



guesthouse

10 YEARS HOLDING THE SPACE

NEWSLETTER—2017: Volume 2



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HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY TO US!!

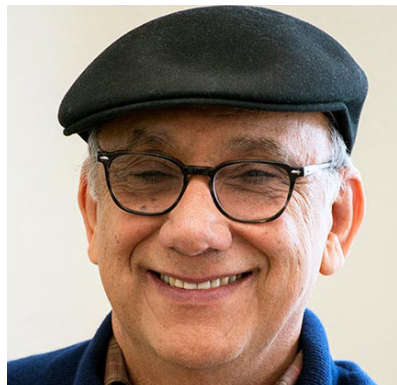
This coming April 15th, Guest House celebrates a milestone: our 10th anniversary! A lot has happened since we took possession of the building April 28, 2008 (see *GH History: Part 3, page 5*). There have been moments along the way where we thought we'd never make it. But here we are—vibrant, beautiful, nurturing, professionally staffed and hosting some 3,000 guests each year from a variety of paths and disciplines. Now that is something to celebrate. Which is exactly what we're going to do April 15th and 16th.

Final plans were still fluid at press time, but here is a tentative line-up of what we are planning. You can follow the developing roster of

Sunday, April 15, 2018

1:00-1:30: Welcome and official kick-off happens.

1:30-3:30: Hameed Ali, founder of the Diamond Approach, will join us via live stream to deliver a message about Guest House and its place in the history of the DA. We will have an opportunity to interact with Hameed in real time!



Hameed Ali will stream live to GH

LEARN MORE & SIGN UP TODAY
guesthousecenter.org/anniversary

festivities at the event webpage. The festivities will kick off at lunchtime on Sunday, April 15th. If you're already in-house for the Emerald Mountain retreat, lunch is taken care of. If you're arriving then and want to partake, the cost will only be \$15 extra.

3:30: Guest Room Check-in

3:30-6:00: Hors d'oeuvres in the Piano Lobby, Sun Room and Front Lobby

4:00-5:00: Piano concert by Donald Shaw and Tom Muraco

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GIVING CORNER

It's about the world, not just us

Can you believe the retreat center many of you helped found and support through its growth is alive and vital after 10 years?!? Even more heartening is that Guest House continues to be a haven of nurturing serenity despite the odds against this in our distressingly polarized time. When truth can be "alternative" and where divisions are encouraged, Guest House continues to invite—through the diverse groups who meet here—as well as emanate much-needed antidotes of clarity, love, oneness and peace.

Without you, we might have closed our doors long ago, and without your help, we can't keep doing good. Don't let separateness and divisiveness win. Please be an active part of the Guest House Family and, in so doing, be a catalyst for moving us all closer toward unity and love. Our donations are down. So we turn to you, our friends, and ask you to be generous this year in supporting the mission of Guest House.

(Continued on page 6)

Essential Contemplations

Silence is subtle, yet its importance to spiritual practice cannot be overstated. Here are some thoughts about how silence, and the stillness we may find within it, can enhance our experience and our development as human beings.

.....

Let us be silent, that we may hear the whispers of the gods.

—**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

.....

Quietness is the beginning of virtue. To be silent is to be beautiful. Stars do not make a noise.

—**James Stephens**

.....

Basic trust means trusting enough to let your mind stop, to be silent within, knowing that if there is something you need to know, the knowing will come. It means trusting that if you need to do something, you will be able to do it. It means accepting and trusting the silence, the stillness, the Beingness.

—**A.H. Almaas**

.....

Listen! Clam up your mouth and be silent like an oyster shell, for that tongue of yours is the enemy of the soul, my friend. When the lips are silent, the heart has a hundred tongues.

—**Rumi**

NEWS

GH News

NEW DRAFT PICKS We've got so many new faces on the GH team! First up is **Alan Demick**, our fresh (but well seasoned) executive chef/director of dining services. For the past nine years, Alan worked at Simon's Marketplace in Chester, where he fed many of us not even knowing it! You'll recognize him by his tattoos. Some are culinary (a butcher's diagram of a pig because "it's my favorite thing to cook" and a fish skeleton because he loves fishing). Another pays homage to 14th-century theologian William of Occam who espoused the principle of "Occam's razor"—the "shaving away" of unnecessary assumptions when distinguishing between two theories. Clearly he's a straight shooter, which is a good thing!



