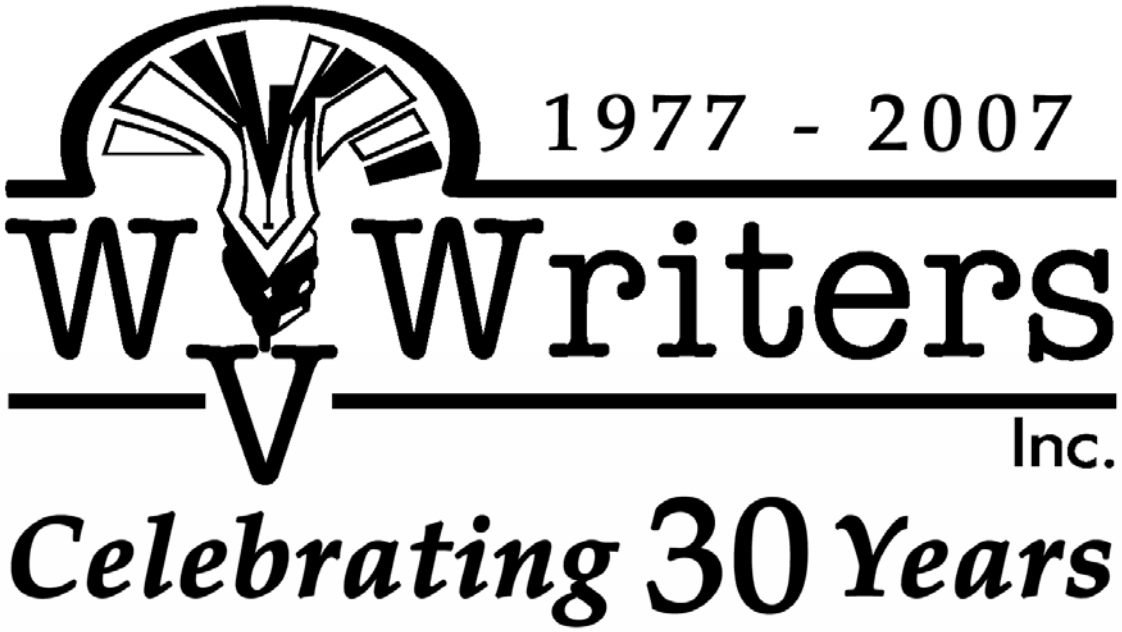

The 2007 Summer Conference

In February of 2007, WV Writers officially turned 30 years old. This means the organization has gone through infancy, the terrible twos, elementary school, puberty followed by the awkward teenage years (junior high was just a nightmare), high school, two years of college, taking a year of to bum around Europe and "experience life," back to college to finish up (encouraged by parental threats), a brief flirtation with graduate school, moving to the big city, a series of entry level positions that just didn't quite take, plenty of dream-chasing during off hours, heartbreak, triumph, the gaining of maturity (though not too much), settling down with marriage and family, making strides toward life-long goals, collecting a wide range of good friends (over 300 at last count), moving back to the small home town, where life really is better, and now, at age 30, finally starting to feel like it has gotten a bit of a handle on how life works, though still regretting that its butt doesn't look as good in jeans as some of those younger writing organizations. All the while, though, this organization has had the guidance of its parents—the original founding members. Some have moved away, others have stayed on, but they all have been instrumental in making WV Writers what it is today.

As a 30 year old organization, it seemed only natural to make this year's Summer Conference (our 29th such conference) into a celebration of the history of WV Writers. We hope to have as many of the remaining charter members of the organization as our guests of honor for this special year.

Our workshops committee (including Chris Freeburn, Karin and Geoff Fuller, Pam Hanson, Terry McNemar and Sherrell Wigal), has worked hard this year to provide an eclectic mix of workshops covering many genres. Some of the more popular workshops will be repeated, so if you want to attend two workshops that run at the same time, check to see if one is repeated at a later time. Also challenge yourself to attend workshops outside your normal range of interest. You'll be surprised at what you can learn—and how your writing skills can grow—by learning about other genres.

We also have great entertainment lined up for you, including charter member Kirk Judd, along with musician Danny Arthur and Tim Bing, presenting a mixture of Appalachian folk music and poetry, on Friday night. For Saturday, we have musician Pops Walker, who recently scored the Mountain Whispers audio adaptation of Lee Maynard's *Crum*. Speaking of, Mr. Maynard himself will be on hand during the conference, leading workshops and participating in a panel about his novel's adaptation.

We will also have a special treat for members of WV Writers, Inc. Scott Hoffman, co-founder of Folio Literary Management, will be another guest of honor. In addition to two q&a sessions on the ins and outs of how writers can best gain literary representation, Scott will also be conducting 25 one on one sessions with our membership. The full details of the Scott Hoffman sessions will be revealed in our Spring newsletter and simultaneously online in mid-April. However, if you're a member of WV Writers and you're interested in securing one of these sessions, you can begin getting your synopses and sample pages in order (or a full proposal for nonfiction) now to have them ready to mail to us come April. We will soon be posting formatting details to help you out, so keep an eye out at our conference page (listed below) and our blog.

