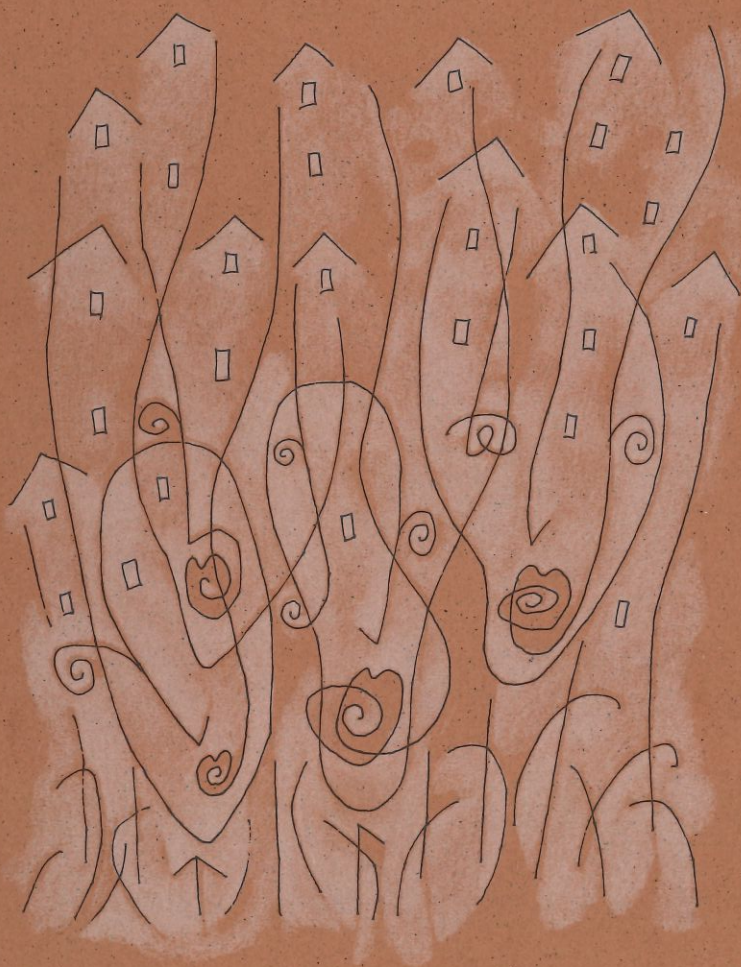


1998 GUIDE



Spirit & Place
A Gathering of Voices

NOVEMBER 13-16, 1998
at various sites throughout Indianapolis

Spirit & Place Civic Festival
c/o The Polis Center
425 University Blvd.
Cavanaugh Hall 301
Indianapolis, IN 46202

1998 SPIRIT & PLACE
EVENT TIMELINE

9.10-10.18.98



ANGELS IN AMERICA



Part I: Millennium Approaches

Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. 8:00 p.m.

Sun. 2:00 p.m.

10.22-11.15.98



ANGELS IN AMERICA



Part II: Perestroika

Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. 8:00 p.m.

Sun. 2:00 p.m.

11.21 | 11.22.98



ANGELS IN AMERICA



in Repertory

8:00 p.m.

11.2-11.17.98



FALLING TOWARD GRACE



Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-10 p.m.



Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.



Sun. 12-3 p.m.

thru-10.11.98



FALLING TOWARD GRACE



Closed Mondays

Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat. 10-5 p.m.

Thurs. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Sun. 12-5 p.m.

10.26-11.25.98



JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT



the Artwork of John August Swanson



Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



Wed. & Fri. 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

11.15.98



PETER MATTHIESSEN



Reading and Discussion

1:00-2:30 p.m.

HERE OR NOWHERE IS OUR HEAVEN



"Henry David Thoreau



on the Spiritual Reality of Place"



Kevin Radaker



2:00-3:30 p.m.



JOHN AUGUST SWANSON



Meet the Artist



Gallery Tours, Reception



2:00-3:00 p.m.

MAXINE HONG KINGSTON



Reading and Discussion



2:30-4:00 p.m.

BRINGING BIBLICAL NARRATIVES TO LIFE



John August Swanson



3:00-4:00 p.m.

A PUBLIC CONVERSATION



with



Peter Matthiessen,



Reynolds Price,



and



Maxine Hong Kingston



Hosted by



Sallyann J. Murphy



5:30-7:00 p.m.

