



## **The Writers' Festival Schedule**

**January 6-9, 2010**

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



## Writers' Festival Schedule

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## Wednesday, January 6, 2010

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

**1:00 Welcome, Introductions, Unveiling of *Windhover*, Volume 14**

### **Reading (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)**

**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 *Amarollobay* 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.

**Barbara Youngblood Carr** is an award-winning native-born writer, storyteller, humorist, and musician. She has published thirteen books based on her Native American Cherokee heritage and her upbringing in Texas and the Southwest. She was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Austin (Feb. 2008) for serving as their National Poet Laureate for four years. The seventh volume of her Ancestor Series, titled *Whispers in the Wind*, was published in last fall. The series has been funded in part by The City of Austin Arts Commission. She will read selections from her work.

**Bradley Strahan** taught poetry at Georgetown University for twelve years. He now teaches at the University of Texas. Recently he was Fulbright Professor of Poetry & American Culture in the Balkans. For 30 years he has been editor/publisher of *Visions-International*. He has five books of poetry and over 500 poems published in: *America*, *Seattle Rev.*, *Confrontation*, *The Hollins Critic*, *Soundings East*, *Poet Lore*, etc.; several anthologies: 2003 Struga poetry Festival anthology, *Blood to Remember*, etc. He will read from his most recent manuscript, "The Art of Losing."

## Wednesday, January 6, 2010 (continued)

### 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.

### 5:30 Dinner (Mabee Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Shelton Theater) Catered by Sodexo (cost included in regular registration)

### 7:00 Nathan Brown in Concert

**Nathan Brown** is a poet, musician, performer, and photographer from Norman, Oklahoma. He holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. 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), *Nôť Exăctly Jôb* (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). His latest musical project, *Gypsy Moon*, was released in December. A new collection of poems, *My Sideways Heart*, is due out in early 2010.

### Open Mic (Coffee and Dessert Table)

Following Nathan's concert, we will have an informal evening of coffee and desserts. People will be free to share a poem or two or to update us on successes during the past year.



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## Thursday, January 7, 2010

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

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

**Christopher Anthony Fahy** is a Lecturer of Humanities at Boston University's College of General Studies. He is the father of three children. He specializes in poems regarding religion,

family, and aesthetics respectively. His poems have appeared in *Windhover* four times, but this is his first visit to the Writers' Festival. He will be reading a selection of his work.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 a series of poems about Charles Darwin.

**10:00 Workshops (Mabee Student Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

- (1) **Bradley R. Strahan** will lead a workshop on writing "Poetry Good Enough to Publish." Bring poems to work on with you. He taught poetry at Georgetown University for twelve years. He now teaches at the University of Texas. Recently he was Fulbright Professor of Poetry & American Culture in the Balkans. For 30 years he has been editor/publisher of *Visions-International*. He has five books of poetry and over 500 poems published in: *America*, *Seattle Rev.*, *Confrontation*, *The Hollins Critic*, *Soundings East*, *Poet Lore*, etc.; several anthologies: 2003 Struga poetry Festival anthology, *Blood to Remember*, etc.
- (2) **The Peace Festival: Helen Kwiatkowski, Anne McCrady, Michael Lythgoe, and Angela O'Donnell** will share some of their experiences last fall at the Peace Festival in Belton.

**11:30 Lunch (on your own)**

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

**Myra McLarey** was raised in the bottomlands of southwest Arkansas. Her books include *Moncrief*, *My Journey to the NBA* (co-authored with Sidney Moncrief) and *When You Take a Pig to a Party*, (co-authored with her daughter, Kristina). Her novel, *The Road to Eden's Ridge* (co-authored with Linda Weeks under the pen name of M.L. Rose) was optioned by MGM, and her critically acclaimed novel, *Water from the Well*, was a finalist for the Lillian Smith Award. She won the James Conway teaching and other awards during her years at Harvard, where she taught writing from 1991-2000. She is an associate faculty member of Bard College's Institute for Writing and Thinking and is the chair of the English Department at Ensworth High School, a new school in Nashville, TN. Her most recent work is a novel that returns to Sugars Spring, Arkansas.

## Thursday, January 7, 2010 (continued)

**Lyman Grant** has taught at Austin Community College for thirty 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.

**Catherine Rainwater** Catherine Rainwater is a professor of English at St. Edward's University in Austin. She has recently published creative nonfiction essays in *New Texas*, *The Fourth River*, and *Desert Candle*. Her essay called "My Father's Clothes" (*New Texas*, May 2005) won the Penelope Niven Creative Nonfiction Award from the Salem College Center for Women Writers in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She will read a short essay titled, "Cochiti Silence."

