

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The League
of Vermont
Writers' 85th
Year

Celebrating Our 85th Year

League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

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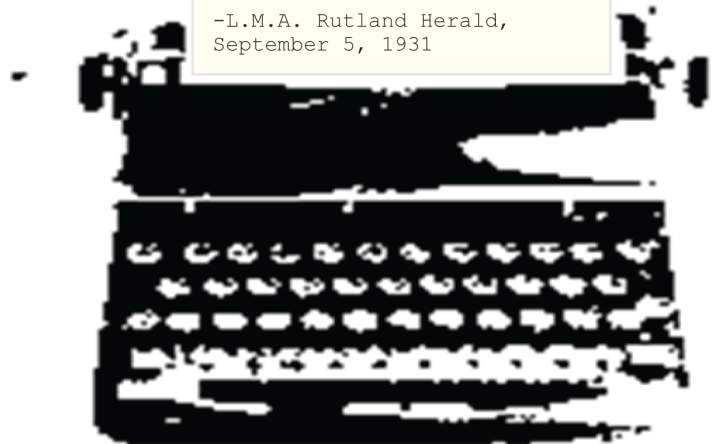
**Keep a watchful eye
for news and
announcements!*

*"Probably there is no person
who does not, at times, feel
the urge for self expression...
Without this desire for self
expression there would be no
creative art. And without
creative art there would
be no unity of interest...In
Vermont there is evidence of
both creative art and unity
of interest. It has found
expression in the League of
Vermont Writers..."*

*-L.M.A. Rutland Herald,
September 5, 1931*



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.
OPEN TO ALL WHO MAKE WRITING
A PART OF THEIR LIFE.



JANUARY 25, 2014

SPRING PROGRAM

Franklin Howe Conference Center

Rutland, VT

8:30am—2:30pm

David Corey



Joni Cole



Michael Metivier



THE SEASON OF THE PITCH –

How to effectively talk about your work

David Corey

More and more, the 21st century writer must split his or her craft into TWO separate roles. The first role, and the one that every writer both loves and understands, is the role of writing creative work. The second role, which is less understood but fundamentally important to a writer's success, is the role of writing ABOUT creative work.

And this is the essence of the pitch, discovering the ability to describe your work quickly and effectively. The pitch is the acorn to your query letter, your book your

proposal, your book copy, and your ultimate success. Mastering the craft of the pitch takes time and practice. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn all the vital elements to creating a strong pitch that will give you confidence in talking about your work.

Structure, voice, and key language elements will be examined, as well as tips and tricks to creating intrigue and curiosity around a topic or narrative in just one or two sentences. Through written and verbal exercises, writers will leave this workshop with a clear framework to effectively describing their work on the page and in conversation—the first vital step in constructing a strong query letter.

David Corey has worked in the book publishing industry for two decades, from editing and acquisitions, (p3)

Dear Agent... Not.

Querying Mistakes, Mediocrities, and Magic

Joni Cole

You've got a couple paragraphs, or maybe a page or two max to convince an agent or editor of two things: 1.) Your book or article idea is worth reading; and 2.) You can write. So that query letter you send better be good. (Actually, better than good, given how editors and agents are inundated with requests.) In this interactive (read slightly nerve-wracking) workshop, you're invited (strongly encouraged!) to share/distribute your written query with the group for ideas and inspiration.

Joni's most recent book is a collection of essays, *Another Bad-Dog Book: Tales of Life, Love, and Neurotic*

Human Behavior. ("Every page of *Another Bad-Dog Book* offers riotously funny and outrageously honest observations without sacrificing either Cole's fiercely intelligent insights or the lyrical brilliance of her beautiful writing.") She is also the author of *Toxic Feedback: Helping Writers Survive and Thrive* ("strongly recommended" for students, teachers and workshops, *Library Journal*); and the creator of the acclaimed "This Day" book series, including *Water Cooler Diaries: Women across America Share Their Day at Work* ("both fascinating and eye-opening," *Publisher's Weekly*). Nominated for a 2011 Pushcart Prize, Joni is the founder of the Writer's Center of White River Junction, Vermont, and teaches at workshops and conferences around the country. For more information, visit jonicole.com, or email her at jonibethcole@gmail.com.

A NOT INDECENT PROPOSAL

Michael Metivier

The task of crafting and submitting a full book proposal can be time-consuming and daunting. However, if done well, it is the best and most efficient way for editors and publishers to assess whether or not to acquire your book. In this presentation, Michael Metivier, Assistant Editor at Chelsea Green Publishing, will break down everything from cover letter to marketing research to

writing sample, and discuss what he looks for in a successful proposal.

