

Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie
www.ekeretallie.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, current
Master of Fine Arts, English and Creative Writing, Mills College, January 2002
Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communication, Clark Atlanta University, June 1996

AWARDS & HONORS

Pushcart Prize Nomination, 2017.
Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Associate, 2017.
New York Foundation for the Arts Artist as Entrepreneur Boot Camp for Artists of Color, 2017.
Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation on “A Seat at the Table” syllabus, 2017.
Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation Split This Rock! Books We Love, 2015.
The Missouri Review Audio Poetry Contest Runner-Up, 2014.
Queens Art Express, 2013
Chosen as one of seven artists featured in video and articles by Queens Council on the Arts.
Queens Council on the Arts Grant. “Osain’s Children,” 2010
Awarded \$1,500 to do research on herbalists of the African diaspora. Created videos and conducted workshops on herbal remedies and making kitchen medicine.
Fundacion Valparaiso Residency, 1999
One month room and board at artist residency in Mojacar, Spain.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Layla’s Happiness. Brooklyn, NY: Enchanted Lion Books, 2019.
How to be a Woman According to Prime Time. New York, NY: Harlequin Creature, 2018.
Strut. Los Angeles, California: Agape Editions, 2018.
Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation. Bronx, NY: Grand Concourse Press, 2015.
Karma’s Footsteps. London, UK: Flipped Eye, 2011.

Works in Anthologies

“Curiosity Did What?” *A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader*. Bedrick, Popova, Eds, New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2018.
“Gap Toothed Woman.” *The Golden Shovel Anthology*. Kahn, Shankar, Smith, Eds, Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 2017.
“Unheeled.” *The Political Punch*. Frazier-Foley and Smith, Eds, Knoxville: Sundress Publications, 2016.
“The Brazen Hussy Blues.” *Circe’s Lament: Anthology of Wild Women Poets*. Spriggs and Stoykova Klermer, Eds. Lexington: Accents Publishing, 2016.
“Paper Bag Poems,” “Global Warming Blues,” “Sunday,” and “Possible.” *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*. Coval, Lansana, Marshall, Eds. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2015.
“We Still Don’t Know.” *New Rain: 35th Anniversary Anthology*. Gary Johnston, Ed. Bronx: Blind

- Beggar Press, 2013.
- “Oshun Breaks it Down” and “Mami Wata” *Black Mermaids: In Vision and Verse*. Torrea Washington, Ed. Exhibition Catalogue, 2012.
- “My Great-great Grandmother Talks to Michelle Obama.” *Go, Tell Michelle: African American Women Write to the New First Lady*. Brooks-Bertram, Nevergold Eds. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2009.
- “On Solace” *Beats, Rhymes, and Life: What We Love and Hate About Hip-Hop*. Eds. Jasper, Womack, Moon/ Eds. New York: Broadway Books, 2007.
- “Note From a Loving Wife.” *Revenge & Forgiveness: An Anthology of Poems* Ed. Patrice Vecchione. New York: Henry Holt, 2004.
- “Height.” *The Body Eclectic*. Ed. Patrice Vecchione. New York: Henry Holt, 2002.
- “Raindrop Women.” *Beyond The Frontier: African-American Poetry for the 21st Century*. E. Ethelbert Miller Ed. Baltimore: Black Classic Press, 2002.
- “Why I Still Write.” *The Book of Hope*. Birgitta Jonsdottir, Ed. Beyond Borders, 2002.
- “New Recipe” and “I was There Once.” *Role Call*. Ali, Bashir, Medina, Eds. Chicago: Third World Press, 2002.
- “Medusa.” *Bum Rush The Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, Eds. Medina, Rivera, New York: Random House, 2001.
- “Barefoot Stroll,” “Forced Entry,” “Evolution,” “Elemental Sounds,” “Sometimes,” “Recollect,” “Domino Effect,” “Distance is Destination,” “Serenade,” and “A Woman’s Poetic” *Listen Up!* Zoe Anglesey, Ed. One World/Ballantine, 1999.
- “Karma’s Footsteps.” *Catch The Fire!!! A Cross-Generational Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry* Derrick Gilbert, Ed. Penguin/ Putnam, 1997.