Alan Demick

Then there's **Keith Bowen**, facilities specialist, who sets up meeting rooms, handles routine maintenance and "contractor maintenance" (i.e. painting and construction). He comes with high recommendations: Saralyn's known him since they were teenagers. He's also a musician (keyboard and guitar) and pretty grounded. To Charlie's talk about numbers and data he responded, "You need to learn to meditate..."



Keith Bowen

Ben Doran was promoted from part-time front desk associate to new guest services/event coordinator. A recent grad from Salve Regina University in Newport, he started his own business when he graduated—Local to Local LLC, which connects local companies to sell each other's products in new markets. Way into hiking and the outdoors, he tackled the Appalachian Trail by himself!



Ben Doran

It's a family affair with **Ember Wade** who is the daughter of Elyse WadeStone, one of our third-shift front desk associates. She worked in retail before, but is taking to her full time housekeeper position very well.



Ember Wade

Deki McKenney started with us in February as a front desk associate. She's a retired software engineer who lives in Deep River and also former owner of Deja Gallery in Chester. Her job at Guest House, as well as participation in Diamond Approach inquiry and book groups and other activities, is part of what she calls "re-engineering my life."

And we're thrilled to welcome **Cat DiSalvo** as dining room attendant, who is also dipping her toes into the other departments in her down time. She was in fast food before GH, so we're hoping to slow her down. But already she's shedding stuff (like the "Col" she dropped when she moved from Colchester to just plain Chester).

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Silent Retreat for DA Students & Partners

by Laura Wells

Sandra Maitri and Eugene Cash will hold their silent meditation retreat—exclusively for Diamond Approach students and their partners—at Guest House this coming fall, from September 7th through 12th. This retreat has been held for over 10 years on the West Coast, and we asked one of the students who attended last year about the value and her experiences there.



How does meditation support our primary practice of inquiry in the Diamond Approach? Why is meditation a central part of all our group meetings? Why is it encouraged as a daily practice? How do meditation, inquiry and the practice of presence all coalesce to form a ground for intimacy, aliveness and realness in our daily lives?



Sandra Maitri & Eugene Cash

These are the types of inquiries master Diamond Approach teachers Sandra Maitri and Eugene Cash hold in the space for this six-day silent meditation retreat, a retreat format they've offered for many years in California. They are travelling east to offer it for the first time at our very own Guest House. Days are spent in silence, alternating between sitting, walking and eating meditation, within a field of fellow students and their partners. Evening talks weave in aspects of Diamond Approach teachings to support intimacy with one's personal experience as a doorway to experiencing reality.

"Sandra and Eugene's silent retreat feels like a nice long exhale," says DA teacher Jill Davey. "They are both masters at providing an environment that is soft and contained, and they bring an abundance of wisdom, experience and humor to this retreat. I've been participating for years now. It has become an annual reset for my soul."

I participated in their California retreat in 2017 and was most impacted by the extraordinary field of compassion, clarity and strength that emerged. It seemed to emanate from Eugene and Sandra's deeply developed personal presences and practices, and spread through the group field with the shared dedication to be with our silence and stay with it ... no matter what showed up. I can't say it was an "easy" retreat, but it was powerful and rich. Becoming intimate with my own experience allowed me to glimpse what is really happening, what is really alive, moment to moment. Even coming face-to-face with my habits of thought and identifications that keep a deeper sense of reality at bay felt like a gift. My soul was deeply nourished, and reality got some light of day!

"It's a privilege to dive deep into meditation in the space held by Sandra and Eugene," believes fellow

DA teacher Vivienne Kretschmer Leahy. "The silent retreats reflect their many years of dedicated practice and exploration of how all the elements of the Diamond Approach work together to bring about sustained and grounded awakeness in life. With clarity, freshness and wisdom they offer a thorough progressive instruction in the practice of meditation, along with times to look at how it is working for and impacting you. The inspiration to practice is still alive in me many months later."

