

Jaki Shelton Green

Distinguished Visiting Writer

Public reading: Monday April 4, 5:30 p.m.; 337 Cartwright

Craft talk: Monday April 4, 3:55-5 p.m.; 210 Wimberly



wishing

razor blades did not
slash rainbows
hands did not
steal light from the dawn
prayers spoken in tongues did not
dissolve into silk pocket linings
air could be bartered
for fire
war could reinvent itself
as a prayer of silence

Jaki Shelton Green is the author of *breath of the song* (cited as one of the two Best Poetry Books of 2005 by the Independent Weekly), *Conjure Blues*, *Dead on Arrival*, *Masks*, *singing a tree into dance*, and *Blue Opal*, a play. She is co-editor of two anthologies: *Poets for Peace*, *Immigration Emigration Diversity* both published by Chapel Hill Press, Inc.

She works as a creativity coach with human service agencies and corporations using writing and creativity as tools of healing and transformation. She teaches creative writing to marginalized populations such as the homeless, the newly literate, the incarcerated, and the writer-as-survivor.

Her poetry has appeared in *The Crucible*, *The African-American Review*, *Obsidian*, *Poets for Peace*, *Immigration Emigration and Diversity*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Essence Magazine*, *KAKALAK*, *Callaloo*, *Cave Canem African American Writers Anthology*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, *27 Views of Hillsborough*, *Solo Press Anthology*, *The Sound of Poets Cooking Anthology*.

She has performed her poetry and taught writing workshops throughout the United States, Caribbean, Europe, Central and South America. Her poetry has also been choreographed by groups such as *African American Dance Ensemble* (at the Kennedy Center), *Two Near the Edge*, and the *ChoreoCollective*. Her awards include the North Carolina Award for Literature in 2003, 2006 Artist in Residence at the Taller Portobelo Artist Colony, and the 2007 Sam Ragan Award.

This event, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the UW-L Department of English and is made possible through a 2010-11 Small Grant provided by the College of Liberal Studies. For more information contact Matt Cashion: cashion.matt@uwlax.edu, (785-8297)