



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

Register now!

April 13, 2019

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Pierce Hall Community Center

Rochester, VT

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Spring Program 2019



PEOPLE NEED STORIES

(Writers, Bookstores, and Libraries Feed Our Need)

Open for Registration

Saturday, April 13, 2019

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Pierce Hall Community Center

38 S. Main Street, Rochester, VT 05767

Price:

\$54 members/\$74 non-members

To register, go to our website: <https://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org>

Register now to save your seat!

AGENDA

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

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Registration and morning refreshments

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

Amy Braun — Generative writing exercise

Break

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

Lunch and chance to tour the library next door and connect with the librarian

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

Break

Sandy Lincoln — Q&A Session

Wrap-Up

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Members,

How time flies! Winter will come to an end soon, and spring will be upon us. And can you believe it has been 90 years since the League of Vermont Writers started? It is such an honor to be part of the history of the League.

As we move further into this year and closer to our Summer Program, “Into the Words,” I invite you to start thinking about how the League has affected your life. What are your fondest memories of your time in the League? What are the close connections or friendships you made? Which presenter has had a transformational impact on you and/or your writing?

If you are able to attend “Into the Words” this summer, please bring along your stories and memories to share at our gathering. If you are unable to attend, consider writing an email to lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org so we can share your story with other members. You may also consider writing a blog post for our website on this subject.

Volunteering! I would like to see a Programming Committee start up again. The past few years, the 10 board members have been taking on this job along with their board responsibilities. The League would benefit from people who are willing to contribute their time to plan and organize quality programming. Training will be provided.

If you want to be the next person to run our Fall or Spring Program, please speak up! This is a great way to volunteer with flexibility on the hours you pitch in. The same goes for members who would like to start (and run) genre writers groups.

Writing blog posts for our website is a great way to get a writing credit and exposure for your writing on a different platform. If you haven’t read our blog lately, head on over to the website and check it out. It will give you an idea of what others are writing and may inspire you to write a post of your own. This is one membership benefit that’s under-utilized. I would love to see some blog posts in celebration of our 90th year!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the programs this year—and to hearing about your thoughts on the League and how you think we can all pull together and enhance our experience as members. Please feel free to reach out and let us know what you are thinking.

All the best,

Bobbi Jo Capone
President, LVW



SPRING PROGRAM

Speakers

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



What is it about stories that move humans like they do? It's often said that we are wired for story, and we know how attracted we are to one that's well written. We know that storytelling shapes language, and that humans shared stories long before the invention of writing.

What else do we know and love about stories? They help us make sense out of chaos, while they add meaning to our lives. Our days are filled with stories we tell, create, repeat, listen to, write about, and record. We always want more good stories.

What does all of this mean to present-day writers? Paula Diaco, writing coach and mentor, will talk about the universal structure to story, even though every story is unique. She will ask, what is the difference between story and anecdote? Or between slice-of-life and story? Does this apply to nonfiction as well as fiction? And do we need to care?

Paula will also show us how to test our story ideas using the universal structure invented by Aristotle, which provides a template for infinite creative storytelling.

Come prepared to write and share the elements of your story.

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



Ernest Hemingway famously said, "Write hard and clear about what hurts." His words support the notion that writing about the painful material that life gives us—illness, death, trauma, or family dysfunction— can help us understand it in a more profound way.

The process of re-entering those memories, taking them apart, and then putting them back together on our own terms can transform them into something meaningful, perhaps even healing and beautiful, for both writer and reader.

In this workshop, we'll look at ways to gently peel back the layers of memory to uncover the stories at their core. We'll talk about examining our motives for digging into these stories and how to take care of ourselves in the process. We'll discuss how giving narrative shape to our hard stories—whether in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry—can invite others to lean into our experiences and offer them permission to reveal some of their own.

Melanie Brooks is a freelance writer, college professor, and mother living in Nashua, New Hampshire, with her husband, two children, and a yellow lab. She is the author of *Writing Hard Stories: Celebrated Memoirists Who Shaped Art from Trauma*. She teaches at Northeastern University and Merrimack College in Massachusetts, and Nashua Community College in New Hampshire.

Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including the *Washington Post*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Creative Nonfiction*, the *Huffington Post*, *Modern Loss*, *Hippocampus*, *Bustle*, and *Solstice Literary Magazine*. She is completing a memoir called, *All the Things I Couldn't Say*, about the lasting impact of living with the 10-year secret of her father's HIV disease before his death in 1995.

SPRING PROGRAM

Speakers

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



In this interactive discussion, Jenna R. London provides the basic history of story to help understand humans' desire to express and read the written word. Emphasis will be given to story's role in our social-media and self-promotion-driven society.

Jenna uses fresh ideas that will give individuals the opportunity to expand personal understanding of story, to reevaluate the purpose in participating in a writing life, and to generate fresh ideas and approaches to enhancing individual stories. Come prepared to participate in conversation and write!

Jenna R. London's writing is most influenced by nature and the outdoors. She works as editor-in-chief at Steel Toe Books, and as an assistant editor at both C&R Press and Typehouse Literary Magazine. She also works as a freelancer, tutor, and writing coach. Her work has been published in the anthology *Triumph: Stories of Victories Great and Small*, at Assay, Berkshire Living, AMC Outdoors, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2017. For more about Jenna, visit her page at <https://catalpadreams.com/>.

Sandy Lincoln—Q&A Session



Open dialogue with Sandy Lincoln. This is an opportunity to ask questions and pick the brain of an owner of a successful bookstore and local community hub.

Sandy Lincoln, an armchair traveler and lover of books, rock and roll, and the Beat poets, is an alumna of the Northshire Bookstore where she worked for 18 years.

She loves libraries and has volunteered in them from childhood through her college years. She worked as the Rochester Town librarian for six years and established her bookstore and bakery 15 years ago.

The expansion of The Bookery, which houses two "Literary Kitties," George and Pip (next door to the original bookstore and Bakery), occurred over a year ago. She is currently pursuing an interest in handmade books, book binding and repair, and is a board member of the Antiquarian Book Club of Vermont.

Spring Open Mic & Gathering

Date: Friday, April 12, 2019

Time: 7:00– 8:30 PM

Location: Sandy's Books & Bakery, 30 N. Main Street, Rochester, VT 05767

Open mic for everyone who wants to share their reading with their fellow League members. Please bring about five minutes' worth of your writing. Cash food and beverages available. Please email Amy Braun at amy.braun@vcfa.edu by April 10 if you would like to read or attend.

WINTER 2019 PROGRAM—RECAPS

“Honing Your Craft—Writing That Sizzles”

Putting the “Why” into Your Story

By Stephanie Bauer



Look at a mundane object near you and examine it, using all five senses. Consider in which way it is like one of your parents. That was the task Julia Shipley used in her lecture at the League’s Spring Program to get attendees thinking about the importance of “why.”

Like breathing, Julia sees writing as a two-fold process: a generative phase (inhale) and a revision phase (exhale). If you are in the midst of a revision, Julia encourages you to guide that process by asking yourself “why.”

“Why” can apply on a large scale, as in, “Why am I telling this story?” or on a small scale, as in, “Why am I using this particular word?” The why of your story is your motivation, your drive, and your focus. If you ever feel stuck, go back to your why.

Julia also walked us through the importance of “why” in journalism. She described a human-interest piece about a wildfire in California, and how the “why” of the story set it apart from other articles of its kind.

Whatever you’re writing, keeping the “why” in mind can help you revise your piece with a laser-like focus and increase your reader’s investment in the story.

The Flow of Time and How to Make It Work for You

By Stephanie Bauer

Time is vital to our lives, but as speaker Sean Prentiss pointed out, we are really bad at measuring it. When we enjoy ourselves, time seems to fly. When we are scared or bored, time seems to crawl.

Shouldn’t our characters—and our readers—experience time in the same way?

Sean outlined different speeds of scene and how to use them:

The *neutral scene* takes as long to read about an event as that event has actually lasted.

A *summary* quickens the pace. It’s used when the reader needs to know something happened, but they don’t need to know all the details.

A *gap* is when you skip time because it doesn’t advance the plot. We don’t need to read about your character brushing their teeth in the morning unless it is important to the story.

