

MASTER CLASSES FOR WRITERS

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FICTION MASTER CLASS: NAHID RACHLIN

This workshop will help students create complex, 3-dimensional characters within the context of plot, dialogue, viewpoint and voice. Students should bring 5-10 double-spaced pages from an original short story, novel or novella to read aloud. We will give constructive criticism, offer suggestions for improvement, and do writing exercises. Iranian-born **Nahid Rachlin** is the author of the memoir, *Persian Girls*; four novels, *Jumping Over Fire*, *Foreigner*, *Married to a Stranger*, and *The Heart's Desire*; and *Veils*, a collection of short stories.

At the Dowd • O'Gorman Writing Center.

Limited to 15 participants.

\$125.00 (includes lunch)

Saturday, March 8, 2008

10:00AM-4:00PM

POETRY MASTER CLASS: KATE LIGHT

Revising can be daunting, but it is also a fantastic opportunity for staying open to the intuitive, creative self while, at the same time, cultivating a keen critical sense. Students will learn to hone and guide a poem toward being its best self, recognizing when it is done; and retaining the poem's flow. Students should bring two original "poems in progress," and one favorite poem written by someone else. **Kate Light** is the author of *Gravity's Dream* (Donald Justice Award), *Open Slowly*, *The Laws of Falling Bodies* (Nicholas Roerich Prize), and the texts of concert pieces *Oceanophony* and *Einstein's Mozart*.

At the Dowd • O'Gorman Writing Center.

Limited to 15 participants.

\$125.00 (includes lunch)

Saturday, April 26, 2008

10:00AM-4:00PM

FLASH FICTION CRAFT SEMINAR: KAREN SIRABIAN

What is Flash Fiction? It is whole stories written in 500-2000 words, which are highly intense and often highly charged. Students will look at examples of the form, but this seminar is writing-intensive.

Karen Sirabian was one of the founders of *Inkwell*, the nationally recognized literary journal affiliated with Manhattanville College's Master of Arts in Writing program, and served as the journal's faculty advisor. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in numerous journals, most recently *RUNES: A Review of Poetry* and *The Madison Review*.

At the Dowd • O'Gorman Writing Center. **\$50**

Saturday, April 12, 2008

2:00PM-5:00PM

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY MORNINGS, 10:30AM

It's Not Easy Being Green March 4, 11, 18
Why Be Moral? March 25, April 1, 8
Three Small Gems of the Art World April 15, 22, 29

ON TUESDAY EVENING, 7:00PM

Small Press Editors Panel March 25

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, 7:00PM

Joint Poetry Reading May 21

THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7:30PM

Reading and Discussion Series

Nine Stories March 6
Bartleby, the Scrivener and *Benito Cereno* March 20
Turn of the Screw April 3
The Death of Ivan Ilych April 17
Cheating at Canasta May 1

AND ALSO ON THURSDAY EVENINGS, 7:30PM

Three From the Academy March 27, April 10, 24

SATURDAYS, 10:00AM to 4:00PM

Master Class: Fiction – Nahid Rachlin March 8
Master Class: Poetry – Kate Light April 26

SATURDAYS, 2:00PM to 5:00PM

Craft Seminar: Flash Fiction – Karen Sirabian
. April 12

MEET THE WRITERS, 7:00PM (Reid Castle)

Cokie Roberts March 5
Mary Gordon April 23

BARAT HOUSE / DOWD•O'GORMAN WRITING CENTER

Barat House was established in 1978 by Religious of the Sacred Heart associated with Manhattanville College. The name commemorates the Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Madeleine Sophie Barat. The Tree of Life, designed in metal sculpture by Professor Lou Trakis of the Manhattanville Art Department, was chosen as the symbol of Barat House, a life-giving center of intellectual and cultural exchange where lectures, discussions, retreats and workshops are offered.

Barat House is both a program and a place of spiritual and intellectual refreshment. The program is designed to stimulate thought, review the classics, present contemporary theory, and provide means of spiritual renewal. Barat House is a community where bodily sustenance complements the ministry to mind and spirit.

Barat House Staff

Ruth Dowd, RSCJ. President
Ellen Perrott Assistant

Barat House Advisory Board

Victoria Allen	Mary Anne Green
Barbara Altizio	Dawn Hammond
Ellie Bloom	Joanna Herman
Fred Cohen	William Herman
Marie Cohen	Valerie O'Keeffe
Joseph Cunneen	Ellen Perrott
Sally Cunneen	Elma Petrie
Katherine Dering	Donald Richards
Imma DeStefanis, RSCJ	Rosemary Sheehan, RSCJ
Donna DiBart	Linda Simone
Bea Dinger	Karen Sirabian
Kevin Doherty	Thomas Taaffe
Nancy Gleason	Missy Egan Wey

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Victoria Allen is a teacher of both French and English literature. She has studied literature and art history in France and Italy.

Joseph Cunneen has been for many years both teacher and editor. He was a founder, former editor and co-editor of *Cross Currents*.

