

Editorial Page

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Letters to the Editor

CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAY

JRW Conference wowed speaker

EDITOR, TIMES-DISPATCH:

I was honored to be a guest of the James River Writers and spoke at the JRW Conference.

This is the best literary conference/festival that I've attended in the U.S. and I speak frequently around the country at such events. It's well planned and impeccably implemented. All of my fellow presenters were raving as well.

The kind of support this organization receives from the community says a lot about what your city values. To a person, everyone I met was welcoming and generous. Southern graciousness abounds.

Maya Payne Smart, JRW chair; Kristi Tuck Austin, event chair; Dean King and David Robbins, founders; Virginia Pye, advisory board chair; Rebecca Joines Schinsky, board member; Bill Blume, next year's event chair and Kelly Justice, Fountain Bookstore owner, are among dozens of those who made this weekend memorable. How many cities can boast that literary superstars roll up their sleeves and work to make the community stronger? You should be proud!

I cannot guarantee that I won't be moving from Chicago to Richmond. My love affair with your city has begun.

JULIE SCHOERKE
WINNETKA, IL.