

News Words

ALABAMA WRITERS CONCLAVE NEWSLETTER

2009 Alabama Writers Conclave Conference July 17-19, 2009

Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park, Birmingham, Alabama

Top 10 Reasons to Attend

10. Networking. What could be better than hanging out all weekend with a bunch of other writers? This is the place to make connections.
9. Contests. Win cash prizes by competing in our annual contests. (Deadline for entry April 30, 2009) Winners to be announced Sunday morning. See website for details.
8. Feedback. Faculty members will conduct individual critiques of your manuscript during the conference. Find out what you're doing right and what you can do to improve your writing.
7. The Dead Writers Club. Meet Faulkner, Welty and other famous Southern Writers (presented by Mississippi Writers Guild).
6. Sharing. There will be an open-mic reading Friday night so everyone will have an opportunity to share his/her work.
5. The Shadow Catcher. Learn from Thomas Lakeman, author of CHILLWATER COVE (2007) and THE SHADOW CATCHERS (2006), how to create heroes, villains and a strong set of secondary characters.
4. Not Your Ordinary Road Trip. Buckle up! Travel writer and journalist Gloria Ballard will give tips to help you rev up your travel writing as well as get more creative with other types of nonfiction.
3. The Poet. Peter Huggins, author of four volumes of poetry SOUTH (2009), NECESSARY ACTS (2004), BLUE ANGELS (2001) and HARD FACTS (1998), will help you find your voice and make your poems sing.
2. The Big Beautiful. Novelist Pamela Duncan, author of THE BIG BEAUTIFUL (2007), PLANT LIFE (2003) and MOON WOMEN will discuss how to raise the stakes and write books that editors and readers won't be able to put down!
1. Inspiration. Gin Phillips, author of critically acclaimed THE WELL AND THE MINE (Hawthorne Books, 2008) will share her story about the road to publication and tell us how to "Make History Come Alive."

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DEADLINES

- April 30, 2009 Postmark for writing contest to contest chair, Marian Lewis
- June 10, 2009 Postmark for manuscript for critiques to Francesca Gross
- June 19, 2009 Room reservations must be made by June 19th for AWC discount rate of \$109 plus tax per room night.
- July 1, 2009 Submit book selections for Book Store to Marie Peerson.

YOUR AWC BOARD

President's message:

After several consecutive years of highly successful AWC conferences, you'd think it's time we encountered problems. WRONG. It looks as if this next conference will be the best in years. Not only is our faculty superbly qualified, but the sessions are designed specifically according to *your* requests and

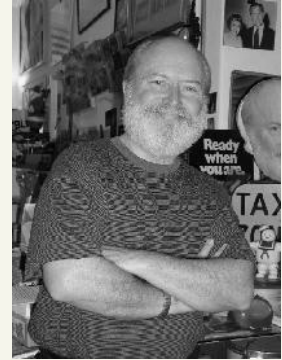
suggestions. Evaluations of the 2008 conclave were positive and helpful, and conference chair Irene Latham has lined up a program guaranteed to meet most of your writing needs.

Beach's Law states: "No two identical parts are alike." This is true of the annual AWC workshops. Identical weekends,

identical goals, but the differences will be startling and exciting.

Join me for the excitement. Birmingham, 2009, July 17-19. I look forward to seeing your eager face, pencil or computer in hand, attitude shining, and willingness to work outside the box.

Jim Reed, AWC president



**Jim Reed at Reed Books
The Museum of Fond Memories**

DEAD WRITERS CLUB

"It was a great conference. Learned, made good connections and was inspired. Thank you for all the effort that went into it!"

As per your request, 2009 AWC will present *even more* hands-on workshops for fiction writers! Also, this year, please look for email confirmation of your registration. See you at the *newly renovated* Birmingham Hilton. We've already alerted hotel staff that our attendees would rather be warm than cold. But

bring a sweater, just in case.

Please join us Friday night for an evening honoring historic writers as Mississippi Writers Guild presents their original one-act play STEPS with Richelle Putnam as Eudora Welty, Barry McMullan as William Faulkner, Regina Richardson as Lady Mary Sinclair, Daniel C. Lee as

Tennessee Williams and Anne McKee as the unforgettable Sarah Belle Wilkerson. Prepare to be amazed and inspired as these performers bring some of our favorite literary heroes to life! For more information about Mississippi Writers Guild visit them on the web www.mississippiwritersguild.com.

