A seasoned teacher of creative writing in both community and classroom settings, Sherry Rosenthal’s approach to teaching is to first encourage owning and honoring one's unique impressions and perceptions of one's environment and society, whatever one's age or experience. In her workshops and classes, she uses writing prompts in order to facilitate group discussion and a free flow of ideas. Also, she encourages participants to read aloud their writing, and remain open to response, as a way of knowing what others "hear" in their written work. Rosenthal considers critiquing, and being critiqued, crucial both to learning to write well and to helping others reach their potential as writers. In group critiques, she uses the "sandwich technique" of both starting and finishing with a positive comment (the "bread" of the sandwich). The "meat" of the sandwich may consist of constructive comments intended to help a writer strengthen a piece of writing. Her approach to presenting her own writing is that she describes her goal or intention for the work, and the process, including any challenges or setbacks experienced. Then she will read from the work and invite audience response.

Rosenthal earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, San Diego as well as a masters and bachelor's degrees in literature. She is a tenured English professor at the College of Southern Nevada and the co-author of two Holocaust memoirs. A published author of short stories, essays and poems, she is an active member of the Henderson Writers Group.

**Community Workshops**

**Writing the Personal Memoir:** This workshop focuses on both drafting and crafting the personal memoir and includes writing prompts to help participants get started on telling their life stories.

**The Facts of Fiction: Plot, Characterization, Setting, and Dialogue:** This workshop focuses on four key components of effective fiction writing: plot, characterization, setting and dialogue. Handouts that contain descriptions and short examples of each of the core elements are provided. Separate workshops on each core element or a four-part series is available.

**Creative Aging: Writing the Autobiography:** This workshop focuses on planning, drafting, and writing the autobiography, either for publication, for friends and family, or for one’s own self. Topics include identifying and describing memorable highlights, turning points, and life decisions; the timelessness of well-known autobiographies by famous or notable people and what we can learn from these, and creating one’s legacy through words. A culminating event will be a public reading of participant writings crafted during the workshops.