
The Write Stuff

Recap: 10th Annual National Black Writers Conference

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This past weekend, hundreds of literary legends and aficionados gathered to celebrate the literary accomplishments of African American writers from throughout America, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa at the 10th National Black Writers' Conference. Running through Sunday, March 28, the conference was dedicated to the exploration of "emerging themes, trends and issues in Black American literature." This year's theme was "And Then We Heard the Thunder: Black Writers Reconstructing Memories and Lighting the Way." Through a series of panel discussions, roundtables, author readings and storytelling, the National Black Writers' Conference used the metaphor of thunder, memory and light to examine the historical representation of the literature of Black writers and the representation of new and future directions for contemporary and emerging literary voices.

Since 1986 the National Black Writers' Conference has been held at Medgar Evers College addressing the themes of stereotypes in Black literature, the direction of Black literature, the renaissance in Black literature, access and expanding conversations on race, identity, history and genre. Each conference has built upon the previous one celebrating outstanding Black writers through the world.

Event panelists included Kevin Powell, Breana Clarke, John F. Baker, Kaluma ay Salaam and Frank Wilderson. With Toni Morrison as the Honorary Chair, the National Black Writers' Conference will also honor the following literary greats: Amiri Baraka; Kamau Brathwaite and Dr. Edison O. Jackson at an awards and VIP reception on Saturday.

Check back for a photo gallery soon!