

1986

THE FLIGHT OF THE MIND



Summer Writing Workshop for Women
July 27–August 3, 1986

Workshop leaders: Judith Barrington, Barbara Wilson and Evelyn C. White



Barbara Wilson in the the swimming pool, 1986



Swimming pool, 1986



Becky Birtha, 1986

Explore and strengthen your writing skills in a community of women.

This workshop offers formal instruction, one-to-one critiquing, time for work in a room of your own, and the opportunity to exchange ideas with other writers. There will be a serious focus on writing, but you can also relax, take hikes, soak in hot springs, and enjoy the surroundings.

In 1984 and 1985, the workshop attracted women from many cultures and lifestyles, ranging in age from early twenties to over eighty. The workshop leaders bring a feminist philosophy to their work as writers and teachers, and encourage the creation of a group that is cohesive and supportive while at the same time recognizing diversity.

At the heart of the workshop are the morning group sessions led by Judith Barrington, Barbara Wilson, and Evelyn C. White, where you will work on specific writing techniques and discuss one another's work. In the afternoons, Barbara, Evelyn, and Judith will be available to meet with you individually. Both experienced and inexperienced writers are welcome.

Evening programs will include readings and presentations by the three workshop leaders, open-mike readings by workshop participants, and a performance by *Musica Femina*, a classical guitar and flute duo (Kristan Aspen and Janna MacAuslan), who specialize in little-known music by women composers.

You will also have opportunities to form special-topic groups as needed. These groups can meet informally in the late morning, during the afternoon, or at a mealtime, and might offer support for those working on novels, discuss problems related to autobiographical writing, or focus on other topics of shared interest.

This year we are again offering a limited number of places for women who are working on writing projects and who want to retreat to a quiet and congenial place to work. All meals and a room of your own will be provided, and you will be welcome to share the evening activities. This is called the "residency option."

NON-FICTION



Evelyn C. White is a general assignment reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the Bay Area's largest circulation daily. She has also reported for the New York bureau of *The Wall Street Journal* and has contributed feature articles, book reviews and essays to many publications around the country. Her book, *Chain Chain Change—For Black Women Dealing with Physical and Emotional Abuse*, was published in 1985. She holds degrees from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Wellesley College.

POETRY



Judith Barrington is a poet whose work has appeared in many publications in the U.S. and Britain, and in the recent collection, *Trying to be an Honest Woman*. She has taught creative writing and women's studies at Portland State University and Reed College and currently makes her living as a freelance writer. She is participating as a poet in this year's Artists in Education program in Oregon, and is the recipient of a grant from Portland's Metropolitan Arts Commission supporting her new work and readings to the public. She founded Flight of the Mind—an independent writing program for women writers.

FICTION



Barbara Wilson is the author of three books of stories and two novels, including *Murder in the Collective*, a feminist mystery. A second mystery, *Sisters of the Road*, will be published in fall of 1986. She is also the translator of Norwegian writer Cora Sandel and has published a book of her short stories. In 1984, she won the Columbia Translation Award for this work. She is a co-founder of Seal Press, a feminist publishing company in Seattle, where she works as an editor and publisher. Barbara and Judith co-led the successful summer workshops in 1984 and 1985.

Accommodation and Meals

The workshop will again be held at the Dominican Order's rustic retreat center, St. Benedict's, on the scenic McKenzie River. It is located in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range, about 50 miles east of Eugene, Oregon. The facilities overlook the river and pine forest, with an immense terrace by the water's edge. It is a camp-like setting, with hiking trails and a swimming pool.

You will have a small room of your own with a single bed and desk. Bathrooms are shared. Each room has an electric outlet, so you can bring your typewriter if you wish. There are a few double rooms. You may request one if you wish to share with someone.

Our own cooks will provide delicious and healthy meals. You can choose a regular or vegetarian diet, and we will do our best to accommodate any special requirements.