11.16.98



PETER MATTHIESSEN



Discussion, Book Signing and Reception



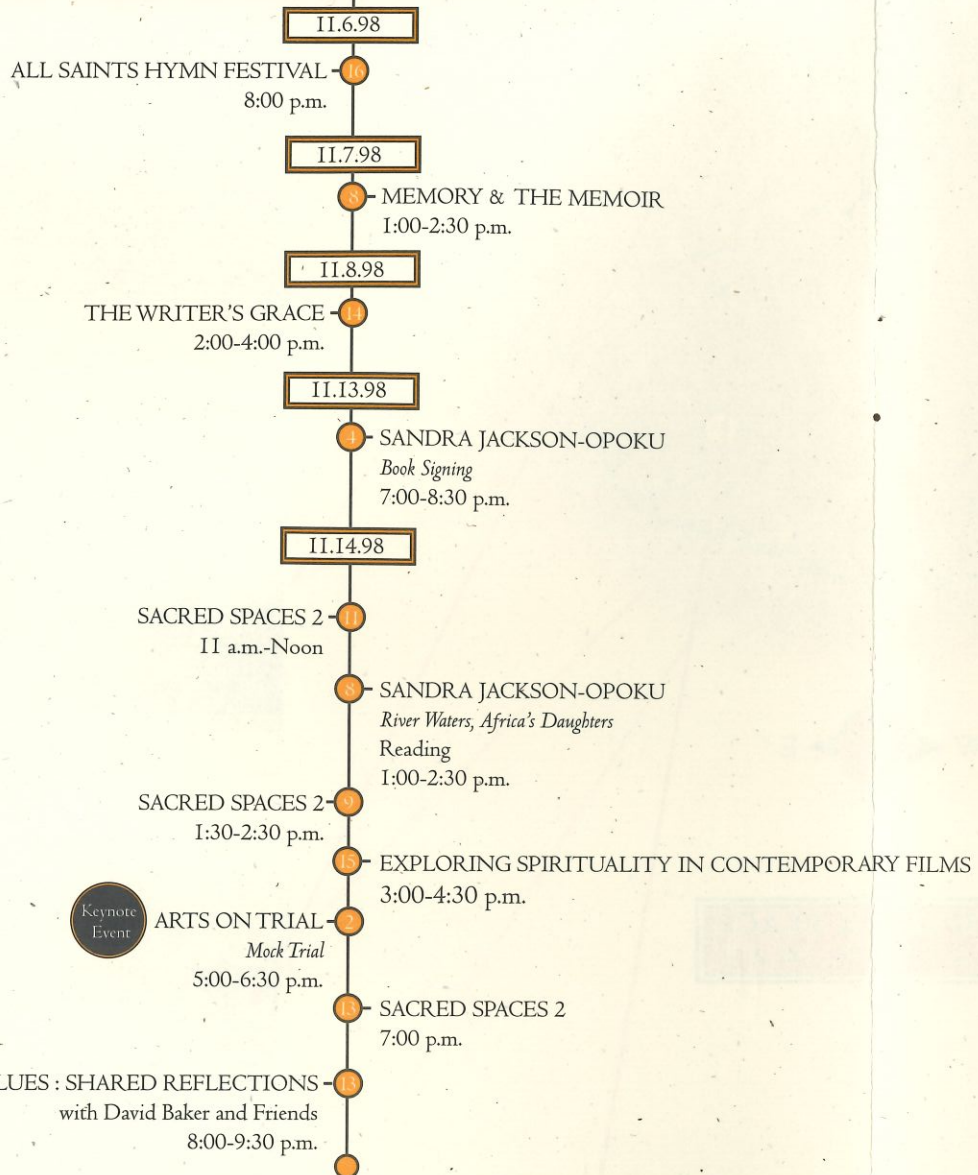
10:00-11:30 a.m.

REYNOLDS PRICE



Keynote Event





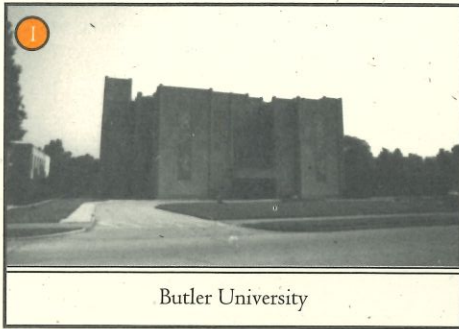
2 - MAXINE HONG KINGSTON
"The Woman Warrior and Beyond"
Book Signing and
Reception following
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

3 - CREATING CIVIC SPACES
Michael Graves
Jonathan Hess
and
Evans Woollen
Moderated by
Jeff Myers
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
By invitation only

4 - THE IMAGE WITHIN
Spirituality & Photography
Pamela de Marris
Darryl Jones
Tyagan Miller
Karen Thompson
and
Jeffrey Wolin
Moderated by
Kevin DePrey
5:30-7:00 p.m.

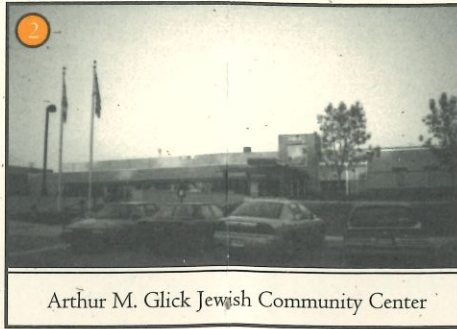
5 - JOHN AUGUST SWANSON
11.13 - 11.15.98
"Bringing Stories to Life Through Art: The Journey of the Spirit"
Three-day retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. on 11.13 and ends by noon on 11.15

