



CITYLIT
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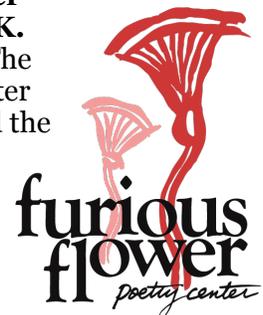
15TH CITYLIT FESTIVAL - SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 from 9:30 am - 5:30pm AT WILLIAM H. THUMEL, SR. BUSINESS CENTER at University of Baltimore, 11 W. Mount Royal Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201
CLF 2018 DRAFT SCHEDULE 1.2 02.23.2018

Keynote Author: *The New Yorker* staff writer **Philip Gourevitch**, author of *We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories of Rwanda*. His new work *You Hide That You Hate Me, I Hide That I Know* is forthcoming in 2019. Twenty-five years after the genocide in Rwanda, Gourevitch returns to the scene of the crime to investigate Rwanda's unique and profoundly thought-provoking experiment in national reconstruction, grappling with the burdens of betrayed humanity and forgiveness – of memory and forgetting. Gourevitch's stories from Rwanda are charged with the sort of stark dramatic intensity and moral extremity of Biblical parables, and in a time of intensifying social and political polarization across much of the globe, they present an essential reckoning with what it takes not only for individuals but also for societies to choose between annihilation and survival. A reading. A conversation. A book signing.

90 minute Master Class: **Yrsa Daley-Ward** is a writer and poet of mixed West Indian and West African heritage. After self-publishing her poetry collection *bone* to major success in 2014, Yrsa re-released the collection with Penguin Books in fall 2017. Word has it that *bone* is like "holding truth in your hands". Fans of Warsan Shire and Nayyirah Waheed will appreciate her. Her memoir, *THE TERRIBLE: A Storyteller's Memoir*, will be published this summer. The featured poet will read and teach with handouts and a Q & A for \$10. *Title to be determined.*

Featured Author: **Elizabeth Acevedo**, poet-turned-novelist, debuts one of the most anticipated young adult novels of 2018 with her first work of fiction, *Poet X*. Already receiving rave reviews, the book is about "finding your own voice". The slam poet's work centers around 15-year-old Xiomara Batista, an Afro-Dominican teenager growing up in Harlem under some strict parental guidelines. Quoting poet Audre Lorde, "I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood". "Ultimately," says Acevedo, "I want readers to walk away empowered to live in ways that feel truest to who they are ... *The Poet X* is a story about fierce familial relationships, first love, pushing against cultural and gendered norms, but mostly it is a story about giving yourself permission to raise your voice and demand to be heard".
<http://www.acevedopoetry.com/> @acevedowrites

Featured Poets: **Joanne Gabbin**, poet and founder of the **Furious Flower Poetry Center** celebrates the rhythm of language with **Abdul Ali**, **Lauren K. Alleyne**, and **Tony Medina** who join CityLit for a lively poetry experience. The nation's first academic center for Black poetry, the Furious Flower Poetry Center has reached thousands of poets, educators, students, and poetry lovers around the world. With its genesis as a groundbreaking conference in 1994 that brought together renowned Black poets from around the country, including legends like Gwendolyn Brooks, Sonya Sanchez, Amiri Baraka, and Nikki Giovanni, Furious Flower ushered in the first major resurgence of Black poetry since the Black Arts Movement.
<https://www.jmu.edu/furiousflower/>



One-on-One 30 Minute Editorial Sessions with four editors: **Karen Houppert**, **Bret McCabe**, **celeste doaks**, **Betsy Boyd**, and **Laura Ballou**: 16 slots in all for \$10 each. Poetry. Fiction. Nonfiction. Memoir. Screenplay.

Literary Marketplace - of 40 or more exhibitors (37 available in the Atrium), plus an additional 10 on the first floor.

A host of sessions and discussions, including:

-We Wear the Mask: 15 True Stories of Passing In America, co-edited by Lisa Page and Brando Skyhorse. For some, "passing" means opportunity, access, or safety in this collection of essays. Others don't willingly pass but are "passed" in situations as someone else. The book includes racial and socioeconomic passing, gender, and religious passing. **Lisa Page** will discuss the book with two contributors, **Teresa Wiltz** and **Sergio Troncoso** who tell their own stories of mistaken identity.

-Listen To Your Mother curated by co-founder **Taya Johnson**, will hold a LTYM reunion as participants from a compilation of three years of Baltimore's LTYM take to the stage. Every LTYM production takes the audience on a well-crafted journey of diverse true stories about motherhood—being a mom, having a mom, losing a mom, finding a mom—as many interpretations on the theme of mothering as you can imagine. From hilarious and heartwarming, to emotionally intense and profound, LTYM entertains, energizes, brings community together and leaves everyone feeling a little less alone and a little more understood.

