



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWP to Present Four Free Author Events at Chicago Conference

Annual Conference Features Free Readings by the U.S. and U.K. Poets Laureate, Two National Book Award Winners, and Other Noted Novelists and Poets. Bookfair Open to Public on Saturday.

Fairfax, VA, January 15, 2012 — The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) will host its Annual Conference & Bookfair at Hilton Chicago and the Palmer House Hilton from February 29 to March 3, 2012. The conference is the single largest literary gathering in North America and will attract over 9,000 attendees. The conference will also bring together eight Pulitzer Prize-winning writers, two Poets Laureate, eight National Book Award winners, and nine recipients of the National Book Critics Circle Award, among hundreds of other readers, speakers, and panelists, and will feature 400 events, as well as exhibits by more than 550 presses, magazines, and literary arts organizations.

On Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, the following conference events at Hilton Chicago (720 S. Michigan Avenue) will be free and open to the public:

The Poetry Foundation Presents a Reading and Conversation with Philip Levine and Carol Ann Duffy, Friday, March 2, 2012 from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m., Hilton Chicago International Ballroom North & South, Second Floor

Columbia College Chicago Poetry & Nonfiction Programs Present a Reading and Conversation with Esmeralda Santiago and Jesmyn Ward, Friday, March 2, 2012 from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m., Hilton Chicago Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

The Academy of American Poets Presents a Reading and Conversation with Nikky Finney and Lyn Hejinian, Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m., Hilton Chicago Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

Columbia College Chicago Story Week and Bath Spa University Present “Literary Rock and Roll!” with Ronnie Baker Brooks, Aleksander Hemon, Audrey Niffenegger, and Irvine Welsh, Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m., Hilton Chicago International Ballroom North & South, Second Floor

On Saturday, March 3, the AWP Bookfair at Hilton Chicago will be free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Exhibitors include *Chicago Review*, Dalkey Archive Press, Graywolf Press, Milkweed Editions, *n+1*, *Ninth Letter*, Northwestern University Press, *Poetry*, *Tin House*, and W.W. Norton.

For more information about these free events, to register for the conference, or to view a full schedule of events open to paid conference attendees, visit awpwriter.org/conference/2012awpconf.php.

On-site registration for the conference will open on Wednesday, February 29 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue. On-site rates are \$190 for members and \$265 for non-members. Registration includes admission to the bookfair. Press passes can be requested from conference@awpwriter.org.