Reading and Discussion
10:30 a.m.-Noon



Butler University

Clowes Memorial Hall | Jordan Hall
4600 Sunset Avenue



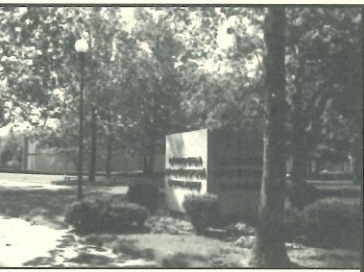
Arthur M. Glick Jewish Community Center

Laikin Auditorium
6701 Hoover Road



Indianapolis Art Center

820 East 67th Street



Christian Theological Seminary

1000 West 42nd Street



X-Pression Bookstore & Gallery

5912 North College Avenue



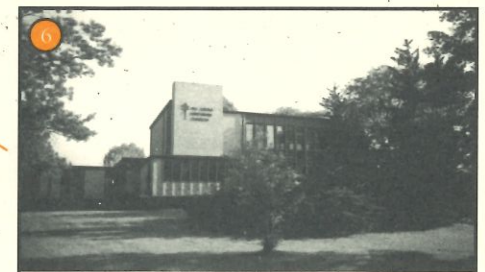
Indianapolis Museum of Art

1200 West 38th Street



Fatima Retreat House

5353 East 56th Street



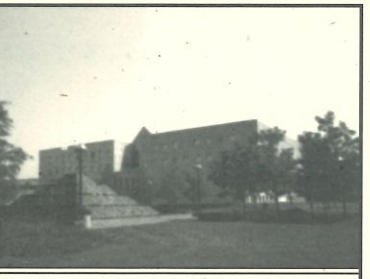


Marian College

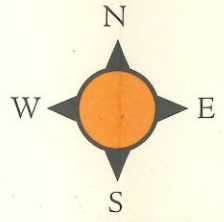
Wickely Mansion | Allison Mansion
3200 Cold Spring Road



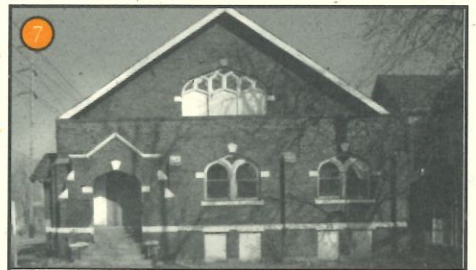
Madame Walker Theatre Center
617 Indiana Avenue



IUPUI • University Library
755 West Michigan Street



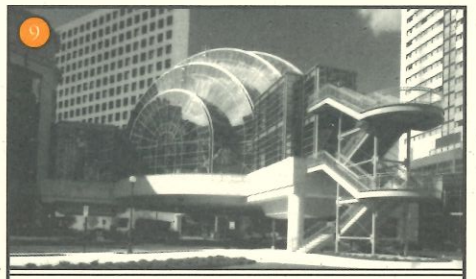
1998 SPIRIT & PLACE
LOCATION MAP



The Phoenix Theatre
749 North Park Avenue



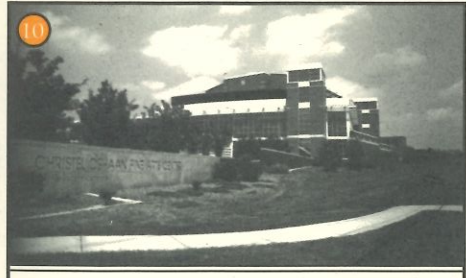
I-MCPL • Central Library
Crospey Auditorium
40 East St. Clair



The Indianapolis Artsgarden
Washington & Illinois Streets
Adjacent to Circle Centre Mall



The Catacombs under The City Market
222 East Market Street



Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center
Ruth Lilly Performance Hall
1400 East Hanna Avenue

DONORS



With the support of the
ARTS COUNCIL OF INDIANAPOLIS
and City of Indianapolis



Supported by a partnership of the
National Endowment for the Humanities and the
Indiana Humanities Council

Supported, in part, by The Polis Center's Project on Religion and Urban Culture
through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

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IUPUI Department of English
Indianapolis Art Center
Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library
Indianapolis Museum of Art
Madame Walker Theatre Center
Marian College
Martin University
The Polis Center at IUPUI
NUVO Cultural Institute
2nd Globe
Susurrus
University of Indianapolis
The Writers' Center of Indianapolis
X-Pression Bookstore and Gallery

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.*

FREE TICKETS FOR THE NOVEMBER 15 PUBLIC CONVERSATION
available at Clowes Memorial Hall Box Office
and all TicketMaster outlets.
Limit 4 per person. No telephone orders.

Box Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Except the 11.13-11.15 John August Swanson Retreat at Fatima Retreat House.

I 9 9 8 S P I R I T & P L A C E

- A unique, place-based festival creating opportunities through the arts and humanities for the public to explore and discuss the relationship among spirituality, creativity, and community
- A collaborative, community-wide festival including over 20 free lectures, performances, discussions, and exhibits
- Challenges participants to share with one another what it means to live in Indiana and the Midwest today
- Indianapolis' only comprehensive arts and humanities festival

THE FESTIVAL'S ROOTS

Spirit & Place: A Gathering of Voices brings together local and national artists and community members to explore important public issues through the arts and humanities. The festival is a "civic festival" because it relates specifically to a city and its citizens. The inaugural festival was held in November of 1996, with an unforgettable public conversation at Clowes Memorial Hall, among three distinct voices—Native sons Kurt Vonnegut and Dan Wakefield, and John Updike. In addition to this keynote event, 6 other free public programs were attended by thousands of Hoosiers. The 1997 festival offered over 20 programs, incorporating a broad array of creative expression. Music, dance, drama, and architecture were added to the many literary programs that defined the 1996 festival. Australian novelist Thomas Keneally, African-American memoirist Clifton Taulbert, and Native-American poet Joy Harjo offered the 1997 Clowes Hall audience diverse ways of defining community.

