



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

Register now!

July 20, 2019

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Jerry Johnson's Schoolhouse

Irasburg, VT

3rd Biennial INTO THE WORDS

*LVW's Summer Retreat and Member Showcase
and our 90th Anniversary Celebration!*



INTO THE WORDS

Saturday, July 20, 2019 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Jerry Johnson's Schoolhouse,
870 Creek Road, Albany, VT 05820 (may show up in your map app as
Irasburg)

Rate: \$20 members/\$40 non-members

Register today at <https://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org>

Full agenda on page 3!

A Few Words on INTO THE WORDS

In the earliest days of the League, programs for members were about gathering to share ideas and to spend time together. In 2015, a special subcommittee orchestrated this summer event to bring LVW back to its roots. Purposefully named "Into the Words" playing off the hit-musical *Into the Woods*, the committee wanted to create that feeling of getting lost in the thing that you love (words) with people who share that adoration (writers).

Into the Words is a program that highlights the craft, skills, and talents of our members. The public can attend, but all presentations, workshops, readings, and exhibits are provided by members of LVW.

Mark your calendars and get prepared to let the muse lead you into the words: Join us on July 20th. Attend a session, find a comfy place to write, meditate, think, or chat with friends old and new. The day is one to inspire your creativity and surround yourself with others who share the same passion for writing.

We are also planning a **Town Hall Meeting** with members and the board of directors where we can reminisce about the League's past and talk about our visions for its future. Everyone is welcome to contribute their constructive thoughts and ideas.

We invite all members to talk about their fondest memories of the League. Write a (short!) poem or a paragraph of prose to express your feelings.

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Members,

Here we are, approaching the summer months, and the flowers are blooming! New life has sprung up everywhere.

What a great time to reevaluate the creative process of writing. To be inspired by all that is around us—the leaves on the trees, baby animals... and the sun! I am making a conscious effort to take in everything around me and see things in different, creative ways.

Our summer program is another great way to explore and find new inspiration. At Into the Words, our biennial writers' retreat, our own League members will present a variety of workshops. There is such a wealth of knowledge within our organization!

We will also be celebrating our 90th anniversary. There will be cake! (At least that's the plan.) Come prepared with your favorite League memory. We are planning an open mic where some members will be able to share their memories (five-minute limit).

Taken from our website's "Our Past" page, Karen Lorentz wrote in her history of the League's first 70 years, "One thing has remained steady: the desire to promote education and networking among members so as to inspire writing and expand opportunities for publication."

This is what we are still doing to this day... and we are continually stepping forward into the future of the League of Vermont Writers, creating our story together.

My term as president comes to a close in January of 2020, and my role on the board will transition into Immediate Past President. I have decided that part of my next step in volunteering will be to spearhead a Programming Committee. If this is something you are interested in learning more about, please email the League. I will also be at the Summer Program to answer any questions you may have.

If you want to volunteer in any capacity for our Into the Words retreat (or other events or projects), please reach out to us, and we will get you in contact with the member who can answer your questions.

Carpe diem!

All the best,

Bobbi Jo Capone

LVW, President



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LVW's Summer Retreat and Member Showcase
and our 90th Anniversary Celebration!

AGENDA

(A day schedule will also be provided upon check-in)

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Registration
 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Welcome greeting

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM **Workshop session 1**

1. **Jerry Johnson** and **Paul Fell** – Collaboration Between Writer and Illustrator for a Book Project
2. **Mary Fillmore** – Describing the Here and Now
3. **Namaya** – Paint Your Words!

