**OLLI Syllabus, Spring 2019**

**The “A-Ha” Moments: Remembering and Writing Your Life Stories**

Selections from Texts: *Writing Life Stories* by Bill Roorbach  
(Writer’s Digest Books, 2008)

*The Memoir Project: A Thoroughly Non-Standardized Text for Writing and Life*  
by Marion Roach Smith  
(Grand Central Publishing, 2011)

Materials: Journal Notebook  
Course Facilitator: Connie Shoemaker

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<tr>
<th>Class No.</th>
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| 1.        | April 3 | **Memory:** Smith, “Intro.”  
Roorbach, Chapter 2: “Memory” |
| 2.        | April 10 | **Scene-Making:** Smith, Ch. 1, “You Must Be Present to Win.”  
Roorbach, Ch. 3, “Scene-Making” |
| 3.        | April 17 | **Scene-Making Application**  
Using the Generational Chart and the Life Review  
Questions about childhood, write a 2-3 page scene (double-spaced) where “something” happens. |
| 4.        | April 24 | **Big Ideas:**  
Smith, Ch. 2, “Galileo in Wal-Mart.”  
Roorbach, Ch. 4, “Big Ideas” |
| 5.        | May 1    | **Character and Characters:**  
Smith, Ch. 3, “Having Sex with Roger”  
Roorbach, Ch. 5, “Character and Characters” |
| 6.        | May 8    | **Finding Your Voice:**  
Ch. 4, “The Barbie-Bodied Book”  
Roorbach, Ch. 6, “Stage Presence” |
| 7.        | May 15   | **Editing: “Murder Your Darlings”**  
Smith, Ch. 5, “Life in the Morgue”  
**Pride and the Pain of Publishing:** a round table of OLLI authors |
| 8.        | May 22   | **Summing It Up and Final Readings** |

Connie Shoemaker is co-founder and Director Emerita of Spring International Language Center where she publishes a bi-monthly student writing magazine, *Spring Views*. She has authored five books in the field of international education and a book of poetry published during her four years in Cairo, Egypt. Two recent books include *The Good Daughter: Secrets, Life Stories and Healing*, 2015, and *Taste the Sweetness Later: Two Muslim Women in America*, released in February of this year.