

February 16, 2011

Dear Friends of the RopeWalk Writers Retreat,

For more than twenty years, the RopeWalk Writers Retreat has brought prominent writers to New Harmony and provided a stimulating experience for members of the USI family and community, as well as writers from around the US and the world. The Retreat has enjoyed generous support from Mrs. Ruth Lilly, Susan R. Enlow, the Indiana Arts Commission, Mrs. Jane Owen and the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation, the Witter-Bynner Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the USI Society for Arts and Humanities, and many other individuals.

Unfortunately, as a result of budget cuts for state agencies and other organizations, the Department of English at USI will be suspending the retreat in 2011. Nonetheless, support from the University will allow faculty in the English Department to gather instead in New Harmony for a planning retreat June 12-14 to determine how we should go forward. On the evening of June 13, poet Lynn Emanuel will read at a public reception to celebrate the lasting impact of RopeWalk and its effect on its many participants and friends.

Do not hesitate to call, email, or meet with me if you would like to contribute ideas for us to consider. Our goal is to continue to provide a retreat experience that will honor the heritage of Rope Walk while making it new and sustainable.

We hope you will plan to attend the reading by Ms. Emanuel and the reception to follow. We will announce more details about this event once they are final.

We sincerely appreciate the financial contributions and years of service that so many people have given RopeWalk and hope to have your continued support in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Spencer".

Stephen Spencer  
English Department Chair  
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