

Seventh Annual

Taos Writing Retreat for Health Professionals



The Seventh Annual Taos Writing Retreat for Health Professionals, sponsored by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Office of Continuing Medical Education will take place August 12, 2006 at the historic Mabel Dodge Luhan House in Taos, New Mexico.

The retreat encourages individuals – doctors, nurses, ethicists, psychologists, and anyone who is interested – to pursue writing in a communal environment that provides maximum space for personal exploration and growth. Participants are invited to bring along work-in-progress (both scholarly and creative), ideas for writing they want to begin, or simply a desire to write.

Mornings from nine to noon, participants meet in the graceful Luhan House classroom to write together and discuss various aspects of writing, like how to grip a reader's attention in a first paragraph or a last line. Afternoons are free for scheduled writing consultations with faculty members, for optional small group meetings, and for solitary writing, reflection, and communion with the beauty of Taos. Evenings offer informal gatherings that include music, readings, videos, dancing, and distinguished visiting writers (John Nichols, Simon Ortiz, Demetria Martinez, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Ellen Meloy, and Leslie Marmon Silko have been guests).

Too often in hospitals and clinics, in busy professional lives, there is no time for reflection. But here, in a historic setting that has hosted great writers and artists from D.H. Lawrence to Georgia O'Keeffe, left-out stories are told, shared, written. The writers are relaxed and energized. A synergy occurs, a mix of fellow writers, gorgeous surroundings, fabulous food, spontaneous encounters that add up to more than the sum of their parts.

2006 Faculty

David B. Morris, PhD has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His books include *The Culture of Pain* (1991), *Earth Warrior* (1995), and *Illness and Culture in the Postmodern Age* (1998). He is University Professor at the University of Virginia.

Julie Reichert, PhD is a writer of creative non-fiction, stories, poems, and the immortal screen classic *Breakin' 2 is Electric Boogaloo*. She teaches writing for medical school students, residents, and faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and has created numerous writing workshops for medical practitioners and people living with illness.

Registration and Contact Information

Cost: \$1,995 per participant. Includes six nights lodging (attractive private room with bath), three meals per day, and materials. (A spouse or adult companion is welcome to share the room, at an extra cost of \$25/day for meals. The morning workshop, however, is for participants only.) **Space is limited to 15. Reserve early. A non-refundable deposit of \$750 will secure your reservation. Cost increases to \$2,095 after June 24th.** Payment by check, credit card, or purchase order. Make checks payable to UNM Office of Continuing Medical Education, MSC09 5370, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001. Fax: (505) 272-6644.

Further information:

Please call Darlynn Mabon at (505)272-3942, email DMabon@salud.unm.edu, or visit our web page at www.taoswritingretreat.com. For a description of the Mabel Dodge Luhan House and the Taos area, see mabeldodgeluhan.com. Taos is 9,000 feet above sea level. Typical August weather: warm to hot days, cool nights, low humidity, and chance of late afternoon rainstorms.

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. The Office of Continuing Medical Education designates this educational activity for a maximum of 17 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the activity.

Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education at (505)272-3942 at the time you register. UNM is in compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.