



NAMW Newsletter Issue #21 | June 2009

June thoughts

It's the time of the year when we are bathed in light, when the soft breezes relax us and allow our creative minds to flow into dream and image and memory. Allow your right brain to relax and enjoy the warmth and relaxation, knowing that you are in a creative process even if you are not writing. We all need time to allow ourselves to sink into our dream self to find out what we want to say.

Summer Writing Exercises

Summer brings to mind vacations, extremes of weather, and picnics. Swimming, playing, and sun. Mountains and forests and rivers call to us, and we respond. Nature invites us outside to play. What kind of playing do you remember as a child? Or were you an indoor person even in summer? In the summer we don't want to spend as much time writing at the computer. We may want to walk, garden, or just lie around in a hammock. But you can still write flash stories. Flash stories are quick moments of memory. You can write them in six words, six sentences or six pages. See how much you can say using very few words.



- What weather stories could you tell about summers when you were a child?
- Write about June--using using sensual details--sound, touch, smell, and description.
- Describe the best summer day of your life.
- What's your favorite summer recipe? Write about it, write about how you learned it and when you cooked it. This is a great opportunity to get into sensual details and make the reader taste your food and feel the pleasure of it!

Tell the Story: Personal Essay Writing from a Memoirist's Point of View

In high school years ago as I sat at a brown wooden desk carved with initials and looked out the long windows to see bending cottonwoods, I tried to remember all the rules about essay writing: don't use "I"--say "one" if you're referring to yourself, but DON'T refer to yourself. Prove a point through logic, not story. I'd write something I felt strongly about, only to have to cross it out because I fell into the "I" that I was supposed to avoid. Standing back to get an



Then
followed
that
beautiful
season...
Summer...
Filled was
the air
with a
dreamy and
magical
light; and
the
landscape
Lay as if
new
created in
all the
freshness
of
childhood."
- Henry
Wadsworth
Longfellow

Anniversary Discount!

Take **\$20.00** off NAMW Membership today by applying the promo code: **NAMWANNIV2009** [CLICK HERE for instructions how to register for NAMW membership using our discount coupons!](#) Promo runs until JUNE 30, 2009 only.

NAMW WORKSHOP SCHEDULES:

overview was not a bad idea, but I had to tie my thoughts into knots to escape breaking the rules. And I really wanted that "A!" Of course, I had to make sure I revealed nothing about myself or my real thoughts or feelings in the essay. No opinions. I had to package up the roiling layers of myself and try to appear beige when I was really red and yellow. [»Read More](#)

[June 18, 2009] Sheila Bender: Essay, Memoir, Creative Nonfiction -- what are they?



Guest Speaker: Shiela Bender

Date: June 18, 2009

Times: 11 am Pacific | 12 noon Mountain | 1 pm Central | 2 pm Eastern

Note: This teleseminar is an exclusive free benefit for NAMW members. If you wish to participate in all the 2009 NAMW teleseminars and receive other various membership privileges, [click here to register.](#) Annual registration fee is \$127.00.

In the area of nonfiction prose and writing from personal experience, there is a lot going on. The essay form itself has sprung into subgenres including flash nonfiction, the lyric essay, the hermit crab essay and more. Memoirs are being published at a rapid rate even though some in reviewing and publishing are constantly saying the memoir is finished as a publishable genre. Creative nonfiction is coveted by journals and publishers. What are all these forms and how do you know which you are writing and which your material best lends itself to? [»Read more](#)

[July 7 - July 28, 2009] Make Your Stories Sparkle TeleClass by Sharon Lippincott



Four Sessions: Tuesdays

July 7, July 14, July 21, and 28

8 pm EDT | 7 pm CDT | 6 pm MDT | 5 pm PDT

Regular Price:

\$110

[\[June 27 - August 8, 2009\] Summer Classes in Berkeley](#)

[\[June 9 - June 30, 2009\] Story Crafting for Memoir Writers by Jerry Waxler](#)

[\[July 7 - July 28, 2009\] Make Your Stories Sparkle TeleClass by Sharon Lippincott](#)

NAMW TELESEMINAR CALENDAR:

[\[June 18, 2009\] Sheila Bender: Essay, Memoir, Creative Nonfiction -- what are they?](#)

[July 11, 2009] NAMW teleseminar featuring Maureen Murdock: Writing the Truth

[August, 2009] NAMW teleseminar featuring Becky Levine: Critique Groups

[September, 2009] NAMW teleseminar featuring Jordan Rosenfeld: Make a Scene

NEW LOOK FOR NAMW.ORG

As part of our anniversary surprise, NAMW will begin sporting a new look starting June 2, 2009.

The design revamp aims to provide a more streamlined navigation experience for new and old users alike.

In the new design, we have separated the members section which can now be accessed through this link: <http://members.namw.org> The members site is a combination of the NAMW Cafe and will contain the exclusive pages which only they can access.

We will be sending everyone an outline and screenshots of all the new features in the NAMW and member sites on June 2, 2009.



NAMW Member

Price: \$99.00

[\(visit discount page](#)

and copy the discount code for this workshop. After you have copied the code, click on the shopping cart link above and enter the code into the promo field. Don't

forget to click on the APPLY button to have the final price recalculated with the discount.)

Descriptions in a story are like the stage set in a play or movie -- they provide the context in which the story unfolds and make it seem real to the reader. In this workshop we will focus deeply on each of the five senses through which we become aware of the world around us, and explore ways of conveying these impressions in fresh, compelling language. As you work through the assignments, not only will your writing take on new excitement, you will become more aware and present in your surroundings and see your world in fascinating new detail. [»Read more](#)

[June 27 - August 8, 2009] Summer Classes in Berkeley



Saturday Memoir and Spiritual Autobiography group

June 27 - August 8, 2009

Registration fee: \$290.00

Time: 10am to 1pm

Location: Berkeley, CA

We begin a new session June, and have room for one more! As a group, we write about the important moments in our lives-childhood memories, careers, love and family, and spiritual quests. Some writers use poetry and prose to capture memories and to explore the richness of life. We write about important turning points-the lighter, humorous moments along with the dark nights of the soul. There is laughter and a few tears, and most of all the witnessing of our stories, an important part of transformational writing. People of every age learn from each other's experiences and inspires each other to keep writing insightful and thoughtful true stories. You will learn how to choose your scenes, how to use fictional tools, and ways to keep the inner critic at bay. We write during class, and share our work in a supportive atmosphere.

To register, [click here](#) or you can call Linda at 510-524-3898.

[June 9 -June 30, 2009] Story Crafting for Memoir Writers by Jerry Waxler



Story Crafting for Memoir Writers by Jerry Waxler

June 9 - June 30, 2009

Tuesday evenings--one hour class meeting

8 PM EST | 7 PM CST | 6 PM MST | 5 PM PST



Regular Price: \$115

NAMW Member Price: \$105.00

([visit discount page](#) and copy the discount code for this workshop. After you have copied the code, click on the shopping cart link above and enter the code into the promo field. Don't forget to click on the APPLY button to have the final price recalculated with the discount.)

Many aspiring memoir writers fear their lives are not interesting enough to keep people reading from beginning to end. Many successful writers take the opposite point of view, that the events of any lifetime contain compelling material and that the writer's real job is to find the story. In this course, you'll learn to view your collection of memories not as a ready-made story, but as the raw material. Like a sculptor looking at a block of granite to find the beautiful figure inside, a memoir writer looks at the disorganized tangle of memories, looking for pieces that can be linked and shaped into a compelling story. [»Read more](#)