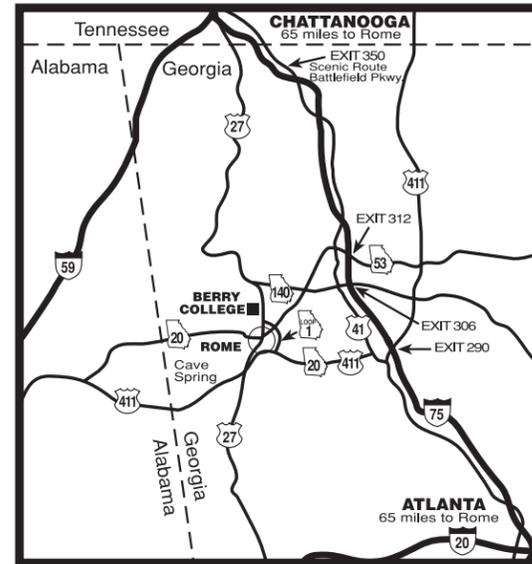


Travel and ACCOMMODATIONS

The historic Berry College campus, situated on 26,000 acres in the scenic northwest Georgia mountains, offers an ideal location for this event. Berry College is in Mount Berry, Ga., next to the city of Rome. Rome is 65 miles north of Atlanta and 65 miles south of Chattanooga, Tenn., and within easy driving distance from most points in the Southeast. Mention that you are attending the Berry College Southern Women Writers Conference when making your lodging reservations.

LODGING	PHONE	RATES
Best Western	706-234-3161	\$69
Comfort Inn	706-802-1223	\$69.99
Comfort Suites	706-232-6055	\$82
Country Hearth	706-314-1115	\$54.99
Country Inn & Suites	706-232-3380	\$79
Hampton Inn	706-232-9551	\$82
Hawthorn Suites	706-378-4837	\$99 - \$109.10
Holiday Inn Express	706-232-0021	\$95
Jameson Inn	706-291-7797	\$77.99
LaQuinta Inn	706-291-1034	\$84

Note: Prices do not include taxes. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Greater Rome Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-444-1834.



All I-75 exits shown will lead to Rome

BERRY COLLEGE

Eighth Biennial Southern Women Writers Conference

September 24-26, 2009



About the Conference

The Southern Women Writers Conference at Berry College seeks to recognize the contributions of southern women to American literature. Scholarly and creative presentations and panel discussions as well as readings and lectures by contemporary authors provide a forum for examining the unique perspectives and concerns of southern women writers of the past and present. The theme for the eighth biennial conference in 2009 is "Many Souths: Remembering, Sustaining, Creating." Speakers and presenters will explore the concepts of "Many Souths," whether geographical or metaphorical, and the ways women writers recall and remember, preserve and sustain, and develop and create them.

The conference also seeks to promote and encourage promising new southern women writers by sponsoring creative writing workshops and an emerging writers contest in poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. The first-place winners in each category of the contest will read from their work during the conference.

For more information on the calls for submissions, the workshops and Emerging Writers Contest, our featured speakers, the history of the conference, and other details, please visit our Web site at www.berry.edu/swwc2009; email the conference directors at swwc@berry.edu; or call 706-368-6996.

Request for accommodations related to disability need to be made to Christina Bucher at 706-233-4076 or at cbucher@berry.edu.

Conference Schedule



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

4:00-6:00 p.m. Registration

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Book Sale

8:30-9:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries

9:00-10:30 a.m. Sessions

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Allison Hedge Coke

12:30-2:00 p.m. Lunch/Melissa Faye Greene

2:15-3:45 p.m. Sessions/Reading by local student contest winners

4:00-5:00 p.m. Mab Segrest

5:15 p.m. Dinner on your own

7:00 p.m. Natasha Trethewey

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Book Sale

8:30-9:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries

9:00-10:30 a.m. Sessions

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Thulani Davis

12:30-2:00 p.m. Lunch/Judith Ortiz Cofer

2:15-3:45 p.m. Sessions

4:15-5:15 p.m. Sarah Gordon – Buzz and Barbara McCoy lecture

6:00-7:30 p.m. Dinner/Connie May Fowler

8:30 p.m. Open Mic Night

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00-11:00 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Book Sale

8:00-9:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries

8:30-11:30 a.m. Fiction and poetry workshops

8:30-9:45 a.m. Sessions

10:00-11:30 a.m. Sessions

12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch/Sharyn McCrumb

1:30-2:45 p.m. Book signing

3:00-4:15 p.m. Natalie Daise

4:30-5:45 p.m. Reading by Emerging Writers Contest winners

6:00-7:30 p.m. Dinner/Marsha Norman

8:00 p.m. Performance of Marsha Norman's *Getting Out*

This schedule is subject to change.

