
Dates: Wednesday, August 6, 7:00 pm to Sunday, August 10, 11:00 am (Retreat concludes in time to catch 11:30 ferry.)

Location: Rivendell Retreat Centre, Bowen Island, BC

For information: Call Ray McGinnis at (604) 408-4457 or email him at writingthesacred@telus.net

Cost: $690 includes full retreat, all meals* and lodging
* Please speak to Ray about dietary restrictions.

Registration: Reserve your space for At the Bend in the River: The Act of Listening as a Catalyst for Your Creativity at Rivendell Retreat, August 6-10, 2014, by sending this registration form and a nonrefundable check, payable to Ray McGinnis for $120 (balance of $570 due at workshop) to: Ray McGinnis, #403-2095 Beach Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6G 1Z3.
LISTENING AND THE CURRENT OF CREATIVITY

John’s writing workshop will explore listening and the act of poem-making as ways to help us “think like a river” so that a legacy of beauty and life can be made real to ourselves and others.

In this workshop we will gather to slow down “at the bend in the river.” This gathering place, when given to listening and creating, is refreshing to our hearts and our minds. Refreshment is the taste of our thirst for meaning. When poetry and poem-making are part of this life-giving process, they make experience more vivid and help us be more aware of what we hear at the river’s bend:

- the space,
- the learning & creative process,
- the heart connection.

Freshness makes my attention more vibrant. Emptying out releases me from a judging/comparing mind so greater room is made for what I hear, for what I write, and what I can take to heart.

- from Tao Te Ching, 15

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THIS MOMENT, THIS PERSON, THIS MEETING, THIS POEM

At the Bend in the River is a place of gathering and flow, community and creativity, a fresh shift in perception and a turning place: a surprise felt in the current. We approach all of these through the process of poem-making.

Over the course of this retreat we will:

- slow down, even allow for stillness, listen to our own flow
- place value on silence, in silence, hold silence as much as possible
- open to and connect with the poem and the person making the poem
- write as much as possible, without rush, feeling the river bend

See back for time, location and other details.

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FRESH

To move cleanly.
Needing to be nowhere else.
Wanting nothing from any store.
To lift something you already had and set it down in a new place.
Awakened eye seeing freshly.
What does that do to the old blood moving through its channels?

- Naomi Shihab Nye

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Do you have the patience to wait till your mud settles and the water is clear?
Can you remain unmoving till the right action arises by itself?

- from Tao Te Ching, 15

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We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations.

- David Brower