



**November Theme: - What one resource would you recommend to an aspiring creative person?**

**Jane Brooks** -- Whoopi Goldberg

**Barbara Ehrentreu** -- The first thing that popped into my mind was to recommend your own brain. We get ideas from our own experiences, thoughts, and feelings. So, the best place to start is to comb your mind for ideas.

The second thing I would recommend is a notebook you can keep with you at all times. This notebook will give you the seeds for your writing. Sometimes, you might want to write down an entire paragraph or a poem in it. The best thing to do is any time you have an idea jot it down somewhere. I carry a notebook but usually I use my phone notes. This way if I have written something I can transfer it to a document easily. I have used so many ideas I have jotted down for my poems and for my prose writing. One time I jotted down a quote from my daughter, which became an entire story. You never know what will happen with the seeds you sow in your notebook.

**Sarah Darer Littman** -- For anyone who wants to write or illustrate books for young people, I recommend The Highlights Foundation. The location is magical, the faculty is top notch, and the food and the food is fantastic (the cookies kept me fueled). I've done some online workshops and got so much done on personal retreat when I had to do a major rewrite of *Some Kind of Hate*.

**Doris Mady** -- A Dictionary with a Guide to Grammar & Punctuation. What ye naysayers protest! Likely you've received emails from me with many typos. 'tis not true that I can't spell. What *is* true: I type too fast, don't re-read what I'm written, and that d---- Spell-check Device replaces perfectly fine words with something that doesn't make sense. I l-o-v-e dictionaries. I think I look something up every day ... just to learn something new. Regardless of what path you take I think a dictionary is so important to any profession. When correctly used it is a wonderful tool.

**Diane Morello** -- What one resource would I recommend to aspiring creatives? Classes, classes, classes. No matter what creative projects I'm involved with, classes are my happy place — classes on fiction, art, mystery writing, pottery, cooking, yoga, technology, nutrition. Writing classes get my juices flowing with exercise, prompts and critiques; clay and art classes inspire me to design and imagine things in new dimensions; technology classes prepare me for societal changes; and yoga and cooking classes give me the strength and skills to stay healthy. Above all, classes give me the invaluable opportunity to meet smart and compassionate people and to build strong friendships. Got a class? Sign me up.

**Deb Weir -- Inspiration**

I always recommend Greenwich Pen Women to people looking for inspiration. I have seen our members become more productive in their field and branch out into new art forms. Critique sessions, general meetings, art shows, book talks and informal gatherings lead to new pursuits. In addition to more new work in the discipline in which they qualified for membership, I have seen photographers become painters, nonfiction writers create poetry and music composers try watercolors. I know of no other source of inspiration as powerful as this organization.

**December Theme: What have you learned this past year?**



**GUIDELINES** --- Original artwork and photographs: Jpegs no larger than 500 kb. Proofread stories, essays and poems: 150 words *more or less*; photographs related to your story are permitted. Music: one page scores only, with text. Send your submission no later than the 20th of the month for the upcoming month. i.e., for January send Dec. 20th; February send Jan. 20th, etc. Email: [dorismady42@gmail.com](mailto:dorismady42@gmail.com).

**Let's hear from YOU!**

[dorismady42@gmail.com](mailto:dorismady42@gmail.com)