Comadres & Compadres
Writers Conference

Presented by:
Las Comadres Para Las Americas

In collaboration with

Medgar Evers College, City University of New York:
National Black Writers Conference, the Center for Black Literature,
the Foreign Language Department, and ALAS—Association for Latin American Studies

at&t

Saturday, October 6, 2012
## AGENDA

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<td>8:00 AM – 8:50 AM</td>
<td>Registration (Lobby) &amp; Light Breakfast (Cafeteria)</td>
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<td>9:00 AM – 9:50 AM</td>
<td>Opening Ceremonies&lt;br&gt;Welcome, Introductions and Agenda (Auditorium)</td>
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<td>10:00 AM – 10:50 AM</td>
<td>Panel 1: Magazines &amp; Literary Journals (Auditorium)</td>
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<td>11:00 AM – 11:50 AM</td>
<td>Panel 3: Poetry (Auditorium)</td>
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<td>12:00 PM – 12:50 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Break &amp; Keynote Address: Sonia Manzano, Author, The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano</td>
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<td>1:00 PM – 1:50 PM</td>
<td>Panel 5: Writing for Children &amp; Young Adults (Auditorium)</td>
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<td>2:00 PM – 2:50 PM</td>
<td>Panel 7: Fiction (Auditorium)</td>
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<td>3:00 PM – 3:50 PM</td>
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Room L00 is located at the rear of the Lobby.

Bathrooms are located on every floor adjacent to the elevator.

Note: No food is allowed outside the Cafeteria.
# ONE-on-ONE SESSIONS

## ROOM L02
- Jaime de Pablos
- Adriana Dominguez
- Cheryl Klein

## ROOM 311
- Johanna Castillo
- Mercedes Fernandez
- Christina Morgan
- Jeff Ourvan

## ROOM 410
- Selina McLemore
- Diane Stockwell
- Johnny Temple
- Stacy Whitman
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

10:00–10:50 am
Panel 1
Magazines and Literary Journals—Being published in a mainstream magazine or literary journal is often a necessary stepping-stone to publishing a book. Magazines and literary journal editors discuss what kinds of writers and writing they seek.
Panelists: Michael Archer, Michelle Herrera Mulligan, Laura Pegram
Moderator: Liz Mathews

Panel 2
Genre—Authors who write romance, suspense/thrillers, and fantasy/science fiction face their own challenges—and opportunities.
Panelists: Daniel Jose Older, Caridad Pineiro, Sabrina Vourvoulias
Moderator: Selina McLemore

11:00–11:50 am
Panel 3
Poetry—Published poets discuss the nuts and bolts of getting your poems into print.
Panelists: Melinda Palacio, Emanuel Xavier, Lila Zemborain
Moderator: Rich Villar

Workshop 4
Self-Publishing—Self-publishing has proven to be a viable way for a certain kind of writer to get an agent and land a book deal. Learn how to become that kind of writer.
Workshop Leader: Karen E. Quinones Miller

12:00–12:50 pm
Lunch, Keynote and Q&A with Sonia Manzano
My Publishing Story—Sonia Manzano will share the highs and lows of her journey to publication so aspiring writers can take note of what may lay ahead for them.

1:00–1:50 pm
Panel 5
Writing for Children and Young Adults—The amazing success of The Hunger Games trilogy and the Wimpy Kid series has once again placed the spotlight on children’s books. Learn from the experts about what makes a children’s book successful, and how to get into this portion of the publishing business.
Panelists: Nicholasa Mohr, Sofia Quintero, Edel Rodriguez
Moderator: Adriana Dominguez

Panel 6
Non-Fiction—Authors discuss their motivations for writing stories and articles based on real life, and what it takes to make those writings compelling enough to print.
Panelists: Adriana Lopez, Mirta Ojito, Luisita Lopez Torregrosa
Moderator: Stephanie Elizondo Griest

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
2:00–2:50 pm
Panel 7
**Fiction**—Authors discuss how they refined their fiction-writing skills, from plot and character development to creating distinctive narrative voices, to make their stories really stand out.
Panelists: Alberto Ferreras, Dahlma Llanos Figueroa, Jaime Manrique
Moderator: Lyn Di Iorio

Panel 8
**Publicity**—Increasingly, authors are expected to take the lead on publicizing their books. Learn the do’s and don’ts so you can avoid wasting time and money.
Panelists: Fauzia Burke, Antonio Gonzalez Cerna, Elizabeth Garriga
Moderator: Marcela Landres