-Spotlight on FICTION: New Releases by regional authors: **Marion Winik** talks fiction and books with novelists, **Leslie Pietryzk**, **Katia Ulysse**, **Melissa Scholes Young**, **Jane DeLury** and **Joyce Abell**.

*-**Funding & Advocacy for Literary Artists** - *Maryland State Arts Council, MSAC, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, GBCA, Sonja Cendak, National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, Mohamed Sheriff, Creative Capital, Marianna Schaffer*, and *Maryland Citizens for the Arts, MCA, Nicholas Cohen*, highlight funding opportunities and arts advocacy in Maryland.

-Playwriting 101: Area playwrights speak truth to theater. Playwrights **Annalisa Dias** and **Miranda Rose Hall** join **Mai Sennaar** in a conversation about playwriting, the craft, the process, the industry, and writing as women and as women of color at the intersect of change.

-Find A Way - A quote adopted from the op-ed piece by Diana Nyad, "*My Life After Sexual Assault*" <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/09/opinion/diana-nyad-sexual-assault.html?emc=eta1> and a provocative session in the wake of the **#MeToo Movement** created by Tarana Burke. "It was a catchphrase to be used from survivor to survivor to let folks know that they were not alone and that a movement for radical healing was happening and possible." The renewed awareness of relationships of power, in general, exploring the ways in which men and women writers have been confronted with issues of sexism, sexual abuse, race, body image, and disability is more important than ever. This session, curated by novelist **Jen Michalski**, includes authors **Susi Wyss**, **Kenneth Rogers**, **Laura Bogart**, **Allison McCarthy**, and **Hannah J. Sawyerr**.

-Creative Nonfiction Panel about writers unearthing the hidden narratives, the non-mainstream stories, the personal histories that have been buried or silenced, and how these writers access these stories through research, craft, personal need, etc. curated by NEA fellow, Ruby fellow, Baker fellow, and journalist (who just scored an article in the *New Yorker*) **Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson**. Includes writers **Celeste Doaks**, **Saida Agostini**, and **Anthony Moll**.

-Roundtable Straight Talk with Book Publishers: Join *CityLit Press* publisher **Gregg Wilhelm** to discuss the publishing industry and perspectives of national and regional presses with **Ian Anderson**, Editor in Chief at *Mason Jar Press*, **Kimi Hanauer** at *Press Press Baltimore*, and ***Marcos L. Martinez**, Acquisitions Editor and Founding Editor of *Stillhouse Press*, and publicist and owner of the new independent bookstore Greedy Reads' **Julia Fleischaker**, on a frank industry talk.

-Sipping From a Jar: A Sampling From a Local Press: Mason Jar Press editor **Michael Tager** joins memoirists **Tyrese Coleman** and **Michelle Junot**, novelist **Dave K.**, and poet **Stephen Zerance** as they read from their works.

-Spotlight on POETRY: New Releases: Poet **Chelsea Fetzer** moderates a panel of poets who will read and discuss their latest work, including National Book Award Finalist **Leslie Harrison**, **Gerry LaFemina**, **Mecca Morphosis**, and **Jennifer Wallace**.

****-Screenwriting 101:** Screenwriters **Jocquelyn Downs**, and a script doctor discuss craft, process and writing in a TimesUp industry.

****-Round Table: Theater Producers Discuss How to Get Your Play Noticed:** Industry update and talk with **Annalisa Dias**, Olney Theater's **Deborah Ellinghaus**, Baltimore Center Stage's.

****-Lock & Load: Armed Fiction** - a collection of literary fiction in which guns play a compelling role, edited by **Deirdra McAfee** and **BettyJoyce Nash**, with contributors **Patricia Schultheis** and **Daniel Cox**. "... the fatal result of a gathering of armed protesters in Charlottesville offer further evidence of the damage that insult, injustice, and silence do—and further demonstrate why we have to talk. Literature gives us words. Stories give us ways." (*Will include a community member from Baltimore Ceasefire*)

****-Inheriting the War - Poetry & Prose of Descendants of Vietnam Veterans & Refugees** - edited by poet **Laren McClung**. The special PBS series *The Vietnam War*, sparked engaged and lengthy conversations about this topic with many people addressing how the war affected families and individuals.

*This particular session might start pre-conference hour, from 9:30am - 10:30am.

**This particular session has to be confirmed with all panelists on board.