Writing Stories: Voices of the Valley

What: Writers will spend time with and interview residents of North Dakota (or reflect on their own stories) who carry interesting and unique narratives about the Flood of 1997. The flood affected residents in a multitude of ways, and our goal is to create a collection that reflects both the destructive nature of the flood but also the community building that resulted (consult Erin or Emily for more information on whom to interview). In collaboration with their interviewees, writers will compose the interviews into stories of a creative nonfiction format. Personal photography that documents the flood is also welcome in the story.

Why: We seek to connect local writers with the diverse population that resides in the Red River Valley Region, while offering a local, artistic experience for the entire community. The relationship that is formed during the interview process will be integral to the project, and the story should be a reflection of both the interviewee and the artistic vision of the writer. The proceeds from books sold will be donated to the Empire Arts Center.

The Stories: Stories should be approximately 2000 to 3000 words, written in a creative nonfiction format (not journalism). All well-developed stories that meet the project requirements will be included in a bound copy of Writing Stories: Voices of the Valley, 4th edition. Three to four stories will receive a time slot at the University of North Dakota Writers Conference to have the work read aloud for an audience.*

Timeline:
- Final Drafts should be completed by March 1st (if writers request feedback).
- The final deadline for submissions is March 13th (no submissions will be accepted after this date).
- Voices of the Valley reading is scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

*All work is subject to editing and review by the co-directors of this project. Only well-developed work that follows the guidelines will be included in the publication or considered for the reading.
Thank you for joining us as we learn from the Voices of the Valley!

Disclosure Agreement

By signing this document, I understand that my written work may be published in the *Voices of the Valley* collection. I understand that all written work may be made public at the University North Dakota Writers Conference and potentially included in a digitized format. I acknowledge that the writer and interviewee are to work in collaboration and that either participant can opt out of the project given extenuating circumstances. Information received in one-to-one interviews and/or conversations may be recorded for revision purposes. All written work is subject to editorial revisions.

Writer Signature____________________________________________________________

Participant Signature__________________________________________________________

Director Signatures____________________________________________________________