

TELLING OUR STORY: WRITING MEMOIR

Coordinators: Carmen Mason, Leyla Mostovoy

A memoir is made from the most enduring, moving and informative experiences of one's life. It may entertain, instruct, enlighten or caution its readers, and it reveals not only what happened but what its writer makes of what happened. It helps one to get to the bottom of things. Writings can be essays or chapters from a full-length memoir in progress. A participant will read his/her eight-minute (maximum) piece in class, followed by constructive critiques by the participants. Does it engage the listeners? Confuse in parts? Have a coherent, consistent voice? Might more be explored? The writers are encouraged to ask listeners about effectiveness, clarity, language, etc.

Carmen Mason has been writing for over sixty years and guiding writing for over forty. She has won poetry and prose prizes. **Leyla Mostovoy** has taught English for twenty years and completed a memoir about growing up in Turkey, Israel and Brazil before settling in New York.

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Each week will be given over to workshop with attention to members' writing, as noted in the description, with short supplemental readings, relevant to memoir, discussed regularly as well.