

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

8:30-9:00 am - Registration

9:00-10:45 am - *Memoir as Memory: A Workshop and Discussion with Paul Pines.* This approach to memoir writing emphasizes some of the same elements present in the best mystery writing, where there is a clear promise of discovery is present from the opening lines and the structure is aligned to its unfolding. The use of time is often a key element. Most important is the ability to access the emotional depth of the story and transmit it in images that are themselves discoveries that peel away layers of experience. As the author of a mystery novel, *The Tin Angel*, and a memoir, *My Brother's Madness*, I have used the same tools in each work to create an experience for the reader rather than to simply make a point, suggest a moral or fulfill an agenda. In this workshop we will discuss some of these ideas, and engage in an exercise that will highlight the exploration of development of emotional material and resonant imagery that are the heartbeat of effective narrative, with an emphasis on memoir.

11:00-noon - *Open the Door and Invite the Reader In with Bibi Wein.* Your memoir has a plot and this is every bit as important in this genre as it is in fiction. We will discuss beginnings, and finding the best starting point to bring the reader into your story. We'll briefly discuss a hand-out of about half a dozen opening pages of well-known and lesser-known contemporary memoirs. This will lead into an exploration of the huge range of possibilities for form, sequence and structure in this very flexible genre. We'll briefly discuss these as used by several known and lesser-known writers in award-winning memoirs. There is great opportunity for innovation here, though it's not necessarily easy to find the best way to tell your story. A writing exercise, followed by participant readings and discussion, will help participants explore the options, and try approaching their work from several different angles.

12:00-1:00 pm - Lunch (provided)

1:00-2:30- pm - *Life Lines - Writing Memoir with Mary Sanders Shartle.* Have your family and friends been saying "Write that story down before it's lost forever?" In telling our stories we are creating a written legacy of a family, community, culture or landscape that may well not exist 50-100 years from now. Writing memoir is an important reflection and reexamina-

tion of the past that can offer both healing and closure. It is a way of ordering thoughts by associating them with the people, places, events and objects that we hold dear (or even not so dear.) Written words can clarify and expand upon emotions we feel that are often so hard to communicate in person. We will also discuss simple ways to get started and keep going, how not to get overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task.

PRESENTERS:

Paul Pines grew up in Brooklyn around the corner from Ebbet's Field and passed the early sixties on the Lower East Side of New York. He shipped out as a merchant seaman, spending 1965-66 in Vietnam, after which he drove a taxi and tended bar until he opened The Tin Palace in 1973, on the corner of 2nd Street & Bowery, the setting for his novel, *The Tin Angel* (Wm Morrow, 1983/ Author's Guild, 2008). *Redemption* (Editions du Rocher, 1997), a second novel, is set against the genocide of Guatemalan Mayans. *My Brother's Madness* (Curbstone, 2007) a memoir that explores the unfolding of two intertwined lives and the nature of delusion, has recently enjoyed wide critical acclaim. Pines has also published seven volumes of poetry.

Bibi Wein's environmental memoir, *The Way Home: A Wilderness Odyssey*, won her a fellowship in nonfiction literature from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and was awarded the Tupelo Press Editor's Prize for Prose. She has taught memoir workshops at the Johnsbury Library, Ray Brook Federal Prison, and The Women's Prison Association in NYC, and has given presentations on the synergy between nature writing and memoir at the Rachel Carson Environmental Writers' Conference in Boothbay Harbor Maine (2008) and the biennial Conference of the International Association for Environmental Literature (2007).

Wein is also author of the novel *Yes* (Harcourt) and *The Runaway Generation* (McKay). Dozens of her short stories, essays and feature articles have appeared in national magazines and literary journals, including *Biography*, *Mademoiselle*, *Iris*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Other Voices*, and *Hawk & Handsaw*. While working on a sequel to *The Way Home*, she is also contributing writer for the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Wildflower Magazine*, and frequently works as an editor for private clients. Her awards include residencies at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Blue Mountain Center, and Yaddo. Her most recent essay appears in *Why We're Here*,

edited by Bob Cowser, Colgate University Press, 2010.

Mary Sanders Shartle has been writing lyrics, poetry and fiction most of her life. She performed professionally in New York City and Boston as a folk-singer and songwriter. Her solo and collective readings have been presented at the Saratoga Springs Poetry Zone and the Third Thursday Literary Evenings at the Saratoga Arts Center. Shartle has finished her fourth novel, one that takes place in the Adirondacks and for which she was awarded a New York State Council on the Arts grant for 2008. With the Three Poets she has also written and published two prize-winning chapbooks of poetry, *Notes from the Firetower – Three Poets on the Adirondacks* and *Glacial Erratica – Three Poets on the Adirondacks, Part 2*, which follow their chapbook, *Three Poets on Themes of Love, Death and Sex*.

Shartle teaches memoir writing workshops for adults and senior citizens in Saratoga Springs, Clifton Park and in Halfmoon, New York. With Elaine Handley, she has co-edited a book of their stories, *Where We've Been: A Century of Memoirs*, in 2004 in conjunction with SUNY's Empire State College and the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. She has also run writing workshops for nature lovers in the Adirondacks and for students at the Albany Academies, at the Stuart M. Townsend School in Lake Luzerne and the Saratoga Arts Center. As a young woman, Shartle worked as an editorial assistant with authors such as John Houseman (*Run Through, Front and Center*) and Dr. Phyllis Chesler (*Women and Madness*).

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Northwoods Inn is located at 2520 Main Street, Lake Placid

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