

**ROPEWALK WRITERS RETREAT
OFFERS PUBLIC PROGRAMS**



NEWS RELEASE

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Several programs will be open to the public in the University of Southern Indiana's 1992 RopeWalk Writers Retreat, to be held May 31-June 5 in New Harmony, Indiana.

This year's faculty will be authors Michael Martone, Hoosier native now teaching at Syracuse University, and Roxana Robinson, award-winning writer of fiction and non-fiction, and poets Mark Jarman, a teacher at Vanderbilt University, and Ellen Bryant Voigt, a teacher in the Warren Wilson College M.F.A. program.

Each will present a reading, beginning with Jarman at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at The Atheneum in New Harmony. The Martone reading will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Evansville Museum of Arts and Science. Robinson will read from her works at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at The Atheneum. The Voigt reading will be at 5 p.m. Friday, just prior to the closing dinner at the New Harmony Inn. All readings are open to the public; receptions will follow the Jarman, Martone, and Robinson readings. The public also is invited to join the group at the closing dinner on Friday; reservations are \$15 per person.

The RopeWalk Retreat is held at the New Harmony Inn and Conference Center in the Posey County community that was the site of two 19th century utopian experiments, and is named for the rope walk that stretched 1,100 feet from North Street to Steammill Street, where the 19th century Ropemakers Shop was located.

RopeWalk is designed to provide a natural outlet for the talents of writers from southern Indiana and the Tri-State. Participants are encouraged to write during the retreat, not simply listen to others talk about writing. Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus, assistant dean of the USI School of Liberal Arts, is retreat director. For information, call the USI Office of Continuing Education, 812/464-1863 or 800/467-8600.

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Mark Jarman is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *The Black Riviera* and *Iris*, a book-length poem. He has twice been awarded National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and is a Guggenheim Fellow for 1991-92.

Michael Martone is a Fort Wayne native and Indiana University graduate; his works include *Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List*, *Alive and Dead in Indiana*, and *Safety Patrol*. He is a two-time NEA fellow and Ingram Merrill Foundation grant winner.

Roxana Robinson's fiction and non-fiction have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Southern Review*, and other periodicals. She is the author of *Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life*, novels, and a collection of short stories, *A Glimpse of Scarlet*. Her awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and the Washington Irving Award for the O'Keeffe book.

Ellen Bryant Voigt has published three volumes of poetry -- *Claiming Kiri*, *The Forces of Plenty*, and *The Lotus Flowers*. A founder of the M.F.A. Writing Program at Goddard College, she currently teaches in the Warren Wilson College M.F.A. program. She has been affiliated with writers conferences at Aspen, Bread Loaf, and Indiana University, and is a recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Guggenheim Foundation.