



THE MILESTONE APPROACH

Jan. 10-14, 2022

**A five-day intensive writing retreat with Katie Hafner
at the historic Los Poblanos Inn & Lavender Farm
in Albuquerque, N.M.**

About me: I'm a journalist and writer of nonfiction narratives: My six books have been published variously by Simon & Schuster, Random House, Scribner, and Bloomsbury. I covered technology for [The New York Times](#) for two decades, and now I write primarily about healthcare for *The Times*. I recently finished my first novel, and I'm currently writing a book about, yes, the game of golf. I'm also host and executive producer of a weekly podcast called [Our Mothers Ourselves](#).

About the Milestone Approach: This is a method for outlining, and marking progress and productivity that I developed while working on [Mother Daughter Me](#). By breaking down an essay or book into small sections, or swatches, a large task becomes manageable and progress can be easily tracked. It has worked wonders for me and others who have taken my courses.

My assistants: Allison Thomas and Sue Scott. Our trio meets regularly at Los Poblanos for micro retreats. Allison is working on a memoir and Sue is writing a novel. Both are avid adherents to The Milestone Approach. The three of us will partner with you to ensure you make real progress.

Group size: The group will be limited to 12-15 participants.

Writing sample: Please send one unpublished writing sample of 2,000 words or less. It can be fiction, nonfiction, essay, memoir, or whatever you're working on. Acceptance to the retreat will be based on the strength and promise of your

writing sample, and how much we believe you might benefit from and contribute to the retreat.

The schedule: Sue, Allison and I will be there starting at 10 a.m. Monday. As you arrive, feel free to check in with us at the big and very beautiful library at Los Poblanos. This room is *ours* to have, hold, and cherish for the week. That evening we'll have a welcome dinner in the Campo dining room. We'll all tell the group what we're working on, and our goals and plans for the week.



The Library. Photo by Caitlyn Ottinger

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we'll meet from 9 a.m. to noon, break for lunch, then reconvene in the afternoon. Tuesday morning will be devoted to introducing you to the Milestone Approach, so that you can get yourself well grounded in it over the course of the week. We'll host a guest speaker for afternoon tea on one of the days.

Each morning we will set aside time for writing, working on "swatches" as identified in the Milestone Approach. Writing will continue in the afternoons, with time each day for a few of us to read aloud and take comments.

Your schedule can be as structured or unstructured as you like. If you prefer to skip some meetings and sit somewhere and write, that is fine. You should feel free to mix and match as your mood dictates. This is *your* week.



What you can expect from me: Each participant will have at least one one-on-one session with me. I will also be available for informal consultation throughout the week. If you want to get a rich outline done, I'll help you do that. If you need help with structure, I'm your woman. If you need hands-on line editing, well, that's my specialty (see photo).

Food: In case you aren't familiar with the food at Los Poblanos, all I can say is that it is sublime. Most of it is grown on their organic farm. The LP web site will tell you all about [the Campo cuisine](#).

Reading: A month or so before the retreat, I'll send out a list of recommended reading.

Retreat fee: \$2400, which includes course fee, lodging and meals (breakfast and alcohol not included).