Take a gander at what else is currently on tap in our workshop descriptions that follow and be sure to come back to check in on the workshops we are still in the process of adding and describing.

You'll find registration forms either attached to the email this came from or on our website, at http://www.wvwriters.org/conference.html.

--eric fritzius
President of WV Writers, Inc.
3/24/07

GENERAL INFORMATION

West Virginia Writers, Inc. announces its 29th Annual State Writers Conference. The Conference will be held June 8 – 10, 2007 at Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, WV.

COSTS

All three days: $100 ($85 members)
Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun only: $85 ($70 members)
Friday only: $45
Saturday only: $55
Sunday only $40
Students: 50% off adult prices
WV Writers Membership: $20

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. To pre-register, complete the registration form in full and send to WVW, Inc. with an advance deposit of $25 (plus $20, if you've requested a Scott Hoffman conference). If your registration form is postmarked before May 10, you may deduct $5 from your total due.

LODGING

EACH ATTENDEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING HIS OR HER OWN LODGING. EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
Cedar Lakes Conference Center has reserved a limited number of rooms for WVW, Inc. Rooms available:
Holt Lodge: This is a hotel-like lodge with daily maid service. Rooms are $65 per night for one or two guests (if two, Cedar Lakes will split the cost between the two upon request). If more than two guests are in the room, an additional $5.00 per person fee will be assessed. Rooms will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Handicapped rooms are available upon request.
Motel Lodges: These are cabin-like rooms that include linen service. Rooms are $44 per night for one or two guests. (If two, Cedar Lakes will split the cost between the two upon request). Lodges available to WVW include Mountaineer Lodge, Cedars Lodge and Lake Lodge.
Dorm Rooms: Dorm rooms include ten beds to a room. The guest needs to bring towels, washcloths, sheets and pillowcase. Cedar Lakes provides a pillow and a blanket. Linens are available for an additional $5 fee per night. Adult rate per dorm room per night is $13.20 and Youth is $11.

Additionally, nearby Ripley has a Super 8 Motel, a Holiday Inn Express, a 77 Motor Inn and a Best Western.

FOOD

All meals are available on-site and are served cafeteria-style. Breakfast is served from 7:30 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. and costs $5.75. Lunch is served from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. and costs $6.75. Dinner is served from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. and costs $7.75. The Saturday night Awards Banquet will be a sit-down meal and will begin at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the banquet is $15.50. All meals must be paid for in advance. You will be given a meal ticket when you register with Cedar Lakes. DO NOT LOSE THIS TICKET. If you prefer to eat off-site, a number of restaurants are available in nearby Ripley, WV.

AWARDS BANQUET

(Updated 5/4/07)

The Awards Banquet will be Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. Our keynote speaker will by Dolly Withrow. Over $6000.00 in cash awards will be presented to the winners of the 2007 WVW Spring Competition. The menu for the Saturday night Awards Banquet is a choice of baked steak or stuffed boneless breast of chicken, mini-cheeseball with fruit (appetizer), tossed salad, baked potato, French-style green beans with almonds, rolls, coffee and iced tea and a choice of carrot cake or cheesecake for dessert.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

(Updated 5/14/07 with additions highlighted in YELLOW)

The following workshops descriptions are numbered to correspond with the numbers on the schedule that will follow. Workshop Leader Bios will be presented after the schedule. Some of the workshops have been graded as being appropriate for beginner, intermediate or advanced level writers. This is simply a guide, and writers of all levels are welcome to participate. Those workshops not graded should apply to a wide range of experience levels.

1. A Poetic Harvest. Mary Lucille DeBerry — An adventure into various approaches to writing, rewriting and polishing garden-related poetry along with exploring similarities between the arts of poetry writing and gardening as exemplified by the late U.S. Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz in *The Wild Braid.* Participants should walk away with at least the beginning of a poem to nurture and cultivate into a finished work. This workshop is paired with but independent of *Growing a Garden Poem*.

2. Appalachian Literature: Its Evolution and Present Challenges. George Brosi — This workshop is designed for readers, bearing in mind, of course, that ordinarily the best writers are the most voracious readers. We'll start with a short summary of regional writing/writers, with an emphasis on West Virginia, hopefully this will be a somewhat analytical overview which attempts to detect salient trends. Then we'll evolve into a free-ranging discussion of the challenges which face this tradition in the twenty-first Century. Beginner to intermediate.

3. Appalachian Story Traditions. Susanna "Granny Sue" Holstein — Noted storyteller Granny Sue Holstein leads you through a workshop exploring the finer points of Appalachian stories. Beginner to intermediate.

4. A Writer's Journey — From Inspiration to Publication (Slide show in Holt). Anna Egan Smucker — A slide presentation showing the process this author goes through from her first ideas, through rough drafts, the illustrator's pencil sketches and on to the published book. This presentation will emphasize that writing is revising and publishing entails numerous rejections. All Levels.

