

**VI Literary Festival & Book Fair**  
**April 10 – 13, 2019**  
**Musings and Metaphors: Revolution, Evolution and**  
**Devolution(READ)**  
**PROGRAM**

**GUESTS ARRIVE**

**Wednesday, April 10**

**SCHOOL WRITERS' RENDEZVOUS**

UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus ~ The Great Hall

9 a.m. - 12 a.m.

**Mistress of Ceremonies:** Yvette McMahon- Arnold,  
State Director of Curriculum

**Welcome:** Valrica Bryson, Director, Division of Cultural  
Education

**Remarks:** District Superintendent of Schools

**Opening Performance:** Tenor Pan Soloist Kevin Williams

**Introduction of Speaker:**

**Featured Speaker:** Professor Cadwell Turnbull

Interactive: *"Using Experiences to Color your Story"*

**Student Writers and Artists Competition: Poetry &  
Prose and other works of art**

*Moderator: Prof. Sharon Charles, Ph.D.*

**LUNCH**

1:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

**Performance Poetry: From Imagination to Stage**

Room NWW #102

**Biko Macmillan, Poet**

*Moderator: Geron Richards, Author, Teacher*

1:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m..

**Getting Started as a Writer**

Room NWW #103

Prof. Cadwell Turnbull, Ph.D.

*Moderator: Jana Austrie, Winner of 2018 VILF Student*

*Writers' Competition*

1:00 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

**Self Publishing: A Writer's Option**

Room EVC #308

*Presenter: Author Cassandra Ulrich*

*Moderator: Ajahni Estrada, UVI Student*

1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Awards Presentation: Acknowledgement of School Writers' Presentations**

Room: *The Great Hall*

2:35 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks & DISMISSAL

**Thursday, April 11**

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

**REGISTRATION**

UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus ~ The Great Hall

Coordinator: Yvette McMahon-Arnold

(Campus satellite for authors will be Green Room at CES)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

**Author Cavalcade Into Schools**

*"Identity and Literature "*

**A team of authors and speakers take a literary journey into public schools as well as to the Youth Rehabilitation Center to engage in interactive workshops and talks.**

*Deng Thiak Adut*

*Patricia Harkins-Pieere*

*Ellen Foster*

*Apple Gidley*

*Fartein Horgar*

*Rozena Maart and Juan Solis Arias*

*Biko McMillan*

*Denene Milner*

*Cadwell Turnbull*

*Cassandra Ulrich*

*Clement White*

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Meet & Greet Reception**

**Venue:** Company House Hotel

*Mistress of Ceremonies:* Camille McKayle, Ph.D., Provost

**Introduction of Authors & Greetings**

**Mix & Mingle**

*Music by Central High School Jazz Ensemble*



8:40 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 12**

**A Taste of St. Croix Through Christiansted Town**

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**REGISTRATION**

Venue: UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus Great Hall

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**PLENARY SESSION**

Mistress of Ceremony: Kimarie Engerman, Ph.D., Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS)

**SPEAKERS**

Education Commissioner

Tourism Commissioner Hon. Joe Boschulte

UVI President Dr. David Hall

Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett

Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr.

9:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** Deng Thiak Adut, author and inspirational speaker

*“Musings and Metaphors: Revolution, Evolution and Devolution” (READ)*

**Introduction:** Alscess Lewis-Brown, Author & VI LitFest Program Chair

10:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

**A Decade of Change: A Conversation around the Evolution of Neighborhoods and Communities within the Virgin Islands and Beyond-- A Context for Writers**

Room: *The Great Hall*

*Moderator:* Gerard Emanuel

***Panellists:*** Marilyn Krigger, Ph. D., Karen Thurland, Ph.D., Clement White, Ph. D., Talk Show Host and Community Activist Mario Moorehead.

10:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

***Innovation by Design: From Inspiration to Publication***  
an interactive workshop for aspiring, and well-established, creative writers.

