Schedule of Events

Friday, June 18
3:30 p.m.  Arrival and check-in  (Christian Hall Lobby)
4:30 p.m. Guided tour of the former Schwab Estate gardens
6-8 p.m. Get-acquainted picnic  (JFK Student Center—lower level patio)
8:30 p.m. Time to unpack or socialize
8:30-11 p.m. Screening of Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring and discussion (DiSepio 213-214)

Saturday, June 19
8-8:30 a.m. Coffee and conversation  (Christian Hall Lobby)
8:30-9 a.m. Light breakfast  (DiSepio second floor)
9-10:30 a.m. Writing Rachel Carson’s Life: A Conversation with Linda Lear  (DiSepio 213-214)
10:45-12:15 p.m. Discussion of Annie Dillard, moderated by Gloria Kerr, Saint Vincent College (DiSepio 201)
12:30-1:45 p.m. Luncheon—optional reservation required  (Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art)
2:30 p.m. Creative Writing Workshop “Writing about Place” led by Lori Jakiela, U of Pitt-Greensburg (DiSepio 201)
3:30-4 p.m. Planning session and farewells (DiSepio 201)

Registration
Registrations will be accepted until May 31 or until all 25 spaces are filled. To register, please send a check for the total amount (payable to Saint Francis University) to Dr. Robin Cadwallader, Dept. of English, Communication Arts & Foreign Languages, Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA, 15940-0600. Phone: 814-472-3050.

Your $20 registration fee includes
• Welcome Picnic Friday
• Movie Friday evening
• Coffee & breakfast Saturday

An optional buffet luncheon is available Saturday for an additional $10.

Dinner Saturday is on your own—let us recommend a local eatery!

Lodging and Travel Information
At minimal cost, participants are invited to stay the night of June 18 at Christian Hall, a state-of-the-art living/learning center. All rooms have private baths, a/c, and wireless access. Most rooms are single or double occupancy, but four 4-person suites are also available. Rates: $37 single, $48 double, $79 4-person suite. Situated at the south end of campus, Christian Hall offers a view of Lake Saint Francis and the nearby mountain ridges. Convenient, free parking is available. Our university personnel can accommodate most dietary, mobility, or special needs—just ask.
Regaining a Sense of Wonder

the 2010 Western Pennsylvania Women Writers Retreat

at Saint Francis University, Loretto, P.A.

June 18 & 19, 2010

About Linda Lear

Linda Lear grew up in Glenshaw, in the rural North Hills, two generations after Carson's birth in Springdale, PA, but only two valleys apart as the crow flies. Her conscious connection with Carson did not begin until Lear was already a professional historian. Yet, Lear witnessed some of the same degradation of the environment that marked Carson's childhood: the pollution of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, the stench of the meat packing factories along the river, and the failure of the barons of industry to take responsibility. Lear credits Carson's indignation over the careless destruction of the environment to those same childhood experiences.

A decade in the making, Lear's biography of Carson is based on oral interviews with contemporaries, all but one of whom has now passed away. Lear shows how Carson's sense of mission and witness transformed nature writing as well as the public's understanding of the wonder and integrity of all life.

About Lori Jakiela

Lori Jakiela is the author of the memoir Miss New York Has Everything (Warner 2006) and the poetry collections The Regulars (2001) and Red Eye (2010). Her essays have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and elsewhere; her nonfiction in collections such as Short Takes (ed. by Elizabeth Penfield), The Truth of the Matter (ed. Dinty Moore), and Keep It Real (ed. Lee Gutkind). She was nominated for a 2009 Pushcart Prize. Teaching in the undergraduate writing program at The University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg and in the low-residency M.F.A. creative writing program at Chatham University, she lives with her family in her hometown, Trafford, Pennsylvania – the birthplace of the chocolate-covered pickle. Her website is www.lorijakiela.com.

Focal Texts

Rachel Carson
2. Silent Spring. 40th anniversary Mariner edition. Introduced by Linda Lear

Annie Dillard
1. “Heaven and Earth in Jest” and “Seeing,” the opening chapters of Pilgrim at Tinker Creek (winner of the 1974 Pulitzer Prize)
2. An American Childhood, pages 130-137 (the chapter beginning “Young children have no sense of wonder.”)


About the Retreat

Our first retreat in 2008 featured Rebecca Harding Davis, Nellie Bly, Willa Cather, Margaret Deland, Jennifer Haigh, and Tawni O’Dell. The next, in 2012, will feature mystery writer Mary Roberts Rinehart and a living “mystery” author.

Saint Francis University

Founded in 1847 and named for Saint Francis of Assisi, SFU is the oldest Franciscan university in the United States and one of the first Catholic colleges established in this country. Our founders, six Franciscan friars from Ireland, came to Loretto to establish a school with the threefold educational purpose of spiritual guidance, formal academic preparation, and community service.