



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC

# League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Vermont Writers

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2024-No. 1, January

VIA ZOOM  
January 27, 2024  
LVW Annual Meeting  
and Guest Speaker, Poet  
Christopher Citro  
8:45 am to 3:00 pm

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## LVW January Event 1/27/2024– Annual Meeting and Guest Speaker Poet Christopher Citro and Open Mic

### Important LVW Annual Meeting and Guest Speaker Christopher Citro

The board of LVW urges all members to try to attend this event, to show support of LVW and to help plan a great year for 2024.

**Where:** On Line with Zoom

**Cost:** \$20.00

**Where to Register:** Register on Zeffy –

[Here’s the LINK](#) to get your ticket.

Schedule:	
9:15	Virtual Zoom space opens
9:30 -10:00	General Announcements
10:00 -11:30	Christopher Citro
11:30 -12:00	Screen Break/lunch
12:00 - 1:30	Annual Business Meeting Updates, Election of Officers, Plans for 2024
1:30 -1:45	Screen Break
1:45 - 3:00	Open Mic



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**This year’s guest speaker is Christopher Citro**  
**About Chris’s Presentation**

Chris says, “In this generative workshop, which focuses on poetry but should also be of interest to fiction and creative nonfiction writers, we’ll explore the craft element of voice—creating a sense of a living personality behind our words.

We’ll look at how voice can help us find our way into new writing, and how a well-crafted voice can help our writing come alive and leap from the page. We’ll read poems by writers such as Donika Kelly, James Tate, and Camille T. Dungy, and examine the dazzling effects they achieve through voice.

During our session we’ll write new work using prompts I’ve created, inspired by the poems we’ve read. And when our time together is over, you’ll receive a packet of further poems and prompts to help you continue to be inspired by voice, expanding and deepening your relationship with this vital aspect of contemporary creative writing!”

**About Chris Citro**

Christopher Citro is the author of *The Maintenance of the Shimmy-Shammy* (Steel Toe Books, 2015). His honors include a Pushcart



Prize for poetry, Columbia Journal's poetry award, and a creative nonfiction award from The Florida Review. His poems appear widely in literary magazines and journals such as American Poetry Review, Ploughshares, Iowa Review, Gulf Coast, and Alaska Quarterly Review. His writing has been anthologized in Best New Poets 2014, New Poetry from the Midwest 2019, and Best Micro-fiction 2020. He teaches creative writing at SUNY Oswego and lives in sunny Syracuse, New York.

**Business Meeting**

We will hear updates of the past year, elect officers and discuss the plans for the coming year.

**This is the potential slate of officers:**

Caryn Connolly -- President

Vice-president -- Jon Meyer

Treasurer-- Mel LaRose

Secretary -- Gail Wind

Board members at large:

Cindy Hill, Jeniah Johnson, Pat Goudey OBrien

**After the business meeting will be an Open Mic.**

Everyone is urged to stay and listen to and support the readers at Open Mic.

If you wish to sign up to read (5 minute limit), please email our current President, Amy Braun at [amy.braun@vcfa.edu](mailto:amy.braun@vcfa.edu)

**PoemTown Randolph**



April is National Poetry Month and PoemTown Randolph is looking forward to its 11<sup>th</sup> year! The PoemTown team has opened this year’s solicitation of original poetry submissions.

Selected poems will be published on broadsides to be posted on windows of Randolph businesses and along the river trail during the month of April 2024.

Selected poems will be published in this year’s print anthology, PoemTown Randolph 2024. There will be a full slate

of live poetry reading events in April and open mic events in February and March.

You can find the detailed submission instructions, in addition to more info about this year’s live events, on the PoemTown web site at [www.poemtowntown.org](http://www.poemtowntown.org). Submissions are due by February 15, 2024. We are also pleased to announce a grant opportunity for poets seeking to improve their skills. Interested parties may apply at <https://forms.gle/Y4zoKUrMMsgfJXoTA>.