Scholarships

Two scholarships of \$175 each will be available for the full program. To apply for a scholarship, fill out the registration form and send it with a letter of application, discussing the difference that being given a scholarship would make to you. In your letter, describe any previous experiences applying for or receiving financial assistance and send one or two samples of your writing. Include information about your class and ethnic background if you wish. Do not send any money. Applications must be received by June 23rd. All applicants will be notified by July 7, at which time those receiving scholarships must pay the balance of their registration fee (\$175).

College Credit

You can get up to three hours of college credit for the workshop through Clackamas Community College. Their fee is \$60. If you want to enroll for credit, check that box on the registration form, and the appropriate forms will be mailed to you.

Cost and Registration

Full Program \$350 before May 31
\$375 after May 31

The full program fee includes tuition to all workshop sessions, private critiquing sessions with workshop leaders, all evening programs, full board and lodging. The cost of college credit is extra.

Residency option \$235 before May 31
\$260 after May 31

The residency option fee includes all evening programs, full board and lodging.

To register, fill out the enclosed registration form and return it, together with a deposit of \$75. The balance is due by June 30. In the event of cancellation before June 30, the full amount paid, minus a \$20 processing fee, will be refunded.

Some comments from previous summer workshops:

"We bounced off each other and the juices flowed. It was a wonderful knit of creativity, humor and sharing."

"Our morning workshop group was truly fine: lively enough, safe enough, critical enough, kind enough. Judith set the mark and we rose to it."

"Barbara has such a clear eye—her comments right after we read what we'd just written were always excellent and insightful."

"I left with a clearer sense of myself as a writer and with deeper knowledge of my craft."

"My words started coming faster, my smile came faster, and part of me long buried came alive."

"Musica Femina was incredible—and it was a nice change to have one planned activity that didn't involve writing."

"As a 'resident' I had everything I wanted here—an environment to write, community, atmosphere of support, a sense of being cared for made most graphic in abundant and excellent food. . . . I leave with a clear vision of my work and a deeper confidence in myself as a writer."

"I liked being able to take a break from intense work and go hiking, to the hot springs, rowing at Clear Lake . . ."

"Bring back the cooks! They could hibernate at my house for the winter!"

"The retreat center was 'heaven on earth' for me. I love the woods and the wonderful river made it perfect. The atmosphere felt safe and cozy."

"All that's gone on this week has extended the boundaries of my thinking—both as a woman and as a writer. It's such a luxury to be with women—such a diverse group, the stories we have, the lives we lead—nothing ordinary!"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please reserve space for me in the full program.

I prefer to work mainly on poetry.
 fiction.
 non-fiction.

(Indicate second choice, if possible.)

Please reserve space for me in the residency option.

Check one:

Enclosed is my \$75 deposit toward fees. (The balance is due June 30).

Enclosed is my full payment of \$ _____ .

Dormitory accommodation

Smoking

Non-smoking

I wish to share.

Name of person you will share with _____

College Credit Option

I will enroll for credit.

Scholarship

I am applying for a scholarship. (Enclose a letter of application.)

Transportation

I will be flying there and need to be met at the airport.

I will be taking a train and need to be met at the train station.

I will be driving and have room for _____ riders.

I would like to ride with someone and share expenses.

Other _____

I don't know yet.

Special dietary requirements _____

Signature _____

Mail to: 622 S.E. 28th, Portland, Oregon 97214

For all of you who Flew the Mind with me this year, but particularly for Ruth, incisive and efficient editor; for K.E. and Chris and Chrystos for aid in breathing (and having fun) while heading aloud; and for Tee, who showed me how to assemble pages printed on both sides:

WHAT THE CAT BROUGHT IN

Stephanie
December, 1986



Stephanie Hoppe, 1986



From left: Vickie Sears and Becky Birtha on terrace, 1986



From left: Khandiz Ayofemi Stowe, Vickie Sears, participant, Becky Birtha, Juanita Sanchez, 1986