



**2019 / 2020  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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**Life  
Righting  
Co||ective**

**THE HEALING POWER OF WRITING**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By March 2020, the LRC had achieved much more than we originally set out to do and was continuing to offer our core courses on a regular basis, while developing new ones. Then Covid-19 and lockdown hit. As we complete this report, infections are surging once more across the country and the world. Truly the world has changed in many ways, and the LRC has not been unaffected.

But for the year in review, we were BC, Before Covid-19, and we were running courses face-to-face in various venues across the country, though predominantly in Cape Town. We ran two courses in Knysna and one in Greyton (for the first time) and we returned to the Karoo Rest near Nieu Bethesda once more as well. Almost a third of our courses were outside our Cape Town base, which is a pleasing percentage, although we did sadly have to cancel our planned Port Elizabeth courses, because finding sufficient 'paying customers' to subsidise sponsored participants was very difficult. Nonetheless this group has a very strong What's App group that continues to support and encourage LRC work in this region.

“  
The course allowed me to connect the dots of my life journey towards writing a meaningful story that I had not been paying attention to.

“  
I got a first-hand sense of the possibility of writing to work a kind of magic. With the right combination of imagination, compassion and good luck, it feels possible for writing to redeem troublesome aspects of the past.

“  
The writing course at LRC has helped me deal with my painful past and to see the potential in me. It has encouraged me to read, write more and to be connected with other people.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (cont.)

This points to a growing challenge in terms of funding. The LRC has struggled, like many NGOs, to find funding in a difficult local and international funding climate. Our initial injection of private foundation funding allowed us to produce an anthology that sold well, generating income to fund the running of the LRC and to sponsor participants in need. The investment in publishing was well rewarded by two print runs and healthy sales. Finding the funding to produce a second anthology has not borne fruit so we are now dependent on our courses, which continue to be popular but essentially only cover our running costs, if they are full.

It is for this reason that in the coming year, we will be adding a number of new courses in the hope of attracting greater numbers and income.

However, we must not forget our regular funders, the Khula Foundation (previously the Cape 300 Foundation) and the Amani Harmonic Foundation, whose consistent support allows us to keep ticking over and covers a portion of our running costs, for which we are truly grateful.

For the year in review, our expenditure matched our income, but only just. We would be so much better off with funding that would cover our full running costs and allow us to fairly compensate what is essentially an almost entirely voluntary operation, buoyed by individual donors of time and resource. Without them we would, quite simply, not be here at all.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dawn Garisch', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAWN GARISCH

CEO





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# SECTION 1: Team LRC

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# LIFE RIGHTING COLLECTIVE MISSION

The Life Righting Collective is a membership organisation as well as an NPO. We run affordable *in-person, online and audio courses* for anyone who wants to discover *personal meaning, self-understanding* and *self-recovery* in writing about their life experiences. By providing a safe space to share our stories with others from all walks of life, the LRC promotes *interaction, inclusiveness, cross-cultural learning* and *mutual understanding*. We raise funds to make courses available to those in need of sponsorship and to provide platforms for these life stories to be published.



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## LETTER FROM THE BOARD



**PHILIPPA  
KABALI-KAGWA**

Chairperson



**ZULEIGA  
ADAMS**

Outreach



**SIMON  
SEPHTON**

Finance

The LRC grew in 2019/20, expanding its reach to Knysna and Greyton, spreading the word of its particular approach to life writing, with its focus on the benefits to our mental health of writing and sharing our stories.

I want to salute the commitment of the LRC to keeping this creative flame alive and holding fast to its healing vision, mission and values, as illustrated by its existing courses, support groups and publications. These are reported on elsewhere in this document.

Even with its limited resources, its passionate ambassadors spread the word about the healing power of writing as far as it could. This included the McGregor Poetry Festival, where Dawn, Giles and Hani's presence, along with a number of other

enthusiastic LRC members, all there in their own capacity as poets or poetry lovers, including myself, confirmed that commitment through their workshops and presentations.

And so we remain blessed with an EXCO that has a tangible passion to continue the LRC's work, volunteering much of its time. We are extremely grateful to Dawn Garisch, our indefatigable CEO, and to EXCO members Giles Griffin, Johan Jordaan, Linda Kaoma, Lucy Alexander and Nina Geraghty for their tireless efforts.

Terry Ayugi, our administrator, joined us in May 2019 after our previous stalwart administrator, Cheryl Ontong, sadly moved on.

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## LETTER FROM THE BOARD (cont.)

Terry soon became our mainstay, building her skills and our presence throughout the year to ensure our little boat crests the Covid waves and continues on.

We very much look forward to helping the LRC team to broaden its reach and find the funding to produce a further anthology in the coming year. The healing power of writing is so very deeply needed in our country now: so please support our work in whatever way you can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philippa Kabali-Kagwa". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Philippa" being more prominent than the last name.

PHILIPPA KABALI-KAGWA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD



## MEET THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**DAWN  
GARISCH**

CEO



**JOHAN  
JORDAAN**

FINANCE



**LINDA  
KAOMA**

OUTGOING  
ADMINISTRATION



**GILES  
GRIFFIN**

MARKETING



**NINA  
GERAGHTY**

DIGITAL MEDIA



**TERRY  
AYUGI**

INCOMING  
ADMINISTRATION

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## SUPPORT THE LIFE RIGHTING COLLECTIVE

Funding enables us to sponsor places for those who cannot afford to pay course fees. It also allows us to meet the considerable cost of publishing anthologies - online and in print - so the moving and important stories that come out of our courses can reach a wider audience.

