



two
or three
things
we know for
sure



asilomar **59**

september 24-26

two or three things we know for sure

**GUARANTEED NOT
TO BE CANCELLED!**

There are two or three things that teachers know for sure—matter of fact—there are two or three things that teachers know for sure about many subjects. As educators, we are facing two troubling economic realities. First, in many school districts, there is a lack of adequate support for ongoing teacher inservice and professional growth, especially for those teaching in the most challenged schools. Second, there is a lack of adequate financial support for administrative innovations in how these schools are organized to better serve students who are labeled either “remedial” or “gifted.” Given that reality, we also know that many thoughtful teachers and administrators have devised solutions for different aspects of these problems. We need to take the time and open ourselves to find these.

In another area of educational economic fallout, teachers know that they have lost job security and financial support to provide adequate textbooks, materials and resources so that teaching and learning can continue to be a joyful experience for students and teachers.

Dorothy Allison says in her book of that name, “There are two or three things I know for sure, and one of them is that if we are not beautiful to each other, we cannot know beauty in any form.” As teachers, we know that there are two or three things we know for sure and one of them is that if we are not supporting each other, reaching out and sharing our knowledge, our resources, our questions, we will not know how or where else we can find that support that we need.

In the small groups that we will be working in this weekend, we will have a model of how teachers can work together over time to share knowledge and resources to find answers and strength in each other. As we move into the larger groups, we share and extend our experience into the larger community learning from them as well.

This year at Asilomar 59, author and teacher Dorothy Allison will open our weekend in her clear, honest voice asking us to look at ourselves and reminding us of what we do so well. On Saturday evening we will have the opportunity to come together to get to know teachers we may have met or worked with before and see them in new ways or with new insight. We will also be able to meet new teachers finding common experiences and exploring our differences.

On Sunday morning U.S. Poet Laureate and 2008 Pulitzer Prize winner, Robert Hass will share his poetry and experiences as a writer and educator to nurture our minds and our souls. Although we will leave on Sunday having had different experiences, we are certain that we will each leave knowing two or three things with a great deal more surety.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dorothy Allison grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, the first child of a fifteen-year-old unwed mother who worked as a waitress. Now living in Northern California with her partner Alix and her teenage son, Wolf Michael, she describes herself as



a feminist, a working class story teller, a Southern expatriate, a sometime poet and a happily born-again Californian.

She was awarded the 2007 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction and is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Allison says that the early Feminist movement changed her life. "It was like opening your eyes under water. It hurt, but suddenly everything that had been dark and mysterious became visible and open to change." However, she admits, she would never have begun to publish her stories" if she hadn't gotten over her prejudices, and started talking to her mother and sisters again."

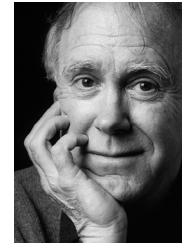
Allison received mainstream recognition with her novel *Bastard Out of Carolina*, (1992) a finalist for the 1992 National Book Award. The novel won the Ferro Grumley prize, an ALA Award for Lesbian and Gay Writing, became a best seller, and an award-winning movie. It has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Cavedweller (1998) became a national bestseller, NY Times Notable book of the year, finalist for the Lillian Smith prize, and an ALA prize winner. Adapted for the stage by Kate Moira Ryan, the play was directed by Michael Greif, and featured music by Hedwig composer, Stephen Trask. In 2003, Lisa Cholodenko directed a movie version featuring Kyla Sedwick.

The expanded edition of *Trash* (2002) included the prize winning short story, "Compassion" selected for both Best American Short Stories 2003 and Best New Stories from the South 2003.

Robert Hass was born in San Francisco. He attended St. Mary's College in Moraga, California and received both an MA and Ph.D. in English from Stanford University.

His books of poetry include *Time and Materials* (Ecco Press, 2007), which won the 2007 National Book Award; *Sun Under Wood: New Poems* (1996); *Human Wishes* (1989); *Praise* (1979); and *Field Guide* (1973), which was selected by Stanley Kunitz for the Yale Younger Poets Series.



About Hass's work, Kunitz wrote, "Reading a poem by Robert Hass is like stepping into the ocean when the temperature of the water is not much different from that of the air. You scarcely know, until you feel the undertow tug at you, that you have entered into another element."

Hass has also co-translated several volumes of poetry with Czeslaw Milosz, most recently *Facing the River* (1995), and is author or editor of several other collections of essays and translation, including *The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, and Issa* (1994), and *Twentieth Century Pleasures: Prose on Poetry* (1984).