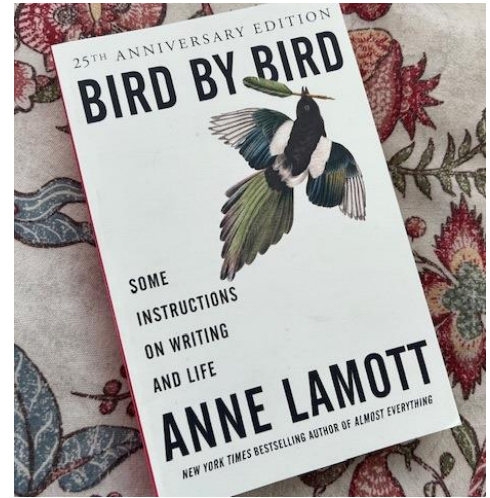
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## The LVW Book Group

### The LVW Virtual Book Group: Looking Forward to 2024 by Shawn Anderson

With a new year ahead of us, it’s time to make our writing goals and dreams come to life—and remember, you are never alone on your journey. Dedicated to reading and discussing books on writing and publishing in 2024, the League’s book group is here to help you hone your craft, reach for the stars, and talk about writing, from art to industry.

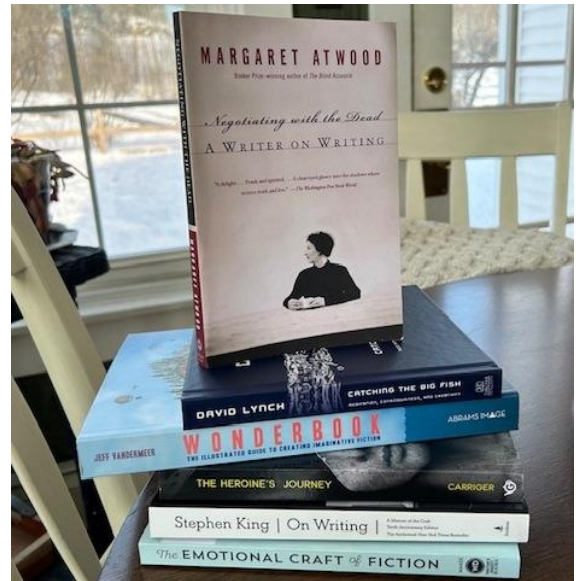
For our first book of 2024, we have selected ***BIRD BY BIRD: Some Instructions on Writing And Life*** by Anne Lamott, and we’re going to meet virtually on **Thursday, February 22 at 7pm** for discussion. Please email the League to be added to the book-club email list and receive the link to this and future virtual sessions. Please put “2024 BOOK GROUP” in the subject line when you [email the League](#).



In 2023, we read **SIX books** on writing craft and creativity:

- *Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing* by Margaret Atwood (our most recent read for December!)
- *Catching the Big Fish: Meditation, Consciousness, and Creativity* by David Lynch
- *On Writing* by Stephen King
- *The Heroine’s Journey* by Gail Carriger
- *WONDERBOOK: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction* by Jeff Vandermeer
- *The Emotional Craft of Fiction* by Donald Maass

We are in the process of selecting books for 2024, so if you join please bring titles for us to consider—and remember, you don’t need to have read or finished the book to come and discuss writing with the group. We tend to meet every other month, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Thank you for making our book-group a continued success!



## LVW Fall Event – “Using Both Sides of Your Brain to Write”

### Recap of “Using Both Sides of Your Brain,” with Alexander Wolff and Char Gardner



Alexander Wolff, author of *Endpapers: A Family Story of Books, War, Escape, and Home*, was our first speaker, addressing the “left brain” side of writing. He explained how he went about researching and writing *Endpapers: A Family Story of Books, War, Escape, and Home*.

He took us on a thoughtful and detailed journey, sharing with us his process of research, interviews, and dedication to creating *Endpapers*. He explored with us the strategies and research techniques that any writer can use to help bring a memoir to life.

One of his admonitions was a simple one, but very important, “Write it down.” He suggested that the belief that, “I’ll remember that,” is folly, indeed. He called it “the devil’s whisper.”