Donors are not only providing support for disadvantaged people to learn how to write their life stories and to get their stories published, they are also funding a life skills programme. It takes courage to say: 'This is who I am and this is what happened to me.' Learning to write and communicate creatively and effectively develops a person's skills to live life more creatively and effectively.

Funding keeps the LRC going – it helps to maintain all the behind-the-scenes infrastructure that is a basic necessity for any organisation to make its contribution. Much of what we have already achieved has been through the gifting of people's time, energy and expertise, either freely volunteered or at heavily discounted fees.

But the reality remains that this is not sustainable in the long run. So we would love your support in ensuring our work continues.

To give you some idea of the items we require funding for to continue this work, see below:

- One month of data support to allow one member to access an online writing group: **R 250**
- One month of web support for our webmaster: **R 1,000**
- One place on a life writing course: **R 2,000**
- Our annual web domain, hosting and email support fees: **R 3,300**
- One month of administrative support for the LRC: **R 5,000**


Please feel free to donate any amount, no matter how small. The following section will show you how you can help in more detail.

## BECOME A SUPPORTER


popular!



Support us with a simple monthly donation:  
<https://www.patreon.com/liferighting>



Support us by scanning  
this QR code with your  
Snapscan app



Make a direct bank deposit:

Absa bank

Branch code: 632 005

Cheque account: 40 9382 6013



Make a donation to our Paypal account:

<https://www.paypal.me/liferighting>



Support us via our GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/liferighting>



Support us via the donation scheme:

<https://www.liferighting.com/myschool>



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## SECTION 2: Achievements this year

# OUR FIRST ANTHOLOGY

**Q:** Why did we publish our first anthology: *This is how it is*?

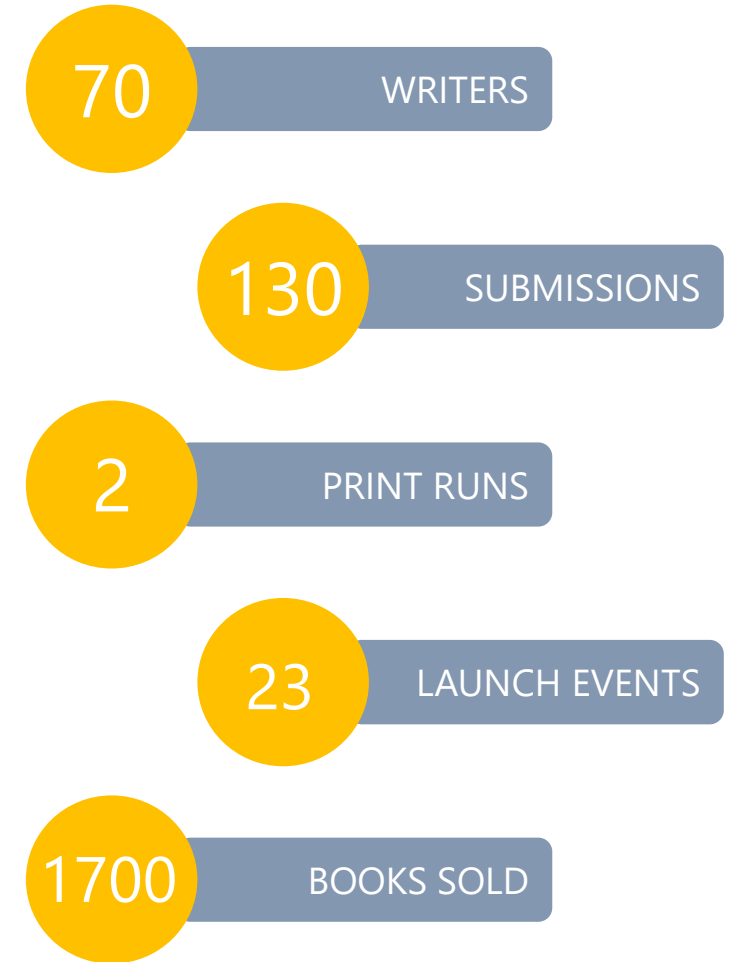
**A:** To allow new South African voices to reach a broader audience so that we can get to know each other better and heal the wounds that divide us.



## OUR FIRST ANTHOLOGY

In the year under review, 490 copies of our first anthology, *This is how it is*, were sold, taking our royalty income to over R21 000, which is good for a first-time author in a small market, as the LRC is. The book is advertised on our

