Title: Women's Caucus
Number: T235
Time: 3:20 pm to 4:35 pm
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022
Location: 126A, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level
Moderator: Melissa Studdard
Event Participants: Jennifer Givhan, Erika Meitner, Rosebud Ben-Oni, and Patricia Jones Spears

2022 Women’s Caucus Meeting Agenda

Welcoming Remarks & Statement of the role of the Women’s Caucus at AWP (3:20-3:25)

The mission of the AWP Women's Caucus is to:

· expand networking opportunities for women writers
· recognize the contributions of women writers nationally and internationally
· enhance understanding of the relationship between gender and creative writing
· expand literary and cultural dialogue to encompass all genres of creative writing specific to women writers
· encourage an open forum for dialogues about feminist literary perspectives
· support education about the contributions of women writers
· support women writers on local, national, and global levels
· advocate for equity in creative writing for all
Introduction of Panelists (3:25-3:30)

· Jennifer Givhan is a Mexican-American poet and novelist from the Southwestern desert who’s earned fellowships from the NEA and PEN Emerging Voices. She is the author of five full-length poetry collections (most recently Belly to the Brutal, Wesleyan, 2022) and the novels Trinity Sight, Jubilee, and River Woman River Demon (Blackstone Publishing). Jennifer is the current president of the Women’s Caucus.

· Erika Meitner is the author of six books of poems, including Useful Junk, out from BOA Editions in 2022, and Holy Moly Carry Me, which won the 2018 National Jewish Book award, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. She is a professor of English at Virginia Tech.

· Rosebud Ben-Oni won the 2019 Alice James Award for If This Is the Age We End Discovery and is the author of turn around, BRXGHT XYXS. She received fellowships from New York Foundation for the Arts and CantoMundo; her work has been commissioned by the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in NYC.


· Melissa Studdard is the author of the poetry collections I Ate the Cosmos for Breakfast and Dear Selection Committee (forthcoming May 2022) and the children's novel Six Weeks to Yehidah. Awards include the Lucille Medwick Award, the Penn
Review Poetry Award, The Tom Howard Award, and more. Melissa is the past president of the Women’s Caucus.

**Previous Year’s Business & Concerns (3:30-3:35)**

- Childcare
- Expenses, specifically how expensive the AWP badges are and how to make AWP more affordable overall
- Desire to network with other women instead of just having a short meeting

**New Business (3:35-3:45)**

- Call for volunteers. To help with:
  - Social media
  - Planning events
- Any changes necessary to mission statement or the caucus’ role?
- Anything anyone would like to see happen at next year’s AWP or through the year?
- Any new concerns or issues to focus on for the upcoming year?

**Writing and Publishing Talk (3:45-4:20)**

Discussion of our experiences as women writing and publishing during the pandemic: What have the particular challenges been? What strategies, resources, and networks have been helpful? How can we support each other and seek out the support we need? What have we learned from this time?

- Erika Meitner, 3-5 minutes
- Rosebud Ben-Oni, 3-5 minutes
- Patricia Jones Spears, 3-5 minutes
- Audience/Caucus Members’ Sharing and Questions, 5 minutes
- Jennifer Givhan, 3-5 minutes
- Melissa Studdard, 3-5 minutes
- Audience/Caucus Members’ Sharing and Questions, 5 minutes

**Election of Officers (4:20 - 4:30)**

**Closing Remarks (4:30 - 4:35)**