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Michael Smith, co-host of Wheels and Write; Cindy Zimmermann, "self-appointed handwritten note advocate;" and celebrity chef Eddie Matney of Eddie's House.

Doors opened. Hearts opened. Connections were made—real connections, not the superficial kind in cyberspace. Where? At Eddie's House in Scottsdale, Ariz., on each Wednesday in October and November of 2010.

To be clear, Eddie's House is a restaurant! Celebrity chef Eddie Matney is a dear friend, as are his wife and children. He has a fabulous restaurant and is a treasure of the entire Valley area.

Each Wednesday, my organization, Writing In Style, hosted a salon. A cast of characters from all walks of life showed up to share lunch and stories about all aspects of handwritten communication. From our pens to paper, to favorite childhood letters, to effective professional letters—we shared our stories.

As stories were shared, something magical happened. We became invested in each other's success. Whether it was a business relationship or a new friend, people were connecting. Why? Because the topic of handwritten notes creates a safe environment to share a story of importance, real value. And once a story is shared, a connection is deepened, making for amazing opportunities for us to empower each other.

Wheels and Write was the theme for the most popular lunch. You know why, right? Stuff happens in cars! (And not just *that* stuff. Conversations with family and friends, business deals—trust me, lots of stuff happens in and around cars!) That lunch prompted the Writing In Style "Enjoy the Journey" road trip. Writing In Style has been invited to speak in Paradise Pen stores and Barnes & Noble stores in Denver, Colo., Las Vegas, Nev., and Cosa Mesa, Calif. Visit writinginstyle.com for dates and times. Loading up my wheels, I will be leaving sunny Arizona on January 22, headed for Colorado. Heaven only knows where else I will end up. Everyone who knows me knows the journey is more important to me than the destination—although I do love a good pen store and book store!

For certain, I will have more stories to share with you as I spend a week in each city. I hope to see you along my travels.

If our paths don't cross, feel free to write me or follow my trails via my blog at writinginstyle.com. Of course, the real stories will be in my personal journal. Power in a pen? For certain! Happy Trails in 2011. Enjoy your journey, your story; I'd love to hear about it.

Cindy

Writing in Style was established by Cindy Zimmermann to promote the handwritten note as a way of making stronger connections—both personally and professionally.