

**Kwansaba:
Poets Sonia Sanchez &
Jessica Care Moore
Fly to Planet Ferguson 2015**

by

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Led by DuBois, surgeon of divided “I,”
Dunbar-the-suturer, River Jordan's June &
soular orbs Amiri/Maya, triage poets Sonia
& Jessica invade race-scaped hospice. Here,
they Kushion orature with Yaa Asantewaa's anti-
doses of nommo-soulo serums. Sisters salvage
racial victim & vagrant on Planet Ferguson.

On a frigid February night, BAM Ark-Eye-Tech/Philadelphia Poet Laureate Sonia Sanchez &
Detroit's BAM Heir/Warrior Artist Jessica Care Moore warmed collars on Planet Ferguson,
“dropping” soul lodes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). Moderated by April R.
(Akila Worksongs) Silver—with warm up chops from MK Stallings' UrbArts poets JayLuvve,
Chris Ware, Freeman Word, and PoeticSlang—Sonia & Jessica did bardic boogaloos, raising
conch-us-nests to the sky's “unlimit,” as East Boogie poet Sherman L. Fowler hits it.

Eugene B. Redmond, emeritus professor of English at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, was named Poet Laureate of East St. Louis (Illinois) in 1976, the year Doubleday released his critical history, *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry*. Earlier, as a Teacher-Counselor and Poet-in-Residence at SIU's Experiment in Higher Education (1967-69), he taught with Katherine Dunham and Henry Dumas (1934-1968).

As literary executor of Dumas's estate, and with assistance from Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou and Amiri Baraka, Redmond edited several posthumously published volumes of his friend's writings. These included *Ark of Bones* (short fiction), *Knees of a Natural Man* (poetry), *Jonah and the Green Stone* (novel) and *Echo Tree* (collected short fiction).

Redmond was Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence at California State University-Sacramento from 1970-85. While at CSUS he won a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, an Outstanding Faculty Research and Teaching Award; and lectured at universities in the U.S., Africa, and Europe.

In 1986, East St. Louisans created the Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club in his honor. The Club turned 30 in 2016. Winner of two American Book Awards, Redmond's most recent release, among more than 25 collections of diverse writings, is *Arkansippi Memwars: Poetry, Prose & Folklore 1962-2012* (Third World Press).

Having received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from SIUE in 2008, he witnessed the grand opening of the Eugene B. Redmond Collection and Learning Center in the Elijah P. Lovejoy Library in October of 2015. The Center maintains hundreds of thousands of photos, letters, books, journals, magazines, brochures, flyers, playbills, art works, cloth memorabilia, manuscripts, and syllabi from Eugene Redmond's 60 years of writing and teaching,