



Writing Your Life Workshop

EVERYONE'S LIFE IS A STORY WORTH TELLING. HOW WILL YOU TELL YOURS?

Whether your goal is to pass on your memoir as a family heirloom or to become a best seller, turn your personal experiences and memories into "stories" that can be read and enjoyed by others and treasured not only by you but by generations of your descendants.

Guiding you through every step of the writing process, *Writing Your Life Workshop* instructor Karen McMahon will provide you with comprehensive steps that will demystify the process of finally putting your story on paper. You will be provided with all the tools and insightful encouragements you need to record and preserve the memorable experiences of your life. You don't have to consider yourself as a writer to take this class, but even accomplished writers will find this process of transforming one's own essence into works on paper to be fun and challenging in our warm and informal setting.

Each inspiring session will present you with:

- Questions to stimulate writing
- Activities to help you recall memories—your experiences, thoughts, choices, perceptions and feelings
- Simple, insightful writing tips
- Suggestions to stay motivated
- Quotations, excerpts from autobiographies and other food for thought
- Instructions for "publishing" a book for friends and relatives
- Weekly handouts
- Readings by Karen McMahon from her work and inspiring life stories from well-known authors

We invite writers of all ages (17 and up) and all levels of experience to come, make some new connections, find support and build community with other writers, roll up your sleeves and get going with your creative process and write the story of your life!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE: OCTOBER 2ND TO NOVEMBER 20TH, 2008 – 8 weeks – Thursdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Class dates: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20

WHERE: DEL NORTE COUNTY LIBRARY, 190 Price Mall, Crescent City, CA

COST: **FREE.** Donations gladly accepted to defray the costs of hosting the workshops (printing, advertising, telephone, postage).

REGISTRATION: CALL (707) 464-5664 TO REGISTER --- or E-mail: writingyourlife@gmail.com (Late registration O.K.)

DOWNLOAD FLYER: http://www.delnortecountylibrary.org/files/Writing_Your_Life_Workshop_flyer.pdf

LIBRARY WEBSITE: www.delnortecountylibrary.org

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ABOUT KAREN MC MAHON, WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR:

Karen McMahon recently retired after teaching English at the college, high school, and middle school levels for the last thirty years. Karen worked for Three Rivers School District in Grants Pass, Oregon, for twenty years, and spent the last eight years working for Brookings-Harbor School District in Brookings, Oregon. She also spent a year on an island in Southeast Alaska as a school principal/teacher in 2000, and did a year of substitute teaching in California after getting her teaching credential at San Jose State University. Karen also has taught English and Creative Writing classes at College of the Redwoods in Crescent City, California and Southwestern Oregon Community College in Brookings, Oregon.

Karen has a Bachelor's degree in English from San Jose State University and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Portland State University. She has served on the executive council for the Oregon Council of Teacher's of English for a number of years. Karen has done readings at writer's conferences in Ashland and Gold Beach, Oregon, as well as being a keynote speaker at several OCTE (Oregon Council of Teachers of English) conferences in Grants Pass. Recently Karen won a small "Late Bloomer's Grant" from the Brookings Festival of the Arts committee to pursue her dreams of becoming a published author. She is currently at work on her first novel about the year she spent in Alaska.

As yet unpublished, except for an article titled "Saved By Grace" that was accepted for publication in the OCTE Journal in 2006, Karen has been writing for as long as she can remember. One of her early memories is a story she wrote and read aloud to her second grade class about snakes. She also remembers writing a play her 6th grade class performed. She has stacks of journals and stories and unfinished manuscripts which she plans to wade through and put in order after she finishes her nearly completed book on Alaska.

Karen is reveling in her new status as a retired teacher who finally has time to write and the teacher in Karen still compels her to offer classes to share her love of writing with others. She has agreed to offer this memoir writing class to encourage people who want to write about their lives to come and enjoy a chance to get those precious memories recorded. Not only will the class be fun, but future generations of workshop participants will be able to hear firsthand the valuable stories about their families!