

Event Title: "I leave you this poem": A Tribute to Chana Bloch

Scheduled Day: Friday, March 6, 2020

Scheduled Time: 1:45:PM - 03:00:PM

Scheduled Room: Room 213, Henry B. González Convention Center,
Meeting Room Level

Event Description: Five poets will honor the work and life of the noted poet and translator Chana Bloch who passed away in May of 2017. The panelists will discuss how Chana's poems and translations influenced and inspired their work, especially in regards to the exploration of her Jewish faith and her desire to examine what she called "the inner life." Offering anecdotes, memories, appreciations, and finishing with a reading of one of her poems, each panelist will honor Chana as a mentor, poet, friend, and guide.

1. Moderator Andrea Hollander will briefly introduce herself and the other panelists to the audience at the start of our tribute:

Andrea Hollander's 5th full-length poetry collection is *Blue Mistaken for Sky*. Winner of two Pushcart Prizes (poetry and literary nonfiction) and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, she conducts the Ambassador Writing Seminars in Portland, Oregon, where, after more than three decades in the Arkansas Ozarks, she has lived since 2011.

James Crews is the author of two collections of poetry, *The Book of What Stays* and *Telling My Father*. He is also the editor of two anthologies--*Queer Nature*, a gathering of LGBTQ Environmental Poetry, forthcoming from Autumn House Press, and *Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection*.

Danusha Laméris's poems have been published in *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, *The Sun Magazine*, *The New Ohio Review*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and other journals and

anthologies. Her books are *The Moons of August* and *Bonfire Opera*. She is the Poet Laureate of Santa Cruz, California.

Rachel Mennies is the author of two poetry collections: *The Naomi Letters* and *The Glad Hand of God Points Backwards*, finalist for a National Jewish Book Award. She works as an adjunct instructor and freelance writer and is the reviews editor at *AGNI*.

Yehoshua November is the author of two books of poetry, *God's Optimism* (a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize) and *Two Worlds Exist* (a finalist for both the National Jewish Book Award and the Paterson Poetry Prize). She teaches at Touro College and Rutgers University.

2. After these introductions, Andrea Hollander will present a brief biography of Chana Bloch and talk about her relationship with Chana. She will close her talk by reading one of Bloch's poems.
3. Each panelist will speak for no more than nine minutes, briefly describing his/her relationship with Chana Bloch and/or her poems and/or translations, followed by the reading of a poem.

Andrea Hollander: "The Color Green"

James Crews: "Swimming in the Rain"

Danusha Laméris: "The Kiss"

Rachel Mennies: "Three Wishes"

Yehoshua November: "Tourists" (section 2 only) by Yehuda Amichai,
translated by Chana Bloch

4. Copies of these poems will be on handouts for those with auditory accessibility challenges.
5. Following the panelist's part of the tribute, Andrea Hollander will open the event to those in the audience who would like to share a brief remembrance or a poem. These will be limited to five minutes each.