The 1998 festival again includes over 20 public events in which the themes of spirit and place are broadly interpreted. This year, the breadth of activities is even greater! You will find programs that use photography, the visual arts, film, and law as springboards for talking about place. We encourage you to attend as many events as you like, visit a different part of the city, and experience Indianapolis from new perspectives.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH

Here or Nowhere is Our Heaven:

Henry David Thoreau on the Spiritual Reality of Place

In the chautauqua style, Kevin Radaker, professor of English at Anderson University brings to life the American writer, philosopher, and naturalist Henry David Thoreau.

Sun., Nov. 15, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

BUTLER UNIVERSITY

A Public Conversation

with Peter Matthiessen, Reynolds Price, and Maxine Hong Kingston*

Hosted by Sallyann J. Murphey

Clowes Memorial Hall

Sun., Nov. 15, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

A Dialogue with Peter Matthiessen:

Zen Master, Novelist, Naturalist, and Explorer

An open question and answer session

Butler Writers' Studio, Jordan Hall, Room 304

Mon., Nov. 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Book signing and reception following

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

All Saints Hymn Festival

David Cherwien, renowned Minneapolis church organist and composer returns to Indianapolis for an evening celebrating the rich harmony surrounding the Festival of All Saints.

Sweeney Chapel

Fri., Nov. 6, 8:00 p.m.

Free admission: Suggested offering \$5

Sponsored by the Pilgrim Fine Arts Series, Pilgrim Lutheran Church

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Journey of the Spirit:
The Artwork of John August Swanson**

This travelling exhibit from The Bergsma Gallery in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a comprehensive survey of Swanson's art covering over 20 years of printmaking.

Art Center, Room 166
October 26 through November 25

Art Center Hours:

Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wed. & Fri. 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Additional viewing available by appointment. Call 317.924.1331 to schedule a visit.

**Bringing Biblical Narratives to Life:
Reflections of An Artist on His Life and Work**

Los Angeles artist John August Swanson began his artistic journey at the age of 30. Now at 60, he shares his reflections on his art, his life, and his printmaking.

Meet the artist, gallery tours, reception
Art Center, Room 166
Sun., Nov. 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Lecture and discussion
Room 164
Sun., Nov. 15, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Reynolds Price: A Reading and Discussion

North Carolinian author and Duke University professor, Reynolds Price reads from several of his works and shares his experiences as a thirteen-year survivor of spinal cancer.

The Common Room
Mon., Nov. 16, 10:30-noon
Book signing and reception following.

CATACOMBS UNDER THE CITY MARKET

Sacred Spaces 2

Originally conceived for the 1997 Spirit & Place Festival, this performance was called "a daring work of pure genius" in a four-star review by Rebecca Bibbs of The Indianapolis Star. Again, Susurrus, an Indianapolis-based performance group, presents an environmental, audience-interactive dance, choreographed by Melli Hoppe with Annie Carpenter, and original music by Elise Kermani. This year's performances include non-traditional sacred spaces, the Catacombs under The City Market, the Indianapolis Arts Garden, and the Madame Walker Theatre.

Sat., Nov. 14, 11:00 a.m.-noon
Enter through the main west doors off of Delaware Street
and follow the stairs down to the Catacombs.

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE

**Bringing Stories to Life Through Art: The Journey of the Spirit
A Weekend Retreat with John August Swanson**

An interactive workshop setting offers spiritual seekers the opportunity to use art for personal reflection.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13
through noon on Sunday, Nov. 15

Registration includes:

Programs, materials, meals and overnight accommodations.

Individual \$150 Couple \$250

*For more information and a registration form, please contact
Fatima Retreat House at 317. 545.7681.*

ARTHUR M. GLICK JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Arts On Trial : The People vs. The City of Indianapolis*

Do you believe it? The City of Indianapolis wants to build a contemporary arts center where Market Square Arena used to be! Some citizens say NO WAY! and take the City to court in this provocative mock trial. You are called to jury duty as Chief Judge Sarah Evans Barker of the U.S. District Court and a team of leading trial lawyers, including Ed DeLaney, Linda Pence, Sandra D. Leek, and Robert Wagner contest the role of the arts in the life of Indianapolis.

Sat., Nov. 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Laikin Auditorium

Produced by the NUVO Cultural Institute in partnership with Spirit & Place
Architectural design contributed by Eric Fulford and Ann Reed of ROAMworks
and Kevin Cooper of A X I S Architecture. Set Design by Bryan Fonseca of The Phoenix Theatre.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

The Woman Warrior and Beyond

Maxine Hong Kingston, whose works explore the identity and cultural experiences of Chinese-Americans, reads from several of her writings, including her innovative autobiography, The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts.

Mon., Nov. 16, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Ruth Lilly Auditorium: University Library, Lower Level
Book signing and reception following

INDIANAPOLIS ART CENTER

Falling Toward Grace Photography Exhibit

Six Indiana photographers have captured images of different faiths in Indianapolis in this exhibition of 75 photographs commissioned by The Polis Center. Participating photographers: Kim Charles Ferrill, Darryl Jones, Tyagan Miller, Carl Pope, Ginny Taylor Rosner, and Jeffrey Wolin.

