

# **Sounding It Out: A Writer's Workshop**

**Tina Neyer & Vicki Phillips**

**July 27-31**

One of the most significant, affirming experiences a writer can have is sharing their work with an audience that values self-expression. Incorporating Women Writing for (a) Change practices, this workshop asks writers to examine a lengthy piece of your work according to standards of craft. The writers—now readers of each other's work—describe what they find. They note areas where the work falls short, ranging from the vision of the story, its essential premise, whether a character is acting consistently, pacing of tension, and many other points of structure and style.

What guides the writer who workshops another writer's piece is commitment to strong, powerful work. Writers can be tough readers. But we are also the most sympathetic of readers, because we know what it's like to struggle to get the words on the page.

During the workshop, each writer listens as others discuss their work. This gives them the chance to observe how well the piece communicates and provides significant information they might not otherwise get. To workshop a piece is to respond to it by identifying strengths and challenges using elements of craft.

## **Additional Workshop Details:**

1. Fiction, creative nonfiction, and memoir are all suitable genres for this offering. Unfortunately, poetry is not suitable for this particular class. Due to the amount of work required to prepare for the workshop, class size is limited to nine participants.
2. Submit 20 pages for which you would like to receive reader feedback. Directions provided at time of registration.
3. A month prior to the workshop, you will receive a file with all of the manuscripts as one document. Rather than incorporate the cost of printing the manuscripts and charging each participant for the printing, we ask that participants print the documents themselves. (Local office supply stores can print inexpensively; ask them to print double sided and on the most inexpensive paper possible.)
4. During the month prior to the workshop, each writer reads and comments on the pieces of the other writers. Each piece should be read twice and commented on directly on the printed copy. Please work from the guide provided at time of registration.
5. The first day of our workshop week on July 27 begins with guidance on the proper way to give and receive verbal commentary. A pre-determined person will be our first writer to be reviewed.
6. Women Writing for (a) Change practices of maintaining a safe and supportive environment will be followed. This will include the sharing of an opening poem, check-ins, a daily fast-write, a review of the importance of confidentiality and mutual respect for all participants, and a check-out at closing.

Let's work to make our stories the best they can be. When taking the deep dive in a workshop such as this, the writer often comes away refreshed, renewed, and ready to revise. Consider this your invitation to join us!