3:00–3:50 pm
Panel 9
**Agent/Editor Panel**—Leading agents and editors discuss the Latino publishing landscape.
Panelists: Johanna Castillo, Adriana Dominguez, Cheryl Klein, Selina McLemore
Moderator: Marcela Landres

**Student Open Mike**
*New Latino Voices Open Mic Café hosted by "La Bruja". Presented by ALAS—Association for Latin American Studies*

4:00–4:50 pm
Panel 10
**Pitch Slam**—Pitch your book in thirty seconds or less and get instant feedback from agents and editors
Panelists: Mercedes Fernandez, Christina Morgan, Jeff Ourvan
Moderator: Marcela Landres

5:00–5:50 pm
**Summary and Conclusion**

6:00 pm
**Association for Latin American Studies presents Latino artist exhibition and reception.**
*Artists include Minerva Diaz, Maria Dominguez, Michael Casiano, Alfonso Pastor, Luana Lozada, amongst others.*
*Conference attendees are welcome to attend.*
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SONIA MANZANO

Manzano is a first-generation Puerto Rican who has affected the lives of millions of parents and children since the 1970s, when she was offered an opportunity to play "Maria" on Sesame Street.

Manzano was raised in the South Bronx where her involvement in the arts was inspired by teachers who encouraged her to audition for the High School of Performing Arts. She was accepted there and began her career as an actress. A scholarship took her to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and in her junior year, she came to New York to star in the original production of the off-Broadway show Godspell. Within a year, Manzano joined the production of Sesame Street where she eventually began writing scripts for the series. Manzano has 15 Emmy Awards to date as part of the Sesame Street writing staff.

Manzano has performed on the New York stage, in the critically acclaimed theater pieces The Vagina Monologues, The Exonerated, and most recently in Love, Loss, and What I Wore. She is proud to read short stories for Symphony Space Selected Shorts. Movies include Follow That Bird and Elmo In Grouchland. She is in countless Sesame Street Home Videos.

She has written for the Peabody Award-winning children's series, Little Bill, and has written a parenting column for the Sesame Workshop web site called Talking Out Loud. Her children's book, No Dogs Allowed, published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing in 2004, was selected by the General Mills initiative Spoonfuls of Stories. It has been turned into a children's musical, with a productions at the Actor's Playhouse, in Coral Gables, Florida and the Atlantic Theater in New York. Her second book, A Box Full Of Kittens, was published in 2007. Scholastic published her first young adult novel entitled The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano in the fall of 2012.

Manzano received The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Award in Washington DC, and the Hispanic Heritage Award for Education in 2003. She received an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Notre Dame University in 2005. Closer to home, she is proud to have been inducted into the Bronx Hall of Fame in 2004. She was voted one of the most influential Hispanics by People Magazine en Español (February 2007).

She was twice nominated for an Emmy Award as Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series. Manzano continues to appear on Sesame Street. Please visit her web site, http://www.soniamanzano.com/, and on Face Book.
Michael Archer is co-founder and editor in chief of Guernica Magazine. His reporting, commentary, and fiction have appeared in numerous publications. He teaches English and speech at City College of New York. For more information, visit http://www.guernicamag.com/.

Fauzia Burke is the Founder and President of FSB Associates, a digital publicity and marketing firm specializing in creating awareness for books and authors. From the company's inception in 1995, Fauzia has been a trendsetter in developing integrated online marketing campaigns for experts and brands alike. She blogs on Huffington Post on topics of branding, social media, and digital publicity. For up-to-date marketing news, please follow Fauzia on Twitter: @FauziaBurke. For more information, visit http://www.fsbassociates.com/.

Johanna Castillo is Vice President, Senior Editor at Atria Books. Seeking: Quality commercial fiction in the categories of historical, women, thrillers, and literary. Nonfiction in the categories of inspirational self-help, narrative nonfiction, foreign translations, and books for our international, Latino, and Spanish-language lines.

Antonio Gonzalez Cerna manages author appearances and other educational marketing initiatives at Scholastic. He is the editor-at-large of the Lambda Literary Review (LambdaLiterary.org) and previously the web producer for two web startups. A member of the Children’s Book Council Diversity Committee, his publishing background includes marketing, advertising, and publicity positions with The Penguin Press, Riverhead Books, Berkley/New American Library—NAL, DAW Books—American science fiction and fantasy publisher, founded by Donald A. Wollheim, and Grand Central Publishing (formerly Warner Books).

