

Passionate About Literature and Travel?

Plan now to join your fellow literary enthusiasts
June 4-7, 2010, in the First Annual Writers Hall of Fame

Deluxe Motor Coach Tour to the homes and studios of ten of Missouri's most successful and well-known children's authors, artists, playwrights and poets.

Meet, Chat and Get Autographs From These Creative and Talented Writers



J.B. Cheaney



Vicki Grove



Cheryl Harness



Kate Klise



Constance Levy



Dorinda Nicholson



Lynn Rubright



Eileen Bluestone Sherman



Leslie Wyatt



June Rae Wood

Your Writers Hall of Fame Deluxe Motor Coach Tour Includes

- A spectacular Mississippi River sightseeing cruise
- Guided costumed docent tour of historic St. Charles, including a visit from children's author Vicki Berger Erwin
- Dining on Laclède's Landing featuring some of the best jazz in St. Louis
- Visits with St. Louis and Kansas City authors and five others at a picturesque stop in between

Meet Your Tour Guide, Dr. Linda Benson



Dr. Benson, professor emeritus at Missouri State University, is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about children's and young adult literature. Her infectious energy and sense of fun will add to the enjoyment of your trip. Dr. Benson is a longtime member of the Writers Hall of Fame, an organization that, since 1997, has encouraged an interest in writing by honoring authors and awarding scholarships to high school seniors.

This All-Inclusive Writers Hall of Fame Motor Coach Tour Is Planned For Your Comfort, Convenience and a Guaranteed Good Time!

- Prices range from \$620 each (four in a room) to \$858 each (for a single) and includes round trip deluxe motor coach transportation from St. Louis, Missouri, three nights' deluxe lodging with hot breakfast each morning and manager's reception each evening, plus two dinners and one lunch.
- Admissions and fees for the entertainment listed above and all taxes, service charges and gratuities are included.
- Questions? Contact David Harrison at davidlharrison1@att.net. For more information on the authors, scroll down this page.
- For reservations, which require a \$500 deposit and complete payment by May 8, contact Brian Garrison at Bgarrison@greatsoutherntravel.com.

Author Bios

- **J.B. Cheaney** (she may or may not tell you what the initials stand for) was born in Dallas and dropped out of college to get married. In the 36 years since, she and her husband have lived in six different states, moved a total of 23 times, raised two children and home schooled them for a dozen years. When not writing, or thinking about it, she likes to travel, read, sing, sew, do needlework and sleep—though not necessarily in that order. She lives in Bolivar, Missouri. Her works include three *Wordsmith* books and novels, *The Playmaker*, *The True Prince*, *My Friend the Enemy* and her most recent, *The Middle of Somewhere*.

- **Vicki Grove**, who lives near Cole Camp, Missouri, has been a freelance writer for 29 years, and has published 300 articles and short stories in various magazines. Two of her short stories and three excerpts from her books have been used in junior high and high school textbooks. She was part of a team of writers commissioned to produce Word Publishing's Youth Study Bible. She has written ten novels, including *Destiny* and her most recent,

Rhiannon, a murder mystery set in medieval England. She recently completed her second historical novel, *The Red Dove*.

- **Cheryl Harness**, who has written and/or illustrated some 30 titles, lives and works in her historic hometown of Independence. Harry Truman once took his daily walks in her leafy neighborhood full of handsome old homes and mansions, which is the setting for her novel, *Just For You to Know*. She has just completed *The Harry Book*, a comic book about HST's life and times. Her picture book subjects range from American women's history to ancient Egyptians' daily life along the Nile. Her vocation began with a degree in art education at Central Missouri State University. She loves to spend time with friends, sew, read murder mysteries and go to the movies.

- **Kate Klise**, author of picture books, middle-grade graphic and young adult novels, says her mother, a teacher "gave me a set of luggage, a typewriter and a direct order. She said she'd pay for my college education only if I wrote one letter home every week for all four years of college." It's not surprising, then, that many of her books, including the *Regarding Series*, are epistolary novels. "Everything I know about writing came from writing letters home." Her collaborator and illustrator is her sister, Sarah, who lives in California. Together, the Klise sisters have netted award nominations in 20 states. She lives in rural Missouri and also works as a correspondent for *People* magazine and, since 1993, has covered everything from country music to reality TV to rappers, rockers, serial killers, a leper colony in Louisiana, and, yes, of course, Brad Pitt.