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Workshop session 2**

1. **Hank Parker** – Galleon Dreams: A Tale of Sunken Treasure
2. **Alyssa Berthiaume** – Developing a Simple Content Strategy for Your Online Author Platform Without Driving Yourself Crazy
3. **Sarah Ward** – Developing Characters That Live On (in the minds of readers)

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch – Bring Your Own

LVW's 90th Anniversary Celebration and Town Hall Meeting

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM **Workshop session 3**

1. **Paula Diaco** – How to Build Your Platform for Writers Who Hate to Market Themselves
2. **Shannara Johnson** – Blackout Poetry Workshop
3. **Joan Grant** – Public Speaking and Acting Techniques for Writers

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM Break

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM **Workshop session 4**

1. **Corrina Thurston** – How To Market Your Work Without being "Salesy"
2. **Dan Close** – Novel Characters: Where Do They Come From?
3. **Caryn Connolly** – Using Travel to Bring Authenticity to Your Writing

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM Closing gathering

*At any time, people may skip a session and opt for writing, social time, or contemplation of the pastoral setting.

As we get closer to the event, we'll send another email to all members with directions and "What to bring and what to wear" checklist.

SPRING 2019 PROGRAM—RECAPS

“People Need Stories”

Paula Diaco: How to Recognize a Story When You See One

By Shannara Johnson

The reason we love stories is hard wired. MRIs show that certain regions in the human brain light up when a story is told—in fact, the brains of the storyteller and listener light up at the same time.

Paula explained the difference between anecdotes and “slice-of-life” stories and talked about Aristotle’s classic story structure. She also discussed Freytag’s Pyramid, which consists of exposition, rising action, climax in the middle of the story, then falling action, and finally the denouement (the wrapping up).

She also covered the “in medias res” story structure—where the story starts in the middle—and Joseph Campbell’s Universal Story Structure which works for novels, screenwriting, and memoirs.

Melanie Brooks: Writing What Hurts—from Dark Memories to Powerful Stories

By Shannara Johnson

Melanie showed the audience how to take painful experiences and turn them into a powerful story.

- 1. Uncover and access material.** Melanie read an excerpt from Bernard Cooper’s *The Fine Art of Sighing* and invited the attendees to participate in a writing exercise.
- 2. Dig deeper and face your fears.** Pat Schneider (*Writing Alone and With Others*) said, “Fear is the friend of a writer. Where there is fear, there is buried treasure. Something important lies hidden—something that matters—like the angel waiting in the stone that Michelangelo began to carve.”
- 3. Shape and craft.** You have to go beyond the situation and find out what the actual story is. Don’t just retell the events, but draw a moral or lesson from them. Make the story accessible to the reader and ground them in time and place. Start with vivid scenes.
- 4. Practice self-care.** Process your pain with a therapist if necessary. Find trusted writing companions who understand what you’re doing. Give yourself distance from your material—step back sometimes, distract yourself, go outside, and take a walk in nature). Remind yourself that there is life beyond the pain.

SPRING 2019 PROGRAM—RECAPS

“People Need Stories”

Jenna R. London: Story—What Is It, Where Has It Been, and Where Is It Going?

By Shannara Johnson

Jenna gave us a definition of story and discussed what makes a good story.

She identified things that are absolute about stories. Every story needs a beginning, a middle, and an end (though that’s not always true; the movie *Reservoir Dogs* is an example). She also talked about universal vs. specific themes, how to channel emotion and pain into a story, and how to deal with disturbing scenes.

When we’re processing traumatic stories, we need to be clear about the purpose of the writing, the emotion behind it. Two people can go through the exact same thing but will have a completely different experience.

In her Q&A session, Jenna talked about how the writing process today differs from that in the past and discussed individual methods with attendees—from handwriting novels to dictating them with Dragon NaturallySpeaking, a speech recognition software package.

Sandy Lincoln: Q&A Session

By Jenna R. London

The Spring Program concluded with a question and answer session featuring Sandy Lincoln—owner of The Bookery and caterer for the program.

Sandy provided the audience with a bulk of information ranging from her personal experience with the publishing industry to current trends, clientele types, business management, role and value of Amazon to the independent book market, and the impact of eBooks on the publishing industry and their evolution as well as her personal goals and projects.

Sandy shared that freedom of expression was one of the primary reasons she has dedicated her life to the book-selling business. After an 18-year career at Northshire, an independent bookstore in southern Vermont, Sandy decided to open The Bookery, which at first included only books. Food was incorporated later.

