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Downtown space set up to get creative juices flowing

"When we saw the red clapboard building we thought, 'That's it!' — It looks like an old one-room schoolhouse, but friendlier," Writers' Room co-founder Tish Fried explained about her new venture.

Her partner and teacher Patrick McCord added, "The location sold me. You can take one of our Write Yourself Free workshops upstairs, write for a while in the main room, and then you can take a stroll downtown or go to the library. It's a great building and an accessible location."

At the center of Colonial Green, 252 Post Road E., The Writers' Room houses a classroom, an editorial services office, and — needless to say — a dedicated Writers' Room.

This main floor area has been designed to optimize creativity with stimulating colors, natural light, comfortable chairs, and several writing tables, all framed by original 19th Century beams. Equipped with free wi-fi, complementary coffee or tea, current trade magazines, and on-site tutoring, the room is truly a writers' den. It's a place where writers can come to work away from mundane distractions - first come, first seated. A fall membership drive is planned.

"Writing can be a lonely business," McCord said, "but it doesn't have to be. The whole point of the Writers' Room is to get writers out of their houses and to give them a chance to focus and take their work seriously. We wanted to create a place where people could work with intensity, yet not feel isolated; here, you can meet other writers and editors; you'll share ideas and resources and participate in a creative community."

McCord and Fried offer editorial support with two free open office hours a week. Starting in



Photo by Jordan Olson

Tish Fried and Patrick McCord have opened The Writer's Room at 252 Post Road East

September, members will pay a monthly fee for use of the room and other services, and they will receive discounts on classes in the Write Yourself Free method, free tutorials and admission to upcoming events.

In July, best-selling author and Westporter Jane Green inaugurated the space with a reading from her new publication, *Promises to Keep*. Coming up are talks from legal media experts, publishers, agents, an e-book symposium, freelance networking evenings and award-winning cookbook author and teacher Corinne Trang.

Members may also participate in bimonthly Writers' Read: An evening in which they

read from works developed in the WYF Workshops. Also the public is invited to monthly Storytelling Evenings when those with tales to tell step up with always surprising real-life stories. Finally, new workshops are planned for the fall in screenwriting, advanced project development, poetry, oral storytelling, creative writing, and college essays.

The Writers' Room will be open from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 9 to 5 on Thursdays; and 10 to 4 on Saturdays and Sundays. Other evening hours and early morning hours are available upon request. For more information, log onto www.writeyourselfreenow.com.