

Writer As Witness

By Lee B. Savidge

Witnessing starts with observing. But keeping your observations to yourself is not usually helpful, unless you want to keep a secret skeleton hidden in the closet. The word witness makes me think of people testifying in court. They are sworn to tell the truth, as they know it. I suppose some people think of witnessing as exposing some illicit behavior. But I think of witnessing as sharing what I have experienced, whether good or bad, as truthfully, openly, honestly, and interestingly as I can. Sharing mistakes may help others avoid them, or help others in the same boat know they are not alone. Sharing what hurts can help heal, and sharing joy can be uplifting.