Jaime De Pablos is the Director of Vintage Español, Knopf Doubleday Group Seeking: Literary novels in English and Spanish.

Lyn Di Iorio is the author of the novel Outside the Bones, which won ForeWord Review’s 2011 Silver Book of the Year Award in the category of literary fiction, was Best Debut Novel on the 2011 Latinidad List, and was a finalist for the John Gardner Fiction Prize and other awards. She is also the author of scholarly work on Latino/a literature. She is Professor of English at the City College of New York and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where she teaches Caribbean literature, creative writing and special topics. Currently at work on a second novel called The Sound of Falling Darkness, she is number two on the 2012 Top Ten “New” Latino Authors to Watch (and Read) list compiled by LatinoStories.com. For more information, visit http://www.outsidethebones.com/ and http://www.outsidethebones.com/blog/.

Adriana Dominguez is a literary agent with nearly 15 years of experience in publishing, most recently as Executive Editor at HarperCollins Children’s Books, where she managed the children’s division of the Latino imprint, Rayo. Prior to that, she was Children’s Reviews Editor at Criticas magazine, published by Library Journal. She has performed editorial work for many children’s and adult publishers, both on a full time basis and as a freelance consultant, on English and Spanish language books. She is also a professional translator, and has worked on a number of translations of best-selling children’s books. Adriana joined Full Circle Literary in 2009, and is based on the East Coast. For more information, visit http://www.fullcireliterary.com/.
Seeking: Children's picture books, middle grade novels, and literary young adult novels. On the adult side, she is looking for literary and women’s fiction, and in the area of nonfiction, for multicultural, pop culture, how-to, and titles geared toward women of all ages written by authors with rock-solid platforms.

Not Seeking: Romance, science fiction, mysteries, thrillers, fantasy, dystopian, and paranormal.

Mercedes Fernandez is an assistant editor at Kensington Publishing, where she began her career over five years ago acquiring commercial fiction for Dafina Books, their African American imprint. She works with adult and young adult fiction authors, including national bestselling authors Niobia Bryant and Grace Octavia. A native New Yorker, Mercedes loves cupcakes and bad reality television shows.

Seeking: Contemporary commercial women’s fiction, young adult, urban literature, and romance (including Latina, African American, and multicultural).

Alberto Ferreras is a New York based writer and filmmaker, author of the award winning novel B as in Beauty, creator and director of the Habla Series for HBO Latino, and co-creator of El Perro y el Gato for HBO Family. B as in Beauty won Best Fiction at the International Latino Book Awards in 2009, and the novel has been translated to Spanish as B de Bella for Vintage Español, and Italian as Una Favola a Manhattan for Dalai Editore. His show Habla Texas recently won the Imagen Award as the best documentary of 2012. For more information, visit http://www.albertoferreras.com/

Dahlma Llanos Figueroa is a novelist, memoirist and short story writer whose work is grounded in the Puerto Rican communities on the island and in New York City. Her novel Daughters of the Stone, which traces the lives of five generations of Afro-Puerto Rican women from the mid-19th Century to the present, was shortlisted for the prestigious PEN America Bingham Fellowship 2010. She is currently working on a second novel tentatively titled Women of Endurance. Her short pieces have been published in a number of literary journals including the Fall 2007 issue of at Narrative Magazine. For more information, visit http://www.llanosfigueroa.com/.

Elizabeth Garriga is an Associate Director of Publicity at Little, Brown, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, where she has worked on bestsellers such as Cleopatra by Stacy Schiff and The Blood Sugar Solution by Dr. Mark Hyman. Prior to Little, Brown, she worked in publicity at prestigious houses including Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Simon & Schuster and W.W. Norton. She has worked with a diverse list of authors including Rick Moody, William Least-Heat Moon, Sir Harold Evans, Luis Alberto Urrea, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Stacy Schiff, and Justice John Paul Stevens.

Stephanie Elizondo Griest has mingled with the Russian Mafia, polished Chinese propaganda, and danced with Cuban rumba queens. These adventures inspired her award-winning memoirs Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana; Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines; and the guidebook 100 Places Every Woman Should Go. As a national correspondent for The Odyssey, she once drove 45,000 miles across America documenting its political history. She has won a Hodder Fellowship to
Princeton, a Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting, and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Prize, and has taught at the University of Iowa and at conferences around the globe. She is currently the Viebranz Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at St. Lawrence University. Visit her website at http://aroundthebloc.com/.