5. The Beginning, the End, and Conciseness Throughout. Jim Minick — A non-fiction workshop on leads, conclusions, and conciseness. How do you write a "hooker" that won't let the reader go? How do you end an essay so that the reader says, "Yes." And how do you cut the clutter so that each word carries the piece forward? We'll explore these and other questions, so please bring short essays (1-3 pages) for in-class workshopping. **(This session will repeat)**

6. Brad Barkley — Q&A with Brad Barkley, author of the novels *Money, Love* and *Alison's Automotive Repair Manual.*

7. Charter Members Panel Discussion— A Q&A session featuring the attending charter members of West Virginia Writers. Learn the history of our organization straight from the mouths of the people who formed it. Hear anecdotes and tales of where the bodies are buried.

8. Collage Your Poem. Rob Merritt – The best poems are loaded with precise images from haiku to Ezra Pound's *Cantos.* In your poetry, try the collage method, a technique adapted from the visual arts or arranging various existing images so that they overlap or blend to create a whole. We shall look at visual and poetic examples and write. Bring a poem you have written if you wish. Intermediate.

9. Conventional and Non-Conventional Publishing. This panel will feature our publishing staff Michael Wayne (Spotlight Publishing), Cathy Teets (Headline Books), Chris Kuell (*Mountain Voices*) and Geoff Fuller. They will speak on the area of both traditional and non-traditional publishing, which includes self-publishing, print on demand, vanity, and small press.

10. Crum audio adaptation panel discussion. Lee Maynard / Ross Ballard / Pops Walker / Rhonda White – We have a unique opportunity, this year, to explore how an audio adaptation is created from the very people who compiled the recent adaptation of Crum. Original author Lee Maynard, Mountain Whispers' own Ross Ballard and musician Pops Walker will be on hand to explain it all. All levels.

11. Dressing Your Manuscript for Success. Patsy Pittman — Will discuss and provide copies for proper manuscript format, both for publication and for the future WV Writers contest submissions. **(This session will repeat)**

12. Act One: The Playwright in Search of a Plot. Jean Battlo — In this part lecture/part discussion scripting workshop session, playwright Jean Battlo will explore plotting and characterization to show participants what sort of elements should be in a given play to attract interest from potential director and an overall audience. If you want "your play" to be "their thing" this is a workshop for you. Intermediate.

13. Faith Love & Murder. Chris Freeburn / Pam Hanson — Genre trends in the inspirational, romance and mystery markets. How to write to a niche and stand out in the current market. Beginner to Intermediate.

14. Final drafts and other editing woes. Sandy Tritt — This discusses what to do before sending that manuscript out the door. This workshop presents the editor's perspective—what an editor will look for, how to ensure your manuscript is as good as it can be, and a few hints that could mean the difference between having your masterpiece accepted or tossed away forever.

15. From Written Words to Spoken Words. Ross Ballard II — MountainWhispers.com Audiobooks presents Ross Ballard II, a national award winning actor/producer discussing the advantages of having your work produced on CD for the growing crowd of audiobook listeners. As a long standing member of the Audio Publishers Association, and he will discuss brief look at the industry before moving on to distribution channels and the growing number of independent author based websites used for e-commerce. Everyone is getting on board with this exciting new media. Bring your questions. Free audiobooks will be given to the first 30 attendees.

16. Getting Ideas and Staying on Track with Them. Pam Hanson / Karin Fuller – This workshop will show you how to get ideas for all kinds of writing, from columns to novels and how to stay on track once you get them. Beginner to Intermediate.

17. Growing a Garden Poem. Mary Lucille DeBerry — A hands-on writing session addressing such elements as description, imagery, comparison, contrast, rhythm and form with attention to what poetry writing has in common with gardening and how the two art forms can be intertwined. Writers with other key interests will be inspired to adapt these ideas and techniques to their particular subject matter.

18. Humor workshop. Karin Fuller / Terry McNemar — Beginner to Intermediate.

19. How One Editor Evaluates Writing about Appalachia. George Brosi — This will be a very informal workshop with plenty of chances to interrupt and ask questions. The emphasis will be on how one particular editor evaluates manuscripts. Participants should come away with some real concrete points to keep in mind before starting and after the first draft and before sending a piece to an editor. (Saturday Afternoon)

20. Act Two: Plotting and Characterization. Jean Battlo — Say you have an overwhelming story and fantastic characters to inhabit it; what are they going to do and say? This part lecture/part discussion will bring to the table what works and what doesn't when it comes to dramatic plotting and characterization. It will also consider the changes in arts and culture in 21st Century as they impact comedy and drama. Intermediate.

21. Just For The Sound Of It. Kirk Judd — An approach to creating poetry for the sound of it, understanding the premise that poetry is a spoken word art. Interactive tips and techniques for writing poetry from an acoustic perspective. All Levels.

22. Lee Maynard Presents, W. Somerset Maugham's Rules for Writing a Novel. Lee Maynard— An expansion of Maynard's workshop "Writing from Your Gut," this workshop brings into play the basic rules of writing a novel, according to Maugham, Frey, Maynard and workshop participants. **(This session will repeat)**

23. Lee Maynard Presents, Write a Novel in an Hour (Well, maybe a thousand hours . . .) Lee Maynard— Workshop participants write the first sentence of their next novel, and then piece together the basics of a novel in a single hour.

24. Creating Lightning -- Poetry Session. Barbara Smith – Someone has said that poetry is lightning striking the heart. In this workshop we'll explore the meaning of that metaphor. We'll talk about what makes poetry *poetry* and how to create lightning. We'll examine a few examples thereof, and we'll develop a few of our own.

