



# WRITING OUT OF THE PRESENCE

Ellen Michaud

March 13-16, 2014

Program cost of \$295  
includes program,  
housing and meals,  
Thursday dinner  
through Sunday lunch.  
Scholarships are available.

WOOLMAN HILL  
Quaker Retreat Center

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107 Keets Road  
Deerfield MA 01342  
413-774-3431

*Writing out of the Presence* is a writing retreat that will allow you to look back over your spiritual journey, immerse yourself in the discernment process, and explore the struggles, questions, and experiences associated with how and where you have been led.

The retreat will encourage that part of you that is always listening to the whispers of God to open more fully, listen more deeply, then guide you into an essay, memoir, book, blog, vignette or other narrative form that will allow you to share your journey and let your life speak. Participants will sharpen their writing skills, share their work, and learn how the writing process is itself both a vehicle of spiritual growth and an act of faith.

Each participant will be able to trace the subtle movement of Spirit throughout their lives, derive insight from it, and perhaps begin to discern where they may next be led. They will also develop an understanding of how the writing process can be a vehicle of growth through writing out of the Presence, and how, through publication, it can help others grow, as well.

*Ellen Michaud* has written for the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Readers' Digest*, and *Prevention Magazine*, where she was the editor-at-large for six years. She has been both the book review editor of *Friends Journal* and *Writer-in-Residence* at *Earlham School of Religion*. She is the author of *Blessed: Living a Grateful Life* (*Readers Digest*, 2011), which was named by *USA BookNews* as the #1 *Spiritual/Inspiration Book of the Year*, and is an alumna of the *School of the Spirit's* program on contemplative living and prayer. She is a member of *South Starksboro Friends Meeting* in Vermont.

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www.woolmanhill.org + info@woolmanhill.org

**COST & REGISTRATION**

The standard rate for this retreat is \$295. The fee includes program, lodging and food. Commuter rate is \$225. Please ask if you need scholarship funds. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to hold a space for a program. If you need to cancel, the deposit can be applied toward a future workshop.

**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE**

Plan to arrive after 4:30pm Thursday evening, in time for dinner at 6:30. The workshop will end by 2pm on Sunday. We are centrally located in western Massachusetts, close to both I-91 and Route 2. For those arriving by car, we will send directions after you register. Please let us know if you'd be interested in carpooling. The nearest Amtrak train station is in Amherst. Vermont Transit and Peter Pan bus lines stop in Greenfield. Please contact us in advance to arrange a ride from these stations.

**ROOM & BOARD**

Our 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse has hand-hewn beams and wide pine floors, with simple dorm-style lodging. The meetinghouse and the first floor of the main building are wheelchair accessible. We serve nourishing, primarily vegetarian, home-cooked meals and always offer a vegetarian option. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Part of the community building at each retreat includes the joyful sharing of meal chores and clean-up.

**WHAT TO BRING**

Please bring your own toiletries, towels, and bedding (sleeping bag or sheets and blankets or comforter). Pillows are provided. Be sure to bring seasonally appropriate clothes and comfortable indoor and outdoor footwear. You might also like to bring a flashlight, journal, musical instrument... Please do NOT bring pets or candles. We have public internet access and limited cell phone reception. We encourage guests to consider whether cell phone or computer use will detract from their experience of being fully present, here and now.

To register for this program, please fill out the information below and send it to us with a \$50 deposit made payable to Woolman Hill. The balance is due at the beginning of the workshop. For more details about our programs and facilities, please visit our website ([www.woolmanhill.org](http://www.woolmanhill.org)) or use the above contact information.

WRITING OUT OF THE PRESENCE, March 13-16, 2014	
NAME:	
E-MAIL:	PHONE:
ADDRESS:	
MONTHLY MEETING (if applicable):	
Enclosed is \$_____. I plan to pay a total of \$_____ (\$295 standard rate, \$225 commuter).	
DIETARY, HOUSING, OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS:	