Why I Write
by the Teachers at PWN's Writing on the River Spring Retreat, 2023

Writing helps me control my roller coaster state of mind.

I write to make peace with what I cannot control.

I write because the pictures in my head burst out until I can’t keep them inside for another minute.

I write to expose my trauma, but not to allow it to control my present.

I write to remind myself that I’m not having a mid-life crisis—I’m just conscious.

I write because I can be me: the one even I forget sometimes.

I write to hear the power of my voice.

I write for my soul’s sake, for goodness sake.

I write because I can create an innovative, distinct plane of my own.

I write because I am a scribe marking prayers and the prophetic.

I write to root against the wind, always pushing against me.

I write for my silky selkie girlhood.

I write lists so that I can check things off.

I write love letters to my husband to keep the spark alive.

I write to connect with my mom, to be reminded of her voice, her love, her belief in me.

I write to keep the ancestors' legacies a relevant part of my life’s history.
I write to memorialize the moments
I don’t want to forget.

I write to show the shadows cast off care
that nothing feels like the ghost's grip.

Perhaps I am afraid to write but I shouldn’t be …
it’s freedom.

I write to open the eyes
of the hopelessly indoctrinated.

I write to form community with those around me.

I write to connect with people’s spirit,
to soothe them, to celebrate and to mourn.

I write to feel into and from,
the deep silence where peace and power live.

I write because words are my friends
and they won’t betray me.

I love the way words feel
as they roll off my tongue into the air,
off my pen onto the page.

I write to paint pictures with words
because pens work better for me than brushes.

I write it all down until the pages bleed,
until the blood pours into more pages,
until the pages end and my pen dries.

This written page of unorganized thoughts:
my gospel!

I write because that’s all I have,
all there ever was,
all that ever will be.