

Kira Lynne Allen

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOSTING & TEACHING WORK:

Magnolia Women's Recovery Program, Oakland & Hayward, CA, September-November 2013

Juvenile Hall, Pittsburg, CA, June-July, 2007

Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI), Oakland, CA, July-August 2006

Henry J. Kaiser K-8 Art Magnet School, Oakland, CA, March – April 2000-2002

The Alameda County Office of Education & the McKinley Act Grant, Hayward, Berkeley, and Fremont, CA, July -August 2000

- Created curriculum for and carried out six-week poetry as self-empowerment projects
- Worked with students on developing public speaking skills; led Body Tracing work at Magnolia
- Gave written feedback and kept 1-on-1 appointments with students to improve their confidence
- Arranged and hosted culminating readings; created self-published anthologies of students work

VisionBoards for the New Year, Private Home Oakland, CA; January 2002-Present

Mother & Daughter Body Tracing Workshop, Private Home Oakland, CA; May 2006-Present

Poetry & VisionBoards, 3 generations each/4 families, Private-Home Oakland, CA; August 2005

- Lead participants in setting intentions, selecting and placing images from calendars, magazines and art supplies to illuminate goals/patterns and empower conscious choices thru visualization

Host of the Write This Second Poetry Series at LaPeña Cultural Center in Berkeley, a second Wednesday's of the month with featured readers and open mic, June 2001-March 2008

California State University Monterey Bay, Monterey, CA, April 1999 -2001

- Developed and implemented an intensive seminar on teaching poetry as self-empowerment in community for 40 students in the class, Creative Writing and Social Action
- Furnished ground rules, guidelines, and curriculum for use with their own students

Mills College/ Mills Cares' Alternative Spring Break, Oakland, CA, March 2001

- Formulated an interactive presentation on teaching poetry as self-empowerment in community to act as a model for 22 students volunteering in Bay Area non-profits
- Furnished ground rules, guidelines, and curriculum for use with their own students

Mills College and Chrysalis, Oakland, CA, February -April 2000

- Conceived, facilitated, and raised funds for the *Why Reclaim Our Lives*: poetry workshops
- Drafted press releases, flyers, programs and personal invitations, set up radio appearances
- Arranged venues; hired musicians and caterers for public readings; led Body Tracings work

Student-Teacher-Poet (STP) with Poetry for the People (P4P), September 1998-June 1999

UC Berkeley/ Berkeley High/ SF Mission Cultural Center

- Conducted in depth research and wrote curriculum for African American, Latino and Asian American poetry units; wrote, published and publicly read my own poetry
- Taught P4P's ground rules/ guidelines for critiquing poetry; workshop 10 UC Berkeley student's poetry: detailed written comments, office hours, preparing for public readings
- Taught poetry with equal vigor for six weeks with 35 students at Berkeley High and 45 adults at San Francisco's Mission Cultural Center

PUBLISHED POETRY:

“Write This Second”, Clear Hearts Roar ~ Sing ~ Shine, editor Kira Allen, November 2013

“Papillion Mariposa Butterfly”, What I Need Right Now, ed. Gary Chandler, Summer 2001

“If I Name My Truth Who Will Hear Me”, “The Compass”, “I Pray You”
Full Circle, ed. John Fox, Spring 2001

Ravens Speak /Butterflies Flutter /and the Dance Lingers On, Spring 2000
My second chapbook containing 25 pages of original poetry

“Spark”, “This is Who I am” On the Wings of Words, Spring 2000

“For the One Who Defined Me” The Walrus, 2000: The Mills College Literary Review

“What is a Home Language Poem to a Girl Who’s Never Belonged Anywhere”
Listen Up: Oakland Poets Speak Out Chapbook, April 1999

“My Ruth Forman Poem”, “Martín Espada”
The Walrus, 1999: The Mills College Literary Review

“The ABC’s of War” We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For:
Poetry for the People Spring 1999 Anthology

“Disregarded”, “My Ruth Forman Poem” Survival Take a Verse:
A Collection of Revolutionary Student Poetry Fall 1998

Touching Stones, Fall 1998
My first chapbook containing 36 pages of all original poetry and prose

“Martín Espada” Mahfouz: Our Right to Our Words:
Poetry for the People Spring 1998 Anthology

“How I Define How I Put Myself on the Line”, “Sister of My Soul”
Wrong Is Not My Name, Edited by June Jordan, 1996

“The Secret Shadow” Sing Your Own Song, Edited by Janice Mirikitani, 1995

EDUCATION:

Master’s Degree in Transformative Arts; John F. Kennedy University, Berkeley, CA; September 2002
Bachelor’s Degree in English/Creative Writing; Mills College, Oakland, CA; May 2000

AWARDS:

Roussel Sargeant Peer Teaching Award from Mills College	April 2000
Mary Atkins Poet of the Year	April 2000
Breaking the Cycles Award from Glide Memorial Church	December 1999
Mary Atkins Woman of the Year	April 1999