2008 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT:
JIMMY CARL HARRIS ON WRITING.

Empowerment of Risk

It happens whenever I teach a class. I say "teach" but "encourage" is a better descriptor. In the fiction class of the 2008 conference last summer, I spoke to a roomful of writers, all able, all seeking to become better. With discussion and exercises, we considered the necessity of risk in their

writing—risks of form, of language, of content. I challenged them to overcome their reluctance to tell the better story, the one beneath the surface, the one that requires risk.

And they did. One student in particular took a good story and turned it into a great story, the kind of story that demands attention, engenders disquiet, is remembered. When she

read her story, everyone in the room understood the necessity and the beauty of risk.

The power to write a great story lies within you. It may lie deep within you, it may be stifled by layers of doubt and fear. But, it is there, it only you will take the risk of exposing it.





Sue Walker

STATE POETS LAUREATE

AWC has the privilege of sponsoring the Alabama State Poet Laureate. Sue Brannan Walker has been re-elected as poet laureate for 2008-2012 by the AWC membership. Here is a partial list of her activities this year

Publications:

Book published: Faulkner Suite by Oeoco Press

Poem published in the Alaska Quarterly Review: "Freida Lawrence: Blood, Lust, Desperation." Vol 25.3&4, Fall-Winter, 2008, 199-200.

Poem Published in Alhambra Poetry Calendar 2009. "Ancestral Voices: A Litany of Ghosts", 41-42.

Articled published, "Celebrate the Delta," Mobile Bay Monthly, August 2008, p 37

Accepted for publication:

"The Box Under The Bed" Thema

"Binary Measure" for anthology MOTIF: Writing By Ear, Mote Books Publishers, Louisville, Ky

"Menieres" JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)

Play: "Cognac in Coffee, Oysters in Champagne" Accepted for publication by Midway.

Activities

Regional coordinator of the State of Alabama's participation in the National Poetry Out Loud recitation / award program. Conducted workshops at Daphne High School, Theodore High School, and Southern 2008.

A W C B O A R D C O N T A C T

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Women, then, do
not have a dogs
chance of writing
poetry. That is why
I have laid so much
stress on money and
a room of one's
own."

Virginia Woolf

M E M B E R S H I P U P D A T E

The Alabama Writers Conclave has bargain dues of \$25 per year gives the AWC the support to respond to members needs. Last year we began the policy of sending a post card to members to remind them to renew their membership dues and gained 12 new members. We also sent a "official membership"

postcard when we receive their dues. We hope this extra effort helps retain members and attract new ones. The best part of AWC is the networking with working writers from all over the south. We have a strong group coming from Mississippi each year as well as Tennessee. Once the word gets out about our

fabulous "roll up your sleeves and learn" conference, more active writers will join us. Please spread the word. We would love to recruit more members.



2009 Alabama Writers Conclave
Conference scheduled for
Birmingham

AWC FOUNDED 1923

**A L A B A M A W R I T E R S
C O N C L A V E
N E W L E T T E R**

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Membership and conference payments should be sent to Francesca Gross. Contact AWC through email at awcmember@gmail.com
MORE INFO:
www.alabamawritersconclave.com

The oldest writers' organization in continuous existence in the United States. Founded 1923.

**A T A S T E O F T H E 2 0 0 9 C O N F E R E N C E :
F I C T I O N W R I T I N G W I T H P A M D U N C A N**

*Writing advice from
Pam Duncan*

E.L. Doctorow said, "[Writing is] like driving a car at night. You never see further than your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way." Life is like that too. As a child dreaming of becoming a writer, I couldn't imagine being where I am today, just

as I can't imagine where I'll be tomorrow. I try not to dwell on the destination because I don't want to miss what's right in front of me. Being a writer is a dream come true, being a published author is gravy, and I'm happy to report that I didn't have to die or move to New York City to do either one.

Pamela Duncan (fiction) was born in Asheville and raised in Black Mountain, Swannanoa and Shelby, NC, and currently lives in Cullowhee, NC, where she teaches creative writing at Western Carolina University

