

NEWS FROM PAT SCHNEIDER

1. **THERE ARE STILL A FEW OPENINGS IN MY AUGUST WORKSHOP IN BERKELEY.** August 2 – 6, I will be leading four hours of intensive workshop each morning and a private conference (optional) in which I respond to some of your writing. There is also an evening presentation open to the public, where I show the film about my work in a housing project. For information about that workshop, and for other offerings for writers in the summer session of my Berkeley alma mater, please scroll down to the end of this message.

2. **ARE YOU A WALKER? HERE'S A REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT AND PHOTOS.** Our son, Paul, a frequent contributor to the travel section of the New York Times, has a new blog for walkers, and is wanting new material. He will use some day walks, but especially wants stories with pictures about walks that include overnight lodging recommendations. For more information, www.weekendwalk.com.

To submit a query, write to Paul Schneider, paul@schneiderbooks.com. For more of his books, go to www.schneiderbooks.com

3. **I HAVE A NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON** and I'm really excited about it. I have been told that mine is a "1990's antique." Thanks to an AWA writer, Greg Correll, who knows how to bring me from Neanderthal to Cro-Magnon in cyberspace, Barbara Werden, designer extraordinaire, and Rick Rasa, webmaster!

4. **PERSONAL NEWS: I AM GOING TO DISAPPEAR** for a while. I am off to lead an intensive writing workshop in North Carolina in a few days, and when I come home on June 25, I will begin a writing retreat through the rest of the summer except my week-long workshop in Berkeley in August. I have a complete draft of my new book (after about six years of work!) It is titled *How the Light Gets In: Writing as a Spiritual Practice*. I'm at the point now of needing to get my head and heart around the whole 300 or so pages, hear it all as one work, and do the polishing. To do that, I need solitude. Kafka says "even night is not night enough" for the solitude a writer needs. I am asking my friends and

acquaintances not to email me this summer unless it is critically important. I love your communications, I want to be on your lists, but save the non-essentials for after Labor Day, please. If there is something crucial please feel free to go through Peter for personal messages (peter@amherstwriters.com) or Maureen Buchanan Jones, Executive Director of AWA for writing or workshop or training questions. (amherstwriters@gmail.com). They will pass messages on to me.

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Further information about Pat's Five-Day Workshop in Berkeley, and other opportunities at PSR:

Berkeley, California. Creative Writing Workshop with Pat Schneider. Monday – Friday, August 2-6. The purpose of this workshop is twofold: (1) to enable the artist in each person to become more free, more able to write, and (2) to model a methodology for using writing to create a healing community. There will be an additional, optional session on Tuesday evening, open to the public, for the showing of the 23-minute international award-winning documentary film *Tell Me Something I Can't Forget*, and a discussion on how to use this workshop method to empower low-income persons and others who are under-served. There are no required readings or papers for this workshop, but prompt attendance at all sessions will be considered a serious responsibility. Pat offers an optional private conference to each workshop participant, including, if desired, response to 7 pages of double-spaced unpublished prose or three poems. Manuscripts should be given to her at the first meeting of the workshop. \$960. Monday-Friday, August 2-6, 9am-1pm, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley. <http://www.psr.edu/summer-2010-schedule> | 510.849.8267. Email summer@psr.edu to request enrollment. Limited enrollment of 12 students.

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Other classes of interest to writers and poets:

Writing as Healing Ministry class with **Sharon Bray** Writing is an art form that belongs to every one of us. It is also a powerful tool for healing. In recent years, a growing body of research shows that the simple act of writing down thoughts and feelings helps people with chronic illness improve their health. But the healing power of writing extends well beyond physical illness. Writing also reduces stress, discharges complex emotions and helps us gain perspective. When we suffer pain or loss, writing about our feelings can help to relieve our burdens, establish a perspective, and cope more effectively with life's hardships. Writing helps us integrate our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. It can be a kind of prayer—one in which you don't ask for anything, except to know your own experience and to make meaning of it. "Writing as a Healing Ministry" is designed to provide an overview of the field of therapeutic or healing writing for lay

ministers, clergy, healthcare or helping professionals. In this intensive week-long course, we will explore how writing can heal ourselves and others. Class activities will include an overview of the research on therapeutic writing, review of several different writing methodologies used to help individuals heal from pain, suffering and trauma, small group discussion and individual writing exercises. \$345.

Monday-Friday, July 19-23, 1:30 pm-5:30pm, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.
<http://www.psr.edu/summer-2010-schedule> | 510.849.8267 | summer@psr.edu.

The Unrealized: Poetry and the Sacred class with Albany poet laureate, **Christina Hutchins**. Does the "unrealized" inform contemporary Christianity? For many artists, poets, composers, and inventors, the mystery of the creative process evokes both awe and a faith sufficient for performing the often painstaking labor of bearing something "new" into human experience. For five intense days together, we will explore the sacred and ancient mystery of being "lured" toward/into the "never-before." In-class poetry writing and reading provide models for our own experiences of "the unrealized." Both beginning and experienced writers are welcome. \$345. Monday-Friday, August 9-13, 9:00am-1:00pm, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley. <http://www.psr.edu/summer-2010-schedule> | 510.849.8267 | summer@psr.edu.

Poetry as a Spiritual Practice Saturday workshop with **Ellen Bass**, renowned Santa Cruz poet, author and teacher. Like prayer, poetry is a path to seeing the divine in the ordinary. All poetry had its roots in religion—as ritual for both celebration and lamentation. And poetry continues to ask the essential questions: who are we? why are we here? where are we going? In this workshop, we'll talk about poetry as a spiritual practice and read some poems which reflect this. Then we'll write our own poems by paying close attention and striving to be accurate through the use of detail and description. There will be an opportunity to share our poems for those who wish to do so. Both beginning and experienced writers are welcome. \$155. Followed by a free public poetry reading by Ellen Bass. Saturday, July 10, 10:00am-4:00pm, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.
<http://www.psr.edu/summer-session-2010-workshops> | 510.849.8267 | summer@psr.edu.

Poetry Reading with **Ellen Bass**, renowned Santa Cruz poet, author and teacher. Ellen Bass gives a reading of her poetry, including works from her latest book. *The Human Line*, Bass' seventh book of poems, startles with its precise detail, intimate images, and wild metaphors. Bass brings attention to life's endearing absurdities, and many of the poems flash with a keen sense of humor. She also faces many of the crucial moral dilemmas of our time—genetic engineering, environmental issues, continuous war, heterosexism—and grounds her vision in the small, private workings of the heart. This event follows Bass' day-long "Poetry as a Spiritual Practice" workshop.

Free. Saturday, July 10, 4:30pm, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley. No registration necessary. <http://www.psr.edu/summer-session-2010-workshops> | 510.849.8267 | summer@psr.edu.

Hope to see you in Berkeley this summer!

Laurie Isenberg

Director of Community & Continuing Education

Pacific School of Religion

1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709

510-849-8227 | lisenberg@psr.edu<http://www.psr.edu>

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If you prefer to be removed from my list, please reply with "Remove my name" and it will be done immediately.

Pat Schneider

www.patschneider.com

www.amherstwriters.com

*Silence is all we dread
There's Ransom in a Voice.*

-- Emily Dickinson
(#1251 Johnson)