

**DEADLINE SET TO ENTER 1992  
ROPEWALK WRITERS RETREAT**



**NEWS RELEASE**

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April 19 is the deadline to submit manuscripts for the University of Southern Indiana's 1992 RopeWalk Writers Retreat, which will be held May 31-June 5 in New Harmony, Indiana. This year's faculty will be authors Michael Martone, Hoosier native now teaching at Syracuse University, and Roxana Robinson, award-winning author of fiction and non-fiction, and poets Mark Jarman, a teacher at Vanderbilt University, and Ellen Bryant Voigt, a teacher in the Warren Wilson College M.F.A. program.

The RopeWalk Retreat will be held at the New Harmony Inn and Conference Center in the Posey County community that was the site of two 19th century utopian experiments, and is named for the rope walk that stretched 1,100 feet from North Street to Steammill Street, where the 19th century Ropemakers Shop was located. The Harmonists grew hemp to make rope, stretching it out to dry along the rope walk, then would put it on stretchers at either end of the walk and twist it together. Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus, retreat director, notes that "RopeWalk" holds interesting metaphoric connotations for a conference where ideas and experiences are twisted into new artistic cords.

RopeWalk is designed to provide a natural outlet for the talents of writers from southern Indiana and the Tri-State. Participants are encouraged to write during the retreat, not simply listen to others talk about writing. Writers also have an opportunity to share information about the type of writing that interests them. Several lectures, readings, and receptions will be open to the general public.

Participating authors are asked to submit a maximum of 20 pages of a novel (one chapter and synopsis) or short stories as their entries for critiques by the retreat faculty; poets are asked for a maximum of three poems, 10 pages. Entries should be typed, double spaced, with the name and address of the author/poet on each page.

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The \$275 tuition for the retreat includes a \$75 registration fee that is due by April 27. Indiana residents can get a 10 percent discount, while partial scholarships (\$100 to \$200) are available to qualifying writers; the preference is given to full-time students. The registration fee must accompany the scholarship request and will be returned to scholarship winners. Scholarship information is available from the English Department, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712. Retreat information and application forms are available from the USI Office of Continuing Education at the previous address or by calling 812/464-1863 or 800/467-8600.

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Each of the retreat faculty members will present a special reading of their works, beginning with a Jarman reading at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at The Atheneum in New Harmony. The Martone reading will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Evansville Museum of Arts and Science; Robinson will read from her works at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at The Atheneum; and the Voigt reading will be at 5 p.m. Friday, just prior to the closing dinner at the New Harmony Inn.

All readings are open to the public; receptions will follow the Jarman, Martone, and Robinson readings. On Thursday evening, retreat participants will attend The New Harmony Theatre production of *Glass Menagerie*.

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Mark Jarman is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *The Black Riviera* and *Iris*, a book-length poem. He has twice been awarded National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and is a Guggenheim Fellow for 1991-92.

Michael Martone is Fort Wayne native and Indiana University graduate who currently is Briggs Copeland Assistant Professor of Fiction at Harvard; his works include *Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List*, *Alive and Dead in Indiana*, and *Safety Patrol*. He is a two-time NEA fellow and Ingram Merrill Foundation grant winner.

Roxana Robinson's fiction and non-fiction have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Southern Review*, and other periodicals. She is the author of *Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life*, novels, and a collection of short stories, *A Glimpse of Scarlet*. Her awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and the Washington Irving Award for the O'Keeffe book.

Ellen Bryant Voigt has published three volumes of poetry -- *Claiming Kiri*, *The Forces of Plenty*, and *The Lotus Flowers*. A founder of the M.F.A. Writing Program at Goddard College, she currently teaches in the Warren Wilson College M.F.A. program. She has been affiliated with writers conferences at Aspen, Bread Loaf, and Indiana University, and is a recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Guggenheim Foundation.