- **Constance Levy**, a former teacher, college instructor and lecturer, is a children's poet who evokes essences of the natural world with imagination and playfulness. Her collections of poems appeal to adults and children. "In first grade, I wrote a poem about snow and the teacher praised it so highly, I just kept on writing—even to this day, as a grandmother." The St. Louis author has been honored for her works, including *Splash*, *A Tree Place*, *A Crack in the Clouds* and *When Whales Exhale*.

- **Dorinda Makana onalani Nicholson** was born in Hawaii to a Hawaiian mother and Scotch-Irish father. The family lived in Pearl Harbor and, standing in their front yard on the morning of December 7, 1941, she clung to her father's side while enemy torpedo bombers screamed overhead skimming the treetops, so close Dorinda could see the pilot's goggles. That early experience informed her mission to bring World War II history alive for young readers. She wrote *Pearl Harbor Child* and *Pearl Harbor Warriors*. Her third and newest book, *Remember World War II: Kids Who Survived Tell Their Stories*, was published by *National Geographic*. She lives in Independence and is a popular speaker at young writers' conferences because she makes history personal and not just facts and dates.

- **Lynn Rubright** has been a professional storyteller and educator for more than 40 years. Her primary focus has been performing her original tales for all ages and demonstrating the power of storytelling as a literacy tool in the classroom. Her first chapter book, *Mama's Window*, is historical fiction, loosely based on episodes from the childhood of Reverend Owen Whitfield, a noted activist, labor and civil rights leader who worked to help Missouri's sharecroppers during the Great Depression. Currently, she is working on bringing *Mama's Window* and other children's literature to life through drama, storytelling, movement and music with elementary school students in St. Louis area schools.

- **Eileen Bluestone Sherman**, a children’s author, playwright, lyricist and producer, began her career at Hallmark’s Coterie Theatre in Kansas City in 1982. She won an Emmy for her television adaptation of *The Odd Potato*, originally written as a picture book. With her collaborator and sister, Gail Bluestone, she adapted the story for the New York theater and produced a charity CD of the musical that starred 20 Tony Award actors. Her drama, *Deep, Dark Secrets*, about teenage girls and eating disorders debuted last year. She’s also written three young adult novels and loves teaching dramatic literature courses to graduate students. She and her husband, Dr. Neal Sherman, will celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary and their 30th year in Kansas City in June.

- **June Rae Wood** grew up with seven siblings in Versailles, Missouri, reading every chance she got. However, writing never interested her, not even when she went to college. Many years past before the writing “bug” bit her. She honed her skills by studying how-to books and listening to her work on a tape recorder. Her first novel, *The Man Who Loved Clowns*, was based on the life of her beloved brother. The novel won the 1995 Mark Twain Award in Missouri and the 1995 William Allen White Award in Kansas. She has written four other novels for young adults—*A Share of Freedom*, *When Pigs Fly*, *Turtle on a Fence Post* and *About Face*. Wood has contributed to two anthologies edited by Sandy Asher: *Writing It Right!* and *On Her Way: Stories and Poems about Growing Up Girl*, and her work has appeared in various publications, including *Family Circle*, *Reader’s Digest*, *School & Community*, *The Lookout*, *New Ways* and the *Sedalia Democrat*. Wood remains happily married to William Wood, the man she met on a blind date years ago. They live near Windsor, Missouri, and have a daughter and two granddaughters.

- **Leslie Wyatt**, a freelance writer from Clinton, Missouri, is a two-time graduate of the Institute of Children’s Literature, a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and of the Missouri Writer’s Guild. She has had more than 100 articles and stories accepted for publication in various children’s magazines, writing and parenting magazines and anthologies. In addition to her historical middle school novel, *Poor Is Just a Starting Place*, she has two more books submitted to publishers. Of all the writing she does, Leslie loves concocting historical and contemporary novels the best and is currently working on her first historical fantasy.