

**In the Voice of Our Ancestors Retreat/Workshop
Testimonials:**

Any one can tell a story. But learning how to TELL a story requires an instructor who is keenly aware of how to reach that creative, intuitive part of you that hasn't been taped. Ilene Evans is just that kind of instructor. In this workshop you'll learn that Tell'n a story requires that special part of you being stirred up so you can in turn stir the soul of your listener. The experience of her workshop lifted my skill to a different level.

Arthuretta Maetin

Your professional development retreat/workshop opened up the doors to my desire to present a first person historical narrative. The research techniques, monologue structuring & scripting, and individual coaching, among other things, were invaluable.

Bunjo Butler

"For years I tossed around the idea of a first person narrative of a historical person. My thoughts were all over the place. Ilene's workshop gave me the focus, knowledge and courage to finally bring my story to life! Her creative coaching is well worth the investment!"

JOCELYN DABNEY

Life changing! A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart! You have touched my heart! I am so grateful for this wonderful retreat. - truly memorable!

Pat Lambe

Your workshop opened up so many possibilities and options for me. The work you do is so very important; I appreciate you.

Peace always,

Alice Collins

"...a gathering together of a diverse group of powerful, creative, empathic, welcoming women with leadership from Ilene Evans to encourage, support AND challenge each other to new heights."

"I took away skills and inspiration to stretch and grow my storytelling this past year, more music and movement, new story genres and new venues - resulting in two awards from a national organization!"

I wanted to share with you how much our spring retreat at Timberline meant to me.

From the first evening when I had you all to myself for a bit and you encouraged my expectations and hopes for the weekend, clear through to the very end when the six (??) of us spent time on a debrief and planning for a collaborative future as sister storytellers - this was memorable and moving experience. You gathered together a diverse group of powerful, creative, empathic, welcoming women and then encouraged us to support AND challenge each other.

I will not forget the lessons of that retreat: that I CAN learn the words and music to a Chippewa Ojibway song in a single day (you know, I do not speak Chippewa Ojibway...), I CAN learn new dance moves and practice them IN A ROOM FULL OF beautiful skilled amateur and professional dancers, I CAN - with the right coaching and feedback substantially improve my story portrayals in a single weekend, I CAN bond with a group of incredibly and formidably talented women artists in a very short time, I CAN keep in touch and continue to learn from these women even 18 months after that first meeting.

Thank you, SO much for including me in that unforgettable opportunity. You and the rest of those mentoring peers gave me the confidence to stretch and grow my storytelling this past year and a half, from trying new genres (including historical narratives and traditional scary stories) and new story venues (urban settings in the true-personal-story "tradition"), incorporating more music and movement, and competing in several contests (with respectable outcomes and rankings for me!). Please, please keep me in the loop for future retreats.

I will definitely be coming back!

Fanny Crawford

History, and particularly our history, Black history, and the knowledge of it is so very vital, especially in these days and times. The training I received during this lovely retreat equipped me with the knowledge and ability to dig beneath the surface, both in gathering research and formulating a well thought out presentation. The atmosphere through out the retreat was spirit filled and flowing with shared knowledge from the wonderful host and teacher as well as the other attendees. I am truly thankful to have shared this experience.

Thanks a bunch!

Pat