

# NORTH WEST LITERARY ARTS

Volume 1 / Issue 3

## SUPPORTERS TABLE

Thank you to Inés, Katherine, Kevin, Waterstones King Street, and Lancaster University-Grad College for helping us continue creating engaging, live literature events, writer development opportunities, podcasts and publications!

We are also super thrilled that New Writing North has offered to support the development of our arts organization.



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## THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Last month we returned to The Storey's Print Room Café for another night of true stories. Readers shared stories loosely interpreting the month's themes "school memories." The stories were haunting and lovely, funny and inspiring. Quite a few of them invited us to think about the lessons we learn in and outside of the classroom. They reminded of us the importance of sharing information, building connections, and listening.

This month's theme is "alternate paths" (loosely interpreted). We are inviting readers to share their 3-5 minute (2-3 typed pages) story exploring paths and choices they could have taken. If you'd like to share your 3-5 minute true story in person, via email, on our website, Facebook or Twitter, let us know.

At Stories at the Storey there's always room for one more.

## WHAT'S NEW?

Inspired by Russ Daley, the manager of The Print Room, last month we introduced a mid-way interval. I am not always a fan of intervals and I wasn't sure what to expect. We opted for a short break. It was five-ten minutes; long enough to get a drink, mingle and get cozy. Intervals can go a number of ways: too long and people get restless and two short and people are frenzied. I think it went pretty well. If you were there, let us know what you thought.

We also introduced 6:30 drinks. As hosts, Naomi and I endeavour to arrive before the audience. Still, because we like to talk and aim to speak to everyone, we end up starting just after 7. With pre-event drinks, everyone has time to engage and get comfortable. I'm pleased to report that it went quite well and we will be there for 6:30 drinks again this month.

Speaking of community, New Writing North has offered to support our development. This support is priceless. Launching a creative enterprise can feel like re-inventing the wheel. As we grow and shape projects, we have been fortunate to have received valuable advice and insight from organizations and individuals in the past. We always ask questions and seek to build relationships in all that we do. With New Writing North's support, we will position North West Literary Arts as an inclusive literary arts organization.

## Tips and Prompts

Lots of writers experience "writers' block" and while I'm not usually one of them, last month I experienced a sort of writer overflow. I was brimming and

bubbling over with ideas and strands of experiences but I didn't have a concrete story; I had ten. Was it the theme? Last

month's theme, school memories, inspired a lot of ideas for many of us. The story I read was about my relationship with the flute and what my selection and eventual abandonment of it says about me as a person. It's not the story I set out to tell. Last month saw my oldest leave for her PhD in a city several train rides, bus lines, and footsteps away and my second oldest leaving for his undergrad degree in a city not as challenging to visit geographically but one requiring an emotional journey. It was a challenging time. I was focusing on my children creating school memories, memories of their first days of school, and how much I felt we all had to learn. But those weren't my stories to share. So while I was bursting with stories, I didn't share them. Instead, I reflected in journals and wrote drafts I would not share. I needed to get those stories off of my chest, I just didn't need to publish them. Once I got those stories out of the way, I focused on a story I could share. One that still showed, I think, some of the turmoil I was feeling as I rediscover my own sense of self.

At the end of last month's event I had a chat with two guests. We talked about the ways we process events in our lives, the stages we move through and the ways we react to them. Next month's theme is "empty nest" in whatever way people interpret that because some of us are leaving home and some of us feel (just a little) left behind.

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## *Building Community, One Story at a Time*

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### **GET IN TOUCH**

Have news to share? Let us know and we will share it either via Twitter, Facebook or email.

Twitter: @NWLitSalon

Facebook: North West Literary Salon

Email: [northwestliterarysalon@gmail.com](mailto:northwestliterarysalon@gmail.com)

Thanks for reading,

*Yvonne and Naomi, North West Literary Arts*