### **3:00 Master Workshops: Poetry & Fiction (Mabee Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

(1) **Kelly Cherry, Master Poetry Workshop (Session 1 of 2)**

(2) **Myra McLarey, Master Prose Workshop (Session 1 of 2)**

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

### **7:00 George Nixon Memorial Lecture (Brindley Auditorium)**

**Kelly Cherry** will read from her works for this year's George Nixon Memorial Lecture. She is Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. At UW-Madison she was Eudora Welty Professor of English and Evjue-Bascom Professor in the Humanities. She retired in 1999, after twenty-two years (twenty-three in Madison), and in retirement continues to hold those titles while also holding named chairs and distinguished writer positions at the University of Alabama Huntsville, Colgate University, Mercer University, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and Hollins University. She has published seventeen books of fiction (novels, short stories), poetry, and nonfiction (memoir, essay, criticism), eight chapbooks, and translations of two classical plays. Her short fiction has been reprinted in *Best American Short Stories*, *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*, *The Pushcart Prize*, and *New Stories from the South*, and has won three PEN/Syndicated Fiction Awards. In 2000 her collection *The Society of Friends: Stories*, received the Dictionary of Literary Biography Award for the best volume of short stories published in 1999. She was the first recipient of the Hanes Poetry Prize for a body of work from the Fellowship of Southern Writers and her collection *Hazard and Prospect: New and Selected Poems* was a finalist for The Poets' Prize. Her work in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction has been published in well over one hundred anthologies, and she has published more than one hundred reviews. Recently invited to serve as an Elector of The Poets' Corner at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine for a term of five years, she also recently received a Rockefeller Foundation grant to work on a poetry manuscript in progress. New this year are *The Retreats of Thought: Poems* and *Girl in a Library: On Women Writers and the Writing Life*.



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## **Friday, January 8, 2010**

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

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

**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*, *Penwood Review*, *Christian Century*, and previous issues of the *Windhover*. His first full collection, *The Comic Flaw* (NeoNuma Arts, Houston), was released at the 2009 UMHB Writers Festival.

**Beth Kropf** has had 9 poems and one story published, won awards from the Austin Poetry Society and Texas Poetry Society and am entering my second year of teaching at Bryant & Stratton College Online. She also leads a critique group and serves on the Board of Directors at the Austin Poetry Society. She will be reading from recent work.

**Angela Alaimo O'Donnell** teaches English, Creative Writing, and interdisciplinary courses in American Catholic Studies at Fordham University in New York City. She also serves as Associate Director of the Curran Center for American Catholic Studies. Her chapbooks *Mine* (2007) and *Waiting for Ecstasy* (2009) were published by Finishing Line Press and Franciscan University Press. full-length collection of poems, *Moving House*, has recently been released by Word Press. Her poems have appeared in *America*, *Potomac Review*, *First Things*, *Christian Century*, *Comstock Review*, *Runes*, *Xavier Review*, *The Cresset*, *Pedestal Magazine.com*, *Die-Cast Garden.com*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Windhover*, and other journals. She is currently working on a collection of poems that explore the lives of the saints, tentatively titled *Saint Sinatra*.

**10:00** **Reading (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)**

**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.

## Friday, January 8, 2010 (continued)

**Brady Peterson** teaches English at UMHB. He writes poetry at home in the morning before the sun comes up, or sometimes at Mozart's next to Lake Austin with a cup of coffee for company, or at the Sea Sprite Motel in Hermosa Beach, California. He has never written poetry in Paris, but he did visit Shakespeare and Co. one evening. His poems have appeared in *Windhover*, *New Texas*, *Nerve Cowboy*, *Boston Literary Magazine*, and *Heartlodge*. He will read selections from his work.

### 11:30 Lunch (on your own)

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

**Larry D. Thomas**, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and the 2008 Texas Poet Laureate, is a longtime contributor of poetry to *Windhover*. His most recent collection of poems, an e-chapbook titled *The Circus*, was recently published online by Right Hand Pointing, and a book-length print collection titled *The Skin of Light* is forthcoming from Dalton Publishing in March 2010. Among the numerous prizes and awards he has received for his poetry are the 2004 Violet Crown Award (Writers' League of Texas), 2003 Western Heritage Award (National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum), two *Texas Review* Poetry Prizes (2001 and 2004), and a \$2,000 grant from The Ron Stone Foundation for the Enhancement and Study of Texas History. His poetry has also received three Pushcart Prize nominations, a Poets' Prize nomination (West Chester University), and four Spur Award Finalist citations (Western Writers of America). He will read from his new chapbook, *Scalding the Stagnant Air*.

**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).

### 2:00 **Angela O'Donnell performing Melvilliana: A Suite of Poems.**

Angela will perform the suite of poems that she presented at the Metropolitan Playhouse: "Inspired & fired by affection & obsession, O'Donnell's poems engage & explore the extreme qualities of the Melvillian Imagination. Part homage, part exorcism, the poems immerse the hearer in the words and worlds of Herman Melville and the strong, strange places to which his books transport us."