Cheryl Klein is the executive editor at Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc. Among the books she has published are Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco X. Stork; Eighth Grade Superzero by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich; Words in the Dust by Trent Reedy; The Savage Fortress by Sarwat Chadda; and Zoe Gets Ready by Bethanie Deeney Murguia. Her book Second Sight: An Editor’s Talks on Writing, Revising, and Publishing Books for Children and Young Adults was published in 2011. Please visit her website, http://cherylklein.com/, and her blog, http://chavelaque.blogspot.com/, and follow her at Twitter @chavelaque.

Seeking: Literary fiction and nonfiction for readers of all ages, including picture books, middle-grade novels, and young adult fiction.

Not seeking: Books for the very young; concept, board, or novelty books; books in rhyme; animal stories; and most paranormal and dystopian.

Adriana V. López is the founding editor of Críticas magazine and edited the story collections Count on Me, Barcelona Noir, and Fifteen Candles. López’s book-related journalism has appeared in The New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times, and her essays and fiction have been published in anthologies such as Border-Line Personalities, Colonize This!, and Juicy Mangoes. She is also the translator of various works in the Spanish language, most recently Waiting for Robert Capa by Susana Fortes. Her short memoir El oso y el madroño was published in Latin America in 2012. A member of PEN America, López divides her time between New York and Madrid, Spain.

Jaime Manrique was born in Colombia, South America. His first three books—a novella and short stories, a volume of film criticism, and a book of poems (which won his country’s National Poetry Award)—were written in Spanish. Starting with the novel, Colombian Gold, he’s been writing his fiction, and most of his non-fiction, exclusively in English, though he still writes poetry in his native tongue. He has published four other novels: Latin Moon in Manhattan, Twilight at the Equator, Our Lives Are the Rivers, and Cervantes Street. He’s also the author of the memoir Eminent Maricones: Arenas, Lorca, Puig, and Me. His work has been translated into 12 languages. For more information, visit http://www.jaimemanrique.com/.

Liz Mathews is a submission reader and occasional proofreader for Slice Magazine. She contributes a blog to their webpage, http://www.slicemagazine.org/, on a semi-regular basis. She is also an advertising copywriter at Tor Books, a science fiction and fantasy publisher.
Selina McLemore is a Senior Editor at Grand Central Publishing where she acquires literary and commercial women's fiction and narrative non-fiction, romance, and multicultural fiction. She has a special interest in discovering and publishing new Latino voices. Prior to Grand Central Publishing, Selina worked at HarperCollins Publishers and Harlequin Books. She is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she earned degrees in English and Spanish Literature.

Seeking: Literary and commercial women’s fiction; narrative nonfiction; romance, including all subgenres and erotica; historical fiction; thrillers, especially those starring strong female protagonists; and paranormal and dystopian novels.

Karen E. Quinones Miller is an Essence best-selling author and NAACP Literary Award Nominee. Miller started her literary career in 1999 when she self-published her novel, Satin Doll, and sold 28,000 copies in less than six months. An auction was held and Simon & Schuster won the publishing rights to Satin Doll, and a second book, with a six-figure bid. Miller subsequently published seven books through major publishing houses, but she also maintained her own publishing company—Oshun Publishing Company, Inc.—of which she is CEO. Oshun Publishing has published Yo Yo Love, an Essence best seller that launched the career of Daaimah S. Poole who has since published six other novels with Kensington Books. Formerly a staff writer at the Philadelphia Inquirer, Miller often gives Writing and Publishing/Self-publishing workshops. Her new book, An Angry Ass Black Woman, was published by Karen Hunter Books (an imprint of Simon & Schuster) in October 2012. For more information, visit http://www.karenequinonesmiller.com/ and http://www.kc-ke525.blogspot.com/.

Nicholasa Mohr was born in Manhattan’s El Barrio in New York of Puerto Rican parents. In 1974 Nilda, her first book, was published in hardback, followed by El Bronx Remembered and In Nueva York. She is the author of two short-story collections for adults: Rituals of Survival: A Women’s Portfolio and A Matter of Pride and Other Stories. She has won numerous awards for her writing, such as the Jane Addams Peace Award, the Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature and the Raúl Juliá Award for Creative Commitment and she is a National Book Award finalist. She received an Honorary Doctorate from the State University of New York, and the Nicholasa Mohr Reading Room at the Bronx Public Library’s Sedgwick Branch was named in her honor. She still lives in El Barrio and continues to write books for all ages.

