A Taste of Hemingway’s Italy—September 18

On the evening of September 18th, we will host a winetasting and dinner at the Cooper Alumni Center on the campus of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, proceeds of which benefit the museum. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with hors d’oeuvres. The dinner and winetasting will follow at 7:00. The theme for the evening will be “A Taste of Hemingway’s Italy,” and the courses will parallel Ernest Hemingway’s trips to Italy, particularly in the region of Venice.

The evening serves as a kick-off for the museum’s upcoming trip to Italy and Switzerland following in the footsteps of A Farewell to Arms, parts of which were written in Piggott. Details of the trip will be revealed at the dinner.

The cost of a ticket is $100. Tables of eight are available for $750. Please RSVP to the museum by September 11th. You can also contact the museum following the dinner for more information about the trip.

This event is sponsored by Piggott State Bank, First National Bank – Piggott’s Banking Center, and the Cavanaugh Auto Group.

New Edition of Hemingway Book Features Pauline’s Writings

NEW YORK (AP) — Eighty years after the release of "Green Hills of Africa," the son and grandson of Ernest Hemingway are urging a fresh look at a work critics have often set aside.

Published in 1935, "Green Hills of Africa" was Hemingway's account of a hunting safari on the Serengeti Plains, a chronicle of adventure and a literary challenge Hemingway set up for himself. Anticipating by decades Truman Capote's "nonfiction novel," the classic "In Cold Blood," Hemingway wanted to prove that "an absolutely true book" can "compete with a work of the imagination."

The new edition is part of a series authorized by the Hemingway estate that already includes reissues of "A Moveable Feast," "The Sun Also Rises" and "A Farewell to Arms." Grandson Sean Hemingway contributes an introduction, while son Patrick Hemingway, a boy at the time his parents were in Africa, shares personal memories. The book also includes photographs, early drafts of the finished narrative and a diary kept by the author's then wife, Pauline Pfeiffer.

"She's not a person who's well known, so it's wonderful to have a sustained piece of writing by her," Sean Hemingway said recently of his grandmother, the second of Ernest Hemingway's four wives. "It's also a wonderful complement to my grandfather's work."

As Pfeiffer's diaries reveal, "Green Hills of Africa" was not entirely factual. The author rearranged some chronology and minimized a bout of dysentery so severe that he had to be flown out of the area. Pfeiffer's journal also describes a near-tragedy — the author's rifle fell off a car and fired — that inspired Hemingway's classic short story "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber," in which the title character is killed by a sudden blast from his wife's gun.

This article continues online. Copies of this new edition of Green Hills of Africa are available in our Museum Store.
Our Veteran Writers:  Left to Right, Front Row:  Jerry Davis (Hot Springs Village), Rob Lamm (Jonesboro), Pamela Kay (Brookland), April Mancias (Marmaduke), Alex Vernon (Little Rock) Back Row:  Rochelle Bohannon (North Little Rock), Norris Norman (Paragould), Fred Worfe (Sherwood), Matthew Windsor (Conway), Jerrod Ward (Blytheville), Carmie Henry (Little Rock), Ron Miller (Jonesboro), Rich Carvell (Jonesboro), Nate Jordan (Harrison)

Upcoming Events

Sept. 18 — A Taste of Hemingway’s Italy
Sept. 19 — Advisory Committee Meeting
Oct. 15-17 — Arkansas Philological Association Conference (Jonesboro)
Nov. 2-6 — Fall Writers’ Retreat (Pat Carr, mentor)
Nov. 26-27 — Thanksgiving Break

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Arkansas Philological Association Conference

On October 15-17, the museum will host this year’s meeting of the Arkansas Philological Association, the professional society for literature professors in Arkansas. The theme of the conference is “Hemingway and His Contemporaries.” The proceedings will be held at the Reng Student Center on the campus of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro. The conference will feature presentations from scholars from throughout the region, a keynote address by Dr. Ruth Hawkins, and a reception at the museum in Piggott. If you’re interested in learning more, contact Adam.

Fall Writers’ Retreat

We are proud to announce our Fall Writers’ Retreat, which will be held November 2-6 the Educational Center and the Hemingway Barn-Studio and will offer writers the opportunity to work under the direction of a professional mentor. Registration is $200 by Oct. 16 or $225 thereafter; lunch and breaks are included. Scholarships are available. Contact the museum for details.

Pat Carr will serve as mentor for the retreat. She has a B.A. and M.A. from Rice, a Ph.D. from Tulane and has taught writing and literature in universities and workshops across the country. She’s published sixteen books, including The Women in the Mirror, winner of the prestigious Iowa Fiction Award, and Death of a Confederate Colonel, winner of both the PEN Southwest Fiction Award and John Estes Cooke Civil War Fiction Award, and she has over a hundred short stories published in such places as The Southern Review and Best American Short Stories. Her most recent books are a memoir, One Page at a Time (2010), a how-to text, Writing Fiction with Pat Carr (2010), a novella, The Radiance of Fossils (2012), and a collection of short stories, The House on Prytania (2014).

For more information or to receive a brochure, contact the museum. Teachers interested in in-service opportunities associated with the retreat are encouraged to apply.

Pat’s retreat’s fill up quickly, so register today.

Writing Retreat for Military Veterans

On July 24-26, we held a Writing Retreat for Military Veterans. This weekend retreat was funded through a partnership with the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the course of the weekend, thirteen talented writers came together to hone their skills and to form a community in Northeast Arkansas at the site where Ernest Hemingway penned much of his iconic war novel A Farewell to Arms.

Dr. Rob Lamm of Arkansas State University served as mentor for the retreat. Lamm, a mentor at other retreats at HPMEC, said, “This was our first retreat attended exclusively by veterans.” He continued, “All of the writers had works in progress, so some chose to continue those works. Many wrote on their experiences in the service: boot camp, deployments (including Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay), and missions almost anywhere in the world. Others were interested in other creative genres.” Asked what he took away from the retreat, Lamm replied, “I learned about experiences unique to those who have served their country and sometimes risked their lives doing so. I shared the synergy of the group as we inspired each other to write better and more.”

Writers began each day with exercises to get them started, often looking at samples of Hemingway’s writing as models for their own. They enjoyed lunch together at the Educational Center and ended the afternoon with a group meeting to reflect, share, and discuss the processes used by each writer. Between formal meetings, the writers had time to work individually, often in the same rooms where Hemingway wrote. The format allowed writers time to focus on their own creative interests, to receive feedback on their work, and to form relationships with other writers.

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