

Denise Frame Harlan

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## Education

### **Memoir Incubator, Grub Street Literary Center, June 2018-May 2019**

Grub Street's highly selective incubator classes give writers an opportunity to focus on one book, for a year of intensive instruction. I am now working on the next draft of *Nest*, a memoir of two impractical educators seeking sustainable housing for their family, in one of the most expensive markets on earth, during a housing crisis that continues for thousands of Americans. I hope to complete the next draft by October 2019.

### **MFA in Creative Writing, Seattle Pacific University, August 2009**

Seattle Pacific University's low-residency MFA program in Creative Writing focuses on arts and faith in classic literature and contemporary writing. I studied creative nonfiction with mentors Robert Clark and Leslie Leyland Fields over three Santa Fe residencies and two Whidbey Island residencies. The SPU MFA is directed by the editor of *Image Journal of Arts and Religion*.

My critical thesis examines the culinary nonfiction of Robert Farrar Capon's *Supper of the Lamb* and M.F.K. Fisher's *How to Cook a Wolf*. My creative thesis includes a series of stories about my work as caretaker for a blind woman, and a series of stories about house-hunting and home-finding in New England.

### **Additional coursework in Intercultural Relations at Lesley University**

### **B.A. Psychology, Taylor University, Honors Graduate**

**Non-accredited coursework:** I attended four years of training in child development and spiritual formation, with emphasis on ages 6-12, in CGS, *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.

## Academic Teaching Experience

### **2009-Present, Adjunct Instructor**

#### **Gordon College, Wenham MA**

#### **The Great Conversation for First-Year students, approximately 30 sections in nine years**

Each year, I teach three or four sections of this core requirement for first-year students. I provide tools to help students to improve their writing and revision skills, as well as their skills in civil discourse. Students craft four formal essays in a series of drafts, in addition to shorter assignments. This seminar course covers subjects such as calling and vocation, love and justice.

#### **Intro to Creative Writing, three sections**

In the introductory course for creative writing, I work with students to develop daily writing habits in the four basic genres, and to craft a polished portfolio.

## Additional Teaching and Tutoring Experience

- 2013-Present*      **College Application Essay Coach, Lexington Prep School, Lexington MA**  
I serve as one-to-one essay tutor for 20 (or more) international high school students each year. LPS offers intensive sessions over Thanksgiving, Christmas, and summer breaks. I have helped more than 300 students to develop story arcs and to choose powerful verbs. I occasionally teach SAT and SSAT essay construction, as needed.
- 2012-2015*      **Site Manager, Episcopal City Tutoring SAT Workshop, Hamilton MA**  
Episcopal City Tutoring offered an innovative nonprofit SAT prep program. Each suburban prep center covered the cost of a similar center in an underfunded neighborhood within the Boston diocese of the Episcopal church. My staff provided 10 weeks of SAT prep each fall and spring. The program dissolved after changes to the 2015 SAT exam.
- 2004-2005*      **Writing Tutor, Endicott College**  
I tutored international students in the writing center. I acted as an emcee for a required seminar on plagiarism for 200 students.
- Occasional*      I teach fiber arts skills to children and adults, in classrooms and workshops:  
circular sock machine knitting for adults  
garment design with upcycled wool sweaters for middle school students  
paper-making with elementary school kids at art camp  
Pysanky egg-dyeing with children and adults  
shoe-making assistance for middle-school students  
needle-felting, wet-felting and toy design for children and adults  
yarn construction with the hand-spindle for elementary-school students

## Selected Publications

*Featured Review of We'll Fly Away by Bryan Bliss, reviewer Denise Frame Harlan*

**Englewood Review of Books**, July 25, 2018

<http://englewoodreview.org/bryan-bliss-well-fly-away-a-novel-feature-review/>

*And She Took Flour: Cooking Lessons from Robert Farrar Capon*

**The Spirit of Food: 34 Writers on Fasting and Feasting Toward God**, Wipf & Stock 2010, ed. Leslie Leyland Fields

*And She Took Flour* is the story of my conversion to the love of the world, through home cooking. Other contributors include Andre Dubus, Jr., Wendell Berry, Luci Shaw, Lauren Winner, and Robert Farrar Capon. My essay is visible on GoogleBooks.