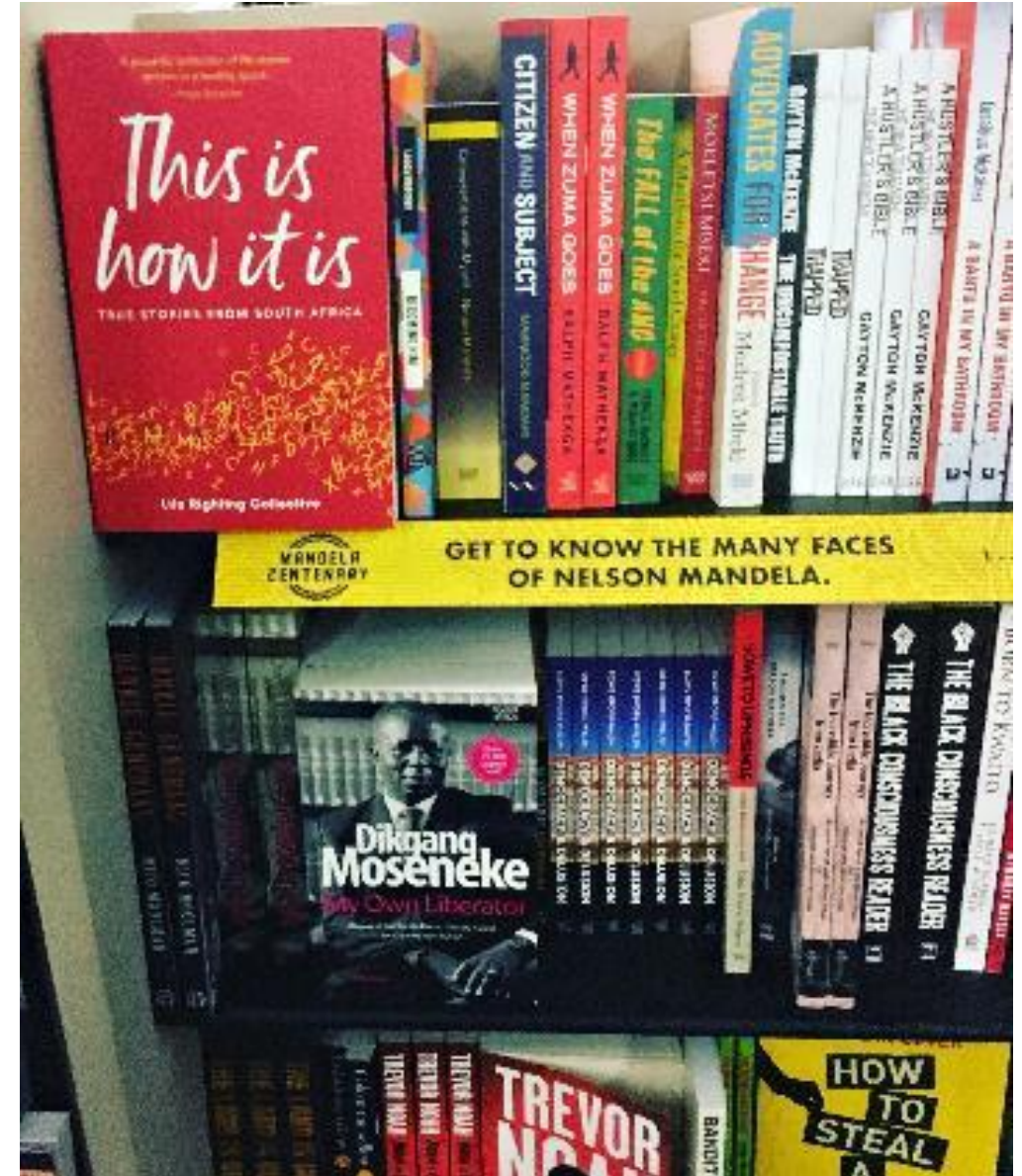
website and marketed at all our courses, such that, at time of writing, we now have just over 90 copies left of our original combined runs of 1 800. We urge you to buy now while limited stocks last!





## OUR FIRST ANTHOLOGY (cont.)

*This is how it is*  
dominating a Canal  
Walk Exclusive Books  
display





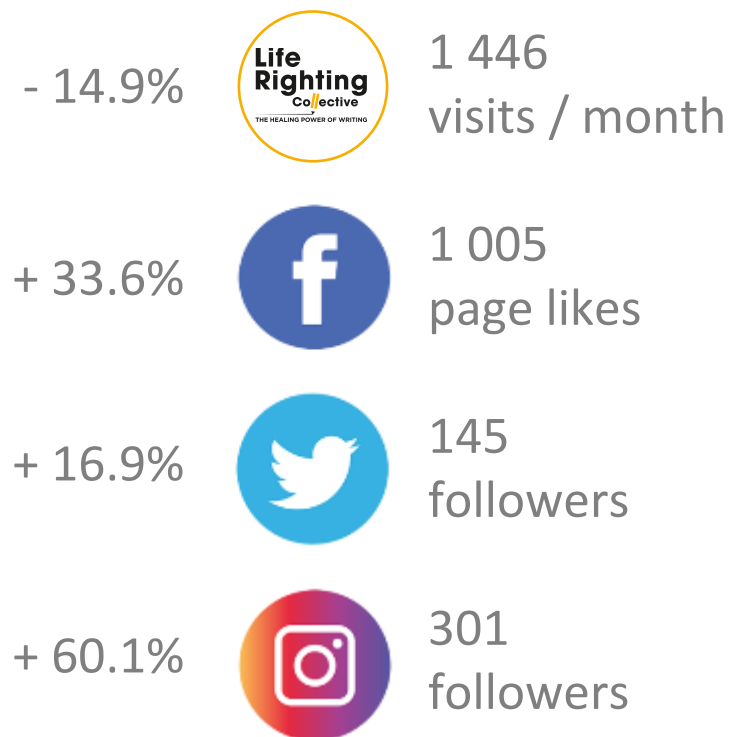
These healthy increases in social media following are testament to the efforts of Nina and Terry, our joint social media divas. The lower increase in Facebook following is likely due to our initial concentration on this platform.