We are all deeply grateful to Eugene and Sandra for offering this retreat to East Coast students. I hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to explore silence within a supportive field of Diamond Approach teachers, students and teachings.

SIGN UP TODAY

guesthousecenter.org/SilentRetreat

WHEN: September 7-12, 2018

TUITION: \$490

ROOM & BOARD: \$700 - \$1,025
(depending on room type)

COMMUTER: \$360

(Limited subsidies available)

The first 20 people to sign up can use coupon code SIGNMEUP and receive \$150 off their cost!

Please enroll today as we expect it to fill up quickly! All students in the Ridhwan School, as well as their partners, are welcome to attend.



Late this summer, one of our newer groups returned for their second event at Guest House: The Writers Lab. This is a fascinating gathering where up-and-coming female screenwriters are brought together with veteran female screenwriters from the industry. We got in touch with the organizations that co-sponsor the Lab, Iris Films and New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT), for their take on The Writers Lab and their time at Guest House.

WHAT IS THE WRITERS LAB? WHO ARE THE ORGANIZERS?

The Writers Lab is an intensive four-day retreat where women screenwriters over 40 work one-on-one with outstanding female film professionals (mentors). We welcome submissions from women who have a story to tell and a cinematic vision. It's the only program in the world of its kind that is especially for women in this underserved age group.

The Lab is produced by IRIS and New York Women in Film & Television and is funded by Meryl Streep and Oprah Winfrey. We present the Lab in collaboration with the Writers Guild of America, East.



Workshopping in the piano lobby

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT? HOW DO THE WRITERS AND THE MENTORS INTERACT?

One of the things that makes the Lab so unique is the close interaction between mentors and writers. The mentors are all highly accomplished women in the field, who advise participants in one-on-one meetings and via panel discussions. The



Screenwriters & mentors talk over lunch

conversation continues at mealtime and at after-hours gatherings. Interactions are designed to inspire the artists; to prompt rigorous creative exploration; and, through revision, to cultivate first-rate cinematic stories.

VISIT THEM ONLINE
thewriterslab.nyc

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OUTCOMES OF THIS RETREAT? HOW DOES THIS EVENT AFFECT THE LIVES OF THE WRITERS?

We feel it is critical to nurture the voices of mature women that have not been heard and are in danger of being lost entirely. We look forward to a new landscape where the female narrative is in equal proportion to the male narrative, sharing our stories to strengthen our ties to

one another and empower younger generations.

The program is still relatively new—this was only our third Lab—but already some of the writers have gone on to have their scripts optioned, get directors, begin pre-production. One even got a university teaching position. Our latest news is that one of this year's participants, Vigil Chime, received the Nicholl Fellowship from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (the organization that produces the Oscars) for the script she brought to The Writers Lab! We are thrilled for her. More simply, The Writers Lab gives the participants a community. The writers continue to support each other in person and on social media groups online.

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IRIS facilitators: Nitza, Kyle, and Elizabeth



Group photo on the Guest House deck, The Writers Lab 2017

Guest House History

Part 3: Becoming Guest House

For this final edition of Guest House History, we reached out to the DA students that helped Alia Johnson found the organization and facility that became our beloved retreat center. Many of them still serve on our board and continue to direct Guest House along its course, and help serve its mission, guests, and staff.

The seed of Guest House was planted in 2004 and 2005 by Alia Johnson, a Diamond Approach teacher who had founded the New York-based Emerald Mountain (EM) groups. It was getting more and more difficult to find retreat centers where the three EM groups could meet on a regular basis, so she asked a group of students to focus their “life practice” (a spiritual practice that develops one’s capacity to function with Presence) on a project: investigate how we might secure a retreat center of our own. It turned into quite a life practice!



Alia Johnson, founder of Guest House

“The expense was high elsewhere, and we thought it might be cheaper at our own place,” remembers Adam Fuller, Alia’s son and eventually one of Guest House’s executive directors. “There were more groups starting in New York and Boston, so we thought having a permanent place for the groups would be very beneficial in the long run.” Owning our own facility offered continuity—a single place that would support the Teaching as well as the students and teachers of the DA groups that used it. In time, too, the structure itself would become imbued with a depth of consciousness. It would be a place where innovative ways of bringing the “Work” into the world could be explored.



