



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release
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What: RopeWalk Writers Retreat

Who: Speakers, Tim Gautreaux, Alyce Miller, Tony Hoaglund,
Ellen Bryant Voigt, Susan Neville, and Margaret McMullan.

When: June 10 - 16

Where: Historic New Harmony, Indiana

RopeWalk Writers Retreat slated June 10 – 16 in Historic New Harmony

The 13th annual RopeWalk Writers Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, June 10, to Saturday, June 16, 2001. It will be held in New Harmony, Indiana, site of two 19th century utopian experiments. It 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 during the week," said Thomas Wilhelmus, one of the founders of the retreat. In addition, several writers will give lectures, open to all participants, on aspects of the writing craft. RopeWalk Writers Retreat is a program of the University of Southern Indiana.

Faculty for the 2001 RopeWalk Writers Retreat are Tim Gautreaux in fiction, Alyce Miller in fiction and creative non-fiction, and Tony Hoaglund and Ellen Bryant Voigt in poetry. Pre-conference activities include special guest Susan Neville reading on Saturday, June 9, as part of the Hoosier Writers series; and a picnic for RopeWalk alumni and an alumni reading on Sunday afternoon. Margaret McMullan will be a guest lecturer during the week.

Gautreaux was born and raised in Louisiana where his early literary influences included James Dickey and Walker Percy. He published *The Next Step in the Dance*, chosen novel of the year by the Southeastern Booksellers Association; and two collections of short stories, *Same Place, Same Things* and *Welding with Children*, chosen a notable book of 1999 by the *New York Times Book Review*. Gautreaux's short fiction has appeared in such publications as *Atlantic*, *Harpers*, *GQ*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*; and anthologies including *Best American Short Stories* and *New Stories from the South*. Gatreaux is professor of English and Writer-in-Residence at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Hoagland's second book, *Donkey Gospel*, won the 1998 James Laughlin Prize from the Academy of American Poets. His first book, *Sweet Ruin*, won the Brittingham Prize from the University of Wisconsin Press. Hoagland is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship and teaches in the creative writing programs at Warren Wilson College and the University of Pittsburgh.

Miller's creative non-fiction and essays have appeared in *Witness*, *Iowa Review*, *Chicago Tribune*, *River Styx*, and numerous other journals and anthologies. She teaches English and creative writing at Indiana University where she received two teaching excellence awards. Miller has published one novel, *Stopping for Green Lights*, and a collection of short stories,

The Nature of Longing, which won the Flannery O'Connor Award. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals including *The Kenyon Review*, *Harvard Review*, and *Story*. Miller is the recipient of a Yaddo Fellowship and a Chautauqua Residence.

Bryant Voigt has published five books of poetry: *Claiming Kin*, *The Forces of Plenty*, *The Lotus Flowers*, *Two Trees*, and *Kyrie*, a National Book Critic's Circle Award finalist; and *The Flexible Lyric*, a collection of craft essays. She founded and teaches in the Warren Wilson M.F.A. program.

Susan Neville's essay collections include *Indiana Winter* and *Fabrication*, published in 2000 by MacMurray and Beck. She is the author of the story collections *Invention of Flight*, which won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and *In the House of Blue Lights*, selected as one of the 'Best Books of 1998' by the *Chicago Tribune*. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Pushcart Prize, Susan teaches at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Margaret McMullan's first novel, *When Warhol was Still Alive* won an award for Best Adult Fiction from the Society of Midland Authors. Her stories and essays have appeared in numerous publications including *Glamour*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Southern Accents*, *The Palo Alto Review*, and *Arts Indiana*, as well as several anthologies. She has received fellowships from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Margaret was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Evansville.

RopeWalk has been assisted over the past 13 years by grants from Mrs. Ruth Lilly, Susan R. Enlow, the Indiana Arts Commission, the Blaffer Trust, the Witter-Bynner Foundation, the USI Society for Arts and Humanities, and the support and assistance of Historic New Harmony, an outreach program of USI.

Workshops and lectures are held at various facilities, including the New Harmony Inn and the Wheatcroft Guest House, which also serves as conference headquarters. Participants may stay at 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 12 by calling 800/782-8605 or 812/682-4491. To reserve accommodations at the Barn Abbey, call USI Extended Services at 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600.

Tuition for RopeWalk Writers Retreat is \$455, 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 \$300 (no Indiana discount). A nonrefundable registration fee of \$100 is due by May 5.

A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available based on merit. The scholarship application deadline is April 15; winners will be notified May 5. To apply, send a letter of application with relevant biographical information and a writing sample, maximum of three poems or 20 pages of fiction or creative non-fiction, to RopeWalk Scholarship, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana, 47712.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.usi.edu/extserv/ropewalk/.