Works in Literary Journals and Magazines

Essays & Other Prose:

- “Dear Ntozake.” *African Voices*.
- “Javaka Steptoe Interview.” *Mosaic Magazine*. #41. Spring 2017.
- “On Prioritizing My Rage.” *ThetheInXoxicated Corner*. June 2015.
- “The World Is Much Less Safe.” *VIDA*. April 2014.
- “Letter Two,” “Letter Five.” *The Pierian*. Spring 2014.
- “Letter To A Young Poet Dedicated To Crafting Our Liberation.” *Her Kind*. March 2013.
- “Rebirth.” *The Mom Egg Blog*. June 2010.
- “Pieces Of A Dream.” *Sable*. Autumn/Fall 2007.

Fiction:

- “Sangria IV.” *Mom Egg Review*. Volume 15. 2017.
- “Moments.” *African Voices*. Vol. 3 issue 2. Winter 1996.

Poetry:

- “Infinity.” *No, Dear*. Issue 17. 2016.
- “Rain,” “Blaze,” “Mama Haiku 2.” *Newtown Literary*. Issue 8. Spring/Summer 2016.
- “How to be a Woman According to Prime Time.” *WordPeace*. February 2016.
- “Homage to my Breasts (after Lucille Clifton).” *The Wide Shore*. January 2016.
- “Ars Poetica,” “Garment Working Women,” “First of All It’s Hard to Write About You Using Lined Paper but I’ll Try,” “Warning,” “Polaris.” *The Poetry Mail*. October 2015.
- “After the Ansel Adams Exhibit.” *North American Review*. Volume 300. Number 3. Summer 2015.

- “Letter Twelve.” *This*. May 2015.
- “Pencil,” “The Day I Knew I Loved You.” *90’s Meg Ryan*. June 2015.
- “Gap Toothed Woman,” “Real Woman’s Survival Haiku.” *Hysteria*. Issue #3. Feb 2015
- “Paper Bag Poems,” “Blue Libation,” “Mama Haiku 1,” “Memory,” “The Clean Earth Conference Blues,” “What I Remember.” *Black Renaissance Noire*. Volume 14. Issue 2. Fall 2014.
- “Global Warming Blues.” *WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 42: 1&2. Spring/Summer 2014.
- “Give and Take.” Center for Book Arts Broadside Series. June 2014.
- “I Want to Take Him.” *The Pierian*. Spring 2014.
- “Sovereign,” “Ancient,” *Mosaic Magazine*. Summer 2014.
- “Sunday.” *Minerva Rising*. Issue 5. Spring 2014.
- “Why You’ve Loved Me Ever Since You Started Thinking In English.” *North American Review*. Volume 299. Number 1. Winter 2014.
- “New York Talk.” *Specter Magazine*. Summer 2012.
- “The Bembe,” “Poetic Form,” “Monday.” *Oya N’Soro*. June 2012.
- “Madness.” *African Voices Magazine*. Spring/Summer 2012.
- “Strut.” Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon. June 2011.
- “Learning To Swim.” Badilisha Poetry Exchange. July 2010.
- “Learning To Swim.” The Mom Egg. 2009.
- “Visibility.” Mothering Magazine Online. February 2009.
- “Her Voice.” *Crab Orchard Review*. Winter 2005.
- “Suddenly I Need One Thing Constant.” *African Bulletin*. Winter 2003.
- “A Woman’s Poetic.” *Carapace Issue* 31. Spring 2002.
- “The Apprentice,” “Cheyenne Speaking.” *Paris/Atlantic* Vol. XXII No. 1 Spring 2000.
- “War Dance.” *Drumvoices Revue* Vol. 19. Summer/Fall 2000.
- “Go Figure.” *Quarterly Black Review* Vol. 6 No. 3. Summer 1999.
- “You.” *Visions* No.61.
- “Lineage,” “New Recipe,” “Reflections of the Daughter.” *Drumvoices Revue* special double issue Vol. 8 No.’s 1&2. 1999.
- “Musings of a Moon Maiden,” “Scenario,” “Only.” *Paris/Atlantic* Vol. XX No. 2. Winter 1998.
- “Serenade.” *New Millenium Writings* Vol. 3 issue 1. Spring/Summer 1999.
- “Kitchen Cauldron.” *African Voices* Vol. 6 issue 4. Fall 1999.
- “Forced Entry.” *Rappages* Vol. 7 No. 9. January 1998.
- “Raindrop Women,” “Lineage.” *BOMB* No. 59. Spring 1997.
- “Karma’s Footsteps.” *Long Shot* Vol. 19. 1997.

