



*"Hedgebrook
isn't a
retreat...
it's an
advance."*

GLORIA STEINEM

HEDGEBROOK RETREAT FOR WOMEN WRITERS

"Hedgebrook supports women so they may speak the truth, tell the messy, sometimes unpopular stories, break taboos, find their voice, their outrage, their delight, their power in the world."

EVE ENSLER

"Hedgebrook is this quiet, crazy-powerful resource resting on an island in the Pacific Northwest. Its mission—to support, ignite, and inspire writers in chasing down our creative and/or political visions—is a vision in itself, resulting in great gifts for readers and writers alike."

HOLLY MORRIS

"As a black woman in America I am always conscious of being under siege. I felt safer at Hedgebrook than I have ever felt in America— before or since."

BARBARA NEELY

WOMEN AUTHORIZING CHANGE IN THE WORLD

Fueled by Virginia Woolf's belief that giving a writer a room of her own is the greatest gift of confidence in her voice, Hedgebrook is the only retreat in the country that awards no-cost residencies exclusively to women writers. Over twenty years, our vision has evolved into a vibrant community of over 1,000 women authoring change in the world.

A ROOM OF HER OWN

Situated on 48 acres of Whidbey Island forest and meadow, facing the Puget Sound close to Seattle, Hedgebrook hosts women writers from all over the world. With residencies ranging from two weeks to two months; they come to write, rejuvenate, and connect with each other.

Residents are housed in handcrafted cottages. They spend their days in solitude, writing, reading, walking in the woods, on the beach, or one of the picturesque trails around the island. In the evenings, they gather in our cozy farmhouse kitchen to share a home-cooked meal created with organic produce from our garden. Over dinner, they share their work, their process, and their stories.

DYNAMIC DIVERSITY

We are committed to bringing together an extraordinary, diverse mix of distinctive women ranging in age from 18-83, who write in all genres, and come to us from all walks of life. Some are world-renowned; others are writing their first work. More than 50% of our alumnae are women of color and this exceptional community comes to us from around the world, including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United States, West Indies, and Zimbabwe.

*"For long hours of peace, lost in the labyrinth of memory, I sat at the windows of Meadowhouse, surrounded by protective fir trees, and wrote most of *The Horse on Our Balcony*. It would not have been possible to write this had I not been here."*

CAROLYN FORCHÉ



"I find myself describing Hedgebrook this way: It's as if women took our 5000 years or so of nurturing experience, and turned it on each other."

GLORIA STEINEM

CREATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Eve Ensler, Carolyn Forché, Holly Morris,
Naomi Shihab Nye, Gloria Steinem,
Alice Walker and Sarah Waters

THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES

The gift of time and space for these women, along with the recognition of their work, profoundly impacts their sense of themselves as writers. Given the rare opportunity to unplug from the distractions and pressures of daily life and connect with nature, they go deeper into their writing, often entering new territory or taking greater risks. Repeatedly, writers say they are able to begin, develop, and complete work at Hedgebrook that they would not have done otherwise.

SUSTAINING WOMEN'S VOICES & COMMUNITY

Hedgebrook's radical hospitality is offered in this supportive environment free of charge, and we aim to keep it that way. Applicants are selected based on the quality of their writing and strength of their proposal - not whether or not they are published. We are committed to nurturing the individual voice and the communal voice of women. This creates a ripple effect, as the connection that begins between writers radiates out to countless readers and audiences who experience their novels, poems, plays, screenplays, graphic novels, memoirs and more.

Our alumnae have: received MacArthur Genius Fellowships and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the Lannan Foundation; been selected as Pulitzer Prize finalists and New York Times Notable Book authors; featured in *O* magazine; nominated for Raymond Carver Awards and Pushcart Prizes. Hedgebrook writers have produced national bestsellers, award-winning films and PBS documentaries; they've appeared on the McNeil-Lehrer Poetry Series and performed in the Tony award-winning *Def Poetry Jam* on Broadway; their articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Esquire*, and *Mother Jones*; and their plays have premiered on and off Broadway.

EXTENDING OUR KITCHEN TABLE: Feeding Our Alumnae And Readers Around The World

Our commitment to nurturing writers doesn't end with their residency. We extend our kitchen table conversation into the world, connecting women writers with readers and audiences through reading series' and events in major cities, professional development workshops and community programs designed to ignite a public dialogue around significant issues.

PUBLISHING—We publish new work in partnership with independent publisher Whit Press.

OUTREACH TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES—We bring literature to new audiences in non-traditional venues.

MULTI-LINGUAL READINGS—We are building a strong multilingual reading and writing community.

NURTURE SEEDLINGS—We mentor young authors and actively connect with young readers.

HEDGEBROOK: *Changing the world through women's stories.*