On the other side of the spectrum is *dilation*, which stretches time. By incorporating details, you force the reader to slow down and pay attention, which is useful in fight-or-flight situations or novel experiences.

Finally, in the *pause*, action stops entirely for a moment of reflection, introspection, or speculation.



RECENTLY PUBLISHED

League Members' Credits and Accomplishments

Sarah Dickenson Snyder

Several of Sarah's poems appeared in the following publications this year: "Speaking to Rilke," "Red Speaks Deep," and "On the Bank" (*isacoustic*); "I Haven't Been Entirely Idle" (*Algebra of Owls*); "For Me: Talking With God" (*Panoplyzine*); "Penobscot Bay," "About to Lift Off the Tarmac," and "With a Polaroid Camera" (*Wanderlust-Journal*); "My Twenty-Seven-Year-Old Daughter Back Home for a Few Months" (*Literary Mama*). Sarah's website is <https://sarahdickensonsnyder.com/>.



Christy Mihaly

Christy's picture book, *Hey, Hey, Hay! (A Tale of Bales and the Machines That Make Them)*, illustrated by Joe Cepeda, was published by Holiday House in Aug. 2018. Her YA nonfiction book, *Diet for a Changing Climate: Food for Thought*, co-written with Sue Heavenrich, was published by Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books in Aug. 2018.



C.L. Howland

C.L. Howland's third novel, *To Thee I Sing*, was published by Random Tangent Press in Oct. 2018. For more information, visit www.clhowland.com.



Lisa Halvorsen

Lisa contributed several [travel articles](#) to *The Points Guy*, including "Attractions Worthy of a Family Road Trip in Vermont" (Nov. 2018), "Free (or Nearly Free) Things Families Can Do in Amsterdam" (Jan. 2019), and "How to Plan an Affordable Family Trip to Stockholm, Sweden" (Feb. 2019).

Cardy Raper

A third edition of Cardy Raper's memoir titled, *Love, Sex, and Mushrooms: Adventures of a Woman in Science*, was published by Green Writers Press in Nov. 2018.



Ron Lavalette

Ron published eight poems and six flash fiction pieces in various print and online journals, reviews, and anthologies in 2018 and early 2019. Most of these works are on Ron's website, [Eggs over Tokyo](#).

Marian Willmott



Marian's poetry chapbook, *Still Life, Requiem, and an Egg*, was published by Prolific Press in 2019. You can also find her book at Bear Pond Books in Montpelier and at Phoenix Books in Burlington and Essex. Contact: marianw@gmavt.net.

Submit your recent accomplishments and publishing credits to Shannara Johnson (shannara.johnson@gmail.com) for inclusion in the League Lines. Please only include published works from the past year, incl. books, short stories, magazine articles/ columns, guest blogs, plays, and movie/TV scripts. Other accomplishments may include the facilitation of writing workshops, hosting of open mics, and more. Unfortunately, works in progress or older than one year cannot be considered for League Lines but may be posted on the League's Facebook page.

Registration Form

Spring Program 2019: PEOPLE NEED STORIES (Writers, Bookstores, and Libraries Feed Our Need)

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 April 9, 2019. **League of Vermont Writers, P.O. Box 5046, Burlington, VT 05402.**

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

Registrar: lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org

DATE: Saturday, April 13, 2019

TIME: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Pierce Hall Community Center, 38 S. Main Street, Rochester, VT 05767

DEADLINE: April 9, 2019.

Schedule at a Glance:

8:30–9:30	Registration & morning refreshments
9:30–10:30	Paula Diaco — How to Recognize a Story When You See One
10:30–10:45	Amy Braun — Generative writing exercise
10:45–11:00	Break
11:00–12:00	Melanie Brooks — Writing What Hurts: From Dark Memories to Powerful Stories
12:00–1:00	Lunch and chance to tour the library next door and connect with the librarian
1:00–2:00	Jenna R. London — Story: What Is It, Where Has It Been, and Where Is It Going?
2:00–2:15	Break
2:15–3:15	Sandy Lincoln — Q&A Session
3:15–3:30	Wrap-Up

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Members: _____ @ \$54 each registration = \$ _____

Non-members: _____ @ \$74 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

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