

## April 2023 Schedule and Presenters\*\*

### Tuesday, April 11

6:00–6:15  
p.m. ET

Welcome

6:15–7:45  
p.m. ET

Publishing 101

Learn the fundamentals of identifying the right markets for your work and best practices for submitting to literary magazines, small presses, writing contests, and more.

*Presenter: P&W's Kevin Larimer, Editor in Chief, coauthor of *The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer* (Avid Reader Press).*

7:45–8:00  
p.m. ET

Icebreaker/Introductions in groups

### Thursday, April 13

6:00–6:15  
p.m. ET

Welcome

6:15–7:30  
p.m. ET

Working with an Agent

Literary agents will describe what they do and don't do for their clients, share what makes for an effective query letter, offer tips on how to identify agents best suited for the writer and their project(s), and touch upon standard author/agent contracts.

*Presenters: Annie Hwang, Ayesha Pande Literary; Serene Hakim, Ayesha Pande Literary; Tanya McKinnon, McKinnon Literary; Duvall Osteen,*

\*\*Additional presenters will be added to this document and posted on [pw.org](http://pw.org) as they are confirmed.

Aragi Inc.; Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts, HG  
Literary

## Monday, April 17

6:00–6:15 p.m. ET	Welcome	
6:15–7:30 p.m. ET	<b>Submitting to Literary Magazines and Journals</b>	Poetry and fiction editors of literary magazines will share their publications' submissions processes, what they are looking for in new work, and other opportunities. They will also discuss what happens once a work is accepted, including explaining publication/author agreements and the editorial process.  <i>Presenters: Lena Valencia, Managing Editor, One Story; Jenzo DuQue, Fiction Editor, The Massachusetts Review; Miriam Kumaradoss-Hohausen, Fiction Editor, Apogee Journal; Diamond Braxton, Editor in Chief, Defunkt Magazine; Polly Rosenwaike, Fiction Editor, Michigan Quarterly Review; Maya Kanwal, Fiction Editor, Gulf Coast Journal</i>

## Wednesday, April 19

6:00–6:15 p.m. ET	Welcome	
6:15–7:30 p.m. ET	<b>Working with a Book Editor</b>	Learn about the editorial process from acceptance to publication, the editor-writer-agent relationship, book proposals, advances, comps, and more.  <i>Presenters: Kukuwa Ashun, Editor, Flatiron Books; Pilar Garcia-Brown, Editor, Penguin Random House; Nicole Counts, Senior Editor, One World; Nadxieli Nieto, Executive</i>

*Editor, Flatiron Books; Vivian Lee, Senior Editor, Little, Brown*

## Friday, April 21

6:00–6:15  
p.m. ET

Welcome

6:15–7:30  
p.m. ET

The Writer's Journey

Acclaimed authors share stories about their literary careers—how they got started and their experience in the publishing world—and offer advice for aspiring and early-career writers.

*Presenters: DK Nnuro, author, *What Napoleon Could Not Do* (Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House); Diane Marie Brown, author, *Black Candle Women* (Graydon House Books/HarperCollins); Dawnie Walton, *The Final Revival of Opal & Nev* (37Ink/Simon & Schuster)*

7:30–7:45  
p.m. ET

How to Keep It Going

## PRESENTERS



**Kukuwa Ashun** is a writer and editor from Brooklyn, NY. She holds a degree in creative writing from SUNY Purchase and received her MFA in fiction from New York University. Prior to joining Flatiron in 2020, she worked with literary nonprofits including One Story Inc., the National Book Foundation, and was an interviews editor for NYU's *Washington Square Review*. She is currently looking to build a list of literary, historical, and/or contemporary fiction by BIPOC writers.



**Diamond Braxton** is a queer, mixed-race Black-Chicana writer and editor pursuing an MFA at Texas State. She is a Best of the Net and Best Microfiction nominee and has work published in *The Forge*, *Stanchion*, *Alebrijes Review*, *Rejection Letters*, *The Acentos Review*, *Hellebore Press* and is also a Tin House 21' Alum. She has a microchap forthcoming with Belle Point Press (2023) and is the Editor in Chief for Defunkt Magazine and a Copy Editor for the Porter House Review.



**Diane Marie Brown** is a professor at Orange Coast College and a public health professional for the Long Beach Health Department. She has a BA and MPH from UCLA and a degree in fiction from USC's Master of Professional Writing Program. She grew up in Stockton and now lives in Long Beach, California, with her husband, their four daughters, and their dog, Brownie.



