

## WRITING WORKSHOP

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

The main draw of this workshop is the lively sense that we are ‘all in this writing business together.’ Everyone, including coordinators, writes a short piece each week. A constructive class discussion of each submission provides the motivation to express our thoughts and to develop technique, style, and vocabulary. Weekly assignments provide jumping-off places. Samples of writing by distinguished authors are often provided.

**Requirements:** Participants use email to circulate copies of their work. They also print out each other's submissions prior to each class session.

**Eileen Brener**, who spent years writing proposed opinions for appeals court judges, relishes the opportunity to break out into more creative forms in this workshop. **Lorna Scott Porter** wrote policy and reports while working in her field of health. Thanks to this study group she can concentrate on creative writing and receive thoughtful reviews. This study group has helped **Charles Troob** unleash his inner writer. He hopes that new members will join and flourish. In more than 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 – A Work in Progress** \* \* \* \* \*

The first session includes an in-class exercise. For each subsequent session there will be a writing assignment of 200-300 words, to be completed and emailed to the study group two days prior to the next session. At that session, each participant's writing will be discussed.

Each exercise is given by one coordinator in turn, who leads the discussion of that exercise the following week. The other coordinators complete the assignment and participate in the discussion.

#### Weeks 1-4

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

#### Weeks 5-8

Each week introduces a different genre. Possible examples are writing assignments are a description, a fictional narrative, a non-fiction piece, and a dialogue.

#### Weeks 9-10

Assignments focus on style and structure.

#### Weeks 11-12

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