

The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters: **A Poet and Her Legacies**

In-Person Events, Fall 2023 (with prior events listed below as an archive)

August 30, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Reading Poetry by and Inspired by PWP

In-person event at TCU. This panel will offer interpretive readings of poems by Wheatley Peters and of poetic texts inspired by her life and writings. Each presenter will offer commentary on a poem, pairing, or related cluster, along with suggestions for teaching about and learning from those text(s). The session will spotlight both pathways to reading PWP's work and ways that a growing number of other Black women poets have found special inspiration for their own writings from studying PWP. Discussion materials and a video of the event will be posted later to "The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters" website. **Location: BLUU Building, Beck/Geren**
Lead sponsors: John V. Roach Honors College (Ron Pitcock, Dean) and Humanities Texas

- **Presenters:**

Mona Narain, Professor, English Department, TCU

Kelly Franklin, Doctoral Student, English Department, TCU

Linda K. Hughes, Addie Levy Professor of English, TCU

Theresa Gaul, Professor, English Department, TCU

Mona Narain, Professor, English Department, TCU

Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Lorraine Sherley Professor of English, TCU (moderator)

Examples of potential poems for discussion, beyond those by Wheatley herself:

[Poem\(s\) by Alison Clarke from *Phillis*](#)

[Poem\(s\) by Drea Brown from *Dear Girl: A Reckoning*](#)

[Poem\(s\) by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers from *The Age of Phillis*](#)

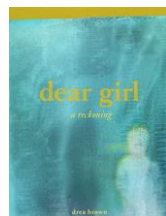
Register [here](#) to attend.

September 7, 3:30 CT, 4:30 ET (90 mins): "Poetic Legacies: Interpreting New Texts from Writers Inspired by Phillis Wheatley Peters" In-person location: **Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center, TCU; Cox C**
Register [here](#) for in-person attendance.

drea brown/[Dear Girl: A Reckoning](#); and Alison Clarke/[Phillis](#) moderated by Aruni Kashyap (UGA); hosted by lead sponsor **Dean Sonja Watson, AddRan College, TCU.**
Funding for this event is also provided by Humanites Texas.



drea brown



Alison Clarke



Aruni Kashyap



Sonja Watson

October 17, 5:30-7:00 CT (PALKO 130 TCU Watch Party and Awards for TX participants);
6:30-7:30 p.m. ET (Athens/Clarke County Library for GA participants):
"The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Children's Literature and Family Literacy Panel":
Register [here](#) for in-person attendance at either location.

Part II in Fort Worth, 6:30-7:00 p.m.; In-Person: "Celebrating DFW Writes PWP"
[Location: Palko 130 at TCU in Texas]

Host and lead sponsor in TX: Dean Frank Hernandez, College of Education

Following the webinar on children's literature referenced above, Carmen Kynard and Endio Lindo will present awards for the winning entries in the "DFW Writes Wheatley Peters" contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. (TCU CAMPUS; College of Education; Palko 130)

Register [here](#) for in-person attendance.

- **Monday Nov. 6, 7:00 p.m. ET: Dramatizing Phillis Wheatley Peters**
Theatre and Fine Arts Building, UGA : Staged reading and adaptation of Mary Church Terrell's 1932 "Historical Pageant-Play Based on the Life of Phyllis Wheatley" Contact: Dr. George Contini, UGA Theatre and Film [tentative location: Fine Arts Lecture Hall 400]

Record of In-Person Events from Winter and Spring 2023

- **February 16, 10:00 a.m. ET, 9:00 a.m. CT (90 mins): UGA Symposium on the Book, talk by Dr. Kim Coles, University of Maryland—"The Blood of Christians: Phillis Wheatley Peters and White Christianity."** co-conveners Dr. Sujata Iyengar, Dr. Miriam Jacobson, Ms. Anne Meyers DeVine; Location: Special Collections Libraries, Room 277, February 16th, 2023.
- **February 16, 2:00 p.m. ET, 1:00 p.m. CT (90 mins): "Printing Early Modern Race: A Rare Books Workshop,"** exploring books about race and enslavement, including a first edition of PWP's *Poems*, UGA Special Collections Libraries, Room 277; livestreamed/recorded Kim Coles (University of Maryland); David Diamond (UGA); Miriam Jacobson (UGA) Sujata Iyengar (UGA); Librarian Anne Meyers DeVine
- **April 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m., CT (1 block in multi-hour event): "Phillis Wheatley Peters: The Power of Words and Literature's Global Legacies for the Future,"** Collaborative lecture for the Add Ran College of the Arts biennial BACK-TO-CLASS NIGHT, *Liberal Arts at TCU 150: The Past, Present and Future*. **Presenters: Mona Narain and Sarah Ruffing Robbins**
- **April 25, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET: "Race, Representation, and Self-Presentation in American Art."** This gallery tour, co-sponsored by UGA's Interdisciplinary Modernism/s Workshop and the Georgia Museum of Art, focused on the politics of race and representation in historical American art, inspired by Phillis Wheatley's famous portrait. Led by **Jeffrey Richmond-Moll**, curator of American art at the museum.
- **April 26, 4:00-5:30 p.m. CT (90 mins): "Interdisciplinary Connections for Studying and Teaching Phillis Wheatley Peters"—Commentaries and Conversations**
TCU teacher-scholars shared ideas for engaging with Wheatley Peters via approaches drawn from Girls' Studies (**Ariane Balizet**), Science/Biology Studies of the Middle Passage (**Molly Weinburgh**), Religion and Spirituality Histories (**Alonzo Smith**), Ocean Studies (**Mona Narain**) TCU Palko 130
- **May 31, TCU Summer Literacy Institute: "DFW Writes Phillis Wheatley Peters"**
Carmen Kynard and Sarah Ruffing Robbins facilitated a Wheatley-Peters-themed writing workshop for teachers attending the TCU College of Education's [Summer Literacy Institute](#): The session prepared DFW-area educators to enable youth participation in a writing contest for elementary, middle, and high school students linked to celebrating Wheatley Peters in the anniversary year of her 1773 *Poems*' publication. TCU CAMPUS