25. Magic Realism in Fiction. Belinda Anderson – Consider the enduring classics of literature, and you'll find many of them containing magic realism, from D.H. Lawrence's "The Rocking Horse Winner" to One Hundred Years of Solitude, by Gabriel García Márquez. It's a technique that treats an utterly impossibility as part of the normal world – it's fun for the writer and a pleasure for the reader. Join author Belinda Anderson, who uses magic realism in her own books, as she discusses how writers sprinkle magical elements into realistic settings. Learn how to make magic realism seem a natural extension of your narrative.

26. Magic Realism 2: The Magic Continues. Belinda Anderson – Consider "Horses drowned." So far, a typical description of a flood. Then Alice Hoffman begins spinning the web of magic realism in her novel The River King: " Bobcats showed up on back porches, mewing and desperate for milk; several were found beside babies in their cradles, sucking from bottles and purring as though they were house cats let in through front doors." We'll review the principles of magic realism from the previous session and further explore this tool for intensifying fiction. All skill levels

27. Marketing Your Book, Before and After It's Written. Michael Wayne — The hardest part of writing a book comes after it's written. Marketing your book, however, starts before you type *The End*. This workshop will show participants when exactly to begin the process, when and how to "kick it up a notch," and why you need to take control of your own publicity no matter who your publisher may be. This workshop leans heavily on the question all writers eventually ask. "Should I hire a publicist?" Exercises and numerous opportunities for audience feedback and participation are included in the workshop.

28. People's Choice Poetry—We'll have two sessions of People's Choice Poetry, wherein participants have 4 minutes to read an original poem which will then be judged by the vote of their People's Choice Session Peers. Awards will be given at the Saturday Awards Banquet for first, second and third places. **(This session will repeat)**

29. People's Choice Prose—We'll have two sessions of People's Choice Prose, wherein participants have 4 minutes to read an original short piece of prose which will then be judged by the vote of their People's Choice Session Peers. Awards will be given at the Saturday Awards Banquet for first, second and third places. **(This session will repeat)**

30. People's Choice Youth—Bring a poem, short story, book excerpt, or nonfiction piece to read aloud to other participants. Each piece is limited to 4 minutes, and each person is limited to one piece. After everyone reads, the participants votes for their favorites. Awards will be given at the Saturday Awards Banquet for first, second and third places. This session is reserved for young writers 18 years old and under.

31. Playing with Words. Jim Minick — What poetry can teach the non-fiction writer about metaphors and word play. Whatever the genre, metaphors sweeten the writing, making an ordinary scoop of a sentence into a deluxe banana split. How do you play with language to find original metaphors? How do you see the world anew? These will be the central questions we playfully tackle in hopes of finding metaphors wherever we look, metaphors that like a forked tree, tune the wind. Please bring a page of prose or poetry for in-class workshopping.

32. Poetry for Teens. Sarah Kezman —- Bring your words. Be heard. Optional: Bring favorite photos and copies of your poetry/stories/words or quotes/favorite poems by other famous poets to aid you in creating Word Art. This workshop will also examine some current trends in poetry. This workshop is for all teens.

33. Preparing Query Letters and Off To Market. Robert W. Walker – Focus is on preparation, organization and creating the most important short fiction of your career—the story about your story: the sales letter and query, outline, synopsis and first chapters. What to market and when to market your work and HOW to market your work. Advanced. **(This session will repeat)**

34. Prose Poems Revisited. Rob Merritt — A continuation of a workshop offered in 2006, with some new examples and techniques for this different way of writing poetry. Participants will leave thinking about the genre in a new way and will have created "something." Beginner to Intermediate.

35. Public Speaking, A Critical Publicity Tool for Writers. Pam Cable — Writers tremble at the thought of speaking in public, many times turning down teaching opportunities, book readings, and other appearances that could increase their visibility and bolster their careers. "*Public Speaking, A Critical Publicity Tool for Writers*" confronts the fears writers harbor toward public speaking and teaches tips on projecting poise and confidence, no matter what the stomach butterflies are doing. Public speaking continues to rank as one of the top fears of American adults. Emphasis will be on speaking on what you know, developing a speech related to your book, where and how to book speaking engagements to boost your book sales. Books stores (on and off-line) are not the only venues to sell books anymore. We'll talk about making quick connections with an audience, and learning to overcome fear through a combination of techniques that are simple to learn and easy to implement. The workshop will show participants the benefits of being able to speak in public, how to improve their own skills, and will encourage attendees to find instances in their own life and work where they may incorporate the techniques spelled out in the workshop. Numerous opportunities for audience feedback and participation are included in the workshop.

36. Publishing Markets for Youth. Sarah Kezman — A workshop for youth on finding venues where their work may be heard, publishing markets, and creating their own zines. This workshop is geared for children and teens.

