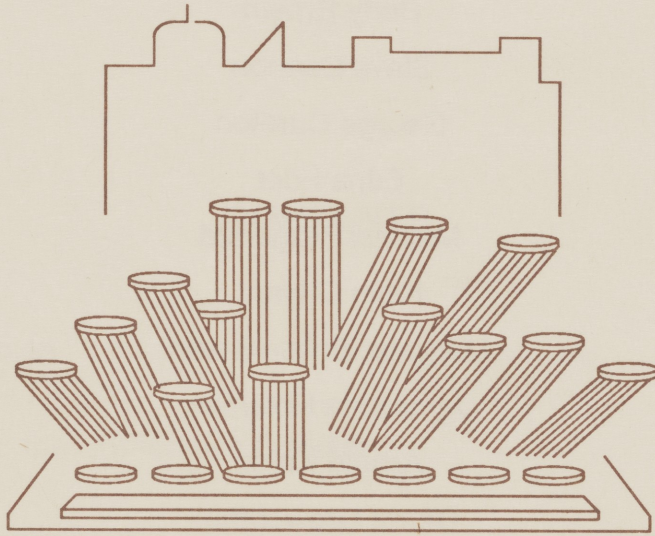


Conference Only

The Humanities Division  
of Medgar Evers College  
of The City University of New York

*presents*

**National Black Writers Conference  
1986**



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The Social Responsibility of the Writer to the Community  
March 21 - 23, 1986

Medgar Evers College  
1150 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
11225  
(718) 735-1750

Dr. Jay Carrington Chunn II, *President*  
Dr. Luberta Mays, *Dean of Academic Affairs*  
Dr. Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell, *Chairperson Humanities Division*



## National Black Writers Conference Committee

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Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell, *Conference Coordinator*

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Mary Umolu  
Cheryl Williams

This conference was funded primarily by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Brochure printed compliments of Local 372, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Charles Hughes, President



# National Black Writers Conference

March 21 - 23, 1986

Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York  
1150 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11225

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## About the College

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE was founded in 1969 as a result of the collaborative efforts of community leaders, elected officials, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York. Named for the late civil rights leader, Medgar Wiley Evers, the college was established with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the Central Brooklyn community.

The College, though still committed to the fulfillment of the founders' dream of quality higher education for the diverse population of Central Brooklyn, has expanded its scope. Today, our students represent over seventy nations of the world. They come from different socio-economic and academic backgrounds and have diverse personal and professional interests. Yet, they share one common goal: the pursuit of self-actualization. To help them realize this goal, the college offers an abundance of programs tailored to their specific needs. Medgar Evers College awards both baccalaureate and associate degrees; it also provides certificate programs and non-credit courses for those seeking personal enrichment or enhanced career opportunities. A host of services, including counseling, tutoring, career planning, veterans' affairs and health care, ensure that students receive the academic, financial and personal support they require for a successful learning experience. Additionally, the Women's Center, Head Start Program, Ella Baker/ Charles Romain Child Development Center, Adult and Continuing Education Program, Caribbean Research Center, and Center for Law and Social Justice provide valuable resources for our students and the Brooklyn community. Yet the greatest resources the college provides to the community are its graduates. Medgar Evers alumni return to the community as doctors, dentists, lawyers, politicians, teachers, accountants, businessmen, nurses, artists, social workers and civic leaders.

Medgar Evers College is committed to quality in its administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community it serves. Destined to be a "flagship" in higher education, the college continues to foster excellence in its academic programs and in community service.



## Greetings from the Conference Director

During the glorious and turbulent Sixties, our poet Mari Evans called upon us to SPEAK THE TRUTH TO THE PEOPLE. Yet, to follow her counsel today may very well be to risk banishment from the publishing establishment. Faced with this harsh reality, the question of the writer's "Social Responsibility" becomes crucial to our cultural survival.

What then *is* the responsibility of the Black writer to the community? Some have said there is no responsibility. Certainly we cannot impose a uniformity of structure of expression on the conjurers of the written word, our seekers of truth.

However, we do call upon you as writers, along with the people of the community, to explore with us some serious questions. First, WHAT IS OUR TRUTH? Second, what are our responsibilities as harbingers of the truth, in the struggle to eradicate such evils as sexism, poverty and ignorance?

