

A letter from the League Board of Directors

2025 is bringing some changes to the League

Throughout the 2010s and 2020s, the League has grown at an astonishing rate: membership numbers, membership engagement, community engagement, events, and program opportunities are at an all-time high as we go into this new year.

This has been thanks to an engaged membership, a dedicated Board, and an exceptional staff: the amount of work put in by our small team of two full-time co-directors and one part-time communications superstar is equal to more than 4.5 full-time employees (we finally did the math!).

Last month, our members and supporters banded together to raise nearly \$20,000 to support increased financial support for members! This generosity from our community is one part of a multi-step plan to ensuring program accessibility for poets all across Turtle Island, Canada, while also securing the League's financial future.

We thank you for your incredible support of our organization and our mission!

Still, as our operations, programs, services, and membership have all expanded, our revenues have not grown to match the rate of inflation and our increasing expenses.

Like many of our sibling organizations in the arts, the League's financial stability is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain: grants are fewer, and more difficult to attain; private giving is on a downward trend for all Canadian charities; and costs of goods and services are increasing faster than we can keep up.

The organization has stretched its human and financial resources as far as possible to continue to offer the full extent of our programs and services, at the most accessible cost possible. We are proud of our commitment to accessibility and equity and celebrate that this means all submission fees and registration fees have discounted options available, and programming is free to access whenever possible.

The League's membership fees have not changed in over 15 years. However, with increased demand on our programs and services, combined with increasing costs, the Board has passed a motion to increase membership fees starting April 1, 2025.

Why now?

- As part of our fiscal responsibility, we have a mandate to ensure the long-term stability of the organization.

- League program and service offerings are at an all-time high, often operating from a loss or break-even financial standpoint to ensure accessibility.
- The realities of the current economic climate have demanded that the League initiate a financial review of the organization.

How this affects you

In March 2025, when you are contacted with an invitation to renew your membership, you will see the new cost of membership for the April 2025 year will be \$205 for Full Membership and \$85 for Associate Membership. This increase, equivalent to approximately \$1.75 per month, is projected to increase revenue for League programs and services by at least \$10,000 annually.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, including many of our members, the League's Member Support Fund will empower the League to provide fee waivers to members who may be grappling with the fee increase. Fee waivers will be available via an application form, and can support:

- A fee reduction to stay at current membership fees (\$185/70)
- A custom fee reduction
- A full fee waiver

Finally, alongside this increase, the League is pleased to – at long last – implement a 50% fee discount available to Indigenous members.

This April 2025 fee increase brings the League's membership fees in line with the longstanding fees of comparable institutions and is the first step towards the organization's long term financial stability. To address inflation and increased programming, the Board has approved a review of the first stage of the fee increase in advance of a potential second phase of fee increases for April 2027.

We're happy to hear from you

We understand that this change comes at a challenging time for many members, and we are committed to working with you so that you can continue to make the most of your membership and stay a valued member of our community.

We will be hosting an online member townhall meeting on Wednesday, February 26 at 2pm ET, where members will have the chance to chat with the Board of Directors and learn more about the financial aid available to support members in need. The session will be recorded, and members are welcome to send questions to nicole@poets.ca in advance.

Registration required.

We value your membership

As we sign off this missive, we want to reiterate that our goal continues to be supporting poets and poetry as much as we can, and we are committed to working with our members to keep our programs and services as accessible as possible. Although the League has grown far beyond its grassroots origins, our membership continues to be at the heart of our mission, and our members are our lifeblood.

As a member, you receive the most correspondence from the League: member-only information, member-only calls and requests, League business updates, and other internal notes on top of all the public opportunities and newsletters we share. We appreciate your continued response and feedback to our correspondence. We know it can be a lot, and we appreciate you taking the time to sit down with our various bulletins.

This year, we hope to continue to expand our social network beyond our beloved membership, building relationships with individuals and organizations who can provide long-term support for the League's programs and services as sponsors, partners, and benefactors. If you know of a connection that would suit the League perfectly, please feel free to connect with Executive Director Lesley Fletcher, lesley@poets.ca.