Adam Fuller

A group of EM students collaborated with Adam to develop a financial and legal plan and to support his search for a place, creating a non-profit entity named Ten Directions, Inc. (a Buddhist word for the eight directions, plus up and down). Alia gathered a larger group of her students from across the country and Europe, which met over the next three years to develop a model of governance, an organizational structure and, most importantly, to articulate the founding mission and purpose. This foundation continues to guide and support us.

We looked at many facilities, mostly in or near the Hudson River Valley, including former hotels, camps and retreat centers. In 2005 our attention focused on Deer Hill in Wappingers Falls, New York. Alia encouraged students to visit Deer Hill, but in 2006, after significant



TDI, Inc. Board of Directors, 2015

investigation, it became clear that the buildings would require too much renovation to make it feasible. Then Adam found the Alpine Inn in Oliverea, New York. But after nine months of negotiations with a reluctant seller, that too fell through in 2007.



Snow piled high outside Piano Lobby

In the early fall of that year we switched strategies and zeroed in on places halfway between New York and Boston in hopes of making it convenient to DA retreat groups in both locales. In many ways we were lucky the earlier options dissolved, because within a few months Adam came across a charming property in Connecticut, formerly The Inn at Chester. Developed from an historic 18th century homestead, it was fully furnished—including dinnerware and linens! The property was in a bank foreclosure and had been shuttered for a year, so the price was well below what the owner had invested in it. Because of all the fundraising and planning that had already taken place over two years, we were able to move quickly to negotiate the purchase and raise the needed additional funds. In the end, donations, loans and mortgage financing yielded \$3.5 million.

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It's about the world, not just us

(Continued from page 1)

Need a reason? Just look at the groups who come here: spiritual seekers striving to expand consciousness, educators working toward sustainable peace, healers from the worlds of health and wellness, advocates of compassionate leadership, writers filling the world with the beauty of language, psychologists helping free us from trauma and deep wounding. To quote one:

"Guest House is magical—don't change a thing!...Absolutely love the location and sometimes imagine I'm back in the rooms and feel a great peace come over me."

—Student from the Center for Transformational Presence

That is who you support when you give to Guest House, not merely a physical building or a professionally run institution. As we prepare to celebrate the **10th Anniversary** of our founding on April 15 of the coming year, we ask for your support.

BECOME A FRIEND
guesthousecenter.org/give

If you haven't given, please start today and become a **Friend of Guest House**. If you have given, please consider increasing your gift to a level commensurate with whatever urgency you feel to turn back the current tide of divisiveness that seems prevalent today. Help us restore some of the balance and sanity that feels rarer with each passing day. Please help us to Hold the Space for another 10 years.

Ways to Give to GH

Cash donations are vital, especially when you're behind fundraising targets for this time of year, as Guest House currently is. There are many other options for helping our beloved retreat center continue to thrive. Pick one...or a few! 😊 Whatever you choose, remember: as a frequent guest told us, **"When you give to Guest House, you don't give it away."**

We are a non-profit organization that depends on donations to keep our doors open to anyone interested in exploring truth in all its forms. Please be generous. And thank you!

Cash donation today: Tax deductible gifts via check or credit card, in person or online: www.guesthousecenter.org. All donors automatically become Friends of Guest House.

Low-cost appreciated stock: Avoid paying the capital gains by giving full-market value to GH!

In-kind donation: We always need furniture, lighting, rugs, computers and electronics—the market value of which is tax deductible.

Join Guest House Legacy Circle: Don't have resources to make a meaningful contribution now? Name us in your estate plans in several ways:

- A bequest made in your will—Your gift can be a specific sum or a percentage of an estate after other bequests. Just add an addendum or codicil to your existing will.
- IRAs and retirement plans—Because we're non-profit, your estate receives a charitable deduction for the full amount of planned donations for estate and income taxes, while we receive the full amount of the donation value. Conversely, when non-charitable heirs are beneficiaries, they receive only a part of the value because inherited assets of these plans are subject to estate and income taxes. So you're giving away the tax liability your heirs won't get anyway. It's easy to contact your plan administrator to add GH as a beneficiary.
- Life insurance and savings accounts : Making us a beneficiary here works the same way as retirement plans, except that the payment made to Guest House is exempt only from estate taxes.

