



NEWS RELEASE

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**For immediate release
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RopeWalk Writers Retreat to benefit from Barnes and Noble book fair

The RopeWalk Writers Retreat, a seven-day writing workshop sponsored by University of Southern Indiana, will receive a percentage of all purchases made at Evansville's Barnes and Noble Booksellers on Saturday, April 29. Purchases must include a RopeWalk voucher, available at a hospitality table in the store. Gift certificates are exempt from the book fair proceeds.

During the book fair, local writers will read from the published works of the 2000 RopeWalk faculty. An entertainment schedule follows.

Noon	music
12:30 p.m.	Patricia Aahkus, instructor in English, will read from the works of Victoria Redel
1 p.m.	Robin Shotter, USI student, will read from the works of Kim Barnes
1:30 p.m.	Keith Lloyd, instructor in English, will play guitar
2 p.m.	Mary Jane Schenk, RopeWalk organizer, will read from the works of Heather McHugh
2:30 p.m.	Randall Pease, instructor in English, will play original songs
3 p.m.	Jim McGarrah, RopeWalk organizer and USI student, will read from the works of Robert Wrigley
3:30 p.m.	Thomas Wilhelmus, RopeWalk founder, will read from the works of Stephen Dobyns
4 p.m.	Emily Strand, local musician, will play music from her new CD, <i>Evansville</i>

The RopeWalk Writers Retreat, scheduled June 10 - 17 in New Harmony, Indiana, will give participants an opportunity to attend writing workshops and confer privately with one of the five prominent writers.

Faculty for the 2000 RopeWalk Writers Retreat will be Heather McHugh and Robert Wrigley in poetry, Victoria Redel in fiction, Stephen Dobyns in shorter fiction, and Kim Barnes in creative nonfiction. Special guest readers will be poet Jared Carter and non-fiction writer Nikolai Popov. Their books will be featured and available for purchase during the book fair.

Historic New Harmony, site of two 19th century utopian experiments, provides an ideal setting for the retreat with its history of creative and intellectual achievement. RopeWalk participants are encouraged to write, not simply listen to others talk about writing. In addition, writers give lectures, open to all participants, on aspects of the writing craft, lead workshops, and conduct public readings during the week.

For more information call, Linda Cleek at 812/464-1863.