



*history is the dream of what can be, it is
the relation between things in a continuum
of imagination* RANT – DIANE DIPRIMA

Dear

The Gloucester Writers Center has become a crossroads where memory meets imagination. The little house at 126 East Main Street, where Vincent Ferrini wrote poetry for decades, has become a vibrant, working center for writers from all over the world to visit and a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to share their stories and develop their craft.

Imagination is the basis of all creative vision but it isn't a crystal ball. When we opened the doors in 2010 we didn't know how much energy and growth would flow in and out of the GWC. In the past year alone we have hosted 70 public events, in addition to our regular classes, workshops, and residencies.

We didn't know that our friend Ralph Maud would bequeath his unique collection of source material on the poet Charles Olson to the GWC, over 4000 books, known as the Maud / Olson Library. We are the proud stewards of this resource for scholars and learners, now housed at 108 East Main Street, and are envisioning ways to use it for generations to come.

Now we are imagining the next seven years and the ways that our mission can continue to inform our growth. How do we become ever more transparent? How do we strengthen our board and staff, encourage our volunteers and grow our programs in response to what the community needs and wants? How do we hear more voices?

The many writers and story tellers who have shared their words at Gloucester Writer Center events are too numerous to list here but you can listen to them through podcasts on our website at gloucesterwriters.org. We invite you to visit the new Maud / Olson Library and to participate in the events and programs listed in our weekly email blasts. We received your responses to our recent online survey and are busy working on our educational offerings for 2017.

All this is possible because you support this empowering work. Please give as generously as you can during this year of growth. Please share your voice in imagining the future of the Gloucester Writers Center.

With Appreciation

Annie Thomas and Henry Ferrini
Co-Directors, Gloucester Writers Center

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