Come, sisters and brothers, let us put our minds together and our shoulders to the struggle. We can take this beachhead and maintain it, if we work together tirelessly, and fearlessly. We must push forward, for there is nought behind us save the open sea. The open sea and vicious sharks.

And Moby Dick.

John Oliver Killens

*Conference Director*

**National Black Writers Conference**

**Medgar Evers College**



<b>CONFERENCE SCHEDULE</b>	
<p><i>Friday, March 21, 1986</i> <i>(at The Brooklyn Botanic Garden)</i></p> <p>5:00 p.m.      On-Site Registration 6:00 p.m.      Welcome Reception 7:30 p.m.      Conference Opening</p> <p>M.C.: Dr. Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell <i>Conference Coordinator</i></p> <p>WELCOME: Dr. Luberta Mays <i>Dean of Academic Affairs</i></p> <p>REMARKS: Dr. Jay Carrington Chunn II <i>President of Medgar Evers College</i></p> <p>ADDRESS: Margaret Walker Alexander</p>	<p><i>Saturday, March 22, 1986</i> <i>(on campus)</i></p> <p>8:00 a.m.      On-Site Registration (ongoing) 9:00 a.m.      WELCOME</p> <p>Dr. Jay Carrington Chunn II</p> <p>Dr. Luberta Mays</p> <p>REMARKS: John Oliver Killens</p> <p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Maya Angelou</p> <p>M.C.: Dr. Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell</p>
<p><b>PANELS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fiction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place: Gymnasium    Moderator: Keith Gilyard Time: (10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Toni Cade Bambara Arthur Flowers Ishmael Reed Brenda Wilkinson John A. Williams</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non-Fiction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place: Cafeteria    Moderator: David Bakish Time: (10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Claude Brown John Henrik Clarke Calvin Hernton Phil Petrie Samuel Yette</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lunch</b> Place: Cafeteria Time: 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</p>	



**PANELS (Continued)**

**Poetry**

Place: Gymnasium Moderator: Steve Cannon  
Time: (2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Jayne Cortez  
Mari Evans  
Eugene Redmond  
Sonia Sanchez  
Quincy Troupe

**Drama**

Place: Cafeteria Moderator: Clifford Mason  
Time: (2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Amiri Baraka  
Paul Carter Harrison  
Shauneille Perry  
Pearl Cleage

**Communications**

Place: Gymnasium Moderator: Mary Umolu  
Time: 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Audrey Edwards  
Gil Noble  
Lucius Outlaw  
Les Payne  
Percy Sutton

**Screenwriting**

Place: Cafeteria Moderator: Arnold Kemp  
Time: 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Ossie Davis  
Lonne Elder III  
Addison Gayle, Jr.  
Richard Wesley

**Pre-Dinner Wine and Cheese Break**

Place: Mig  
Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Compliments of Long Island and Westchester  
County Links Inc.

**In Celebration of a Caribbean Writer**

Hilton A. Vaughan (1901-1985)

Place: Cafeteria Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Paule Marshall  
Reception: Shabazz Study Center

**Conference Dinner**

Tribute to John Oliver Killens

Place: Harvest Manor  
1036 St. Johns Place  
(Bet. Kingston & Brooklyn Aves.)  
Brooklyn, New York  
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Speakers: Maya Angelou  
Ossie Davis  
Percy Sutton

M.C. Margaret Baker-Green

**Poetry/Prose Reading**

Place: Cafeteria  
Time: 9:30 p.m. - Until

Moderators: Steve Cannon and Arnold Kemp

**Sunday, March 23, 1986 (on campus)**

**10:00 a.m. Conference WRAP-UP**

Moderators: Arnold Kemp & John O. Killens



## Biographical Sketches and Photographs of Conference Panelists, Honorees and Key Staff



Maya Angelou, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, has a singing, directing and writing career which spans four decades. She starred in Jean Genet's play *The Blacks* in 1961, which won an Obie Award that year as the best off-Broadway play. Ms. Angelou also worked with the Civil Rights Movement, serving as the Northern Coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1960 - 1961. In 1970 she wrote her internationally acclaimed autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* followed by *Gather Together in My Name* (1974), *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas* (1979) and *The Heart of a Woman* (1980). Ms. Angelou interspersed these with *Just Give Me A Cool Drink of Water Before I Die* (1971) and three other volumes of poetry between 1971 and 1983. She wrote the original screenplay and musical score for the film *Georgia, Georgia* in 1972 — the first original screenplay to be produced by a Black woman in America. She was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in *Look Away* in 1973. In 1975 Ms. Angelou received the Lady's Home Journal Award in Communication. She was also appointed a Bicentennial Commissioner by President Ford and to the Commission of International Women's Year by President Carter.



