

# Writefest

## CREATIVE NONFICTION



### ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Joyce Boatright is a published writer who loves teaching others to write. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Sam Houston State University where she studied under the legendary Leon Hale. After earning her master's and doctorate in education from Texas A&M University, she returned to Sam Houston State to study creative writing under southern writer and former Texas Poet Laureate Paul Ruffin. She is the author of *Telling Your Story: A Basic Guide to Memoir Writing*, for which she has received the NHMCCD Writing Award, and she has been teaching memoir since 1992. She is past president of Story Circle Network, a national organization dedicated to encouraging women to give voice to their personal stories. She teaches at Lone Star College, and she excels in motivating others to do particularly well in their writing.

### MEMOIR: WRITING FROM LIFE

Writing from life is a powerful way to share rites of passage, heal past transgressions, celebrate life choices, demystify the complexities of life, and make insightful connections. There are many stories to be told from a person's life, each distinctively unique but reflective of the collective human spirit in its life journey. Flannery O'Connor said anyone who survives childhood has enough material to write for the rest of his or her life. Whether you want to write an essay for National Public Radio, give your spouse the story of your courtship for your anniversary, write an op-ed piece for The Huffington Post, or compose a chapter for a full-length memoir, this workshop is for you.

During this 4-day workshop, we will examine, discuss, and practice the captivating ingredients of memoir: turning points, struggle, defining moments, and transformation, as well as the creative techniques that give memoir its story-like richness. We will use the workshopping time to support and analyze the inventive sparks of imagination and the elements of craft, not to criticize and tear down each other's writing gifts. The number of stories workshopped per day will depend on the size of the group, but if time permits, we will listen to more than one per participant, so there may be opportunity for each student to present multiple pieces.

The goal of this workshop is to encourage and inspire participants to pitch their creative nonfiction pieces to literary journals and magazines. The "Weekend Special" will be the Thursday Night Alumni Showcase Reading, where participants have the opportunity to show off their skills by sharing their work. While you are not required to read your work, participation is encouraged.

**FEBRUARY 22ND-25TH  
MON-THURS 9AM-12PM  
SILVER STREET STUDIOS  
STUDIO #: TBA  
ARTIST: TBA**

**BY WRITESPACE**