



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact Daniel Petrov, Education Program Coordinator

Phone: 941-365-2032

E-mail: Daniel@artsarasota.org

WRITE YOUR PAIN AWAY:

Addiction Expert and Author of 15 Books

Offers Free Poetry-Writing Workshop on "Taboo" Topics

On June 17, 2009, Art Center Sarasota and C&R Press are co-sponsoring a free poetry-writing workshop with Dr. Ryan G. Van Cleave, whose most recent book was praised by former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins: "Few readers of today will be able to resist his supercharged language and unbound satirical exuberance." The event is from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at 707 N. Tamiami Trail (next to the Van Wezel), and it is open to the public. Participants are encouraged to bring one of their own poems for group discussion and feedback. Even if participants' poems aren't on a "taboo" subject, the same skills and techniques from this workshop can help make any poem more potent and memorable.

A 2006 report ("Poetry in America") from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago finds that 90% of American readers value poetry and believe it enriches the lives of those who read it. "Writing poetry is a great way to get to the heart of what matters," agrees Van Cleave, the author of five poetry collections, seven anthologies, two creative writing textbooks, and *Unplugged*, a forthcoming memoir on video game addiction.

An addiction and recovery consultant, Dr. Ryan G. Van Cleave was the 2007-08 Jenny McKean Moore Writer-in-Washington at George Washington University. He has taught writing and literature at Clemson University, Eckerd College, Florida State University, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as at prisons, community centers, and urban at-risk youth facilities.

Van Cleave lives in Sarasota where he works as a freelance writer, writing coach, and consultant. He also serves as Director of C&R Press (www.crpress.org), a non-profit literary organization that sponsors free community workshops and publishes many first-time authors.

“Most writers charge thirty, fifty, or eighty bucks for a workshop session,” says Van Cleave. “Through these free C&R writing workshops, I’m just interested in empowering people and helping them learn to communicate more effectively. Writing poetry is a big part of that.”

There is no application process to attend the poetry-writing workshop. Come early – seating is limited and previous workshops were well attended.

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For more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview with Dr. Ryan G. Van Cleave, please contact him directly at vancleave88@yahoo.com or call 864-650-1677. Find writing samples and extended biographical information at www.ryangvancleave.com

