

WHAT'S INSIDE

IN September of 1967, the first issue of the *Teachers & Writers Collaborative Newsletter* rolled off the press. With a hand-drawn cover and smudgy type, it quietly set out the ground-breaking mission of Teachers & Writers Collaborative “to involve writers in the creation of an English curriculum . . . that is relevant to the lives of the children in schools today.” Forty years on, despite the challenges of an era when education is increasingly driven by test scores, T&W can lay claim to inspiring a nationwide movement of writers in the schools, and pioneering a new curriculum for teaching creative writing.

One of T&W’s founding writers and guiding lights was Grace Paley, who passed away in late August at the age of 84. We celebrate her life and work in this issue with tributes from her friends, colleagues, students, and fellow writers.

We’re pretty sure Paley, the self-described “cooperative anarchist,” would have enjoyed the creative mayhem depicted in novelist and short story writer Gabriel Brownstein’s piece on his time in a 1970s T&W classroom, the first of a series of articles marking our 40th anniversary. Elsewhere in these pages, Jess deCourcy Hinds writes of spicing up her curriculum by teaching students to write about their favorite dishes, Daniel Godston details his work constructing 3-D poetry projects in the classroom, and Barbara Flug Colin provides a snapshot of one student’s moving progress over the course of a school year.

As we mark our 40th anniversary, we continue to honor T&W’s original vision by championing creativity in education and by providing students with the tools and the inspiration to find their own voice.

— Susan Karwoska

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