EVENT CATEGORY
Poetry Craft and Criticism

EVENT TITLE
The Hen Party: Is Multi-Generational Dialogue Unifying for Women?

EVENT DESCRIPTION
Contrary to popular belief, a hen party is not limited to a bachelorette party and can extend to any social gathering of women. Four generations of poets— in their twenties, thirties, fifties and sixties celebrate how women’s thoughts on career, relationships and body image change with age through the writing, discussion and reading of their poems all the while getting to the heart of the matter— why is cross-generational dialogue necessary for the empowerment of woman-identifying people?

STATEMENT OF VALUE
The Hen Party is an intersectional panel of writers of various ethnicities, who are in four different age brackets and stages of their careers. By reading their poetry and engaging in a multi-generational dialogue, they open ways for women-identifying people to teach, listen and learn from one another, appreciate each generation’s contribution to the feminist movement, and heal misunderstandings between the older and younger generations.
EVENT MODERATOR


EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Jenny Molberg is the author of the poetry collections Marvels of the Invisible, Refusal, and The Court of No Record. An NEA fellow, she is Associate Professor at the University of Central Missouri, where she edits Pleiades: Literature in Context and directs Pleiades Press.

Angie Trudell Vasquez is the current Poet Laureate of Madison, WI. She holds a MFA in Creative Writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her third collection of poetry, In Light, Always Light, and her fourth collection of poetry, My People Redux, were both published by Finishing Line Press.

Liana Sakelliou is a poet, translator, critic, editor, professor at The University of Athens, Greece, author of 26 books. She wrote monographs on Emerson, Dickinson, H.D., Levertov, Snyder. Her poems have been widely anthologized and translated into 11 languages. Member of Hellenic Authors’ Society.

Aliki Barnstone is a poet, essayist, translator, critic, editor, and visual artist. Her most recent books are Dwelling and her translation of Liana Sakelliou's Portrait Before Dark. Among her awards are two Fulbright Fellowships in Greece and serving as poet laureate of Missouri from 2016-2019.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Sattar, the moderator, welcomes everyone to The Hen Party and shares how this multi-generational panel came together. Panelists, including the moderator, introduce themselves, read their poems from youngest to oldest: Sattar, Molberg, Vasquez, Sakelliou and Barnstone for ten minutes each followed by a twenty minute discussion on how women’s writing varies by age and why it is important to encourage cross-generational dialogue in a woman-identifying community and ending with a fifteen minute audience Q&A. Light refreshments are served.