



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Over 9,000 Writers and Publishers to Gather in Chicago for AWP Annual Conference & Bookfair

Fairfax, VA, November 1, 2011 — 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 bring together eight Pulitzer Prize-winning writers, two Poets Laureate, six National Book Award winners, and nine recipients of the National Book Critics Circle Award, among hundreds of other readers, speakers, and panelists. The conference will feature 400 events, as well as exhibits by more than 550 presses, magazines, and literary arts organizations.

Conference pre-registration runs through January 23. Pre-registration rates for the three-day conference are \$155 for members and \$225 for non-members. On-site registration 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.

The conference keynote address, hosted by Roosevelt University, will be given by Margaret Atwood. Other presenters include Jimmy Santiago Baca, Jennifer Egan, Dagoberto Gilb, Nikki Giovanni, Jaimy Gordon, Ha Jin, Marilyn Nelson, Ed Roberson, Marilynne Robinson, Rebecca Skloot, Jane Smiley, Isabel Wilkerson, and C.K. Williams.

On Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, the following events at Hilton Chicago will be free and open to the public: The Poetry Foundation presents Philip Levine and Carol Ann Duffy; Columbia College Chicago Poetry & Nonfiction Programs present Esmeralda Santiago and Jeanette Walls; The Academy of American Poets presents Lyn Hejinian and Edward Hirsch; Columbia College Story Week and Bath Spa present Ronnie Baker Brooks, Aleksander Hemon, Audrey Niffenegger, and Irvine Welsh. Event locations and details can be found at [awpwriter.org/conference/2012awpconf.php](http://awpwriter.org/conference/2012awpconf.php).

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, *Tin House*, and W.W. Norton.

Chicago-area institutions sponsoring the conference include Roosevelt University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia College Chicago, the University of Chicago, DePaul University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Marquette University, Northwestern University, and the Poetry Foundation.

Press passes can be requested from [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org).

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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.*