Hass served as Poet Laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997 and as a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets from 2001 to 2007. In addition to writing poetry, criticism, and translations, Hass has increasingly involved himself in public life over the course of his career. He became a well-known spokesman for literacy, poetry, and ecological awareness. As U.S. Poet Laureate, he criss-crossed the country lecturing and working in what he has called "places where poets don't go," such as corporate boardrooms and civic groups.

Hass received the Pulitzer Prize in 2008. Currently, Robert Hass lives in Berkeley, California with his wife, poet Brenda Hillman and he teaches at the University of California, Berkeley.



SESSIONS

Select a first, second, and third choice from the group sessions below. Every effort will be made to assign your first choice. Sessions will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The Asilomar Conference is based on sustained group discussions following the teachers-teaching-teachers, collaborative learning philosophy. Resource and chair persons in each group do not function as lecturers. Rather, participants share information and insights as the discussions evolve. The emphasis is on good conversation and the pursuit of intellectual interests. For the group to maintain integrity, it is necessary that the same people stay together for the weekend. It is also essential that people prepare by reading the suggested books for the section they choose. Expanded descriptions for many of the following sessions are available at: <http://curriculumstudy.org>

1. Works of Nobel Note VII: William Inge

GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Mid-century playwrights explored postwar USA; William Inge revealed its midwestern underbelly with themes common to all his major works: “the complexity of human love, loneliness, failure, frustration, and the overwhelming need to accept life as it is” – themes from his own life. We shall read his plays, discuss them, and ask why they are now seldom revived.

PRE-CONFERENCE READING: *Four plays, William Inge* [ISBN 978-0802132093]; *Splendor in the Grass (the play), William Inge adapted by F.A. Leslie* [ISBN 978-0822210665]

2. Dorothy Allison: Two or Three Things I Know for Sure

GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Dorothy Allison presents an unflinching vision of the ugliness and injustices of poverty in her works. Yet, she holds faith in the redemption and power of love, one of the major themes in her works. Join us as we read aloud from *Bastard Out of Carolina* and discuss her work.

PRE-CONFERENCE READING: *Bastard Out of Carolina*, and *Two or Three Things I Know For Sure* by Dorothy Allison

3. Teaching *Fight Club*

GRADES 9-12 TEACHING MATERIALS PROVIDED

Chuck Palahniuk’s 1996 novel is intense, engaging, and highly literate. Participants will discuss what makes *Fight Club* teachable, and will examine the struggles, responsibilities, and rewards involved when teachers include this or other challenging works in our curriculum. We will model, practice, and create classroom lessons.

PRE-CONFERENCE READING: *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk; visit www.chuckpalahniuk.net

4. A Culture of Discontent: Steinbeck and the 21st Century

GRADES 9-COLLEGE GENERAL ENRICHMENT USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

Through the eyes of Steinbeck, explore the cultural forces of his writing and the parallels between today’s times and that of the turbulent early decades of the twentieth century. According to Steinbeck, “Man grows beyond his work, walks up the stairs of his concepts, and emerges ahead of his accomplishments.” Discussion will focus on *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men* and *The Pastures of Heaven*.

PRE-CONFERENCE READING: *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men* and/or *The Pastures of Heaven*.

5. Who’s Afraid of Opera

GRADES 9-COLLEGE GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Curious about opera but don’t know a great deal about it or love opera but would like better background knowledge? The leaders of this group will offer you an insider’s look at the world of opera. Using videos and audio examples, the group will focus on listening skills to help you increase your enjoyment of opera. No previous opera experience or knowledge is necessary. We will focus on one opera that will be performed at the SF Opera during the 2010 - 2011 year, along with a number of other opera selections. Suggestions for including opera within the English curriculum will be offered.

6. Iran in Search of Itself

GRADES 9-COLLEGE GENERAL ENRICHMENT

A sensitive and compelling story told through the eyes of a seventeen-year old boy in Tehran during the summer of 1973 provides the raw material for Mahbod Seraji’s debut novel that reveals life in Iran on the verge of social and political revolution. Discussion includes Iran then and now through this ALA selection for young adults. Discussion will also provide insight into classroom applications for this novel.

7. Young Adult Literature: Fostering Hope and Compassion

GRADES 4-12 GENERAL ENRICHMENT USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS
TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

Young Adult literature’s relevance makes it an appealing and motivating genre, one which can also serve to develop a sense of global citizenship. We will explore text-based activities that link the award-winning YA texts to broader social and political issues. A reading list will be provided in advance but please bring copies of your favorites.



