

Pat Schneider, MFA
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EDUCATION: B.A., Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri, 1956; M.A., Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California, 1959; M.F.A. in Creative Writing, University of Massachusetts, 1979

CURRENT: Pat Schneider currently leads workshops and retreats, gives readings and speeches, and works on a new collection of poems and a collection of essays. Her latest book, *How the Light Gets In: Writing as a Spiritual Practice*, was released from Oxford University Press, April, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS: Pat has published ten books, including five books of poetry, the latest of which is *Another River: New & Selected Poems*. *How the Light Gets In*, *Writing as a Spiritual Practice* and *Writing Alone & With Others*, are both from Oxford University Press. A companion DVD by Florentine Films describes the workshop method for which she is best known in workshops throughout the US, Ireland and Canada. and is being used in Malawi, Mexico, Singapore, etc. She also authored *Wake Up Laughing: A Spiritual Autobiography*, and edited *In Our Own Voices: Writings by Women in Low-Income Housing*.

Her poetry, plays and fiction have appeared in more than a hundred literary journals and magazines (*The Sewanee Review*; *The Sun*; *New York Quarterly*; *North Dakota Quarterly*; *Minnesota Review*; *Kalliope*; *Exquisite Corpse*, *Ms. Magazine*; etc.) Her libretti have been recorded by the Louisville Symphony and performed by Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony in Boston's Symphony Hall and in Carnegie Hall, New York City. Fourteen of her plays have been produced, nine published. There are more than 300 recorded productions of her plays in this country and in Europe. Her poems have sixteen times been read by Garrison Keillor on *Writer's Almanac*.

TEACHING AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK: Pat is the founder and director emerita of Amherst Writers & Artists (AWA) (www.amherstwriters.com) Her writing workshop method is described in *Writing Alone and With Others*, Oxford University Press, 2003. AWA's workshops, publishing, training of workshop leaders, and outreach programs have been funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, etc. Academy Award winning filmmakers Diane Garey and Larry Hott of Florentine Films, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, have produced a documentary film about Pat's work using writing to empower low-income women, titled *Tell Me Something I Can't Forget*, which has been awarded the Golden Eagle (top award) by CINE, an international film festival, and the Golden Apple (top award) by the National Educational Film Festival. It was presented on national educational television's P.O.V. (Point of View) series on August 25, 1993, and is available to the public in video or on a DVD companion to *Writing Alone and With Others*. The DVD also contains interviews and writing exercises by several certified AWA workshop leaders. It is available on Pat Schneider's website, www.patschneider.com.

In addition to her own workshops and retreats, more than 1,000 persons in the US, Canada, Ireland and other countries have received training and certification from in the Amherst Writers & Artists workshop method. She is an adjunct faculty member of Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. She has led creative writing workshops at the University of Massachusetts, Smith College, Limavadi College (Northern Ireland) the University of Connecticut. at the Graduate Theological Union in California, in Ontario, in Japan and throughout the U.S. and Ireland.

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