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Dear Friends,

Feliks has started school again after almost 2 years at home.

Last week, he decided to walk to the public library after school by himself--about a mile--after almost 2 years of not going outside.

This week, he found out that a school bus goes near the library, so he found out the route, signed the paperwork, and caught the bus by himself, getting off at the right stop and walking to the library, after never having ridden a school bus (except for one memorable ride in Kindergarten when he forgot to get off the bus and ended up back at the school hours later).

Next week, he'll start horseback riding lessons again after 2 years of not riding.

Were those two years easy? No. We worried about him, offered options to him, and nothing. Until one day in January, he said he was going back to school, and then all these other things fell into place. We are surprised almost daily now.

What I am saying is that we need to let things unfold in their own time. The waiting is hard. The not-knowing is hard. The worry is hard. But evidently it is necessary, not only for Autistic kids but for all of us. Let it be.

A few links you might find of interest:

1. [Here's a book and new author](#) I want to support. And here's [another interview](#) with him.
2. "[I feel that poetry is going on all the time inside, an underground stream.](#)" —John Ashbery
3. [The computer scientist responsible for cut, copy, and paste, has passed away.](#)
4. "I am listening to what fear teaches. I will never be gone. I am a scar, a report from the frontlines, a talisman, a resurrection. A rough place on the chin of complacency." [Audre Lorde on turning fear into fire.](#)
5. [This violinist played her violin as she had brain surgery](#) to ensure the surgeons didn't disrupt the areas of her brain that make playing possible while they removed a brain tumor.

What's coming up:

Women's Writing Retreat - Fall 2020 - Come write with me in the mountains of NC in September (Sept 7-12). Info is [here](#). This is my most intimate retreat, with only 7 writers for 1:1 time in a beautiful space. *One ticket remains.*

Life is a Verb Camp - October 29 - November 1, 2020, near Asheville NC. [Go here](#) to get information and to register. You'll leave inspired, with an amazing community to support you in your journey. 16 tickets remain.

Hard Conversations Book Club - It's never too late to join this group of folks who read and think in community each month. Our reading list will expand your world. You can find the 2020 list and other information [here](#).

Hard Conversations: An Introduction to Racism - Begins March 3, with live calls from 8-9:15 pm Eastern on March 10, 17, 24, and 31. We focus on systemic racism, white privilege, the myth of colorblindness, and how to be an effective ally. [Go here](#) for more info.

Hard Conversations: Whiteness, Race, and Social Justice

Begins April 7. Focuses on white racial identity, hallmarks of white supremacy culture, what it means to be white in a racist world, and how to create a positive white identity. [Go here](#) for info.

Thanks for reading. If you like this newsletter and want to support it, forward it to someone who'd like it. If you're seeing this newsletter for the first time, you can subscribe [here](#).

Breathe deeply. Let it be,

Patti

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