November 2 through 17

This exhibit opened at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on June 13 and runs through October 11 in the Steven G. Conant Gallery at the IMA.

Creating Civic Spaces:

What Does Our Built Environment Say About Our Community?

The city's civic, cultural, religious, and corporate leaders join Indianapolis architects Michael Graves, Jonathan Hess, and Evans Woollen to discuss how the city's architecture does or does not express our fundamental values as a community. Moderated by Jeff Myers.

Mon., Nov. 16, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Art Center Library
By invitation only

The Image Within: Spirituality and Photography

Five Indiana photographers share their experiences as creative artists. Panelists include: Pamela de Marris, Darryl Jones, Tyagan Miller, Karen Thompson, and Jeffrey Wolin. Moderated by Kevin DePrey, Director of Fatima Retreat House.

Mon., Nov. 16, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Art Center Library

INDIANAPOLIS ARTSGARDEN

Sacred Spaces 2

Presented by Susurrus
Sat., Nov. 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Memory and The Memoir

Witnesses to rape, torture, and executions, Latvian author Agate Nesaule and her family survived WWII Europe, immigrating to Indianapolis in June of 1950. Now living in Madison, Wisconsin, Nesaule reads from her award-winning memoir A Woman in Amber: Healing the Trauma of War and Exile, which contains a detailed account of Indianapolis and her family's experiences during the 1950s. She discusses the power of memory and the search for truth in recollection.

Sat., Nov. 7, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Central Library, Cropsey Auditorium
Book signing and reception following

River Waters, Africa's Daughters

Chicago native Sandra Jackson-Opoku is an accomplished poet, fiction writer, screenwriter, and journalist. In her lyrical fiction debut, The River Where Blood Is Born, Jackson-Opoku captures the voices and souls of Mother Africa's many daughters as they travel across two centuries and three continents.

Sat., Nov. 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Central Library, Cropsey Auditorium
Book signing and reception following

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART

Exploring Spirituality in Contemporary Films

Using several contemporary films as a backdrop, Jane Rulon, director of the Indiana Film Commission, hosts this enlightening discussion. Panelists include: Rev. Dr. Max Case, an ordained Methodist minister and director of Statewide Campus Ministries; Judith Cebula, religion writer for The Indianapolis Star/News; and Dr. Gloria Gibson, associate professor of Afro-American Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, and assistant director of the Black Film Center/Archive at IU, Bloomington.

DeBoest Lecture Hall
Sat., Nov. 14, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

MADAME WALKER THEATRE CENTER

Sacred Spaces 2
Presented by Susurrus

Sat., Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m.
Madame Walker Theatre

Jazz and Blues:

Shared Reflections with David Baker and Friends

Native son David Baker, distinguished professor of music and chairman of the Jazz Department at the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, joins Indianapolis musicians Carl Hines and Clyde Shelby, and Indiana author Duncan Schiedt to share stories of Indianapolis' rich heritage as a center for jazz and blues. Hosted by Chuck Workman, producer/host of the Sunday Morning Jazz Show at WTPI FM107.9.

Sat., Nov. 14, 8:00-9:30 p.m.
Casino Ballroom, 4th floor

MARIAN COLLEGE

Maxine Hong Kingston: A Reading and Discussion

Allison Mansion's Aviary
Sun., Nov. 15, 2:30-4:00 p.m.
Book signing and reception following

THE PHOENIX THEATRE

Angels in America Part I: Millennium Approaches

By Tony Kushner
Sept. 10-Oct. 18

Angels in America Part II: Perestroika

Oct. 22-Nov. 15

Angels in America in repertory

Nov. 21-22

"Angels in America" is a Pulitzer-Prize winning saga on life, death, love, sex, race, and politics in the midst of the Reagan era, when the full fury of AIDS was just beginning to be realized.

Performance times and ticket information:

Box office 317.635.PLAY

Thurs.: 7:30 p.m. | Fri. & Sat.: 8 p.m. | Sun.: 2 p.m.
Adults \$18 per ticket | Students (20 yrs. and younger) \$10

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Peter Matthiessen: A Reading and Discussion

Sun., Nov. 15, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Ruth Lilly Performance Hall
Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center
Book signing and reception following

THE WRITERS' CENTER OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Writer's Grace: Giving Voice to Spirit

Four Indiana authors discuss their essays published in *Falling Toward Grace: Images of Religion and Culture from the Heartland* (Indiana University Press, 1998), a book whose contributors have sought to grapple with the issue of spirit and place in Indianapolis. Panelists include: Dan Carpenter, columnist for *The Indianapolis Star/News*; Alyce Miller, professor of writing at Indiana University, Bloomington; Jim Poyser, fine arts editor for *NUVO Newsweek*; and Barbara Shoup, award-winning teacher at Broad Ripple High School. *Falling Toward Grace* is part of The Polis Center's Project on Religion and Urban Culture.

