



American Short Fiction Reading Retreat

On April 1-2, the museum hosted the American Short Fiction Reading Retreat. Throughout the weekend, participants gathered to talk about three collections of short stories representing some of the best of American short fiction. The discussion of Hemingway was led by Dr. Adam Long, the discussion of Faulkner was led by Dr. Terrell Tebbetts, and the discussion of Flannery O'Connor was led by Dr. Amy Schmidt. On Saturday evening, the participants were joined by members of the community for a Literary Cocktail Party. Guests were invited to come dressed as their favorite figures from American fiction. Special thanks to Rodney and Kim Rouse for sponsoring the party. Our annual reading retreat has become one of our favorite events on our calendar. We hope you can join us next year.



We were joined by a number of literary guests. Can you identify them?



Director's Corner

We've had several changes around the museum this winter. As many of you know, Johnna Redman retired this January after 17 years. Thank you to everyone for being patient while we've worked to fill the position. Shannon Williams, former director of Piggott Parks and Recreation, joined the staff on April 18. We're happy to have her on board.

We're also happy to welcome Lindsay Penn, a graduate student in the A-State Heritage Studies program. She'll be with us two days a week working on a variety of projects, including helping with our Young Authors program.

If you see Shannon or Lindsay, help us in making them feel welcome.

Hope to see you soon,
Adam

Friends Trip to Cuba—Islands in the Stream

On May 12-19, 2017, the museum will sponsor a trip to Cuba. This small guided trip is open to the public and will visit sites associated with Hemingway's time in Cuba. This trip will be unique in that it will follow Hemingway's novel *Islands in the Stream*, as well as visiting the traditional sites of Havana.

Ernest Hemingway lived in Cuba for 21 years. He wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* (for which he won the Pulitzer Prize) at the home he called Finca Vigía or "lookout farm," which is located nine miles outside of Havana.

This 8-day/7-night trip will have two exciting parts. First, it will explore the central coast which provided the backdrop for Hemingway's *Islands in the Stream*. It will visit the cayos (keys) made famous in this novel - Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo. It will then travel to Havana to enjoy the art, music, dance and architecture of the city. Travelers will enjoy a private reception with the Curator of Finca Vigía, will explore Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and will see the amazing architecture in Central Havana. Along the way, they will stop at many of the sites associated with Hemingway: Hotel Ambos Mundos, La Bodeguita del Medio, El Floridita, and Sloppy Joe's. In addition to sites specifically associated with Hemingway, travelers will also get to enjoy some of the Cuban classics: a visit to the Rum Museum, a ride in a classic American car, and a visit to a cigar factory.

This is the museum's second trip to Cuba. Thirty-four travelers from ten states joined the museum for a trip in 2014. To register for the trip, or to get pricing or other information, contact the museum.



Left: Cayo Guillermo, Cuba Middle: Our 2014 travelling group Right: Finca Vigía, Hemingway's home in San Francisco de Paula, Cuba.

Summer Writers' Retreat—June 6-10

This summer's writing retreat will be mentored by Mark Spencer. 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 water of the Stream was usually a dark blue when you looked out at it when there was no wind. But when you walked out into it there was just the green light of the water over that flowery white sand and you could see the shadow of any big fish a long time before he could ever come in close to the beach."

-Ernest Hemingway, Islands in the Stream

Save the Date

May 21—Advisory Committee Meeting

June 6-10 — Summer Writers' Retreat (Mark Spencer, mentor)

June 13 — Ride the Fault Line

June 23 — Hemingway Pulitzer Prize Lecture (Jonesboro)

July 17-23 — International Hemingway Conference (Oak Park)

Sept. 24 — Advisory Committee Meeting

Oct. 31-Nov. 4 — Fall Writers' Retreat (Andrea Hollander, mentor)