

## Syllabus

Aliante Creative Writing - Personal Narratives, Fiction, and General Short Story Writing

Session – Meets Monday 2PM – 4PM

Our focus is on developing ideas and concepts that emphasize the expression of thoughts, feelings and emotions versus having the writer simply convey information.

Each week we encourage the participants to try new and optional concepts through various writing methods and present their original writings orally to the class. Feedback and discussion follow each presentation.

In general terms, we encourage the participants to find their voice in their own style of writing personal narratives, poems, autobiographies and fictional short stories in a friendly and sociable atmosphere.

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The tools and concepts that will be offered are as follows and will be part of the weekly challenges that are offered to the participants:

- The beginning sentence or paragraph, or 'the hook,' to arouse the interest of the reader and understanding who your listener is.
- Scene creation or providing an atmosphere and/or surroundings to help the listener see what is being read.
- Writing lyrically in prose style.
- Writing with emotion or write to invoke an emotion.
- Using dialogue and dialogue rules to develop characters and move the story forward.
- Using prompts and pictures to help the writer get past writers-block.
- Formal story structure that will include a protagonist (person with a problem or goal).
- Group participation in developing a fictional story using a formal structure
- Observe the story writing outline when watching fictional stories on television or at the movies.
- Free verse poetry and other forms of poetry.

We all have a story to tell. This class encourages the exploration of personal narratives, poems and fictional short stories in a friendly and sociable atmosphere. The focus is on developing ideas and concepts and presenting them with the benefit of various writing exercises and positive critiques and discussions. We explore the use of dialogue, writing with emotion, character development, various forms of poetry, scene creation and hooking the reader.

Diane Crane Benelli and Barbara Miller have been working with the Creative Writing class for the past four years. Diane has been published in the NYG&B Record, edited theological manuscripts for publication, and while working at the United Nations, edited The Disarmament Yearbook. Barbara Miller, born in Brooklyn, is not only an avid writer but is also a prolific reader. She shares her insightful and constructive criticisms to the benefit and encouragement of all. The group is inclusive and positive, and we welcome the writer at any and all levels.