



The Writers' Festival Schedule

January 7-10, 2009

**University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Belton, Texas**



Writers' Festival Schedule

January 7-10, 2009

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Belton, TX

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

12:00 Registration Table Opens (Mabee Student Center Sub)

1:00 Reading (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)

Donna Curtis Bowling was born in Kansas City, Kansas, and grew up in Oklahoma. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma College of Law. After almost 30 years of law practice—including work for the Oklahoma legislature, the Federal Trade Commission, and private practice plus working as an in-house attorney for a large medical center—she took a sabbatical from law practice to attend Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She obtained a Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree concentrating in ethics. Since graduation she has been writing, teaching at Tarleton State University, Central Texas, and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and occasionally preaching. She will read from recent work.

Cleatus Rattan is the Mayborn Professor of English at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. In 2004-2005, Rattan served as Poet Laureate of Texas. He has published more than three hundred poems in anthologies, textbooks, magazines, and journals. The author of five collections of poetry, including *The Border* (Texas Review Press, 2002), *Take Your Time Coming Home* (Texas Review Press, 2005), and *What Isle of Bliss* (Trilobite Press, 2007), Rattan was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2004. Rattan will be reading from his recent poems.

Jerry Craven, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is a writer, editor, and educator; he has published 20 books, including fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, books for children, and ESL textbooks. His poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction, technical writing and essays have appeared in dozens of magazines and journals. He has served as Director/Editor of a series for The Texas A&M University Press and has worked as editor for several literary journals. Currently, he is editor-in-chief of [Amarillo Bay](#). Also he has served as director of a university creative writing program and as a director of freshman English. He will be reading from his fiction.

3:00 Art Workshop (Mabee Student Center, Sub)

Helen Kwiatkowski is primarily a painter. She has also been working in collage for the past 10 years. She has shown work both regionally and nationally and has taught in the Art Department of UMHB since 1992. Helen holds an MFA from Texas A & M University-Commerce (formally East Texas State University). She has been associated with the UMHB Writers' Festival since 2002 and has been the Art Editor of *Windhover* since 2003.

This workshop is for all festival participants. All materials will be supplied.

7:00 Open Mic and Coffee House



Writers' Festival Schedule
January 7-10, 2009
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Belton, TX

Thursday, January 8, 2009

8:00 Registration Table Opens (Mabee Student Center Sub)

8:30 Reading (nonfiction & poetry) (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)

Lyman Grant has taught at Austin Community College for 30 years and currently serves as Dean of Arts and Humanities. His poetry, essays, and reviews have appeared in various journals including *The Texas Observer*, *Texas Books in Review*, *Texas Humanist*, *Langdon Review*, *Concho River Review*, *Sulphur River Literary Review*, and *Windhover*. Most recently, his poetry appeared in *Big Land*, *Big Sky*, *Big Hair: Best of the Texas Poetry Calendar*. Lyman will be reading from his recent work.

Anne McCrady is a poet, story-teller, and inspirational speaker from East Texas. Her award-winning work has been published in many online and print journals, including among others *Di-verse-city*, the *Langdon Review*, *Windhover*, *New Texas*, *Texas Observer*, *High Grade*, and *Lilliput Review*. She won first place in the Pudding House Poetry Chapbook competition for *Under a Blameless Moon*. Anne is founder and principal of *InSpiritry—Putting Words to Work for the Greater Good*. Anne will read from her recent work.

Joe R. Christopher, Professor *emeritus* of English at Tarleton State University, read five papers at the four academic conferences he attended in 2008—two papers at the Mythopoeic Society's conference. Four of the papers were on poetry by C. S. Lewis; the other on a novel by Diane Glancy. He also attended two

writer's conferences last year, including the UMHB Writer's Festival, reading creative works at both. He *loves* being retired and having enough time to write at least more of what he has wanted to get done. He has published two books on C. S. Lewis (one in collaboration) and essays on Lewis, Tolkien, and Charles Williams. He is a contributing editor of *Windhover* and has published more than 100 poems in various publications over the years. Joe will be reading from "The Minyae."

