

## Spotlight On...Elizabeth Mannion

I took a sampler class in the beginning of 2014 with Phebe's Thursday morning writing group and was immediately drawn in to Women Writing for (a) Change. I had heard about the writing classes from various writing friends but had delayed joining myself for years as other obligations kept me busy. As women we tend to let things that enrich ourselves be the last on the list. Finally I realized it was time to nurture myself and Women Writing for (a) Change was the perfect fit.

I have been a consistent member of the Thursday morning group ever since that sampler. The writing class creates a confidential space where one can write with a community of writers in a nurturing environment. Every time I walk into the space it feels like I have returned to my second home. The women I write with have become like sisters and we share a bond that is created by the sharing of our words. We acknowledge each other's voices and learn about one another through our stories and our journey through the writing process. Every person has a unique talent that is encouraged to blossom through the rituals of our work together in the writing circle.

I fell in love with the organization and decided to take my journey forward by joining the Board of Trustees so that I could help ensure the organization continues to thrive far into the future. I am currently the Board President and enjoy working on several committees. I am on the Executive Committee which discusses the topics that need to be brought up at the Board Meetings. I am on the Governance Committee which makes sure the Board is meeting all its requirements and plans for the future of the Board. I am also on the Fund Development Committee which helps raise money for the organization. I love working on the Event Planning Committee which is hosting A Taste of Wine & Art...with Words on October 20, 2018.

Last Summer I decided to further deepen my connection with Women Writing for (a) Change and took the two week intensive Conscious Feminine Leadership Academy. The course work was twofold guiding the participant through the path of self discovery and giving one the tools to be able to facilitate a writing circle. After the two week course finished the participants held their own practice circles and wrote a paper describing their journey. Some day I hope to use those skills to hold my own circle.

Prior to my involvement with Women Writing for (a) Change I have had several other facets to my life including being a Prosecutor, PTA President, volunteer for the Symphony to name a few. By far my favorite occupations were raising my three children and owning and running a small independent bookstore. I think working in or owning a bookstore is a dream for most writers as we love words. I am continuing my passion with words at Women Writing for (a) Change!