Room: EVC 302

***Presenters:*** Dr Ellen Foster and Dr Patricia Harkins-Pierre

**Noon** – 1:00 p.m.

***LUNCH BREAK***

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

1:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

**The Life Cycle of a Manuscript**

Room NWW #102

***Presenters:*** Yona Deshommes, Associate Director of Publicity – Atria Books (an Imprint of Simon and Schuster)

*Moderator:* Patricia Harkins-Pierre, Ph. D.

1:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

**Musings of Another Community: Strategies for a Writer: Race, Writing and Difference**

Room NWW #103

**Rozena Maart, Award Winning South African Author**

*Vincent Cooper*

1:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

**The Sonnet, You and the Caribbean**

Room: EVC 308

***Presenter:*** Richard Georges, award-winning author and poet from the British Virgin Islands

*Moderator:* Aminah Saleem

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**Strategies for Giving Voice to History and Culture**

Room: NWW #102

***Presenter:*** Emily Williams, author and professor

*Moderator:* Dimitri Copemann

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**Preserving Heritage: How the Literature Helps, Heals and Hurts**

Room: NWW 103

Presenter: Lewis Gordon, Ph.D., and Paget Henry, Ph.D.

Moderator: Chenzira Kahina, Ph.D.

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

**A Journey with Plantation Ghosts of Norway/Denmark: A Colonial Perspective**

Room: EVC 308

Presenter: **Author and Scholar Fartein Horgar**

Moderator: Tiphonie Yanique

**EVENING PROGRAM**

5 p.m. - 10 p.m.



**Book Bacchanal** (Coordinator: Prof. Janis Valmond, Dr. Ph.D.)

Sponsor: Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts (CMCA)

**Featuring: “Sweet Noise”**

**Author Readings/ Book Signings:**

Deng Thiak Adut

Danica David

Richard Georges

Fartein Horgar

Rozena Maart

Denene Milner

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES**

Moko Jumbi

Cedelle Petersen–Christopher (Cariso)

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**BOOK LAUNCHES**

*A Stitch and Time* by Kim Lyons

*Tradesmen of St. Croix: U.S.V.I* by Karen Thurland

*What A Difference a Change Makes!* by Sheree Sekou

*The Eighth Flag* by Stan Joins

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Book Sales/ Signings**

Author Readings and Sharing

9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Open Mic Poetry**

Moderator: Biko McMillan

## Saturday, April 13

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

**Registration**—UVI Albert A. Sheen Campus Great Hall

7:35 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Bush Tea Morning Social**

**Crucian Breakfast**

Master of Ceremonies: Eugene Peterson, M.D, musician & author

Central High School Jazz Band

Open Mic Poetry

UVI Choir—*Voices of Love*

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Bush Tea Morning Lecture: PLENARY**

***Clement A. White, Ph.D.***

***Topic:*** “Sciatta deh Jumbie an’ Unleash dem Writing Muse”

***Theme:*** VI Metaphors and Musings: Another Kind of Revolution

***Introduction:*** Edgar Lake, author & scholar

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

***Presenter: Dr. Rozena Maart, award winning South African author, international scholar and professor***

***Introduction:*** Dr. Lewis Gordon, international scholar, professor, author, musician

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10:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
(concurrent)

**The Children’s Corner---Coordinator,**

The Children’s Museum of St. Croix:

Auntie Janice’s Children’s Corner

***Venue:*** (Under the tent on the lawn of the A.S. Campus)

***Facilitators:*** Ellie Hirsh and Winnie “Oyoko” Loving

***Readers:*** Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach

***Bestselling author Denene Milner***

***Author Charlene Mathew***

***Author Vivian Clenace***

***Iria Stiles, Special Art Activities***

11: 20 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**BROWN BAG LUNCH PANEL**

***Recapturing a Radical Imagination: A Virgin Islands Studies Collective with Tiphannie Yanique, Lavaughn Belle, Tammi Navarro, Hadiya Sewer***

***Room:*** The Great Hall

***Moderator:*** Vincent Cooper, Ph.D.

## CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

### **Tips and Strategies for Writing and Publishing Literature for Children**

Room NWW #103

Presenter: Award-winning author Denene Milner

Moderator: Yvette McMahon-Arnold

### **Creating Meter in Poetry**

Room NWW #102

Presenter: **Donna Kilgore, Ph.D.**

Moderator: Mary Duggan

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

### **UVI Student Authors Forum**

Room: *EVC 308*

Moderator: Patricia Harkins-Pierre, Ph. D.,

Judges: Valerie Combie, Ph.D., Donna Kilgore, Ph.D.

