

# The Ministry of Writing

AN ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

October 22-23, 2004

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



*Li-Young Lee*

had been Mao-Tse Tung's physician, fled the political turmoil in China. The Lee family found only temporary refuge in Indonesia, where Li-Young was born in 1957. Persecuted for their Christian beliefs, they were subsequently forced to leave Indonesia. Between 1959 and 1964, they lived in Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan, before arriving in the United States, where Li-Young's father became pastor at a Presbyterian church in Pennsylvania. Li-Young currently lives in Chicago with his wife Donna and their two children. His books of poetry include *Book of My Nights*, *Rose* (winner of the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award from New York University), and *The City in Which I Love You* (the 1990 Lamont Poetry selection from the Academy of American Poets). His many awards and honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lannan Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

...each must make a safe place of his heart,  
before so strange and wild a guest  
as God approaches.  
—from *Nativity*  
by Li-Young Lee

For Li-Young Lee, this year's keynote speaker, much of a writer's work involves listening, opening, and receiving. Poetry, he says, "is the locally inflected voice of the All." Part of the writer's job, as he understands it, is to attend to those memo-

ries, moments, and explorations in which a wider word may reveal itself. Li-Young's poetry and prose does that in a way that is at once humble, reverent, and playful. Li-Young Lee grew up in a household steeped in poetry. In a memoir called *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance*, he recalls his youth and his family history. In the 1950s, his mother, daughter of Chinese royalty, and his father, who

THE MINISTRY OF WRITING



EARLHAM  
SCHOOL of RELIGION

OCTOBER 22 & 23

2004

in

RICHMOND  
INDIANA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

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5,000/7-04

# WORKSHOPS

Most of the workshops listed below will be repeated.

Please choose one to attend in the morning and a different one for the afternoon session.

## Poem as Paradigm for the Experience of God (afternoon only)

Led by Li-Young Lee



Conversation and Q&A on poetry and spirituality.

Li-Young Lee has published three books of poetry—*Book of My Nights, Rose*, and *The City In Which I Love You*—and a memoir called *The Winged*

*Seed: A Remembrance*. He lives in Chicago with his wife Donna and their two children.

## Religion in Publishing

Led by Phyllis Tickle



This workshop will emphasize the nuts and bolts of religion publishing, including: an overview of the religion book industry itself; specifics about electronic, print periodical markets; methods of finding and approaching agents and/or publishers; a suggested bibliography of useful lists and tools, etc. There will be an ample Q & A period for dealing with participants' particular concerns.

Phyllis Tickle is a contributing editor in religion for *Publisher's Weekly*. An authority on religion in America, Phyllis is frequently quoted in publications like *Newsweek*, *Time*, and the *New York Times*. She is also the author of a dozen books, most of them on religion and spirituality.

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## Writing Wild: Inspiration and Renewal in Everyday Landscapes

Led by Susan Tweit



Seekers of all sorts have traditionally retreated to the wilderness to nurture their spiritual lives. We don't have to go that far, however, to find a source of solace: it is all around us in nature wherever we are.

In this workshop, we'll explore the nature and spirit of everyday landscapes; we'll learn simple tools to reconnect to the wild—both without and within—as a source of creativity and inspiration.

Susan J. Tweit began her career as a field biologist studying grizzly bear habitat, sagebrush ecology, and wildfires. Her eight books for kids and adults include *Barren, Wild, and Worthless: Living in the Chihuahuan Desert* and *City Foxes*. Her commentaries are carried by *Writers on the Range*, an op-ed syndicate, and heard on community radio.

## The Soul Tells a Story

Led by Vinita Hampton Wright



This workshop will explore creativity as a spiritual process. Through writing exercises and discussion, participants will be invited to better understand the process and participate with it more thoughtfully, freely, and intentionally.

Vinita Hampton Wright is acquisitions editor with Loyola Press of Chicago. Vinita's own novels—*Grace at Bender Springs* and *Velma Still Cooks in Leeway*—both received starred reviews in *Publisher's Weekly*.

## The Big 10

Led by Lil Copan



Many first-time writers make the same mistakes (I call them the Big 10) in writing. This workshop offers tips for editing & revising your nonfiction work so that you have a stronger presentation of a manuscript for a publishing house or magazine. No revision comes without sweat and tears, but knowing the Big 10 helps you attend to the biggest of the writerly boo-boos. Materials: Bring a red pen.

Lil Copan is acquisitions editor with Paraclete Press. Previously she worked as literary series editor with Shaw Publishers, followed by a short time with the small literary/arts Press David R. Godine.

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## Putting History and Mystery Together

Led by Doug Gwyn



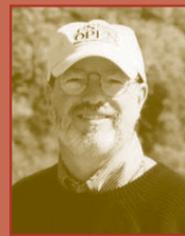
This is an opportunity to explore the issues that arise when we write on historical subjects out of a sense of spiritual affinity or concern. How do we enter into a deeper dialogue with historical texts? How

do we balance a spiritual reading of texts with the demand for responsible, "objective" scholarship?

Doug Gwyn serves as pastor at First Friends Meeting in Richmond. He has researched and written on early Friends for more than 25 years. His books on early Quakerism include: *Apocalypse of the Word*, *The Covenant Crucified*, and *Seekers Found*.

## Story as a Means of Grace

Led by Brent Bill



Do you wish to write in a way that touches readers—and yourself? Then you will want to tell stories, whether you are writing fiction or non-fiction. This workshop will look at the power

and uses of story in spiritual writing. Participants are asked to bring their own examples of effective short spiritual stories (non-fiction and fiction) to share in the workshop.