(Guest House Tax ID- Employer Identification Number: 20-3692127)

Become a "Guest House Ambassador": Recommend our beautiful, nurturing center to other groups you know or are involved in who use meeting spaces. Not only spiritual groups, but any group of 15 to 80 people at educational institutions, associations, civic organizations, company boards and those organizing leadership or planning retreats, who you think would love the comfort and beauty of GH. As a bonus, if your referral results in an overnight booking (12 person minimum), we'll pay up to three nights of your room and board the next time you visit us!

Join our 10th Anniversary Celebration!: Come to Guest House April 15th to help us commemorate a milestone—10 years as a holding, nurturing environment for groups who want to make this a better world. Make a special gift to honor the next 10 years!

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GH News

(Continued from page 2)

WHAT'S UP CHARLIE? Another promotion, that's what. Charlie Schillberg, who began working in the kitchen at GH in late 2009 was promoted in 2015 to support IT and marketing efforts. Now he's done it again. Charlie has just been appointed to assistant executive director of Guest House. We feel fortunate to have him and so proud of his climb up the ladder. Congratulations!

COMMUNICATIONS AMP-UP

We want to make sure our varied constituencies are up on all that's happening at—and through—Guest House. This year we began supporting the Northeast Diamond Approach groups periodic updates on their happenings, including events, webinars, book talks/groups, regional and online programming and other news of interest. You'll recognize it in your inbox by the distinct emerald green color scheme! With our "Open Groups at Guest

House" promotional calendar guests can learn about other events being hosted here, including groups that are open to general enrollment.



Available in the dining room!

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Furthering our efforts at sustainability and greenness, we are testing a new type of mug for your hot drinks at Guest House. Next to the coffee and tea station you'll find covered tumblers you can carry with you throughout the building and throughout the day—helping us cut down on spilled drinks, carpet stains and dishwashing detergents!

Ways to Give to GH

(Continued from page 6)

GH Notes: Help us by making a five-year loan to Guest House at an amazing 3% annual interest with small annual repayment. At the end of those five years, your note is repaid in full. This is our third note offering. Previous notes provided us with the capital to purchase Guest House and have also funded ongoing yearly working capital and improvements. (This note offer will be open until March 2018.)

Multi-year pledges: A great way to ensure support will be there when we need it year after year.

Automatic monthly payment: Direct deductions from your bank account can be made monthly (or quarterly). This makes larger donations easier by spreading them out over time and preserving your monthly cash flow, while also helping Guest House plan our own cash flow.

Please contact Guest House at info@guesthousecenter.org or call (860) 322-5770 for more information about any of these dozen ways to help Guest House continue to Hold the Space for years to come.

Anniversary Celebration

(Continued from page 1)

5:00-6:30: DA Talent Show. No headliners here; just a lot of talent manifested through skits, music, poetry, maybe a roast and other entertainments.

6:30-7:30: Special gala dinner

7:30-8:30: Ceremony at the labyrinth

9:00-10:00: Bonfire. Bring your guitar, plan to sing, recite a poem... whatever you are called to do.

10:00-11:00: Dance

April 16: Morning meditation and talk led by Bob Ball

SIGN UP TODAY

guesthousecenter.org/anniversary

WHEN: April 15, 2018

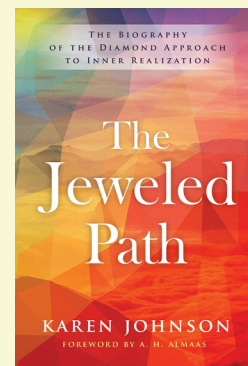
ROOM & BOARD: \$105 - \$160

(staying over Sunday night)

SUNDAY ONLY: \$75

EXTRA LUNCH ON SUN: \$15

Throughout the day, a recording of Karen Johnson's book talk at the Berkeley center about *The Jeweled Path*, her newly published history of the Diamond Approach, will run on continuous loop. We will also hold a Silent Auction of items donated by many beloved DA teachers. Bid high and often! And, of course, there will be many items for sale, including a commemorative book about Guest House, specially printed to acknowledge our decade of Holding the Space.