We made some effort to increase our following on twitter earlier in the year and this seems to have paid off to some degree, while Terry has boosted our Instagram presence very substantially as well.

Although it is hard to draw direct links to course sales, there is certainly an improved awareness of the work we do, not just locally, but internationally. This may be in part due to the international reach of our audio course, which reached new customers in America, Europe and the UK.

Our website statistics are low as we have been unable to write regular blogs or post pieces regularly due to funds being focused primarily on promoting our courses.

## ONLINE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



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## BRAND & MARKETING

Awareness of the LRC brand has risen considerably. Although we lack the funds to do market research on brand awareness, we are pleased to see the social media figures rise and look forward to the brand awareness support that our qualitative research study into the benefits of life writing will give us.

The website promotes our work by seeking to attract participants, readers of true stories written by our members, buyers of the anthology and funding. The health of our website - and the updates to accommodate and sell our new online courses - has been maintained by our wonderful new webmaster, Earl Petersen, who joined us in December 2019. Social media posts and advertising on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have also boosted awareness and contributed to the increased following.

Lack of funds precluded any printing or reprinting of business cards and promotional flyers, whose efficacy was hard to measure.

We must also thank those who gave their time to speak for the LRC and its work during the year: Dawn Garisch and the LRC team had several engagements during the year. Dawn spoke at, inter alia, the AI Anon Courage to Change group in Table View, the Montagu Book Festival in the Klein Karoo and launched the anthology in Nieu Bethesda at the marvellously-named *Dustcovers* book store. She was also interviewed on Fine Music Radio by Rodney Trudgeon for their flagship show, *People of Note* and truly takes every opportunity to promote our work when interviewing others at book launches and webinars.

In addition to this activity, the LRC also hosted a well-attended Readathon at Exclusive Books (EB) in Cavendish Square, Claremont, Cape Town in July 2019. The brainchild of one of our *This is how it is* authors, Nathan Festus, it brought a host of

local LRC writers together to read their and other members' work from our anthology, helping to promote our mission and the book itself. Much thanks must go to Linda Mc Cullough, the manager of EB Claremont, who was extremely supportive and generous with the free venue, along with eats and drinks on the day as well. Other promotional opportunities included a talk given at UNISA in Bellville during National Library Week in September 2019, where Charlotte Mande Ilunga and Giles Griffin talked to librarians and students about the LRC's work, as well as anthology readings at Fish Hoek and Tokai libraries.

Another high profile LRC event, that occurred just before Covid-19 and lockdown curtailed our activities was the Salonfestival in Tokai, Cape Town. In fact, a review of the event by Nina Geraghty, our very own Digital Diva, follows at the end of this section.

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## BRAND & MARKETING (cont.)

The best form of marketing remains referral, otherwise known as word of mouth. This can be created by speaking engagements and 'guest appearances' at festivals like the Salonfestival featured on the next page. In the year under review, we also appeared by invitation at the McGregor Poetry Festival in August, where Dawn ran an afternoon poetry workshop and Dawn, Giles and LRC member Hani du Toit presented a joint poetry reading event called "Connect", which was well received, even though our impressively tall LRC banner misbehaved itself badly in the book tent the next day.

Our Chairperson, Philippa Kabali-Kagwa, also presented her poetry. The LRC was well represented, if not as quite as surging a force as the year before, due to funding constraints. These events are mostly about networking and public relations. They are also self-funded and cross-funded affairs; but hopefully sow fertile seeds amongst audiences for later blooming and recruiting.

In other areas of marketing, such as social media, we have continued to increase our following by using paid Facebook advertising. It is possible, though, that this platform has reached saturation point, hence the smaller increase in page likes compared to other platforms. We are about to get expert input on how we should shape our social media promotion going forward.

Plans for 2020 and 2021 included the production of videos to explain our approach to life writing, as well as online courses. These will need to be named, packaged and promoted in line with our existing courses. Pending new courses, which will be promoted on arrival, include Root: Nature and Nurture, Lost/Found and Edible Memoirs. These join our existing Routes to Meaning: Memoir, My Life as a Work of Fiction, Book Ends Book Completion Course and Poetry courses.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

## An Event Like No Other: Memoir as Discovery

*"Why are we drawn to memoir?"*

**Perhaps it's because it can take us to unknown places, and then give voice to the unspeakable both in joy and suffering.**

This is also perhaps why last night's Salonfestival Cape Town was so rewarding, satisfying to both mind and heart.

But first, a word about the concept of the Salonfestival, which began in Germany five years ago, and is gaining in popularity as a small-format event that happens on a human-sized scale. People open their homes to host the events which can be anything from talks, music performances, theatre or, as last night, a panel of three radically different memoirists, presented by the Life Righting Collective, talking about and reading from their books to a small, intimate gathering of about 25 people in the spacious

living room of our generous host, Yasmine Yacoubi.

Robert A Hamblin talked to us about his transition 15 years ago from female to male and the 'gender trance' we are locked into when it comes to our embedded beliefs about what it means to identify, and be identified as, male or female. He's a stimulating and witty speaker, his writing tender and whole-hearted as he questions the dimensions of masculine and feminine within the intimacy of his marriage as a new way to understand our humanity. His forthcoming memoir is due to be published later this year.