Margaret Walker Alexander, a poet, essayist and novelist, has had her works published in many books, journals and magazines. These include *Black Women Writers at Work* edited by Claudia Tate, *Black Women Writers 1950 - 1980* edited by Mari Evans, *Women Poets of The World* edited by Joanna Baker and Deidre Lashgari and *Black Scholar* magazine. She is Director Emeritus of the Institute for the Study of History, Life and Culture of Black People. She was a recipient of the Living Legacy Award from President Carter in 1979. July 12, 1980 was proclaimed Margaret Walker Alexander Day in the state of Mississippi by Governor William Winter. She is currently working on a critical analysis of the life and works of Richard Wright entitled *The Daemonic Genius of Richard Wright*.



David Bakish is the author of a concise critical biography *Richard Wright*, published by Frederick Ungar in 1973 and reissued in paperback 1985, co-author with Edward Mergolies of a bibliographical survey *Afro-American Fiction, 1853-1976*, Gale Research Company, 1979, and contributor of articles for Ungar's *Encyclopedia of World Literature in The 20th Century* and *Studies in Black Literature*.



Toni Cade Bambara, a native of New York City, has become one of the giants of American literature. Her novel *The Salt Eaters* won the American Book Award in 1981. Her short story "The Mama Load" was a finalist for Best American Short Stories of 1978. *Tales and Short Stories for Black Folks* was named the outstanding book of 1972 in juvenile literature by the *New York Times*. Ms. Bambara was a founding member of the Atlanta Neighborhood Art Center, Inc., The Southern Collective of African-American Writers, and The Pomoja Writers Workshop. Her awards include an Ebony Magazine Achievement in the Arts Award, The Bronze Jubilee Award for Literature from WETV, The John Golden Award for fiction, and The Livingston College Community Award for service to students.



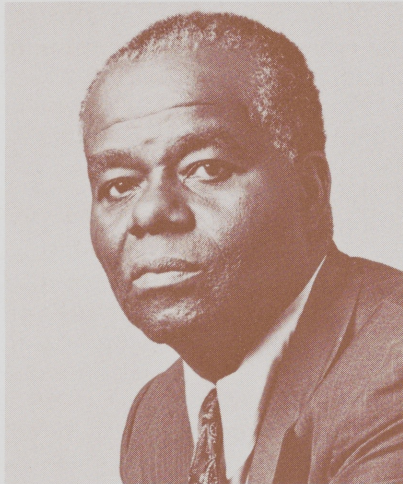
A Newark, New Jersey native, Amiri Baraka has had a long, storied career as an activist and a writer. He first gained national attention in 1964 with his powerful dramatic play *Dutchman*. This was followed by a series of major productions over the next eight years, some of which include *The Toilet* (1964), *The Slave* (1965), *The Death of Malcom X* (1966), and *Four Black Revolutionary Plays* (1969). Mr. Baraka's volumes of poetry include *Black Art* (1967), *It's Nation Time* (1968) and *Afrikan Revolution* (1973). His nonfiction publications have been equally outstanding: *Home* (1965), *Black Music* (1967), *A Black Value System* (1970) and *The Autobiography of Leroi Jones/Amiri Baraka* (1984). Mr. Baraka won the Obie Award for the best American play in 1968, and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1981 and the New Jersey Council for the Arts in 1982. Mr. Baraka has been actively involved with the United Brothers of Newark (1967 - 1969), Committee for Unified Newark (1969 - 1975), the National Black United Front and the League of Revolutionary Struggle. He also co-convened the National Black Political Convention in 1972.



Born and raised in Harlem, Claude Brown has become a noted social commentator, essayist and novelist. His best-known works — *Manchild in the Promised Land*, *The Children of Ham*, and "The Language of Soul" — have become classic studies of Black culture. He has written for many major newspapers and magazines, served on several Presidential commissions on urban problems, taught at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and is currently a Writer-in-Residence at City College in New York City. He was a fellow at the Metropolitan Applied Research Center under prominent social psychologist Dr. Kenneth B. Clark from 1967 - 1969 and is currently working on a book on the heroin epidemic in urban America from 1950 - 1985.



