

## WRITING GYM

**Coordinators: Eileen Brenner, Lorna Scott Porter, Charles Troob  
Elaine Weisburg**

This study group offers a training program for your inner writer - that sluggard who wants to write but shrinks from regular exercise. Here's a chance to stretch and bend your word power and warm up your writing skills. Each week, study group members are assigned a new exercise - usually 200-300 words - in a variety of modes: memoir, fiction, dialogue, essay. Each week's work is emailed to the group for discussion at the next session. Everyone's weekly writing is assured its turn. We also make time for an inspirational look at the words of distinguished authors and critics.

### **Readings and other Required Materials:**

Participants must have computers and are required to email submissions as attachment and to paste them onto the body of the email.

**Eileen Brenner** looks forward to this semester's weekly workouts - a training program in writing which promises a new ease of expression and perhaps discovery of a new voice or style. **Lorna Scott Porter** still gains valuable insight after many semesters coordinating this study group as it evolves. It's such a pleasure to work with other writers! An earlier version of this study group helped **Charles Troob** unleash his inner writer. He hopes new members will join and flourish. In nearly four decades as a magazine editor **Elaine Weisburg** had the pleasure of working with other writers. She is grateful that she can continue this activity at the IRP.

### **\* \* \* \* \* Syllabus \* \* \* \* \***

#### Weeks 1-4 Warmup

The writing assignments and discussion focus on how to express experiences, thoughts and perceptions in a way that will interest others.

#### Weeks 5-8 Spin class

Each week introduces a different genre. The writing assignments (200-300 words) are a description, a memory, a non-fiction piece and a fictional narrative.

#### Weeks 9-10 Improving your form

Assignments focus on style and structure.

Weeks 11-12 Bringing it all together

Participants submit revisions or expansions of previous pieces - or new, possibly longer work.