



NEWS RELEASE

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USI's tenth annual Ropewalk Writers Retreat offers public events

The University of Southern Indiana's tenth annual Ropewalk Writers Retreat begins Sunday, June 7 in New Harmony and although registration is closed, the week-long event offers the public several free readings by local and visiting writers. All public readings and receptions will be held at the Atheneum; craft lectures will be held in the Barn Abbey.

7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6, the Atheneum

David St. John will read poetry as part of the pre-conference, tenth anniversary celebration. A reception will follow. Editor-at-Large of *The Antioch Review*, a Guggenheim fellow and professor of English and creative writing at the University of Southern California, St. John is the author of several collections of poetry including *Hush*, *The Shore*, and *No Heaven*. His most recent book, *Study for the World's Body: New and Selected Poems*, was nominated for the National Book Award.

7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 7, the Atheneum

Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi, **Barry Hannah** will read fiction, followed by a reception. Hannah is a Guggenheim Fellow and author of *Airships*, *Geronimo Rex*, *Ray*, and *Bats Out of Hell*.

7 p.m. Monday, June 8, the Atheneum

Heather McHugh and **Bob Shacochis** will read samples of their writing followed by a reception. McHugh is a faculty member of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and writes books of poetry including *Shades*, *Dangers*, and *Hinge & Sign: Poems 1968-1993* and essays. Contributing editor to *Harper's* and *Outside* magazines, Shacochis is author of two collections of short stories, *Easy in the Islands* and *The Next New World*; the novel *Swimming in the Volcano* and; a book of non-fiction, *Domesticity*.

9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 9, the Barn Abbey

Author of five volumes of poetry and a National Book Circle Award finalist, **Ellen Bryant Voigt** is featured lecturer on writing as a craft. Voigt founded and teaches in the Warren Wilson MFA program.

10:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 9, the Barn Abbey

Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships,

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Stephen Dobyns is the author of nine books of poems, nineteen novels, and a book of essays on poetry. His 1997 novel, *The Church of Dead Girls*, was a New York Times bestseller. Dobyns will lead a lecture on the craft of writing.

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, the Atheneum

Matthew Graham and **David Broza** will present a poetry/song writing lecture. Graham, USI associate professor of English, is the author of two volumes of poetry, *New World Architecture* and *1946*. Recording artist Broza works with contemporary poets to create songs. His recordings include *A Time of Trains* and *Stone Doors*.

7 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, the Atheneum

Ellen Bryant Voigt and **Richard Powers** will read from their works, followed by a reception. Powers, the author of six novels, including *The Gold Bug Variations* and *Galatea 2.2* is Swanlund professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has been a finalist in both the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Book Award competitions.

11 a.m. Thursday, June 11, the Barn Abbey

Richard Powers will present a lecture on writing as a craft.

2 p.m. Thursday, June 11, the Barn Abbey

A contributing editor at *Elle* and *Ski*, **Pam Houston** will present a writing lecture. Houston is the author of a collection of short stories, *Cowboys are My Weakness*, and her new collection, *Waltzing the Cat* will be published in 1998.

6 p.m. Friday, June 12, The Atheneum

Pam Houston and **Stephen Dobyns** will read.