



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release
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RopeWalk Writers Conference slated June 6 - 12 in Historic New Harmony

The week-long RopeWalk Writers Conference will give participants an opportunity to attend workshops and confer privately with one of the five prominent writers. Historic New Harmony, site of two 19th century utopian experiments, provides an ideal setting for this event with its retreat-like atmosphere and its history of creative and intellectual achievement. RopeWalk participants are encouraged to write, not simply listen to others talk about writing. In addition, several writers will give lectures, open to all participants, on aspects of the writing craft.

Faculty for the 1999 RopeWalk Writers Retreat are Lucie Brock-Broido, Lynn Emanuel, and Rodney Jones in poetry; Sigrid Nunez in fiction; and Scott Sanders in creative nonfiction. Special guest readers are fiction writer Michael Martone and poet Liam Rector.

Ropewalk has been assisted over the past eleven years by grants from Mrs. Ruth Lilly of Indianapolis, Evansville native Susan R. Enlow, the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC), the Blaffer Trust, the Witter-Bynner Foundation, the University of Southern Indiana Society for Arts and Humanities, and the support and assistance of Historic New Harmony.

Workshops and lectures are held at various facilities, including the New Harmony Inn; the Wheatcroft Guest House, which also serves as conference headquarters; and the Barn Abbey. Participants may stay at the New Harmony Inn and Conference Center, the Barn Abbey, Harmonie State Park, New Harmony Bed & Breakfast, or nearby motels. Reservations at the Inn should be made by May 9; call 800/782-8605 or 812/682-4491. To reserve space at the Barn Abbey, call USI Extended Services at 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600.

Tuition for Ropewalk Writers Retreat is \$425, including workshops, individual conference, readings, receptions, and several meals. There is a 10 percent discount for Indiana residents. Those who wish to enroll in a second workshop may do so for an additional \$200 (no Indiana discount). A non-refundable registration fee of \$100 is due by May 3.

The retreat offers a limited number of full and partial scholarships based solely on merit. Send a letter of application with relevant biographical information and a writing sample - maximum of three poems or 20 pages of fiction - to RopeWalk Scholarship, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712.

The faculty

Poetry

Lucie Brock-Broido, professor of writing at Columbia University School of Arts, was director of the creative writing program at Harvard University. She is the recipient of poetry fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Hoyns at the University of Virginia. She was the 1996 winner of the Witter-Bynner Prize for Poetry, won the Harvard University Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Award, and the Harvard-Danforth Award for Distinction in Teaching. Her books include *A Hunger* and *The Master Letters*.

Lynn Emanuel is the author of two books of poetry, *Hotel Fiesta* and *The Dig*. She is the recipient of two NEA Fellowships, the National Poetry Series Award, and three Pushcart Prizes. Her work has been published in *Parnassus*, *Poetry*, *The Hudson Review*, *Ploughshares*, and in the 1995 and 1998 editions of *The Best American Poetry*. Emanuel directs the writing program at the University of Pittsburgh.

Rodney Jones is the author of *The Story They Told Us of Light*, *The Unborn*, *Transparent Gestures* (winner of the 1989 National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry), *Apocalyptic Narrative*, *Things That Happen Once*, and *Elegy for the Southern Drawl*. He received fellowships from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Jones is the winner of the *Kenyon Review* Award for Literary Excellence in Poetry, the Frederick Bock Prize and the George Kent Prize from *Poetry*, among others. He is professor of English at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Creative Nonfiction

Scott Sanders is distinguished professor of English at Indiana University where he also directs the Wells Scholars Program. He has published 20 books, including novels, collections of stories and essays, and personal narratives. His work appears in such magazines as *Orion*, *Audubon*, and *The Georgia Review*, and has been reprinted in *Best American Essays*, *American Nature Writing*, *The Norton Reader*, and many other anthologies.

Fiction

Sigrid Nunez is the author of three works of fiction: *A Feather on the Breath of God*, *Naked Sleeper*, and *Mitz: the Marmoset of Bloomsbury*. She is on the faculty at the School of the Arts, Columbia University. Her work has been widely anthologized and she is the recipient of several literary prizes, including a Whiting Writer's Award.

Guest artists

Michael Martone is the author of five books of short fiction including *Seeing Eye*, *Pensee's: The Thoughts of Dan Quale*, *Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List*, and *Alive and Dead in Indiana*. His stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *Story*, *Antaeus*, and *North American Review*, among others. Martone has held fellowships from the NEA and won awards in several competitions including those sponsored by *The Florida Review* and *Story*. He is professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Alabama.

Liam Rector directs the Bennington Writing Seminars in Bennington, Vermont, where he also teaches poetry at Bennington College. His books include *American Prodigal* and *The Sorrow of Architecture* (poetry); *The Day I Was Older*; *On the Poetry of Donald Hall* and *Fastening the Voice to the Page: On the Poetry of Frank Bidart* (editor). His poems have appeared in *The Paris*

Review, Partisan Review, The New Republic, American Poetry Review, Ploughshares, and Antioch Review, among others.

Conference staff

Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus, professor of English and associate dean of the USI School of Liberal Arts; and **Matthew Graham**, USI associate professor of English; are founding directors of **RopeWalk**. **Dr. Wilhelmus** frequently reviews contemporary fiction in the *Hudson Review*; Graham is the author of two volumes of poetry, *New World Architecture* and *1946*.

Linda L. Cleek, associate director of USI Extended Services, handles logistics for the retreat. **Mary Jane Schenk**, administrative assistant to USI President H. Ray Hoops, is resident assistant at the Barn Abbey and big sister to RopeWalk newcomers.

Public events - locations will be announced

Sunday, June 6 - 7:30 p.m., Liam Rector poetry reading; 8:30 p.m., reception.

Monday, June 8 - 7 p.m., readings by Lucie Brock-Broido and Sigrid Nunez; 8:30 p.m., reception.

Tuesday, June 9 - 7 p.m., readings by Lynn Emanuel and Rodney Jones.

Wednesday, June 10 - 7 p.m., - reading by Michael Martone; 8 p.m., reception.

Friday - 6 p.m., reading by Scott Sanders; 7:30 p.m. closing dinner (there will be a charge for dinner and reservations are required).

Important dates

April 15 - scholarship deadline

May 3 - scholarship notification mailed

May 10 - manuscript submission deadline

June 1 - balance of registration fees due

June 4 - deadline for requests for partial refund of fees

For information or reservations, call USI Extended Services at 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600

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Online site: www.usi.edu/libarts/english/ropewalk.htm