

Featured Writer Shirley A. Wallachy

Shirley A. Wallachy, 59, was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She participated in a Write Around Portland workshop in Fall 2017 at Home Forward's Gallagher Plaza. In the workshop, Shirley drew inspiration for her writing from her family, particularly her mother. She enjoys volunteering with Write Around Portland and hopes to continue writing in the future.



MY HOME IN SPACE by Shirley A. Wallachy

I come from Mars.
Planet Mars.
I am red.
Or so they say.
Many people think I am green.
What do you think I am?
I think I am tall.
With big ears.
And a sharp nose.
I make noises like a whale.
But there's no sound in space.

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Interview with Featured Writer Shirley A. Wallachy

Interviewed by Write Around Portland intern Kaylee Ma.

How did you first hear about Write Around Portland?

I heard about it at Gallagher Plaza. They had a note up and everybody said "Yeah! You should sign up and come!" So I signed up.

What was it like writing with your neighbors at Gallagher Plaza?

I liked it. Because I could read what they wrote and they could read what I wrote and it was really nice.

What was your favorite part about the workshop?

The facilitator we had. She was nice. And it was just nice getting acquainted with other people. It was just nice sitting around the table and hearing all of the other people and what they wrote.

What inspired you to write your piece “My Home in Space” in the anthology?

I don't know why I wrote it. I just wanted to do something that I've never done.

What other things did you write about in the workshop?

I don't know. It was just fun writing and if I could do it again I would.

What was fun about the experience?

I can't speak a lot. But it was just nice sitting around joking and laughing; it was a nice experience.

Would you recommend Write Around Portland to others?

Yeah. I would. I would encourage people to do it. It's fun and Write Around Portland has good people.

How was it like to see your piece published in the anthology?

It was nice just to have my piece in the book.

Did you read your piece at the reading? How was that?

It was fun! I got up there and read my piece.

How did you pick this piece?

I can't read and I can't write, so I have a caregiver helping me with it. We sat down and talked about it. And she said "If you're going to pick anything, I would pick this one, because it stands out."

Is there anything else you would like to say about the experience?

I liked it. It was really super. I would tell everybody to try. They would like it.