In addition to his position as Assistant Editor at Chelsea Green Publishing, Michael Metivier is currently on the editorial board of *Whole Terrain*, Antioch University New England's journal of "reflective environmental practice," for which he also served as the editor of two volumes. A resident of Windsor, Vermont, Metivier is a poet whose recent work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Poetry*, *Crazyhorse*, *North American Review*, *jubilat*, *Washington Square Review*, and *African American Review*.

Letter from the President

Our founders' original thoughts and guidance has led us now for 85 years. As I stated in a previous article "...this is an incredible feat—to unknowingly lead a group of devoted writers 85 years forward into time, the challenges of every new era never pilfering the foundation of our existence as a writing organization." As you can imagine, coming in to this leadership role during the League's 85th year is both humbling and exciting, invigorating and challenging. As I reflect on (and commend) what has worked so well for decades, I feel in my new-found role, I must also take notice of what we need to do differently to foster continued growth for our organization. This in mind, I am happy to say there is much on the horizon for the League of Vermont Writers.

In November, the board agreed up on the following goals for the upcoming year: 1) Getting *League Lines* back on track with the calendar; 2) Bringing new people into membership; 3) Creating relationships with other organizations (see p. 7 for a briefing on our relationship with BWV); 4) Increasing *League Lines* visibility; 5) Increasing our presence in other parts of the state.

In addition to these goals, we have plans: to give the website a facelift, complete with the new logo; to relook at our membership operations, including the movement towards a membership directory; to develop a marketing committee; to begin videotaping workshops and programs to be placed on our (upcoming) YouTube channel; and to include an

exhibit hall/trade show element to this summer's Writers Meet Agents.

I am confident we will be successful. We have a board comprised of people who bring a variety of skills and expertise to the table—from financial strategy to nonprofit governance, editorial to networking. And less not forget, we also have board members who have served us for years and bring forth knowledge of institutional history which is invaluable given we should always remember where we've come. Beyond all these things, they have the energy, enthusiasm, dedication, drive, and loyalty to get the job done. I am proud to serve alongside them.

However, the members of the board are not enough. Though we are charged with the task to lead, and are happy to do so for this organization we love, there is the ever-concerning question of how to get all this work done. We are only nine strong though our membership has over one hundred. We cannot have movement without bodies, deliberate effort, or unity. There are more leaders among us than those who serve on the board.

And so I make a call to arms. I encourage all general members of the League to join us in our mission. I urge you to become more involved, to lend us your hands, your skills and talents, and to help LVW continue to be one of the oldest and best writing organizations in our state. There are plenty of places where you are needed, where the extra help would be welcomed.

I ask that you each pledge to volunteer yourselves for one task (however small) over the course of this year. Let us each play a vital role in growing the League another eight-five years. Let us leave our fingerprints like bread crumbs for the next generation of writers to follow.

For the good of the cause,

Alyssa Berthiaume



SAVE THE DATE!

For 2014 mark your calendars for these programs:

**July 19:
Writers Meet Agents!**

**September 27
Fall program**

(David Corey cont.) to marketing, publicity, and sales, at such houses as W.W. Norton, Inc. and Tuttle Publishing. He is currently the director of marketing and sales for the University Press of New England in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He also designs and teaches writing and publishing courses for Southern New Hampshire University's COCE graduate and undergraduate creative writing degree programs. As a member of NHWP's board of trustees, he is a regular contributor to the organization's many programs and community activities.

Anne Galloway
by Pat Goudey O'Brien

PROGRAM RECAPS



**TELL YOUR FRIENDS
ABOUT THE LEAGUE!**
Have them visit
[www.leagueofvermont
writers.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org)
to learn more.

PROGRAM RECAPS

Chris Tebetts

by Bobbi Jo Davis

Chris Tebetts is a very well put together man. I don't just mean from the top of his head down to his shoes, but his presentation in January was impressive. Although he mentioned right from the start he was shy, you would never have guessed it.

Chris used a projector to display slides outlining his topics; where he began his career, his projects and process, ghosting and co-writing, as well as his take on common ground (pertaining to collaborative story writing—he likes it but it means being able to be flexible).

It literally began for Chris at a young age. His mother was an avid reader and brought him with her to the library all the time. He started with picture books and advanced to novels. He even converted a walk in closet to a club house with just one member: himself. He said it was a great place to read books. And so the journey began...

