

NORTH WEST LITERARY ARTS

Volume 1 / Issue 10

SUPPORTERS TABLE

Thank you to Sharon, Katherine, Kevin, Lancaster University-Grad College, Lancaster University Department of English Literature and Creative Writing, New Writing North, Waterstones, and Printroom Café & Bar for helping us continue creating engaging, live literature events, writer development opportunities, podcasts and publications!

THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Last month's theme for Stories at the Storey was "betrayal." As you might expect, people shared stories about relationships, families, friendships, religion, and memories that have let us down, led us astray, or betrayed us in one way or the other. It was an interesting evening of stories that were touching, moving, and generous.

A special thank you to Kevin who stood in for Naomi last month. Kevin helped co-host and make sure the event ran smoothly.

NOTES FROM OUR FIRST LANCASTER PUB HUB

On July 31 we hosted our first Lancaster Pub Hub. It was an opportunity for emerging writers to talk with publishing industry professionals about publishing paths. In the discussion we learned about the importance of writing a synopsis and promoting your work,

the art of maintaining professional relationships with editors, and different paths to publishing. Our guests were writer and editor, Martin De Mello of Commonword and writer Mickela Sonola.

This is the first event of a series of talks aimed to create opportunities for emerging writers to gain publishing insight, build relationships with publishing professionals, share publishing paths, and build relationships with other writers. Future talks will include follow on workshops on writing the synopsis, querying agents, responding to feedback, editing work, pitching to nonfiction publications, and more. If you're interested in being added to the Pub Hub mailing list, let us know.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in community arts, writing, publishing, and/or marketing, and have time to volunteer, do we have an opportunity for you! North West Literary Arts is looking for volunteers. Who are we looking for? Marketers, bid writers, evaluators, and event hosts to help market, promote and reach new audiences, create surveys to find out what projects and programs our community needs; event hosts to help events go smoothly; and you: whatever skills you possess. Interested in volunteering? See below to get in touch.

Stories at the Storey August Theme

Once again, last month we asked the audience for a theme and the audience did not disappoint. This month's theme is "road trip" loosely interpreted. Road trips often start out with good intentions. Where they end up depends on the roads we take and the company we keep. They often lead to missed stops, uncomfortable conversations, chance meetings, breakdowns (sometimes mental, sometimes physical), memories, beginnings and endings. Where will you take us? We are looking for stories of road trips (loosely interpreted) that explore the places we go and the ways we get there, or don't.

If you'd like to sign up for a 3-5 minute true story open mic slot or share your story on our website, email us at storiesatthestorey@gmail.com. If you'd like to share it via Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, message or DM us there.

Tips and Prompts

Last month we had quite a few new readers. It's always great to see people read for the first time or for the first time at our event. As always, the audience was warm, welcoming, and encouraging. If you're considering reading at Stories at the Storey here are a few tips to help you enjoy the experience:

1. Each month we explore a theme. Before beginning to write your piece, brainstorm. What does the piece make you think about? You might not want to write about the first thing that comes to mind or even the second, but allowing yourself to explore potential themes makes it less likely you will tell us something that you don't want to share.
2. Write a draft: drafting is an important part of the writing process. Each draft brings you closer to the story you want to tell. It also helps you frame the story so that you and readers can keep track of it.
3. Practice reading/performing your piece: Once you've edited it into the shape you want on the page, it's time to read it off the page. Read the piece as if you were sharing it with an intimate group of friends and strangers, in front of a microphone, on a stage. Use your body if that makes you feel more comfortable. Use your voice and the range at your disposal. The audience engages with your tone, body language and facial expressions as much as we engage with the story. So, lean in, whisper, laugh; it all brings your story to life.
4. Get feedback from your friends: if you aren't sure a piece is appropriate or that you're ready to read it, share it with your friends. If that's not possible, you can always share it with us. The event starts at 7 but we arrive at 6:30 to chat, get comfortable, and meet people. If you'd like feedback on your piece prior to reading it, email it to us in advance (at least 24 hours in advance) or pop in to Printroom Café at 6:30 before the event.
5. Time your reading: remember each reader gets 3-5 minutes to share their true story.
6. Remember, you do not need to memorize the story but please have read it out loud before reading it on the night. It's fine to read to us from the paper, phone, iPad, tablet, etc...
7. Arrive early: we recommend you arrive between 6:30-6:45 to get comfortable, relax, and check in. Those few minutes could mean that by the time your name is called, you're ready to share your story.
8. Look up. Make eye contact with the audience, look around the room. At the end of the day, it's a conversation.
9. Listen to everyone's story: while it may not be possible to stay the entire hour, listening to one another's stories is a good way to build relationships and get tips.
10. Have fun. It's a true story open mic night; the evening is meant to be fun. Enjoy yourself.

Building Community, One Story at a Time

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

Twitter: @NWLitSalon @StoriesatStorey

Facebook: North West Literary Salon, Stories at Storey

Facebook Groups: Onliterary, Create

Email: northwestliteraryarts@gmail.com

Instagram: North West Literary Arts

Want our help with a project? Get in touch.

Thanks for reading,

Yvonne and Naomi, North West Literary Arts

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