LITERARY WORKSHOPS

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|---|---------------|
| <i>World Fellowship Center</i> , Conway, NH
Wrote short forms as a way to see. | July 2017 |
| <i>Golden West College</i> , Huntington Beach, CA
Explored haiku and using the five senses to generate new work. | February 2017 |
| <i>Mount Chocorua Writing Week</i> , Conway, NH
Conducted writing workshops that explore the epistolary as healing, revelatory, transformative and literary. Used works by James Baldwin, Ntozake Shange, and Raina Maria Rilke as examples. | July 2016 |
| <i>Mount Chocorua Writing Week</i> , Conway, NH
Conducted Blues Poems Workshop. Discussed why this often misunderstood art is the perfect | July 2013 |

poetic form to explore identity, express complex feelings and share survival stories. Listened to different styles of blues, read blues poetry and created our own versions of the blues.

- University of Scranton*, Scranton, OH April 2013
Discussed the importance of seeing old things with new eyes as writers.
- University of Southern Mississippi*, Hattiesburg, MS April 2013
Conducted writing exercises that allowed us to write about familiar objects in unfamiliar and surprising ways.
- Jackson State University*, Jackson, MS April 2013
Discussed the writer's life, revision, and generated new work as a guest instructor in a three hour creative writing class.
- Northeastern State University*, Talequah, OK April 2013
Explored writing through our senses and allowing external objects to assist us in hearing internal dialogues.
- Wright State University*, Dayton, OH March 2013
Guest lectured in a creative writing class. Used everyday objects to explore writing through the senses.
- Shaw University*, Raleigh, NC March 2013
Discussed ways to approach writing that honor our unique voices and visions. Explored prompts that students can use daily to generate new writing.
- Whitehall High School*, Whitehall, NY March 2013
Explored the importance of using the senses to create strong settings, three dimensional characters and write about common things in unexpected ways. Students created and shared three pieces of writing.
- William Woods University*, Fulton, MO February 2013
Discussed the impact that deep listening and seeing has on writing. Conducted exercises to generate writing based on overlooked objects from our daily lives.
- Texas A&M International University*, Laredo, TX February 2013
Guest lectured in creative writing class, conducted generative writing exercises and discussed how developing our senses creates vivid, memorable work.
- Texas Tech University*, Lubbock, TX February 2013
Conducted workshop focused on sight, sound and developing habits that can generate more visceral writing.
- Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon*, New York, NY November 2012
Taught two-hour workshop on the importance of waking up the senses and weaving the body's knowledge through all forms of writing. Students produced six pieces of writing and shared them during the session.

- World Fellowship Center*, Conway, NH July 2012
Conducted a two-hour workshop at a social justice and environmental camp on weaving our own stories with our political concerns to create poetry.
- African Voices Magazine*, New York, NY Sept-Nov 2003
Conducted an eight-week writing workshop on the craft of poetry, revision, performance, and the business of writing. Series ended with a standing room only poetry reading.
- Oak Park Forest High School*, Chicago, IL September 2003
Taught five creative writing classes a day and lectured on the Black Arts Movement.
- Kingsland Secondary*, London, UK Feb-June 2003
Worked with two classes at Kingsland Secondary in Hackney to compete in the Inner-London Teen Poetry Slam. Worked intensely on writing and performance during seven after-school sessions. Resulting work is documented in a book and on a CD.
- Palabras*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands May 2003
Conducted five workshops on unblocking, creating safe space for writing, revision, performance and generating new work. Classes co-taught with poet Tamara “Wonder” Allan.
- African Voices Magazine*, New York, NY August 2002
Led three-hour intensive workshop for generating new writings and critiquing works that participants bring to circle.
- Mills College*, Oakland, CA March-April 2000 & 2002
Conducted weekly workshops with Oakland high school students. Workshops culminated in poetry reading to raise funds for the Upward Bound Program.
- Ramapo College*, Ramapo, NJ April 2001
Designed Healing Through Poetry workshop exercises to help participants write through sorrow and anger, towards empowerment.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teacher*, August 2018
SOS Children’s Village, Mbabane, eSwatini & Nhalangano, eSwatini
Chosen by Furious Flower to take part in U.S State Department sponsored Arts Envoy. Worked with youth at two SOS Children’s Villages on acrostic poems, haiku, and vision boards.
- Faculty-in-Residence*, December 2014
The Watering Hole, Santee, SC
Explored writing goals, conducted writing the senses and nature workshop, craft talk on social justice, writing and marginalization, publishing panel, and conducted one on one critiques with students.
- Adjunct Lecturer*, Fall 2010-Fall 2013

