environs in and concerns under which they work. Since then, the scope of the conference has expanded to con-

sider a variety of issues from Pan-Africanism (at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, in 2010) to translation, the theme of the 2011 CALLALOO CONFERENCE held at Texas A&M University (College Station) and at the Menil Collection in Houston. The 2012 CALLALOO CONFERENCE, which focused on LOVE (sacred, profane, etc.), convened at Princeton University in New Jersey. In 2013 The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities at Oxford University hosted the CALLALOO CONFERENCE, whose theme was “The Transatlantic, Africa, and Its Diaspora.” On October 15-18, 2014, the Creative Writing Program at Emory University will host the 2014 CALLALOO CONFERENCE, where attendees will consider the theme “Making Art: Writing, Authorship, and Critique.”

The Editor of *Callaloo* has also initiated two other publication projects with the Johns Hopkins University Press: an annual publication, called *Callaloo Art*, that will be devoted to African Diaspora visual art and culture; and an academic series of books, *The Callaloo African Diaspora Series*, which will publish critical commentaries, by a variety of scholars, that rigorously address significant facets of the literature and culture of the Diaspora. The first book in this series, *Black Soundscapes White Stages: The Meaning of Francophone Sound in the Black Atlantic* by Edwin C. Hill Jr., was published in 2013.

The “literary and cultural center” called *Callaloo* attempts to provide a number of services to marginalized communities—services that include not only identifying and encouraging new writers and scholars, but also nurturing and promoting them. While extending and expanding the scope of African American literary and cultural studies, *Callaloo* is, in other words, a recorder, arbiter, and enabler of the literary culture of the African Diaspora.