

Bennington Writing Workshops

Alan Cheuse, Acting Director
Post Office Box 100
Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont 05201
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full-time faculty

Blanche Boyd
Alan Cheuse
Stephen Dunn
Richard Elman
George Garrett
James Robison
Mary Robison
Grace Schulman
Susan Shreve
Dave Smith
Jon Manchip White
Allen Wier
Al Young

visitors

Philip Appleman
Madison Smartt Bell
Amy Clampitt
Robb Forman Dew
Richard Ford
Margaret Gibson
Herbert Gold
Amy Hempel
Edward Hirsch
Josephine Humphreys
Jamaica Kincaid
Nancy Lemann
Barry Lopez
Bernard Malamud
Alicia Ostriker
Grace Paley
Reynolds Price
Natalie Robins
Stephen Sandy
Scott Simon
Thomas Winship
Tobias Wolff
Charles Wright
Richard Yates

"What keeps the young writer with the potential for success from turning aside to some more generally approved, perhaps easier path is the writing community."

John Gardner,
On Becoming a Novelist

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

**Bennington
WRITING WORKSHOPS
1986**

Bennington Writing Workshops

FICTION
JOURNALISM
POETRY

June 29 — July 26, 1986

Now in its tenth year, the Bennington Writing Workshops have become one of the most respected summer writing programs in the country. The reason is simple: with its emphasis on frequent one-to-one meetings with the distinguished faculty, regular class seminars, and an outstanding series of nightly readings by prominent authors, the Workshops have always attracted talented writers and writing students.

Every member of the resident teaching faculty brings not only a rich background as a professional writer, but a commitment to comment individually, and in detail, on each student's work. Instructors read and evaluate workshop manuscripts with an eye toward helping the writer develop his or her own voice and approach. A student/faculty ratio of approximately 12 to 1 assures each participant special attention.

The Workshop's philosophy centers on creating the stimulating atmosphere of a community of writers. Participants have ample time, solitude, and quiet to write and revise manuscripts which will receive attention from faculty and fellow students. Participants may bring completed manuscripts for critique, but the faculty emphasizes the importance of mastering the craft of writing by producing new work and focusing on revision.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The carefully balanced program consists of regular workshop sessions three days a week, readings from visiting guest writers every evening, and the opportunity for frequent formal and informal meetings with resident writers and guests. Participants may enroll for a session on prose fiction, journalism, or poetry. Panels and readings in all areas will be open to all participants.

The Workshops foster contact with publishing professionals and established writers. Every other weekend, a panel of editors, agents, publishers, and foundation representatives will speak to participants on each stage of the publication process.

The setting for the Workshops is the 550 acre Bennington College campus in southwestern Vermont. Located in the Green Mountains, Bennington is within easy driving distance of summer festivals at Tanglewood, Saratoga, Jacob's Pillow, and Marlboro. The campus has facilities for tennis and soccer, and those for swimming, hiking, and horseback riding are near by. Workshop students will have accommodations in college housing and meet in classes and tutorials on campus. Meals will be served in the dining hall.

A blend of solitude and community offers the writing student exposure to other writers, as well as the time to concentrate on individual writing projects. Participants share in an experience of the enterprise of writing itself in an atmosphere which supports creative work, critical reading, discussion, and informal socializing.

Both two-week and four-week workshops are offered. Participants may enroll for a two-week period beginning either June 29 or July 13 or attend for the full four weeks.

Enrollment is limited, and applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Selective admissions standards are maintained, and applicants must submit a brief writing sample and a resume of related experiences.

To apply to the Workshops, complete the application form enclosed, submit a brief writing sample, and include an application fee of \$20.

Deadline for applications is May 30, 1986.

The aspiring writer needs nothing so much as the inspiration of a community of distinguished writers and committed writing students. The Bennington Workshops were established nearly a decade ago by Nicholas Delbanco and John Gardner to provide the atmosphere in which developing writers could perfect their skills. Join the eminent faculty this summer for a stimulating session in Vermont.

To apply or obtain further information, contact:

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Bennington Writing Workshops Faculty 1986

Full-Time Teaching Faculty (those who will be in residence two weeks or longer) have the fuller biographies here below. **Visitors to the Workshops** have their publications summarized.

Philip Appleman, author, *Darwin's Ark*, *Kites On A Windy Day*, *Open Doorways*, etc.

Madison Smartt Bell, author, *The Washington Square Ensemble*, *Waiting for the End of the World*.