Steve Cannon is a publisher, critic, and author of the underground best seller, *Groove Bang and Jive Around* and the forthcoming *A Thousand Miles From No Where!*.



Born in Union Springs, Alabama, John Henrik Clarke has published over 50 short stories in magazines and periodicals in America and abroad. His best-known short story, "The Boy Who Painted Christ Black," has been translated into more than a dozen languages. His articles and conference papers on African and Afro-American history have been published in leading journals throughout the world and he has written or edited twenty-one books. Some of the most widely known are *American Negro Short Stories* (1966), *Malcolm X: The Man and His Time* (1969), *Harlem U.S.A.* (1961), and *Marcus Garvey and The Vision of Africa* (1973). Dr. Clarke has been a professor in the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, CUNY for the past seventeen years.



Jayne Cortez was born in Arizona, grew up in California, and is currently living in New York City. Her poetry has been published in many journals, magazines, and anthologies including *Confirmation*, *Powers Of Desire*, *New Black Voices*, *Giant Talk*, *Free Spirits*, *Presence Africaine*, *Mundus Artium* and the *Unesco Courier*. She is the author of six books of poetry and three recordings. Her most recent book is *Coagulations: New and Selected Poems* and her most recent recording, *There It Is*. She has lectured and read her poetry alone and with music throughout the United States, West Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.





Ossie Davis, a native of Cogdell, Georgia, is a premier actor, director and playwright. He made his Broadway debut in *Jeb*. This was followed by *Green Pastures* (1951), *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) and *Purlie Victorious* (1962), of which he was also the author. Mr. Davis has appeared in a number of films and television series, including *The Scalphunters*, *The Slaves*, *The Cardinal*, *Bonanza*, *Hawaii Five-O*, and *Roots: The Next Generation*. He has directed such major motion pictures as *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, *Kongi's Harvest*, *Black Girl*, and *Gordon's War*. Mr. Davis has also published *Curtain Call*, *Escape to Freedom*, and *Langston*, an account of the life of Langston Hughes. He is currently involved in the third season of the PBS series *In Other Words . . . Ossie & Ruby* at Howard University's WBBM-TV and recently completed a production of *Bingo* at the AMAS Repertory Theatre.



Audrey Edwards, Editor of *Essence* magazine, has been a magazine editor for thirteen years, having been a senior editor of *Family Circle* magazine and an associate editor at *Black Enterprise* and *Redbook* Magazines. The Tacoma, Washington native was also a reporter at Fairchild Publications and city editor of the Community News Service, a Black and Puerto Rican news service. Ms. Edwards is also a freelance writer, her work having appeared in the *New York Daily News Sunday Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Black Enterprise*, and *Redbook*. She has published four children's books and taught at the New School for Social Research and New York University.

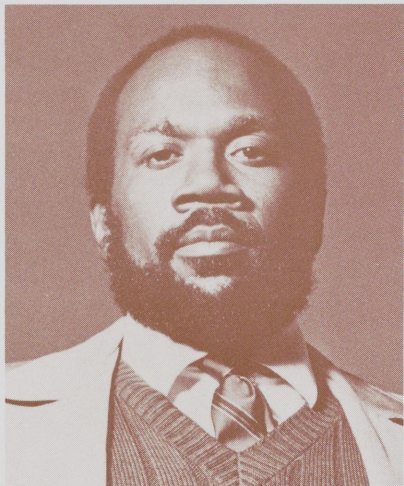


Lonnie Elder III is a pioneering black playwright and screenwriter. His major theatrical works include *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* for the Negro Ensemble Company, and *Seven Comes Up, Seven Comes Down* for the National Black Theater of Harlem. Mr. Elder has also been involved with a number of major television works: *McCloud*, *Toma*, *A Woman Called Moses*, *Thou Shalt Not Kill*. His major films include *Sounder*, *Melinda*, *Sounder II*, and *Bustin Loose*. He won Christopher Awards for *Ceremonies* and *A Woman Called Moses* and was the recipient of an Atlanta Film Festival Award and an NAACP Image Award for *Sounder*. He has also won an Outer Critics Circle Award and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award. Mr. Elder is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, The Black Academy of Arts & Letters, and the Writers Guild of America.





