EVENT TITLE: Queer Parenthood and Family-making: A Reading

Event Description:

What forms do poets summon to wrestle with and queer kinship? In this reading, five queer poets of diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and poetics will share recent work on their experiences of parenthood and family-making: reckoning with questions of adoption, genetics, belonging, community, and fertility technologies. World-building beyond discrimination and across differences of class, race, and orientation, these poems offer alternate dreams of futurity.

Event Organizer and Moderator:
Nomi Stone is a poet and anthropologist and author of Kill Class (Tupelo, 2019) and Pinelandia (UC Press 2022). Winner of a Pushcart Prize, poems appear in POETRY, American Poetry Review, The Best American Poetry, The Atlantic, and elsewhere. She is an Assistant Professor in Poetry at UT Dallas.

Event Participants:
JP Howard's debut collection Say/Mirror was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award. JP’s poetry is widely anthologized. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem, Lambda Literary and VONA/Voices. JP curates Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon.

Sunu P. Chandy is a poet and civil rights attorney. Her work can be found in her award winning book of poems, My Dear Comrades, and in anthologies such as, The Penguin Book of Indian Poets, The Long Devotion: Poets Writing Motherhood and This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation.

Keetje Kuipers’ third collection of poems, All Its Charms, includes work honored by publication in both The Pushcart Prize and Best American Poetry. A judge of the 2022 National Book Award in poetry, she is currently Editor of Poetry Northwest and a board member at the National Book Critics Circle.

Blas Falconer is the author of four poetry collections, including Forgive the Body This Failure (Four Way Books 2018) and Rara Avis (forthcoming Four Way Books
2024). Winner of an NEA fellowship and the Maureen Eden Writers Exchange, he teaches in the MFA program at San Diego State University.

**Event Agenda:**

The moderator will welcome attendees, read bios of participants, and describe how the reading developed to fill a deficit in poetics around parenthood and family-making (5 minutes) Each participant (including the moderator) will read for 12 minutes (60 minutes) followed by a 10 minute audience Q&A.

**Introductory Remarks:**

While readings and anthologies focusing on experiences of parenthood (and in particular, motherhood) are common, this reading will highlight an often marginalized experience: queer family-making. Refusing heteronormative and capitalist teleologies, we will offer through our poems other modes of being and becoming: experiences of joy, hope, loss, belonging, and alienation, as we navigate structures of recognition for our families.

**Moderator Questions:**

While this section of the event will mostly be focused on giving the audience opportunities to ask questions of the panelists, as well as a chance for panelists to ask questions of each other, I will start with one question of my own. First, it has been so fantastic to see the different world-building in each of your poems. I wanted to ask if there was a particular poetics or set of either givens forms or
forms you felt compelled to change and distort, that needed to be summoned to write about this particular topic.