

**For immediate release
May 14, 2000**

USI's 13th annual Ropewalk Writers Retreat offers public events

The University of Southern Indiana's 13th annual Ropewalk Writers Retreat begins Sunday, June 10, in New Harmony, Indiana, and although registration is closed, the week-long event offers the public several free evening readings by visiting writers and day-time lectures on writing as a craft. As part of the Hoosier Writers Series, Susan Neville will hold a pre-conference public reading at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 9. All public readings will be held at The Atheneum; craft lectures will be held in the Barn Abbey.

Pre-conference reading

Susan Neville, fiction, 7 p.m., Saturday, June 9, The Atheneum

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.

Conference readings and lectures

Tony Hoagland, poetry, 7 p.m. Sunday, June 10, The Atheneum

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 Pittsburg.

Alyce Miller, creative non-fiction/fiction, 7 p.m., Monday, June 11, The Atheneum

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.

Craft lecture - 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 12, the Barn Abbey

Ellen Bryant Voigt will present a lecture on poetry as a craft.

Craft lecture - 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, the Barn Abbey

Tim Gautreaux will present a lecture on fiction as a craft.

Margaret McMullan, fiction, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, The Atheneum

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.

Tim Gautreaux, fiction, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, The Atheneum

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*. Gautreaux is professor of English and Writer-in-Residence at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Craft lecture - 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 14, the Barn Abbey

Alyce Miller will present a craft lecture on writing creative non-fiction and fiction.

Craft lecture - 10:45 a.m. Thursday, June 14, the Barn Abbey

Tony Hoagland will hold a craft lecture on writing fiction.

Ellen Bryant Voigt, poetry, 6 p.m. Friday, June 15, the Atheneum

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.

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