



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
15 August 2011**

FOR INFORMATION

Lexie Boris
Communications Director
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
154 San Angelo Drive
Amherst, Virginia 24521
434-946-7236
lboris@vcca.com

- **Inara Verzemnieks wins VCCA Goldfarb Fellowship**
- **Former award-winning journalist, current Arts Fellow**
- **Fellowship includes one-month residency at VCCA**
- **VCCA one of the largest communities for writers, composers and artists in the nation**

INARA VERZEMNIEKS AWARDED COVETED GOLDFARB FELLOWSHIP



Selected from a large number of top-flight candidates, Inara Verzemnieks is the 2011 winner of the Goldfarb Family Fellowship, a two-week fully funded fellowship at VCCA.

Inara Verzemnieks spent thirteen years as an award-winning newspaper journalist before leaving to pursue her writing career. Her work has appeared in such publications as the (Portland) *Oregonian*, *The Washington Post* and *The Atlantic*, as well as the online literary magazine *Defunct*. In 2007, she was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize In Feature Writing. She is currently an Arts Fellow in The Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Her Goldfarb Fellowship is for two fully funded weeks at VCCA.

Now in its eleventh year, the Goldfarb Family Fellowship is one of the most highly competitive awards offered by VCCA. This years competition was judged by Helen Benedict, a professor of journalism at Columbia University and the author of eleven books: six novels and five non-fiction. Benedict has recently won three major awards for her work on soldiers and her novels have been listed as best books of the year by *The Los Angeles Times* and the New York and Chicago public libraries.

The award is endowed by VCCA Fellow and former VCCA Board member, Ronald Goldfarb, a respected author, agent, and attorney. Goldfarb is the author of eleven books, among them: *Perfect Villains*, *Imperfect Heros: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime* (Random House, 1995), *The Writer's Lawyer* (Times Books, 1989), *Clear Understanding* (Random House, 1983), and *Migrant Workers: A Caste of Despair* (Iowa University Press, 1981). He has also written over three hundred magazine and newspaper articles for publications including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, *The New Republic* and *Psychology Today*. Goldfarb is a founding partner in the law firm and literary agency, Goldfarb & Associates.

Nestled in Amherst County, Virginia, VCCA is one of the largest communities for writers, composers and visual artists in the United States. Every year, over 350 come from all across America and around the globe to work on books, plays, paintings, sculpture and music. The fruit of their labor is in libraries, bookstores, theaters, galleries and concert halls from Virginia to New York to California to Europe. They have won just about every prestigious award, including the Pulitzer Prize and the MacArthur "Genius Grant".

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VCCA.COM