*Smoke Rings, essay*

**Ruminant Magazine**, June 2013

Honorable Mention for the Vandermeij Creative Nonfiction Prize, June 2013

Judge Brian Doyle (of Portland Magazine) commended the structure of my study of my parents' smoking and my own breath. *Smoke Rings* was chosen for an honorable mention/third prize and publication in Ruminare magazine.

*Can Kickstarter Boost Your Hobby into a Business?*

Interweave Spin-Off Magazine for fiber artists, Summer 2017

My article in this high-end fiber arts magazine explores how to use Crowdfunding platforms can work for home businesses.

*They Say it Goes Fast, but I'm Not So Sure, essay*

Patheos Slow Living blog, June 15, 2015

The Slow Living ecumenical blog celebrates slow spiritual practice and slow-cooked goodness. "They Say it Goes Fast" reflects on the slow parenting of children whose pace changed me.

*Two Small Children and The Mean Old World, essay*

Makes You Mom, March 20, 2015

This essay touches on parenting, innocence, and the meanness of the world as my preschoolers beg for art lessons based on the Stations of the Cross.

*To Make the Wounded Whole: On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marilynne Robinson's Gilead*

Englewood Review of Books, Classics Review, print edition Advent 2014

*A Toast for Robert Farrar Capon, blogpost, Christian Century, September 12, 2013*

*The Swing, creative nonfiction*

Ruminare Magazine blog, November 5, 2013

This essay studies sitting, stiffness, tall trees, and relief.

*Prays Best While Moving, creative nonfiction*

The Other Journal: An Intersection Between Theology and Culture, 2013 issue 21

This brief essay is visible on GoogleBooks. Quoted in *Knit One Purl a Prayer*, Rosenthal.

*Sometimes it Takes a Lifetime to Read a Book: Reflections on Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories*

Englewood Review of Books, Classics Review, Advent print edition 2012

*How to Host a Yarn Party, Interweave Spin-Off Summer 2007*

I turned a low-cost birthday party into a six-page glossy feature in a high-end crafts magazine.

Current Writing Projects

**Nest** is a memoir about two idealists from the midwest who were unprepared for the cost of the northeast, and their two children who will never have the luxury of such naivete. In the housing crisis of 2008, my family was financially stuck in our three-room condo overlooking Gloucester Harbor. Those 600 square feet were the perfect size for one person, not two adults and two adolescents vying for space. Banks stopped lending. After three failed bids for homes, our buying potential evaporated when my student loans came due. My family became suburban renters in a nearby town, with our 20-year roots cut out from under us, losing money month by month. **Nest** examines the soul-cost of two educators working hard while not-making-it, north of Boston.

## Honors

Hemingway House residency, March 2019

Rosewood Writing Residency, June 2019

Duncan Eat/Write Fellowship 2011, Dairy Hollow Writing Center, Eureka Springs

Honorable Mention, 2013 VanderMey Prize in Creative Nonfiction, Ruminare Magazine

## Public Speaking

**Festival of Faith & Writing**, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2016, two panels:

*How to be a Good Literary Citizen*, panel with Caroline Langston of The Atlantic, Laura Turner of The Toast, Hannah Notess of Response magazine

*Creative Cross-Training: Spiritual Practices to Integrate Writing into Busy Lives*, panel with Chris Hoke, Angela Doll Carlson, Caroline Langston, Jonathan Hiskes

**Princemere Writers Series** at Gordon College, reading November 2013 and faculty reading in spring of 2015, spring 2018, spring 2019.

**Readers & Writers at Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham**, headliner for the opening of the 2017 reading series.

**Jubilee Conference** 2011, *On Telling Your Story* seminar with 75 participants

Etcetera:

**Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross**, Episcopal lay women's prayer and justice organization based in Byfield, Massachusetts, member 2015 through present

**Living Crafts Magazine, Contributing Editor** for issues 1 and 2, 2007

Meredith Corporation Magazines: "**The Blog Evangelist**" for Ladies Home Journal. 2005-2006.

**Online Community Moderator of More.com** for Meredith Corporation, April 2007-2009, while working toward my MFA in creative writing. Discussed the meaning of life, midlife, and mascara with hundreds of women.