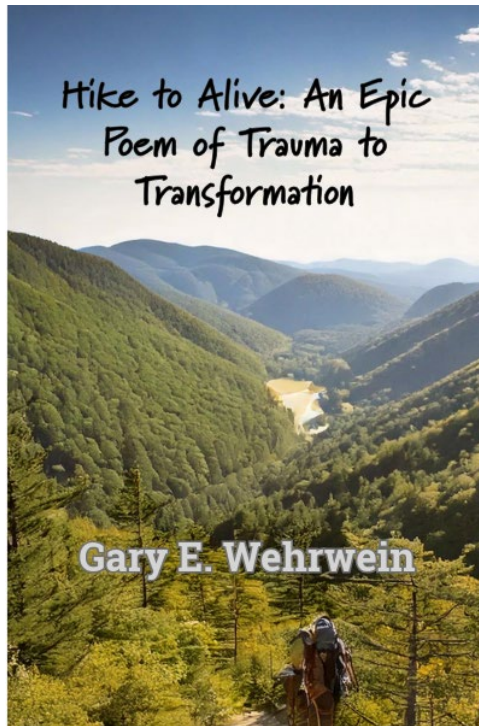


Hike to Alive: An Epic Poem of Trauma to Transformation



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Rev. Dr. Gary E. Wehrwein is a retired ordained United Church of Christ minister. He lives in Keene, NH and Denia, Spain with his wife, Pilar. Their family is blended. Some family live in other parts of the world. Gary is a former pastor of rural churches in VT and NH. His doctoral training led him to become a Licensed Clinical Pastoral Psychotherapist with Maps Counseling Service. There, he served as Clinical Director and his service included Hospice Chaplaincy, Community Counselor at a life-care center, and various consultancies with area churches.

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On my shelf full of AT books, among the countless linear narratives, tales, and wondrous hiking experiences, Wehrwein's book stands alone--a singular, shimmering emerald, exposing a heroic healing quest amidst the grandeur, beauty, and deeply loving care of Nature. Elegantly weaving the inner and the outer, this swirling, poetic encapsulation reveals the powerful healing available for us when we listen, when the loving forces of Nature become audible to our souls, and we once again find our salvation." - J.David Forbes, M.D.

"Starting, like Dante, in the darkness of midlife despair, the author discovers by serendipitous grace how to survive and eventually heal from the deadly shame that has followed him since his childhood and youth on account of multiple sexual assaults. His transformative way leads him over the whole, long Appalachian Trail. It requires him to take in stride whatever fate deals out, whether deadly dangers or the gifts of ancient spirits and fellow hikers. He is sustained above all by the spirit of Crow and his beloved's serene, redeeming presence. These poems, written in the first person and the present tense, are so personal that a reader enters the life of Gary (Crow Feathah) as a friend. ere is no death penalty!" -Ann Conrad Lammers, Ph.D.

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