37. Rolling Your Own. Ross Ballard II – How affordable audiobook self production has become. "How much?! But, I paid that for new car!" Ah, the days of audio production sticker shock, while still here for expensive novel length full voiced productions, has become surprisingly affordable in today's audio book self publishing world. Plunging prices for home studio equipment have allowed upstart writers, actors and small market publishers the ability to get in the game. Ross Ballard II of MountainWhispers.com Audiobooks will present the latest innovations, pricing, and movement in a merging of the written word and the spoken word. Some of the latest equipment will be reviewed along with techniques for driving down the investment even further by using alternative sources such as eBay and Frooge.com

38. Scott Hoffman Q&A session— Literary agent Scott Hoffman will hold two hour and a half Q&A sessions in the main auditorium. These will be geared toward writers who want to learn what agents look for in new writers. **(This session will repeat)**

39. Scene of the Crime – A double-sized workshop in which we will have an officer from the WV State Police lead workshop participants through a typical crime scene investigation. This is a great workshop for mystery writers or any writer looking to see how detailed police investigation works.

40. Screenwriting. Robert Tinnell – The screenwriting workshop will examine ways to avoid common traps screenwriters fall into - particularly as regards studio development executives. It's hard enough to get a film made - our goal is try and remove some of the easy reasons we give those executives to say "no." All levels. **(This session will repeat)**

41. The Seven Deadly Sins of Writing. Sandy Tritt — This workshop explores common writing snafus that can suck the life out of prose. This workshop is appropriate for both fiction and nonfiction writers. The "deadly sins" discussed are poor grammar and spelling, telling not showing, passive voice, purple prose, redundancy, point of view breaches and lack of persistence. Beginner to Intermediate.

42. Story Starters. Brad Barkley — Brad Barkley returns for the first time since 2005 with an update of his extremely useful short story starter workshop. Beginniner to Intermediate.

43. Storytelling 101. Susanna "Granny Sue" Holstein — Noted storyteller Granny Sue Holstein leads you through a workshop exploring the mechanics of live storytelling, from editing to voice to style. Beginner to intermediate.

44. Tones, Timbres and Tunes. Pops Walker – A songwriting workshop revised specifically for authors (vs. songwriters), in which Pops Walker discusses his approach to the craft. Topics include: Which comes frist, the music or the lyrics?; Simplicity vs. Complexity; Tones and timbres—matching the moods of the music and the lyrics. Intermediate Level. **(This session will repeat)**

45. Using Collage as a Tool for Nonfiction. Rob Merritt — Ever get tired of telling your story in a straight line, or having to put in all of those details, events and transitions just to get to the parts you really care about? Try the collage method, a technique adapted from the visual arts of arranging various existing images so that they overlap or blend to create a whole. We shall look at examples of and try our own. Bring some nonfiction you have written, if you wish. Intermediate.

46. The Voice of a Woman, A Workshop for Women Writers (or Men writing from a woman's point of view). Pam Cable — Voice is pivotal in your development as a writer. Learning the craft is not enough. Where does voice come from? How does a writer develop and strengthen their voice in the fiction they write? This workshop will help writers not only develop their voice and style, but also strengthen it in their narrative and dialogue. We'll discuss the importance in maintaining your voice in the development of high stakes, larger-than-life characters, and the theme or message of your work. In the process, we'll not only reaffirm your knowledge of the craft of writing but your ability as a storyteller, as both are equally important. Your voice as a writer is as important as the voice of a professional singer. A great writing voice will help to establish you in the industry, as well as develop your career as a Breakout Novelist. We will also talk about using your voice in pitching your work to agents and editors.

47. Write Risky. Dr. Jimmy Carl Harris — There are no good, safe stories. Risk-taking produces stories that unsettle, excite, and ring true. Yet, there are some constraints worthy of consideration. Through examples, discussion, and exercises, participants in this intermediate-level fiction workshop will explore styles of effective writing that take them beyond the bonds of convention. To prepare for this workshop, students should read "A Good Man is Hard to Find," by Flannery O'Conner. **(This session will repeat)**

48. Write Up. Dr. Jimmy Carl Harris — Most dialogue is direct, intended to convey information and circumstances. Complex dialogue employs omission and opposites to evoke tension and provide insight. Through examples, discussion, and exercises, participants in this intermediate-level fiction workshop will explore the challenges of complex dialogue. To prepare for this workshop, students should read "Hills like White Elephants," by Ernest Hemingway.

49. Writing Comic Books and Graphic Novels. Robert Tinnell – Will cover as much ground as we possibly can on the fundamentals of writing graphic stories, including how they differ from other forms and how they are they same. All levels.

50. Writing for Children: The Picture Book. Anna Egan Smucker — A survey of the genre with tips for writing a successful picture book, writing exercises to generate ideas for your own stories, as well as resources for writers of children's books. All Levels.

51. Writing for Children: Longer Fiction. Anna Egan Smucker — An overview of the genre, with tips for writing novels for children and young adults, and resources for children's writers. We will finish with an exercise to jump-start your own novel. All Levels.

52. Writing for Horror, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Mystery and Suspense. Robert W. Walker – Focus for this workshop is on the common threads in commercial and salable fiction as well as what makes for good literature. Across the board, in all genres there are hands-on practical steps on e can take to insure their writing gets a reading. Example: Pacing and placing "heat" on every page; one character wins, one loses in every scene. Intermediate to Advanced.