Christina Morgan has worked in trade adult publishing since 2006. She has held positions at the literary agency Curtis Brown, Amistad/HarperCollins, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Seeking: General literary fiction and narrative nonfiction, literature in translation, literary mysteries, and memoirs.

Not Seeking: Romance, children’s books, and general commercial fiction in the vein of Sandra Brown.
Michelle Herrera Mulligan is the editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan Latina. She edited and contributed to Juicy Mangos, the first-ever literary collection of Latina erotica in English, which Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Oscar Hijuelos called “not only a tantalizing read, but a deeply rewarding one as well.” In 2004, she co-edited Border-Line Personalities, a collection of essays on culture clash and the contemporary American Latina experience. In 2006 she received an Outstanding Contributions to Hispanic Studies Award. Michelle has contributed to Martha Stewart’s Whole Living, Time International, Woman’s Day, Latina, House & Garden, and Publisher’s Weekly, among others. She lives in New York and is currently at work on her first novel. Learn more about Michelle by visiting http://www.michelleherreramulligan.com/.

Mirta Ojito, a newspaper reporter, has worked for The Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald, and The New York Times. Throughout her career she has received numerous awards, including the American Society of Newspaper Editor’s writing award for best foreign reporting in 1999 for a series of articles about life in Cuba, and a shared Pulitzer for national reporting in 2001 for a New York Times series of articles about race in America. Her work has been included in several anthologies including To Mend the World: Women Reflect on 9/11, Written into History: Pulitzer Prize Reporting of the Twentieth Century from The New York Times, By Heart/De Memoria, and How Race is Lived in America. Ojito is a graduate of the mid-career master’s degree program at Columbia University and is the author of Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus. For more information, visit http://www.mirtaojito.com/.

Daniel José Older is a writer, composer and paramedic living in Brooklyn, New York. Salsa Nocturna, Daniel’s debut ghost noir collection, was hailed as “striking and original” by Publisher’s Weekly. He has facilitated workshops on music and anti-oppression organizing at public schools, religious houses, universities, and prisons. His soul band Ghost Star performs original multimedia theater productions about New York history around the city. His short stories have appeared in Strange Horizons, Flash Fiction, Crossed Genres, and The Innsmouth Free Press, among other publications. Daniel is currently working towards his MFA in Creative Writing at Antioch University, Los Angeles. You can find his thoughts on writing, read his ridiculous ambulance adventures, and hear his music at http://ghoststar.net/.

Jeff Ourvan, an attorney, writing instructor, and published author, is a literary agent with the Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency. Prior to his career as a literary agent, Jeff was a litigator for many years at two large New York-based corporate law firms; a communications consultant working in New York, Los Angeles, and Tokyo; and an editor of Living Buddhism magazine. Jeff is also the author of How to Coach Youth Baseball so Every Kid Wins. His next work, Finding Buddha in America, will be published in spring 2013. For more information, visit http://www.jenniferlyonsliteraryagency.com/ and http://www.thewriteworkshopnyc.com/.

Seeking: Nonfiction, especially memoirs, histories, biographies, international current events, finance, science, and sports. Fiction, particularly in the young adult and thriller categories.

Not Seeking: Poetry and illustrated children’s works.
Melinda Palacio lives in Santa Barbara and New Orleans. She holds two degrees in Comparative Literature, a B.A. from UC Berkeley, and an M.A. from UC Santa Cruz. She is a 2007 PEN Center USA Emerging Voices Rosenthal Fellow and a 2009 poetry alum of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. Her poetry chapbook, Folsom Lockdown, won Kulupi Press’ Sense of Place 2009 award. She is the author of the novel, Ocotillo Dreams, for which she received the Mariposa Award for Best First Book at the 2012 International Latino Book Awards and a 2012 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature. Her short story and excerpt of her novel-in-progress was a 2012 Glimmer Train Finalist. Her first full-length poetry collection, How Fire Is A Story, Waiting, was published in fall 2012. Her short stories and poetry have appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies including Latinos in Lotusland: An Anthology of Contemporary Southern California Literature, PALABRA: A Magazine of Chicano & Latino Literary Art, Pilgrimage Magazine, Eleven Eleven, Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire, Southern Poetry Anthology, New Poets of the American West, and Mary: a Journal of New Writing. For more information, visit http://melindapalacio.com/.