Sun., Nov. 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Marian College, Stokely Mansion
Book signing and reception following

X-PRESSION BOOKSTORE & GALLERY

Book Signing with Sandra Jackson-Opoku

Fri., Nov. 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

PETER MATTHIESSEN



Novelist, naturalist, explorer, and Zen Master, Peter Matthiessen has published scores of books, essays, and articles over a career that already had begun by the time he graduated from Yale University in 1950. His novel *At Play in the Fields of the Lord* was nominated for a National Book Award in 1966, as was, six years later, *The Tree Where Man Was Born*. *The Snow Leopard*, published in 1978, won both the American Book Award and the National Book Award. Matthiessen's nonfiction, while full of adventure and high spirit, has been desecrated as "melancholic at its heart; often sounding a bell of mourning for people and places threatened by encroaching forces of industrial development and cultural colonialism." Many of his books chronicle the few remaining members of a tribe, or of an endangered species, whether it be in Africa, Papua New Guinea, or the Amazonian jungle.

A native New Yorker who lives year round on eastern Long Island, Matthiessen has found material for his writings as close as Block Island Sound and as far as the Himalayas. Since mid-century, Peter Matthiessen's work has situated his readers in the only place that matters, one in which they struggle with, and are touched by, the sacred. It is a place woven of both fiction and non-fiction.

Killing Mr. Watson (New York: Random House, 1990)
Lost Man's River (New York: Random House, 1997)

The Watson trilogy, now two-thirds published, recounts the mystery of a man's existence through the testimony of those who knew him, his neighbors and his family, those who feared and those who loved him. It also relates the massacre of birds, gators and plants of the Everglades, the bleeding of the earth and its spiritual consequences for Ed Watson and all of humankind. In their concern with spirit and place, fact and fiction, these books are eloquent testimonies to Matthiessen's devotion to the truth.

Photo Credit: Nancy Crampton

Discussion Points

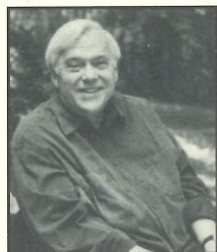
- Matthiessen, by mixing several conflicting first-person recollections with newspaper clippings, memoirs, histories and diary entries, manages to leave some readers sure of little more than Watson's violent death. Others come away with definite opinions on Watson, the reason(s) for his killing, and the justice (or injustice) of his killers. What should we make of this?
- Race and color are part of the Watson story as they are part of one's own life; various characters propose "solutions" to this "problem" ranging from forced racial intermarriage to quieter, individual choices. Richard Hamilton, whose mother was a Choctaw and whose grandfather was a "Spanish Indian" chief named Chekaika, says simply, "If you live Indian way, then you are Indian, color don't matter." It's how you respect the earth, not where you came from. (KMW, p. 41). Is Hamilton clarifying things, or further confusing them?
- Watson told his daughter, Carrie, that he kept a journal and, further, that a diary that is not completely private, "is no longer a diary." He called his journal, "Footnotes to my Life" (KMW, p. 67). Supposing we could recover it, could it supply a definite explanation for his death? His life?
- Rob Watson, Mr. Watson's eldest son, by his first marriage, disappeared around the time of the events leading to his father's death. In *Lost Man's River*, we find his account of those days. Can we trust it?
- Richard Hamilton recalls the question which prompted him to desert from the U.S. Army and come to Florida: "How come you ain't standing on the land?" (KMW, p. 34) Is this question directed at anyone else?

Other Works by Peter Matthiessen

- At Play in the Fields of the Lord*. New York: Random House, 1965.
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse. New York: Viking Press, 1983.
Far Tortuga. New York: Random House, 1975.
Sal si puedes: Cesar Chavez and the New American Revolution. New York: Random House, 1969.
The Snow Leopard. New York: Viking Press, 1978.
Wildlife in America. London: Penguin, 1959; rev. ed. New York: Viking Press, 1987.

Discussion points developed by Jim Watt, Allegra Stewart Professor of English at
Butler University, Indianapolis, IN

REYNOLDS PRICE



Reynolds Price was born in the small town of Macon, North Carolina, in 1933. Price attended Duke University, where he met his mentor, Eudora Welty. His first novel, *A Long and Happy Life*, was published in 1962 and won the William Faulkner Award for a notable first novel. Since that time, he has published more than two dozen books, volumes of poems, plays, essays, translations, and two volumes of memoir, *Clear Pictures* and *A Whole New Life*, an account of his survival from spinal cancer. His nonfiction book, *Three Gospels*, is a work born out of his passionate and scholarly interest in the gospels. Released this year is his newest novel, *Roxanna Slade*. Continuing his fourth decade of teaching at Duke, Reynolds Price is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and is frequently heard on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." He lives in Durham, North Carolina.

Roxanna Slade (New York: Scribner, 1998)

Not since his award-winning novel *Kate Vaiden* has Reynolds Price told the story of a woman of the South in her own voice. In *Roxanna Slade*, he creates a character possessed of intensely clear vision, honest passions, and immense vitality. The novel begins with a picnic at the Slade home where a tragedy closes the door on one future and sets the course of her life ahead. Nearly a century later, after two grown children, a devastating bout with depression, two world wars, the civil rights and women's movements, Roxanna remains vital and forthright, looking back on her life with gratitude, contentment, and a little awe. *Roxanna Slade* describes an average woman's path through an average life, and the unique perspective of a woman arrived at old age. Best of all, Roxanna is a remarkable storyteller.