2:00 p.m. - 2: 50 p.m.

### **Intersections: Courage, Inspiration and Opportunity**

Room: *The Great Hall*

**Presenter: Deng T. Adut**

Moderator: Nicolas Drayton

3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

### **Race and the Criminal Justice System**

Room NWW #103

**Presenter: Margaret Barry, Attorney-at-law**

Moderator: Attorney Emile Henderson

3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

### **What a Publisher Looks for in the Manuscript: Editing and Preparing the Professional Manuscript**

Room: NWW #102

**Presenter: Yona Deshommes, Atria Books**

Moderator: David Gould, Ph.D.

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

### **Local Agricultural Garden Foods: Preparation, Nutrition--- the Story**

Room: EC 302 & 303

**Presenter: Sejah Farms, Inc.**

Cooperative Extension Service Kitchen

Moderators: Camille Paul, Physician Assistant

Tamara Jean Baptiste—Student Nurse

3:55 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

*Closing Exercises*

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

After-Words: Reading and Mixing with the authors



Venue TBA

## AUTHORS & PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES



**Deng Thiak Adut** is the author of *Song of the War Boy*. He is a defence lawyer and refugee advocate in Western Sydney, Australia, and a former child soldier from South Sudan. His story is also told in a popular short video by Western Sydney University, where he earned his law degree. He was named the 2017 New South Wales Australian of the Year. A member of the Dinka people, Adut was born near Malek, a small fishing village in South Sudan near White Nile River. One of eight children, he had a happy early childhood spent with his family at their banana farm. In 1987 at the age of 6 or 7 years, Adut was taken from his mother and marched for 33 days to Ethiopia along with 30 other child conscripts and forced to fight for the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the Second Sudanese Civil War. In 1995, Adut's older half-brother, John Mac, smuggled Adut out of Sudan at night in a truck under sacks of corn. Adut spent 18 months in a refugee camp in Kenya. The United Nations granted both brothers refugee status and, in 1998 when Adut was 14, Australia granted both boys a visa.



**Margaret Martin Barry** is a native of St. Thomas. Raised on St. Croix, in 2011 she joined Vermont Law School as a visiting professor and associate dean for clinical and experiential programs and joined the regular faculty in 2012. She served as associate dean for clinical and experiential programs until December 2016. Her current teaching responsibilities include criminal law, professional responsibility, and a seminar on race and the criminal justice system. Professor Barry was previously a professor at Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America. She has published in the areas of legal education and family law, and has served on numerous professional panels discussing clinical teaching and legal representation. She served as chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Clinical Legal Education and as president of the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA). Both the AALS Clinical Section and CLEA are the leading professional organizations for clinical legal educators in the United States.



**Lavaughn Belle** is best known for working with the coloniality of the Virgin Islands, both in its past relationship to Denmark and its present one with the United States. She works in a variety of disciplines that include painting, installation, photography, video and public interventions. Borrowing from elements of architecture, history and archeology Belle creates narratives that challenge colonial hierarchies and invisibility. She has exhibited her work in the Caribbean, the USA and Europe in institutions such as the Museo del Barrio (NY), Casa de las Americas (Cuba), the Museum of the African Diaspora (CA) and Christiansborg Palace (DK). Her art is in the collections of the National Photography Museum and the Vestsjælland Museum in Denmark. Her work with colonial era pottery led to a commission with the renowned brand of porcelain products, the Royal Copenhagen. She is the co-creator of "I Am Queen Mary", the artist-led ground-breaking monument that confronted the Danish colonial amnesia while commemorating the legacies of resistance of the African people who were brought to the former Danish West Indies. The project was featured in over 100 media outlets around the world including the NY Times, Politiken, VICE, the BBC and Le Monde. Belle holds a MFA from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba and an MA and BA from Columbia University in NY. Her studio is based in the Virgin Islands.





