

## SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

[www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/pancake/](http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/pancake/)

### August-September

Photographic Art Exhibit, Mike Mendez, curator, Scarborough Library Reading Room and virtual art online

### Friday, September 22

7 p.m.—Shepherdstown Film Society screening of award-winning film *Black Diamonds* (Chet Pancake) with discussion, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

### Saturday, September 23

Appalachian Heritage Festival, produced by the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd, [www.shepherd.edu/passweb/festival.htm](http://www.shepherd.edu/passweb/festival.htm)

### Monday, September 25

7 p.m.—“Hope and Resiliency” with performance artist and poet Torli Bush, reception and book signing to follow

### Tuesday, September 26

7 p.m.—Poet Laureates and Master Storytellers, A Celebration of Appalachian Writers, reception and book signing to follow

### Wednesday, September 27

9:30 a.m.—Ann Pancake reading and Q&A for Berkeley County honors students, sponsored by the West Virginia Library Commission, Martinsburg High School

11:30 a.m.—Ann Pancake reading and conversation with West Virginia book clubs, public librarians, and public school teachers, via Zoom

1 p.m.—Ann Pancake and the Shepherdstown Library Giving Circle lunch and book Q&A, Bavarian Inn

7 p.m.—The Writing Life with Ann Pancake, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

### Thursday, September 28

Noon—Lunch with Senior Moments book club

2-3:30 p.m.—Writers Master Class with Ann Pancake, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

5 p.m.—Fiction Competition winners dinner, The Press Room

7 p.m.—Scarborough Society Lecture, Keynote, and Awards Ceremony, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

### Friday, September 30

Interview with West Virginia Public Radio’s *Inside Appalachia*

7 p.m.—Stories to Touch the Heart with Adam Booth, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt

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[www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/pancake](http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/pancake)

#### Allies for Appalachia

Visit [www.shepherd.edu/appalachian](http://www.shepherd.edu/appalachian) and click “Allies for Appalachia”

Support these programs by becoming an Ally for Appalachia.

“There was either too much water or too little, the temperature too high or too low. Strange as this weather has been, people would say.”  
—Ann Pancake

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*“Appalachia and the  
Natural World”*

The writing of  
**ANN PANCAKE**

2023 Recipient of the  
Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award

*presented by*  
The West Virginia Humanities Council,  
The West Virginia Center for the Book,  
The Shepherd University Foundation, and  
The Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities

**September 22-29, 2023**

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Shepherd  
UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION



## ABOUT THE SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY APPALACHIAN HERITAGE WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

The Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award and Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence were conceived and developed by Shepherd University and the West Virginia Humanities Council in 1998 to honor distinguished contemporary writers whose work celebrates the cultural heritage and the people of Appalachia. The residency and Heritage Writers Project were designed to function in concert with the Appalachian Heritage Festival, an annual celebration of Appalachian cultural, musical, and visual arts, traditions, and achievements developed by the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University. The Appalachian Heritage Writers Project is housed under the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. In addition to the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project and Heritage Festival, the Center supports the annual *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, West Virginia Fiction Competition, Celtic Roots Global Appalachia Program, Appalachian Speakers Series, Shepherd Speaks StoryCorps Project, National Endowment for the Humanities and West Virginia Humanities Council Voices from the Misty Mountains Summer Teacher Institutes, *Voices From Appalachia Radio Show* each Saturday at 11:30 a.m. on WHSC Public Radio, as well as an Appalachian studies minor, an interdisciplinary Appalachian studies B.A./B.S. undergraduate degree, a graduate certificate and M.A. in Appalachian studies degree.

The Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award is funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council and presented by the West Virginia Center for the Book and Shepherd University. The award has been given to an honor roll of extraordinary Appalachian writers:

- Sharyn McCrumb (1999)
- Marilou Awiakta (2000)
- George Ella Lyon (2001)
- Denise Giardina (2002)
- Robert Morgan (2003)
- Fred Chappell (2004)
- Jayne Anne Phillips (2005)
- Terry Kay (2006)
- Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (2007)
- Adriana Trigiani (2008)
- Silas House (2009)
- Bobbie Ann Mason (2010)
- Ron Rash (2011)
- Gretchen Moran Laskas (2012)
- Frank X Walker (2013)
- Homer Hickam (2014)
- Nikki Giovanni (2015)
- Charles Frazier (2016)
- Wiley Cash (2017)
- Karen Spears Zacharias (2018)
- Crystal Wilkinson (2019)
- Dorothy Allison (2020)
- Marie Manilla (2021)
- Barbara Kingsolver (2022)

The 2023 recipient of the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award is West Virginia writer and 2023 One Book One West Virginia Common Read Author **Ann Pancake**.

