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*A Publication of the Seacoast Writers Association*

# THE Seacoast Writer

## SWA FALL WRITERS CONFERENCE *Saturday, Oct. 16, at the* **McConnell Center, Dover, NH**

It's hard to believe that another summer has passed. Our fall conference is fast approaching. We have a great lineup of presenters with a wide breadth of expertise. We have included workshops with broad appeal to those working in different genres. Everyone will find something of interest and you may have a difficult time deciding which two exciting workshops to attend.

### Do You Miss your Fruit Juice at Breakfast?

In their evaluations, some participants at the McConnell Center have asked for fruit juice with their continental breakfast. Green Bean, our caterer says their supplier does not carry small individual juice containers. Because SWA values the wishes of our conference attendees, the SWA board has decided to provide individual juice boxes—in a variety of flavors—as part of the continental breakfast included in your registration. One more reason to head for Dover on October 16!

# THE WORKSHOPS

## Being There: Creating a Sense of Place—M.F. Bloxam.

**T**he landscapes and interiors in which we set our stories, essays, or poems are more than mere places; they are multidimensional screens upon which we can project mood, emotion, conflict and theme. In this workshop we'll move beyond the standard "descriptive passage" to explore new ways of "being there," where our settings shape and enhance the narrative and action. We'll try out these new strategies with in-class writing exercises. Writers of all genres are encouraged to register.

**M.F. Bloxam**, author of prize-winning short fiction and creative nonfiction, is a recipient of an Individual Fellowship grant from the NH State Council on the Arts. Her novel, *The Night Battles* was a Finalist for the 2009 ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award. She is a resident of the NH seacoast area. Learn more about **M.F. Bloxam's** work at [www.thenightbattles.com](http://www.thenightbattles.com).

## Getting Published—Rae Padilla Francoeur

**T**his workshop offers what the presenter calls "the nuts and bolts of getting your work into the hands of the reader." She adds, "I sure wish I had understood beforehand the challenges of getting a book published. I would have been much better prepared." This workshop takes you through the steps of publication: finding an agent and publisher; getting your work in shape for publication; and promotion and marketing—establishing yourself as a credible writer, building a solid platform beginning now with social media.

*Optional:* Bring **15** copies of a three-minute 'pitch' describing your work, something you could use in a query letter, press release, or on a book jacket as well as in talking with an agent or publisher.

**Rae Padilla Francoeur** is an author, journalist and editor. After years of working as a successful professional writer, she has published her first book, the memoir *Free Fall: A Late-in-Life Love Affair*. A former SWA board member and conference presenter, Rae has managed a number of magazines and newspapers and worked as director of creative services for an art museum. She writes reviews, including a weekly book review column (Book Notes), essays and nonfiction articles, short stories and novels. She divides her time between Rockport, MA, and Manhattan. Google "**Rae Francoeur**" for her website, twitter, blog, and LinkedIn sites. She is also on Facebook.

## Finding Your Voice—Albert and Carol LaChance

**T**his workshop unlocks and reveals deeper ways of knowing. Through discussion and writing exercises, we will explore the three levels of the brain: cognition, affect, and instinct. Writer and psychologist Helen Luke described this process as "bringing up the water from the well." Whether we write fiction, nonfiction or poetry, this process will help us find our deeper, truer voice.

**Carol LaChance** is presently revising her first young adult novel and is the author of *The Way of the Mother*. She teaches a program for gifted and talented students at Chester Academy, Chester, NH.

**Albert LaChance** is the author of several books, including *The Architecture of the Soul* and *Jonah: A Prophecy for the Millennium*. He lectures nationally on the interface of Psychology and Spirituality and runs Greenspirit Counseling Agency, New Boston, NH. Check out Albert at [ajlchance.blogspot.com](http://ajlchance.blogspot.com) and [www.ajlchance.com](http://www.ajlchance.com). Both Albert and Carol are on Facebook.



