Creative Writing Seminar for Helping Professionals

July 20-23, 2018
Iowa City, IA
Day 1 - Friday, July 20, 2018

Room 332 North Hall (3rd floor)

10:00 – 10:30am  Registration  --  Coffee provided  *(Consider parking in the NORTH CAMPUS ramp—right next door to the School of Social Work. Enter the ramp from Madison Street.)*

10:30 – 12:30   Welcome and introduction to creative writing - Ellen Szabo

12:30 -  1:30  Lunch -- On your own

1:30 -  3:30  Ellen Szabo  Mini-Lecture: *Intro to Creative Writing for Social Work*
   Skill: identifying context for creative writing in practice

   Mini-Lecture: *Writing to Feel Better*
   Skill: effective self-expression: fiction as memoir

4:00 -   5:15  Guest speaker:  Iris Waichler, MSW, LCSW, Patient Advocate and Author

*Role Reversal, How to Take Care of Yourself and Your Aging Parents,* winner of:
   Finalist Best Book Award 2016
   Finalist Indie Excellence Award 2016
   Living Now Silver Award Winner 2017
   Honorable Mention Readers Favorite Award 2017
   Book Excellence Award 2017
   Runner Up Award Florida Book Festival 2018
   [https://www.facebook.com/RoleReversal/](https://www.facebook.com/RoleReversal/)

*Riding the Infertility Roller Coaster: A Guide to Educate and Inspire*
   Mom's Choice Gold Award Winner for Best Book of the Year
   Winner of the National Parenting Publications Gold Award for Best Book of the Year
   Winner of the finalist award for Foreword Magazine 2007 non-fiction Book of the Year

Dinner today and all days, is on your own. (Refer to the *Bread & Butter* magazine in your folders for dining recommendations and reviews.)

Note: Free outdoor music by local band The Feralings on Iowa Avenue, between Dubuque St. and Clinton St.
The show takes place about a block away from Iowa City’s legendary independently owned book store, Prairie Lights
(15 S. Dubuque Street, open 10am - 9pm on Monday-Sat; 10am- 6pm on Sunday. They offer coffee, wine, and pastries in
their upstairs cafe.)
8:30 – 10:30 Write on your own.
Option to schedule 30-minute individual coaching session with Ellen Szabo

11:00 - Noon Guest speaker: Marc Rahe
Finding and Channeling Inspiration to Write while Holding Down a 9-5 Job in Human Services. Marc earned his MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. Recurring themes in his writing include the body, loss, longing, isolation, and solace.

Noon Group photo to be taken right before lunch ☺ CHEESE!

12:15 - 1:15 Lunch (on your own)

1:15 - 4:30 Ellen Szabo
Mini-Lecture: Writing for Social Change
Skill: Speculative Fiction as a tool for action and advocacy
Writing exercise to practice skill

Mini-lecture: Flash Fiction and Non Fiction
Skill: creating precise stories that surprise and satisfy
Writing exercise to practice skill

NOTE: Free outdoor movie “Kubo and the Two Strings,” 8:50 pm on the Pentacrest—outside MacBride Hall (east side of building). Open to the public.
Day 3 - Sunday, July 22, 2018
Room 332 North Hall (3rd floor)

8:30 - 10:30  Write on your own, or option of scheduling a 30-minute private coaching session with Ellen

11:00 - 12:00  Guest speaker: Lisa Roberts
The Iowa Youth Writing Project is a non-profit outreach collective founded by University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop graduates in 2010 that aims to join Iowa City’s unique literary heritage with Iowa’s larger community by empowering, inspiring, and educating Iowa’s youth through language arts and creative thinking.

12:00 - 1:00  Lunch (on your own)

1:00 - 5:00  Ellen Szabo
Mini-lecture: Creating characters, effective dialogue
Skill: creating and sustaining the illusion of ‘real’
Writing exercise to practice skill

Mini-lecture: Openings and Endings
Skill: Identifying and ‘bookending’ themes
Writing exercise to practice skill

Mini-lecture: Creative editing, finding your bliss
Skill: attention to detail
Writing exercise to practice skill

Note: Consider going to a movie at FilmScene—Iowa City’s nonprofit cinema, located at 100 E. College St. on the pedestrian mall - (319) 358-2555 / www.icfilmscene.org
Day 4 - Monday, July 23, 2018  
Room 332 North Hall (3rd floor)  

8:30 - 11:00 Write on your own, or option of scheduling a 30-minute private coaching session with Ellen

11:00 - 11:45 To be decided by Ellen, based on needs of the group.

11:45 - 12:45 Lunch (on your own)

1:00 - 2:00 Guest Speaker: **Lori Erickson**  
Episcopal deacon and author who specializes in spirituality and travel (recent book, *Holy Rover: Journeys In Search of Mystery, Miracles, & God*). Lori is also a volunteer with Love Letters, a community project sponsored by Iowa City Hospice and the Honoring Your Wishes advance care planning program. The Love Letters project encourages people to think and write about the themes of love, forgiveness, and gratitude within our community. ([http://honoringyourwishes.org/love-letters/](http://honoringyourwishes.org/love-letters/)) Lori will talk about her involvement in this community-wide writing project and the impact the planners hope to achieve.

2:00 - 2:15 Break

2:15 - 4:30 Ellen Szabo:  
*Optimizing the Written Word for Self-Expression and Creative Impact*

4:30 - 4:45 Please complete written evaluation forms.
CONTACT LIST

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For other info about visiting Iowa City, check out:
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   www.downtowniowacity.com/
   www.iowacityofliterature.org/
   www.littlevillagemag.com/