

Two Distinguished Speakers in one week plus Writing Workshops – Who could ask for anything more!

If you are a fan of the Bartholomew County Library Associates Distinguished Speakers Series you are in for a great week!

On June 16 at 7:00 p.m. Professor Gregory Schwipps from DePauw University will share his first novel with us, *What This River Keeps*.

Schwipps grew up in Milan on a working farm and based his book on the White River and the Brookville Reservoir. He writes about an elderly farm couple who may lose their farm land to a reservoir project.

In response to an interviewer's questions Schwipps writes, "I started to fish the White River more and started thinking about river, land and what it would be like to lose land, then watch it turn into something that's not even land anymore. So that's the inspiration behind it. People have no power, and that's so hard to fathom. ... I think it more often happens to poor, less formally educated people. That's why those characters are who they are. And I wanted them to be the most connected to the land and most powerless to stop it."

Copies of *What This River Keeps* will be available for purchase.

Our first Distinguished Speaker in June 2004 was Anne Ryder. To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Speakers Series Ryder will return to the library on June 18 at 7:00 p.m.

The title of her talk is *The Road Less Traveled: Living the Lessons of "Hope to Tell."*

As a reporter and news anchor for an Indianapolis TV station Ryder was known for her "Hope to Tell" segments which highlighted people of hope, faith and resilience.

In 1996, as part of "Hope to Tell" she was granted a rare interview with Mother Teresa. Ryder writes, "The trip to Calcutta was a watershed experience. My encounter with Mother Teresa redefined my career but also deepened my personal faith."

After 25 years in the fast lane a medical emergency led Ryder to leave the fast pace to spend more time with her husband and daughter.

She now concentrates on what she calls "In an Instant" stories. Ryder's medical emergency changed her life in an instant and she knows others also have such experiences.

Her talk will cover her "take on living out some of the lessons I learned from all those years of covering "Hope to Tell" stories, including the Mother Teresa story." Ryder states, "Learning to raise Monarch butterflies with my daughter has been enlightening in its metaphor in letting go of grief and finding joy in simple things."

We are thrilled to have local and award-winning author Kit Ehrman return to the library on June 23 to present two mini writing workshops.

From Kit's biography, for those of you unfamiliar with her, "After discovering the works of Dick Francis, Kit Ehrman quit her government job and went to work in the horse industry. Twenty-five years later, she combined her love of horses and mysteries by penning an equine-oriented mystery series featuring barn manager and amateur sleuth Steve Cline."

The workshops begin at 6:30 p.m. in our Conference Room and cover How to Create Characters Readers Care About and Learn to Avoid the Ten Most Common Writing Mistakes. Please call 379-1266 or email reference@barth.lib.in.us to register.

One last thing – adults, remember that the Summer Reading Club is just not for the children! We have a reading club also called Master the Art of Reading. Call us, write us, or drop by and we can explain the reading club to you.

Mary Clare Speckner is a reference librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library