Malika Ndlovu shines. Her power to infuse a room with gladness radiates from her with effortless ease as she weaves not only words into story, but also creates a space to contain those words.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

# An Event Like No Other: Memoir as **Discovery**

Malika's writing about stillbirth in the form of a journal over a period of years took us into her deepest grief, sorrow, longing and then, finally, a stillness, a wordless heart-space we could all rest in. Her memoir, *Invisible Earthquake*, is available from [malika@invisiblestill.co.za](mailto:malika@invisiblestill.co.za).

Desiree-Anne Martin spoke to us of memoir as a way to take the undigested chunks of life and make sense of it, especially in the face of the unspoken agreement that dysfunction, addictions and violence in her family are never to be spoken of. Through the metaphor of destroying her black doll as a child, she powerfully lays bare themes of race, self-hatred and what she has been taught but cannot yet fathom – that white is more desirable and valuable than black. Her memoir, *We Don't Talk About It. Ever.* is available from [desiree@liferighting.com](mailto:desiree@liferighting.com).

Robert told us about secrets and lies during the height of the AIDS pandemic, at a time when being queer was a crime in Apartheid South Africa. His book, *Robert*, is available from [photographyrobert@gmail.com](mailto:photographyrobert@gmail.com).

The audience was left stunned with a surfeit of treasure; our hearts opened to each other, our thinking and beliefs thoroughly disrupted, riches our world needs more of.

The Life Righting Collective is proud to be associated with such fine writers as well as the Salonfestival.



LRC authors Desiree-Anne Martin, Malika Ndlovu and Robert A Hamblin discuss how writing about lived experiences can help us all to live more creatively, more curiously and less anxiously.



## OUR HEROIC MEMBERSHIP

The heart of who we are remains our LRC members. Membership continues to confer benefits – it is a requirement for submitting work to be considered for the website and anthologies, and for attending Follow-up Groups (FUGs) for support. It also gives members a discount of 10% off the cost of future courses.

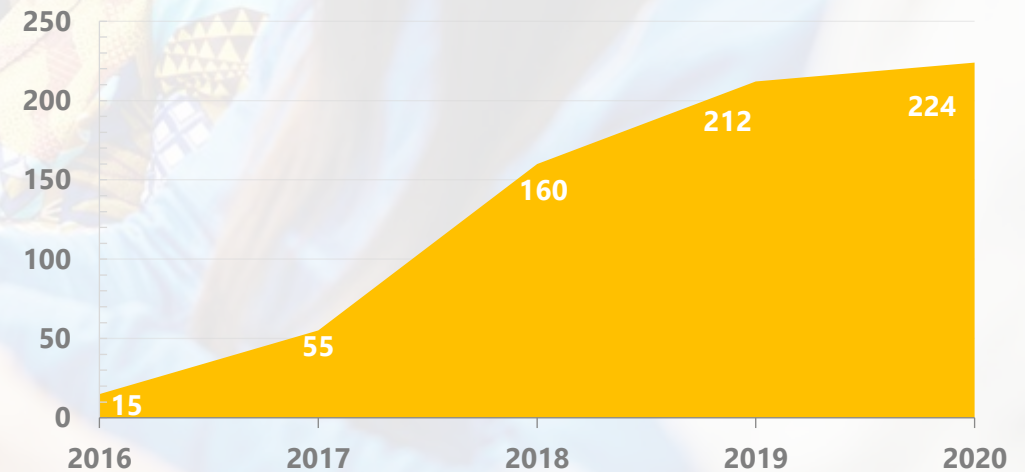
Membership stood at 212 as at October 15 2019 and at end February 2020 it had risen by 12 members to 224, which equates to an annual increase of approximately 15%, while our main database list stood at 876 contacts in total as at end February 2020.

As before, whenever someone completes a course, whether audio, online or face-to-face, they are invited to become a member. The numbers are steadily rising.

We send out regular newsletters to our membership and friends of the LRC, as well as interim mailings about events, FUGs and courses.

Our LRC FUG facilitators support our membership through regular meetings, as well as one-on-one feedback on their writing by arrangement.

Many of our members are actively involved in donating funds, time and services to ensure that the Life Righting Collective continues to make a positive impact in our society.

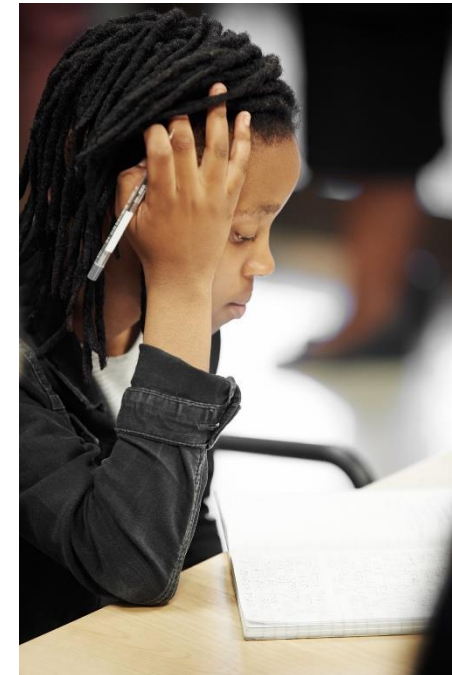


## WHO IS **BENEFITING?**

A range of beneficiaries has attended fully-sponsored funded courses from the Life Righting Collective in the 2019/20 financial year.

We offered 12 fully-sponsored places on courses in the year under review, while 18 courses were offered at discounts. In both cases, the reductions or sponsorships were motivated and agreed to by Exco or the CEO.

