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For further information,
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8TH GENEVA WRITERS' CONFERENCE

3–5
February
2012

genevawritersgroup

THE CONFERENCE

The 8th Geneva Writers' Conference welcomes writers from around the world to a weekend of workshops and panels led by well-known authors, agents, editors and publishers from France, Italy, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

The goal is to bring together English-language writers for high-level instruction, support and feedback through workshops, discussions, and readings. The Conference instructors are experienced in teaching creative writing and committed to sharing their knowledge, skills, and perspectives on writing as an art and as a profession.

The program offers a choice of writing workshops in fiction, nonfiction, playwriting, and poetry, along with a critiquing workshop and panels in publishing. There are also question and answer periods with instructors and panelists, and two evenings of readings. The bookshop is open all weekend.

The Conference takes place at Webster University, Bellevue, ten minutes by car or train from the center of Geneva. Information about hotels in Geneva and means of transportation are sent to those who register.

Early registration starts at 17:30 on Friday evening. The opening buffet supper for participants and staff will include readings by participants (numbers limited, advanced sign-up required).

The registration fee for the Conference is CHF 180 and includes:

- Writing workshops in fiction, nonfiction, playwriting, and poetry (classes limited to 20)
- Critiquing workshops on a first come, first served basis
- Panel discussions: "Meet the Agents, Editors, Publishers" and "Web and Self Publishing"
- Question and Answer periods with instructors and panelists
- Readings by participants and instructors
- Closing reception, Sunday afternoon

Meal reservation forms (for meals in the University cafeteria) and book consignment forms will be sent by email in early January. Complimentary tea and coffee will be available throughout the weekend.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY / 3 FEBRUARY

- 17:30 Early Registration
- 19:00 Opening Buffet,
Participant Readings

SATURDAY / 4 FEBRUARY

- 9:00 Registration
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:30 Session I
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 Q&A
- 15:00 Session II
- 17:00 Break
- 17:15 Q&A
- 18:15 Dinner, Instructor Readings

SUNDAY / 5 FEBRUARY

- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 Session III
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Q&A
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:00 Session IV
- 16:15 Closing Reception

REGISTRATION

Please send the Registration Form by email or post, clearly indicating the payment method.

Email: conference@genevawritersgroup.org

Fax: +41 (0)22 774 3836

Mail: Geneva Writers' Conference

24 chemin des Mollies

CH-1293 Bellevue

Switzerland

The deadline is Friday, 27 January 2012. Your registration will be confirmed by email when payment is received. Cancellations received before 27 January will be refundable less a CHF 15 handling charge. No refunds can be made after that date.

On the Registration Form please indicate four workshop or panel choices (from the twelve that are listed) and two alternatives in order of preference. Workshops are limited to twenty participants. Places for all workshops will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

W O R K S H O P S & P A N E L S

Fiction

1. Beginnings / Patricia Duncker

Your opening pages establish a complex relationship with your readers. Is this the book they want to read? Why should they read on? What is your book about? Not what happens, but what it's about. Bring an A4 sheet with your outline describing what your book is about and the first few pages.

2. Fiction and Reality / Sheila Kohler

Participants will be asked to read and analyze examples of important moments in literature and to use their own lives to respond in class exercises. Moments of change, first memories, and writing from the point of view a different sex may be used.

3. Detail Matters: How to Find Just the Right One / Bret Lott

The lifeblood of fiction is in the details. No matter how grand our plots and themes, if the story itself doesn't bring us there, a story is only a pile of words. Through examples and on-the-spot writing exercises, we'll explore how to best render the physical world in ways that what will make the reader go beyond reading the story to being in the story.

Nonfiction

4. Travel Writing / Nick Barlay

The drama of real places: This workshop will focus on techniques of narrative, drama and description in travel writing. A mixture of discussion, examples and exercises will aim to answer the question: how can location and experience work together to bring a place to life?

5. From Private to Public: Finding Meaning in the Personal Essay / Dinty W. Moore

The best writing provokes an emotional reaction. Bringing the reader into the experience, through direct immersion rather than distant portrayal, is the key to success. This workshop will offer examples and exercises to reveal how readers and writers share "discovery" in nonfiction, and how the personal essay opens itself to a wide audience.

6. Memoir: Writing the Way Home / Susan Tiberghien

Writing memoir leads us to our deeper self. We will read excerpts from contemporary memoir writers to see how they explore images that lead them homeward. With writing exercises we will look for our own images and write about them, shaping the pieces together into mosaic-like memoirs.

Playwriting

7. The Beginnings of a Playful Approach / Rob Drummer

Is there an art to playwriting? How does a playwright begin? At what point do we begin to develop? Three questions form the foundation of this workshop, which is an active exploration of the beginnings of a play, and how these beginnings become a first draft, and how we then work with that draft.

Poetry

8. The Journey of a Life / Naomi Shihab Nye

The journey of a life through poems: Where did we begin? What have we seen through the windows of the trains and buses and cars that carried us? A poem is a small, rich suitcase—poems as a mapping of a life. We'll discuss and make notes for poems which travel lightly.

9. Movement and Image / Wallis Wilde-Menozzi

How to put beauty into modern poetry. Using examples from contemporary poets, we will focus on how inspired images, movement in time or place, can bring life, excitement and revelation to seemingly "unpoetic" subjects. Participants will start a poem in class, and then begin to reshape and polish.

Critiquing

10. Critiquing

This workshop will be devoted to critiquing unpublished work. The first writers to register will be given ten minutes each to read their own work, and ten minutes for critiques by panelists and other writers.