Guest House History

(Continued from page 5)

On April 28th, 2008, Alia e-mailed the Emerald Mountain and Diamond Approach community: “Dear fellow students and friends, on Thursday afternoon we got the keys to Guest House. Congratulations to all of you.” Our new retreat center and home was named Guest House, from the title of a Rumi poem about welcoming everything into our lives—whether perceived welcomed or unwelcomed—so that we might grow and evolve.



White Barn renovations, 2012

The life practice that Alia had encouraged us to undertake took on a life of its own. Guest House was bigger than the other centers we’d looked at, and it was a larger undertaking. Like the poem, we entertained many unexpected visitors! We traveled a rocky road for three years to grow the business and build a stable management team that could lead Guest House and implement our mission. We did our best to welcome these “visitors,” which was a personal challenge for many of us.

First there was the massive clean up. “There were three full dumpsters of old files, moldy furniture and other things in the basement,” remembers Adam. “We knew about those before

buying, of course, but it was a lot of work just to get rid of it all. In the first month, the fire alarms kept going off at night, probably because of dust from the various construction projects we had running at the time.” One of these, replacing the roof, aroused suspicions of neighbors, who reported a “strange drumming” happening during the day. “It was, in fact, the rhythmic sound of nail guns, which went on for a couple weeks,” says Adam. “It’s a big roof.”

The first guests included a transcendental meditation group, a New York City Unitarian Church, the Emerald Mountain Diamond Approach groups, a local bank group and Center for Mindfulness (founded by Jon Kabat-Zinn). The very first meal almost met with disaster. A table full of fresh fruit pies, along with gallons of lemonade, collapsed, sending everything onto the floor in a 50-square-foot sticky mess. Fortunately, enough pies had been baked to get through the meal, so guests were none the wiser.



Damage from Hurricane Irene, 2011

Then, on May 5, 2010, Alia died of cancer. After only two years, GH had lost its beloved founder—its “North Star.” This was a tremendous loss, and as a board we weren’t sure if we could continue without Alia. Shortly after her passing we met on the deck overlooking the pond. It

was a beautiful, sunny spring day. Bringing our direct experience and “not-knowing” to the conversation, we inquired into what was needed to meet this challenge. Eventually, a sense of guidance showed up for us and we were able to move forward in a way that both honored Alia, but also recognized the realities of continuing her legacy without her physical presence and wishes driving our decisions.



Guest House labyrinth construction, 2013

Alia’s dream has come to fruition and continues to grow. As we approach our 10th anniversary, we are thankful to have survived numerous challenges. We are a home for the Diamond Approach work in the Northeast, and we host retreat groups, open retreats, inquiry groups and book groups. We also provide a locus for a spectrum of other organizations and paths seeking transformation. More than 3,000 people come to Guest House each year to pursue truth and improve the world.

Many people have supported Guest House and enabled us to reach this milestone, including donors, staff, volunteers and guests. Without this support and involvement we wouldn’t be here today. We are here to celebrate all of you and our 10th Anniversary! Please join us as we commemorate our existence and lay the foundation for the next 10 years.

The Paintings of Elizabeth Slayton

Currently displayed in our public spaces are paintings by Elizabeth Slayton, a Diamond Approach student and teacher. Noell Goldberg, another Diamond Approach student and teacher, spoke with Elizabeth about her inspiration and her exploration of the many ways light reveals the particularity of the subject. Whether it is a pear, an onion, a magnolia blossom—or these days, canvases covered in intense color—she often discovers that the paintings perfectly reflect the current movement of her soul and, sometimes, they herald what lies ahead. What emerges is an extraordinary intimacy between the outer work of making art and the inner work of the soul’s development and realization.

