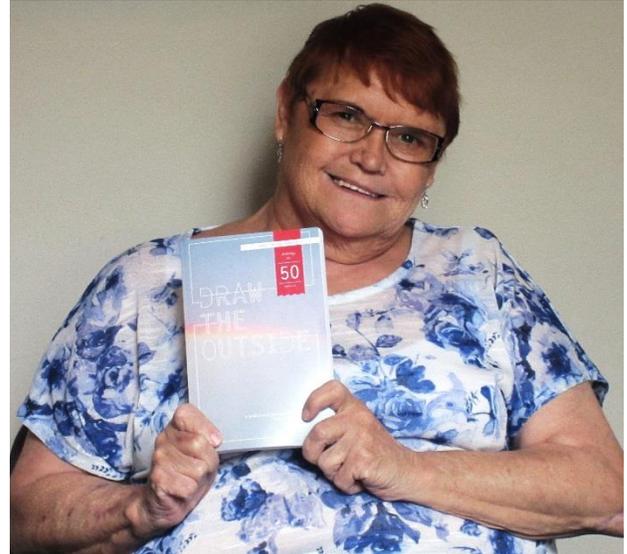


Featured Writer Interview with Judy Potts

Judy Potts, 68, participated in a workshop at Lent's Village Apartments in the spring. Judy worked with a scribe to put her words to paper; since her work with Write Around, she has begun to dictate her work to her computer. She is working on two projects: a collection of stories about an old friend and a children's novel.



Tomorrow I will by Judy Potts

Tomorrow I will go for a walk. I am determined to start walking again. It seems hard now that I've lost Sam. He loved our walks so. Well, now I have another friend called Mr. Walker. It holds me up when Parkinson's wants to break me down. Mr. Walker is a good friend, although I resent having him around. But I know he helps me.

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Interview with featured Writer Judy Potts

Interviewed by a Write Around volunteer

Do you have a favorite thing that you write about?

I like meaningful stuff, but it doesn't have to be sad. My goal is to put a smile, or a belly laugh, on the reader.

How did you first hear about Write Around?

Through an employee at Rose Community Development, she said they were going to have this. I said, yeah, I want to sign up.

Right away, you wanted to?

Yeah, I was ready for it. And then some of my neighbors, I was glad that they signed up too. In Write Around, I met people that had sadness. Dark writers. There were a few of them, that wrote very dark things. One said to me, I wish I could write, you know, something light and airy like you do, but my life hasn't been that way. I think you write what you live. And what you dream, what you want to do.

What the experience of the workshop like?

It was a lot of fun... I loved it. I found myself really looking forward to Fridays. I enjoyed it so much, and anyone, especially

seniors, and the younger groups, I just encourage them, if they have the chance, to do this. Go ahead and put ten weeks in. It'll be worth it.

What do you feel you got out of it, at the end of the ten weeks? Do you think you changed?

Yes, I really do. Because I walked into it kinda thinking, well, maybe twenty, thirty more years I got, and what am I gonna do, you know? And not really happy with my future, what I thought... It was encouraging. Sitting down and knowing that I had all these people supporting me, and especially my scribe. I got a lot of encouragement out of it. I'm looking forward to another one, if I can do it.

Were you nervous when you heard you'd have a scribe?

It was fine, I wasn't really nervous about that. I'm actually lazy, so. (laughs) That's one thing that I liked about having a scribe... I could relax and tell the story that was in my head.

Do you feel like you'll write more, having done this workshop?

Oh, sure, because I can just sit down and record. And actually, I just did some on a whim, recording it, but I had written a whole book out loud in my apartment. How it ends, everything. I've got it.

How did it feel to have friends come and see you at the reading, hear your work?

So proud. I really was. And my grandson, he's like, grandma, you ROCK. And my daughter, I was glad she had come... She seemed to really enjoy it. My youngest daughter's fiance, he was so proud. Did I tell you what happened when I left?

I don't think so, what happened?

Well, I walked out, and people, I didn't even have any idea who they were, they were saying, bye Judy, see you Judy. I went by this one guy, he was one of the readers, and he said bye Judy, thank you for the story. I said, well thank you too. And I started out, and he said bye Mr Walker [to my walker]! And my grandson said, did that dude just say bye Mr. Walker? I said, yeah, he turned to life!

Is there a part of the workshop that was your favorite?

(Waves postcard) You know... it just makes you feel good when somebody writes and says hey, I really enjoyed it. When these would come in the mail, they just made my day. And, two, our facilitator. He was so good. He would just put you at ease, because he wrote too, and I loved some of the stuff that he wrote.

How do you feel about being published in the book?

I am so proud of it. My friend said to me, today, Debbie, the Meals on Wheels driver, she said to me, I can now say I know a published writer. I said, yes you can!

Do you feel more connected to people after Write Around?

Oh, yeah. I've always been somebody that walked into a doctor's office, room full of people, total silence. And not to brag, but when my name's called, everybody's talking. Because I start talking to this one and that one, and it's a chain reaction. And my kids always say, Mom, if you ride the bus, don't speak to strangers! But... I think it opened me up a lot. It helped me more than just knowing that I could write. It helped me like me. Helped me like my ideas.

Do you feel like you have more confidence?

I do. I do.