**Yona Deshommes** began her professional career in education as an Academic Coordinator at a residential treatment center, where she created and facilitated a number of cultural and educational programs for at risk youth from the juvenile justice and foster care systems. She was instrumental in the creation of a number of career immersion programs, dance workshops and assisted in the development of remedial educational programs and alternative evaluation tools for students who were two or more years behind academically. Her love and passion for writing led her to a career in publicity in the book publishing industry where she currently serves as an Associate Director of Publicity at Atria Books, an imprint of one of the largest publishers in the world, Simon & Schuster. She has conceived and executed strategic publicity plans for a number of high profile clients that include New York Times best-selling authors Bishop TD Jakes, Taraji P. Henson, Zane, Charlie Wilson, George Clinton, Kevin Hart and a host of other literary/entertainment luminaries. Her current author list includes Alice Walker, rapper/actor Common, National Book Award Book longlist, Nafissa Thompson Spires and Susan Rice. Her area of expertise is the African American market and currently manages most of the publicity planning for 37INK a sub imprints of Atria Books. Deshommes graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Special Education and earned a Masters in Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing from the City College of New York. She lives in Haverstraw, New York.



**Ellen Foster** is a professor of Modern English at Clarion University. She earned a Ph.D in English from Duquesne University.



**Richard Georges** is a writer, editor, and lecturer in the British Virgin Islands. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Prelude, Smartish Pace, Barrelhouse, The Caribbean Writer, The Puritan, The Poetry Review, WILDNESS, Wasafiri, decomP, The Rusty Toque, Baldhip, Susumba, Under the Radar, sx salon, those that this, Reservoir, L'Ephemere Review, Cordite Poetry Review and elsewhere. Richard is the author of the poetry collections Make Us All Islands (Shearsman Books) and GIANT (Platypus Press). He is the recipient of the 2016 Marvin E. Williams Literary Prize from The Caribbean Writer, and has been shortlisted for The Wasafiri New Writing Prize, The Small Axe Literary Prize, The Hollick Arvon Prize for Caribbean Literature, and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. His third collection of poems, Epiphaneia, is forthcoming in 2019 from Outspoken Press.



**Lewis R. Gordon** is a philosopher and musician. He is Professor of Philosophy with affiliation in Jewish Studies, Caribbean and Latinx Studies, Asian and Asian American Studies, and International Studies at UCONN-Storrs; Honorary President of the Global Center for Advanced Studies; Honorary Professor at the Unit of the Humanities at Rhodes University (UHURU), South Africa; and the 2018–2019 Boaventura de Sousa Santos Chair in the Faculty for Economics at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. He also is the drummer for the band ThreeGenerations (3Gs) His many books include Bad Faith and Antiracist Racism (Humanities Press, 1995), Her Majesty's Other Children (Rowman & Littlefield, 1997), Existential Africa (Routledge, 2000), Disciplinary Decadence (Routledge, 2006), Disciplinary Decadence (Routledge, 2006), An Introduction to African Philosophy (Cambridge UP, 2008), Of Divine Warning (with

Jane Anna Gordon, Routledge, 2009), and, more recently, *What Fanon Said: A Philosophical Introduction to His Life and Thought* (NY: Fordham UP; London: Hurst; Johannesburg: Wits UP, 2015; in Swedish, *Vad Fanon Sa*, Stockholm: TankeKraft förlag, 2016), *La sud prin nord-vest: Reflecții existențiale afrodiasporice*, trans. Ovidiu Tichindeleanu (Cluj, Romania: IDEA Design & Print, 2016), and, with Fernanda Frizzo Bragato, *Geopolitics and Decolonization: Perspectives from the Global South* (London, UK: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2018). He is chairperson of the International Collaborations for the Caribbean Philosophical Association, of which he was its first President. He edits the American Philosophical Association blog series *Black Issues in Philosophy*