Mari Evans, musician, writer, and educator, resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. Until recently, she was an assistant professor at the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. She is the author of numerous political articles, four children's books, several theatre pieces, two musicals and three volumes of poetry, including *I Am A Black Woman*, and *Nightstar*, (1981). She is the editor of the highly acclaimed new volume *Black Women Writers (1950 - 1980): A Critical Evaluation* (1984). Ms. Evans is presently Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of African/Afro-American Studies at the State University of New York at Albany. She has lectured and read at universities and colleges across the country, and her work has been widely anthologized in collections and textbooks.

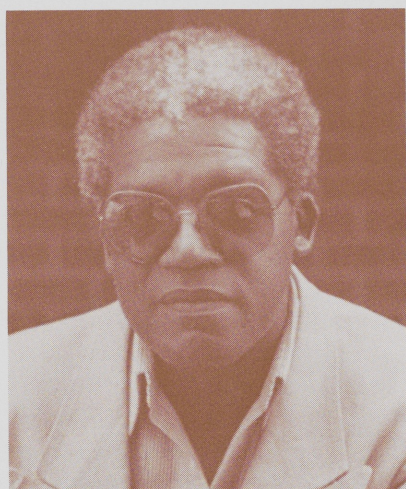


A.R. Flowers, New York-based Delta-born native of Memphis, Tennessee, is the author of novel, *De Mojo Blues*, published by E.P. Dutton (1985) and executive director of the New Renaissance Writers Guild.

Addison Gayle is Distinguished Professor of English at Bernard Baruch College. He is author of many books and articles, among them, *The Black Aesthetic*, *Wayward Child*, and *Richard Wright: Ordeal Of A Native Son*.



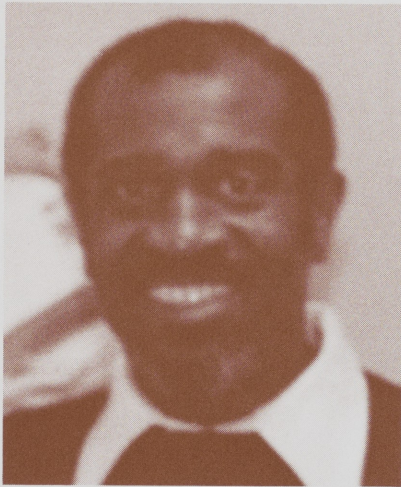
Fiction writer, poet, essayist, Keith Gilyard is an Assistant Professor of English at Medgar Evers College. His work has appeared in *Treehouse: An Introduction to Literature*, *Community Review*, and *Black American Literature Forum*.



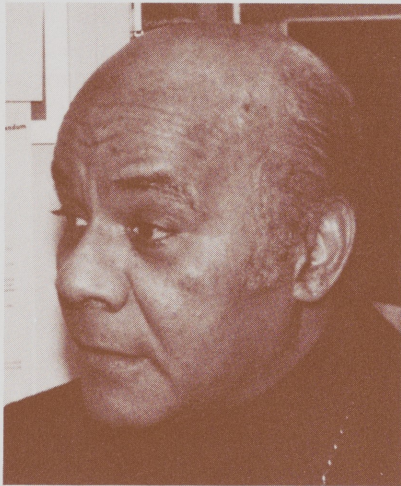
Paul Carter Harrison is a well known playwright, director and educator. He is the author of *The Drama of Nommo*, *Kunta Drama* and *The Modern Drama Footnote*. His plays include *Tophat*, *Abercrombie Apocalypse* and *The Great Macdaddy*, for which he received an Obie Award. Several of his plays have been produced by the Negro Ensemble Company.

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Calvin Hernton is a poet, novelist, essayist, and scholar. He studied sociology at Talladega College (B.A.), Fisk University (M.A.), and Columbia University, and has taught in the fields of social science, literature, and creative writing. From 1965 to 1970 he lived abroad, mainly in London and Europe; he has also lived in and visited various countries in Africa. He is author of two collections of poetry, the latest of which is *Medicine Man*, a novel, *Scarecrow*, and several books of essays and social studies, including *White Papers for White Americans* and the bestselling *Sex and Racism in America* which has been translated into seven languages. His articles, reviews, and essays have been widely published in periodicals both in America and abroad. Presently Calvin Hernton is Professor of Black Studies at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.





Arnold Kemp, author of the novel *Eat of Me, I Am the Savior*, has appeared in numerous anthologies and literary journals as a poet, playwright, essayist, and short story writer. Professor Kemp is presently on the faculty of Medgar Evers College, City University of New York.



