



January 2018

Amherst Writers & Artists Newsletter

January Transitions



Dear AWA Friends,

The AWA desk can feel this large and definitely this important. I have been humbled by the voices that arrive each day, and honored to be the one to listen. From the beginning of my tenure as Executive Director I have known that Amherst Writers & Artists does not belong to me.

AWA is not one person or even a small collection of people. AWA is everyone who leads a workshop based on the AWA Method and it is everyone who writes within a workshop based on the method. For ten years it has been my privilege to steward this organization. Under my care AWA has more than doubled its membership and now reaches across North America, Europe, Asia and central Africa. The Training Program is grounded in a professional curriculum, preparing people to address the dynamics of writing with people of all backgrounds and writing experiences.

AWA had its first conference in 2015, established its first international fundraiser in 2016, and has a website that welcomes newcomers and supports its trained affiliates. AWA has online programs to connect AWA leaders and help them develop their leadership skills. I am proud of what has been accomplished.

It is time now for me to pass the stewardship of AWA into other capable hands. It is time for the membership of AWA to play its part in keeping this worthy organization vibrant and effective. I will continue to guide AWA as Affiliate Training Program Director but Katie Frank, the current Associate Director, will step into being our Managing Director.

It has been a profound honor to serve you. The satisfaction of being AWA's Executive Director came in the moments when I knew I had heard you and was able to deliver what was needed. The joy came when I was permitted to enter your story or poem and experience what you wanted me to experience.

You have each had a deep effect on the more than 3,650 days that I have sat at my desk. With your words and your good will, you have forged a forever chamber in my heart.

I turn to [my own endeavors now](#), my own workshops and retreats as well as my own writing. I will count on finding you in a room where we will write together again. Because that is what we do.

With respect, gratitude and love,

Marianne Buchanan Jones

Training News: Join us in Malibu!



We have had several last minute cancellations and are still accepting expedited registrations for our Malibu, CA training next month.

We are also considering registrations from already-trained workshop leaders who'd like to join us February 14—16 in Malibu for a writing retreat. If you are interested in that, please [email us](#).

If you can't join us in Malibu, check out the dates and locations above and visit our website to fill out your [application](#) today! Reach out to us at info@amherstwriters.org with any questions.

Founder's Message

INVITATION: CLAIM YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY!

Dear friends, you are an important part of the history of Amherst Writers & Artists. These days I am resuming work on a narrative history, to bring the life of stories to the very large archive of AWA documents, publications, and photos at the Jones Library in Amherst. I include [here a sample, a "narrative history"](#) of the first formal days of AWA. I hope you will add your voice, your story, your photos and news releases to the history of our work together.

Years ago I began with [the deep history](#) before we took a name. Now I am beginning to work from the archives themselves, to write the full history in stories. You, too, are an important part of our history. Please include your name, full contact information, the date of the events you describe, and put in the subject line: AWA HISTORY. Send them to pat@patschneider.com or post them to Pat Schneider, 77 McClellan Street, Amherst, MA 01002. If you have questions, please call me at 413-253- 6353 rather than by email. Your stories about AWA work belong in the archives. *Please claim your place in our history!*

Pat Schneider

Affiliate Classifieds

Kathleen Olesky will lead the next in AWA's series of online workshops for AWA-trained writing workshop leaders Saturday, February 3 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Hosted as a fundraiser and opportunity for workshop leaders to write together, these sessions take place via Google Hangouts. For information or to sign up, visit the [AWA Event Calendar](#).

Join **Safe Space Stories** in Brooklyn this Spring for writing workshops in beautiful Carroll Gardens. Workshops run 5 weeks, starting Thursday, March 1st, 2018, in the evenings. Safe Space Stories will also run workshops in Perugia, Italy, in April/May 2018. To connect with us, please see www.safespacestories.com or email paul@safespacestories.com.

Leslie Fierro's **Cast Off! Writing Workshops** have gone international! Sign up for a workshop starting January 21st at the Jalopy Theater in Brooklyn, NY, check out multiple workshop sessions in Wellington, NZ, or book a writing retreat in the snow-laced, old-world town of Hida Furakawa, Japan, March 22-25th! WritersCastOff.com

Sharing Our Voices On Paper, an 8-week Writing Workshop with AWA Affiliate Diana Damato is happening in Keene, NH from January 30 – March 20, 2018. The Tuesday workshop runs from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., welcomes first-time and experienced writers and the cost is \$175. For more info: 603-209-4002 or dldamato@gmail.com.