**Patricia Harkins-Pierre** has been teaching at the University of the Virgin Islands since 1989. While working on Ph.D. in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi, she studied poetry with Mervyn Morris at the University of West Indies and later with Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott at USM. She represented the USVI at the Parnassus Poetry Event in London, linked to the 2012 Summer Olympics, along with her husband, Caribbean Gospel artist Glenworth Pierre. Both her poetry and fiction have been widely published in creative journals such as “Negative Capability” and “The Caribbean Writer,” as well as in anthologies, including “Seasoning for the Mortar,” “Uncommon Places,” “Greenhouse” and “The World Record.” Recently a collection of her poems, *Prophets of Morning Light*, was published by Negative Capability Press.



**Paget Henry**, Ph.D, Professor of Sociology and Chair of Africana Studies Department at Brown University. Henry’s areas of research are economic and political problems of the Caribbean. He also works on a number of specific Caribbean thinkers and on a number of critical theorists. Currently, he is conducting research on the role of culture and the process of development in both the Caribbean and Africa. He teaches courses on development, the Caribbean, political sociology and on Colonial Cultures. His most recent publication is *C. L. R. James’ Caribbean*.



**Fartein Horgar** is a Norwegian author and translator who grew up in Madagascar during colonial times. His family history there can be traced back to 1869. Colonialism is part of his family’s mythology. In 1980 he debuted with the poetry collection *Night Poetry and Morning Skin*. He has subsequently written lyrics, novels and nonfiction. He is a literature reviewer in the *Address* Newspaper. Of his 20 publications, his most recent work is : I Slagertmas – translated to mean “In the Month of Slaughter”—a Danish/Norwegian perspective of the 1733 Slave Revolution on the Island of St. John in the then, Danish/Norwegian Virgin Islands. Someone said, “It’s scary reading!” The novel is a perspective on Norway’s colonial role in the Danish West Indies. The novels – 3 so far – covers 245 years of a gut wrenching narrative told in a beautiful language.



**Donna Kilgore** taught composition, African American Literature, and creative writing at Texas Southern University for forty-two years, and reading and English at the University of the Virgin Islands for two years. She has also mentored students from four colleges and universities in Texas for the Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program, preparing upper-level students for the Graduate Record Exam and for admission to graduate school. Started and served as faculty advisor for NuRoots Creative Writers, an undergraduate multi-

discipline group at Texas Southern, where she edited a journal of students' short fiction and poetry. In addition, she has served as a poetry judge for ACT-SO, a competition for high school artists, sponsored by the NAACP; as judge at forensic tournaments sponsored by the Thomas F. Freeman Debate Team at Texas Southern; as Poetry Juror for the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County; and as short fiction judge for the VI Literature Student Writer's Competition, 2017-18. Her poems have been published in *The Griot*, official publication of the Southern Conference on African-American Studies; the *Ethel Ransom Literary Journal*; *Texas Southern University Faculty Voice*; and *The Caribbean Writer*, 2018.



**Kim Lyons** is an interdisciplinary artist who specializes in hand-dyeing intricately printed silks and cottons, as well as creating handcrafted, beaded jewelry. Whether textile or beads, each item is completely individual, with very colorful motifs and abstract designs, and cannot be recreated or mass-produced. She constructs bespoke pieces, ranging from wall hangings and framed prints, to wearable art such as caftans, scarves, pocket squares and other adornments for a client base which she has built over the years through word of mouth and select venues. In addition to imagining unique textiles and beaded jewelry Kim is also passionate in her dedication to prison reform. Her advocacy has involved many platforms, to include community service, grassroots organizing and the occasional op ed. Much of that effort is now is channeled into the development of a robust and sustained prison arts education program. She is a mother to an adult daughter Savannah, a NYC based dancer. Kim, along with her beloved pup Juno, divides her time in NYC and in her native Virgin Islands.