EDITING EXPERIENCE:

- Clear Hearts Roar, Sing, Shine, Anthology of women in recovery, Intro, editing & design November 2013
- And Sometimes, Even with the Words I Get Lonely, Anthology of adolescents in Juvenile Hall, Intro, editing & design,; August 2007
- Henry J. Kaiser Sixth Grade Anthology, Intro, editing & design; May 2000, 2001, 2002
- Nothing Can Dim the Light which Shines from Within, an anthology of children in a health professions pipeline program, Intro, editing & design; August 2006
- Tender Voices, anthology of children in homeless shelters, Intro editing & design; August 2000
- On the Wings of Words, Introduction, editing and design; April 2000

DAY JOBS:

Workshop Participant Director, May-July 2000-Present

Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation ~ VONA, Berkeley, CA

- Anticipate needs of and provide resources for 14 faculty, 2 staff and 140 writers
- Organize and arrange for special events and fundraisers; Cultivate communication database
- Live in the dorms at UC Berkeley with the writers coming in from out of town for one week a year

Samuel Merritt University ~ SMU, Oakland, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sacramento, CA

Associate Director of Diversity, May 2011- August 2013

- Collaborated with Chief Diversity Officer and key stakeholders to institutionalize inclusive policies
- Scrutinized recruitment, retention and grievance policies for growth potential
- Increased institutional aid and built highly-effective internal and external community partnerships
- Linked social, emotional, academic and financial support to increase minority student completion

Student Services Coordinator, November 2005-May 2011

- Conducted 9 online/ in person orientations, Career Fair and various other student programming
- Devised and supplied writing and resume support for 500+ students annually
- Linked social, emotional, academic and financial support to increase minority student completion
- Sounding board, problem solver, emotional translator and guidepost at all times
- Nominated/ chosen to represent SMU in the Leadership Oakland Program, Class of 2011
- Key contributor to 8 on campus leadership committees including 5 years Staff Council Co-President

Outreach Consultant, January 2003-June 2004

Lafayette Elementary School, West Oakland, CA

- Strategized with essential stakeholders to significantly decrease suspension rates
- Identified over 100 "at risk" students and put services in place to help them succeed
- Wrote, submitted and received a grant worth 50k a year to fund the position

CERTIFICATES:

Drop Out Prevention Certificate; Cal State East Bay, Hayward, CA; December 2003
Grant Seeking Basics; the Foundation Center San Francisco, CA; May 2001

HIGHLIGHTS OF PUBLIC READINGS:

2005

Oct 15: One of six featured readers on the VONA Voices LitCrawl Stage in San Francisco

2003

Apr 24: One of several featured readers as part of the "Listen Up" reading at Mills College

2002

June 12: The featured reader at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley

Feb 4: The featured reader as part of Marin Academy's Literary Festival

2001

March 14: Reading celebrating Women's History Month at La Peña Cultural Center

March 4: Reading to culminate the Poetic Medicine class at JFKU

2000

June 14: La Peña's 25th Anniversary Celebration: The Power of the Word

The best of the featured readers over time were invited

April 19: The Mills College Literary Review: The Walrus Publication party and reading

April 14: The "On the Wings of Words" poetry reading in the Mills College student union

April 12: The "On the Wings of Words" poetry reading at La Peña Cultural Center

1999

Sep 23: One of seven featured poets reading alongside Adrienne Rich for

the California State University, Monterey Bay Writers Series

May 11: Reading for Mills College class, Social Action and the Academic Essay

May 2: Reading with Berkeley High's Poetry for the People students

Apr 28: Poetry for the People's "We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For"

Apr 15: Poetry as Social Action reading at Cal State University Monterey Bay

Apr 12: Rhythm and Rhyme Reading at the Berkeley Art Museum

April 7: The Mills College Literary Review: The Walrus Publication party and reading

Feb 10: The featured poet at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley

Feb 20: Reading in celebration of June Jordan's life and book Affirmative Acts

1998

Dec 13: "Mapping Our Minds and Hearts, Giving Words to Voice and Voice to Words"

Nov 19: Poetry for the People's "Survival Take a Verse" reading at UC Berkeley

Nov 13: The Mock Cafe in San Francisco

Nov 2: The San Francisco Book Festival

Sep 27: The Mock Cafe in San Francisco

May 7: Poetry for the People's "Malfouz" reading at UC Berkeley

1997

Nov 14: Poetry for the People's reading at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco

Aug 13: The featured reader at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley

Apr 25: Poetry for the People's readings at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco

1996

Nov 8: Poetry for the People's readings at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco

Apr 19: Poetry for the People's readings at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco

1995

Nov 10: Poetry for the People's readings at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco

Apr 13: Poetry for the People's readings at Glide Memorial Church