Sally Cunneen is Professor Emeritus of English at Rockland Community College and author of *In Search of Mary*.

Kevin Doherty is an educator, film buff and critic extraordinaire.

Ruth Dowd, RSCJ is Dean of Graduate & Professional Studies at Manhattanville and lectures on philosophy and women's issues.

Van Hartmann is Professor of English at Manhattanville College.

Laurel Peterson is Associate Professor of English at Norwalk Community College.

Linda Simone is the Associate Director of the Graduate Writing Program at Manhattanville College.

Siobhan Taaffe, a graduate of Indiana University with a degree in Comparative Literature, works as a legal consultant.

Thomas Taaffe is a poet, philosopher and educator.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If inclement weather seems to make travel hazardous, please phone to find out if Barat House Programs will take place as scheduled or when the make-up session will take place.

(914) 694-3389

A WORD ABOUT PARKING...

Please enter the campus on Purchase Street through the gate closest to Anderson Hill Road and allow additional time to find parking.

Renew Yourself at

BARAT HOUSE

Dowd • O'Gorman Writing Center



SPRING 2008

MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE

2900 Purchase Street

Purchase, New York 10577

(914) 694-3389

TUESDAY MORNING PROGRAMS
10:30AM (Includes Lunch)

"IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN"

These days, we hear much about the importance of being green, but is this concept really a new one? The seminars will focus on the 19th century view of man and nature as seen through the eyes of Wordsworth, "the disciple of Nature," John Keats and Mary Shelley, whose novel, *Frankenstein*, was a cautionary tale of humankind's interference with Nature and the disastrous results of misused knowledge.

March 4, 11, 18 Victoria Allen
\$60 for the series (Students must register for the entire series)

WHY BE MORAL?

For most of us, values come from our families and our spiritual leaders. But personal ethics encompasses more than honesty and loving thy neighbor. This three-part series will present a brief history of ethics from Aristotle to Kant to help us define what ethics means for us. In the last half-hour of each session, we will explore, through writing exercises, various ways to communicate and pass on this legacy to the ones we love.

March 25, April 1, 8 Ruth Dowd, RSCJ
Linda Simone
\$60 for the series (Students must register for the entire series)

THREE SMALL GEMS OF THE ART WORLD

Participants in this series will have the chance to learn about three small art museums that are often overlooked by visitors and travelers: Le Musee de Cluny (Paris), which celebrates the art of the Middle Ages; the Courtauld Gallery ("Courtauld Institute," London), home of one of the world's finest collections of Impressionist paintings; the Frick Museum (New York City), whose elegant and beautiful collection is one of New York's treasures. Each seminar will present the history of the buildings and the neighborhoods in which they are located, as well as views of a few of the treasures in each museum.

April 15, 22, 29 Victoria Allen
\$60 for the series (Students must register for the entire series)

BARAT HOUSE READING AND DISCUSSIONS
Thursday Evenings, 7:00PM

Reserve your tickets early for 5 sessions on
PRESENTER'S CHOICE

Barat House turns its attention this Spring to an exploration of the rich field of short fiction. To inaugurate our consideration of the often neglected short story and novella forms we have asked our Spring presenters to choose an author or work with which each would most like to engage our committed readers. The range of their selections is impressive and instructive of future possibilities for discussion. In a variety of exquisitely sensitive and well-crafted voices, J.D. Salinger, Herman Melville, Henry James, Leo Tolstoy, and William Trevor offer narratives of human experience encompassing the outcast, the oppressed, the ordinary, the haunted, and even somehow, the blessed. Each session will begin at 7PM, with light refreshments. The final session will feature a simple communal supper.

March 6. J.D. Salinger, *Nine Stories*
This pre-eminent collection of short stories is widely regarded as the modern model of later contemporary American short fiction. Building on the works of O. Henry, Fitzgerald, & Hemingway, Salinger transformed the structure, tone & possibility of American short fiction & created this seminal masterpiece. A perfect way to begin a survey of the short story & novella, the famous author of the infamous *Catcher in the Rye*, offers in his *Nine Stories* - lyrical, tragic, humorous, profound - an exceptionally crafted miniature of fiction. Which one will be your favorite?
Discussion Leader: Siobhan Taaffe

March 20. Herman Melville, *Bartleby, the Scrivener* and *Benito Cereno*
Herman Melville published "Bartleby, the Scrivener" in *Putnam's Monthly Magazine* in 1853, and his novella, *Benito Cereno*, in the same magazine in 1855. Written in the turbulent, creative decade that led up to the American Civil War, they explore two aspects of the emerging American social landscape. "Bartleby" is subtitled "A Story of Wall-street." It is one of our earliest literary examinations of dehumanization and alienation in the modern, specialized workplace. *Benito Cereno* deals with the violence that Americans of European descent imposed on Africans through slavery. It asks whether there might be something in the American character that makes us ill-equipped to see our own complicity in this national tragedy.
Discussion Leader: Van Hartmann

