



## COMING TOGETHER FOR OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

The red balloons were flying in celebration of our 25th Reunion gathering, bringing together over 50 women who have been a part of WWf(a)C from its earliest beginnings to our newest members. Barbra Druffel opened our circle with the familiar rituals—lighting the candle and reading a poem, but instead of passing the stone, each woman found a stone on her chair to take home as a remembrance. The theme for the evening was how WWf(a)C has informed our individual and collective lives, so attendees picked up their pens for a 5-minute fast write on what being a part of this organization has meant to them. Instead of read-backs, attendees participated in a “read forward” in which each woman read one or two lines from her writing. Here are a few of those lines which are, as Barbra wrote in the program, “the threads that connect us in this gathering and beyond,” and tell what WWf(a)C has meant in so many lives:

*It has opened up a door for me, a door to me.*

*I have told women in this circle things I have never told another living soul.*

*This is my tribe, women I could stand up for.*

*I had a voice, and it was worthy.*

*I remember the soft, luscious cushion of listening.*

*These walls contain us when we need to be held, and let us go when we need to be in the world.*

The evening concluded by Sarah Bartlett presenting our founder, Mary Pierce Brosmer, with a bouquet, representing the flowering of this organization from the seeds she planted. Mary reflected on her experience and her feeling that “I had done what the universe had in mind for me.” Thanks to Mary, thanks to Barbra and her committee for making this a reunion to remember, and thanks to all who attended and make WWf(a)C a container that holds us all.