



Golden Alley Press

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New Memoir by Blind Writer Beth Finke Makes Readers Laugh, Cry, Write

The uplifting true story of what Beth learned about life from the senior citizens in her Chicago memoir-writing courses

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, May 23, 2017 – She’s never taught a class in her life. But when the City of Chicago calls on blind writer Beth Finke to teach a memoir-writing class for older adults, she reluctantly agrees. What she learns about her students, their stories, and herself will move and inspire you.



Writing Out Loud: What a Blind Teacher Learned from Leading a Memoir Class for Seniors, Golden Alley Press, 2017

ISBN 978-0-9984429-2-1 print \$17.95

ISBN 978-0-9984429-3-8 ebook \$ 9.99

<http://bethfinke.com/books/>

Written the way Beth hears life, readers will come to know and love Minerva, Wanda, Hannelore, and the whole colorful cast of characters who build a community around Beth’s classes.

Generously sprinkled with excerpts in her students’ own voices, Beth’s book will convince readers to get their own stories down on paper while there’s still time.

Writing Out Loud includes senior writers’ first-person accounts of a railroad trip to Mississippi in the “Jim Crow” car, a mother-in-law hiding from the Nazis in a Viennese wood, gang mischief in 1940s Chicago, along with Beth’s own adventures getting around the city with her Seeing Eye dog.

If you’ve ever felt frightened by what life asks of you, if you’ve ever had to find your way in the dark, if you are over the age of 60 or love someone who is, this book is for you.

“Honest, lyrical, and funny ... a beautifully-felt and deeply moving tribute to the ways sharing life stories can connect us with others, and sometimes, with ourselves.”

— Miriam E. Nelson, Ph.D., bestselling author of *Strong Women Stay Young*

Beth Finke is an award-winning author, teacher, and journalist. She also happens to be blind. Beth leads memoir-writing classes for older adults in Chicago, Illinois.

Meet Beth and learn more about her book: <http://bethfinke.com/>

Read a sample chapter: <http://goldenalleypress.com/writing-out-loud/sample-chapter>

This book is perfect for reading groups. Download the Reading Group Guide and interview with Beth here: <http://goldenalleypress.com/writing-out-loud/reading-group-guide>

Download Beth's Media Kit here: <http://goldenalleypress.com/beth-finke/media-kit>

Purchase *Writing Out Loud* at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound, Books a Million, or contact the publisher for discounted bulk orders: www.goldenalleypress.com .

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About the Author:

Beth Finke is an award-winning author, teacher, and journalist. She also happens to be blind.

Beth's Seeing Eye dog, Whitney, leads her through airports and hotels to events all over North America to speak on memoir writing, disability, workplace accessibility, and overcoming adversity. Audiences have included PepsiCo, American Library Association, United Stationers, Easterseals, The Seeing Eye, University of Chicago Medical School, and Carnegie Mellon University.

In summer, Beth can be found leading writing workshops at the Northwestern University Summer Writers' Conference and at Chicago's Printers Row Lit Fest.

She is the recipient of a writing fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the ASPCA's Henry Bergh award for children's literature. The Lisagor Award Beth won for a radio piece about the Chicago White Sox makes her the only blind woman in America to be honored for sports broadcasting, and she appeared on the Oprah Show in a short segment about working as a nude model for university art students before her writing career took off.

Beth is married to Mike Knezovich. They have one grown son, Gus, and live in the Printers Row neighborhood of Chicago with Beth's Seeing Eye dog, Whitney.

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About the Book:

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<http://goldenalleypress.com/writing-out-loud>

In 2004, blind writer Beth Finke reluctantly agrees to teach a memoir-writing class to older adults in downtown Chicago. Over the next decade, she comes to love her students and the community that forms around her courses. Filled with humor, poignancy, and stories in the students' own voices, this book will move and inspire readers of any age.

Purchase *Writing Out Loud* at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound, Books a Million, or [contact the publisher](#) for discounted bulk orders.

Review Copies and Media Interviews:

For a review copy of *Writing Out Loud* or an interview with Beth Finke, please contact her publicist at 610-966-4440 or info@bethfinke.com . When requesting a review copy, please provide your street address.