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# FALL CONFERENCE MAIL REGISTRATION FORM

(please print)

Workshops will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on the date of receipt of your registration form. We will try to accommodate your first choice, but workshop capacities are limited, so send in your form today! To qualify for **EARLY REGISTRATION RATE** or **FIRST TIME CONFERENCE RATE** you must return your registration form postmarked by Oct. 1, 2010, with all fees included. Checks should be made payable to: Seacoast Writers Association. Mail to: Michael Wade, 9 Brookside Drive, Stratham, NH 03885. **DO NOT MAIL TO SWA PO BOX.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate first, second and third choice by noting 1, 2, 3.*

- ✂ *Being There: Creating a Sense of Place* ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✂ *Getting Published* ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✂ *Finding Your True Voice* ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✂ *Prose Poems for Now People* ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE FEES (Continental breakfast, and full lunch included)**

**Registrations Postmarked by Oct. 1:**

- \$40.00 First-time Conference fee ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$45.00 Early registration, member ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$60.00 Early registration, non-member ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrations Postmarked after Oct. 1:**

- \$55.00 member ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$70.00 non-member ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$20.00 Note-taker, interpreter or aide, meal cost only ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Renew my membership or join SWA (\$25.00 annual membership fee) ~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** ~~~~~\$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like registration confirmation, please include a SASE or postcard, or print your e-mail address here ( \_\_\_\_\_ ). The Registrar will notify you if a workshop is filled and it is necessary to give you your third choice.

**TIME TO RENEW?** Your membership must be current in order to receive the member discount. (Check your mailing label or e-mail for renewal date.)

**CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS?** Cancellations postmarked by Oct. 1 will incur a \$10.00 administration fee. Sorry, no refunds after Oct. 1.

## SOMEONE HAS STEPPED FORWARD

**S**WA member, **Donna Simmons** is willing to take on the job of President of our organization. Donna, a retired accountant, author and graduate of the University of New Hampshire and McIntosh College, is the Treasurer, Web Editor and acting President of the Seacoast Writers Association. She is a member of The Academy of American Poets, the Mainely Driftwood Writers Group and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kennebunk, ME. She also works with survivors of suicide through The Gift of Keith Cyber Friends. Donna enjoys reading, writing, and traveling and lives in the forest in Alfred, ME with her husband, Bill.

**Donna** writes poetry and short stories and has recently completed her second novel. She published a memoir: *A Fork in the Road: My Story of Suicide and Survival* (Trafford, 2005) and contributed a collection of short pieces and poetry to an anthology: *Mainely Driftwood* (Trafford, 2004) and to *SIMUL: Lutheran Voices in Poetry* (Xulon Press, 2007). She also contributes personal essays to the monthly Lutheran Newsletter, *The Crier*.

## BOOK SALES

**O**ur **Conference Book Sale** gives conferees the opportunity to purchase presenters' and other writers' books. Writers (other than presenters) who wish to make their own published books available for sale are welcome to do so, but must manage such sales themselves. Purchasers: Sorry, Cash or Checks only. No credit card sales.

**"Gently Used" Book Sale** – If you have books on writing or other books you've finished with that your fellow writers might enjoy, please bring them to the conference for sale. We'll sell them at \$1.00 for hardcovers and 50-cents for paperbacks, proceeds to benefit SWA.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Tom Chase** of Barrington, NH, is author of the recently published novel, *Ashen Skies of Vietnam*. This first-person account reads like nonfiction, as if it is a recounting of the author's own Vietnam experience with the realistic details adding verisimilitude.

**Kristina Schram** of Barnstead, NH, has a newly released young adult, fantasy book, *The Chronicles of Anaedor: The Prophecies* (Variance Publishing). Kristina's book will be available for purchase at our conference book sale. You can find her website at [www.KristinaSchram.com](http://www.KristinaSchram.com).

## SWA WRITERS CONTEST

**I**t's almost that time again! It's never too early to begin working on entries for the 2011 SWA Writers Contest. Your winning piece could appear in the next edition of *Currents!* Fall, 2011. Entry forms and guidelines will be distributed at the conference. Deadline for submission will be February 1. Prize information, contest entry forms, guidelines and additional information are now available on our website: [www.seacoastwritersassociation.org](http://www.seacoastwritersassociation.org).

## DON'T MISS THIS

**A** new season of Poetry Hoot is underway. Join the fun on the first Wednesday of each month at Café Espresso, 738 Islington Street (800 Islington Plaza), Portsmouth. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Plan on arriving early to snap up a good seat and to sign up for Open Mike..

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## Prose Poems for Now People: 'Where Scripture Meets Kmart'--Gordon Lang

**L**ine breaks? We don't need no stinkin' line breaks! Has your rhyme-and-meter lost its hop? Is your free verse worse than a terse nurse's curses? Maybe you need to try humming a new unchained melody. Come to where the flavor is. Come to prose poem country.