Sincerely,
The League of Canadian Poets Board of Directors

Rayanne Haines, President

Michael Andrews, Treasurer

Frances Boyle, Secretary

Tracy Hamon, Past President

Jaclyn Desforges, Membership Committee Chair

Hollay Ghadery, Regional Representative Committee Chair

Stuart Ian McKay, EDI Committee Chair

Upcoming Events

Tuesday,
February 11, 2025
@ 8pm ET

**Celebrating
Black Futures: a
poetry
performance &
open mic**

Wednesday,
February 26, 2025
@ 2pm ET

**Member
Townhall**

Subscribe to *Between the Lines*

Make sure to subscribe to our poetry newsletter ***Between the Lines*** to catch all the latest opportunities, whether it's calls for submissions, prizes, contests, residencies, festivals, and more!

▶ [Click here to
subscribe](#) ◀

Jeri Brown

<https://www.pennquill.com/issues>

Louise Carson

Louise Carson recently had work published in Wales Haiku Journal, Chrysanthemum, The Literary Review of Canada, Bookworm, and Montreal Serai. She also read at The Lawnchair Soirée and Kafé Poe.

George Elliott Clarke

GEC celebrated in Beijing, People's Republic of China, Jan 22, 2025:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/WNlyMGOxVIWoXqIU0feMzg>

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/ESi353KORCprobpU1Eu_vA

GEC & D.D. Jackson interviewed by Valentino Assenza on HOWL (CIUT-FM)

re: release of D.D. Jackson's CD, Poetry Project, which is based on 13 song commissions from GEC and poet Giovanna Riccio. Poets represented include Ayesha Chatterjee, Irving Layton, Bruce Meyer, and Albert Moritz: "HOWL." CIUT Radio. 89.5 FM [Toronto, ON] January 21, 2025.

<https://ciut.fm/shows-by-day/howl/>

GEC, Executive Producer, Anthem, recording by the Afro-Metis Nation, released Jan 10: 2025:

[YouTube Music](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Apple Music](#)

[Bandcamp](#)

Samantha Jones

Samantha Jones is excited to announce the release of her debut poetry collection, Attic Rain, with NeWest Press (September 2024). Attic Rain

Find the latest from the League:

- ▶ [Poetry Book Reviews](#)
- ▶ [Poetry Pause Archive](#)
- ▶ [Events](#)
- ▶ [Fresh Voices Archive](#)
- ▶ [Microgrants & Bursaries](#)
- ▶ [Contests & Awards](#)
- ▶ [Member Directory](#)
- ▶ [Member Hub](#)
- ▶ [Donate](#)
- ▶ [Instagram | Facebook](#)
- ▶ [Poetry Neighbourhood](#)

puts obsessive-compulsive disorder centre stage. Lines and words repeat, write over themselves, and read top to bottom and back again, emphasizing themes of self-doubt, anxiety, and negotiation for control. *Attic Rain* is a love story nested inside an overarching narrative of self-compassion and awareness. It tours childhood and adulthood, lingering on settings and scenarios typically considered ordinary and unremarkable. The poems in this collection are part of an ongoing act of resilience and an honest account of moving through a world obsessed with normality. You can learn more and purchase a copy of *Attic Rain* through NeWest Press or wherever you buy books.

Diana Manole

Diana Manole included two collections of poems in her Creative Writing syllabi and invited the authors to meet her students at Trent University Durham. Diana Hope Tegenkamp met the students in the Advanced Seminar and read from *Girl running* (Thistledown Press, 2021). Faith Arkorful met the

students in the Intro course and read from *The Seventh Town of Ghosts* (McClelland & Stewart, 2024). Both provided informative answers about writing and editing poetry and facilitated short but intense and successful poetry workshops. My students loved them!

