

In her book, **THINKING ABOUT MEMOIR**, **Abigail Thomas** asks a probing question: **"Who are we and why does it matter?"**

Our own Gloria Lloyd found answers to this question more than seven years ago when she invited a group of UU women to meet at her home, one afternoon a month. Their purpose? To write memoirs of events taken from their lives and to share them with each other.

None had a background in writing beyond what school had provided; but over the following year, each and all surprised themselves at just how comfortable they became with turning a word or topic into the story of a lifetime.

Over the next few years, pausing only for a summer hiatus, UU's MEMOIRS participants steadily amassed a wealth of personal records. Landscapes shaped by love, loss and laughter color these accounts, making them gifts from the ancestral past to the familial future. Telling ***who we were...and why we ALL matter.***

Lisa:

Our first speaker first dropped in to the UUFF on Caroline Street almost 20 years ago for a summer service coincidentally entitled "Storytelling". Having grown up in Providence, RI, she was somewhat familiar with UU but recalls that they, UU's, were considered "kinda out there". She embraces that descriptor and has enjoyed being a part of this community in a number of capacities...Social Justice Chair, Yard Sale Coordinator, Adult Choir, and the committees...Human Resources, Chalice Circle Celebration, Visioning & Ministerial Feasibility, and Ministerial Search Committees. A retired Human Resources manager, she joined the Memoirs group over a year ago and has since documented many of the funny, sweet and embarrassing moments of her life and the lives of her family and friends. Please join me in welcoming Lisa Andretta as she reads two of her memoirs, "Food, Glorious Foods" and "Sporty Cars".

GAE:

Our next speaker, originally from the great state of Washington on the West Coast, was a High School English teacher in New York for more than twenty years before she moved to Fredericksburg in 1997. She joined UU shortly thereafter, and for six years was an enthusiastic member of Gloria Lloyd's original Memoirs group. Please join me in welcoming Gae Pinschmidt, as she reads her memoir, "Parenting".