**Nicole Counts** is a Senior Editor at One World, an imprint of Random House, where she works with Fatimah Asghar, Morgan Parker, Kali Fajardo-Anstine, Donovan X. Ramsey, Brittany Packnett, Nate Marshall, Danielle Geller, and Gabriella Burnham, among others. She started her career in marketing and publicity at PublicAffairs and Bold Type Books. She is a member of POC in publishing and a volunteer with Well-Read Black Girl. She was a finalist for the 2020 PW Star Watch.



**Jenzo DuQue** is a Colombian American writer, teacher, and editor. He received his MFA from Brooklyn College, where he served as an editor of *The Brooklyn Review*. Jenzo's writing has been published widely, as well as anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories 2021* and *Best Microfiction 2022*. He has been awarded fellowships by the Periplus Collective and Shenandoah. Jenzo is represented by Julie Barer of the Book Group, and is at work on his debut collection and novel. Born in Chicago, he lives in Brooklyn.



**Pilar Garcia-Brown** is a Senior Editor at Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Previously, she worked at Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She concentrates on fiction in multiple categories, as well as the occasional narrative nonfiction. Recent and forthcoming titles include: the instant *New York Times* bestseller *Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour; *New York Times* Editors' Choice *The Very Nice Box* by Laura Blackett and Eve Gleichman; Kirkus Prize winner *In Sensorium* by Tanais; NBCC award winner *You Play the Girl* by Carina Chocano; and *Natural Beauty* by Ling Ling Huang, which will be produced for TV by Constance Wu. Pilar is the co-chair of the Center for Fiction's First Novel Fête Committee.



**Serene Hakim** is an agent at Ayesha Pande Literary. She represents authors in a variety of genres, from MG fantasy to adult literary fiction to contemporary YA. Hakim is particularly interested in both YA and adult fiction that has international themes, highlights a variety of cultures, and focuses on underrepresented and/or marginalized voices. Specifically, she's looking for writing that explores different meanings of identity, home, family and parenthood/motherhood. Her educational background is in French and women's studies, and she holds an MA in French-English translation from New York University.





Before joining Ayesha Pande Literary, **Annie Hwang** began her career at Folio Literary Management where she had the pleasure of working with debut and seasoned authors alike. As a former journalist, Annie possesses a keen editorial eye which she brings to her approach to agenting, taking an active role in the careers of her clients. Annie represents voice-driven literary fiction and select nonfiction. In particular, she gravitates toward subversive and irreverent literary fiction and impactful mission-driven narrative nonfiction that grapples with the complexities of our world. Above all, Annie is always on the hunt for gifted storytelling that stretches its genre to new heights.



**Maya Kanwal** is a Pakistani-American writer from Houston, TX and fiction editor at Gulf Coast Journal. Her own work appears in Witness Magazine, Meridian, Quarterly West, and other journals, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is winner of a 2022 Inprint Donald Barthelme Prize in Fiction and Witness Magazine 2022 Literary Awards runner-up. An Inprint C. Glenn Cambor Fellow at the UH Creative Writing MFA program, she holds an MS in Mathematics from the University of Oregon.



**Miriam Kumaradoss-Hohauser** is the Fiction Editor at *Apogee Journal*. They hold an MFA from Columbia University and have worked at a range of literary organizations including PEN America, Tin House, Literary Hub, and the Indian indie publishing house Blaft Publications. Their writing has appeared in *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *CrimeReads*, *Apogee Journal*, and elsewhere. They currently live in Tamil Nadu, India, where they are at work on their first novel.



**Kevin Larimer** has been with Poets & Writers since 1999; he became editor in chief in 2013. He is the coauthor of *The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer: Everything You Need to Know About Craft, Inspiration, Agents, Editors, Publishing, and the Business of Building a Sustainable Writing Career* (Avid Reader Press, 2020). He holds a degree in journalism and received his MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he was the poetry editor of the *Iowa Review*. He has given presentations and appeared on a number of panels on publishing at events such as the Library of Congress National Book Festival, the Sozopol Fiction Seminars, the Anguilla Lit Fest, the Slice Literary Writer's Conference, and the Iceland Writers Retreat.



**Vivian Lee** is a writer and senior editor at Little, Brown.



**Tanya McKinnon** is the founder of McKinnon Literary where she represents New York Times bestselling non-fiction and graphic novels, award-winning public intellectuals, and award-winning children's books. She specializes in non-fiction that addresses cultural issues as well as gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. She is most drawn to work that pushes political and cultural boundaries. This can be in categories such as history, sociology, psychology, anthropology, medicine, cultural criticism, memoir, popular culture, journalism, and sheer whimsy. She looks for story-driven fiction that takes us into the lives of complicated and deeply human characters. She has a particular interest in politically progressive work, feminist work, Latinx work, and African American-work.