Blanche Boyd is the author of two novels, *Nerves* and *Mourning the Death of Magic*. Her articles have appeared in such publications as *Esquire*, *New Times*, *Playboy*, *Vanity Fair* and *Viva*; she is a contributing editor of *The Village Voice*. Her recent collection of reportage is called *The Red-Neck Way of Knowledge*. She has taught at Goddard College and The George Washington University; she teaches at Connecticut College. (June 29-July 12)

Alan Cheuse is the author of *Candace & Other Stories*, *The Bohemians*. His short fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *The Black Warrior Review*, *The Boston Globe*, and elsewhere, his articles and reviews in, among other places, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, *USA-Today*, *Ms.*, *TV Guide*, and *In These Times*. He is a regular contributor to NPR's evening news-magazine "All Things Considered." He has taught recently at The University of the South and The University of Michigan. (June 29-July 26)

Margaret Gibson, author, *Long Walks in the Afternoon*, *Signs*, etc.

Herbert Gold, author, *The Man Who Was Not With It*, *Therefore Be Bold*, *Salt*, *Fathers*, *Family*, *Twenty Seven Stories*, *A Girl of Forty*, etc.

Amy Hempel, author, *Reasons to Live*.

Edward Hirsch, author, *For the Sleepwalkers*, *Wild Gratitude*.

Josephine Humphreys, author, *Dreams of Sleep*.

Jamaica Kincaid, author, *At the Bottom of the River*, *Annie John*.

Nancy Lemann, author, *Lives of the Saints*.

Barry Lopez, author, *Desert Notes*, *River Notes*, *Winter Count*, *Of Wolves and Men*, *Arctic Dreams*, etc.

Bernard Malamud, author, *The Stories of Bernard Malamud*, *God's Grace*, *Dubin's Lives*, *The Fixer*, *The Assistant*, *The Natural*, *The Magic Barrel*, *Pictures of Fidelman*, *A New Life*, etc.

Alicia Ostriker, author, *A Woman Under the Surface*, *Writing Like a Woman*, etc.

Grace Paley, author, *The Little Disturbances of Man*, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*, *Later the Same Day*.

Reynolds Price, author, *A Long and Happy Life*, *Love and Work*, *Mustian*, *The Surface of Earth*, etc.

Natalie Robins, author, *Savage Grace*, etc.

Dave Smith's books include *Cumberland Station*, *Goshawk*, *Antelope*, *Dream Flights*, *Gray Soldiers*, *Homage to Edgar Allen Poe*, *In the House of the Judge*, and *The Round-House Voices: Poems New and Selected*. He has published a volume of essays, *Local Assays*, a novel, *Onliness*, and is co-editor of *The Morrow Anthology of Younger American Poets*. He has been the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, a Guggenheim Fellowship and an award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. (June 29-July 26)

Jon Manchip White is the author of over two dozen books, half of them novels, half of them biography, history, and travel. Some of his titles include: *Fevers and Chills*, *The Land God Made in Anger*, *Diego Velazquez*, and *Everyday Life in Ancient Egypt*. His new novel is *The Last Grand Master*, and he is engaged on a third travel book, about the American South, entitled *A Long Road South*. British, he spent ten years at the University of Texas, and is now Lindsay Young Professor at the University of Tennessee. (June 29-July 12).

Allen Wier is the author of the novels *Blanco* and *Departing as Air* and the story collection *Things About to Disappear*. He has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, and teaches currently at the University of Alabama. (July 13-July 26).

Thomas Winship, former editor of *The Boston Globe*, directs the Center for Foreign Journalists.

Tobias Wolff, author, *In the Garden of the North American Martyrs*, *The Barracks Thief*, *Back in the World*.

Amy Clampitt, author, *The Kingfisher, What the Light Was Like*.

Robb Forman Dew author, *Dale Loves Sophie to Death, The Time of Her Life*.

Stephen Dunn is the author of five collections of poetry, the most recent of which is *Not Dancing*. His previous volumes are *A Circus of Needs, Full of Lust & Good Usage, Looking for Holes in the Ceiling*, and *Work and Love*. Among his awards are two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Theodore Roethke Prize. He is professor of creative writing at Stockton State College, and has taught at Columbia and Syracuse Universities, as well as The University of Washington. (June 29-July 12)

James Robison is the author of *Rumor and Other Stories*. He has won the Whiting Foundation Award for fiction writing. His novel, *The Illustrator*, will be published this year. He is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*. (July 13-July 26)

Mary Robison teaches fiction workshops at Harvard. Her three books are *Days* and *An Amateur's Guide To The Night* (collections of short stories) and *OH!* (a novel). She is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*. (June 29-July 26)

Stephen Sandy, author, *Stresses in the Peaceable Kingdom, Roofs, Riding to Greylock*, etc.

