The Hemingway-Pfeiffer Summer Writers’ Retreat

June 6-10, 2016

The retreat offers adults the opportunity to work on personal creative writing, share their work, receive feedback, and interact with others interested in writing. Writers have the opportunity to work in the Barn-Studio where Ernest Hemingway wrote during visits to Piggott. Not all writers come with something in mind to write, but many do.

The retreat is structured to be interactive, a time when friendships are formed, craft is honed, and creativity is enhanced. Writers contribute stories, poems, essays, etc., to the souvenir anthology printed for each participant.

Mark Spencer will serve as mentor for the retreat. His most recent novel is Ghost Walking, a follow-up to his bestseller A Haunted Love Story: The Ghosts of Allen House. His other books include the novels The Weary Motel, Love and Reruns in Adams County, The Masked Demon, and the short-story collections Wedlock and Trespassers. His work has received the Faulkner Society Faulkner Award for the Novel, the Omaha Prize for the Novel, the Bradshaw Book Award, the Cairn/St. Andrews Press Short Fiction Award, and four Special Mentions in Pushcart Prize. He is Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and Professor of Creative Writing in the MFA program at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

The HP Educational Center

Daily sessions are held in the Educational Center adjacent to the Pfeiffer-Janes House. Participants may choose to write in the Educational Center, in the Barn-Studio, on the porches, on the patio, or on lawn areas. You may bring your own laptop computer or use one of the Educational Center’s.

Retreat Schedule

Monday

9 a.m to 10:  Introduction/Discussion
10 to noon:  Reading Like a Writer (in-depth analysis of short readings)
Noon to 1 p.m.: Lunch provided on site
1 to 2:00:  Exercise—Setting and Character
2 to 3:  Individual Writing

Tuesday-Friday

9 a.m to 10:30: Individual writing/conferences
10:30 to 11: Craft Topic of the Day
11 to noon: Discussion of reading
Noon to 1 p.m.: Lunch provided on site
1 to 2:  Writers’ workshop
2 to 3:  Workshop/conferences/individual writing

Craft Topic of the Day

Mon.: “The first rule about Fiction Club is you don’t talk about…”
Tues: The Importance of Small Details; Showing vs. Telling
Wed. Dialogue
Thurs.: Structure, Plot, and Pace
Fri.: Point of View and Narrative Voice

Teachers interested in in-service opportunities associated with the retreat should call the museum for information.
Piggott Lodging
Copper Heron Cottage: 870-634-6438
nfithian@earthlink.net
The Inn at Piggott: 870-598-8888
(formerly the Downtown Inn)
Open Roads Motel: 870-598-5941
Rose Dale Farm B&B: 870-634-7100

Lodging for the week is not included in the registration fee, but several local inns offer special rates. Be sure to mention you are attending the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Writers’ Retreat.

Local Attractions
The Matilda and Karl Pfeiffer Museum, a 1933 Tudor Revival-style home adjacent to the Hemingway Barn-Studio, features native botanical gardens, a world-class mineral collection and a Native American artifact collection.

Chalk Bluff Park, a Civil War site about 15 minutes north of Piggott at St. Francis, offers paved heritage trails through the wooded area at the St. Francis River.

Heritage Park, less than five minutes from HPMEC, features a fishing lake with paved walking trails, picnic areas and playgrounds.

Shop and Dine “On the Square.” The downtown area is lined with shops featuring antiques, collectibles, and unique gifts, along with dining facilities.

Ernest and Pauline Hemingway’s Paris Wedding
May 10, 1927

The Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center in Piggott, Arkansas, is the former residence of Paul and Mary Pfeiffer, whose daughter Pauline was married to the great American writer Ernest Hemingway.

Pauline met Ernest and his first wife Hadley in 1925 at a party in Paris. Pauline had graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1918 and worked for the Cleveland Press and Vanity Fair in New York before accepting a job with the Paris bureau of Vogue magazine.

After their marriage on May 10, 1927, Pauline and Ernest remained in Paris for a time, settling later in Key West, FL. During their marriage, from 1927-1940, they were frequent visitors to Piggott, and the Pfeiffers converted their barn into a studio to give Hemingway privacy for writing. It was in this unlikely spot that he wrote portions of A Farewell to Arms and various short stories.

HPMEC offers Writers’ Retreats for adults, Young Authors Workshops, an annual Student Art Exhibition, and other special events.

Tours are on the hour:
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday 1 to 3 p.m.

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Registration Form
Registration is $200 by May 27 or $225 thereafter; lunch and breaks are included. Single-day registrations are not available. Full refund if canceled by June 1; $25 less if after. Please register as soon as possible and make lodging reservations, as the retreat is limited to 16 participants.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
City, State, Zip: ________________________
Phone: (          ) ________________________
Email: ________________________________

Credit Card:
VISA_____  MasterCard_____ Discover_____
Account #______________________________
Expiration Date:___________CSC:__________
Signature of card holder: ___________________________

Checks and money order payable to:
HPMEC Writers’ Retreat
Mail with completed Registration Form to:
1021 W. Cherry Street
Piggott, AR  72454

For more information contact:
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