Photo Credit: Jill Kremenz

Discussion Points

- Roxanna and other characters in her story are visited by "spirits." What is their importance to the story?
- How is Roxanna affected by the places in which she lives her life?
- At the end of her narrative, Roxanna remarks that people "just stay who they were from the day they were born." Discuss what she means and how her own life substantiates that observation.
- In 1996, Dan Wakefield wrote that Price "makes God and religion a natural part of his characters' lives." Discuss this aspect of Roxanna Slade's life.
- Reynolds Price describes literature "as a way of teaching people how to live." Has he done this in writing *Roxanna Slade*?

Other Works by Reynolds Price

A Whole New Life: An Illness and a Healing. New York: Atheneum, 1994.

Clear Pictures. New York: Atheneum, 1989.

The Collected Poems. New York: Scribner, 1997.

A Palpable God. New York: Atheneum, 1978.

The Promise of Rest. New York: Scribner, 1995.

Three Gospels. New York: Scribner, 1996.

Discussion points developed by Susan Waggoner, Director of the Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield, IN

MAXINE HONG KINGSTON



The American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants, Maxine Hong Kingston grew up in Stockton, California. Her first book, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, and its companion volume, *China Men*, are an innovative blending of fact and imagination. Kingston's works explore the mysteries of identity, and how people caught between two cultures make a place in the world. Hers was a bi-cultural, working-class childhood, in which Maxine and her brothers and sisters attended both American and Chinese schools and also labored alongside their parents in the family laundry. Kingston describes her childhood as rich in story, with her mother, Brave Orchid, the dominant storyteller. In addition to her books, she has published numerous essays, reviews, poems, and stories. For the last nine years, Kingston has been working on a combined work of fiction and memoir, *The Fifth Book of Peace*. In 1997, President Clinton presented her with a National Humanities Medal. She lives in Oakland with her husband, Earl, and teaches at her alma mater, the University of California, Berkeley.

The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts (New York: Knopf, 1976)

Winner of a National Book Critics Circle Award, Maxine Hong Kingston's memoir, *The Woman Warrior*, explores the complexities of what it means to grow up female and Chinese. The book is structured around the lives of several women: the author's "no-name" aunt who committed suicide after giving birth to a child outside of marriage; Kingston's domineering mother, Brave Orchid, whose stories and strong personality left a lasting impression on her daughter; and Fa Mu Lan, the legendary Chinese swordswoman who is said to have avenged her people against a greedy baron. Kingston's lushly written memoir blends family stories with musings on Chinese proverbs, myth, and contemporary politics as a means of coming to terms with her "girlhood among ghosts." *The Woman Warrior* has sold more than a half-million copies in the United States alone and has been translated widely.

Photo Credit: Jane Scherr

Discussion Points

- Identify the numerous functions of "talking-story" in the narrator's family and immigrant community.
- What kinds of stories are important to your family? What similarities and differences do you notice between the "talk-stories" in Kingston's book and the stories that are often retold in your family?
- China looms large in *The Woman Warrior*. It is simultaneously the site of mythic stories, the homeland inaccessible to Chinese emigres, and the contemporary country where Mao's cultural revolution is taking place. Discuss ways in which these different Chinas collide in the narrator's imagination.
- Although *The Woman Warrior* has been classified as a memoir, Kingston often makes use of fictional technique to bring her story to life. For example, she narrates certain passages from different characters' points of view: Brave Orchid's, Moon Orchid's, the No Name Woman's. What does Kingston gain by switching points of view?
- At the end of the "White Tigers" section, Kingston implies that a writer must remove herself from her community in order to understand it. Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?

Other Works by Maxine Hong Kingston

China Men. New York: Knopf, 1980.

Hawaii One Summer. San Francisco: Meadow Press, 1979.

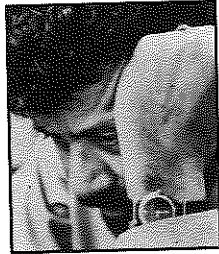
Through the Black Curtain. Berkeley: Bancroft Library, 1987.

Tripmaster Monkey. New York: Knopf, 1989.

*Discussion points developed by Karen Kovacik, assistant professor of English,
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.*

FEATURED ARTISTS

DAVID N. BAKER



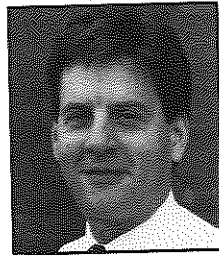
A virtuosic performer on multiple instruments and top in his field in several disciplines, David N. Baker has taught and performed throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and Japan. Baker is a native of Indianapolis and currently holds the position of distinguished professor of music and chairman of the Jazz Department at the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington. He also is the conductor and musical director of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. In addition to numerous awards, Baker has composed over 2,000 pieces, ranging from jazz and sonatas to film scores.

