

CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING HISTORICAL NOTE

For a number of years, *Callaloo* has hosted retreats, literary readings, symposia, performances, conferences, and other gatherings that bring scholars and creative writers together in the communities where the office of the journal is housed and at various institutions across the United States, and in such countries as Brazil, England, Cuba, Mexico, and Ethiopia. Since 1997, *Callaloo* has also offered annual creative writing workshops that provide rigorous sessions in poetry writing and fiction writing for new and emerging writers in the African Diaspora.

The Editor of *Callaloo*, Charles Henry Rowell, founded the CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (CCWW) 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, and others. As the national need for creative writing workshops increased, the Editor expanded the workshops, opening them to a number of new and emerging writers from across the United States and in time to writers from Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere in the anglophone sites of the African Diaspora. Presently hosted by various institutions within the US, including Texas A&M University, Washington University, and Brown University, the CCWW continues to grow and meet the needs of a new generation of writers.

Now, in response to increasing international exchange and dynamic interest in African Diaspora creative writing and literary studies, the CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP will also be offered in the United Kingdom and Barbados. Hosted by Goldsmiths, University of London, these autumn sessions will be open to writers currently living in the UK and Europe. In Barbados, the CCWW will begin offering workshops in late May 2014, at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, for new and emerging writers throughout the English-speaking Caribbean.

A number of distinguished poets and fiction writers have led sessions of the workshop on the craft of poetry and fiction—e. g., the late Lucille Clifton, Ravi Howard, Toi Derricotte, Percival Everett, Natasha Trethewey, Angie Cruz, Terrance Hayes, Nelly Rosario, Thomas Glave, Maaza Mengiste, Harryette Mullen, Edwidge Danticat, Emily Raboteau, Vievee Francis, Tayari Jones, A. Van Jordan, Gregory Pardlo, Yusef Komunyakaa, Tracy K. Smith, Matt Johnson, and John Edgar Wideman.

The *Callaloo* staff and the Editor are proud of the positive impact each workshop leader made on different workshop participants. As a result of the education they acquired and the writing and reading practices in which they engaged at the workshops, a number of our participants have now published their own volumes of poetry and fiction which have received national applause.