Please check our Web site, www.berry.edu/swwc2009, for updates.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rome, GA 30161
Permit No. 2

Southern Women Writers Conference
P.O. Box 490350
Mount Berry, GA 30149-0350
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BERRY COLLEGE
Experience it firsthand

Featured SPEAKERS



Judith Ortiz Cofer was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Paterson, New Jersey, and now makes her home in Georgia. She works in multiple genres including

poetry, fiction, young adult fiction, and essays. Recent titles include *Call Me Maria* (2006), *A Love Story Beginning in Spanish: Poems* (2005), and *Woman in Front of the Sun: On Becoming a Writer* (2000). In addition, her works have appeared in many prestigious journals and anthologies including *The Georgia Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Norton Introduction to Poetry*, and *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Cofer's incisive and lyrical writing has garnered her numerous awards and honors, and she is currently the Regents' and Franklin Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Georgia.



Allison Hedge Coke, of Indigenous American and European descent, grew up in North Carolina, Canada, and on the Great Plains. She is a noted poet,

memoirist, and anthologist. Among her books, *Blood Run* (2006) won the Wordcraft Circle Writer of the Year Award and *Dog Road Woman*, the 1998 American Book Award. Among her seven edited collections, two volumes of new Indigenous American poetry, *Ahani* and *Effigies* are forthcoming. Hedge Coke is noted for working with incarcerated youth; representing ethnic, underclass and working-class situations; acknowledging Indigenous mound cities; and seeking to define relationships with human beings and nature, in particular with Sandhill Cranes. Currently, she is the endowed Paul and Clarice Reynolds Chair of Poetry and Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.



Natalie Daise is best known, with her husband Ron, for bringing South Carolina Sea Island Gullah culture to national and international

television audiences through the Nickelodeon program "Gullah Gullah

Island." Daise is an actor, singer, storyteller, songwriter and a craftsperson; her Gullah gifts and handcrafts have been featured on HGTV's *Country Style* and in the magazine *Coastal Living*. Her performances, writings and recordings with Ron have validated and celebrated the rich history of the Gullah people for numerous audiences for nearly a decade, and they have been awarded South Carolina's prestigious Palmetto and Folk Heritage Awards.



Thulani Davis is a writer and interdisciplinary artist who works in a wide range of forms including journalism, fiction, poetry and spoken word, memoir, drama,

and the opera libretto. Among her works are *1959* (1992) and *My Confederate Kinfolk: A Twenty-First Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots* (2006). Davis penned the librettos for the operas *Amistad*, which enjoyed a successful run at the 2008 Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, and *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. She strives as well to incorporate Buddhist practice into her work. Davis currently teaches playwriting at New York University.



Connie May Fowler is the author of five critically acclaimed novels, including *Before Women Had Wings*, recipient of the 1996 Southern Book Critics Circle

Award and adapted for the Emmy Award-winning film produced by Oprah Winfrey, and *The Problem with Murmer Lee* (2005). Her essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *The London Times*, *The Japan Times*, and *Oxford American*. In her memoir, *When Katie Wakes* (2002), she recounts her descent into and escape from an abusive relationship. Her work has been translated into 15 languages and is published worldwide. A native of Florida, Fowler has held numerous jobs, including bartender, food caterer, nurse, television producer, TV show host, antique peddler, and construction worker. She now teaches writing workshops globally.

photo by UGA Press



Sarah Gordon is one of the foremost experts on the life and work of Flannery O'Connor. She is professor emerita of English at Georgia College and State

University in Milledgeville, where she served as the chair of her university's internationally renowned symposia on O'Connor. In addition she was the editor of the *Flannery O'Connor Bulletin* and the founding editor of the *Flannery O'Connor Review*. Her scholarly works include *Flannery O'Connor: The Obedient Imagination* (2004), and *Flannery O'Connor: In Celebration of Genius* (2000). Her most recent book is *A Literary Guide to Flannery O'Connor's Georgia* (2008), all proceeds of which will be donated to the Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation.