English Department, York College, City University of New York, Queens, NY
ENG 125: Introduction to College Writing
ENG 200: Understanding Literature

Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 2011, Fall 2012
Queens Educational Opportunity Center (SUNY), Queens, NY
Social Studies and Science: Basic Education Pre GED Course
Language Arts and Reading: Basic Education Pre GED Course

English Tutor, Fall 2010
English Instructor, Summer 2009 & 2010
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
English Instruction for (HEOP) Higher Education Opportunity

Adjunct Lecturer, Fall 2006
Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY
ENGL 112: College Composition I
ENGL 150: College Composition II

Volunteer Lecturer, Fall 2004-Spring 2005
International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), Rundu College of Education, Namibia
Taught grammar, analytical reading, editing and creative writing to 200 students

Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 2004
Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, NY
ENGL 112: College Composition I
ENGL 150: College Composition II

Literacy Teacher, Fall 2003-Spring 2004
Bedford-Stuyvesant Street Academy High School, Brooklyn, NY
Worked with after-school students to increase their literacy levels and their comfort expressing themselves using readings of various genres of literature and low-stakes writing exercises.

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2001
Mills College, Oakland, CA
Assisted Dr. Ruth Saxton in “Mothers and Daughters in Literature.” Graded assignments and papers, helped facilitate classroom discussion and group work, lectured on *Dreaming in Cuban* by Cristina García.

CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

“Quitting History! Poets Penning Liberation.” (Co-panelists Enzo Silon Surin and Shauna Morgan) Split This Rock! Washington DC. April 2018.

“Eat A Scroll: Art and Health.” (Co-panelists Damali Abrams, Wanda Best, Trace DePasse) York College, New York. October 2017.

- “Clap Back: Women of Color Discuss Emily Dickinson’s Influence Over Their Poetic Landscapes.” (co-panelists Yesenia Montilla, Christina Olivares, Elisabet Velasquez) Association of Writers and Writing Programs, Washington Marriott Marquis, Washington DC. February 2017.
- “VIDA Count in the Classroom.” (co-panelists Holly Burdoff, Sarah Marcus-Donnelly, Camille Rankine, Prageeta Sharma) Association of Writers and Writing Programs, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington DC. February 2017.
- “Periodically speaking: Mothers in Publishing Changing the Literary Landscape.” (co-panelists Sarah Gambito, Karen Phillips, Marjorie Tesser, Rebecca Wolff) Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, New York Public Library, New York. May 2016.
- “Writing Programs and Diversity.” (co-panelists Meena Alexander, Bernice McFadden, Donna Hill) National Black Writers Conference. Medgar Evers College, New York. April 2016.
- “John Oliver Killens at 100.” Medgar Evers College, New York. March 2016.
- “Silencing Black Writers.” 17th Annual Harlem Book Fair, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. July 2015.
- “Celebrating The Work of Ntozake Shange.” Hostos Community College, New York. March 2013.
- “For My People: Tribute To Elizabeth Catlett.” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. January 2013.
- “Black Literature and Activism.” (Co-panelists: Sonia Sanchez, Jamal Joseph, Alison McDermott) National Black Writers Conference. Medgar Evers College, New York. March 2012.
- “You Are What You Eat: Healthy Food Advocacy in the African-American Community.” Delta Sigma Theta Social Action Forum Series, Queens Central Library, New York. May 2011.
- “Mother Nature.” Amplifying the Voices of Mothers: Mothers in the Arts, Literature, Media and Popular Culture, New York. May 2010.
- “The Madness Collage: African-American Mothers Versus History/Nia Shakes off Superwoman.” Association for Research on Mothering’s Mothers Gone Mad Conference, New York. May 2009.
- “Turning Ideas Into Youth Driven Action.” World Urban Forum, Vancouver, Canada. June 2006.
- “How To Apply to Academic Conferences.” Mills College Professional Survival Seminar, California. February 2001.
- “Art For Our Sake,” Howard University Graduate English Student Association Conference, Washington DC. Oct 2000.
- “It’s Bigger than Hip-Hop.” Fifth Annual National Black Writers Conference. March

2000.

