Reading on September 11, 2015
at the Grief Support Specialist Certificate program training

Read by Instructor Molly Tomony

“The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 compelled me to rethink everything I thought I knew, and made me want to learn more, to read outside whatever borders I had created for myself. Not to be more American, but to be a better citizen, a better denizen of the planet. To go global and be local, to go ancient and be modern, to question all certainties and embrace what I did not know, to read Rumi and Isaiah, Rushdie and Roy and even Al-Qaeda, to listen to Springsteen and Kulthum, to refuse the elixir of fundamentalisms, to translate and be translated again by what I could not yet understand. To tattoo "Oye" on my body. To listen.”

Portions of this essay have been adapted from "Behind the Lines: War Resistance Poetry on the American Homefront Since 1941" (University of Iowa Press, 2007).

After reflecting upon this reading silently, each participant took the wooden block at their table and wrote whatever they choose. Later in the day, each person glued their piece to a wooden base create a tower. It was a beautiful way to honor what had happened in 2001 and what we were studying in 2015.