

# The Ministry of Writing

AN ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

October 21-22, 2005

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



*Lauren Winner*



*Diane Glancy*

turn—this time to Christianity and more specifically the Anglican Church. As one interviewer put it, Lauren Winner, in her first twenty-six years, “traveled enough spiritually, intellectually, and geographically to fill several lifetimes.” Although Winner saw nothing especially remarkable about her own journey, she did feel a need to write. “It is a somewhat complicated thing to do—to try, after a religious conversion, to put the pieces of one’s life and self back together,” Winner said. “Like many people, I find that writing helps me make sense of my own thoughts. So I began scribbling things down.” Those scribbles eventually led to her first book—*Girl Meets God: On the Path to a Spiritual Life*—which established her as a vital new voice in contemporary dialogues concerning religion and spirituality.

Both of this year’s featured speakers come with a long list of accomplishments. Lauren Winner has already followed her memoir with two more well-received books: *Mudhouse Sabbath and Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity*. She has appeared on PBS’s Religion & Ethics Newsweek and has written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post Book World*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Christianity Today*. Diane Glancy, has published eight novels, four short story collections, three books of essays, and ten volumes of poetry. Her many accolades include two awards from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her most recent books include *In Between Places* (essays), *Primer of the Obsolete* (poems), and *Stone Heart: A Novel of Sacajawea*.

For both of our featured speakers this year, writing has been a way to reconcile, and perhaps integrate, disparate elements of life and faith. For Diane Glancy, who was raised by a Cherokee father and a mother of German-English descent, writing has been a way of listening to the different voices that inhabit her being. “We carry more than we realize . . . . We carry our ancestors, not in the sense of ghosts, but in the sense of the past being with us. We carry the burden or the weight of glory . . . of everything that has come before.” Glancy carries the stories and voices of her Christian faith as well as the rich Cherokee heritage that came to her through her father. In her novels, plays, essays, and poems, Glancy has worked on recovering and empowering those voices that have been marginalized. In her novels, plays, essays, and poems, she celebrates the stories of Biblical women, and of Native Americans, and of the land itself. If writing has been, for Glancy, a listening way, a gathering of voices, it has also been a way of living into a strong and gathered voice. As she puts it, “I think that’s the work we do all our lives: bringing together the fragments and trying to make some cohesive wholeness out of them.”

Lauren Winner grew up in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her father was a secular Jew, her mother a lapsed southern Baptist. While in high school she began attending a reform Jewish synagogue. In her freshman year at Columbia University, after years of serious study and consideration, she immersed herself in the Orthodox Jewish community. Later, after a low ebb in her spiritual life, she was studying at Cambridge University in England when her faith journey took a different



# 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.

## Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices

Led by Diane Glancy



This workshop is about building faith through writing in or for the voices of Biblical characters. We'll look at the voice of Dorcas, the New Testament seamstress, the four daughters of Phillip in Acts 21:8-9, and the voice of

Joseph when he was in prison in Egypt. We'll find a character who has appealed to us or puzzled us and explore his/her voice through creative writing.

Diane Glancy is a professor at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she teaches Native American Literature and Creative Writing. Among her novels are *Pushing the Bear: the 1838 Cherokee Trail of Tears*; *Stone Heart: A Novel of Sacajawea*; *The Closets of Heaven: The Story of the New Testament Seamstress, Dorcas*; *Designs of the Night Sky*; and *The Dance Partner: a Novel of the 19th Century Ghost Dance*.

## The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know

Led by Lauren Winner



In this workshop, Lauren Winner will give you the skinny on writing about people you know, address the mores and ethics of memoir writing, and lead a few exercises in creative disguise (that is, changing Great-Aunt Hilda's name and "identifying details" without turning her into a cardboard cutout)

Lauren F. Winner, is the author of *Girl Meets God*, *Mudhouse Sabbath*, and *Real Sex: The Truth About Chastity*. She has also written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post Book World*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Christianity Today*. Winner has degrees from Columbia and Cambridge universities and is currently at work on her doctorate in the history of American religion.

## Book Basics: The Start-Up Kit for Your Book

Led by Lil Copan (morning only)



This workshop will cover basic questions most beginning writers have about getting a book published: from developing an idea, researching the market, and submitting a book proposal to working with agents, editors, publishers, and publicists. Please bring your questions and a one-paragraph summary of a book idea that you would like to pursue (or are currently pursuing).

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

## Where Words Come From

Led by Brent Bill (morning only)



Asked once about silent worship, a Delaware Indian leader named Papunehank remarked: "I love to feel where the words come from." Those are the kinds of words that matter—the ones that come from our

souls. This workshop will look at the power of words that come from deep inside.

