

**ROPEWALK WRITERS' RETREAT
TO HAVE THREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS**



NEWS RELEASE

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The public is invited to three events planned in conjunction with the RopeWalk Writers' Retreat, a week-long program offered by the University of Southern Indiana for writers of fiction and poetry.

The retreat -- sponsored by the USI English Department and Office of Continuing Education, and partially underwritten by a Susan R. Enlow grant and the Robert Lee Blaffer Trust -- will be held May 21-27 in Historic New Harmony and will feature the following faculty of nationally prominent writers:

John Hawkes, a teacher at Brown University, member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and author of a book of short plays, a book of short stories, and ten novels, including Whistlejacket (1988).

Joy Williams, author of three novels and a collection of stories called Taking Care; has had stories appear in Esquire, The Paris Review, and The New Yorker; and was awarded the National Magazine Award in 1980.

Philip Levine, author of a book of criticism, two books of translations, and 11 books of poetry, and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and National Institute of Arts and Letters, as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship. His latest book is A Walk With Tom Jefferson.

The three will read from their works in the free public programs, including: Hawkes, fiction reading, 7 p.m. Sunday, May 21, in The Athenaeum; Williams, fiction reading, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, in Murphy Auditorium; and Levine, poetry reading, 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 26, in The Athenaeum.

Mrs. Linda Cleek, assistant director for Continuing Education, said it still is possible for area writers to join the retreat, but urged them to contact USI immediately. Tuition is \$265 and includes workshops, conferences, readings, receptions, a Sunday picnic, and a banquet; it does not include lodging. For information, call Mrs. Cleek, (812) 464-1863, or the USI English Department, (812) 464-1735.

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