John O. Killens, a native of Georgia, was educated at Edward Waters College, Morris Brown College, Howard University and Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C. He also attended Columbia University and New York University. John Oliver Killens is serving as Conference Director and is Writer-in-Residence at Medgar Evers College. His novels, essays and short stories have been widely published in standard anthologies and separately published works. His published works include his early novels: *Youngblood*, *And Then We Heard The Thunder*, *'Ssippi*, and *The Cotillion*. His more recent publications include the novel, *A Man Ain't Nothing But A Man*, and a number of essays including: "Remember Joe Lewis", "The Responsibility of The Black Writer to The Community", "The Execution" and "The Half Ain't Never Been Told".

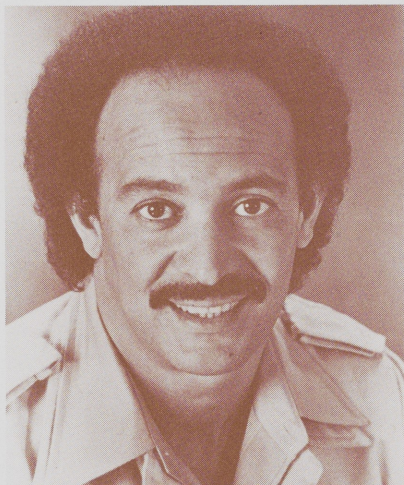
About a major character in his novel, *A Man Ain't Nothing But A Man*, Killens writes: "John Henry saw before most men that man must control the machine or ultimately become its slave. This is the ultimate meaning of his life which he gave in his struggle against the machine."

Mr. Killens has received numerous awards and honors for his writing. His novels *And Then We Heard The Thunder* and *The Cotillion* were both nominated for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize. He is the recipient of the Charles Chesnutt Award presented by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, The Howard University Creative Writers Workshop Award, The Alexander Pushkin Award presented by the University of California at Los Angeles, and the American Book Award presented by the Before Columbus Foundation. Additionally, Mr. Killens has also served as a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow.



Paule Marshall is the author of three novels, *Praisesong for the Widow* (1983), *Brown Girl, Brownstones* (1959) and *The Chosen Place, the Timeless People* (1969), and a book of novellas, *Soul Clap Hands and Sing* (1961). She has taught creative writing at several schools, including Yale, Columbia, and the University of Massachusetts in Boston.





Clifford Mason is a major writer and director. He has published articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *New York* magazine and *GEO*. He has directed productions for such organizations as the National Black Television Network, Wholesale Drug Association, Lever Brothers, and Colgate. Mr. Mason's plays include *Gabriel*, *The Story of a Slave Rebellion* (1965), *Jimmy X* (1969), *The Trial of Denmark Vesey* (1974), *Return to the Villa Borghese* (1984) and *All Male Quartet* (1985). He has also acted at the Public Theatre, at La Mama, and Henry Street. Mr. Mason's latest work is a novel entitled *The Case of the Ashanti Gold* (1985), published by St. Martin's.



One of America's most prominent and outspoken television journalists, Gil Noble is producer and host of WABC-TV's weekly public affairs series "Like It Is With Gil Noble," and co-anchor of the late weekend edition of "Eyewitness News." Noble has received Emmy Awards for his accomplishments as host/producer of an "outstanding special audience program" and producer of documentaries on Malcolm X, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Harry Belafonte. He also won an Emmy for his documentary "An Essay On Drugs." Mr. Noble has been the recipient of over 300 community awards and numerous industry accolades including the New York Urban League's Frederick Douglass Award in 1979, the 1978 African Historical Society Award, and the 1977 Community Services Award. He has chronicled his experiences in a book entitled *Black is the Color of my TV Tube* (1981).



Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell is Conference Coordinator and Chairperson of the Humanities Division. Her first Novel, *When Rocks Dance*, will be published in Fall, 1986 by G.P. Putnam and Sons. Her articles have appeared in *Black Scholar*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Community Review*, *Obsidian*, *Crisis*, and *The Journal of Negro Education*.





Lucius Outlaw, a native of Starkville, Mississippi, is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. His articles have appeared in *Sojourners*, *UMOJO: A Scholarly Journal of Black Studies*, and *Praxis International*.



