

Howdies, Hootenannies, and Hallelujahs: Excursions and Adventures for the SWCA 2007
Conference in Nashville
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Southeastern Writing Center Association 2007 Conference “Static and (dis)Harmony: Tuning
into Writing Centers in the Music City”
8-10 February 2007
Doubletree Hotel Downtown – Nashville, TN
Keynote Speaker: Elizabeth Boquet

SWCA 2007 will be held in the Doubletree Hotel in Downtown Nashville. Be sure to arrive in time on Thursday, February 8, to attend a Special Interest Group meeting and participate in the first concurrent conference session on Thursday afternoon. Stay in Thursday night and attend the reception at the Doubletree, featuring live music.

Although the Doubletree is within walking distance to fine-dining, exuberant nightlife, and Tennessee’s historic State Capitol, there is much to see in the rest of Nashville. Music City, U.S.A offers an eclectic mix of experiences. It is a city comprised of many diverse neighborhoods, including Hillsboro Village and “The District,” a downtown area that includes the Ryman Auditorium and Gaylord Entertainment Center. With so much to offer, from shopping to honkytonking, be sure to take advantage of Nashville’s extracurricular activities. On Friday night, SWCA will have eight organized excursions to various Nashville locations. Here’s a preview; some tickets should be purchased in advance.

“All our friends are here...”

Excursion 1: Sunset Grill/Hillsboro Village

Nestled between Belmont and Vanderbilt Universities, Hillsboro Village is a trendy-but-comfortable neighborhood for college students and locals. Catch a show at historic Belcourt Theatre, browse at Bookman/Bookwoman for used books, celebrity-watch at the Pancake Pantry, shop for one-of-a-kind gifts at Pangea, or stop in for freshly-tapped cask ale at Bosco’s Brewery. Try Sunset Grill for dinner Friday night and enjoy an extensive wine list, incredible desserts and a half-price dinner menu after 9:00pm. Shuttle service from the Doubletree provided.

<p>Cathi Jones, a Writing Assistant at the Middle Tennessee State University Writing Center, recommends the Belcourt Theatre, “where you can catch a limited-release indie, classic, or foreign flick.”</p>

“Head ‘em up, move ‘em out...”

Excursion 2: Stock-yard Restaurant

Winner of *Wine Spectator*’s “Award of Excellence” and recognized as a “Top Ten Steakhouse in the US” by the International Restaurant Bureau, Stock-yard Restaurant is known for fine dining, historic setting and displaying the oldest bottle of wine in the US. Shuttle service will be provided.

“Sounds so simple I just got to go...”

Excursion 3: Sambuca/The Gulch

The Gulch may be Nashville's fastest-growing neighborhood. With attractions from bluegrass club Station Inn to the sushi buffet at Ru Sans, Nashville's eclecticism is best seen here. Sambuca, a small southern chain featuring nightly jazz and upscale dining, is known for live music, seafood dishes and fabulous crème brulee. Shuttle service provided.

"Love can't ever get better than this..."

Excursion 4: Valentine's with Ricky Skaggs and Nashville Symphony at Schermerhorn Symphony Center

Opened in September 2006, Schermerhorn Symphony Center is Nashville's newest attraction. The center promises outstanding acoustics for the Symphony and guests. On February 9-10, Nashville resident and bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs will perform with the Symphony for a unique Valentine's Day concert. The bistro café, in the center, offers light fare before the concert. Visit <http://www.nashvillesymphony.org/> to purchase tickets.

"If you've got the money, honey..."

Excursion 5: The Cheesecake Factory/Green Hills Mall

The ritzy Green Hills neighborhood just got ritzier. A multi-million dollar renovation at Green Hills Mall adds retailers such as Tiffany & Co, Louis Vuitton and independent Nashville bookseller Davis-Kidd to favorites like a Regal Cinema Art Theatre, free-trade boutique Ten Thousand Villages and legendary Bluebird Café, where Garth Brooks and many others got their start in country music. The Cheesecake Factory is located in the mall and offers a broad menu, including over thirty varieties of cheesecake.

"I did it my way..."

Excursion 6: *The Rat Pack Live at the Sands* at TPAC

Next door to the Doubletree Hotel are the recently renovated Tennessee Museum and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, home to the Nashville Ballet and Opera, the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, and the Broadway across America Series. On Friday and Saturday, London's celebrated musical, *The Rat Pack Live at the Sands*, recreates the famous Las Vegas routine. Go to <http://www.tpac.org/> for ticket information.

"Couldn't drag me away..."

