

Virginia Highland Festival: Creative Writing Day 2010

Pre-Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone (or Secondary #): _____

E-mail Address (optional): _____

Are you a returning participant? _____ Yes _____ No

Pre-Payment Options: Workshop Fee is \$25 (which includes a Morning and Afternoon session)

_____ I am paying by **check** (mail payment with registration form).

_____ I would like to pay by **credit card** (Call 276-623-5266 for phone or online payment instructions).

Writing Workshops: Please select ONE Morning and ONE Afternoon session (see detailed workshop descriptions on next page).

Morning Session:

_____ Robert Olen Butler

_____ Ron Smith

_____ Susan Williams Beckhorn

_____ Richard Leigh

Afternoon Session:

_____ Robert Olen Butler

_____ Ron Smith

_____ Susan Williams Beckhorn

_____ Gill Braswell

Mail your completed Registration Form and Payment (if paying by check) to the following:
VHF Creative Writing Day, 20256 Avondale Road, Abingdon, VA 24211

Writing Workshops:

“Creating Fictional Art” by Robert Olen Butler (Morning and Afternoon)

This workshop by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Robert Olen Butler, will focus on the fundamentals of the creative process for any fiction writers, beginning or advanced, who aspire to create enduring literature. It will address such issues as what is art; what is distinctive about the way the artist addresses the world, the inner self, and the objects to be created; and what are the essential characteristics of fiction as an art form.

“Three-Minute Miracles: The Craft of Songwriting” by Richard Leigh (Morning)

Three-time Grammy nominee, Richard Leigh, will explore the easy techniques and tricks anyone can learn for improving his or her odds of writing commercially-successful songs, as well as offer hints on co-writing, finding inspiration, improving productivity, and even conquering writers-block. But best of all, attendees will begin to look at the process of producing these musical short stories in a new light, see what little miracles they actually are, and why some of them are able to surmount the industry’s seemingly impossible odds to make their way from the songwriter’s pen, on to the radio, and finally into the public’s life. This workshop is not just for the lyricist and composer; it’s for anyone who ever loved a song.

“Songwriting: Telling Our Stories with Music” by Gill Braswell (Afternoon)

Actor/Singer/Songwriter, Gill Braswell, will lead participants through an exploration of songs. Gill will look at songwriting as a method of storytelling, how we convey a moment, an event or our feelings through lyrics and music. Participants will look at a variety of songs from different genres to identify the stories within and what draws us to great songwriting. Participants will be introduced to morning pages as a means of developing songwriting ideas and will be given the opportunity to write by themselves and with others during the workshop. This workshop is not just for the experienced songwriter but for anyone who has the desire to tell their story through music.

“Traveling with the Muse” by Ron Smith (Morning)

Poet, Ron Smith will explore the difficulty of writing about one’s travels. Workshop members will consider the problems of idealizing (at one extreme) and grouching about (at the other) either vicissitudes of travel or specific locales. How does a poet perceive, capture, and present the textured reality of travel and discovery? The workshop will include presentation, Q & A, and a writing assignment.

“You Can Make It Up: Leaping from Depiction to Invention” by Ron Smith (Afternoon)

Ron Smith argues that a nearly journalistic attention to fact and physical detail is the springboard of most poetry—but that the leap into imagination is often the most exciting artistic moment. How can your poems both live in the world and somehow go beyond it? How can you both “write about what you know” and take your reader to enchanting places? Presentation, Q & A, and a writing assignment will be included.

“The Other Side of the Looking Glass: An Introduction to Writing Literature for Children” by Susan Williams Beckhorn (Morning and Afternoon)

“Writing for kids is just about as easy as raising them,” says the iconic Jane Yolen, and after over thirty years in the business, Susan Williams Beckhorn couldn’t agree more. There are many would-bees and the competition is tough, but there is no better feeling than hearing from a child who loved your story. In the age of television and computers, children need, more than ever, good literature which will engage them with reading and lead them into the world of imagination. Susan has written all over the board from picture books to middle grade and young adult, and done some illustrations as well. This workshop will cover topics such as character, point of view, plot, detail and also discuss the illustration process. It will also touch on the nuts and bolts of the submission process and the writer’s life. Susan adds, “I’ll be sure to share my little red *Writer’s Toolbox* and my brand-new (and much needed) *Writer’s Medicine Bag*.” Exercises will include the author’s favorite activity, inspired by Cynthia Rylant’s *When I Was Young in the Mountains*, with time to share the results and answer questions.