

Memoir Moments: Enriched by Poets

Study Leader: Nancy Marashio

Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

8 weeks beginning Sept. 17

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 15

The memoir by distinguished New Hampshire journalist Mike Pride is grounded in his love of poetry. “I am blessed to have known the poets who are the subjects of this memoir,” Mike Pride wrote in his Acknowledgements. “They have enriched my life, and I have done my best to represent them as I know them.”

Pride came to New Hampshire in 1978 to run the newsroom of the *Concord Monitor*. His standard for writers of the newspaper was “excellence.” He maintained that standard later in life as chair of the Hale Award Judges, then as the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, and now in his memoir.

Along the way, he assigned himself the coverage of New Hampshire’s exceptional poets (and visiting poets). Chapters cover poets Donald Hall, Jane Kenyon, Maxine Kumin, Charles Simic, Wesley McNair, Sharon Olds, Seamus Heaney and Hayden Carruth. Depending on his daily journal, published pieces on the poets, years of correspondence and attendance at poetry readings, Mike revealed “the same devotion to language” as his subjects did. After writing the first three chapters of this book, Mike acknowledged, “I think this is the first project I have done that only I can write.”

In this class, we will discuss Mike’s writing and that of the poets he featured. We’ll also try to write memoir moment drafts of our own – moments that include those who have enriched OUR lives.

Required Text

Northern Voices: Forty Years on the Poetry Beat

Mike Pride

ISBN: 9780872333772



Nancy Marashio

Nancy Marashio, a New Hampshire native, has emphasized New Hampshire writers throughout her teaching career. In her middle school, high school, community college and now AIL classes, she has featured local and regional writers rooted in her native state. This class is no exception.

She came to know Mike Pride’s writing first as a reader and then as a fellow member of the Board of Judges for the Sarah Josepha Hale award. She feels privileged to share his memoir with the learners in this class.