8. River of Words

GRADES K-COLLEGE USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS TEACHING MATERIALS PROVIDED

In this poetry writing session we will write a lot, focusing on the importance of place. Learn fun and engaging ways to spark your students' (and your own) imaginations by writing that informs and inspires. River of Words® is a place-based K-12 program created to promote watershed awareness, literacy and the arts.

9. Writing on the Road

GRADES K-COLLEGE GENERAL ENRICHMENT USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS

Teachers of writing rarely have time to practice the craft of writing themselves. Participants select a local destination and are given the time to write. Group members respond to one another's drafts. Spend a weekend writing and brushing up on how to get students to respond to one another's writing.

10. Thinking through Nature

GRADES K-COLLEGE GENERAL ENRICHMENT USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

This session focuses on using interdisciplinary outdoor education to foster identification with the environment. Activities will include eco-critical readings of Steinbeck and Ricketts, as well as practice with eco-composition and field journaling. Presenters have led groups to bioregions including Baja, the Monterey Area, Humboldt County, and regions of Oregon.

11. The Personal Juice of Learning and Teaching: Engagement through Fun and Meaning

GRADES 9-12 GENERAL ENRICHMENT USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

Before achievement, God created engagement. Learning should bring our students *alive!* How can your unique teaching personality best enliven your students' learning, growing souls? How indeed? Make some fun. Make some meaning. *Then* think about standards. Pondering principles and practices, sharing tools and techniques, we'll leave this session ready to guide our students to the juicy springs of engaged learning. Bring classroom examples.

12. Film as Discourse

GRADES 6-COLLEGE USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

From satellite television to websites to mobile phones to movies, film/video continues to integrate with and change both society and how people "receive" information. Participants will explore the filmmaking-literacy connection through a fun, intensive filmmaking seminar, taking 'projects' through concept, shooting, editing, and finishing phases. If possible, bring video cameras.

13. Beyond the Bells and Whistles: Connecting Students with Literature Using 21st Century Skills

GRADES 6-12 GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Participants will learn effective strategies to help their students gain the following: a better understanding of literary criticism and effective strategies for comparing major literary works, exploring literary allusions and improving their research skills. They will create "Google sites" incorporating all of these components and share their sites with the class. Laptops with wireless capabilities would be very helpful for participants.

PRE-CONFERENCE READING: Visit <http://curriculumstudy.org> for website link

14. Civil Rights History and ELA & SS State Standards

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

This interactive workshop will explore how Civil Rights history can be taught throughout the school year as part of one's scheduled curriculum. We will provide handouts of film, book and curriculum resources accumulated by the SF Freedom School in collaboration with middle and high school teachers.

15. Having Hard Conversations

GENERAL ENRICHMENT USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

As administrators, coaches or teacher leaders, we often encounter situations where difficult topics must be addressed. What are the best strategies for those moments? What questions should we be asking ourselves before we speak? Based on research around conflict and interpersonal communications, this session will provide action plans and scripting tools for having those necessary hard conversations.

16. Cross-Cultural Fluency among High Schools, Here and There

GRADES 9-COLLEGE USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

Explore how to adapt online technologies to promote writing and Cross-Cultural Fluency (CCF). Focus is on the evolving uses of (Internet) genres, e.g. blogs, email, etc. to create and refine written exchanges with outside cultures. Participate in designing prompts and assessing the effects of interacting with remote audiences on students' writing improvement and cultural fluency.

PRE-CONFERENCE READING: <http://www.humboldt.edu/~teg1/syllabus/424/lexia.html>

SATURDAY NIGHT AROUND THE HEARTH

7:15-8:30 First Evening Sessions

- **State of The Profession:** Ed Farrell and Miles Myers will lead a discussion of some of the critical issues currently facing K-12 English/English Language Arts Teachers and some of the current books and articles that teachers have found helpful. Bring your questions, your suggestions, and if you wish, handouts that others will find interesting.
- **Research in the Digital Age: Classroom Activities** with Greta Vollmer
- **Kahbod Seraji** discusses his novel *Rooftops of Tehran*

8:45-10:00 Second Evening Sessions

- **Open Mic Reading:** Sharing of Prose and Poetry
- **Board Games:** Socialize and test your skills. Bring your favorite board game and some will be provided).

