



Stepping Out: Writing Our Lives in the Time of a Pandemic

Virtual
G220233V
Pam Uschuk

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Dear Participants,

Hello and welcome to Writing Our Lives In the Time of Pandemic, an online memoir writing intensive sponsored by Ghost Ranch.

I am excited about our upcoming memoir writing intensive at Ghost Ranch. Although I usually teach poetry, I also have taught memoir writing at the college and adult education levels since 2014. I am fascinated by the plasticity and depth of this most popular writing genre.

In our four days, we will explore ways in which we can focus our writing on the galvanizing moments that change our lives. The pandemic has changed all of us in one way or another. We are living through this pandemic now, so the topic is urgent. Together, we'll explore how diverse writers use techniques such as conflict, character development, significant detail, comparison and contrast, dialogue, exposition and action writing to create powerful memoirs.

I will provide you with stimulating writing prompts as well as basic prose writing techniques. You'll actively write, so bring a journal and a pen or a laptop/iPad, whatever you're most comfortable writing in or on. I will give you writing prompts, and you will have overnight between each session to write.

For the first meeting, please bring a short paragraph (no more than 20 lines) you've written about one experience you've had with the virus or one of its variants to the group. (I would choose to write about how birds saved my sanity during the pandemic!

Some of my primary sources for this intensive are Poet Warrior, Joy Harjo, What You Heard Is True, Carolyn Forché, A Geography of The Heart, Fenton Johnson, Wild, Cheryl Strayed, Anthropologies, Beth Alvarado, Wandering Time, Luis Alberto Urrea, The Ticking Is The Bomb, Nick Flynn, One Fine Morning, You'll Fly Away, Alice Anderson, About This Life, Barry Lopez, Deep Creek, Pam Houston.

I am so looking forward to working with you!

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