

For Immediate Release:

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Humanities Iowa, Annual Writers' Celebration Coming To Clinton, Iowa.



Loree Rackstraw pictured beside her friend Kurt Vonnegut.

This year's Humanities Iowa, Voices From The Prairie, Annual Iowa Writers' Celebration will feature Iowa author Loree Rackstraw of Cedar Falls, Iowa. The event will be at the historic George M. Curtis Mansion, Saturday, October 17th, starting at 6 p.m. It is free and open to the public. There will be time to meet and ask questions of this year's featured author.

Celebrating our state as a place for writing, Ms. Rackstraw will discuss her life in the literary arts as well as speaking about her latest book *Love As Always, Kurt Vonnegut as I Knew Him* which reveals

her long friendship with author Kurt Vonnegut. Additionally, the seasons and life of Iowa have provided Ms. Rackstraw a valuable perspective on writing and given her a glimpse into not only Kurt Vonnegut, but other American literary notables such as Richard Yates, Nelson Algren, Andre Dubus, John Irving, even Truman Capote.

This event will be of interest to students, authors, and readers curious about the "writing life", as well as anyone interested in Kurt Vonnegut. Ms. Rackstraw, says of Mr. Vonnegut, "he was one of the most widely recognized and beloved writers in American history, and remains so today. He was also a sardonically jovial speaker with a generous range of irreverent wit and self-deprecation. Throughout our four-decade-long friendship, I witnessed people of all ages and walks of life who not only loved his books, but truly craved information about him as a person. Since his death in April, 2007, I've observed that many fans miss him and still long to share in more intimate knowledge about him. I have been asked many times: 'What was Kurt Vonnegut really like?' It is that question I hope to answer... ."

Loree Rackstraw taught fiction writing, literature, mythology and humanities at the University of Northern Iowa for 30 years, and also served as fiction editor and reviewer for the *North American Review*. She studied with Vonnegut at the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa prior to joining the UNI faculty.

This event is free and open to the public with support from the Curtis Mansion, the Clinton Women's Club, Clinton Printing Company, and the Clinton Convention & Visitors Bureau. FMI: Contact Humanities Iowa, info@humanitiesiowa.org, 319.335.4153, or www.humanitiesiowa.org. To contact the George M. Curtis Mansion call 563.242.8556.