**With a Little Help from My Friends: A Poetry Workshop**

**Outline, Goals and Ground Rules**

**Outline:**

1. Class 1 – Self-Introductions; Discussion of Handouts on Critiquing and Revising Poems and General Guidelines
2. Class 2 – First draft on one poem is due by **Thursday preceding class**. Class members will be emailed a packet of three poems from the list of submitted poems (chosen in the order they are received) and be prepared to offer impressions as well as suggestions on how the work might be improved.
3. Class 3 thru 11 – Repeat, with additional poems submitted for critique.
4. Class 12 – Strategies for submitting your work and discussion of various publishing options. Suggestions for future reading and questions.

**Goals:**

1. Learn and practice how to both offer and receive constructive feedback on poems in progress.
2. Using this feedback, *revise, revise*, and *revise* some more at least one of your poems to submit it for publication.

**Ground Rules:**

1. All comments should be expressed in a kind and professional manner addressed to the writing itself, never to the writer personally. **It’s all about the poem** and making it better.
2. Leave all politics, religion, and other strong viewpoints at the door. Even if you personally disagree with the subject matter of the poem, try to focus instead on its construction, what worked best, and how it could be improved.
3. Everything that is written and discussed in the workshop is confidential and not to be shared with others outside the group unless permission is obtained. All writing is treated as fiction unless the writer says differently and chooses to share it as something that really happened.
4. Class members will submit at least one poem during the course on the Thursday preceding the next class. Additional poems may be submitted, but will only be discussed after everyone has had one of their poems critiqued. All members will be expected to contribute regular comments to our discussions.