10:00 Workshops (Mabee Student Center 2nd Floor)

(1) **Anne McCrady** is a poet, story-teller, and inspirational speaker from East Texas. Her award-winning work has been published in many online and print journals, including among others *Di-verse-city*, the *Langdon Review*, *Windhover*, *New Texas*, *Texas Observer*, *High Grade*, and *Lilliput Review*. She won first place in the Pudding House Poetry Chapbook competition for *Under a Blameless Moon*. Anne is founder and principal of *InSpirity*—*Putting Words to Work for the Greater Good*.

In "Changing the World: Poetry and Prose as Social Stimulus," Anne will lead us in an open-hearted round table discussion of the social, spiritual and personal impact of creative writing.

(2) **John Jenkinson** earned his PhD at the University of North Texas and his MFA at Wichita State University. Author of two prize-winning chapbooks, he recently served as Milton Center Fellow in Poetry at Newman University. John's poetry has won a variety of awards, and may be read in a wide variety of journals. His first full-length collection, *Rebekah Orders Lasagna*, is available from Woodley Press, Washburn University. He teaches Literature and Creative Writing at Butler College, where he initiated and directs the Oil Hill Reading Series. He has also returned to an old interest, songwriting; as of this writing, John awaits the release of his first CD, *The Mystery of Love*.

John will lead a workshop titled "Poetry Publishing for Beginners."

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 Reading (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)

Michael Lythgoe, a retired Air Force officer, has regularly contributed poems, photos, and reviews to *Windhover*. He delivered the George Nixon Memorial Lecture in 2007. He has published extensively, including work in *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *The Poet's Domain*, and *Poems on Francis and Clare*, and a series of interviews in *Writer's Chronicle* titled "Writers & Their Faith." His collection, *BRASS*, was selected for the 12th Annual Kinlock Rivers Chapbook Competition. Lythgoe received his MFA from Bennington College. He has served as President of the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the University of South Carolina. He lives in Aiken, South Carolina, with his wife Louise.

Angela O'Donnell teaches English, Creative Writing, and American Catholic Studies at Fordham University in New York City. Her chapbook, *Mine*, has been

recently released by Finishing Line Press. A second chapbook, *Waiting for Ecstasy*, and a full-length collection of poems, *Moving House*, are forthcoming from Franciscan and Word Presses, respectively. Her poems have appeared in *America*, *First Things*, *Christian Century*, *Comstock Review*, *RUNES*, *Xavier Review*, *Cresset*, *Pedestal Magazine.com*, *Die-Cast Garden.com*, *Windhover*, and other journals. In 2003, she was a finalist for the Foley Poetry Award and in 2007 a finalist for the Mulberry Poet's Award.

Carolyn Luke Reding, poet-publisher, lives in Austin. She graduated from the University of Texas and the University of Houston Clear Lake and taught social studies and English in the Brazosport School District for 20 years. She continues her work on a Master of Arts in Religion at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest. She is serving her second term as program chair and Vice-President for the Austin Poetry Society. Her poem "Diffusion" was nominated for the 2008 Pushcart Prize. In October 2008, she was nominated to be considered for the next Texas State Poet Laureate.

3:00 Master Workshops: Poetry & Fiction (Mabee Student Center, 2nd Floor)

(1) Jeanne Murray Walker

Master Poetry Workshop (Session 1 of 2)

7:00 George Nixon Memorial Lecture (Brindley Auditorium)

Jeanne Murray Walker is an award-winning poet and playwright. She has written six volumes of poetry, the latest of which is *A Deed To The Light*, published by University of Illinois Press in 2004. She has just completed a new volume titled *New Tracks, Night Falling*, which is forthcoming from Wm. B. Eerdmans in February.

She is a frequent contributor to periodicals such as *Poetry*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Southern Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Nation*, and *Image*. She speaks at many poetry festivals, conventions, churches, retirement homes, high schools, colleges and universities, book stores, and on the radio. She writes about faith and doubt, about being a mother, and about the possibility of finding quiet in this speed-driven society. Her poems appear in print anthologies, as well as on the radio, on the web, and in buses and on trains under the auspices of the Poetry In Motion project. For twenty years she was the poetry editor for *Christianity and Literature*, and she currently serves on the editorial boards of *Shenandoah* and *Image*. She collaborated on editing *Shadow and Light: Literature and the Life of Faith*.

