



State of 9 Bridges for 2015

2015 was a stellar first year for 9 Bridges. Although we had a tumultuous beginning, we ended the year on a positive note with a fantastic future ahead of us.

The year began with the creation of 9 Bridges at the end of March. What began three years ago as a simple critique group in Portland, Oregon, grew into a tax-exempt 501c(3) Oregon charity in April, with chapters in Portland, Missoula and Phoenix. By the end of the month we had opened our fourth chapter, in Pasadena, California.

The last nine months were very busy for us. We developed a new and distinct brand and made new friends and connections within the writing communities we serve. Our chapters grew by leaps and bounds and now approach 2000 members. We opened a virtual chapter on Facebook, which has become an active and supportive hub for writers all over the world.

In addition to growing our member base through offering one of the best writing communities out there, we absorbed two smaller organizations into our PDX chapter. The first, PDX Writers Guild, gave us one of our most popular activities, our 9 Bridges Write-ins. The second, the Northwest Writers and Publishers Association, brought the Northwest Book Festival under our banner.

Throughout this amazing period of growth, 9 Bridges has remained true to its core mission: to provide a supportive community, at low or no cost, to writers at all stages of their journey to master the Craft. Our critique groups, write-ins and workshops remain donation-based and free to the public. This is one of the principles which makes us stand apart from other organizations, and will remain our focus in the years to come.

2016 is already starting off with a bang. With a full board of committed professionals bringing their expertise to 9 Bridges, we expect to achieve some amazing things. We will be expanding and strengthening our infrastructure to create a lasting legacy. We are developing new programs and looking for sponsors and partners to help us bring them to fruition. Finally, we will continue to expand our reach, in order to help as many writers as possible.

Elizabyth Harrington
Executive Director