Chris went to college for film production. This led him to NYC where he worked many different technical jobs pertaining to play production. When he started directing plays, he spent some of his summers with a theater company in Vermont. He eventually left the Big Apple and came to call the Green Mountains his home. This move set the stage for his next endeavor, writing novels.

Chris took a children's writing class and his new career took off from there. With luck, talent, persistence and a lot of "butt in chair" time, he kept getting writing done and



his books into the hands of readers. Chris wrote a series of adventure books, "The Viking." Writing these taught him good habits, not by choice...by necessity. On the job training!

Chris spoke about his ghostwriting experiences saying the endeavor is not for everyone because your name is not on the finished product. You cannot even acknowledge having written the works...ever! What he could say was, it paid the bills and that, though it was limiting writing in someone else's voice, it is a creative compromise. He also talked about his co-writing experiences, starting with working with Lisa Papademetriou on "M or F", calling her his "brain twin"--they really clicked.

He worked with James Patterson on a book series, "Middle School." Chris's name is smaller on the cover, but he is featured there, which he deems a small price to pay for working with a distinguished author of Mr. Patterson's caliber. Chris co-wrote a series with Jeff Probst, too, the host of the show "Survivor." He said Jeff Probst has so much energy and it is fun working with him on the book series, "Stranded."

Chris Tebetts' presentation was well organized. He explained in detail several of the diverse types of writing collaborations between authors. It was informative, inspiring and a delight to have heard him speak.

Do You Have Ideas for Programs and Workshops or Speakers?

Send your thoughts to the Program Committee by emailing: info@leagueofvermontwriters.org

WRITERS MEET AGENTS

JULY 19

Hampton Inn

42 Lower Mountain View Drive in Colchester, VT

As in the past, writers will meet in groups and one-on-one with agents from Boston, New York, and beyond to discuss works-in-progress or to pitch book projects that are ready to be read.

Classes in aspects of publishing and working with agents and editors will be on the schedule for the day, lead by instructors including: Dede Cummings, agent, founder, and publisher at Green Writers Press; and Kaylee Davis, Dee Mura Literary Agency.

Registration is now open!

Pitch Session registrations will open April 16, 2014.

Fees:

Standard Registration

[March 21 - June 30]:

LVW Members - \$125; Non-members - \$140, open thru June 30.

[***Registrations received by April 4 will be entitled to one free pitch session of the writer's choice.]

Late Registration [June 30 - July 14]:

LVW Members - \$140;

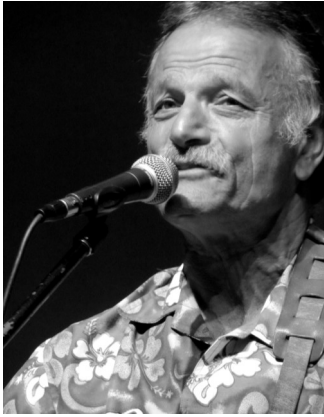
Non-members - \$160

Pitch Sessions: \$25 each, first come, first served.

Space for this conference is limited, and and to schedule a pitch session with the agent of your choice, be sure to register early

Jon Gailmor

by Bobbi Jo Davis



Jon Gailmor has such a vibrant personality that radiates through his music. He enchanted the audience in January with his songs and the back stories that illuminated them. His life is filled with the same ups and downs as other people, yet Jon looks up to see every silver lining and it shows in the smile on his face.

When Jon was younger, one thing his father told him that stayed with him was, "It's noble to offend the right people." His father was a speech writer for the radical activist Henry Wallace. The elder Gailmor was also a radical. Jon remembers going to hear his father give a speech at a college. The speech was so amazing that it moved him to tears. His father died when he was 22 years old, yet the life lessons he learned from his Dad are still in his thoughts.

Jon believes that surprise and unpredictability are magical things that belong

in music. When writing lyrics, he says you should never be afraid of your words. Writing a song about an experience you have been through, lyrically he says, it is fine to embellish. He believes the "truth" is not as important as the message within the song. Sometimes you need to change the lyrics a bit to make them work.

He mentioned that all of the songs he writes have a message and joked that some of the messages are shallow, but they all have a message. (Insert room full of chuckles here.) Well played Jon, well played. Surprise! A light joke to highlight deeper subject matter. Unpredictably magical!

Towards the end of Jon's presentation, he introduced his gift—how he teaches others and the steps to collaborative song writing. He asked for suggestions and ideas from the audience and wrote them down on a board for all to see. He encouraged this thought process and explained how some lyrics worked better than others. Not only was he teaching the art of song writing but story telling as well.

