

November 2015

Dear Women Writing for (a) Change Community,

November brings a mélange of ingredients for a delicious autumn: chilly mornings topped with warm afternoon sun; a brisk wind to finish off the leaf-fall; cobalt skies with scudding clouds to stir up my muse. I am surprised to look back and see that I haven't written a community letter in some time.



2015 has been all about deepening our roots, branching out, and (as suggested by our name) a bit of change. Looking ahead, 2016 marks our 25th year! Recent science explains that the human brain reaches full maturity near age 25. If the same can be said for organizations, then Women Writing for (a) Change is coming fully into her own.

Outreach Partnerships this year have included long-time work with Project Connect, Pleasant Ridge Montessori, and Northwest Schools. Our Girl Scout programs are becoming more popular as the word gets out. New partnerships are being developed with Pinebrook Retirement Center, Holmes Middle School in Covington and Springer School, with more partnerships in the development phase.

This past summer, eleven women took part in the **Conscious Feminine Leadership Academy**, under the excellent Leadership of Beth Lodge Rigal, Director of our Bloomington affiliate. Participants are in the midst of their practicum projects and paper writing. One CFLA participant told me, "This has been one of the top three experiences of my entire life."

Young Women Writing for (a) Change Summer Camps celebrated 20 years in 2015. With 77 young women served, this was our largest camp in a long time. Spring and fall Sunday classes for girls and teens continue to be well-received.

Core Classes are maintaining their strong role as the foundation of our offerings, and this fall we added a successful co-ed circle! Winter and summer writing retreats for women are becoming a staple and are valued by participants. Specialty classes continue to serve a variety of interests, and Maintain Your Writers Shape, a drop-in class on Tuesday evenings, is attended by new and current students and facilitators. Our free monthly book group has taken a new shape, with three consecutive months sharing a common theme. The fall series covered feminist classics, and attracted many.

Our writers have been out and about in our city. Meaningful Mondays: Women Poets in the Courtyard at Arnold's featured several of our poets; the Night of Female Comics in July brought our own comic writers to the stage; at our Wine and Art fundraiser, our readers shared recent work. Watch for the V-Day event coming to our stage on February 12th, to raise awareness and support for fighting gender-based violence. This year our own writers will be bravely sharing their stories.

We were thrilled to welcome 180 new students in 2015! Many thanks to you for helping us spread the word by inviting friends, family members and colleagues to our classes and events. Gratitude to our donors and volunteers, who help us to keep Women Writing for (a) Change thriving.

2016, our 25th year, promises to be a time for connection and celebration! Exciting plans are underway. Stay tuned for announcements and invitations! As always, I thank **you** for being an enthusiastic participant in our creative community. I appreciate each and every one of you.

With Gratitude,

Diane Debevec
Executive Director