Les Payne, a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has been a reporter with *Newsday* since 1969. One of the best investigative reporters in journalism, he has covered such diverse topics as migrant workers in Long Island and the flow of heroin from Turkey to the United States. Mr. Payne covered the kidnapping of newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst and is the author of "The Life and Death of the SLA," an investigative account of the organization's activities on the West Coast. His 11-part series on events in southern Africa after the 1976 uprising in Soweto was recommended for a Pulitzer Prize by the Pulitzer Prize jury in 1978. From 1978-1980, he reported on the revolution in Zimbabwe, where he was the first reporter to visit the areas held by the guerrillas battling the Ian Smith regime. Mr. Payne won the Tobenkin Award from Columbia University in 1978, the 1983 World Hunger Media Award in 1983, and two Unity Awards from Howard University for investigative reporting.



One of the pioneer Black Women directors to emerge in the 1960s, Shauneille Perry has worked extensively off-Broadway and with every major Black company in N.Y., the U.S. and the Carribean. Her major works include the original and European companies of *Sty of the Blind Pig* and others for NEC; the acclaimed *Black Girl*, *Jammima* and *The Prodigal Sister* for New Federal; *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*, *Bermuda*, *Striver's Row* at New Heritage last season, and currently, *Celebration* returning for a second season at The American Place Theatre. Her written work includes six plays for young people; *Sounds of The City*, a Black radio drama she created and wrote for two years; the book of the musical *Daddy Goodness*; *Bittersweet*, a story series for radio; and for television, the series *Our Street*, *Watch Your Mouth*, *Vegetable Soup*, and the Polaroid *Holiday Special*.



Phil Petrie —

As an editor for such prestigious publications as the Howard University Press, William Morrow Publishers, and Black Enterprise, Mr. Petrie has firmly established himself as a major voice in the area of literary criticism.



Eugene Redmond, known as the Poet Laureate of East St. Louis, Illinois, is also a prominent lecturer. He spent fifteen years as Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence at California State University in Sacramento. He is the author of seven volumes of poetry, including *Sentry of The Four Golden Pillars* and *In A Time of Rain and Desire*.



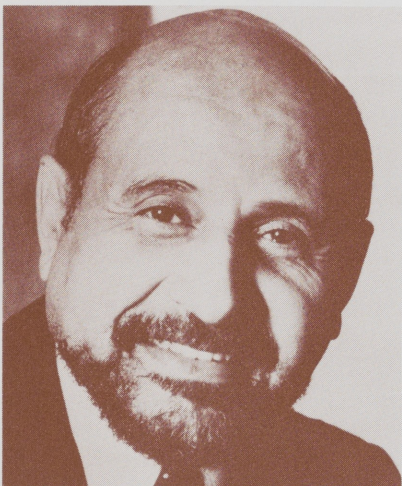
Ishmael Reed is the author of six novels, three volumes of poetry and numerous essays, articles, and reviews published in nearly every significant literary outlet in this country. His major works include *Mumbo Jumbo*, *Flight to Canada*, *The Terrible Twos*, and *Conjure*. Mr. Reed is an associate editor of *The American Book Review*, co-publisher of *Quilt* magazine, and has been director of Reed & Cannon Communications Co., Inc. since 1972. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in The West*, and is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines. His awards include the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Award for Fiction in 1974. Reed's latest novel, *Reckless Eyeballing*, is scheduled for release in March, 1986 (St. Martin's/Marek).





Sonia Sanchez is the author of 12 books including *Homecoming*, *We A BaddDDD People*, *Love Poems*, *I've Been A Woman: New and Selected Poems*, *A Sound Investment and Other Stories* and most recently, *Homegirls and Handgrenades*. In addition to being a contributing editor to *Black Scholar*, and *Journal of African Studies*, she has edited two anthologies: *We Be Word Sorcerers: 25 Stories by Black Americans* and *360° of Blackness Coming At You*. A recipient of an NEA for 1978 - 79, the Lucretia Mott Award for 1984, she is a winner of the 1985 American Book Award for her book, *Homegirls and Handgrenades*.

Sonia Sanchez has lectured at numerous universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Cuba, England, the West Indies, the People's Republic of China, and Norway. She is an Associate Professor at Temple University.



A native of San Antonio, Texas, Percy Sutton is the head of one of the largest black communications conglomerates in the United States. He is Chairman of the Board and Treasurer of the Inner City Broadcasting Corporation, Chairman of the Board of Inner City American TV Cable Productions of New York, president of Apollo Entertainment Television, and a member of the board of directors of the International Radio and Television Society, Inc. Mr. Sutton is a former president of the New York NAACP, a former Borough President of Manhattan, and a founding member of both the National Council of Black Elected Officials and People United To Save Humanity.