April 3. Henry James, *Turn of the Screw*
Henry James' novella, *Turn of the Screw*, is a gripping story of ghosts in an isolated English country house. The heroine is governess to two children, who, she comes to believe, are being haunted by their former caretakers. For allies, she has only the estate's housekeeper and her own wits. James' exploration of the supernatural leads us to questions about innocence and evil—and what children are capable of.
Discussion Leader: Laurel Peterson

April 17. Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilych*
This classic short story is as profound a meditation on death as there is in modern fiction. On the surface are the avoidances and rituals of the living by which we vainly believe we hold it at bay. Tolstoy takes us within the life of the perfectly proper Ivan. We begin to experience his growing awareness that he has lived an entirely false life, yet out of his terror erupts what appears to be a saving faith.
Discussion Leader: TBA

May 1. William Trevor, *Cheating at Canasta*
Published this past year, this latest collection of short stories is a remarkable showcase of an extraordinary writer. Indeed Irish, but of an Ireland whose life tones are beautifully drawn within the idioms of an ever less parochial present. There are a dozen stories here, but we will focus especially on the tender story which gives the collection its title, and three others: "A Perfect Relationship;" "Faith;" and "Folie à Deux."
Discussion Leader: Thomas Taaffe

\$65 for series (Students must register for entire series)
Used copies of these books are available on amazon.com or bn.com. OR contact your local library and reserve a copy for desired date.

RESERVATIONS

To register for Spring 2008 Barat House Programs, please fill out the form below and mail to: **Sister R. Dowd • Manhattanville College • 2900 Purchase Street • Purchase, New York 10577. No reservations taken by phone.** Make all checks payable to Barat House. Be sure to indicate dates and times you plan to attend. Further program information can be obtained by calling (914) 694-3389.

Name: _____		Address: _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone (Day) _____	(Eve.) _____	
COURSE OR LECTURE	DATE	FEE	COURSE OR LECTURE	DATE	FEE
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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$					_____

SPECIAL EVENT

MANHATTANVILLE/HUDSON VALLEY WRITERS' CENTER READING

Feature readings by poets **John Hoppenthaler**, *Anticipate the Coming Reservoir*; **David Tucker**, *Late for Work*, which won the 2005 Bakeless Prize for poetry; and **Suzanne Cleary**, *Trick Pear*.

Reid Castle.
Wednesday, May 21, 2008 7:00PM

Free and open to the public!

MEET THE WRITERS

Cokie Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News and Senior News Analyst for National Public Radio. She is the author of the best-seller, *We Are Our Mother's Daughters*, an account of women's roles and relationships throughout American history. She also wrote *Founding Mothers*, and co-authored *From This Day Forward* with her husband Steven V. Roberts.

Reid Castle.
Wednesday, March 5, 2008 7:00PM

Mary Gordon's most recent book is her memoir, *Circling My Mother*. She has six best-selling novels, *Pearl*, *Final Payments*, *The Company of Women*, *Men and Angels*, *The Other Side*, *Spending* and a critically-acclaimed memoir, *The Shadow Man*. She has also published a book of novellas, *The Rest of Life*; a collection of stories, *Temporary Shelter*; two books of essays, *Good Boys and Dead Girls* and *Seeing Through Places*; and a biography of Joan of Arc.

Reid Castle.
Wednesday, April 23, 2008 7:00PM

Events are free and open to the public.

AND ALSO ON THURSDAY EVENINGS SPRING FILM SERIES

THREE FROM THE ACADEMY

This year provided viewers with some of the best films to come along in many a screening. In this series, we will discuss three of the top films from 2007—each nominated for several Oscars—to see what makes them tick. Clips from the movies will be shown at each session.

March 27. *Away From Her* is a movie about the effects of Alzheimer's disease. Filmed with incredible grace, Julie Christie gives new life to an Alice Munro story. Amazingly, the director is able to bring genuine humor as well as reality to this delicate subject.

April 10. In *Michael Clayton*, George Clooney portrays a flawed lawyer for an unscrupulous corporate law firm, in this nightmare world of disheveled ethics. The film is gripping and always entertaining, even if often darkly menacing.

April 24. *No Country for Old Men*, is probably the most disturbingly violent film of the year. It is based on the Cormac McCarthy novel of West Texas in the 1980s. Tommy Lee Jones muses in one of his finest roles as a sheriff in a world he finds difficult to understand.

Thursdays, March 27, April 10, 24 Kevin Doherty
7:30PM **\$35 for the series**

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Free and open to the public!

SMALL PRESS EDITORS PANEL

How do you select and submit work to small presses? Find out straight from the mouths of editors. Come hear editors from: *Inkwell*, *Marsh Hawk Press*, *Slapering Hol Press*, *Lumina* and *LitMag*.

At the Dowd • O'Gorman Writing Center.
Tuesday, March 25, 7:00PM