Laura Pegram is the founding editor and publisher of Kweli Journal, an online literary journal by and for writers of color. As a multidisciplinary artist, Laura is influencing a new generation of aspiring writers. Author, educator, and a jazz vocalist whose cabaret performance teamed her with jazz pianist, Donald Smith, Pegram is also a painter. Her richly hued vibrant murals are part of several private collections. For more information, visit http://kwelijournal.org/.

Caridad Pineiro is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author and 2012 RITA® Finalist. Pineiro wrote her first novel in the fifth grade when her teacher assigned a project—to write a book for a class lending library. Bitten by the writing bug, Pineiro continued with her passion for the written word and in 1999, Pineiro’s first novel was released. Over a decade later, Pineiro is the author of nearly forty published novels and novellas. When not writing, Pineiro is an attorney, wife, and mother to an aspiring writer and fashionista. For more information, visit http://www.caridad.com/ and http://rebornvampirenovels.com/.

Sofía Quintero is a novelist, screenwriter and producer whose work crosses genres and garners acclaim. Quintero’s latest novel Efrain’s Secret (Knopf, 2010) earned raves from Publisher’s Weekly, Booklist and Kirkus, and was winner of a 2011 Parents’ Choice Award as well as a finalist for the ALA Best Books for Young Adults. Quintero is presently working on her second young adult novel, Show and Prove.
Edel Rodriguez is a Cuban American artist who has exhibited internationally with shows in Los Angeles, Toronto, New York, Dallas, Philadelphia, and Spain. Born in Havana, Cuba, Rodriguez and his family boarded a boat and left for America during the Mariel boatlift. He graduated with honors in painting from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY and received a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from Manhattan’s Hunter College graduate program. Throughout his career, Rodriguez has received commissions to create artwork for numerous clients, including The New York Times, Time, The New Yorker, and many other publications and book publishers. Rodriguez’s artwork is in the collections of a variety of institutions, including the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., as well as in numerous private collections. For more information, visit http://www.illoz.com/edel/.

Diane Stockwell is the owner and principal agent at Globo Libros Literary Management, a literary agency with a special emphasis on nonfiction books by and for Hispanics in the United States. She has also translated a range of commercial fiction and nonfiction books from Spanish into English, including Killing the American Dream: How Anti-immigrant Extremists are Destroying the Nation by Pilar Marrero. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Ms. Stockwell began her publishing career in the editorial department of Warner Books, acquiring their first books by Hispanic personalities published in Spanish, and was the editor of Encanto, the critically acclaimed, first-ever line of bilingual romance novels. She lives with her husband and son in New York City. For more information, visit http://www.globo-libros.com/.

Seeking: Narrative nonfiction, general nonfiction (self-help, finance, cookbooks) with a special focus on Spanish-language authors, although we have some English-language clients, too.

Not Seeking: Children’s.

Johnny Temple is the publisher and editor-in-chief of Akashic Books, an award-winning Brooklyn-based independent company dedicated to publishing urban literary fiction and political nonfiction. He is also the cofounder, with Akashic senior editor Ibrahim Ahmad, of Brooklyn Wordsmiths, an editorial and consulting company. Temple won the American Association of Publishers’ 2005 Miriam Bass Award for Creativity in Independent Publishing, and the 2010 Jay and Dean Kogan Award for Excellence in Noir Literature. He is also the Chair of the Brooklyn Literary Council, which works with Brooklyn’s borough president to plan the annual Brooklyn Book Festival in September. For more information, visit http://www.akashicbooks.com/.

Seeking: Cutting-edge fiction, Latino authors, Black authors (African American, Caribbean, African), and GLBT authors.

Not Seeking: Memoirs, most nonfiction, most poetry (we publish poetry only occasionally), and self-help.

Luisita Lopez Torregrosa is the author of Before the Rain and The Noise of Infinite Longing and a former editor at the New York Times. Her articles have appeared in Vanity Fair, the New York Times, Condé Nast Traveler, and Vogue. For more information, visit http://www.bmhbooks.com/beforetherain/.

