

Hi friends!

*Sharing happy news! We are home from a quick trip to Washington, D.C., where I was invited to attend a most memorable event. . .*

**NEXT GENERATION INDIE BOOK AWARDS 2019** ~ The Gala Awards were held at the famous Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. The 12th annual event recognized entries from all 50 U.S. states, most of Canada, as well as international countries. Upon entering the lovely ballroom, each author pinned their home location on a world map.

Winners from Poland and New Zealand joined several hundred wonderful authors. Each had told their story to the world to teach, change and encourage.

As we made our way on stage, the co-founders and presenters Catherine Goulet and Marilyn Allen warmly and thoughtfully mentioned our contributions as they placed a gold or silver medal around our necks.

I so enjoyed the honor of being selected for my book, "Lettering From A to Z," and the pleasure of meeting fellow authors. Can't wait to read some of the books we exchanged!

We stayed a few extra days (first trip to the East Coast for me). Highly recommend support hose for the 6 hr. bumpy flight (on the way out ~ lunch was cancelled to make "seat belts low and tight.")



The hotel (opened in 1925) is truly an interesting place! Contemporary art of past presidents (some below), adds to the elegance and famous hospitality. Signatures of famous ones are everywhere, on the walls and as contemporary art. We enjoyed reading the history of the "Hotel of Presidents" on Wikipedia when we returned :).

Out strolling one evening, we were halted by police for the president's motorcade, then proceeded to the White House. It's smaller than I'd imagined, with daily protestors in the welcoming, diverse community. Other notes: many visitors hop on a scooter to tour the Smithsonian, Renwick Gallery, Farragut Square, and all the memorials. Wish my dad could have seen them! We said goodbye to Washington on an Odyssey Brunch Cruise, which was fabulous!

