Syracuse Veterans’ Writing Group
April 27th, 2013 meeting

Due to group expansion and eager participation, we are going to be experimenting with small group workshops. We will split into two, with one workshop in the main Writing Center and the other in the small group room.

Here’s our schedule.
10:00-10:20: Introductions and Announcements in the large group
10:20-10:50 Workshop I: Split into two groups
10:50-11:00 Break
11:00-11:30 Workshop II: Continue in two workshop groups
11:30-12:00 Come back into the large group for free reading time (sharing a piece without commentary)

Manuscripts to workshop: Frank, Don, Dan, Ralph, Pete.

Writing prompts for April 2013:

1) Write about your reactions to the bombing of the Boston Marathon on Patriot’s Day. What responses and associations did this event trigger, if any?

2) Exercise on Figurative Language: A number of you have made use of figurative language in writing creative nonfiction without even being aware of it, drawing on simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration and other elements. Write a piece or revise an existing piece to include two or more elements of figurative language—some to try:

   **Simile**: A simile uses the words “like” or “as” to compare one object or idea with another to suggest they are alike.

   **Metaphor**: Metaphor states a fact or draws a verbal picture by the use of comparison.

   **Personification**: A figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to an animal or an object.

   **Alliteration**: The repetition of the same initial letter, sound, or group of sounds in a series of words.

   **Onomatopoeia**: The use of a word to describe or imitate a natural sound or the sound made by an object or an action.

   **Hyperbole**: An exaggeration that is so dramatic that no one would believe the statement is true.
Opportunity to Read as Part of Syracuse Stage:

Kyle Bass, M.F.A. Resident Dramaturg, Syracuse Stage, has asked our group to collaborate with him in putting together a reading of veterans' (YOUR!) writing that will take place in Sutton Pavilion (the bar/cafe area of Syracuse Stage) before the performance of _An Iliad_ (adapted from Homer). For more on _An Iliad_, see http://www.syracusestage.org/ticketoffice/eventdetail.aspx?page_id=2&event_id=45.

Here's what Kyle says about the event: This event would be part of Blue Star Theatre, an initiative “intended to recognize the contributions of service families, to build stronger connections between the theatre community and military families in communities all across the country and to help in whatever small way we can to aid service people and their families as they seek to be integrated into the lives of their communities. Each participating Blue Star Theatre is offering discounted or complimentary admission to all military personnel and their families, as well as veterans.” The event I’m imagining will be part of one of our Blue Star performance dates.

The reading will take place at Syracuse Stage (in the Sutton Pavilion) prior to the performance of _An Iliad_. I’m looking for a diverse group of writers who are willing to read from their original work in public. I’m particularly interested in creative non-fiction/memoir and poetry pieces from veterans who have seen action. But I’m also interested in veterans or enlistees whose service has given them a close-up view to the aftermath of war; witnesses to the toll, impact and/or shaping-force combat has on those who’ve seen action.

Depending on the number of writers who express interest in the event, each writer will be given between 3 and 5 minutes to read from his/her work. I’m interested in work from veterans of wars/conflicts stretching back as far as your group’s population makes possible: Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, WWII. As we discussed, I’d like to see the selected works/writers presented in a thoughtfully organized way so that the individual pieces accrue to an impactful whole. I will leave the selection of the writers up to you and Ivy. I would like to review the work of the writers selected and assist in “editing” the event.

Ivy and I would like to ask for volunteers that meet the criteria that Kyle Bass sets forth in his call for our participation. We can also talk about this on Saturday, and we'd work with you to get your pieces in shape for reading (Kyle will be involved in that process as well). As you can imagine, this is great exposure for our group and a great opportunity for you to get your voice and experiences heard and understood by a larger audience.

Saturday, May 18, prior to the 3:00 p.m. show
Wednesday, May 29: prior to the 7:30 p.m. show
Sunday, June 9: prior to the 2:00 p.m. show