

BANCROFT

S C H O O L

Young Writers' Conference 2010

A Weekend for Young Poets and Writers in grades 8 – 12

Saturday and Sunday, November 20 and 21



Keynote Speaker
Regie Gibson



Poetry core group with 2006 Keynote Speaker,
Jim Beschta

Young Writers' Conference 2010

You are invited to join the premiere annual conference dedicated to young writers in Central Massachusetts. You will have an opportunity to develop your craft with a group of mentors who are not only published authors, but also master teachers who enjoy sharing their love of words with teenage writers. Come learn from the masters, make some new writer friends, get some feedback, and plant the seeds for your future writing projects.

How do you apply?

Please fill out an application (on the final page of brochure or online) and submit a manuscript that is one page, typed, 12-point font and double spaced. The manuscript can be prose (fiction or non-fiction) or poetry and should represent writing that you would like to share at the conference. (Manuscripts may not contain graphically violent or sexual scenes.) Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, starting Friday, September 17th, and ending Friday, November 12th. Please mail or email your manuscript and application information to:

Christian B. Gal
Bancroft Young Writers' Conference
110 Shore Drive
Worcester, MA 01605
cgal@bancroftschool.org

All information for the Young Writers' Conference is available online at www.bancroftschool.org, under the Special Programs link. This includes an online application and directions to our campus.

Please apply early!

Send in your application with manuscript by November 12. See the brochure or website for an application.

“When you get students and teachers—who all feel the same way about words and books and language—under one roof, magic happens.”

– Cecilia Galante, mentor

“The writers’ conference brings everyone’s thoughts to equal ground. The adults here aren’t teachers, they’re mentors, guiding and supporting you.”

– Priya D., participant

“At the writers’ conference, I write. Everything else just falls away; I get two days alone with my thoughts and a few beacons of light (the mentors) to lead me to pen, to paper, to words that come out of nowhere, and I finally feel peace inside, because whatever it is that keeps me up at night comes out, and I get to understand myself; and the best part is, the people at the conference generally get me too. It’s like walking into a candle shop—the minute you inhale the air around you, you feel a dream-like sense of calm.”

– Aashana D., participant

“The writers’ conference is a formative experience for high school writers who may not get that kind of recognition or notice.”

– John Hodgen, mentor

“Being able to have published poets give you such positive and constructive feedback really makes you feel like this writing thing is possible. It’s such a wonderful intensive time. All you have to do is write, eat, sleep, think, dream writing.”

– Molly S., participant



Polly Brown leads poetry workshop.

The Mentors

Writers' Conference mentors lead core groups and workshops. They are published authors with a passion for, and experience with, teaching teen-age writers.



Regie Gibson, Keynote Speaker and Former National Poetry Slam Individual Champion, received his MFA in Creative Writing from New England College. He has performed, taught, and lectured at universities, theaters and various other venues in seven countries, including Havana, Cuba. In 2008 he competed for and received the Absolute Poetry Award in Monfalcone, Italy. He and his work appear in the New Line Cinema film “love jones,” a film based on events in his life. He has been featured on HBO’s Def Poetry Jam and numerous times on NPR and has been nominated for a Boston Emmy Award for his

performance on WGBH-2’s Art Close-Up. He has received the Walker Scholarship for poetry from the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, and is a Chernin Center for the Arts Writer’s Fellow. He has been published in *Poetry Magazine*, Harvard’s *Divinity Magazine*, *The Iowa Review* and *The Good Men Project*, among others publications. His volume of poems “Storms Beneath the Skin” received the Golden Pen Award. Regie is the founder and Artistic Director of the literary-music ensemble NeoN JuJu which combines music with classic and contemporary literature. In 2010 Regie received the 2010 Massachusetts Cultural Council Award for poetry.

Jim Beschta taught English at Quabbin Regional High School in Barre for over 30 years and for several years ran the Quabbin Poetry Conference. Jim’s first book of poetry, *Cutting the Cemetery Lawn*, was published in 2002. Jim was named English Teacher of the Year in 1992 by the Massachusetts Council of Teachers of English. He was the Keynote Speaker at the 2006 Bancroft Young Writers’ Conference. This former bear wrestler is retired and lives in Barre.

Polly Brown lives in Hopkinton and teaches at Touchstone Community School in Grafton. Her poems have appeared in various journals, including *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Appalachia*, and *Terrain.org*. She won first prize in the Worcester County Poetry Association contest and received an award from the Massachusetts Artists Foundation. Polly’s book *Blue Heron Stone* still receives wide acclaim, as does her new book, *Each Thing Torn from Any of Us*. A former Bancroft parent, Polly was the Keynote Speaker at the 2008 Bancroft Young Writers’ Conference.