**Rozena Maart** is the winner of "The Journey Prize: Best Short Fiction in Canada, 1992," the a recipient of the William R. Jones award, which is a lifetime achievement award for philosophy and was recently appointed as an International Research Ambassador for the University of Bremen in Germany. She is a scholar and researcher who works between and among Political Philosophy, Black Consciousness, psychoanalysis, Critical Race, Theory and Derridean deconstruction. She joined the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban in 2011.



**Biko McMillan** is a 22 year old poet and scientist who currently conducts research at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He received his degree in Biology and B.A. in Spanish from Southern Methodist University in December 2018. His first poetry book, "Writing on Roots," was published in April 2018. Biko was born and raised on St. Croix and became interested in poetry in the 9th grade. Ultimately, he hopes to awaken a love for both science and the arts in young Virgin Islanders.



**Denene Milner** is an award-winning journalist, bestselling author, and founder of the **My Brown Baby** blog. Denene Millner is moving her eponymous children's imprint, Denene Millner Books, to Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. Launching in spring 2020 under the Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers imprint, Millner Books will publish titles by African-American authors and illustrators, for readers of all ages. Denene Millner Books debuted in 2017 under Agate Publishing's Bolden Books imprint. At the time, Millner told PW, "This [line] is a love letter to children of color who deserve to see their beauty and humanity in the most remarkable form of entertainment on the planet: books." Over the past two years, Millner has published acclaimed titles including *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C.



James, which received a 2018 Newbery Honor, a Caldecott Honor, and Coretta Scott King Honors, among other accolades. With Steve Harvey, she co-authored the book: *Think Like a Lady, Act Like a Man*.



**Mario Moorehead** is a popular talk show host, community activist and author considered to be a local griot because of his vast knowledge of the history and culture of the Virgin Islands and his abiding public lectures and insights about the Virgin Islands and its people on his popular talk show.



**Cadwell Turnbull** grew up on St. Thomas. His fiction can be found in the pages of *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Lightspeed*, and *Nightmare*. His *Nightmare* story "Loneliness is in Your Blood" was selected for The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2018. He received an MFA in Creative Writing and an MA in Linguistics at North Carolina State University and attended the Clarion West 2016. His debut novel, *The Lesson*, set in near-future U.S. Virgin Islands after an alien colonization, is forthcoming from Blackstone Publishing. He teaches ESL to adults in Charlestown, MA.



**Emily Williams Ph.D.** is Vice President of Academic Affairs at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. She is the immediate past Vice Provost for Curriculum and Assessment at Ramapo College of New Jersey and the former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of the Virgin Islands. Williams was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of the West Indies in the early 2000s and has published extensively - books, articles, etc. on Caribbean Literature and Culture with a focus on Kamau Brathwaite, Caribbean Women Writers in Canada, and Canadian Slavery.



**Tiphonie Yanique** is a Virgin Islands born author who has garnered wide acclaim for her new novel, *Land of Love and Drowning*. She is the author of the poetry collection, *Wife*, which won the 2016 Bocas Prize in Caribbean poetry and the United Kingdom's 2016 Forward/Felix. She is also the author of *How to Escape from a Leper Colony*. She is the winner of a Pushcart Prize, the Kore Press Fiction Prize, The Academy of American Poets Prize, and a Fulbright Scholarship in writing and the Boston Review Fiction Prize. She is the winner of the 2010 Rona Jaffe Prize in Fiction. Her fiction, poetry or essays can be found in the *Best African American Fiction*, *Transition Magazine*, *American Short Fiction*, *The London Magazine*, *Prism International*, *Callaloo*, and other journals and anthologies. She has had residencies with Bread Loaf, Callaloo, Squaw Valley and the Cropper Foundation for Caribbean Writers. Yanique is a professor of Creative Writing and Caribbean Literature at Drew University.