*"Growing up here, you get the message very early on that your place is more backwards than anywhere in America and anybody worth much will get out soon as they can."*  
—*Strange as this Weather Has Been*

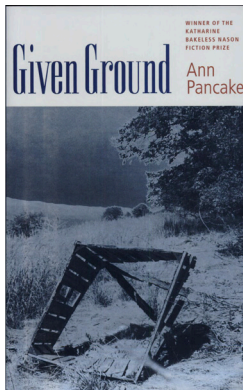
## ABOUT THE 2023 RECIPIENT OF THE APPALACHIAN HERITAGE WRITER'S AWARD AND ONE BOOK ONE WEST VIRGINIA COMMON READ AUTHOR



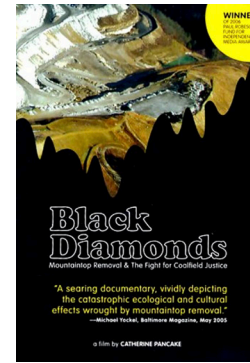
Ann Pancake is an award-winning writer and educator, born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1963, while her father was enrolled in seminary. Pancake grew up in Summerville, West Virginia, later moving with her family to Romney, West Virginia, where her father was a minister and social worker, and her mother a public school art teacher.

Pancake and her five siblings grew up in a home of learning and sensitivity to issues of both diversity and creativity—her brother Chet becoming a film maker while brother Sam an actor working on popular TV shows like *Will and Grace* and *Friends*. Like many other young and talented Appalachians, Pancake longed both to leave and to connect with her Appalachian roots. Turning her direction outward, she traveled to Japan to teach English as a second language (1986-87), then to American Samoa where she taught for two additional years abroad (1988-1990). Returning to America to finish her M.A. at UNC Chapel Hill, she again spent a year abroad, this time to Thailand (1992-93). In 1998, she finished her Ph.D. at the University of Washington, Seattle, all along the way writing and publishing short stories.

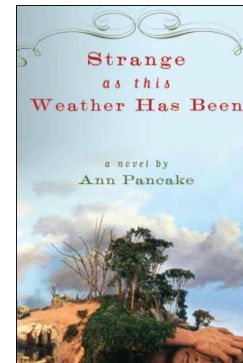
*"The sides of the hollow, as we got further in, more naked and scalped, I told myself, yes, this is where the floods come from."*  
—*Strange as this Weather Has Been*



Pancake's teaching institutions include Pennsylvania State University at Erie, as an assistant professor of creative writing and literature, and Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, teaching in the M.F.A. program. In 2000, however, with the award-winning story collection *Given Ground* slated for publication the next year, Pancake took time off from her teaching job in Pennsylvania to accompany her brother Chet to West Virginia, where the two conducted interviews of West Virginians enduring Mountaintop Removal. The interviews would become the basis for the documentary *Black Diamond* (2006), as well as her novel *Strange as this Weather Has Been* (2007).



In 2016, Pancake's *Me and My Daddy Listen to Bob Marley* collection was published. Her journey coming full circle, Pancake today is back in West Virginia, teaching at WVU and serving as writer-in-residence. If geography turned her world outward, her road to authorship was doubtless an inward journey, as she portrays working class characters in her fiction who often function outside the mainstream, "othered" as dramatically as is the natural landscape in which they attempt to operate.



Pancake's concern for the environment and social issues dealing with the underclass and diverse social and gender groups is eclipsed only by her *tour de force* writing style, as she explores language through a rich and powerful style matched by few contemporary writers. Among her awards, Pancake is recipient of the Whiting Award (2003), the Pushcart Prize (2004), the Weatherford Award (2007), the Chaffin Award for Appalachian Literature (2010),

and the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award (2023), funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council. Pancake will be the 25th Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence at Shepherd University and this year's One Book One West Virginia Common Read Author. To learn about Pancake and her writing, read the comprehensive essay about her work at the AHWIR website; click "Teaching Resources and Links" at <https://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/pancake/>.

*"What is it? What makes us feel for our hills like we do?"*  
—*Strange as this Weather Has Been*

The AHWIR series of events is made possible with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council, in partnership with the Shepherd University Foundation, the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, The West Virginia Center for the Book at the West Virginia Library Commission, the Scarborough Society at Shepherd University, the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd, the Shepherdstown Film Society, the Shepherdstown Public Library, the Martinsburg Public Library, Four Seasons Bookstore, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.