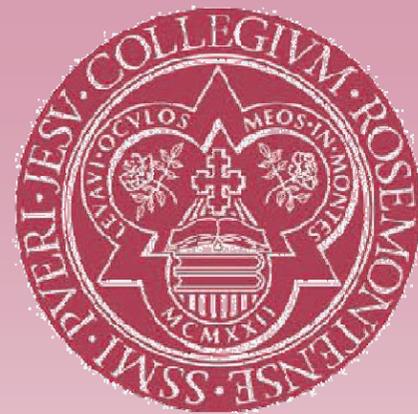


# Poetry Month Celebration at Rosemont College

## Saturday, April 20, 2013

Sponsored by Rosemont College, The Philadelphia Writer's Conference, The Montgomery County Poet Laureate Program, The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Philadelphia Stories



Come celebrate poetry month at Rosemont College on Saturday, April 20, 2013. Start the day with two **FREE** workshops, take a break for lunch or stroll the beautiful Rosemont campus, and then join us in the afternoon for a reception and reading celebrating poets included in the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Poetry Anthology. All events are free and open to the public.



### Ethel Rackin

#### **Words of Praise: A Workshop on Odes (10-11 AM in the Lawrence Auditorium)**

In this workshop, we will explore the poetic form of the Ode—an ancient lyric form, most often written in praise—in order to expand our own poetic repertoire. After a brief overview of the form and the work of some of its most celebrated practitioners, including Sappho, Keats, and Neruda, we will mine the material of our everyday lives for inspiring subjects, and craft our own odes. The workshop will end with a spirited group reading. Participants will take with them at least one poem in progress and a renewed sense of poetic possibilities.

#### **Biography**

Ethel Rackin earned her MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from Bard College and her PhD in English Literature from Princeton University. She is the author of the poetry collection, *The Forever Notes*, published in Parlor Press' Free Verse Editions Series in 2012. Her poems have appeared in journals such as *The American Poetry Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Court Green*, *Evergreen Review*, *Poetry East*, and *Volt*. She has taught creative writing at Penn State Brandywine, Haverford College, and Bucks County Community College, where she is currently an assistant professor.

### Andrea Carter Brown

#### **Finding the (Im)Perfect Form: How to Use Form But Not Be Constrained by It**

#### **(11:30-12:30 Lawrence Auditorium)**

Some poets begin a poem with a particular form in mind. For many of us, however, the form emerges during the drafting and revision process. In this workshop, we will discuss how to recognize and take advantage of these impulses and, especially, how to invent or vary forms according to a particular poem's needs. As an early 21<sup>st</sup> century poet, I am particularly drawn to poems which draw on traditional forms but do not rigorously follow them. "Broken Forms" I call this approach. To illustrate this, I will compare early drafts of several poems together with their final published versions. We will explore where and when in the writing process a poem's "right" form emerges, how to help that happen and strategies for when it doesn't, and the role of play in revision. Participants are invited to email a poem in advance to be discussed in class.

#### **Biography**

Andrea Carter Brown won the 2011 James Dickey Prize from *Five Points*. She is the author of *The Disheveled Bed* and two award-winning poetry chapbooks, *Brook & Rainbow* and *Each Boat Signs the Water*, which is forthcoming. Her poetry has received awards from the Poetry Society of America, *River Styx*, the *MacGuffin*, the *River Oak Review*, and *Thin Air*, been featured on *NPR and Poetry Daily*, and cited in the *Library of Congress Resource Guide to the Poetry of 9/11*. She recently completed *September 12*, a manuscript of poems about 9/11 and its aftermath, and is currently working on a collection of poems about living in Southern California titled *Domestic Karma*. A founding editor of the journal *Barrow Street*, she recently edited the poetry anthology *Entering the Real World: VCCA Poets on Mt. San Angelo*. She lives in Los Angeles, where she has been Visiting Poet in Residence and Managing Editor of the *Emily Dickinson Journal* at Pomona College.



### **Celebrate Entering the Real World: VCCA Poets on Mt. San Angelo The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (2 PM Main Building Atrium)**

Forty years ago, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts opened its doors. Since then, over 2500 writers in all disciplines have found that the time, space, and freedom of a residency at VCCA changed their creative lives. In this celebratory reading, nine Fellows read their poems from *Entering the Real World: VCCA Poets on Mt. San Angelo* and discuss the crucial role of VCCA in their own development as artists.

Residencies at artist colonies provide an important, but largely unsung, role in many writer's lives. For the academic, it may be the only time away from teaching to get new work done. For emerging writers, it provides an opportunity to work alongside more successful writers as peers. For mid-career writers, it offers the chance to complete a project, rethink its parameters, or map out the next one. This reading celebrates VCCA, which has provided residencies for forty years, and counting.

Contributors reading from "this splendid intriguing anthology" include Ned Balbo, Barbara Crooker, Kenneth Hart, Teresa Leo, Neil Shepard, Taije Silverman, J. C. Todd, and G. C. Waldrep, as well as Andrea Carter Brown, who edited the collection with Margaret B. Ingraham for VCCA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.