



write around

— PORTLAND —



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February 9, 2011

Hi Friend,

When we say "Write **Around** Portland," we mean it!

This week, we're kicking off workshops in Wilsonville, Oregon City, Hillsboro, Woodburn, Estacada, outer SE, inner NE and all around town.

Volunteers will facilitate 10-week writing workshops for adults living with mental illness, low income housing residents, youth in juvenile detention, pre-hospice seniors in memory care and many others.

We've also scheduled our full series of 2011 [Prompt workshops at Powell's City of Books](#) and twice monthly workshops for everyone at [HOTLIPS Pizza](#).

Hope this finds you well--

Robyn

Robyn Steely
Executive Director

P.S.
We mean "**Around**" in the virtual sense, too. You can connect with us - wherever you are - via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). You can also check out our new featured writer on [YouTube](#).



**Writer Featured on
YouTube & at the Portland
Art Museum**

"At first, you don't think you can write at all. And then all of a sudden you realize that you actually got something down on paper," [new featured writer Edna-Alice White](#) told us. "When you put things down on paper, it makes it real."

Edna-Alice participated in a special 'Object Stories' workshop we held in partnership with the [Portland Art Museum](#). PAM is creating a special kiosk to highlight the object stories.

We've also just added a great feature where you can hear her read her piece "Art and I" on [YouTube](#).

"I came in [to the workshop] as a low-income senior, but there were people in the group who were in all kinds of situations," Edna-Alice said.

respect.
writing.
community.

**In this
newsletter:**

- Letter from the Executive Director
- Writer featured on YouTube & at Portland Art Museum
- Staff changes: Good luck Sara & Welcome Devin
- She started it! (or how to make your birthday even better)

"In not being judgmental about the other people in the group, I found that I'm less judgmental about myself."



Sara Guest (far left) and staff at our anthology release party & community reading.

Good Luck, Sara & Welcome, Devin!

The new year brought staffing changes to Write Around Portland.

Sara Guest ended her amazing tenure as our Program Coordinator. Sara first connected with us in 2005 as a volunteer, providing childcare to enable low income parents to participate in our workshops. She went on to become one of our star volunteer workshop facilitators and then joined our staff in 2007.

Sara recruited and trained volunteers, facilitated workshops, set up partnerships with agencies and took the lead creating our beautiful books. We miss her already and wish her well.

Devin DiBernardo recently joined our staff as Program Coordinator. Devin brings with her 7 years of nonprofit and community organizing experience at Sisters Of The Road. She has respected Write Around Portland for many years and knows numerous people whose lives have changed through writing. Devin told us she's thrilled to build community with everyone who is a part of our program, and we're delighted she's joined us!

You can reach Devin here at our office (503.796.9224) and by [email](#).



She Started It!

Kate celebrated her 25th birthday by asking her friends to empty out their change jars for Write Around Portland. It was a great success!

After the party, Kate told us: ***Write Around Portland is my favorite Portland non-profit. I wanted to do what I could to help ensure they stick around for a very long time. Turns out, I had fun in the process!***

You can help raise funds in honor of your birthday, wedding, housewarming, marathon run or book club meeting. You don't even need a holiday or celebration--believing in the power of writing is reason enough!

[We've got a great booklet of fun and easy ideas](#) that you can use to make Portland a better place.

Give us a call if you'd like a copy mailed to you - 503.796.9224.

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