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Lectures

- “Come Celebrate with Me: Tribute to Lucille Clifton and Ntozake Shange.” Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY. March 2019.
- “Picture That! Children’s Literature as Resistance.” World Fellowship Center, Albany, NH. July 2017.
- “College 101: Reading, Writing, Rape.” California State University at Chico, Chico, California. April 2017.
- “Dear Continuum.” The Watering Hole Retreat, Santee, SC. December 2014.
- “Success Is, Success Ain’t: Redefining What It Means To Make It.” Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas. March 2014.
- “Opening Our Eyes.” Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes. Tamworth, NH. July 2013.
- “Finding Empowerment Through Writing.” Whitehall High School. Whitehall, NY. March 2013.
- “Word/Life: What Poetry Has Taught Me About Living.” Unitarian Universalist Federation of the Eastern Slopes, Tamworth, NH. July 2012.
- “Writing the Fire Out: Healing through Writing.” World Fellowship Center, Albany, NH. July 2013.
- “Writing the Fire Out.” Voices In The Monte Writers Series. Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas. February 2013.
- “Healing Through Poetry.” University of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. April 2004.
- “Shedding Silence.” Ramapo College, Take Back our Lives Sexual Assault and Violence Against Women Awareness Program, Ramapo, New Jersey. April 2001.

Featured Poetry Readings (selected)

- June 9, 2018 – “Strut” Book Release Party, Langston Hughes House, NYC, NYC
- June 3, 2018 – Kith & Kin Reading Series, QED, Queens, NYC
- April 28, 2018 – Central Library Jamaica, Queens, NY
- April 17, 2018 – Soul Sister Revue, Cornelia Street Cafe, NY, NY
- March 31, 2018 – Rock Solid Women’s Festival, Joe’s Pub, NY, NY
- Feb 27, 2018 – Queens Writers Resist, Teraza 7 Elmhurst, NY
- January 24, 2018 – Grace Church School, NY, NY
- Jan 21, 2018 – Bloom Reading Series, Hudson View Gardens NY, NY
- November 2017 Center For Book Arts, NY
- September 2017 Reading Room Bryant Park, NY
- April 2017 Sunnyside Library, Queens, NY
- March 2017 Bowery Poetry Club
- February 2017 Coastline community College, Fountain Valley, CA
- February 2017 Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA
- February 2017 Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA
- January 2017 Jamaica Performing Arts Center, Queens, NY
- July 2016 NYC Poetry Festival, NY, NY
- July 2016 World Fellowship Center, Conway NH
- April 2016 Q-Boro Literary Crawl, Queens, NY
- March 2016 Central Methodist University, Fayette, MO

March 2016	Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown, VA
March 2016	Pen and Brush Presents, NY, NY
February 2016	Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Cheyney, PA
November 2015	Word Up Community Bookshop, NY, NY
October 2015	SUNY Adirondack, Queensbury, NY
April 2015	Lehman College, Bronx, NY
April 2015	Whitehall High School, Whitehall, NY
April 2015	Harry S. Truman High School, Bronx, NY
April 2015	Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI

March 2015	Savannah State University, Savannah, GA
March 2015	Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY
March 2015	Albany State University, Albany, GA
February 2015	Lehman College, Bronx, NY
February 2015	Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown, VA
February 2015	Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, MN
February 2015	Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Moorhead, MN
February 2015	Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Fergus Falls, MN
September 2014	Furious Flower Poetry Conference, James Madison University, VA
April 2014	Spelman College, Atlanta, GA
April 2014	Howard University, Washington, DC
April 2014	College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY
April 2014	Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
March 2014	Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
March 2014	North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
March 2014	Clayton State University, Morrow, GA
February 2014	Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
February 2014	The Writer's Place, Kansas City, MO
February 2014	Marietta College, Marietta, OH
February 2014	Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Community Engagement

Sundress Publications

Assistant Editor

2016-2017

Broadside Reading Series Center for Book Arts

Curator and Host

Fall 2015

African Voices Magazine

Poetry Editor

2013-2017

Namibian Women's Writing Workshop

Volunteer

November 2004

Project Renewal

Writing workshop Facilitator

May-June 1998

Collaborations

“Strut”

Ongoing work with photographer Dominique Sindayiganza about my journey of accepting my body since having children

“The Quiet Onez”

Audio poem project with music producer Ahi Baraka

“The Lefrak Poems”

Text written to go along with Gerard Gaskins’ photographs of LeFrak City, Queens residents

“The Experiment”

Poems inspired by series of nudes by photographer Gerard Gaskins

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Dutch, Low Intermediate

Spanish, Low Intermediate

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Associated of Writers and Writing Programs