The author of many essays, she has also written extensively for the theatre. Her first play in 1990 won the Washington National Theater Competition. Her scripts include *Inventing Montana*, tales From The daily Tabloid, *Rowing Into Light On Lake Adley*, and *The Queen's 2 Bodies: The Double Life of Elizabeth I*. Her plays have been

produced in Boston, Washington, Chicago, throughout the Midwest, and in London. Published by Dramatic Publishing, her scripts appear in North American Women's Drama, a scholarly on-line reference work published by Alexander Street Press.

Her work has been honored with many prizes and awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, seven Pennsylvania State Arts Council Fellowships, the Prairie-Schooner Reader's Choice and Strousse Awards, many new play prizes, and the prestigious Pew Fellowship in the Arts.

At the University of Delaware, Professor Walker teaches poetry and script writing workshops, as well as courses in poetry, theatre, and the English Renaissance. She helped design Study Abroad courses in London, which she has taught for two decades, and she administers The University of Delaware Script Writing Competition.



Writers' Festival Schedule
January 7-10, 2009
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Belton, TX

Friday, January 9, 2009

8:00 Registration Table Opens (Mabee Student Center Sub)

8:30 Reading (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)

John Jenkinson earned his PhD at the University of North Texas and his MFA at Wichita State University. Author of two prize-winning chapbooks, he recently served as Milton Center Fellow in Poetry at Newman University. John's poetry has won a variety of awards, and may be read in a wide variety of journals. His first full-length collection, *Rebekah Orders Lasagna*, is available from Woodley Press, Washburn University. He teaches Literature and Creative Writing at Butler College, where he initiated and directs the Oil Hill Reading Series. He has also returned to an old interest, songwriting; as of this writing, John awaits the release of his first CD, *The Mystery of Love*. John will be reading from his recent work.

Sherry Craven has lived from Alaska to Georgia, Los Angeles to Washington D.C., but she has called Texas home for the last 30 years. She has taught English and Spanish in high school and English at Midland College and West Texas A & M University. Sherry recently retired and lives on Lake Sam Rayburn in the Piney Woods of Deep East Texas. She has published poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction. Her poetry has appeared in online journals such as *AmarolloyBay* and *Muse2*. She has published flash fiction in *Suddenly*, and poetry in both English and Spanish in *RiverSedge*. Her poetry has been in four editions of *New Texas*,

The Witness, Windhover, descant, El Locofoco, The Maverick Press, and The Texas Review. She has also read poetry for National Public Radio and several college campuses nationwide. Her work appears in the 2002 anthology, *Texas in Poetry 2*, and a creative piece of nonfiction in *Writing on the Wind*, a collection of essays by West Texas women writing about sense of place. She won the Conference of College Teachers of English 2005 poetry award.

Brady Peterson was born in the shadow of the second world war in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. It was from Ft. Sill that Geronimo rode his horse off Medicine Bluff in an escape attempt. As young boys, we would cry out “Geronimo” when we jumped off the roofs of houses, Brady will tell you. He will also tell you about visiting what was then thought to be the last of the Buffalo herds on the military reservation. Poets are like Geronimo and the Buffalo, he says. We wait for an explanation, but he only returns to his book. His poems have appeared in *Windhover, New Texas, Nerve Cowboy, Boston Literary Magazine, and Heartlodge.* and he writes regularly to a coterie of discerning readers. He has five grown daughters and is married to Barbara. Together the six of them do their best to work him into shape. He’ll read something from his recent work.

