



Media Contact:

Lena Garcia, Managing Editor

lenaxgarcia@gmail.com

831-454-6492

www.locavorelitla.org

www.lightbringerproject.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing Issue 6 of Literature for Life

Pasadena, CA (April 5, 2019) - *Literature for Life*, a program of local nonprofit arts organization, Light Bringer Project, seeks to spark a love of reading and writing in Los Angeles' diverse youth. Filling the gap left by expensive and often outdated textbooks, our literature and artwork are selected to resonate with young people and to celebrate L.A. culture and people.

We hope you'll join us on Sunday, April 7th to celebrate the launch of *Literature for Life's* sixth issue. This spring, we're proud to feature writing and artwork from local creatives, including hip-hop artist Andrés Guzmán, multimedia artist Janine Lim, and recent UC Santa Barbara graduate Kate Kesner.

Congratulations to our Issue 6 authors!

Angelina Coppola grew up in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where she received her B.A in English with a concentration in creative writing. Her writing has been covered in *Los Angeles Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and *CNET Australia*, among others. She has extensive experience as a teaching artist and has worked for several organizations in this capacity, including South Pasadena Arts Center (SPACE), WriteGirl, Bold Ink Writers, and Day One. She currently writes and teaches in Los Angeles. She is the In-Schools Program Coordinator of *Literature for Life*.

Emma Demorest is a second year at UC Santa Barbara who is double majoring in film and the College of Creative Studies' writing & literature major. A long-time admirer of sketch comedy and humor writing, she is the assistant editor of the humor column of UCSB's *Daily Nexus*. Emma considers short fiction too serious most of the time, but if everyone else is going to do it, she'll get on board.

Andrés Guzmán was raised in Union City, New Jersey. He recently earned his B.A. in creative writing from the University of Southern California. He currently lives in Los Angeles. He is a voracious reader of Mexican American and African American history, and he loves hip-hop music. He is pursuing a career as a hip-hop artist and seeking work in hip-hop radio or in education to help low-income, first-generation students achieve their college degrees.

Kate Kesner thinks writing is the most reliable form of transportation. A recent graduate of UC Santa Barbara's global studies major, she is currently trying to figure out life. She likes sci-fi, dancing, and most people and is honored to be included in Issue 6 of *Literature for Life*.

Janine Lim is a Los Angeles-based multi-disciplinary artist. Her short film, "Grandfather Clock," and photographic work were exhibited in San Francisco and Los Angeles. She is a former student of theater and a long-time student of martial arts. Her personal essays have been published in *Youth Outlook Magazine* and *The Bold Italic*. In 2018, she co-produced the monthly reading series Drunken Masters for Writ Large Press and performed in contemporary dance piece "Solid as a Rock" as part of the REDCAT'S New Original Works Festival.

Sophie Marie has just earned her creative and professional writing degree with First-Class Honours. Since then, she's moved from Canterbury to Wales to enjoy a quieter, slower way of life. She's had short stories published online and in print but is currently focusing her efforts on writing a much longer piece. When she is not writing, Sophie can usually be found with an energy drink in her hand, a notebook in the other, her doggie Leia on her lap, and her pup Chewie by her feet.

Vivian McNerny is a journalist and a writer. Her short fiction is published in *805 Lit+Art*, *Dunes Review*, and *The Cardiff Review*. She's a Fishtrap Fellow and recipient of a Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission grant for fiction, and her first children's book is forthcoming in 2021. She is at work on a second YA novel and a memoir about traveling overland through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India at age eighteen.

Jamila Osman is a Somali writer, educator, and organizer living in Portland, Oregon. She teaches high school English and facilitates poetry workshops for marginalized youth, including currently incarcerated and immigrant and refugee youth. Her writing explores the tension between place, history, and identity. Her work has previously appeared in *Pacific Standard*, *Catapult*, *The Establishment*, *BOAAT*, *DIAGRAM*, and other places. She is a Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation (VONA) workshop alum.

Asha Parekh is a licensed clinical social worker who devotes time to improving Utah's refugee systems to be welcoming and effective in facilitating refugee integration. She lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tim Stiles lives and writes in the San Francisco Bay Area. He received his MFA in creative writing from San Francisco State University. His poems, stories, and lyrics have been published and recorded throughout the United States and Great Britain. His poetry and photography collaboration with photographer Jay Tyrrell, entitled *Botmerica: Repeat After Me*, was published in 2016.

Jervey Tervalon, MFA, is the award-winning, *Los Angeles Times* best-selling author of five books, including *Understand This*, a novel based on his experiences teaching at Locke High School in Los Angeles, for which he won the Quality Paperback Book Club's New Voices award. His newest novel, *Monster's Chef*, was released by HarperCollins in 2014. He was the Remsen Bird Writer in Residence at Occidental College and is now an associate professor at National University and a lecturer at the College of Creative Studies at UC Santa Barbara. He's lectured at USC and Occidental College. He is also an award-winning poet, screenwriter, dramatist, and the Founder and Editor of *Literature for Life*. Jervey was born in New Orleans and raised in Los Angeles. He received his MFA from UC Irvine and studied with Thomas Keneally, author of *Schindler's Ark*.

The launch party will be held on Sunday, April 7th from 3 to 6 p.m. at the home of Jervey and Jinghuan Tervalon: 55 W. Manor St., Altadena, CA 91001. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation at the door.