



Saturday, September 29, 2018

4:30 – 5:30pm

**A FAMILY AFFAIR:
ON PARENTS, PARENTING, SIBLINGS, & CHILDHOOD**

Riffing on Tolstoy's famous quote—"Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."—Johns Hopkins University MA in Writing students share their diverse, true stories about family. Writing about family can be tricky—and yet in the memoir and the essay, writers throughout time have been inevitably drawn to these intimate, revealing stories that help us make sense of our lives. Moderated by Hopkins Associate Director of the MA in Writing Program, **Karen Houppert**, the lineup will feature essays about everything from a parent's injury in the 9/11 attack at the Pentagon to growing up on an Israeli military base to raising toddlers in Baltimore. Follow the Writing Program on [Facebook](#).



Presenting authors:

ANDREW HAMM grew up in Maryland rooting for Cal Ripken and the Orioles. Now he works by day as the manager of SCOTUSblog, and by night as the online editor for the *Little Patuxent Review*. [@AndrewLHamm](#)
[@LPReview](#)

SHANGRILA WILLY is a former attorney who has never met a form she didn't immediately want to unravel, at least a little bit. Her poetry can be found in *Cream City Review*, *Rattle*, *Measure*, and *Sugar House Review*, among other journals. She lives in Baltimore with her husband and two Great Danes.

IG/Twitter: [@shangrilologic](#)

JIM MEYER is a Baltimore-based stand-up comedian, actor, retired roller derby announcer, and freelance writer. Follow his exploits at [his website](#) and [on Twitter](#) [@jimmy2bad](#)

YUVAL BAR-OR is an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School where he primarily teaches finance and risk management courses. He is the author of the *Pillars of Wealth* financial literacy book series for physicians. Website: <http://yuvalbaror.com/>

JANE HEGSTROM is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University Masters of Writing Program and she also has a Ph.D. in sociology with specializations in social psychology and gender. She is currently working on a number of memoir pieces about her midwestern childhood and a collection of essays on aging.

MARISSA CRUZ LEMAR is a communications consultant and Navy reserve public affairs officer. Her writing about current events and the military has appeared in The Washington Post and Task & Purpose. Marissa is currently working on a memoir about her experience after the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, which critically injured her father.

Twitter: [@mcruzmissile](#)

KAREN HOUPPERT is a Baltimore-based freelance writer and Associate Director of the Hopkins MA in Writing Program. Her all-over-the-map career includes writing, editing, teaching and reporting on everything from the menstrual products industry to the criminal justice system to the nation's dismal political scene. <http://karenhouppert.net/>

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