As the Life Righting Collective needed to be self-sustaining due to the difficulty raising funds, we were unable to sponsor as many people during this financial year as previously. We were also more proactive in asking sponsored participants to contribute some small fee towards the cost of attending the courses, in which case they became discounted participants. This is partly because we have found that some fully-sponsored people do not attend courses, which deprives others of places on courses. We aim to increase external sources of funding and donations in future, in order to invite more sponsored participants to access the valuable resources our organisation is positioned to provide.



Examples of the communities which have been beneficiaries of funded courses from the Life Righting Collective since its inception include:

- Community youth workers in the Karoo-Overberg
- Township residents in Port Elizabeth
- Immigrant & refugee communities in Cape Town
- Members of the LGBTIAQ+ community in the Western Cape



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## LIFE RIGHTING COURSES

Up until March 2020, we were running on average a little more than a course a month in various locations - mostly in greater Cape Town; but some further afield in Johannesburg, Greyton and Knysna in the Western Cape and Nieu Bethesda in the Eastern Cape.

In the year under review, we hosted fourteen courses. This included two poetry courses and our new My Life as a Work of Fiction course. Fictionalising one's story can help when topics are sensitive and distance or disguise is required for legal reasons. This new course ran successfully in Cape Town and Johannesburg in 2019.

In addition, we ventured to new pastures this year, hosting a Writer's Retreat in the characterful village of Greyton. We are always open to running courses for retreat centres such as Temenos in McGregor, where we have promoted the LRC in both 2018 and 2019 (see below).

We already have a relationship with the Grail Centre in Kleinmond, on the False Bay coast at the edge of the Overberg in the Western Cape, as well as the Buddhist Retreat Centre in Ixopo, nestled in Kwazulu-Natal's Valley of a 1 000 Hills, and the breathtakingly remote Karoo Rest, beyond Nieu-Bethesda in the Eastern Cape.



*An LRC course in action*

## LIFE RIGHTING COURSES (cont.)



*Course participants putting pen to paper in pre-COVID days...*

These residential courses out of town offer something extra to our participants: a special space away that is especially conducive to creativity. We are always open to collaborating to host courses of this nature and we very much recommend them to writers old and new.

Another course available on request is our Editing or Book Completion course, otherwise known as Book Ends. This course is on demand, as it is for those who are ready with a full manuscript or collection of prose or poetry that requires either structural or thematic input. It is not always true that the very beginning is a very good place to start: getting input from a small, like-minded group of writers can make all the difference. At the time of writing, three such courses are running consecutively, even though the year in review saw no demand. Feast or famine...



# LIFE RIGHTING COURSES (cont.)

Below is a table that shows the number of courses for the year in review. Our courses are predominantly attended by women (83.6% in 2020 FY). Of those who attended our courses in the 2019/20 financial year, 27.3% were given discounts or fully sponsored. We do our best to locate venues close to public transport routes, to minimise transport costs to and from courses.

COURSES DURING PERIOD	Numbers	Percentage
Total	14	100%
Face to Face	14	100%
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>	110	100%
Paid full amount	80	72.7%
Discounted	18	16.4%
Sponsored	12	10.9%
Women	92	83.6%
Men	18	16.4%

Participant Gender



■ Female ■ Male

Funding Type



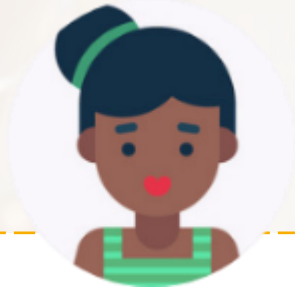
■ Paid in full ■ Discounted ■ Sponsored

## WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT OUR COURSES?



*"It felt like therapy! It was a safe space to express my thoughts and receive constructive criticism. The course has motivated me to continue on the writing road. I also enjoyed the group dynamic and felt that I could be authentic in sharing my voice. Dawn has incredible advice and insight that offers comfort and growth."*

*"A safe and non-threatening environment to feel brave, write, share the writing, to listen and be heard. The course encouraged me to keep writing and exploring."*



*"Dawn is a facilitator who is deeply committed to the process she presents. Her knowledge of memoir writing is impressive and the many extracts she presents are read with grace and consideration. She invites participants to engage in exploratory exercises that have certainly allowed me access to the undertow of my work, the true source of creativity. I would highly recommend this process. You will not come out with a book, but you are bound to know yourself better and gain the confidence to write with gusto moving forward."*

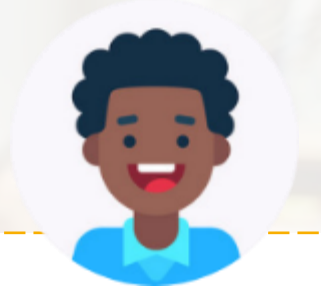
*"It was the vitamin B1 injection that I just needed. Dawn created a safe place to explore hidden demons and her warmth empowered me to be brave."*

*"I arrived in substantial physical pain and I'm leaving much relieved. I had several transformative realisations and felt safe enough to finally 'go there' and give myself permission to feel my feelings. Heartfelt thanks, this was such a gift. I feel like I've come home to myself after a very long and arduous journey. Such relief, healing and comfort. Thank you for holding the space so beautifully."*