Alyssa Martens

Lungs of the Earth: A Poetic Journey into the Amazon (released November 15, 2024) "Lungs of the Earth" is a new concept spoken word album and a tribute to the entangled relationship between humans and 'the last forest'. It echoes this through field recordings, original music, and spoken word poetry—written and performed by writers from the Brazilian diaspora, including poets with ancestral Indigenous ties to the Amazon region of Brazil. The album serves as a monument to the songs being lost to deforestation and climate change. Purchase a copy of the spoken word album at this link:

<https://alyssamartens.bandcamp.com/album/lungs-of-the-earth-2>

Album Credits: Alyssa Martens, Lead Artist and Poet
Monika Radojevic, Poet
Patrizia Longhitano, Poet
Virna Teixeira, Poet
Bernardo Alvarado Rojas, Sound Design & Mixing
Thomas Quirion, Sound Mixing
Felix Blume, Sound Recordist (Field Recordings)
Ieva Vaiti, Sound Recordist (Spoken Word Poetry)
Hanqing Eyden Zhao, Sound Technician

Susan McCaslin

Susan McCaslin's newest volume of poetry *Field Play* was recently published by (Ekstasis Editions, Nov. 2024). It unfolds in four interrelated sections: Kith & Kin Fields, Gaia Fields, War Fields, and Cosmic Fields. Having glimpses of the mysteries opens us to wonder and participation in the creative processes of these interrelated ecosystems. In the words of poet Svetlana Ischenko, "What a lovely crystalline lyricism Susan McCaslin pours out in her poems." Poet Kevin Spent states: "This is ecopoetics as heartwork, aroma of starshine, and a luminous feast. It can be ordered on the Ekstasis website: <https://www.ekstasiseditions.com/>

Sue Sorenson

You're invited to a reading by Winnipeg's Sue Sorensen, author of the poetry collection ACUTELY LIFE on Thursday February 20, 2025 7:00 p.m. at Regina's VENUE B COFFEE LOUNGE (2300 Dewdney Avenue). Also featuring fellow Winnipeg writer Ariel Gordon. Free. Everyone Welcome. With thanks to the LPG for the support.

Derek Webster

Derek Webster's second collection, National Animal (Véhicule Press, 2024) was recently shortlisted for the QWF A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, alongside books by fellow League members Mary Dean Lee, Jay Ritchie, and D.M. Bradford.

Erin Wilson

Gratitude for a third poem featured on Verse Daily, "[Small Potatoes](#)." Channel Magazine had a [video launch](#) for its latest issue. I read my poem "The Understory in Autumn." A teaser for my poem "Ode to Joy" was posted on the [Queen's Quarterly site](#). Thanks to all the hardworking editors!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**October 2024 - January 2025****Alberta**

- Anna Veprinska
- Ian FitzGerald
- Medgine Mathurin

BC

- Allegra Kaplan
- bronwyn preece
- Estlin McPhee
- Jane Frankish
- Jane Shi
- Lauren Peat
- Lynne Burnett
- Mary Kelly
- Natasha Sanders-Kay
- Pauline Le Bel
- Renée Harper

Ontario

- Alice G. Waldert
- Annie MacKillican
- Bridget Huh
- Connor Lafortune
- Glenda Fu
- Hannah Lee
- Jessica Popeski
- John RC Potter
- Julie Berry
- Jumoke Verissimo
- Kaz Ogino
- Khaleefa Hamdan
- Laila Malik
- Leah Bobet

- Leena Halees
- Madi Johnstone
- Mary-Alice Thompson
- Michael Blouin
- Murgatroyd Monaghan
- Pamela Mosher
- Sanita Fejzic
- Shannon Arntfield
- Terese Mason Pierre

Quebec

- H. R. Link
- Licia Canton
- Loch Baillie
- Nathanael Jones
- Thomas H. Nigel Thomas

Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, & PEI

- Jordan Trethewey
- Christine Wu
- Katie Martí

USA

- Rob Macaisa Colgate

International

- Beverley Bie Brahic
- David Romanda

In Memoriam

Henry Beissel 1929 -2025

Henry was an active and important member of several Canadian humanist organizations from the Humanist Perspectives, Canada's oldest humanist publication to Ottawa Humanists.

Henry was a distinguished Emeritus Professor of English at Concordia University (Montreal) and where he taught for thirty years and founded a flourishing Creative Writing program. Henry was an Ottawa poet, playwright, fiction writer, translator and editor with over thirty books published. As a playwright he came to international fame with *Inuk* and *the Sun*, premiered at the Stratford Festival in 1982 and since then translated into many languages.

He was president of the "Freedom of Expression Committee" of the "Book and Periodical Council of Canada" in the 80s. The committee included representation from all writers', journalists', editors' and publishers' organizations in Canada. Henry also served on the committee on behalf of The League of Canadian Poets, and was elected to the presidency after June Callwood's term was up and was, in turn, succeeded by Timothy Findley.

