



Education & Retreat Center

## WELCOME LETTER

### **Flash Fiction and the Prose Poem: Brief, Bold, and Breaking the Rules**

**Instructor:** Anita Skeen

**Start Date:** 10/6/19

**End Date:** 10/12/19

Check-In Begins at 3:00pm at the Welcome Center  
on 10/6/19. Dinner 5:30 – 6:30;  
Orientation 6:45 pm

**Invitation:** I'm looking forward to meeting and working with all of you in the Fall Writing Festival course, "Flash Fiction and the Prose Poem: Brief, Bold, and Breaking the Rules." We'll have a good time talking about these two literary genres and deciding what we think they're really all about. Are they so different from traditional poems and short stories? Is one more difficult to write than the other? How do we tell them apart? Why might we be interested in reading them? In writing them? Oh, so much to talk about.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students should learn to break out of some of the traditional forms of writing that they been introduced to over the years and gain some freedom in writing in these two hybrid forms. Hopefully they will take home several drafts of pieces of writing that they can revise and strengthen when they go back home. They'll be acquainted with some writers they've not read before (hopefully) and be challenged in new ways.

#### **Course Schedule:**

Class is 9:00 to 12:00 every morning. In the afternoons there is the opportunity for gatherings from panel discussions to book discussions to workshops and individual time with instructors. None of this is required. Participants can go hiking or off to write and work on their assignments if they choose. In the evening, from 7:00 to 8:30, all the participants in the Fall Writing Festival gather together for readings by the writers teaching the classes during the week.

**Instructor Background:** I am currently professor of literature and creative writing in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University and the founding director of the RCAH Center for Poetry. I am also the series editor for Wheelbarrow Books, and imprint of the MSU Press. This year will be my 22nd year of teaching in the Fall Writing Festival. I'm the author of 6 books of poetry and have published in numerous literary magazines. In 2015 I was named a William J. Beale Outstanding Faculty Member at Michigan State.

**Provided Materials:** Handouts for class discussions and assignments.

**What to Bring:** Writing implements of your choice, paper, a computer and printer, if you can travel with them, but not required. Whatever inspired you to sit down, or wander around, and be creative.

**FAQs:** Q: Do I have to have writing experience?

A: No.

Q: Do I have to know what the prose poem and flash fiction are?

A: No.

Q: Do I have to share my writing with others?

A: No, but I hope/think you will want to.

Q: Do I have to do my homework?

A: No, but I hope/think you will want to.

Q:What if I don't know anyone in the class?

A: You will have many new friends by the time you go home.

**Recommended Resources:** Read some favorite poem and stories in the weeks before you come. Get the voices of other writers swirling around in your head.