53. Your Lips Have To Move. Kirk Judd — Why a poetry reading is not reading. How to present poetry in public. Understanding poetry from a performance perspective. Very class participatory, with in-class presentations. All Levels.

54. The Craziness of Characterization. Austin Rempel — Austin will escort his class deep into the minds of wonderful fantasy characters. He'll explore a host of famous characters and explain how they have been made to be what they are, or aren't. The class will create their own character out of the darkness of their imagination. **Youth workshop.**

WORKSHOP LEADER BIOS
Updated 5/14/07

Belinda Anderson is the author of two short-story collections, *The Well Ain't Dry Yet* and *The Bingo Cheaters,* published by Mountain State Press. WVW recognized Belinda's supportive teaching style when it presented a Just Uncommonly Good award for her work in mentoring other writers. Her own writing earned her a spot on the first Literary Map of West Virginia, published by Fairmont State University.

Ross Ballard is a professor for the Johns Hopkins University's Police Executive Leadership Program in Baltimore. A national award-winning producer, he had performed on many audiobooks. A former miner and an outdoorsman, he spent his youth in the shadow of Blair Mountain. Remembering the great storytellers he knew while growing up on a small farm in Low Gap, West Virginia, Ross's stories are told from the heart. Ross will be presenting a workshop discussing audiobooks and how they are created.

Brad Barkley, is the author of the novel, *Money, Love*, a Barnes and Noble "Discover Great New Writers" selection and a "BookSense 76" choice. *Money, Love* was named one of the best books of 2000 by the Washington Post and the Library Journal. His novel *Alison's Automotive Repair Manual* was also a "BookSense 76" selection. His short fiction has appeared in over two dozen magazines, including *Southern Review, Georgia Review, the Oxford American, Glimmer Train, Book Magazine*, and *the Virginia Quarterly Review,* which twice awarded him the Emily Balch Prize for Best Fiction. His work was anthologized in New Stories from the South: The Year's Best, 2002. He has won four Individual Artist Awards from the Maryland State Arts Council, and a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Jean Battlo is an educator, poet and writer. Her poetry has been published nationally since her first haiku in *East West Journal* in 1976. Battlo has also had books, fiction and nonfiction published, including two histories of McDowell County. In 1990, Battlo's play, *#8* was optioned by off Off-Broadway company, Stage Arts, was a finalist in the noted national Eugene O'Neill's Playwright's Conference and Marin, CA and finally received their world premier of the play at Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater in August, 1994. SART, located in Mars Hill, NC, went on to select four more of Battlo's plays for the new plays series. One of their selections was "The *Little Theater's Production of 'Hamlet'"* which was then premiered at Tennessee Stage Company and subsequently, picked up by Samuel French.

George Brosi was honored by the Appalachian Writers Association a few years ago for his "Outstanding Service to Appalachian Literature." For the Appalachian Studies Association he serves as chair of the committee to select an annual winner of the Weatherford Award for fiction and poetry. For Berea College, he serves as Editor of the regional literary magazine, *Appalachian Heritage*. As a bookseller he serves academic and public libraries and various events as a provider of regional books. He is a sectional editor of THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF APPALACHIA and co-editor of two books, one about Don West, the poet who founded of the Appalachian South Folklife Center in

Pipestem, and the other about Jesse Stuart, a popular 20th Century Eastern Kentucky writer.

Michael Wayne Cable spent twenty-five years in a career as a marketing consultant for Fortune 500 companies before accepting the position of Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for the Madison, NC, based Spotlight Publishing, Inc. As Vice-President he developed a new publishing model, which is a hybrid of traditional and self-publishing. Involved in all aspects of the publishing industry from new title acquisition to national distribution, he has quickly become an expert in what it takes for the first time author to succeed in today's industry. He was instrumental in the success of Southern Fried Women, selling over 2,000 copies in the first six months since its June 2006 release.

Pamela King Cable claims to have been raised by a tribe of wild Pentecostals and storytellers. Her award-winning stories, articles and essays have appeared in magazines, anthologies and newspapers in several states. Most recently, her book *Southern Fried Women,* was a finalist in Fiction and Literature-Short Story for the Best Books of 2006 Book Awards at USABookNews.com. Pam is a public speaker in much demand, speaking often on the subject of overcoming life's seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Visit her website at www.pamelacable.com.

Mary Lucille DeBerry has taught on the college level and produced programs for WV PBS. Two major interests are converging now as she is re-inventing the gardens at her family home and continuing to write poetry. Her work has been published in numerous regional journals including *Appalachian Heritage, Appalachian Journal, Grab-a-Nickel, Now & Then* and *Traditions* as well in poetry collections -- *Coal: A Poetry Anthology, Wild Sweet Notes* and *Weeping With Those Who Weep.*

Chris Freeburn spent many years serving as a legal assistant in J.A.G. of the US Army and as a paralegal in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She has worked on both sides of the legal field, prosecution and defense, and continues to study the criminal process. To better understand the many components of law enforcement, she enrolled and graduated from the Citizen Police Academy of Prince William County, Virginia. She is the author of the books *Dying for Redemption, Generation Without Souls,* and *Parental Source.*

Karin Fuller, a lifestyle columnist for *The Sunday-Gazette Mail*, has been recognized annually as one of West Virginia's top columnists by the West Virginia Press Association. In 2003, her columns were awarded first place (general interest) by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Karin will present workshops on writing columns.