Graec Schulman is poetry editor of *The*

Charles Wright, author, *Country Music, The Southern Cross, The Other Side of the River*, etc.

Richard Yates, author, *Revolutionary Road, Eleven Kinds of Loneliness, The Easter Parade, Young Hearts Crying*, etc.

Al Young has published four novels, *Snakes, Who is Angelina?, Sitting Pretty*, and *Ask Me Now*. His poetry include *Dancing, The Blues Don't Change: Poems New and Selected*; his screenplays include "Bustin Loose;" and his autobiographical collections are titled *Bodies & Soul* and *Kinds of Blue*. He has been the recipient, among other awards, of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. (June 29-July 12).

(June 29-July 12)

Richard Elman is the author of such novels as *An Education in Blood*, *The Breadfruit Lotteries* and *The Menu Cypher*; his non-fiction includes *The Poorhouse State*, *Ill at Ease in Compton*, and *Cocktails at Somoza's*. He has published several volumes of poetry; his essays and reviews have appeared in such publications as *The Atlantic*, *Geo*, *The New Statesman*, *New York Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. His pseudonymous fiction includes *The Gangster Chronicles*, *Smokey and the Bandit*, and *Little Lives*. (July 13-July 26)

Richard Ford, author, *A Piece of My Heart*, *The Ultimate Good Luck*, *The Sportswriter*.

George Garrett is the author of such works as *Death of the Fox*, *The Succession*, *A Wreath for Garibaldi*, *The Finished Man*, *Do Lord*, *Remember Me*, *The Magic Striptease*, and, recently, *An Evening Performance: New and Selected Stories*. He has edited such collections as *Intro* and *The Writer's Voice* and has served as President of Associated Writing Programs. He has taught at The University of South Carolina, Princeton University, Hollins College and The University of Michigan. He currently heads the writing program at The University of Virginia. (July 13-July 26)

Grace Schulman is poetry editor of *The Nation* and a professor at Baruch College. She has been Director of the Poetry Center, 92nd St. YM-YMHA, and has taught at Columbia, Princeton, and Wesleyan Universities. She is editor of *Ezra Pound: A Collection of Criticism*, and co-translator of *Songs of Cifar and the Sweet Sea*; her forthcoming critical study is entitled *Marianne Moore: The Poetry of Engagement*. Her books and poems include *Burn Down the Icons* and *Hemispheres*. (July 13-July 26)

Susan Shreve teaches writing at George Mason University and at Columbia University. She has been a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. Her most recent novel is titled *Scouts of the Heart*; her previous novels are *A Fortunate Madness*, *A Woman Like That*, *Children of Power*, *Miracle Play*, *Dreaming of Heroes*. Her books for young adults include *The Nightmares of Geranium Street*, *Love Letters*, *The Revolution of Mary Leary*, and *The Bad Dreams of a Good Girl*. (June 29-July 12)

Scott Simon, Host/Chief Correspondent, "Weekend Edition," National Public Radio.

(June 29-July 12).

Additional Visitors include members of the publishing community. In past years we have had editors from such magazines as *Antaeus*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, *The Ladies Home Journal*, *Ms.*, *New England Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Redbook*, and *Salmagundi*; from such literary agencies as *Brandt & Brandt*, *Sanford J. Greenburger Associates*, *I.C.M.*, *Paul R. Reynolds*, *Russell and Volkening*, *Gloria Stern*, and *Wallace & Sheil*; from such organizations as the *Los Angeles Times*, the *National Endowment for the Arts*, *National Public Radio*, *Newsday*, *The New York Times*, *USA-Today*, and the *Vermont Council on the Arts*. Publishers and editors have joined us from among others, *Arbor House*, *Applewood Books*, *The Dial Press*, *Doubleday & Co.*, *Farrar, Straus & Giroux*, *Harper & Row*, *Houghton-Mifflin*, *Alfred A. Knopf*, *The Macmillan Co.*, *William Morrow & Co.*, *Simon & Schuster*, and *Time-Life Books*. We will offer panels and seminar discussions (in two "professional weekends") with a representative constituency of these organizations again.