Brent Bill is the author of fifteen books, including *40 Days and 40 Bytes: Computers and Your Congregation*, *Imagination and Spirit: A Contemporary Quaker Reader*, and the forthcoming *Holy Silence: The Quaker Gift of Spirituality*. He has written more than 100 fiction and non-fiction pieces and is a writing instructor and coach.

## Daily Bread: Writing in and about Everyday Life

Led by Mary Lacey



All the best books and teachers say, "Write what you know," and this is good advice, meant to free us to acknowledge our expertise in theme, style, and voice. But writing what we know—the material of daily lived

experience, memory, and the stories we have inherited—is also a way to discover what we don't yet know. This workshop will invite you to write what you know, in search of openings into other, deeper experiences of knowledge.

Mary Lacey is associate professor of English at Earlham College, where she teaches modern literature, poetry, and creative writing. She received her BA from Earlham and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Friday, October 22

- 6:30 p.m. Registration/Reception
- 7:00 p.m. Reading: Phyllis Tickle, Susan Tweit, Vinita Hampton Wright

## Saturday, October 23

- 8:15 a.m. Registration /Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Keynote Address: Li-Young Lee
- 10:45 a.m. Morning Workshop Sessions (choose one)
  - Religion in Publishing*—Phyllis Tickle
  - Writing Wild: Inspiration and Renewal in Everyday Landscapes*—Susan Tweit
  - The Soul Tells a Story*—Vinita Hampton Wright
  - The Big 10*—Lil Copan
  - Putting History and Mystery Together*—Doug Gwyn
  - Story as a Means of Grace*—Brent Bill
  - Daily Bread: Writing in and about Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. Afternoon Workshop Sessions (choose one)
  - Poem as Paradigm for the Experience of God*—Li-Young Lee
  - Religion in Publishing*—Phyllis Tickle
  - Writing Wild: Inspiration & Renewal in Everyday Landscapes*—Susan Tweit
  - The Soul Tells a Story*—Vinita Hampton Wright
  - The Big 10*—Lil Copan
  - Putting History and Mystery Together*—Doug Gwyn
  - Story as a Means of Grace*—Brent Bill
  - Daily Bread: Writing in and about Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey
- 3:15 p.m. Refreshments /Autograph Party
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks: Li-Young Lee
- 7:30-9:30 p.m. Coffee House/Open Mic

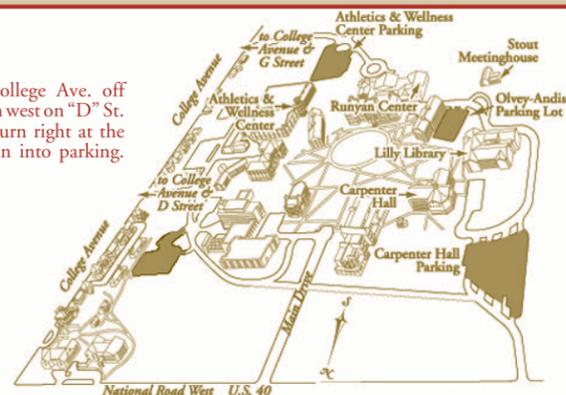
## The Ministry of Writing Colloquium

"The Ministry of Writing" colloquium was endowed by individuals in honor of Tom Mullen at the time of his retirement as Dean of Earlham School of Religion in 1990. Tom retired from ESR in 1997. His "Writing for the Religious Market" class, first offered over 20 years ago, was the beginning of ESR's unique emphasis in the ministry of writing. This colloquium is one way the school demonstrates its commitment to the written word as an important form of ministry. Previous keynote speakers for the Colloquium have been:

- |                      |                        |                            |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1992—William Zinsser | 1996—Madeleine L'Engle | 2000—Donna Jo Napoli       |
| 1993—Sam Keen        | 1997—James M. Wall     | 2001—Elizabeth Cox         |
| 1994—Keith Miller    | 1998—Noel Paul Stookey | 2002—Phil Gulley           |
| 1995—Walter Wangerin | 1999—Will D. Campbell  | 2003—Scott Russell Sanders |

## Parking:

Please turn south on College Ave. off National Road West. Turn west on "D" St. into Earlham campus. Turn right at the stop sign, then right again into parking. Walk to the ESR Center.



The colloquium will be held in the ESR Center at the northeast corner of the Earlham Campus. A finalized schedule and room assignments will be available at registration.

# REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Colloquium *prior to Oct. 1*: \$65  Colloquium *after Oct. 1*: \$70

Colloquium: undergrad/grad student: \$25 Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a vegetarian meal

Workshop One preference (number first and second choice)

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Religion in Publishing*—Phyllis Tickle
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Writing Wild: Inspiration & Renewal in Everyday Landscapes*—Susan Tweit
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Soul Tells a Story*—Vinita Hampton Wright
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Big 10*—Lil Copan
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Putting History and Mystery Together*—Doug Gwyn
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Story as a Means of Grace*—Brent Bill
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Daily Bread: Writing in and about Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey

Workshop Two preference (number first and second choice)

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Poem as Paradigm for the Experience of God*—Li-Young Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Religion in Publishing*—Phyllis Tickle
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Writing Wild: Inspiration & Renewal in Everyday Landscapes*—Susan Tweit
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Soul Tells a Story*—Vinita Hampton Wright
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- \_\_\_\_\_ *Daily Bread: Writing in and about Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey

A \$65 registration fee covers all colloquium events, including Friday night readings, all plenary sessions and workshops, Saturday continental breakfast and lunch (please indicate vegetarian preference) and refreshments, and the reading/open mic Saturday night.

Send registration to: Writing Colloquium 2004, Rita Cummins, Earlham School of Religion, 228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374. 1-800-432-1377, E-mail: cummiri@earlham.edu