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Wolff would find that luck too, played a large part in his process, as his ancestors were so-called packrats, saving photographs, letters, news articles, and more that he was able to use in his research. At the end of WWI, a man in a paper plant in Germany secretly explored bales of used paper before sending them to be pulped for reuse and in doing found an incredible treasure trove of war documents which he preserved until they could be properly dealt with.

Wolff explained that the workers at research facilities are usually willing and often eager to help people find the documents, books and papers they need for a writing project. There may be an element of patience and application submission, but that the resulting harvest is worth the work.

Wolf mentioned that one of the fringe benefits of such a journey is the discovery of previously unheard of stories, finding small notebooks, obscure documents and the voices of ancestors. “Reading in parallel” was a joyous and abundant by-product of his research; it was enjoyable to just “pull books and read them: histories, biographies, memoir, journals and even fiction.”

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Char Gardner was our “right brain” presenter, and her topic was, “Teaming up with Chance Similarities and Differences in Drawing and Writing.”

She began by sharing a quote from Joseph Beuys, “Even if I write my name, I am drawing.” That put a whole new spin on the verb ‘to draw.’

Char likens her art to that of Stéphane Mallarmé, who says, “I draw the sensation of the thing and not the thing itself.”

Char mentioned that drawing and writing have many things in common; some of them are: Observation, sensation, experiential/in the moment, embrace of uncertainty, revision and finally resolution... Or not. And Char said she was sure we could think of many others.

Then she shared two of her drawings with the group, and offered them as a prompt for writing. Her drawings are 22” x 30” and are oil on paper. The one on the left was dated October 5, 2023, and was called *Flanders Hill*. The drawing on the right was dated May 25, 2023 and was titled *Matteuccia Struthiopteris*. Char put them on the screen side by side and bid us to respond to one or the other or both in writing. We had about seven minutes to do this, and those who wanted to shared their responses. Celia, Gail, Amy, and Justine shared their writings with the group.

Here are the two paintings: (With Permission from Char Gardener)





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**And here are a couple of the responses to Char's drawings.**

Justine O'Keefe emailed, "I responded to the painting on the right for the attached poem."

**Ten Minute Break**  
by Justine O'Keefe

Late fall, in the ruined garden.  
I pluck the last rose,  
blood red,  
one petal coming loose  
splotched with brown.

The lawn, so aggressively tended  
all summer, is yellowing,  
blanketed now with a kaleidoscope  
of color.

The wind moves through the maple,  
releasing a swirl of leaves.  
I stoop to study them,  
one a deep burgundy,  
another mottled orange and gold,  
third, alarm red.

Back at my desk  
I absently scratch  
an itch at nape of my neck.  
On the left, right below  
the hairline  
a tick has taken root.

By Gail Wind – I responded to the drawing on the right:

**A Garden in My Mind**

Fresh dirt, black and crumbly,  
"like chocolate cake," they say.

Wisps of clouds floating by  
bringing cool breezes or rain

A Swallowtail drifts through my plan,  
distracting me with its loveliness.

Bean sprouts, first to appear,  
bent in half to protect their tips,  
Ready to spring to life, to climb my strings  
to feed my family with icicles of green wonder.

A stray mushroom clings to the side of my raised  
bed timbers.

Mulch,  
made of kitchen scraps, leaves, grass and coffee  
grounds  
covers the ground between plants like  
three cheeses on a casserole.

It tempts the resident chipmunks.

So much to do, to plan, to wonder...

Will it grow?

I sit on the edge and take Kodak snapshots with my  
mind.

**Kudos Korner – Where League Authors can "Krow" a Little!**

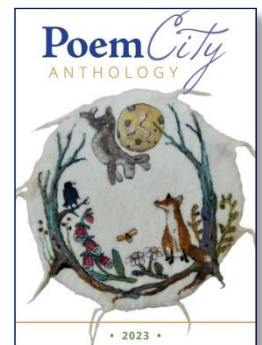
**Kudos to Katherine Quimby Johnson**

Katherine Quimby Johnson, writing as Katherine Quimby, had her poem "Elms" accepted and displayed as part of Montpelier's PoemCity 2023 project in April. This year an anthology of all accepted poems is available from <https://www.rootstockpublishing.com/rootstock-books/poemcity-anthology-2023>

This past summer Kathy became the editor of the annual *Bulletin of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies* at UVM.

