



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

**Annual James River Writers Conference
Attracts Notable National Literary Talent**

RICHMOND, Va., Sept. 12, 2011—“Some of the most exceptional and talented writers publishing today” will highlight this fall’s ninth annual James River Writers Conference, according to conference chair Katharine Herndon, a Richmond-based educator and writer.

The conference will be held Oct. 6-8 at the Library of Virginia in downtown Richmond. “This year’s lineup of exceptional national talent is once again drawing attention across our region,” Herndon said. “Attendees will join Richmond’s lively, growing literary community for exploration into all facets of today’s changing publishing scene.”

This year’s headliners include:

- **Kathi Appelt**, winner of the Newbery Honor Award for *The Underneath*
- **John Casey**, winner of the National Book Award for *Spartina*
- **Robert Goolrick**, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Reliable Wife*
- **Tayari Jones**, winner of the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction for *Leaving Atlanta*
- **Kitty Kelley**, internationally acclaimed writer whose last five books, including *Oprah: A Biography*, have gone on to be number one on the *New York Times* bestseller list
- **Karl Marlantes**, winner of the William E. Colby Award for the *New York Times* bestselling *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War*

“In addition to being able to meet and greet our headliners,” Herndon said, “attendees will be able to take part in one-on-one pitches with top publishing agents.”

Also, conference participants will attend sessions on everything from digging deep into character and writing in various genres to launching an online Twitter presence as a promotional tool.

Attendees will enjoy soaking up the atmosphere, mingling with top authors and writing professionals, and finding inspiration for their inner muses. The entire program fits with the James River Writers mission of connecting and inspiring writers and readers.

Registration is \$190.00. Pre-conference workshop registration in fiction and poetry is \$40.00. Registration and further details, including information on hotel accommodations, are available on JRW’s Web site, JamesRiverWriters.org, and by calling 804-433-3790.

***James River Writers is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization
dedicated to building community by connecting and
inspiring writers and readers in central Virginia.***

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