*"The thing about poetry is that it comes from nowhere: but what Dawn Garisch does is point you at the download and offer tools to craft it into something lovely and rhythmic and, with the help of that inestimable tool, a rhyming dictionary, you might even get some of that rhyme thing into your work as well."*

*"This course by Linda Kaoma gives you copious tools for the making of poetry - from free writing to metaphor construction to rhyme and rhythm exercises, the mystery is unpicked and all manner of possibilities unearthed. If you have a creative bone in your body, and I believe we all do, then this course is for you."*



*"For those with a serious book project on the go, Book Ends helps to maintain momentum and focus. Dawn provides skilful and innovative ways of looking at themes, narrative arcs and character in fresh ways that get you to see your work from new perspectives. From the very enjoyable camaraderie and encouragement from the other participants, I gained new confidence in my own writing and also learned a great deal from theirs."*

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## FACILITATOR TRAINING



LINDA  
KAOMA

Poetry Queen



GILES  
GRIFFIN

Food King

As reported in last year's report, we had concluded that it was essential that a diverse group of facilitators were trained to run more courses, ideally offering facilitation in other languages. This search for diversity has proved challenging.

As we explained then, training is an iterative process, involving ongoing writing, editing, self-awareness, self-care, conflict resolution and other meta-skills. We also encourage trainee facilitators to attend as many courses themselves as they are able. Due to lack of funding for what is an intensive process, we have not yet been able to expand our facilitator network, but we continue to fundraise with that goal in mind.

In the meantime, both Giles Griffin and Linda Kaoma ran workshops in the year under review, Linda running her fourth poetry course for the LRC in July 2019, a month after Giles ran his first memoir course. In September 2019, Linda left South Africa for London to study at the University of London. Her focus was on poetry as therapy. Although her studies were affected by Covid-19 to some degree, she completed her degree and is now back in South Africa.

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## KEY LEARNINGS FROM THIS YEAR

1

### **Groups with mixed participants work**

This has been reinforced by our Follow-up Groups (FUGs), where the diversity of voices is growing. A mix of class, race, age and gender is essential to the realisation of our vision that the LRC must seek to bridge that which may seem to divide us by providing a platform to share each other's life stories. We firmly believe that this allows us to understand each other better - in that, despite our differences, we are all human beings who struggle with that complex challenge - being human in a complicated world.

2

### **Groups with particular audiences and needs may arise**

The intention to run gender-themed groups with men shifted to one that suggested that two groups of men and women could work separately with two facilitators and then come together in the second half of the course. As we very much believed that this course should be face-to-face, lockdown restrictions have delayed this new course.



## KEY LEARNINGS FROM THIS YEAR (cont.)

3

### **We need venues with better access**

The Tshisimani Centre provides a range of spaces at no cost in Mowbray, Cape Town. We also have access to venues in the Cape Town CBD, Salt River, Muizenberg, Kalk Bay and Table View, as well as Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth, at low or no cost. We also consider disabled access – although not all our venues are ideal in this regard.

4

### **Running groups for organisations should be pursued**

This had not materialised on a large scale this year; but plans for the following year should bear fruit.

5

### **Administration of the courses requires radical streamlining**

This has been successfully achieved this year through the excellent administrative services of our part-time administrator, Terry Ayugi, who joined us in May 2019. As of September 1 2019, we are now using the Quicket online ticketing service to streamline course applications and bookings.





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## SECTION 3: Financial Report

# SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME	SET UP	2018	2019	2020
Donation income	R275,970.00	R13,550.00	R81,835.00	R54,412.73
Self-generating income		R38,450.00	R248,717.00	R253,664.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R275,970.00</b>	<b>R52,000.00</b>	<b>R330,552.00</b>	<b>R308,077.68</b>
INCOME	SET UP	2018	2019	2020
Cost of sales (printing books, running courses etc)		R200.00	R50,530.00	R15,040.00
Accounting fees				R5,209.50
Advertising & promotions			R42,374.50	R36,289.18
Administration work	R138,580.00		R47,150.00	R95,601.00
Bank charges		R146.00	R2,565.00	R2,259.10
Catering expenses	R11,700.00	R2,650.00	R10,822.00	R6,641.00
Consulting fees		R1,040.00		
Facilitation fees	R36,080.00	R24,800.00	R116,615.00	R96,625.83
General expenses			R764.00	
Motor vehicle (fuel)			R500.00	
Printing & stationery			R2,149.00	
Publishing (anthology)	R63,650.00			
Staff training				R900.00
Travel & accommodation	R2,410.00	R780.00	R9,482.00	
Venue hire		R4,940.00	R26,950.00	R41,956.00
Wages (casual)				R1,000.00
Website expenses	R23,550.00			R1,700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R275,970.00</b>	<b>R34,556.00</b>	<b>R309,901.50</b>	<b>R288,181.61</b>
<b>Nett surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>R0.00</b>	<b>R17,244.00</b>	<b>R20,650.00</b>	<b>R4,856.07</b>

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## FUNDRAISING REPORT

Our main sources of funding for the 2019/20 financial year are detailed in the previous section.

Additional fundraising was carried out as follows.

A fundraising committee was formed in February 2020 consisting of: Dawn Garisch, Terry Ayugi, Ella Scheppers, Chantal Collet and Caroline Southey. This group created a comprehensive fundraising strategy based on our 2020 Strategic Plan. The status of these applications follows below.