Panel Discussions

(parallel to workshop sessions)

11. Meet the Agents, Editors, Publishers / Miriam Goderich, Hannah Westland, David Applefield, Colin Harrison

What are their roles? What do they look for in a writer, in a manuscript? How does a manuscript finally get published? What happens then? How does the book get promoted? What is expected of the author? The panelists will address these questions and others.

12. Web and Self-Publishing / Dinah Lee Küng, Catherine Nelson Pollard, John Zimmer

This panel will address electronic publishing (Kindle and more), self publishing (including print-on-demand), and the social network tools to publicize your work and develop your on-line voice. There will be time to ask questions.

Q&A (question and answer periods)

These periods are open and it is not necessary to register. They will allow for contact with the instructors and panelists.

I N S T R U C T O R S & P A N E L I S T S

Fiction

Patricia Duncker is the prize-winning author of five novels. *Miss Webster and Chérif*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize, 2007, and *The Strange Case of the Composer and His Judge* 2010, for the CWA Gold Dagger Award. She is Professor of Contemporary Literature at the University of Manchester. www.patriciaduncker.com

Sheila Kohler, author of eight novels and three collections of short stories, won two O. Henry, an Open Voice, a Smart Family Foundation, the Willa Cather, and the Antioch Review Prize. She teaches at Bennington and Princeton University. Her novel *Cracks* is a feature film directed by Jordan and Ridley Scott. www.sheilakohler.com

Bret Lott is the best selling author of thirteen books (*Jewel* was an Oprah's Book Club selection), numerous essays and stories. He has been a Fulbright Senior American Scholar and writer-in-residence at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, and is a member of the National Council on the Arts. He teaches at the College of Charleston. www.cofc.edu

Nonfiction

Nick Barlay, author of four acclaimed novels, has also written short stories, award-winning radio plays and wide-ranging journalism, including a long-running series about London for *The Times*. He teaches journalism and creative writing, and is the recipient of an Arts Council award for a memoir of his Hungarian Jewish family. www.nickbarlay.com

Dinty W. Moore, is author of numerous essays, stories, and books, including *Crafting the Personal Essay: A Guide for Writing and Publishing Creative Nonfiction*, and the memoir *Between Panic & Desire*, winner of the Grub Street Nonfiction Book Prize in 2009. He is a professor of nonfiction writing at Ohio University. www.dintywmoore.com

Susan Tiberghien, American-born writer, has published three memoirs and the best selling *One Year to A Writing Life*. Her narrative essays have appeared in journals and anthologies. She teaches at C.G. Jung Institutes, writers' centers and conferences in the US and Europe, where she directs the GWG. www.susantiberghien.com

Playwriting

Rob Drummer is Literary Manager at HighTide Festival Theatre, a leading UK based theatre festival for new plays. Previously he has worked as dramaturge to Athol Fugard and as Assistant Director at The Hampstead Theatre. "The root of my practice is new writing, devising, improvisation and play." www.hightide.org.uk

Poetry

Naomi Shihab Nye—poet, writer, educator—has received a Lannan Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and four Pushcart Prizes. Her collection *Honeybee* won the Arab-American Book Award. On the Board of Chancellors for the Academy of American Poets, she travels the world to lead workshops. www.barclayagency.com

Wallis Wilde-Menzozi's poetry appears in *Kenyon Review*, *Agni*, *Notre Dame Review*, among others. *School for Pears* and *Heron Songs* are titles of two collections. Her most recent book, non-fiction, *The Other Side of the Tiber*, will be published, summer 2012 (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). She lives and teaches in Parma, Italy. www.walliswilde-menzozi.com

Meet the Agents, Editors, Publishers

Hannah Westland joined Rogers, Coleridge & White Ltd in 2002, working with Deborah Rogers and David Miller. In 2006 she was awarded the Unwin Fellowship for a three month publishing research trip to Australia. She is particularly interested in debut fiction and non-fiction. www.rcwlitagency.com

Miriam Goderich of Dystel and Goderich Literary Management has been partners with Jane Dystel since 1995. She has discovered and worked on a number of first novels. Areas of interest: literary and commercial fiction, narrative nonfiction, biography/memoir, pop culture, psychology, history. www.dystel.com

David Applefield, author of novels, guidebooks, and the *My Mercredi newsletter*, is a media specialist, guerrilla publisher, and Rep for the *Financial Times* in Africa. Based in Paris, he is committed to realizing unwritten books within emerging writers. Latest project is an online publishing house, Creating Bestsellers. www.paris-anglo.com

Colin Harrison is a vice-president and senior editor at Scribner, where he has published many fiction and non-fiction bestsellers. He was an editor at *Harper's Magazine* for twelve years. He is also the author of seven novels (four Notable Books, *NY Times* Book Review) and short nonfiction. www.imprints.simonandschuster.biz

Panel / Web and Self Publishing

Catherine Nelson-Pollard is a freelance writer and broadcaster. Since 2009 she has been writing an English column in a Swiss newspaper under her website title, www.livinginnyon.com. After checking out many self publishing options, in 2011 she published a book of columns and photos called *Living along Lac Léman*.

John Zimmer is a lawyer, writer and public speaker. In his blog, www.mannerofspeaking.org, he provides tips on improving presentation skills. He finds blogging as well as an online presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter a great way to stretch his writing, connect with others and promote his work.

Dinah Lee Küng reported for twenty years on China for the *Economist*, *Business Week*, IHT and NPR. Her fourth novel, *A Visit From Voltaire*, was nominated for the Orange Prize in 2004. She'll talk about publishing the electronic edition of the Voltaire book, and e-book conversions of three mystery novels. www.dinahleekung.com