Quincy Troupe is a Professor of American and Third World Literature at The College of Staten Island (CUNY). Previously, he taught at USC, UCLA, Ohio University, The University of Ghana at Legon, Lagos University and California State College at Sacramento. He has published three volumes of poetry, *Embryo*, 1972, *Snake-Back Solos*, 1979, (winner of the 1980 American Book Award for Poetry) and *Skulls Along the River*, 1984. He has edited two anthologies, *Watts Poets and Writers*, 1968 and *Giant Talk: an Anthology of Third World Writing*, 1975. He co-authored, with David L. Wolper, *The Inside Story of TV's Roots*, 1975. He is presently completing a novel, *The Footmans* and has published articles and feature writing in *Essence*, *The Village Voice*, *Musician*, *Encore*, *The Soho News*, *Spin*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Los Angeles Free Press* and many other magazines and newspapers.



Mary Umolu is coordinator of mass communications and speech at Medgar Evers College. Trained at the BBC in London, she helped develop radio and television in Nigeria. She is currently director and producer of WNYE-New York radio and has served as chairperson of the National Committee on Minorities in Communications for the National Association of Educational Broadcasters. An author and performing artist, Dr. Umolu has lectured widely in New York, Virginia, Texas, Washington D.C. and on the African continent. She is the recipient of a Broadcast Preceptor's Award from San Francisco State College.



Hilton A. Vaughan, (1901 -1985), was born in Haiti and raised in Barbados. He was a noted lawyer, Barbadian Supreme Court judge and finally, Ambassador to both the United Nations and the United States. His most famous work, *Sandy Lane and Other Poems*, was originally published in 1943 and was reissued in 1985.

A graduate of Howard University and native of Newark, New Jersey, Richard Wesley has written 12 theatrical and screenplays since 1971. These include the screenplays *Uptown Saturday Night* (1973 -1974), *Let's Do It Again* (1974 - 1975) and *Fast Forward* (1983 - 1984). His theatrical plays include *The Black Terror* (1971), *Goin Thru Changes* (1974), *The Last Street Play* (1977), *On the Road to Babylon* (1980) and *The Dream Team* (1985). He has taught at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Rutgers University, and Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

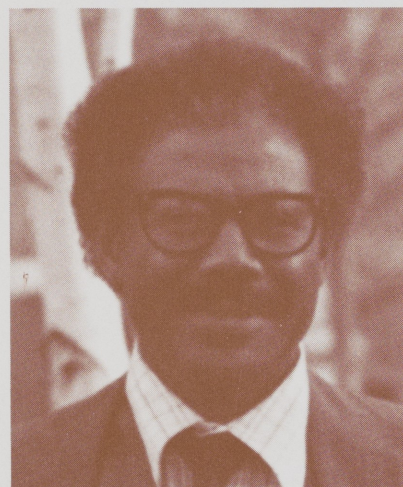




Brenda Wilkinson, a native of Waycross, Georgia, is an author of adolescent literature. Her novels include *Ludell*, *Ludell and Willie* (named Best Book for Young Adults in 1977 by the American Library Association), and *Ludell's New York Time*.



The author of 10 novels, eight nonfiction books and editor or co-editor of six other books, John A. Williams is a Distinguished Professor of English and Journalism at Rutgers University's Newark Campus. Among his novels are *! Click Song* (1982), *The Junior Bachelor Society* (1976), and *The Man Who Cried I Am* (1967, 1985). Williams, who lives in Teaneck, New Jersey, is completing his 11th novel, *There Will Come Thunder*, and is mid-way through yet another, *The Book Without Title*.



Samuel F. Yette, a tireless scholar and activist, is a professor of journalism at Howard University. His 1971 book *The Choice: The Issue of Black Survival in America* has been used at over 50 colleges and universities in such diverse fields as education, economics and social policy. He recently served as chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board of *New Directions* magazine and is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Negro Education*. As a reporter and photographer, Mr. Yette has worked for such prominent publications as *Life*, the *Dayton Journal Herald*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *National Geographic*. He covered the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the organization meetings of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the 1957 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In 1963 he was named Executive Secretary of the Peace Corps after a tour with that organization.