

Writing to Remember (Red) Autobiographical Writing

Course #	20FWRR
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Catharine Porter, Trish Callard
Date and Time:	Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 10 weeks, starting September 24, 2020
Location:	Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst
Maximum number of participants:	12
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to share your life experiences with fellow participants and, at the same time, record them for yourself and your family.

Description: Long one of the most popular LIR seminars (previously called "Autobiographical Writing"), Writing to Remember offers its members the opportunity to get to know themselves and each other a little better.

Many participants have taken advantage of this seminar to write their family story for their children and grandchildren. The writing takes all forms, from rough drafts to polished pieces, and all are welcome. The group offers the writer feedback and, if desired, will offer suggestions for revisions and/or possible additions as well as clarification. This seminar is not a course in how to write; it aims, rather, to stimulate and encourage you to continue writing your own story. Your writing can center on the events of family life, career experiences, or anything else you would like to tell about yourself.

Role of participants: Each participant has the opportunity to read aloud two pieces of original writing during the semester. Sometimes these texts are distributed in advance (often via email), allowing more time for discussion. The atmosphere is relaxed, but the serious efforts of all concerned help make this a rewarding experience for everyone.

Resources: N/A

About the Moderator: Catharine is a retired UMass faculty member from the Department of Consumer Studies, and Ombudsperson. Catharine has moderated this seminar previously. Trish Callard is the co-moderator of the Writing to Remember (Red) group. She was a moderator of the second Writing to Remember (Red) group when there was a long waiting list, and moderated an earlier seminar with Fred Bogin on early childhood development. She has led Writing Workshops for teachers and taught writing in schools for many years, and is excited to be able to develop her own writing and share memoirs with family.