

# MID-MICHIGAN'S RETREAT FROM HARSH REALITY!



Yarrow Golf & Conference Resort  
10499 North 48<sup>th</sup> St.  
Augusta, MI 49012  
1-800-563-4397

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF WRITING MAGIC!

### The Retreat

An annual event since 1985, the Retreat begins Friday evening and ends Sunday at noon. Who can resist a weekend in a beautiful setting, away from spouses, kids, traffic, and the rigors of day-to-day life in the "Real World," coupled with the chance to talk "shop" with other authors and aspiring authors? Attire is sweatshirts-and-jeans casual, and one-on-one conversation with the featured speaker is not only allowed, it's encouraged! Attendees welcome this rare opportunity to relax and talk writing, to learn and to share.

### The Site - A fabulous place to relax and be inspired!

This year's Retreat From Harsh Reality is at a new location -- the Yarrow Golf & Conference Resort in Augusta, Michigan. Yarrow is the perfect setting to kick back, open your mind, and reconnect with your muse. Magnificent scenery and unparalleled hospitality make Yarrow the place to rest, relax and renew your creativity.



## OUR GUEST SPEAKER: JO ANN FERGUSON!

Award-winning author **Jo Ann Ferguson** has a split writing personality, each with its own pseudonym. She is the author of numerous best-selling historical novels, traditional and mystery Regency stories, paranormal novels, and contemporary mystery novels. Her most recent and upcoming releases include *Gentleman's Master* (Jo Ann Ferguson/ ImaJinn), *Dreamseeker* (J.A. Ferguson/ImaJinn), *Sea Wraith* (Jocelyn Kelly/ImaJinn), and *Time to Share* (Jo Ann Brown/Guidepost Books). Over 80 of her titles have been published by Tudor, Ballantine, Zebra, Harper, Warner and Thorndike. Her books have been translated into almost a dozen languages and are sold on every continent except Antarctica.

### THE SESSIONS:

#### TAMING THE \*&^% SYNOPSIS AND QUERY

**LETTER:** Do you hate writing synopses and wonder if they're a torture invented to test writers on their way to publication? Learn ways to make your synopsis work for you. It can be a road map to writing your manuscript. But first you need to devise a high concept and a pitch for your manuscript . . . which you can then use for both your synopsis and an intriguing query letter.

**I SECOND THAT EMOTION:** Write what you know is the basic advice all writers receive. We'll focus on *how* to write what you know about your own emotions and how to use them to add life and emotional depth to your characters. You'll participate in developing words that perfectly describe the emotions that will make a reader laugh or cry.

## RETREAT SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY:

6-7:30 p.m. Registration  
6:30-7:30 Dinner  
7:30-8:00 Dessert - Chocolate Anyone?  
8:00-9:00 Official Welcome & Ice Breaker  
9:00 - ? Bed, relaxation, private critiques...

### SATURDAY:

7-9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00-8:45 Registration  
8:45-9:00 Welcome  
9:00-10:45 **Jo Ann Ferguson - "Taming the \*&^% Synopsis and Query Letter"**  
11:00-11:15 MMRWA Angel Award  
11:15-11:30 Twenty-five Years of Retreat: A Look Back at all the memories  
11:30-12:00 PAN Meeting for published authors; Free Time for all others  
12:00-1:00 Lunch  
1:00-2:00 Book Sale & Autographing  
2:00-3:30 **Jo Ann Ferguson - "I Second That Emotion"**  
4:00-4:30 PRO Pin Recognition, Toot Your Own Horn, Champagne Celebration for First Sales  
4:30-6:00 Book Basket Raffle, Silent & Live Auctions (proceeds go to YWCA Domestic Assault Program)  
6:00-7:00 Dinner  
7:00-9:00 Special Presentation: **Jo Ann Ferguson: Novelization of Thomas Kinkade's The Christmas Cottage;** Muse Sessions; or Time on your own

### SUNDAY:

7-9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
9:00-9:30 Chapter Meeting  
9:30-11:00 Romance/Biz Round Table with **Jo Ann Ferguson**  
11:00-12:00 Retreat Wrap-Up  
12:00 Adjournment

\*\*\*All activities are slated to be held in the Main Lodge in the Dogwood Room. Meals will be held in the Evergreen Dining Room, also at the Main Lodge.

## Things to Remember:

- **Registration will be open through March 31, 2010.** You may make a minimum deposit of **\$50 to hold your spot with the balance due by March 31**. Registrations may be accepted after March 31st if spaces remain. Please contact Julie at [retreat@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:retreat@midmichiganrwa.org) to verify availability and pricing. **Registration closes on Wednesday, March 31, 2010** - No refunds can be made after that date. Final room arrangements are due by March 31st.
- **Published Author Critiques:** MMRWA's published writers are again offering one-on-one critiques for only \$15.00. For this amount, you will receive an in-depth critique of your first fifty pages and your synopsis, either in person at the Retreat, by phone or by mail. Questions? Contact **Dawn Bartley** at (269) 381-4084 or [members@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:members@midmichiganrwa.org) or see our website.
- **Optional Saturday Muse Sessions:** Bring your own work in progress to share with other writers and get great feedback and suggestions for improvement. We suggest you focus on your main characters, your plot/timeline or your 5-pages synopsis and/or query letter for a small group brainstorming session. Detailed information will be mailed out with your pre-Retreat packet.
- **Desserts and goodies:** Bring your favorite dessert to share Friday night!
- **Want to relax an extra day or play golf on a championship course?** Contact Julie at [retreat@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:retreat@midmichiganrwa.org) for course and additional lodging pricing. These reservations must be paid in full by the Retreat deadline.

Confirmation via email will be sent immediately upon receipt of your registration form. Directions and additional pre-Retreat information will be sent two weeks before Retreat. To reserve a space, you may send a *partial payment* but **full payment must be received by 3/31**. One night stays can be arranged. **Please notify me if you require special room arrangements or have special dietary needs.** Questions? Contact Julie at [retreat@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:retreat@midmichiganrwa.org) or visit our website at [www.midmichiganrwa.org](http://www.midmichiganrwa.org).



The Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America  
Proudly Presents

## **RETREAT FROM HARSH REALITY**

**APRIL 16-18, 2010**

At the beautiful Yarrow Golf & Conference Resort  
10499 North 48<sup>th</sup> St., Augusta, MI 49012  
1-800-563-4397

Weekend Package includes room and board

MMRWA Retreat From Harsh Reality 2010  
P.O. Box 2725  
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[Retreat@midmichiganrwa.org](mailto:Retreat@midmichiganrwa.org)

To: