



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

# League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

*Register now!*

January 19, 2019

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Trader Duke's Hotel

S. Burlington, VT

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

### Winter Program 2019



#### HONING YOUR CRAFT: WRITING THAT SIZZLES

and Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, January 19, 2019

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Trader Duke's Hotel

1117 Williston Road, S. Burlington, VT 05403

**Price:**

\$46 members

\$56 non-members

To register go to our website: [https://](https://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org)

[www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](https://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org)

Registration will close end of day, Sunday, January 6, 2019.

#### AGENDA

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Registration & Morning Refreshments

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

**Julia Shipley: But Why? Understanding What's At Stake In Your Work**

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

**Sean Prentiss: Bengal Tiger Moments—Perception of Time on the Page**

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Lunch

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

**Annual Business Meeting**

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

**Workshop – Julia Shipley: But Why? (Taking a Test Drive)**

2:40 PM – 2:50 PM

Break

2:50 PM – 3:30 PM

**Workshop – Sean Prentiss: Bengal Tiger Moments (Petting the Tiger)**

(continued on page 3)

## *Letter from the President*

Dear Fellow Members,

As we come to the close of another year, I want to take a moment and thank the Board of Directors for working so hard. They've volunteered many hours to carry on the tasks of running the organization and took on many different roles to provide programming, marketing, and producing the League Lines.

I would also like to thank all members who stepped forward to volunteer their time in some capacity this year... as well as everyone who had the chance to attend a conference in 2018. This has been quite a wonderful year for the League!

We have been taking steps to implement suggestions and recommendations we've received—from venues to speakers to programming. We are continually working to make programming engaging for all members. It is a work in progress, folks! The feedback on programming has been useful in steering the way as we proceed.

Another one of our tasks is to find ways to keep costs for programs down and at the same time make the presentations entertaining, high-quality, and professional. With our limited number of volunteers, it is difficult to find the time needed to meet all expectations. However, we strive to give our best and will continue to do so next year.

2019 is upon us... and the League of Vermont Writers will be entering its 90th year! What an amazing level of dedication through the generations to keep the passion for writing alive and strong.

I invite you to write a blog post for our website highlighting a piece of League history. Perhaps it's about a program or presenter that inspired you... or what the League has done for you and your writing.

Take some time and consider what your 2019 goals are and how the League of Vermont Writers fits into those goals. We would love to hear from you. Please feel free to email us at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org) and share your thoughts. Let's all work together to achieve our goals this year!

If you are going to make year-end donations to worthy causes, please consider donating to the League this year. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your donations are tax deductible. Every little bit helps so that we can keep everything running smoothly.

Thank you all for being part of the history of such an amazing group of people. Write on!

All my best,

Bobbi Jo Capone  
President, LVW



# WINTER PROGRAM

## Presentations

### **JULIA SHIPLEY: BUT WHY? UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S AT STAKE IN YOUR WORK**

Any impactful writing—whether it's a poem, essay, or story—has something smoldering at its core, a secret reason for being. The more you know about that sizzling purpose, the more powerful your writing becomes. In her presentation, Julia shows how to harness that purpose to make your writing more lively. She shares examples from her own journey and talks about other writers who succeeded by asking, “But why?”



**Julia Shipley** is a nonfiction writer, journalist and poet based in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Her work has been featured in *Yankee Magazine*, *Seven Days: Vermont's Independent Weekly*, *Orion Magazine* and *Nieman Storyboard*. She's the author of *The Academy of Hay*, a poetry collection, and *Adam's Mark*, which was named Best Book About New England by the *Boston Globe* in 2014. Her poems and essays have appeared in the *32 Poems*, *Collagist*, *Fourth Genre*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Harvard Review* online, the *Rumpus*, *Verse Daily*, and elsewhere.

### **SEAN PRENTISS: BENGAL TIGER MOMENTS—PERCEPTION OF TIME ON THE PAGE**

*Bengal Tiger Moments* discusses how much detail you should pack into your writing by exploring how humans perceive and misperceive time. Together with Sean, we'll explore the five speeds of scene and the three incident frequencies to have our words on the page match how time moves in the real world.



**Sean Prentiss** is the award-winning author of *Finding Abbey: A Search for Edward Abbey and His Hidden Desert Grave*. The book won three awards and was nominated for another two. Sean has written two books, *Environmental and Nature Writing: A Craft Guide*, and *Anthology and Advanced Creative Nonfiction* (forthcoming 2020). He is the co-editor of *The Far Edges of the Fourth Genre: Explorations in Creative Nonfiction* and the forthcoming book, *The Science of Story: The Brain Behind Creative Nonfiction* (2019, Bloomsbury).

## WORKSHOPS

### **Julia Shipley: But Why? (Taking a Test Drive):**

Our answer to *But Why?* is what differentiates us. We'll study examples and then we'll get a chance to apply these ideas to our own work.

Bring a favorite work by a writer you admire, and piece of your creative writing that you think might benefit from Julia's guidance.

### **SEAN PRENTISS: BENGAL TIGER MOMENTS (PETTING THE TIGER)**

After taking a test drive with *But Why?*, we'll expand or contract scenes based on time perception. We'll also practice the five speeds of scene and the three incident frequencies.

# FALL 2018 PROGRAM—RECAPS

## “Other Paths to Publication”

### Sonja Hakala, “What Would Shakespeare Do in Today’s Publishing Landscape?”

By Kerstin Lange



If Shakespeare were to emerge unprepared in today’s publishing landscape, he would likely feel bewildered at all the choices.

Would it be better to act as his own publisher and marketing director or to go the traditional publishing route?

I do know one thing Sonja Hakala would tell him: “Stay away from the vanity publishers. These companies make money off authors, not from selling books. They will make you sign a contract that essentially gives them the right to your book and that obligates you

to buy a minimum number of copies at inflated prices.”

Thanks to Sonja’s crash course, I now know that to indie publish my book, I need to check out [IngramSpark](#) and Amazon’s [CreateSpace](#).

Both companies offer editorial and design services, and the cost per printed copy is similar for both. However, independent bookstores aren’t fond of Amazon and often won’t stock or purchase books printed by CreateSpace. Also, Ingram is the largest distributor of books in the country, and indie bookstores and libraries use its database for ordering books.

Indie authors should [register the copyright to their work](#) at copyright.gov and get their own ISBN at [Bowker](#) (\$125 for one or \$295 for 10). Best to get 10 ISBNs because each version of a book—paperback, hardcover, ebook, audio—requires its own ISBN.

You can learn how to create your own ebook at Lynda.com, an educational website. Sonja suggested producing a short eBook via Word, iBook Author, or Scrivener to practice. Even if you end up with a traditional publisher or hire a designer, it’s good to learn as much as you can about the publishing business.

Sonja’s 30 years’ experience in the publishing world are condensed in her book, [Your Book, Your Way](#), and the companion workbook and guide, [Publish Your Book Your Way](#) (Full Circle Press).

### Details, Details, Details: The Crash Course in Going the Independent Publishing Route

By Celia Ryker

Ed Vincent works with Encircle Publications and shared his experience with us through a Q&A session moderated by LVW Past President Alyssa Berthiaume.

The most important thing to get a publisher’s attention, Ed said, is a well-edited manuscript with good sentence structure and no typos.

Submissions should be brief, 250 words or less, and include an author bio and a synopsis of the story. Publishers generally prefer manuscripts between 65,000 and 100,000 words.



# FALL 2018 PROGRAM—RECAPS

## (continued)

When Ed gets a submission, he asks himself: “What about this person makes their work marketable?” A quality manuscript can make up for a lack of experience or platform.

A publisher may consult with the author on cover design, but they usually have the final say.

Ed recommended getting permission to use quotes from other authors’ works. He advised against using song lyrics and warned that the image of the Las Vegas Strip is copyrighted by a group of hotel owners.

When you review your cover art, look at it in thumbnail format to know how it will look on Amazon. The author’s name should be the same size as the title.

So if you self-publish and don’t do well—will a traditional publisher still want to work with you? Yes, Ed said. Small publishers are more likely to be interested, but a good manuscript will be well received.

Ed also explained that writers can make as much from speaking as from royalties.

## The Publishing Journey Requires Perseverance, Courage, and Humility: Tips and Life Lessons from a Pro

By Lauren Palmer

Bill Schubart, author of seven books ranging from several collections of short stories to a first-person novel about a blind street singer, offered his advice to authors at all stages of the game. He spoke from his own experience publishing both independently and with a traditional publishing house.



Offering some advice on the writing process, Bill said *craft* must go hand in hand with *story*, and humility is key. When he indie publishes, Bill does a few rounds of editing and then hires two or three critical readers at \$200 per person. Next, he sends the edited manuscript to his editor, who will charge about \$500-600.

Next, a copyeditor will go through the manuscript with a fine-toothed comb looking for grammatical errors and discrepancies, at a cost of \$400-500. Finally, for his book design, he hires a designer to create the inside and outside of the book, approve the proof, and produce files IngramSpark will accept. This costs between \$1,000 and \$1,400. Then it’s off to the printer.

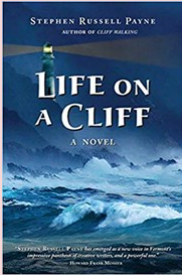
Overall, Bill calculated, the cost to indie-publish a book can be up to \$2,800-3,200.

Of course, publishing is only one part of the equation—marketing is just as important. Bill’s own marketing plan includes contacting local bookstores and libraries, a monthly newsletter, and book clubs.

He suggested building a relationship with the bookstores and libraries before approaching them about stocking your title. Always do your research and have your own marketing plan.

# RECENTLY PUBLISHED

## League Members' Credits and Accomplishments



### Stephen Russell Payne

Stephen's new novel, *Life On A Cliff*, was published in September (Ingram Spark). It's the sequel to his previous novel, *Cliff Walking*, which won the 2017 Bronze Prize for Fiction from *Readers' Favorite Awards*.

The launch event took place on October 4 at Phoenix Books in Burlington. On November 4, Stephen also was the featured author at the *Cold River Radio Show* in Intervale/North Conway, NH.

### Ron Lavalette

Ron's first chapbook, *Fallen Away*, is now available from Finishing Line Press.

Additionally, Ron's poem, *Flying Home*, won the Laureates' Choice Award in the annual Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest.



### Kathleen McKinley Harris

Kathy's review of *Wild Horse Country* by David Philipps was published in the summer 2018 issue of *Middlebury Magazine*.

On October 18, she read poetry from her chapbook, *Earth Striders* (Finishing Line Press), at the Book & Leaf bookstore in Brandon, VT.

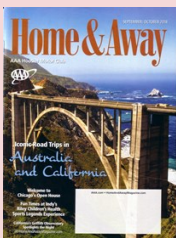


### Jerry Johnson

Jerry is the author of *Up the Creek Without a Saddle* and *Noah's Song*.

His [story about his schoolhouse home](#) appeared in the September edition of *Old House Journal*, a national magazine.

Our hearts go out to Jerry for losing his beloved canine companion Toby this December.



### Lisa Halvorsen

Lisa Halvorsen had a travel article on the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry in Storrs, Connecticut, in the September/October issue of *AAA Home and Away Magazine*.

### Lori L. MacLaughlin

Lori published her third fantasy adventure novel, *The Road Once Taken*, in June 2018 (Book and Sword Publishing).

Her previous novels are *Lady, Thy Name Is Trouble* (2015) and *Trouble By Any Other Name* (2016).



# Registration Form

## Winter Program 2019: HONING YOUR CRAFT: WRITING THAT SIZZLES

Register online at [www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org) or fill out the form below and send the registration form with a check to the League's P.O. Box postmarked by January 6, 2019.

**League of Vermont Writers, P.O. Box 5046, Burlington, VT 05402.**

Please make your check payable to: **League of Vermont Writers.** Write "Winter Program" on the memo line.

Registrar: [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org)

**DATE:** Saturday, January 19, 2019

**TIME:** 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Check-in/registration/  
morning refreshments  
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM Program

**LOCATION:** Trader Duke's Hotel, 1117 Williston Rd., South Burlington, VT 05403

**DEADLINE:** January 6, 2019. Please register as soon as possible.

## Board of Directors Slate

The Winter Program will feature our annual business meeting where we will vote on the slate for Board of Directors. As such, we would like to share with you the individuals who are nominated to be on the Board.

The candidates to fill At-Large positions with three-year terms are:

Shawn Anderson  
Amy Braun  
Pat Esden

Those nominated to hold officer positions are:

Bobbi Jo Capone—President  
Shawn Anderson—Vice President  
Shannara Johnson—Secretary  
Ron Jensen—Treasurer

We would like to thank members of the nominations committee for taking the time to build this year's slate: Stephen Payne, Shawn Holcombe and Hank Parker.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Members: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$46 each registration = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$56 each registration = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Students, ask about our student discount)

Tax-deductible donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE LEAGUE!**

**HAVE THEM VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

[www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org)

**LVW Board:** Bobbi Jo Davis, president; Shawn Anderson, vice-president; Alyssa Berthiaume, past president; Ron Jensen, treasurer; Shannara Johnson, secretary; Lisa Halvorsen, Annalisa Parent, Tammy Hetrick, Amy Braun, and Joan Grant at large.

Membership: Tommy Walz

League Lines is published four times per year. Questions or information can be emailed to us at

[lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org)