Years ago, Elizabeth began a series of paintings: soft, almost cloud-like renderings of a child-being hunkered down in a cave, the presence of another animal-being nearby. The child-being longed for contact with an expanded world and knowledge of how to step beyond the containing boundaries of the known. The images became the story and book, *Kodah and Me*. To her surprise, this narrative of hiding and eventual emergence reflected Elizabeth’s own opening into a larger world and a knowing of new dimensions of herself.



Elizabeth started her painter’s life with watercolors—soft, pastel, atmospheric images without definition or boundaries. As she says, “The images were hidden in a fog. That was me.” But just as the book’s character began to emerge from the cave, taking on relationship, showing up more fully in life,

so did Elizabeth. After a dry spell and perhaps a recalibration of her artistic impulse and a shift in the soul, Elizabeth began a series of still-lives. They were small in scale, unassuming, and spoke quietly to the viewer...rather, says Elizabeth, like herself.



Then, she painted a pear, and a fellow Diamond Approach student said, “I love the belly of the pear!” While Elizabeth couldn’t figure out what that meant, she began painting pears, each with a belly that went beyond the edges of the canvas. The painting prefaced her process, a movement beyond the familiar



boundaries of self and world. The pear didn’t stop at the edge of the canvas; Elizabeth didn’t stop at the edges of who she had previously known herself to be.

Now, something new moved, opened, expanded, took definite and particular shape on the canvas and in the soul. “I paint what I love,” Elizabeth says, “and what I love the most is the way light shows up.” She began painting magnolia blossoms—fluid, soft, unfolding into their fullness—images that reflected what she came to see as her own fleshing out, expansion, and unfoldment. The softness of earlier work, a certain vagueness of image, now had a new meaning, softness as the determined but delicate movement of life finding expression.

VISIT HER ONLINE
elizabethslayton.com

Like the Diamond Approach practice of inquiry and the impulse to know the truth, the impulse to paint brings the artist’s open and deep attention to the question: What is this ginkgo leaf, this particular pear, this singular blast of color? As Elizabeth says, “The more I know the particularity, the more I know the thing I’m painting. There is a love that arises, not unlike the love that arises in knowing who and what we are.”

(more on page 10)

The Writers Lab

(Continued from page 4)

DO THE MENTORS COME FROM THE ALUMNI? HOW ARE THE MENTORS SELECTED AND PAIRED?

The mentors all have an impressive body of work as writers, producers and advisors in the industry. Several of our alums do teach screenwriting and mentor writers in other settings. The Lab is story-driven so we do our best to match writers with mentors who have the most appropriate experience, who have worked in the same genre or have created stories with similar thematic elements.

innovative professional development programs and special events annually.



Chatting in The Sun Room

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE ITEM FROM OUR KITCHEN'S MENU?

There was a chicken florentine that was memorable. The plentiful vegetables, in salad form or deliciously warm, were excellent. And far too many of the desserts are unforgettable. If only we could stop thinking about them...

DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORABLE STORIES FROM YOUR TIME WITH OUR STAFF?

Ben, Marianne, everyone responded immediately to any request—and they did so with warmth and dedication. Working with Charlie on the AV setup. Patience and good humor—the hallmarks of the staff at Guest House! Plus, the kitchen staff were so accommodating.

Thanks again to IRIS and NYWIFT for taking the time to talk with us about The Writers Lab. We hope to see them return many times in the future!



Discussions in Pearl Room

ARE IRIS AND NYWIFT INVOLVED IN OTHER WOMENS' EMPOWERMENT/RIGHTS CAUSES?

This is NYWIFT's 40th anniversary year supporting women calling the shots in film, TV and digital media. We started as a small group of women meeting in an apartment in 1977, hoping to have their voices heard, and have blossomed into a non-profit organization with more than 2,200 members and growing! NYWIFT is part of a network of 50 women in film chapters worldwide, representing more than 10,000 members. We produce over 50

More from Elizabeth

(Story on page 9)



Elizabeth Slayton—Magnolia Blossom 15

Joyous and Loving Holiday Wishes from Guest House!



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- Announcements of open events
- Employment opportunities

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info@guesthousecenter.org | 860.322.5770

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