

## Panel Judges – Writing Against Hunger 2026

Poet **BRENDA BUNTING**, MAT is an award winning orator and the author of "Poems of Love and Violence in between Life and Death" 1st and 2nd editions. She is a storyteller with NABS and DVHSC. She is an active member of the RAINN Speaker's Bureau and multi-abuse survivor who utilizes and shares the therapeutic benefits of writing poems for mental wellness and healing from traumatic events. She hosts poetry events and is regularly featured at live and virtual events in the DC, MD, and VA area. Brenda has been published in numerous online and print publications. She is a teacher, holistic educator and advocate, a life member of the Kentucky State Poetry Society, and a certified life coach. She is working on her latest book of poems and first novel. Check out her artist page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BDBpoet>



**HENRY CRAWFORD** is author of three collections of poetry, *American Software* (CW Books, 2017), *Binary Planet* (The Word Works, 2020, 2nd ed. 2024) *Screens* (Broadstone Books 2025) His poem, "The Fruits of Famine" won first prize in the 2019 World Food Poetry Competition. His work has been published in *Boulevard*, *Copper Nickel*, *Rattle*, the *Southern Humanities Review*, and many others. He is a two time finalist for the Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest. He was nominated for the 2022 Rhysling Award by the Science Fiction Poetry Association. He is a longtime co-host of the Café Muse Literary Salon Online. He Writes on Substack at <https://everydaypoet.substack.com/>



**ASHLEY STEVES** has known she was going to be a writer (and long-winded) ever since her fifth-grade teacher assigned her class a five-page short story and she turned in 50 pages. A full-time arts and culture writer, editor, and researcher, her experience has ranged from scripts for the evening news to concert reviews and everything in between. Her work can be read regularly at Backstage, where she has covered casting, filming, and development since 2017, with other bylines online and in print at American Theatre, GO Magazine, The Observer, The Village Voice, The Mary Sue, The Streamable, and others.

Ashley is also a former co-host and producer of BroadwayRadio's daily theatre podcast "Today on Broadway," as well as a former Cabaret editor-in-chief at BroadwayWorld. She is a proud member of GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics and is a voting member of the organization's Theatre Wing (Broadway and Off-Broadway) and Dorian Awards.

Ashley currently lives in New York City and also works in the food service industry, which, as part of a family of industry workers, is another thing she liked as a kid that she still gets to do (and is very happy about it). You can connect with her work at <https://ashleysteves.com>.