Brent Bill is the author of 15 books, including *Holy Silence: the Gift of Quaker Spirituality* (Paraclete: 2005) and *Imagination and Spirit: A Contemporary Quaker Reader* (Friends United Press: 2003). He has written more than 100 fiction and non-fiction articles and is a writing instructor and coach.

## An Author-Editor Conversation

Lil Copan and Brent Bill (afternoon only)



Two years ago at the Ministry of Writing Colloquium, author Lil Copan had a conversation about landscape, Quaker faith, silence, and the Red Sox. Through this conversation a book idea was born. In May 2005 the book was published with Paraclete Press. Please join them in an informal conversation, as they meet again, two years later to talk about the book, the development of an idea, and the steps and stages of writing and editing and publishing that resulted in the book *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality*.



opment of an idea, and the steps and stages of writing and editing and publishing that resulted in the book *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality*.

## Writing About Belief: What's the Story?

Led by Ray Waddle



This workshop will focus on writing about belief—that is, the wider world of faith, or one's own—with publication in mind. The workshop will consider various questions related to writing articles, columns, and books for a real audience. Topics will include: religion writing as an act of translation (describing sectarian or esoteric or devotional ideas in general terms) for the reader and writing as a way to sharpen our own thinking (and unearth our prejudices) about matters of faith.

Ray Waddle has been a religion writer and columnist for 20 years. He was religion editor at *The Tennessean* in Nashville from 1984-2001. He is also the author of *A Turbulent Peace: The Psalms for Our Time* (Upper Room Books, 2004). His next book, *Against the Grain: Unconventional Wisdom from Ecclesiastes*, was released in August 2005 (Upper Room Books). Waddle has degrees from the University of Oklahoma (BA, journalism) and Vanderbilt University (MA, religious studies), and lives in Nashville.

## Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time

Led by Mary Brown



This workshop will focus on occasional poems—pieces written as gift or by request for specific events. Writing excellent occasional poetry is a challenge for the poet devoted to both art and ministry.

It allows the poet to think specifically about audience, to explore fully the effects of sound and tone, to consider how poetry moves simultaneously within and outside of time. It also serves people who are hungry for lines that speak to them in the moment.

Mary Brown teaches literature and creative writing at Indiana Wesleyan University. She publishes poetry in Christian and secular magazines and journals from *Christian Century* to *Artful Dodge*. She has poetry and an essay in a book forthcoming from Haworth Press, entitled *Still Going Strong: Memoirs, Stories, and Poems About Great Older Women*.



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Friday, October 21

- 6:30 p.m. Registration/Reception
- 7:00 p.m. Reading: Mary Brown, Ray Waddle, Peter Anderson, Brent Bill, Tom Mullen, and Diane Glancy

## Saturday, October 22

- 8:15 a.m. Registration /Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Opening Remarks: Lauren Winner
- 10:45 a.m. Morning Workshops (choose one)
  - Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices*—Diane Glancy
  - The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know*—Lauren Winner
  - Book Basics: The Start-Up Kit for Your Book*—Lil Copan
  - Where Words Come From*—Brent Bill
  - Writing About Belief: What's the Story?*—Ray Waddle
  - Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time*—Mary Brown
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. Afternoon Workshops (choose one)
  - Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices*—Diane Glancy
  - The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know*—Lauren Winner
  - An Author-Editor Conversation*—Lil Copan and Brent Bill
  - Writing About Belief: What's the Story?*—Ray Waddle
  - Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time*—Mary Brown
- 3:15 p.m. Refreshments /Autobiography
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks: Diane Glancy
- 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	1997—James M. Wall	2001—Elizabeth Cox
1993—Sam Keen	1998—Noel Paul Stookey	2002—Phil Gulley
1994—Keith Miller	1999—Will D. Campbell	2003—Scott Russell Sanders
1995—Walter Wangerin	2000—Donna Jo Napoli	2004—Li-Young Lee
1996—Madeleine L'Engle		

### 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)

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices*—Diane Glancy
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know*—Lauren Winner
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Book Basics: The Start-Up Kit for Your Book*—Lil Copan
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Where Words Come From*—Brent Bill
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Writing About Belief: What's the Story?*—Ray Waddle
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time*—Mary Brown

Workshop Two preference (number first and second choice)

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices*—Diane Glancy
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know*—Lauren Winner
- \_\_\_\_\_ *An Author-Editor Conversation*—Lil Copan and Brent Bill
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Writing About Belief: What's the Story?*—Ray Waddle
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time*—Mary Brown

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