



**PUBLIC INVITED TO ROPEWALK
WRITERS RETREAT SESSIONS**

NEWS RELEASE

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Readings and receptions slated in the third annual RopeWalk Writers Retreat June 2-7 at New Harmony Inn Conference Center will be open to the public, most of them free of charge.

Four distinguished authors will conduct workshops in fiction and poetry during the week-long creative writing conference sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana, then present readings that will be open to the public. The authors include:

Stephen Dobyns, professor of English and director of the Creative Writing Program at Syracuse University; author of more than 15 books of poetry and fiction; recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships.

Amy Hempel, faculty member for such programs as Writers at Work, Bread Loaf in Vermont, and the New York State Summer Writers Institute; author of two published collections of stories, *Reasons to Live* and *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*; her nonfiction has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, and other periodicals.

Michael Martone, 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*; two-time NEA fellow and Ingram Merrill Foundation grant winner.

Heather McHugh, a poet and Master of Fine Arts faculty member at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina. A 1989 Guggenheim Fellow, her books of poetry include *Dangers*, *A World of Difference*, *To the Quick*, and *Shades*.

(more)

The public is invited to attend the following events:

Martone reading - 7 p.m. Sunday, June 2, The Atheneum, reception following

McHugh reading - 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, Evansville Museum of Arts and Science, reception following

Hempel reading - 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, The Atheneum, reception following at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

Dobyns reading - 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 7, The Atheneum

Retreat closing dinner - 7 p.m. Friday, June 7, New Harmony Inn

The closing dinner will be informal and outdoors, weather permitting. The cost is \$15 per person; reservations should be made by Wednesday, June 5, with the USI Office of Continuing Education, 812/464-1863 or 800/467-8600.