

Writing Retreats Close to Home

By Angela Cephas, T-C '03, delta2295@comcast.net

Cheryl Foreman, T-C '00, and Angela Cephas, T-C '03, have answered the call that was put forth at the 2007 Leadership Conference to create “close to home” writing retreats. Our goal was to create retreats that would allow us to commune as friends, colleagues and writers. We aimed at retreats that would revive, energize and encourage us as writers and educators without extensive travel and without causing us to creatively re-appropriate funds in order to attend and, therefore, satisfy the voices in our heads—voices that remind us, sometimes at the most inopportune moments, that we are writers and that we must write.

Cheryl, who is a Baltimore County mentor at Loch Raven Academy, and Angela, a MANSEF reading specialist at the New Foundations School, held the first of five planned retreats on August 8 at Barnes and Noble located at the Power Plant in the Inner Harbor. Fun was had by all. We ate, drank, wrote and shared. We laughed, encouraged and inspired both ourselves and each other. But most of all, we fed that inner hunger that we all have as writers, the hunger to put pen to pad and express ourselves in an elemental manner. We all have hunger that resides in our souls, at times consuming us, at others sitting on the edge of consciousness, but always a part of us, making us complete when we give in to this hunger or eating away at us when we deny its existence.

If you have not visited the Barnes and Noble at the historic Power Plant, add it to your list of things to do this year. It has a rich history and in actuality is a small museum, aquarium, café, meeting house, music store and, of course, it carries a few books as well. We would like to thank Eric Lapp, the community relations manager, for making our visit to Barnes and Noble both possible and a wonderful experience.

During our retreat, we browsed and perused the aisles, tables and shelves finding instructional books for writers and teachers. We located books to inspire and found that “one” book that we wished that we had written. (The one book that embraces both our style and the words that we want to come from our hearts, minds and pens.) As we wrote and shared, we learned about each

other and ourselves as writers.

Because this was an MWP writing retreat, we ate, wrote, shared resources and won prizes. We would like to extend another heartfelt thank you to Cindy Waugh, T-C '07, and her wonderful husband Bob for contacting Ed Hartless and Reed Cordish of the Cordish Company, the company which owns the Inner Harbor Power Plant. The Cordish Company was gracious enough to provide us with a gift that allowed the recipient to receive dinner for two at Mex Restaurant in downtown Baltimore. (You'll have to ask David Wolinsky, T-C '95, how he and his fiancé enjoyed dinner!)



Angela Cephas and Cheryl Foreman



T-Cs and friends at the Barnes and Noble writing retreat. The author is in the second row, seated, second from right

We can continue to regale you with wonderful tales from our first retreat, but we figure that at this point you just want to know how you too can join in on all of the fun. So here is a list of our upcoming retreats.

- **Linganore Wine Cellars: What Do You Have A Taste For?** How about writing, a guided winery tour, wine tasting, more writing and jazz? Oct. 20, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
- **Towson U: Room With A View.** Indulge in creature comforts while our guest speaker shares with us how art leads to writing and writing leads to art.

Feb. 2, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

- **Visionary Arts Museum: Seeing the Museum through Multiple Eyes.** Join us for a writing marathon within the museum. March 8, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- **Writing Cruise.** Write on the water and test your sea legs while you ebb and flow in a writing community. May, TBA.

We had a wonderful time on our first retreat and look forward to creating a new tradition and many wonderful memories in the years to come.