Melissa Fay Greene is a native of Macon, Georgia, whose book, *Praying for Sheetrock* (1991), about the political awakening of the isolated African-American community

of coastal McIntosh County, was a finalist for the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award and winner of multiple other literary awards. Her second book, *The Temple Bombing* (1996) is about the attack by segregationists on an Atlanta synagogue in October 1958. She also writes for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Reader's Digest*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *The Washington Post*, *Ms*, and *Parenting*. Greene's most recent offering is *There Is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey To Rescue Her Country's Children* (2007), the story of Haregewoin Teferra, an Ethiopian widow whose home became refuge for hundreds of AIDS orphans.

photo by Jerry Bauer



Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning writer whose recent novel, *St. Dale* (2006) can be described as *The Canterbury Tales* meets NASCAR racing. McCrumb is

best known for her Appalachian "ballad" novels, set in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains, among them *She Walks These Hills* (1995) and *The Songcatcher* (2002). Her Elizabeth MacPherson mysteries also remain favorites with readers and have earned a number of awards. McCrumb's novels have been translated into ten languages,

and she has lectured on her work at Oxford University and the University of Bonn-Germany, taught a writer's workshop in Paris, and was named a "Virginia Woman of History" in 2008 for Achievement in Literature. A film of her novel *The Rosewood Casket* is currently in production, directed by British Academy Award nominee Roberto Schaefer.



Marsha Norman, one of the South's most revered playwrights, is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. A prolific dramatist, she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983 for *'night*,

Mother, and also penned the Tony Award-winning *The Secret Garden* (1992), and the libretto for the Broadway musical adaptation of Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* (2005). *Getting Out*, her first play, will be produced for the conference. She has received grants and awards from such institutions as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Norman has co-directed Juilliard's Playwrights Program since 1994.



Mab Segrest is currently Fuller-Matthai Professor of Gender & Women's Studies and Chair of Gender and Women's Studies Department at Connecticut College

and has a long career of social justice work. Her activism with lesbian-feminist and anti-racist political movements resulted in the pioneering collection *My Mama's Dead Squirrel: Lesbian Essays on Southern Culture* (1985), and the autobiographical *Memoir of a Race Traitor* (1995). Her more recent works include *Born to Belonging: Writings on Spirit and Justice* (2002) and *Sing, Whisper, Shout, Pray!: Feminist Visions for a Just World* (co-editor, 2003). Segrest has founded, served on the boards of, and consulted with a wide range of social justice organizations over the past twenty-five years.



Natasha Trethewey is the author of three highly acclaimed collections of poetry, including her most recent book, *Native Guard*, for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer

Prize, *Bellocq's Ophelia* (2002), and *Domestic Work* (2000). She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study Center, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her poems have appeared in such journals and anthologies as *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *The Best American Poetry 2000* and *2003*. A native of Gulfport, Mississippi, she lives in Atlanta where she holds the Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Conference registrants are invited to read or perform their own works at an informal, after-hours gathering Friday night in downtown Rome. Location to be announced.

SOUTHERN WOMEN WRITERS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND (please check one):

Thursday - Saturday, \$155 (prior to July 30; \$175 after July 30)

Thursday - Saturday, \$90 (undergraduate/graduate student rate)

Registration covers admission to all sessions, readings and performances; morning coffee and pastries on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Saturday only, \$90

Registration covers admission to all Saturday sessions, readings and performances, as well as morning coffee and pastries, lunch and dinner.

I PLAN TO HAVE MORNING COFFEE AND PASTRIES ON:

Thursday **Friday** **Saturday**

MEALS: To register for meals, you must also be registered for the day(s) when the meal(s) will be served. Please add meal cost to registration fee. (Meal purchase not required to attend lunch and dinner readings/talks).

Thursday lunch # _____ @ \$12.50 = \$ _____

Friday lunch # _____ @ \$12.50 = \$ _____

Friday dinner # _____ @ \$17.50 = \$ _____

Return this completed form with payment postmarked by July 30, 2009 for \$155 fee; (thereafter, the fee is \$175) to:

**Berry College
Southern Women Writers Conference
P.O. Box 490350
Mount Berry, GA 30149-0350**

NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

Registration Fee \$ _____
Meals \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check payable to Berry College
 Master Card Visa Am Ex

Name _____
on card _____
Acct. # _____
Expiration date _____

**SOUTHERN
WOMEN
WRITERS
CONFERENCE**

You may also register online at www.berry.edu/swwc2009