MICHAEL GRAVES



Indianapolis-born architect Michael Graves has been in the forefront of architectural design since he began his practice in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1964. Graves has received over 100 prestigious awards for his designs in architecture, interiors, products, and graphics, and has come to enjoy an international reputation, with buildings in China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Europe, and Egypt. His Indianapolis projects include the Thomson Consumer Electronics Headquarters and Technology Center, the Indianapolis Art Center, and the NCAA 2000: Headquarters and Hall of Champions. Michael Graves received his architectural training at the University of Cincinnati and Harvard University. Graves is the Schirmer Professor of Architecture at Princeton University, where he has taught since 1962. He is a Fellow of The American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

JONATHAN HESS



As Executive Vice President for Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf Inc., Jonathan Hess's work can be seen throughout Indianapolis. Completed projects include the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the recent addition to The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, and the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Work under construction includes the control tower for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, expansion to The Children's Museum, and the sanctuary for St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Hess earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies (1979) and a Master of Architecture (1982) from the University of Illinois.

Photo Credit: Indianapolis Business Journal

Sallyann J. Murphey, a former BBC producer, spent more than fifteen years in television production in London, New York, and Chicago before moving to the hills of Brown County, Indiana, in 1991. Her first book, *Bean Blossom Dreams: A City Family's Search for a Simple Country Life*, was published in 1994. Her latest work, *The Zen of Food—A Philosophy of Nourishment*, is a series of essays which combine two of her favorite themes: food and the role it plays in our search for a more meaningful and joyous existence. Currently, she is finishing *The Metcalfe Family Album: The Reflections, Recipes and Holiday Traditions of Six Generations of American Women*, which is scheduled to be published by Chronicle Books in Fall, 1999. When Murphey is not writing, she lectures frequently on a range of spiritual ideas. She has appeared on "Oprah," "Good Morning America," and National Public Radio.



SALLYANN J. MURPHEY

In June of 1950, Agate Nesaule and her family left their native Latvia and immigrated to Indianapolis. Nesaule won critical and popular acclaim for her 1995 memoir *A Woman in Amber: Healing the Trauma of War and Exile*. The woman in the title was Nesaule herself, who as a young Latvian girl suffered some of the worst hardships of WWII and who preserved those sufferings in the amber-like protective casing of her memory. Nesaule attended Shortridge High School, teaching herself English by reading *Gone with the Wind* that she checked out from the downtown Central Library. She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana University, Bloomington, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has won numerous awards and honors for her teaching and writing. Agate Nesaule lives in Madison.



Photo Credit: Kathleen Sitter

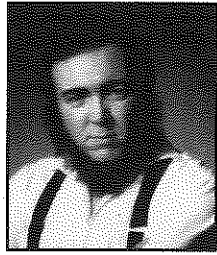
AGATE NESAULE

Sandra Jackson-Opoku is an award-winning fiction writer, poet, and journalist who teaches in the Fiction Department of Chicago's Columbia College. Jackson-Opoku's first novel, *The River Where Blood Is Born*, is a story lovingly told and painstakingly crafted. It began over fifteen years ago as a travelogue of the author's experiences following her first trip to Africa, evolving over several incarnations to become a novel told in "a community of voices." It won the American Library Association's Black Caucus Award in 1997. *The River Where Blood Is Born* mirrors, in literary ways, the author's pan-Africanist learnings and life work. She founded and directed One Village, an organization dedicated to fostering cross-cultural linkages among diverse communities of African descent.



SANDRA JACKSON-OPOKU

KEVIN RADAKER



Born and raised in Warren, Pennsylvania, at the northern tip of the Allegheny National Forest, Kevin Radaker was first attracted to the writings of Henry David Thoreau while in high school and college. A Ph.D. from Penn State University, Radaker is professor of English and chair of the English Department at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. In addition to presenting numerous papers on Thoreau at local, regional, and national conferences, he also has written extensively on the works of Annie Dillard and Wendell Berry.

During the summers of 1991-1993, he portrayed Thoreau while traveling with the Great Plains Chautauqua Society and continues to present his characterization as part of the summer Heartland Chautauqua tour.

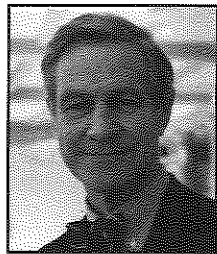
JOHN AUGUST SWANSON



John August Swanson makes his home in Los Angeles, where he was born in 1938. He paints in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media, and is an independent printmaker of limited edition serigraphs, lithographs, and etchings. His art reflects the strong heritage of storytelling he inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. He addresses himself to human values, cultural roots, and his quest for self-discovery through visual images. His unique style is influenced by the imagery of Islamic and medieval miniatures, Russian iconography, the colors

of Latin American folk art, and the tradition of Mexican muralists. Swanson's works are included in many private and public collections, including London's Tate Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, Vatican Museums' Collection of Modern Religious Art, Harvard University's Fogg Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Notre Dame University, Valparasio University, and Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis all own works by Swanson.

EVANS WOOLLEN



Evans Woollen earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Architecture from Yale University in 1952. After three years of apprenticeship in Connecticut, Woollen returned to his hometown of Indianapolis and established his own firm. He has served as primary designer throughout the firm's forty-three-year history. Evans Woollen was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1983, has won numerous local and national awards, and has been a visiting architectural critic and/or lecturer at many architectural schools in the

United States. In 1994, "Building for Meaning: The Architecture of Evans Woollen" was produced in cooperation with Indianapolis' PBS affiliate WFYI Channel 20 and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His works include Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library/Central Library, the Indiana Repertory Theatre Complex, and the Indiana University Musical Arts Center in Bloomington.