We'll study a range of examples of prose poetry, see what makes them tick, discuss a few simple techniques, and try our hand at a bit of prose-a-poeia. Writers are invited to bring a "problem poem," as raw material, but empty hands and a willing heart will also work. The boundaries between narrative, essay, and prose poetry are frequently blurry—writers of all genres are welcome to see if some prose poetry techniques can liven up their prose.

**Gordon Lang** teaches high school English and journalism at Kingswood in Wolfeboro, NH, and dabbles in plays, short fiction, and verse. He hosts the monthly Poets in the Attic readings in Wolfeboro, is a featured reader hither and yon around Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, and is a frequent guest on *Writers in the Round* on WSCA-FM in Portsmouth. This spring he was awarded the Marlon Fitzwater medallion for his work in journalism. **Lang's** work is published in the 2008 and 2010 editions of *The Poets' Guide to New Hampshire* as well as in what he describes "a slick little book.. of his own, *No Match for a Scarecrow*.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**8:30 a.m.** – Registration and continental breakfast

**9:00 a.m.** – Welcome and Business Meeting

**9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.** – Morning Workshops

**12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.** – Lunch, book sales, networking

**1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.** – Afternoon Workshops

**3:15 p.m.** – Turn in evaluation forms;

**SAFE HOME AND HAPPY**

**DIRECTIONS TO  
MCCONNELL CENTER/  
DOVER ADULT LEARNING CENTER  
61 Locust St. (Next to Dover Public Library)  
603-742-1030**

*Park behind Dover Library (driveway between the two buildings). Enter at Door #3.*

*Take the elevator to cafeteria on the first floor or go directly to the cafeteria entrance (marked "Green Bean") from the parking lot.*

**From the Spaulding Turnpike (Rte. 16) North or South:** Exit 8E (Downtown Dover, Rte. 9, Silver St.) Woodman Park Elem. on your left. At second set of lights take Left on Locust St.

**From Weeks Crossing** (The intersection where Chili's restaurant is): South on Central Ave. into downtown Dover. Pass all of the stores to Lower Square, through light. Take the first right after Dover City Hall on to Hale St. Cross Locust St. into driveway to parking.

**From Durham:** Rte. 108 to Dover past Dover H.S. through lights at Sawyer Mills Apts. At lights at Burger King, turn left on Locust St.

**From Rtes. 9 & 155:** Follow route to junction of 9 & 155. Cross over the Spaulding Turnpike to Silver St. (Downtown Dover, Rte. 9). Follow directions from above for Exit 8E.

**From Concord:** Take Rte. 4 through Lee traffic circle, continue exit Rte. 108N Dover/Durham. Turn left. Follow directions above from Durham.

**From Rte. 101 East (Manchester) or West (Seacoast):** Take 101 to Exit 7 (Rte. 125N). Follow directions above for either Rte. 155 or Lee traffic circle.

## Opportunity Knocks...

**S**WA is seeking someone to fill the position of **Secretary** on our volunteer **Board of Directors**. The work involves attending several board meetings in Portsmouth each year and recording and emailing the minutes and other correspondence as required on occasion. As a thank you for helping out, you get to attend our spring and fall one-day conferences free. We are a fun group, and you'll be on the inside track of the seacoast writing community, getting to know lots of your fellow writers. If you're interested in this position, please call our **Registrar, Michael Wade at 603-778-8182 or email him at beekah@com-cast.net.**



## Author Event

**N**ew Hampshire AuthorFest, a non-profit organization of authors coming together to promote literacy is putting on an event at the **Borders bookstore** in Concord, NH, on October 23rd from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. There will be an author meet and greet, book readings, a raffle to raise money for literacy, and an award ceremony to honor the recipient of the *Leaders Inspiring Readers* award. Authors who would like to apply to participate in this event, visit the organization's website at [www.nhauthorfest.org](http://www.nhauthorfest.org).



Seacoast Writers Association  
PO Box 6553  
Portsmouth, NH 03802-6553

A Publication of the Seacoast Writers Association

THE  
*Seacoast*Writer

## Mark your Calendar

Seacoast Writers  
Fall

## CONFERENCE

McConnell Center/Dover Adult Learning  
Center, 61 Locust St., 603-742-1030

Saturday, Oct. 16,

8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

