



2013 in review

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I love that life is about evolving and growing and trying new things. That's what brings me joy, and as I reflect on 2013, I wanted to share with you some of the blessings that have come my way...

I was sitting in a coffee shop downtown Winston-Salem on New Year's Eve (2012) when a friend I was talking to mentioned that he saw my poem on the wall. I immediately jumped from my seat to see it (*Photo to the right*). It was part of the **Poetry in Plain Sight** campaign, designed to promote poetry throughout the city by having it on store and business windows. And in January, I was one of four poets invited to read as part of the inaugural yearlong campaign. That's how 2013 began, and more readings and opportunities came (and yes, I'm still writing)!



Work continues to come, as well, to **The Word Project** (www.poetryheals.com). Not only am I facilitating poetry-writing workshops but I've also added art journaling to the mix! The first of those workshops were offered in 2013 with Hirsh Wellness Network & the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro! In addition to continued long-time partnerships with organizations like the Greensboro Public Library, I was fortunate in 2013 to be the first artist-in-residence at Cone Cancer Center in Greensboro!

In 2011, I began working part-time for **Leadership Winston-Salem** as the Program Director of its Flagship Program. I've been asked to move from 20 to 30 hours per week, beginning Jan. 2014, which is a blessing in many ways. The work there can be challenging but I count it a joy to work each year with more than 50 leaders in a way that will strengthen their understanding of our community and their role to make a contribution. (*Right: Here I am giving remarks at our annual "Celebration" with more than 400 attendees.*)



I had the pleasure of dating, loving and being loved by a special man -- poet & professor -- Stuart Dischell (whom I actually first met in 2007). One of the highlights we experienced as a couple, the summer of 2013, was time in Paris! Though we are no longer a "couple" we remain great friends and he will always hold a special place in my heart. (*Left: Photo of us in front of the Eiffel Tower!*)

In June, I began **3rdSpaces.com** where I've been posting a weekly blog about my spiritual journey, and building an authentic community where we can talk about our walk with Christ. And, in Dec. 2013, I was asked to submit a proposal for a conference looking to create a "third space" where conversation, art and Christianity meet. Maybe that will be a highlight for 2014 ☺. (Check out the site and blog at www.3rdSpaces.com.)

I also began attending a Quaker Meeting (church) on a regular basis where I was introduced to "spiritual direction" and "clearness committees." In the fall of 2013, I began meeting on a monthly basis with Judy, a spiritual director. In addition, the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro has provided a wonderful spiritual community that has contributed to my Christian growth. I plan to continue taking classes there in 2014!

Another highlight this year (2013), for sure, was celebrating, with the family Uncle John (John H. White) receiving the **Lucie Award**. The award ceremony took place in New York City. As part of our time there, some of us visited the World Trade Center (*Photos to the right*). It was an unforgettably inspiring weekend, and I'm thankful I could take part in it.



With 2013 also came the offer to teach the social innovation/entrepreneurship class, beginning Jan. 2014, at **Forsyth Technical Community College**. (I actually won't know until Jan. 6 if I will begin teaching Jan. 8, as the class isn't yet full!) Teaching at a community college is one of my secret dreams, so I'm very excited just at the thought of it ☺.

Christmas was wonderful - full of special moments including worship service, volunteering, and time with family. And I facilitated, for the fifth consecutive year, a **New Year's Eve** retreat at Healing Ground in Summerfield, NC. It was a true blessing!

Those are my highlights of 2013! Thank you for your prayers and for keeping me in the Light. I'm very excited about what's to come and I have a full heart thinking of how far God has brought me.

Know that I appreciate and love you, and that you too are in my prayers. Happy New Year!

Kisses...

