20th Anniversary Gala Celebration

October 18, 2021 7:00pm EDT
HOSTED BY
Kelly AuCoin and Danielle Ofri

HONORING
Lisa Sanders

FEATURING
Jill Lepore  Abraham Verghese  Leslie Jamison
Edward Hirsch  Michele Harper

READINGS
Saleem Hue Penny: "Never the Less"
Shanda McManus: "Breathing" (excerpt)
Leslie Jamison: "Letters to Michiko" (excerpt)
Kelly AuCoin reading an excerpt of
"The Mona Lisa" by Robert Oldshue

DANCE PERFORMANCE
Dancer: Samantha Figgins (Alvin Ailey)
Poem: "The Beauty of Music Doesn't Have to be Human" by George Looney
Reader: Saleem Hue Penny
Sign Interpreter: Carly Zimmerman
No human thing is more universal than illness, in all its permutations, and no literary publication holds more credibility on the subject than BLR.”

— NewPages.com

ABOUT BLR

Bellevue Literary Review is an independent literary journal that probes the nuances of our lives both in illness and health. BLR publishes fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that bring together the perspectives of patients, caregivers, family members, students, healthcare professionals, and the general public. BLR is committed to seeking a diversity of voices from all communities and all walks of life.

The first literary journal to arise from a medical setting, BLR has published two print volumes of literature annually since 2001. Now a fully independent nonprofit arts organization, BLR offers a wide range of events at the intersection of the healthcare and the arts. BLR maintains an active online and social media presence, and engages its community of readers and writers by offering public events, newsletters, reading guides, book reviews, literary contests, author interviews, roundtable discussions, and accessible digital content.
“BLR’s contents are at once practically instructive, and yet intangibly inspiring and utterly gripping. I can’t imagine my work as a writer, or a doctor, without it.”

– Rafael Campo, MD and poet

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Bellevue Literary Review. When BLR’s first issue was published in the fall of 2001, we weren’t sure if it would even find an audience. It is a testament to this remarkable BLR community that we are still going strong, two decades on. Thank you to our editors, board members, reviewers, interns, writers, readers, and donors!

The Covid pandemic has reminded us of the foundational importance of storytelling. When we face existential crises, we turn to the creative arts, not just to grapple with these deep, unsettling issues, but also to find moments of levity, lucidity, and resonance. The arts provide community—something we could use now more than ever.

This two-decade milestone offers a thrumming sense of possibility. BLR is eager to seek unheard voices, forge artistic collaborations, and explore new ways of creatively examining issues of illness, health and healing. We hope you’ll continue sharing your ideas, your writing, and your support. The next twenty years can be whatever we—the BLR community—decide we’d like it to be. And we’re thrilled that you are part of this community.

Danielle Ofri
Editor-in-chief
BLR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Frank Clark  David Weil  Marit Vagstad

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BLR thanks our generous sponsors.

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**BLR thanks Jan & Marica Vilcek**

for their 20 years of support and encouragement.

We are so delighted that Jan’s memoir, *Love and Science*,
is now available in paperback, from Seven Stories Press.

"Jan Vilcek’s extraordinary book sets a new standard in science writing and will inspire generations to come."
— Eric R. Kandel, MD, Nobel Laureate, author of *In Search of Memory and The Age of Insight*

"I could not put it down." — Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD, author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*

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**BLR thanks ABRAHAM VERGHESE**

for his many years of support.

We invite you to check out

Abraham Verghese’s *Cutting for Stone*

Available on Amazon.com

*New York Times* bestseller
Amazon’s Best Books of the Year: 2009 (#16)
*Publishers Weekly’s* Best Books: 2009 (Fiction)
*Indies Choice Book Award* (Adult Fiction, 2010)
*Wellcome Trust Book Prize* shortlist (2009)
*International Dublin Literary Award*
Northwell congratulates BLR on its milestone anniversary

We are proud to support the Bellevue Literary Review on its 20th anniversary. The journal continues to distinguish itself amongst health care professionals and all individuals who appreciate superior writing about the human body, illness, health and healing.

Michael J. Dowling  
President & CEO

Congratulations Dr. Ofri and the writers and editors of BLR on your 20th anniversary. Looking forward to the next chapter!

— Bettina & Michael Klein
Why Support BLR?

“Ask any healthcare worker, ask any patient who has come back from illness and fear, and you will hear stories that might change your life. That’s what BLR offers.”

- Cortney Davis, nurse & poet
Our future is bright. We’re so happy you are joining us as we look ahead.

Our Goals

- Bring BLR to even wider audiences
- Increase print and digital publishing
- Expand our reach through creative programming
- Establish BLR Artist Fund
- Enhance collaborations with arts, health, and educational organizations

Thank you for your support!

Online

www.tinyURL.com/BLR20Gala

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