

FY2010
Fiction/Non-Fiction
Panelist Biographies

Kerry Neville Bakken is the author of the short story collection “Necessary Lies” which won the 2006 Chandra Prize in Fiction from the BkMk Press/University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her work has recently appeared in *Glimmer Train* and *The Gettysburg Review*. She is an assistant professor of English at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Kevin Haworth is the author of the award-winning novel “The Discontinuity of Small Things”, and co-editor of the forthcoming collection *The Lit Fest Anthology: 25 Years of Writing about Writing* from the Ohio University Spring Literary Festival. His work appears in the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Witness*, *Harpur Palate*, *Sentence*, *Permafrost*, *Juked*, and elsewhere. He has held fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and Ledig International Writers House, and now teaches at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Hope Anita Smith, is the author of three books. Her first book “The Way a Door Closes” won several awards including, The Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award, the Judy Lopez Award from the Women’s National Book Association and the Claudia Lewis Award from Bank Street College. Her second book, “Keeping the Night Watch”, a sequel to “The Way a Door Closes”, received the Coretta Scott King Honor. Both books were chosen as Best Books of the Year by *School Library Journal*. Miss Smith’s third book, “Mother Poems”, which she wrote and illustrated, has received the Myra Cohn Livingston Award for a distinguished book of poetry.

She teaches writing “wordshops” to writers of all ages. She encourages students to find their voice using paint chips, found objects, magazine pictures, music and food. These “wordshops” end with an ‘Open Mike’ performance. She is a motivational speaker who loves to share her journey. She also conducts school assemblies that take her audience on a journey from idea to publication. Hope Anita Smith was born and raised in Akron, Ohio and resides in Beverly Hills, California.