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, September 24

3:30-9:00	Registration
4:30-5:30	No Host Reception
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:15-8:30	General Session
	Keynote Speaker: Dorothy Allison
9:00-10:00	GROUP SESSION #1
10:00-11:00	Coffee in Asilomar Lodge

Saturday, September 25

7:30-8:45	Breakfast
9:00-10:30	GROUP SESSION #2
10:30-10:50	Coffee in Designated Places
10:50-12:00	GROUP SESSION #3
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:30-3:00	GROUP SESSION #4
4:00-5:30	No Host Reception and Book Signing
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:15-8:30	Around the Hearth Sessions I
8:45-10:00	Around the Hearth Sessions II

Sunday, September 26

7:30-9:00	Breakfast
9:30-10:15	GROUP SESSION #5
10:45-12:00	General Session: Robert Hass in Chapel



FOR CONFERENCE UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL INFO, VISIT
curriculumstudy.org

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ASILOMAR 59 is brought to you by the Curriculum Study Commission

asilomar 59

registration form

september 24-26, 2010

Register early to assure lodging and priority in sessions!

CONFERENCE FEES

Because a predetermined number of rooms on the Asilomar grounds have been reserved for this conference, registrations are processed in the order they are received until all spaces are filled. Historically, this occurs by June 15 or earlier. Register by paying all fees at the same time. **No on-site registrations are taken.**

Please complete and clip a separate registration form (photocopies acceptable) for each person attending and mail in the same envelope with your payment (made out to the Curriculum Study Commission) for the full amount to Dan Wolter, 1134 Walnut Street, Napa, CA 94559 (telephone 707-253-9397 <dwolter@umich.edu>).

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date _____

Number of years teaching _____ Gender: M / F

Grade level you teach: K-3 4-6 7-8 9-12 College

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Evening Phone(_____) _____

Summer Phone(_____) _____

Note: Registration will not be processed without a phone number!

Roommate(s) _____

Preferred Group #: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

(Enter your choice of session numbers 1-15 in each blank)

REGISTRATION FEES	CATE MEMBER	NON-MEMBER*
Early Registration (postmarked by April 30)	\$100	\$140
Regular Registration (postmarked after April 30)	\$160	\$200
Off-Grounds Early Registration (postmarked by April 30)	\$160	\$200
Off-Grounds Regular Registration (postmarked after April 30)	\$220	\$260

*Members of CATE pay the reduced registration fee. Those who pay the non-member fee automatically receive a one-year membership in both CATE and CCCTE, entitling reduced rates at other conferences, the CATE convention, and a one-year subscription to California English.

UNIT CREDIT

You can earn 1.5 quarter units of university credit. Check the box if you are interested in Cal State East Bay Extension Credit. Yes!

ACCOMODATIONS (LODGING AND MEALS)

The accomodations fee includes two nights lodging and six (6) meals (Friday dinner, served from 6:00-7:00 pm, through Sunday lunch). **Only a very limited number of single rooms are available. Rooms fill early and all room assignments are on a first-come first-served basis.** Participants lodging off grounds **must pay** the off-grounds registration fee. Off-grounds registration does not include meals; however, a Non-Resident Meal Ticket for six meals is available for \$70. **The following prices include lodging and meals:**

HISTORIC (private bath)

Tide Inn, Hilltop, Lodge, Scripps

- Single \$325
- Double \$225 per person

(If selected, you must indicate a second choice. Remit the larger fee.)

STANDARD (private bath)

East Woods, North Woods, View Crescent, Long View

- Single \$405
- Double \$255 per person

Sea Galaxy, Surf and Sand

- 3 to a room \$195 per person
- 4 to a room \$185 per person

Total Accomodations \$ _____

Registration Fee \$ _____

Non-Resident Meal Ticket \$70 \$ _____

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

Payment Method (Sorry, no school purchase orders can be accepted)

- Check or money order made payable to "CSC"
- Mastercard VISA American Express

Card# _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiration date _____ / _____ CCV# _____

Signature _____

Billing Address Same as Mailing Address

Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

REFUNDS

For cancellations by July 15, a refund minus a \$25 processing fee will be granted upon request. Due to changes in Asilomar Conference Center policies, we are no longer able to make refunds after July 15, 2010.

Will you attend the Saturday reception? Yes No

- Vegetarian Menu please
- Wheelchair Access needed Box Lunch for Sunday noon

(Order now if you plan to eat a box lunch on Sunday!)



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Dan Wolter, Registrar
1134 Walnut Street
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1st Class Mail



The Asilomar Conference is sponsored by the Curriculum Study Commission of the Central California Council of Teachers of English, an affiliate of the California Association of Teachers of English and the National Council of Teachers of English.