



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Allison Joseph Receives 2012 George Garrett Award

**Fairfax, VA, March 15, 2012** — The board of directors of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) has selected Allison Joseph as the recipient of the 2012 George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature. The author of six collections of poetry, including *Imitation of Life* (Carnegie Mellon, 2003), Joseph is also well known as an editor of the *Crab Orchard Review*, which she has edited with her husband Jon Tribble since 1995. Through the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry, she and Tribble nurture to publication two outstanding volumes of poetry each year.

Joseph has directed the creative writing program of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where as an associate professor she continues to be a mentor to countless students. She is the founder and director of the Young Writers Workshop, an annual summer residential creative writing workshop for high school writers. Joseph has previously served on the AWP board of directors. In nominating her for the George Garrett Award, Joseph's colleagues, Stacey Lynn Brown and Adrian Matejka wrote, "Her continued creative, inventive, and selfless dedication has made the literary world a more beautiful and friendly place, full of possibility and endless opportunity." Announcing the award at the 2012 AWP Annual Conference & Bookfair, AWP Executive Director David Fenza said, "Allison Joseph is the incarnation of the better angels that animate our organization."

The George Garrett Award is named for writer George Garrett, who made exceptional contributions to his fellow writers as a teacher, mentor, editor, friend, board member, and good spirit. For more than forty years, Garrett taught creative writing and literature at Wesleyan University, the University of Virginia, Hollins University, and the University of Michigan, among other institutions. He was the author of more than thirty books, including the trilogy *Death of the Fox*, *The Succession*, and *Entered from the Sun*. Garrett was a founding member of AWP and for many years edited *Intro*, an annual anthology of work by emerging writers. As a writer, teacher, mentor, editor, or inspiration, Garrett helped many young writers who are now major contributors to contemporary letters.

The George Garrett Award includes an honorarium of \$2,000 from AWP, a lifetime membership in the organization, and travel, accommodations, and registration to attend the AWP annual conference, where Joseph's award was announced and publicly conferred before an audience of nearly 3,000.

The recipient of the 2013 Garrett Award will be announced on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at the AWP annual conference in Boston. Nominations for the award will be accepted from August 1 through September 15, 2012. For more information, visit [awpwriter.org/contests/george\\_garrett\\_award\\_overview](http://awpwriter.org/contests/george_garrett_award_overview).

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*The mission of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs is to foster literary achievement, to advance the art of writing as essential to a good education, and to serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing. Founded in 1967, AWP supports nearly 50,000 writers, over 500 college and university creative writing programs, and 100 writers' conferences and centers.*