Rich Villar’s poems and essays have appeared in Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Union Station, Amistad, and Letras, and is forthcoming in Thrush Poetry Journal. He directs Acentos, an organization fostering audiences and community around Latino/a literature, and he has been quoted

Stacy Whitman is the editorial director of Tu Books, an imprint of Lee & Low Books that publishes fantasy, science fiction, and mystery for children and young adults with a particular emphasis on diversity. She holds a master’s degree in children’s literature from Simmons College. For more information, visit http://www.stacylwhitman.com/.

Seeking: Middle grade and young adult science fiction, fantasy, and mystery—these books should star main characters of color.

Not Seeking: Picture books and realism (except genre mystery) books without diversity.

Emanuel Xavier is author of the novel, Christ Like, and the poetry collections Pier Queen and If Jesus Were Gay & other poems. He has also edited the anthologies Mariposas: A Modern Anthology of Queer Latino Poetry and Me No Habla With Acento: Contemporary Latino Poetry. He appeared twice on HBO’s Russell Simmons presents Def Poetry and performs regularly throughout the country and around the world as a spoken word artist. His spoken word/music collaboration album, Legendary, is available for download on iTunes. Forthcoming works include essays in the books For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough and Born This Way, based on the popular blog of the same name. Also, a tenth anniversary revised edition of his poetry collection, Americano, was published in September 2012. He is an Equality Forum GLBT History Month Icon. For more information, visit http://www.emanuelxavier.com/.

Lila Zemborain, an Argentinean poet, has been living in New York since 1985. She is the author of the poetry collections, Abrete sésamo debajo del agua, Usted, Guardianes del secreto/Guardians of the Secret, Malvas orquídeas del mar/Mauve-Sea Orchids, Rasgado, El rumor de los bordes, and in collaboration with artist Martin Reyna La couleur de l’eau/El color del agua. From 2000 to 2006, she was the director and editor of the Rebel Road Series, and since 2003 she curates the KJCC Poetry Series at New York University, where she directs the MFA in Creative Writing in Spanish. In 2007 she was selected as a Guggenheim Fellowship for poetry, and in spring 2010 she was awarded a one-month residency at the Millay Colony. For more information, visit http://cwspanish.as.nyu.edu/page/home.
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Count on Me: Tales of Sisterhoods and Fierce Friendships
By Las Comadres Para Las Americas Edited by Adriana V. Lopez
www.countonmebook.com Published by Atria Books, a division of Simon and Schuster
Las Comadres Para Las Americas, a 501(c)(3) organization, is an informal internet-based group that meets monthly at Comadrazos in many US cities to build connections and community with other Latinas.

**Our Mission:** Connecting and Empowering Latinas everywhere through community building/networking, culture, learning, and technology.

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Testimonials

From Theresa Varela’s blog post:
Click here to go to Theresa Varela’s blog post

From CCWC website to Voices of NY article:
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From Mercedes Fernandez, Assistant Editor, Kensington Publishing:
The conference was very well-organized, the location was modern, close to major transportation, and tech-friendly. The volunteers were enthusiastic and very willing to help in any way possible. All of the attendees were genuinely excited and eager to learn, which was refreshing. Kudos on a job well done and to many more successful conferences!

From Dahlma Llanos Figueroa, author of Daughters of the Stone:
It was wonderful seeing so many young people who want to add to the chorus of Latino voices out there. I believe they got inspiration, information, and a healthy dose of reality. Thank you to Medgar Evers College and Las Comadres for creating a much-needed service for our community of writers.

From Jaime Manrique, author of Cervantes Street:
I had a wonderful time at the Conference. Las Comadres did a splendid job organizing the event.

From Elba Iris Pérez, PhD, Historian, author of El teatro como bandera:
Las Comadres put on an amazing writers conference. You gave Latinas the opportunity we needed to learn about the world of publishing, a realm that seems almost impossible for us to penetrate. Having met publishers, editors and agents, I now have a sense of direction that goes far beyond my computer and my desk, suggestions for improving my manuscript, a submission plan, and a list of recommended books. I return to my office knowing that I must find ways to become visible keeping my readers in mind, as I also work on finishing my novel. Count On Me for next year!

From Jovie Last:
I would totally recommend this conference to other writers because it is well-executed, offers a broad range of pertinent topics, professionals in the industry give relevant advice, and it’s a great networking opportunity. I got to talk with other writers who are unpublished like me as well as highly successful ones like Nicholasa Mohr, Sofia Quintero, and Karen Quinones Miller.

“Las Comadres put on an amazing writers conference.”