Excursion 7: Wildhorse Saloon/2nd Avenue

Nashville's famous Wildhorse Saloon is only blocks from the conference hotel. Offering live nightly music, line-dancing, drinks and Tex-Mex cuisine, the saloon is best-known as the setting for CMT's *Most Wanted Live*. Many other bars and restaurants, ranging from economical to pricey, are also located near the saloon.

"I've really paid my dues..."

Excursion 8: B.B. King's Blues Bar

Open in Memphis, then Los Angeles, Nashville's B.B. King's Blues Bar is the third location known for Cajun dining, dancing and live blues. The club also features a view of the Cumberland River and LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans. Though scheduling is TBA for February, check in advance to see if tickets are needed at <http://bbkingclubs.com>.

One night could never cover the vast array of entertainment options in Nashville. Stay over on Saturday night and enjoy any of these recommendations on Saturday and Sunday.

Claire Bates, Administrative Assistant in the UWC at MTSU, recommends, “Dan McGuinness [Music Row Neighborhood] has the best atmosphere anywhere on a Friday and Saturday night. Get there early and have Fish and Chips.”

Places to Go and Things to Do:

- Yazoo Brewery Taproom—Saturday 2-6, Friday 4-8 pm
- Nashville Kats—Season schedule TBA; check online at <http://www.katsonline.com/> for details
- Nashville Predators—Preds play the Toronto Maple Leafs Thursday at 7:00 and the LA Kings Sat. at 7:00; visit <http://www.nashvillepredators.com/> for ticket information
- Frist Center for the Arts—Exhibits: Sculpture by George Rickey, “Model Citizens” by Bob Trotman and “The Everyday Object in American Art”
- Country Music Hall of Fame—Exhibits: “I Can't Stop Loving You: Ray Charles and Country Music,” “For the Good Times: The Ray Price Story”
- The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere—Featuring “Little” Jimmy Gibbons, Zebra McIntire and Tim McCaw
- Record Shopping—Grimey’s New and Preloved Music and The Great Escape
- Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art—Featured Exhibit: “Faberge” and The Pineapple Room Restaurant
- Adventure Science Center—Exhibit: “Grossology” and Sudekum Planetarium
- Mansion tours—The Hermitage, Belle Meade Plantation or Belmont Mansion

Chandra Petty, a Writing Assistant at the MTSU Writing Center suggests, “I absolutely love Siam Café on White Bridge Rd. I think that place is the best in Nashville.”

Additional Neighborhoods to Visit:

- Centennial Park/West End—The Parthenon, Tower Records and Books, Vanderbilt, Restaurant Zola, Borders, P.F. Chang’s
- Broadway and 2nd Avenue—The Ryman Auditorium, Tootsie’s Orchid Lounge, Robert’s Western World, The Spaghetti Factory, The Melting Pot, Coyote Ugly
- Opry Mills—The Rainforest Café, Aquarium Restaurant, The General Jackson Showboat, the Grand Ole Opry, Tower Records and Books
- 12th South Neighborhood—Las Paletas (gourmet Mexican popsicles!), Katie K Ranch Dressing, Mirror Restaurant, Mafioza’s, Rumours Wine Bar

Gloria Morrissey, a Graduate Teaching Assistant at MTSU recommends, “12 South Deli and Fromaggio's, which has bocce ball on Sundays; go antiquing on 8th Avenue South. The best used bookstore in town is Rhino's - located across from Lipscomb University on Granny White Pike, next to Copper Kettle (designer Southern food) and Pizza Perfect.”

- Downtown Afternoon—High tea at the Hermitage Hotel, The Nashville Library, Provence Breads and Café

- Berry Hill Area—Baja Burrito, Couva Calypso Café, Curious Heart Gifts and More, Eden Garden Store
- Elliston Place—The End, The Gold Rush, Exit/In, Elliston Place Soda Shop, Elder's Bookstore
- Music Valley Drive—"A Tribute to the King: Thru the Years 1953-1977" at the Texas Troubadour Theatre, Willie Nelson and Friends Showcase Museum, Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre, Nashville Palace, Foozle's Book Outlet
- East Nashville—Café Margot, Chapel Bistro, Family Wash, The Alley Cat Lounge, Turnip Truck
- 5th Avenue Arcade (located next door to the Doubletree)—The Peanut Shop, House of Pizza

More information on these establishments and more will be available at the Conference Registration Desk. For any questions or concerns, please email SWCA2007@comcast.net. Get to the conference Web site through <http://swca.us>. For more ideas, visit <http://www.nashvillera.com> for Nashville's "Ultimate Event Calendar," <http://www.nashvillescene.com> for "The Best of Nashville 2006," and <http://nashville.citysearch.com>, a local search service.