Henry Beissel was an indefatigable defender of academic freedom, freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

[Read the full memoriam here.](#)

Ann Carson (1929-2023)

Ann Carson, a beloved and formidable matriarch, died peacefully at her home in Toronto, on December 16, 2023, aged 94. Born at Toronto, March 19, 1929, daughter of the late Bob Carson and Grace Beattie, she graduated from Trinity College, University of Toronto, in 1951. The same year she married the late Charles Salter and over the next nine years they had four children, settling down to a conventional North Toronto lifestyle. Ann graduated with a Masters of Education degree from York University in the late 60's. After her separation from Charles in the early 1970's, she came into her own as a professional woman, reinventing herself several times, initially as a therapist and marriage counsellor. The work which gave her the greatest satisfaction in later years was as a poet, writer, and sculptor. She published seven books of poetry, stories, non-fiction and memoir, with the most recent volume published in October.

[Read the full obituary here.](#)

In Memoriam

Robert Gibbs (1930 - 2024)

Robert ("Bob") Gibbs (poet, novelist, short story writer, professor emeritus UNB, editor, and critic) was born in Saint John, NB on February 3, 1930 and passed away peacefully on October 20, 2024. Robert began writing poetry as a child and declared himself a poet at the age of nine; however, he kept his early work secret. After graduating from Saint John High School in 1947, he immediately began his BA on a Beaverbrook Scholarship at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton, where he found a community of writers. He joined the Bliss Carman Poetry Society and was mentored by Don Gammon, Elizabeth Brewster, Fred Cogswell, and Alfred Bailey, the founder of The Fiddlehead magazine. Robert's poetry started appearing in The Fiddlehead in 1949.

After completing his degree in 1951, Robert began a Master's program, but left for England after his first year. There, he attended Cambridge University on an IODE scholarship and graduated with another BA in 1954. Robert taught at rural New Brunswick schools for nine years as a teacher and an administrator in small communities and in Saint John. He returned to UNB to finish his MA and completed a PhD in 1970. In his more than 25 years of teaching at UNB, Robert taught general undergraduate and Canadian literature courses and was the director of UNB's creative writing graduate program. He also served for some years as both editor and poetry editor of The Fiddlehead.

Robert's works were first showcased in Fred Cogswell's Five New Brunswick Poets (1962) alongside Alfred Bailey, Elizabeth Brewster, Fred Cogswell, Alden Nowlan, and Kay Smith. Robert's first collection of short fiction, I've Always Felt Sorry for Decimals (1978), along with Angels Watch Do Keep (1997), capture the adventures of two orphaned brothers, Pompman and Hutchie Killam. Many of the ideas for these stories stem from narratives he created with his mother and siblings when he was a boy.

[Read the full obituary here.](#)

Sheryl Elizabeth Kandel Loeffler (1949-2024)

Sheryl was a writer and musician who lived and worked in Canada all her adult life. She holds degrees from Wittenberg University and the University of Waterloo. She also pursued doctoral studies in Renaissance Drama at the University of Toronto. She was a church organist and choir director for numerous churches in the Kitchener-Waterloo area and organized choir festivals and directed musical and liturgical performances throughout

In Memoriam

her career. She sang with the Renaissance Singers for many years and performed in many Canadian venues.

During the 1990s, Sheryl served as senior writer at Wilfrid Laurier University's Telecollege Productions, Inc. Her 12 half-hour scripts on Canadian Political Science were produced and aired for several years on TVOntario.

Sheryl was an advocate for human rights, especially women's rights, and served the YWCA of Kitchener-Waterloo for many years in development and fundraising. She helped raise funds to establish and maintain emergency shelter and affordable housing for women and their families.

In April 2005, Sheryl jumped off the edge of her known universe to live and write for a full year in Malta, at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, returning to Canada in May 2006. Her poetry has been published in literary magazines in Austria, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In 2014, Sheryl published *A Land in the Storytelling Sea, A North American in Malta*, which was a collection of her poems and photographs chronicling her time in Malta. Sheryl was certified to teach English as a second language which she also did in Malta.

[Read the full obituary here.](#)