

## Author

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Only through practicing and having things to write about can one improve their writing. This cannot be produced through a safe classroom environment, Chadwick said.

“Travel, get lots of jobs and listen to the stories that strangers tell you, because that’s where those stories are.”

Chadwick said she hopes to write something that will mean something to someone in a moment where they need those words.

Sari-Rose Brown, a former student, recalls a quote above Chadwick’s door that reads ‘Well behaved women rarely make history’.

“I think she was blunt sometimes,” Brown said. “And I think she had kind of a cutting, dry sense of humor sometimes and she pushed us sometimes, but I thought that she was a representation of that quotation that I appreciated.”

Lesbian literature has become less popular because it is more accepted in mainstream media, Chadwick said. Though same-sex marriage has been legalized, she said there are still youth who are ridiculed by churches and kicked out of homes.

Chadwick’s classes provide a really open environment, said Allie Snyder, a psychology student.

“There are a couple kids in our class that are also in the community,” Snyder said. “It’s cool to see them connect.”

Chadwick’s literature highlights LGBTQ+ lifestyles, but she does not want to be restrained to this genre. This is why she wants to write contemporary women’s literature.

“In the meanwhile, I just like to tell stories and that’s OK too,” Chadwick said.

## Death Cafe

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my wife unexpectedly was somewhat traumatic and it created for me an energy that’s hard for me to describe.”

The Death Café events are deeply personal gatherings, said Karen Sanders, one of Third Messenger’s event organizers.

“You sit in groups that are spontaneous and there’s no facilitation,” Sanders said. “You allow people to speak from their heart when they want or if they want. You are in the moment with these strangers and people start speaking about what death means to them in ways that you can’t possibly expect or imagine. People say the most amazing things, so it’s beautiful, it’s very spiritual for me to be here.”

One of the ground rules for the event is participants are not supposed to give advice to other members of their groups.

“Most of the time it is sacred listening to people,” Sanders said. “It’s very respectful and loving and kind-hearted. I’ve yet to be involved in a circle during a Death Café that was not respectful.”

Jason Hebal, a Third Messenger member of two years, said he volunteers with the organization in an effort to lessen the taboo surrounding death as a subject.

“My inspiration is to do something where we actually work with changing culture,” Hebal said. “I believe that changing culture around the dying process and being aware of it and in tune with it, being open to it, acknowledging it and not hiding it will serve us individually, in our community and as a culture to be more mature in the way we interact with the world and each other.”

Hebal said he wants to see death become something that is openly and honestly discussed.

“We can meet it in a good way and if we do come into a harmonious relationship with the inevitable mortality that we all have, I think we’ll live our lives better,” Hebal said.

Osió said Third Messenger is an organization without an agenda and allows people around the world to join with minimal restrictions.

“It’s a global movement,” Osió said. “Anybody can do a Death Café if they honor the agreements. If you wanted tomorrow to start a Death Café you’d go on their website, look at what the agreements are, you’d say ‘I agree’ to it, let them know what you’re doing, they’d post it on their website.”

## Trump Administration

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anti-abortion and anti-Obamacare, has been selected to be secretary of Health and Human Services. Price received a rating of zero percent from both Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice. That rating, Planned Parenthood reports, means he is in “complete opposition,” to their public policy positions regarding reproductive rights and sexual health issues. As one example, he supported legislation banning all abortions after 20 weeks. Abortions occurring after 20 weeks are often because of serious health problems threatening the life of the mother.

He wants to privatize Medicare — this would gore the program and ruin it for approximately 55 million people who rely on it. He supports a full repeal of the Affordable Care Act and has his own plan to replace it. Whether his plan will be used as the replacement is in question, but the Congressional Budget Office estimates about 22 million people will lose their insurance if there is a full repeal. The Urban Institute’s estimates are even higher at around 30 million. People will die if they lose their insurance and people will continue to die if the Affordable Care Act is not replaced by a similar or better plan. Republican proposals are not similar or better and universal health care is currently out of the question, so more deaths are inevitable.

Under the Affordable Care Act, birth control was made widely available to women who previously had difficulty getting it — or had no access at all — through their insurers. After Trump won the election, there were reports of women rushing to get IUDs and other forms of birth control out of fear they may not have access soon.

Those fears are not unfounded and people are rightly worried. Trump already signed an executive order to reimpose the so-called Mexico City policy which was originally announced by President Reagan in 1984; the policy prohibits funding foreign nongovernmental organizations that “perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning.” These NGOs provide health care for mothers and children, counseling, HIV testing and contraceptives among other services. NGO-run clinics in other countries will now be paralyzed

or forced to close entirely. Again, people will suffer unnecessarily because of this decision. Similar attempts will be made — and are being made — domestically.

Rex Tillerson, former CEO of Exxon-Mobil, is the pick for secretary of state. This role deals primarily with foreign policy and one particular issue of concern is climate change. As secretary of state, Tillerson has influence over the U.S.’ role in environmental agreements meant to reduce carbon emissions, such as the 2016 Paris Agreement. Exxon-Mobil is currently under investigation after it was revealed the company spent decades ignoring its own scientists’ research showing fossil fuels’ contribution to climate change.

Tillerson’s proclivity to support and expand the fossil fuel industry while disregarding the risks of climate change will result in disaster. The prospect of addressing climate change with any meaningful action seems unlikely under Pruitt and Tillerson. To ignore climate change is to ignore an existential threat.

Everyone can and should find an issue to focus on in the coming years as the Trump administration and Congress begin to take action. Workers’ rights, the minimum wage, health care, public education, indigenous rights, women’s rights, voting rights, LGBT rights, drug policy reform, immigration, foreign policy, welfare programs, climate change and much more are all likely to be negatively impacted. There is plenty of cause for concern.

The next four years are going to require an acute attention to detail of what this administration does in conjunction with the Republican majorities across the country, and much more than simply paying attention, action must be taken at the local, state and federal levels. Whether it is voting, campaigning for candidates, organizing rallies, calling members of Congress, protesting, coordinating general strikes or donating to a preferred cause, there are countless methods to use and opportunities to push back.

The recent women’s march should make it clear there is, and will continue to be, a great deal of pressure on this administration. That momentum must be multiplied, sustained and unrelenting if there is to be any hope of mitigating the damage to come.