10:00 Workshops (Mabee Student Center 2nd Floor)

(1) **Songwriting Workshop, led by Donna Stjerna and Kelly Mulhollan**

1:00 Reading (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)

Larry D. Thomas, a longtime contributor of poetry to *Windhover*, has published nine collections of poetry, the most recent of which is *New and Selected Poems* (Texas Christian University Press, March 2008). His tenth poetry collection, *The Circus*, is forthcoming as an e-chapbook from *Right Hand Pointing* in early 2009. His poetry books have won numerous awards, including two *Texas Review* Poetry Prizes (2001 and 2004), the 2003 Western Heritage Award (National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum), a Poet’s Prize nomination (Nicholas Roerich Museum), and three Spur Award Finalist citations (Western Writers of America). Twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize, Mr. Thomas was appointed by the Texas Legislature as the 2008 Texas Poet Laureate.

Alan Berecka grew up in Stittville, New York. He left the Mohawk Valley to attend the University of Dallas and has become a transplanted Texan. He and his wife Alice have raised their two children in Sinton, Texas. He earns his keep as a reference librarian at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. His poetry has appeared in such places as the *Concho River Review, Texas Review, Christian Century*, and previous issues of the *Windhover*. His first full collection, *The Comic Flaw* (NeoNuma Arts Houston), is scheduled to be released at this year’s UMHB Writers’ Festival.

Nathan Brown is a poet, musician, performer, and photographer from Norman, Oklahoma. He holds an interdisciplinary PhD in Creative and Professional

Writing from the University of Oklahoma and teaches writing there as well. He mostly travels now, leading workshops and speaking in high schools and universities—as well as to community groups and organizations—on creativity, creative writing, and the need for readers not to give up on poetry. He has published five books: *Two Tables Over* (2008), *Nôt Exăctly Jōb* (2007)—a finalist for the 2008 Oklahoma Book Award, *Ashes Over the Southwest* (2005), *Suffer the Little Voices* (2005)—a finalist for the 2006 Oklahoma Book Award, and *Hobson's Choice* (2002).

3:00 Master Workshop: Poetry & Fiction (Mabee Student Center, 2nd Floor)

Jeanne Murray Walker, Master Poetry Workshop (Session 2 of 2)

**5:30 Dinner (Mabee Student Center, 2nd Floor, Shelton Theater)
Catered by Sodexo (cost included in regular registration)**

7:30 Still on the Hill in Concert (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)

***Still On The Hill* The Ozark Folkgrass Duo**

At the very heart of the folkgrass phenomenon is a duo known as *Still on the Hill* (Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna). This exciting duo will perform in Belton at the UMHB Writers' Festival. This is a show that you won't want to miss! They have been making waves all over the U.S., Canada and Europe with their hard-to-classify style that falls somewhere between folk and bluegrass.

Many writers have tried to describe *Still on the Hill*, but no one has captured their essence more eloquently than Julie Koehler, review editor for *Bluegrass Now*:

"These musicians have grafted the wild climbing vines of bluegrass, folk, classical and mountain music onto the hardest of Ozark rootstock. The result is a yet-to-be-named hybrid music that compels people to stop and listen, to pause in their hectic lives and pay attention to something they've never heard before. It's magic, and there's simply not enough magic in the world today.

Visually, *Still on the Hill* is full of color and motion: they command their instruments with power and grace, producing a sound that is both fresh and ancient at the same time. Lyrically, their original material is packed with new ideas, social awareness and a level of intellect and consciousness that's seldom found in contemporary tunes.

Still on the Hill are consummate professionals, whether they're performing for an audience of one or for thousands. Their high-energy seems to emerge from somewhere deep inside their souls. They play music for only one reason: it's a spark, or maybe a raging bonfire, inside each of them that has to come out. It's something that's shared just as easily with a large festival audience as it would be with a quiet Ozark Forest."

—Julie Koehler, *Bluegrass Now*

Still on the Hill has proved itself a favorite at many prestigious festivals and venues here and abroad, including the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk Festival and countless others. Their own region, the Ozarks, has voted them "Best Folk Band" for 4 years and they are now members of the Hall of Fame.



Writers' Festival Schedule
January 7-10, 2009
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Belton, TX

Saturday, January 10, 2009

8:00 Registration Table Opens (Mabee Student Center Sub)

8:30 TBA—a reading or panel discussion (Mabee Student Center Sub)

10:00 Songwriting Workshop (Mabee Student Center Sub)

**(1) Donna Stjerna and Kelly
Mulhollan**