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**Nadxieli Nieto** is an editor of literary, speculative, and upmarket fiction, nonfiction, and art books, including NYT bestseller *LA Weather*; Shirley Jackson Award finalists *Tiny Nightmares* and *Tiny Crimes*; award-winning *Carteles Contra Una Guerra*; and others. She is executive editor at Flatiron Books and on the board of Latinx in Publishing. Her current authors include Kaitlyn Greenidge, María Amparo Escandón, Monica Brashears, Jean Grae, Jessica Hoppe, Wendy Chin-Tanner, Erica Berry, Ben Austen, and John Manuel Arias. She has published work by writers such as Carmen Maria Machado, Yuri Herrera, Charles Yu, and Lilliam Rivera, and is the former director of PEN America's Literary Awards. Her collaborative artist books may be found in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art.



**DK Nnuro** is a Ghanaian-born writer and is a graduate of Johns Hopkins and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has taught novel writing at the University of Iowa and is currently curator of special projects at the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art. He lives in Iowa City, Iowa.





**Duvall Osteen** is a literary agent at Aragi Inc., where she represents a diverse list of award-winning and notable authors, including Tess Gunty, Kawai Strong Washburn, and Marjorie Liu. She represents fiction, narrative nonfiction, and select graphic novels. Her literary interests include writing rooted in place, especially the South, multigenerational storytelling, family drama, and, literary suspense. Duvall holds a Masters of Arts in Southern Cultural Studies from the University of Mississippi.



**Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts** joined HG Literary in 2017 after agenting at Writers House and the Susan Golomb Literary Agency, where she was also Foreign Rights Director. Prior to representing authors as a literary agent, Soumeya was a book scout at Sanford J. Greenburger Associates. At HG Literary, she represents literary novels and collections, upmarket fiction, and non-fiction, both narrative and prescriptive. Though she is primarily seeking Adult genres, she also represents select, realistic middle-grade and YA. Soumeya is also the Vice President of Foreign Rights and handles international translation licensing on the agency's behalf. She is a board member of the Association of American Literary Agents (AALA) and serves on their International Rights Committee. She is also a member of the Women's Media Group and the Center for Fiction's debut fiction prize committee. Originally from the California Bay Area, Soumeya began her career in the editorial department of an independent publisher in San Francisco, and is still drawn to the editorial process and the independent West Coast spirit. She now lives in Brooklyn with her family.



**Polly Rosenwaike** has been the Fiction Editor of *Michigan Quarterly Review* since 2017. Her story collection, *Look How Happy I'm Making You*, was published by Doubleday, and was named one of *Kirkus Reviews*' "Best Short Story Collections of 2019" and *Glamour's* "Best Books of 2019." Her fiction and book reviews have appeared in *O. Henry Prize Stories*, *Glimmer Train*, *New England Review*, *Colorado Review*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She teaches for Catapult and is a 2022 Walter E. Dakin fellow at the Sewanee Writers' Conference.



**Lena Valencia** is the managing editor and director of educational programming at *One Story*. She also teaches writing classes at *One Story* and Catapult, and is the cohost of the reading series Ditmas Lit. She has held positions at *A Public Space* and *BOMB Magazine*, and for three years hosted the HiFi Reading Series in Manhattan. Her writing has appeared in *Joyland*, *BOMB*, *Electric Literature*, the anthology *Tiny Nightmares*, and elsewhere. She has an MFA in fiction from The New School, is the recipient of a 2019 Elizabeth George Foundation grant, and has been awarded residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Dorland Mountain Arts. For more information please visit [lenavalencia.com](http://lenavalencia.com).



**Dawnie Walton** is the author of *The Final Revival of Opal & Nev*, winner of the 2022 Aspen Words Literary Prize, the Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Award, the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, and the Audie Award for Fiction. Her debut novel was also longlisted for the 2022 Women's Prize for Fiction, and was named one of the best books of 2021 by *The Washington Post*, NPR, *Esquire*, and former U.S. President Barack Obama. She is the cofounder and editorial director of Ursa, an audio production company celebrating short fiction from underrepresented voices, and is the cohost of its accompanying podcast. Formerly an editor at *Essence* and *Entertainment Weekly*, she has received fellowships from MacDowell and Tin House, and an

MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop (where she has returned to teach a fiction seminar). Born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, she lives in Brooklyn with her husband.