### 3:00 Master Workshop: Poetry & Fiction (Mabee Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

(1) **Kelly Cherry, Master Poetry Workshop (Session 2 of 2)**

(2) **Myra McLarey, Master Prose Workshop (Session 2 of 2)**

## Friday, January 8, 2010 (continued)

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

**7:30 Andrew McKnight in Concert (Brindley Auditorium, York Science Center)**  
**Andrew McKnight**, the award-winning folk and Americana artist, will perform a special concert. Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, Andrew's musical journey has traced nearly half a million miles of blue highways nationwide, and earned him a wealth of critical acclaim and enthusiastic fans for his captivating performances and five CDs on the independent Falling Mountain Music label. While Andrew has toured as a solo singer/ songwriter and guitarist for the past 15 years, he is a musician first and foremost, in the mold of John Mayer or Darrell Scott. He put himself through Connecticut College and graduate school at UMass/Amherst by moonlighting in rock and blues trios. This experience shaped his musical sensibilities. His 2008 CD *Something Worth Standing For* showcases the full maturation of his musical artisanship.

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## Saturday, January 9, 2010

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

**8:30 Reading (Mabee Student Center Sub)**

**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.

**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 *Diverse-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.

**Audell Shelburne** has directed the Writers' Festival and edited *Windhover* since 2002. He teaches rhetoric and literature at UMHB, where he was chair of the department for the past eight years. He has published a handful of poems in *descant*, *Borderlands*, and several smaller venues. He will read from his recent work.

**10:00 Songwriting Workshop (Mabee Student Center Sub)**

**Andrew McKnight**, the award-winning folk and Americana artist, will perform a special workshop. Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, Andrew's musical journey has traced nearly half a million miles of blue highways nationwide, and earned him a wealth of critical acclaim and enthusiastic fans for his captivating performances and five CDs on the independent Falling Mountain Music label. While Andrew has toured as a solo singer/ songwriter and guitarist for the past 15 years, he is a musician first and foremost, in the mold of John Mayer or Darrell Scott. He put himself through Connecticut College and graduate school at UMass/Amherst by moonlighting in rock and blues trios. This experience shaped his musical sensibilities. His 2008 CD *Something Worth Standing For* showcases the full maturation of his musical artisanship.



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**Wednesday, January 6, 2010**

- 12:00 Registration  
1:00 Welcome & Reading (Brindley)  
Sherry Craven  
Barbara Youngblood Carr  
Bradley Strahan  
3:00 Art Workshop (Sub)  
Helen Kwiatkowski  
5:30 Dinner (Shelton Theater)  
7:00 Nathan Brown in Concert  
Open Mic (Coffee and Dessert Table)

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**Thursday, January 7, 2010**

- 8:00 Registration  
8:30 Reading (Brindley)  
Christopher Anthony Fahy  
Michael Lythgoe  
Joe R. Christopher  
10:00 Workshops (Mabee 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
(1) Bradley R. Strahan  
(2) Helen Kwiatkowski  
Anne McCrady,  
Michael Lythgoe  
Angela O'Donnell  
11:30 Lunch (on your own)  
1:00 Reading (Brindley)  
Myra McLarey  
Lyman Grant  
Catherine Rainwater  
3:00 Master Workshops (Mabee 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
(1) Kelly Cherry, Poetry  
(2) Myra McLarey, Prose  
5:30 Dinner (Mabee Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Shelton Theater)  
7:00 George Nixon Memorial Lecture (Brindley)  
Kelly Cherry, reading

**Friday, January 8, 2010**

- 8:00 Registration Table Opens (Sub)  
8:30 Reading (Brindley)  
Alan Berecka  
Beth Kropf  
Angela Alaimo O'Donnell  
10:00 Reading (Brindley)  
Cleatus Rattan  
Brady Peterson  
11:30 Lunch (on your own)  
1:00 Reading (Brindley)  
Larry D. Thomas  
Nathan Brown  
2:00 Angela O'Donnell performing Melvilliana: A  
Suite of Poems (Brindley)  
3:00 Master Workshops (Mabee 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
(1) Kelly Cherry, Poetry  
(2) Myra McLarey, Prose  
5:30 Dinner (Shelton Theater)  
7:30 Andrew McKnight in Concert (Brindley)

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**Saturday, January 9, 2010**

- 8:00 Registration Table Opens (Sub)  
8:30 Reading (Sub)  
Donna Curtis Bowling  
Anne McCrady  
Audell Shelburne  
10:00 Songwriting Workshop (Sub)  
Andrew McKnight  
12:00 Festival Concludes (traditional lunch at  
Schoepf's BBQ following, on your own, but  
everyone is welcome)