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TellinG STORIES, DISCOVERINg VOICE: A Writing Weekend for Nurses

July 20-22, 2012
New York City

WHO WE ARE

Instructors for all sessions are Joy Jacobson, MFA, and Jim Stubenrauch, MFA. We are teachers and health care journalists with a longstanding focus on nursing, who guide nurses and nursing students in developing and improving their writing by artistic means. We teach writing to nursing students at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing and, through the Center for Health, Media, and Policy (CHMP) at Hunter College, offer workshops in reflective writing for nurses in regional health care organizations. Both are senior fellows at CHMP, and Joy is the poet-in-residence. As longtime former editors at the American Journal of Nursing, we are well-prepared to guide nurses in writing for publication, writing and evaluating research papers, complying with HIPAA regulations in writing, and using social media in health-promotion.

The Center for Health, Media and Policy (CHMP) at Hunter College advances public conversations about health and health policy through media, research, education and public forums. www.centerforhealthmediapolicy.com

Keynote speaker:
Karen Roush, MS, RN, brings extensive experience as a writer, teacher, and nurse to the Scholar’s Voice (http://www.thescholarsvoice.com/), where she helps health professionals, particularly nurses, become skilled, confident writers. She is the clinical managing editor of the American Journal of Nursing and a Mary Clark Rockefeller Fellow and PhD candidate in the College of Nursing at New York University. She has had numerous publications, including books, articles in scholarly journals, essays, and poems.

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Karen Roush, MS, RN, brings extensive experience as a writer, teacher, and nurse to the Scholar’s Voice (http://www.thescholarsvoice.com/), where she helps health professionals, particularly nurses, become skilled, confident writers. She is the clinical managing editor of the American Journal of Nursing and a Mary Clark Rockefeller Fellow and PhD candidate in the College of Nursing at New York University. She has had numerous publications, including books, articles in scholarly journals, essays, and poems.
Purpose
This weekend conference in New York City will give nurses, nursing faculty, nurse researchers, and nursing students an opportunity to explore the power of narrative writing. Together we will write, read aloud, and give one another encouraging comment on new writings and works in progress. We’ll create a community of new and experienced writers, gaining a new appreciation of nurses’ voices and new tools for sustaining a writing practice.

Over three days, through group reading and writing exercises, you will write stories that hold particular meaning for you. You’ll be encouraged to develop a regular writing practice with the intention of realizing the known benefits of reflective writing: enhanced interpersonal skills, empathy, job satisfaction, and stress management.

You will have a one-on-one coaching session with an instructor to discuss your work, and you’ll have the option of submitting your writing for publication on the blog of the Center for Health, Media & Policy at Hunter College.

Objectives
1. Describe the process of writing reflective narratives.
2. Develop a daily reflective writing practice.
3. Provide analysis of others’ writing.
4. Explain how writing may be used to improve clinical and interpersonal skills and promote empathy.
5. Develop patient-advocacy narratives that illustrate the power of nursing care.
6. Discover tools for effective revision of one’s own writing.
7. Demonstrate the benefits of narrative writing as a tool in reducing stress.
8. Explain nursing’s emerging part in social networking in the promotion of public health.
9. Discuss narrative as an aspect of all writing, whether creative or scholarly works.

Agenda

Friday and Saturday
Welcome: 8:00 AM
Morning Session: Writing Workshop, 8:30 – 10:30
• Exercise: prompted writing assignment and oral sharing of participants’ work.
• Overview of narrative writing and poetry and their use in the education and practice of health care professionals.
Break
Morning Session continues: 11:00 – 12:30
• Exercise: discussion of participants’ writing.
• Overview of “narrative medicine” and “medical humanities.”
Lunch Provided: 12:30 – 1:30
Afternoon Session {Friday}: Healing Narratives: Coping with Trauma and Loss through Writing: 1:30 – 3:00
• Review of the elements of a “healing narrative”; participants prompted to begin writing their own stories, according to these points.
Afternoon Session {Saturday}: Narrative Medicine/ Narrative Nursing: 1:30 – 3:00
• Reading and discussion of a published advocacy story; participants guided in writing their own.
• A look at several blogs and Twitter accounts, showing how nurses are using these media as a public-health tool.
Break
Afternoon Session continues: 3:30 – 5:00
Evening Reception & Keynote Presentation, Friday: 5 – 6:30 PM
• Reading and discussion of the role of narrative in a variety of Karen Roush’s writings on the topic of domestic violence: a personal essay, qualitative research, poems, a critique of research, and social commentary.

Dinner on your own both evenings

Sunday
Coffee: 8:30 AM
Session: 9:00 – 11:30 One-on-one meetings with workshop leaders
• Focused feedback on participants’ writings in one-on-one sessions.
Attendees’ reading & lunch: 12:00 – 2:30

Participation Fee
$675 + $20 Registration fee

Hotel Information
Thompson Lower East Side
190 Allen Street
New York, NY 10022
877-460-8888
www.thompsonhotles.com

Contact Hours
16.5 contact hours will be awarded.

This activity has been submitted for approval to award contact hours. Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by New Jersey Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. Accredited status does not imply endorsement by NJSNA, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing or ANCC of any commercial products or services. There is no commercial support for this activity.

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