**Cassandra Ulrich** for years wrote poetry and entered competitions. Only many years later did she discover joy in writing stories longer than a few pages. Since then she published her first young adult novel "A Beautiful Girl" in April 2011. Her second novel "Love's Intensity" is a teen paranormal romance released in 2013. Her third, *Billiard Buddies*, a New Adult romance novella, was released a year later. She also released two poetry books "Real Purpose: You Are Special" and "Life Experienced" in June and August of 2014. In 2016, she published two more poetical compilations: "Encouraging Through Sharing: A Christian's Perspective" and "A Love

Gift.” “I Exist. Hear Me” won first place in the South Jersey Writers’ Group 2018 Poetry Contest and her short story “Zale’s Tale” won a spot in “Beach Fun” released by Cat & Mouse Press in 2018. South Jersey Writers’ Group voted her ‘Writer of the Year’ for 2018. She has a manuscript, *If It Kills Me*, in contract with Keith Publications.



**Karen C. Thurland, Ph.D.**, a ninth generation Crucian, was born in Christiansted, St. Croix at No. 1 Hospital Street in Gallows Bay, lived on Market Street, and has family roots in the neighborhoods of Free Gut and Watergut. She is the daughter of Will and Modesta Larsen Thurland. Thurland worked for the Virgin Islands Department of Education as a secondary social studies teacher, cultural education specialist, territorial social studies supervisor, district director of curriculum, instruction and library services, assistant principal, and deputy superintendent of schools. She also worked as a part-time instructor at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix campus. Thurland is the author of five books: Peter G. Thurland, Sr.: Master Cabinetmaker and Band Leader, *The 872nd and 873rd Port Companies: My Father's Story*, *The Neighborhoods of Christiansted: St. Croix 1910-1960*, *The Sugar Industry on St. Croix*, and *Tradesmen of St. Croix*. Her books have been exhibited at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., at Carifesta in Trinidad, and at the Big Read Book Fair on St. Croix. She is a 1998 recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for her contributions towards the advancement of the Art of Literature in the Virgin Islands.



**Clement A. White**, the son of Charles White and Marjories Asta Stevens, is from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, but spent a significant portion of his formative years on St. Croix, where his father was born and raised. He obtained his A.A. from the College of the Virgin Islands (now UVI), BA and MA degrees from Kent State University and his Ph.D. from Brown University. He is the author of: “Decoding the Word”; “Network of Spheres”; “Wey Butty: A Poetic Journey In Search of a West Indian Identity”; “Meet Meh Undah deh Bongolo & Tark Like We—A Case for Virgin Islands Creole Den an’ Now & A Socio-cultural Lexicon”; “Bings Deh Quaksa & Other Stories”; and “From Here to There: Uneven Steps Marking Time.” He is also the author of various articles, including on Nicolás Guillén, Agustín Yáñez, and Langston Hughes. White is currently a Professor of Spanish/Latin American Literature at the University of Rhode Island where he has served as Director of the Graduate Program in Spanish since 1998.



**Tami Navarro** is a cultural anthropologist who holds a Ph.D. from Duke University. She is the Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women and Executive Editor of the Center’s online journal, *Scholar and Feminist Online*. Dr. Navarro has held positions at Rutgers University, Wesleyan University, and Columbia University. Her work has been published in *American Anthropologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Transforming Anthropology*, and *The Caribbean Writer*. She is currently at work on a manuscript entitled *Virgin Capital: Financial Services as Development in the US Virgin Islands*.



**Hadiya Sewer** has a B.A. in Sociology from Spelman College, where she was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. She earned a Masters and Ph.D. in Africana Studies from Brown University. Sewer’s philosophies are inspired by her identity as a U.S. Virgin Islander who was born on St. Thomas and raised on St. John. Dr. Sewer will be a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Black Studies Research at the University of California Santa Barbara, 2018-2019.

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- Transportation Coordinator: Randy Macedon and Edwina Taylor
- Technology Coordination. Mathias Clavier
- Book Bacchanal Coordinator: Janis Valmond, D. PH
- Department of Education Coordination: Valrica Bryson and Yvette McMahon