He engaged the whole audience. Giggles and laughs could be heard through this entire process. When the

song was complete, Jon called everyone up front to gather around. We all came together and sang that song! Thanks to Jon we saw first-hand

how magically music can bring people together.

2014 Bristol Short Story Prize

Open to all published and unpublished writers, UK and non-UK based, over 16 years of age.

Stories can be on any theme or subject and entry can be made online via the website or by post.

Entries must be previously unpublished with a maximum length of 4,000 words (There is no minimum).

The entry fee is £8 (about \$13 USD) per story.

The closing date for entries is April 30, 2014.

There are three cash-award prizes and another 17 prizes given to writers whose stories appear on the shortlist.

All 20 shortlisted writers will have their stories published in the *Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology Volume 7*.

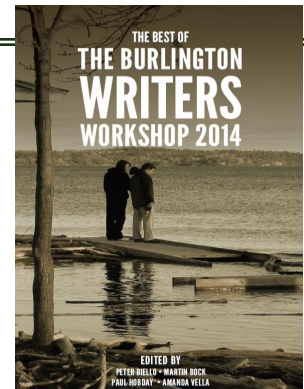
For more details visit, www.bristolprize.co.uk.

Best of Burlington Writers Workshop 2014 Reading

Join the editors of *The Best of the Burlington Writers Workshop 2014* for a reading of poetry and prose from this new anthology.

May 1, 2014 7 pm

Phoenix Bookstore, Burlington, VT



Registration Form

League of Vermont Writers 2014 Spring Program

Register online at www.leagueofvermontwriters.org or make check payable to:

LVW Spring Program and mail to:

League of Vermont Writers Registrar,
PO Box 172,
Underhill Center, VT 05490

Registrar: Deb Fennell, info@leagueofvermontwriters.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Members: _____ @ \$47.00 ea. = \$ _____

Nonmembers: _____ @ \$55.00 ea. = \$ _____

[Students, ask about our student discount]

Tax deductible donation: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check # _____

Directions to the Conference Center: xxx

BWW and League of Vermont Writers Sign Fiscal Sponsor Agreement by Peter Biello

April 26, 2014

**Franklin Howe
Conference Center**

Rutland, VT

8:30am-2:30pm

Coffee, juice, and pastries
provided in the morning

Lunch Menu:

Chicken penne, Eggplant Parmesan,
Lemon Chicken, green salad, fruit
and rolls, Dessert and Beverage

Schedule at a glance:

9:00-9:30 Arrival/meet n' greet/
refreshments

9:30-10:45 David Corey

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:15 Joni Cole

12:15-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:30 Michael Metivier

2:30 Adjourn



I'm happy to announce that the League of Vermont Writers has agreed to serve as the "fiscal sponsor" of the Burlington Writers Workshop. This agreement unites the efforts of two successful, mission-driven Vermont writing organizations. The LVW is one of the oldest such groups in the country, and we are the largest and most active in the state of Vermont. Good things will happen for both organizations, and I'm happy we're working together.

What does this new partnership mean for you? It means, in short, that you can contribute financially to the BWV's efforts and claim a tax deduction. Thanks to the League of Vermont Writers, you can make charitable gifts to the BWV to help us pay for our space, publications, and other

expenses related to our workshop.

How do you make a charitable gift? If you want to write a check, you must make the check payable to "League of Vermont Writers" and **put in the memo section "Burlington Writers Workshop."** If you don't put our name in the memo, the LVW won't know it's for the BWV. Their mailing address: League of Vermont Writers, P.O. Box 172, Underhill Center, VT 05490.

To make a gift online, visit www.burlingtonwritersworkshop.com/donate and click on the "Donate" button.

For more information on Burlington Writers Workshop please visit <http://burlingtonwritersworkshop.com/>

LVW Board: Alyssa Berthiaume, president; Pat Goudey O'Brien, vice-president; Deb Fennell, secretary, past president; Elizia Meskill, treasurer; Amy Kolby Noyes, Paula Diaco, Julia Shipley, Wendy Heilig, and Kerry Skiffington, at large.

Membership: Tommy Waltz; Critique service: Sharon Putnam.

LVW Volunteer Opportunities: Pat Goudey O'Brien is looking for someone with editing and graphics skills to help out with (and eventually take over) the workings of League Lines and the League's web site. If you'd like to put your skills to use for the League (or work with Pat to learn new skills), drop us a line at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org.

In general, the League needs volunteers for marketing and publicity purposes as well. Please email the same address if interested.

League Lines is published four times per year, in January, April, July, and September. Questions or information can be emailed to us at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org

Tommy Waltz
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Barre, VT 05641