Cecilia Galante holds a BA from King's College, Pennsylvania, and an MFA in creative writing from Goddard College, Vermont. Some of her previous books include *Hershey Herself*, *The Patron Saint of Butterflies*, which was named an Oprah's Book Club Teen Reading List Selection and a Cosmo Girl Book Club Best Beach Read, and *Willowood*, which came out in March of 2010. Her latest novel, *The Sweetness of Salt* is scheduled for release in November. A former high-school English teacher, she now teaches creative writing at Wilkes University. Cecilia was the Keynote Speaker at the 2009 Bancroft Young Writers' Conference.

John Hodgen has won numerous awards, including the Worcester County Young Writers' Conference 1st Pen and Ink Award in 1999. John's first book of poetry, *In My Father's House*, received critical acclaim and his second book, *Bread Without Sorrow*, was published in 2001. John taught English at Shrewsbury High School for over 30 years and now teaches at Assumption College and Mt. Wachusett Community College. John won the Foley Prize from *America Magazine* and also won the AWP Donald Hall Prize in poetry, which included the publication of his third book, *Grace*. His most recent book, titled *Heaven & Earth Holding Company*, came out in August of 2010. John has come twice to Bancroft as a visiting poet and was the Keynote Speaker at the 2005 Bancroft Young Writers' Conference.

Scott McLennan, former long-time Entertainment Columnist for *The Worcester Telegram and Gazette*, writes for *The Boston Globe* and for Hawthorn Publications. While best known for his writing on live and recorded music, Scott also reviews books, architecture, and even ski resorts. Scott also teaches writing to law students at Massachusetts School of Law. As well as an accomplished writer and teacher, Scott is a Bancroft Parent.

Don McMillan's award-winning fiction has appeared in literary magazines, such as *Confrontation*, *SNReview*, *Pitkin-in-Progress*, and *Dogwood: A Journal of Poetry and Prose*. A former newspaper reporter, Don recently completed thirteen years of service at Bancroft School, where he dedicated himself to enriching young people's lives as English Teacher, English Department Chair, Director of Curriculum, Creative Writing Guru, and Acting Director of College Admissions. He now guides adolescents through the college process as Managing Partner at Howland, Spence & McMillan, educational consultants.

Event Schedule

Saturday, November 20, 2010

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:30 – 9:00 AM | Registration Coffee and Doughnuts |
| 9:00 – 9:10 AM | Welcome Christain B. Gal |
| 9:10 – 9:30 AM | Mentor Readings |
| 9:30 – 11:15 AM | Core Groups |
| 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM | Mentor Readings |
| 12:15 – 1:00 PM | Lunch/Book Exhibit |
| 1:00 – 2:45 PM | Workshop 1 |
| 2:45 – 3:15 PM | Mentor Readings |
| 3:30 – 5:00 PM | Core Groups |
| 5:15 PM | Departure |

Sunday, November 21, 2010

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:30 AM | Coffee and Doughnuts/ Book Exhibit |
| 10:30 – 11:00 AM | Mentor Readings |
| 11:00AM – 12:30 PM | Core Groups |
| 12:30 – 1:30 PM | Lunch |
| 1:30 – 2:45 PM | Workshop 2 |
| 3:00 – 4:00 PM | Keynote Speaker Regie Gibson |
| 4:00 – 5:00 PM | Student Readings |
| 5:00 PM | Closing Remarks |

Books published by mentors will be available for purchase.

The Bancroft Young Writers' Conference

2010 Application Form

(Please tear off and return.)

Manuscript must be one page, typed, 12-point font, and double spaced to be considered. Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis **starting Friday, September 17 and ending Friday, November 12.** You may e-mail your application and manuscript, to cgal@bancroftschool.org or send them to the address below.

Student Information

Student's Name: _____

Student's E-Mail: _____

Students's Signature: _____
(the work I have submitted is entirely my own.)

School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Name of English Teacher: _____

Place an X by your chosen genre.

Prose____ Poetry____

(Your one-page manuscript should be in this genre.)

Parent Information

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's E-Mail: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail an \$80 check, payable to Bancroft School, when you apply to:

Christian B. Gal
Bancroft Young Writers' Conference
110 Shore Drive
Worcester, MA 01605
cgal@bancroftschool.org