Pam Hanson is one half of an award-winning, mother-daughter writing team. Under the pen name Jennifer Drew, she and Barbara Andrews have had 20 romance novels published including 15 by Harlequin and Silhouette. These have been translated into more than a dozen languages. Currently Pam and her mother are writing for Guideposts `Grace Chapel Inn' book series under their own names. They have authored four books in the series. Additionally, Pam is Director of Advising for the P.I. Reed School of

Journalism at West Virginia University and teaches beat reporting. In 2006, West Virginia Writers awarded Pam the JUG award for writing.

Jimmy Carl Harris lives to write in Birmingham, Alabama. A retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major with a doctorate from the University of Alabama, he was an assistant professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. He has received a number of writing honors, including four Hackney Literary Awards. His stories have appeared in The Louisville Review, Appalachian Heritage, Confluence, Byline, the Birmingham Arts Journal and elsewhere. His collection of short fiction, Walking Wounded, was published by Iris Press in 2006. Iris will also publish his new collection, Wounds That Bind, in 2007. Visit his website at www.jimmycarlharris.com.

Scott Hoffman is one of the founding partners of Folio Literary Management, LLC. Prior to starting Folio, Scott was at PMA Literary and Film Management, Inc. He has served as Vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of SEARAC (the only nationwide advocacy agency for Southeast Asian-Americans), a Board Member of Fill Their Shelves, Inc. (a charitable foundation that provides books to children in sub-Saharan Africa) and a member of the Metropolitan Opera's Young Associates Steering Committee. Before entering the world of publishing, he was one of the founding partners of Janus-Merritt Strategies, a Washington, DC strategic consulting firm. He holds an MBA from New York University's Leonard N. Stern School of Business, and a BA from the College of William and Mary.

Susanna "Granny Sue" Holstein performs and presents workshops at events from Idaho to Virginia. She is versatile and in demand for both child and adult audiences. Her participatory style allows audiences of all ages to join in the storytelling fun. She often presents stories with puppets, and frequently includes songs and ballads as part of her presentation. West Virginia history, Appalachian traditional tales and ghost stories are strong components of her repertoire. A founding member and past president of the West Virginia Storytelling Guild, Granny Sue an active member of the National Storytelling Network and other local and regional storytelling organizations.

Kirk Judd is a talented poet and performer originally from Wayne County, WV. His first volume of poetry, *Field of Vision,* was published in Huntington in 1986 by Aegina Press, and a second collection, *Tao Billy*, was released in the Spring of 1996 by Trillium Press of St. Albans. His work has appeared in many respected regional magazines and has been used in Appalachian Poetry classes at the University of Tennessee, Marshall University, and Southern West Virginia Community College. A co-editor with Dr. Barbara Smith of the widely acclaimed anthology, *Wild, Sweet Notes: 50 Years of West Virginia Poetry 1950–1999,* he has been featured three times on American Public Radio on "The Poet and The Poem" with WV native Grace Cavalieri. Kirk is one of the founding members of WV Writers, Inc. in 1977 and has served the organization in various capacities, including two terms as vice president and two terms as president. In 1996, he was awarded the prestigious J.U.G. award by the organization for service to writers throughout the state. Kirk is being honored this year as a charter member of WV Writers, Inc. (*Much of the text of this bio comes from the Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative website.*)

Sarah Kezman's poems have appeared in various literary journals including the Antietam Review, Sans Merci, the Long Island Quarterly, and Wild Sweet Notes II. A recent graduate of Shepherd University, she is currently working on publishing a full-length book of poems. Sarah works as a librarian at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library. Aside from writing, Sarah's other passions are acting, singing, reading, doing art projects, writing and performing puppet shows for kids.

Chris Kuell is a writer and advocate living in Western Connecticut. A former research chemist, he lost his sight at thirty-five as a result of diabetic retinopathy. He's had more than two dozen articles about blindness published. His fiction has appeared in *Spillway Review, Breath and Shadow, Apollo's Lyre, Gambit, Mountain Echoes, Decomposition, The Sun*, and *Dialogue*. He was an editor and contributed to the anthology, *Mountain Voices: Illuminating the Character of West Virginia.* He is currently managing editor of *Breath and Shadow*, an on-line literary magazine (www.abilitymaine.org/breath)

Lee Maynard is a novelist, short story writer, screenwriter and editor. He published his first novel, *Crum*, in 1988. Since then, he has been published many times in periodicals, including *Reader's Digest, The Saturday Review,* and the *Columbia Review of Literature*. In 1995, he received a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship in Fiction for his then-unpublished novel *Screaming with the Cannibals*. Lee Maynard lives in New Mexico.

T.W. (Terry) McNemar has been a WVW member for four-plus years and serves as Second Vice President on the board of directors. He attended the last four WVW conferences and received prizes for Humor and Peoples Choice. His work has been published by *MountainEchoes.com*. and *Johns Hopkins University Scribble Press*. He lives near Stonewood in Harrison County where he owns a general construction firm. His first novel is to be published in 2007.