Terry Ayugi and Ella Scheppers attended a fundraising seminar organised by Papillon Press and Consultancy in February, which taught us different approaches to the fundraising process including:

- Writing skills
- Successful crowdfunding
- Attracting senior foreign volunteers
- Mixing sustainability
- Talking to corporate donors
- Working with celebrities
- Trends in fundraising
- Maximising return on marketing investment.

Applications to date:

- Miles Morland Foundation
- National Arts Council.
- Wellcome Foundation.



We are always open to fundraising suggestions. If you have an idea that you would like to share with us, please do contact Dawn or Desirée-Anne via the following email addresses: [dawn@liferighting.com](mailto:dawn@liferighting.com) and [desiree@liferighting.com](mailto:desiree@liferighting.com).

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## FUNDRAISING REPORT (cont.)

Two other funding channels bring in small but regular amounts of annuity income, namely:



- Our Patreon funding platform, whose membership increased to 27 people during the financial year, grew our total monthly Patreon income from \$44.51/R675.22 in August 2019, when we launched the platform, to \$135.43/R2120.83 at February 29 year end. Figures are converted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time.



- The MySchool affinity card donation system: registration was completed in the year under review and our first month in action netted us a grand total of R234.62. As you can tell from this figure, which has not varied much since then, the percentage donation via this South African affinity card initiative is very small indeed, but it is annuity income and every little counts.

Our fundraising efforts have left us in a difficult position financially. Courses have traditionally generated funds for sponsorship, but are currently only breaking even and are generating only a small surplus. Funds from royalties from our first anthology are dwindling, although they were a healthy injection when they came in.

We continued to receive funding from the Cape 300 Foundation (now the Khula Foundation) and the Amani Foundation. We will continue to apply for grant funding from the National Arts Council, the Arts and Culture Trust, the Lotteries Commission, the Khula Foundation and the Bertha Foundation.

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting, when Covid-19 allows, we will continue to encourage members to assist by signing up friends and family to Patreon and MySchool and to come on courses. We also plan to encourage pre-order copies of the second anthology, when funding allows.



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## SECTION 4: Thank You

# DONOR APPRECIATION

Below is a list of our donor funders for the 2019/20 financial year, from 1 March, 2019 to 29 February 2020. Without you, we simply would not have survived. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and generosity.

- Alexander, Lucy
- Amani Harmonic Foundation
- Conradie, HOFFIE
- COOKE, Paul
- Darroll, Roland
- Dlamini, Sithandiwe
- Garisch, Dawn
- Giddy, Janet
- Griffin, Giles
- Haley Stott, Richard and Sue
- Hart-Jaspan, Ronelle
- Kane, Lisa
- Kelly, Cathy
- The Cape 300 Foundation  
(now the Khula Foundation)
- Lamb, Shena
- Luies, Jonathan
- Lynch, Tom
- Miller, Mary
- October, Tracy
- Scheepers, Ella
- Schwartz, Linda
- Solomon, Marc
- Stuart, Toni
- Surtees, Peter
- Tennille, Norton
- Thorpe, Jen
- van der Westhuizen, Karien
- Watts, Graham
- Members who have donated funds on a recurring monthly basis to sponsor data for FUG participants, attend FUG sessions and by joining Patreon.

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## AMBASSADORS OF THE LIFE RIGHTING COLLECTIVE

The Life Righting Collective would not exist without the generous and free gifting of many people's time, energy, and skills. We want to thank everyone who has contributed – and continues to contribute – to the life of this wonderful community organisation so that it grows and thrives.

Please let us know if we have erred in omitting anyone. Any oversight is a consequence of our old brains and not due to lack of immense appreciation.

- **Desiree-Anne Martin** for setting up, maintaining and supervising our Patreon funding platform.
- **Earl Petersen** for going above and way beyond as our webmaster.
- **Gertrude Fester** for offering fundraising ideas.
- **Hani du Toit** for helping the LRC make the most of its last 'live' appearance at the McGregor Poetry Festival in August 2019, starring in our show and providing promotional flyers for the LRC as well.
- **Helena Wagener** for assisting with social media and writing blogs.
- **Janet Giddy** and **Steve Reid** for providing a venue for LRC meetings and assisting with writing up our research study.
- **Jonathan Luies** for designing our annual report, ongoing technical assistance and for creating and moderating the LRC online forum.
- **John Cartwright** for helping with editing pieces for the website.
- **Katherine Glenday** for use of The Forge as a venue.
- **KathijaYassim, Beauty Bokwani** and **Net VirPret** for taking the principles of life writing into their work with young people.
- **Member FUG hosts** in Johannesburg, Knysna and PE, who have opened their homes and gone online under lockdown to host follow-up gatherings (aka FUGs).
- **Member marketers** who have recommended courses far and wide.
- **Nancy Richards** and **Beryl Eichenberger** for supporting our work via Woman Zone.
- **Phillipa Kabali-Kagwa** for her role as Chairperson of the Board, and for her support and ideas.
- **Philomène Luyanda** for recruiting writers for courses, being an incredible networker and being our Knysna organiser.
- **Madoda Ndlakuse** and **Shena Lamb** for being our PE organisers.
- **Simon Sephton** for his service to our Board, as well as his legal and publishing advice, his support and ideas.
- **Zuleiga Adams** for her service to the Board and her ongoing support and ideas.





THANK YOU

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**Life  
Righting**  
Collective

THE HEALING POWER OF WRITING