A goal of The Bookery is to provide Sandy’s customers with a space for growth and discovery. She is also involved with book recovery and remediation, and roughly 80% of her inventory is used books.

In closing, Sandy emphasized her commitment to supporting Vermont and New England writers and encouraged anyone with a book out to stop in with a few copies. She loves selling titles from local authors and is happy to host author readings.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

League Members' Credits and Accomplishments

Kathleen McKinley Harris

In April, Kathy's poem, "Pasture Rose," appeared in PoemCity's display at Birchgrove Baking, 279 Elm St., Montpelier.

Melissa Cronin

Melissa's personal essay, "Tilt-A-Whirl," was published in the summer of 2018 with [Tahoma Literary Review](#). She also received a [2019 Vermont Arts Council Artist Development Grant](#).

Michael Cahlin

Michael's short story, "Honey's Turn," appeared in the April 2019 issue of *Mystery Weekly*. His most recent non-fiction piece, "[Going Old School: Are Pen & Paper Write For You](#)," appeared in *The Writer*.

Nancy Kilgore

In October 2018, Nancy's article, "[In Search of Isobel](#)," was published in *The Bottle Imp: The Scottish Journal of Literary Studies*. It is a travel piece on researching her new novel about a 17th-century witch in Scotland.

Read more at www.nancykilgore.com.

Mary Senior Harwood

An excerpt from Mary's new novel, *Bone Box*, has been published by Z Publishing in their 2019 *Emerging Writers* series. It is available for purchase [on their website](#) as well as on Amazon.

Sarah Ward

Sarah's young-adult novel, [Aesop Lake](#), was published in July 2018 by Green Writers Press.

Frank Haddleton

Frank's novel, *Walker's Key*, was published in June 2019 by Onion River Press. The book is based on actual, long-hidden events Frank stumbled upon while researching family history.

Read more at www.frankhaddleton.com.

Isabel S. Abrams

Isabel's book, [50 Ways to Save the Elephants \(and Change the World\)](#), was published in September 2018 by Cider Mill Press. The foreword was written by Laurel Neme, Ph.D., who also contributed part of the research.

Kerstin Lange

In February, Kerstin received a grant from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation to support the completion of her book, *Tracing the Phantom Border: Renewal and Remembrance in Germany's Green Heart*. She also did a radio commentary on VPR in May, titled "[Lost Worlds](#)."

Registration Form

Summer Program 2019: INTO THE WORDS

Register online at 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 July 15, 2019.

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

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

Please note that our bank will NOT deposit checks made out to LVW. You must write the name of the League in full, "League of Vermont Writers."

Please remember to bring your own food and drinks for the day!

Registrar: lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org

DATE: Saturday, July 20, 2019

TIME: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Jerry Johnson's Schoolhouse
870 Creek Road,
Albany, VT 05820 (may show up as Irasburg on your map app)

Schedule at a Glance:

(A day schedule will also be provided upon check-in)

8:30–9:30	Registration
9:30–9:45	Welcome greeting
9:45–10:45	Workshop session 1
10:45–11:00	Break
11:00–12:00	Workshop session 2
12:00–1:30	Lunch – Bring Your Own LVW's 90th Anniversary Celebration and Town Hall Meeting
1:30–2:30	Workshop session 3
2:30–2:45	Break
2:45–3:45	Workshop session 4
3:45–4:00	Closing gathering

*At any time, people may skip a session and opt for writing, social time, or contemplation of the pastoral setting.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Members: _____ @ \$20 each registration = \$ _____

Non-members: _____ @ \$40 each registration = \$ _____

(Students, ask about our student discount)

Tax-deductible donation: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check # _____

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE LEAGUE!

HAVE THEM VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.leagueofvermontwriters.org

LVW Board: Bobbi Jo Capone, president; Shawn Anderson, vice-president; Alyssa Berthiaume, immediate past president; Ron Jensen, treasurer; Shannara Johnson, secretary; Lisa Halvorsen, Tammy Hetrick, Amy Braun, Joan Grant, and Pat Esden 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