Rob Merritt teaches literature and creative writing at Bluefield College. Editor of *the Nantahala Review,* he has published poetry and creative nonfiction in a number of journals. He has published essays, poetry, and nonfiction in several literary journals including *The Potomac Review, Sow's Ear Poetry Review, Branches, Asheville Poetry Review, Wild Sweet Notes II: More West Virginia Poetry* and *The Village Rambler*. His book of Poetry, *Landscape Architects,* was published in 2006 by Pudding House Press. He will be presenting three poetry workshops.

Jim Minick teaches at Radford University and farms in Wythe County, Virginia. His most recent work includes *Finding a Clear Path,* a collection of essays from West Virginia University Press, and "Maybe It's Time," an Op-Ed on invasive species for the Bay Journal News Service, serving the Mid-Atlantic region. His poems and essays have appeared in many publications including *Shenandoah, Orion, YES! San Francisco Chronicle, Natural Home, Encyclopedia of Appalachia, The Sun, Appalachian Heritage* and *Wind.* Since 1996, he's written a monthly column for *The Roanoke Times New River Current.*

Austin Rempel is a senior at Parkersburg High School, and is involved with the theatre, newspaper, and yearbook staff there; he also a member of the Ohio Valley Literary Group and involved with the creative writing classes offered at PHS. When he is not writing fantasy, he is taming dragons and building castles. You know, the normal teen stuff. This year will be his second to lead a youth workshop for WV Writers.

Barbara Smith, poet, novelist, book reviewer, literary critic, editor, educator, ethicist, and essayist-at-large has served as both writer and editor for many creative writing publications throughout West Virginia and the Appalachian region. A resident of Philippi, WV, she is professor emeritus at Alderson-Broaddus College. Barbara is being honored this year as a charter member of WV Writers.

Anna Egan Smucker is the author of *No Star Nights,* winner of the 1990 International Reading Association Children's Book Award in the Younger Reader category. Her other books include *A History of West Virginia,* a book for ages 10 through adult; *Outside the Window*, a bedtime story; *To Keep the South Manitou Light,* a fast-paced historical fiction novel for ages 8 and up; and *The Life of Saint Brigid.* She is the recipient of a 2005 WV Arts Commission Artist Fellowship Award in Children's Literature. She makes her home in Bridgeport, WV. In addition to writing, she does author presentations and conducts writing workshops throughout the country.

Cathy Teets, president of Headline Books, has been publishing books since 1985. Her company started out publishing regional non-fiction with their first title, *Killing Waters: The Great WV Flood of 1985.* Headline Books has published over sixty-five titles and produced CDs and DVDs. In the past two years Headline Books added a fiction imprint, **Publisher Page**, and a children's book division, **Headline Kids**, and will be releasing six new titles this spring and summer with another five currently in production or negotiation for release this fall. Headline Books has authors from across the USA but always has a "first read" availability for WV authors. Cathy is a Beckley native and lives in Terra Alta, WV with her daughter, Ashley.

Robert Tinnell is a screenwriter, director and author whose works include the film *FRANKENSTEIN AND ME* and the graphic novels *THE BLACK FOREST, THE LIVING AND THE DEAD,* and *SIGHT UNSEEN.* His book, *FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES* was nominated for an Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album - Reprint. Currently, Tinnell is writing *THE CHELATION KID*, a webcomic dealing with his son's autism, and *EZ STREETS* in collaboration with Mark Wheatley as well as various screenwriting and directing projects. Tinnell lives in WV with his wife and two children.

Sandy Tritt is an editor, writer and speaker. She is the founder and CEO of Inspiration For Writers, an editing and critiquing service; a writer of both fiction and nonfiction; and a past president of WV Writers, Inc. Her first book, Inspiration for Writers Tips and Techniques Workbook, covers writing questions and problems encountered during her ten years as an editor. Her latest book, *Everything I Know,* is a handbook for life.

Pops Walker (Saturday entertainment and workshop presenter) is a retired soldier who, for over 30 years, has honed his crafts of writing, singing and guitar prowess. Upon retirement, in late 2003, he burst onto the performing songwriter scene with a vengeance, quickly gaining a reputation as one of the most dynamic solo performers in the country. He's a true independent musician and has created his own niche in the music industry. He releases his recordings via his own publishing company and has six CDs to his credit, the most recent being his collaborative project with Ross Ballard and Lee Maynard in the audio book adaptation of *Crum.*

Robert W. Walker is the author of over 40 published novels and a graduate of Northwestern University. Rob earned a Masters in English Education from NU Graduate School after he did his undergraduate work there. He is currently working on his new City series – *City for Ransom, Shadows in the White City* and in December, *City of the Absent* –which are gaslight era HYstery novels with the Chicago Worlds Fair as backdrop to mayhem. A second series he is currently working on is the Rae Hiyakawa modern day psychic detective series with *PSI Blue* and *Deja Blue.* While Robert was born in Mississippi, he gre up in Chicago, IL. However, he has resided in Chalreston, WV, with wife Miranda and their children for several years. Three of Rob's titles, *City for Ransom, Psi Blue* and *Absolute Instinct* have been juried and accepted at Tamarack. He currently teaches at Mountain State University and at Mountain State Academy.