Kathy holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA), where her work was recognized with a Norma Fox Mazer Scholarship.

She also won a PEN-New England Susan P. Bloom Discovery Award.





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Kathy taught in the Professional Writing Program at Champlain College until May 2020 and works with editorial clients in a number of fields.

### Kudos to Michael Cahlin

Michael wrote to us, “My short story, “KILLER ADVICE,” will appear in the January 2024 issue of *SAY IT AGAIN*, published by Crimeucopia, in the UK. Attached is the cover. I’m now published internationally!”

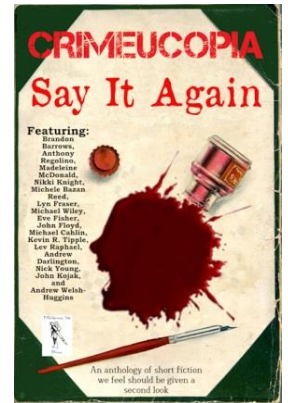
Michael Cahlin started his career as a newspaper reporter and later contributed to developing a vast array of software whose DNA can be found in today's desktop publishers, word processors, spell checkers, file managers, backup programs, and system utilities.

He co-created The Official XTree MS-DOS & Hard Disk Companion, one of the blueprints for the successful "Dummies" Series. His non-fiction articles have appeared in *Basketball Weekly*, *Family Circle*, *PC World*, *Tom's Guide* and *The Writer*.

Dean Krystek at Wordlink.us represents his mystery thrillers, *WICKED PROBLEMS* and *THE RIGHT REGRETS*. His short stories have appeared in *Mystery Weekly*, *Black Cat's Mystery Megapack*, *Down & Out Mystery Magazine*, and *Say It Again* from Crimeucopia in the UK.

Michael has a Master's degree in Education from Pepperdine University and is a member of The League of Vermont Writers. He is currently working on a sequel to *THE RIGHT REGRETS*.

[Ed. Note: If I missed someone again, please [email](#) me and I'll include you in the next League Lines!]



### Kudos to Elizabeth Gauffreau

Her debut novel *Telling Sonny* was published by Adelaide Books, New York in 2018. *Telling Sonny* is a coming of age novel set in the 1920s, when much of vaudeville had devolved into the Small Time. Not so for Faby Gauthier, a naïve girl from the small village of Enosburg Falls, Vermont. For Faby, the annual vaudeville show that comes to the village is worthy of the Great White Way itself. When she succumbs to the undeniable charms of Slim White, America's self-proclaimed Favorite Hooper, Faby sets a course for her life she neither expected nor wanted.

*“I missed Faby when the story ended as if I were saying goodbye to a new friend. I look forward to Elizabeth Gauffreau's next book.” ~Reader Review*

When a loved one dies, the family will often turn to the photograph albums as an act of solace, to keep their loved one with them just a little while longer. *Grief Songs: Poems of Love & Remembrance* arose from that experience. Paul Stream Press, LLC (September 26, 2021) The collection opens with three free verse expressions of raw grief, followed by a series of photographs from the author's family album, each paired with a poem written in tanka. Taken together, they tell the story of a loving family lost. [Ed note: The tanka is a thirty-one-syllable poem, traditionally written in a single unbroken line. A form of waka, Japanese song or verse, tanka translates as “short song.”]

Elizabeth Gauffreau writes fiction and poetry with a strong connection to family and place. She holds a BA in English/Writing from Old Dominion University and an MA in English/Fiction Writing from the University of New Hampshire. Her fiction publications include short stories in *Woven Tale Press*, *The Long Story*, *Soundings East*, *Ad Hoc Monadnock*, *Rio Grande Review*, *Blueline*, *Slow Trains*, *Hospital Drive*, and *Serving House Journal*, among others. Her poetry has appeared in *North of Oxford*, *The Writing on the Wall*, *The Larcom Review*, and *Natural Bridge*.

Liz grew up a child of the 1960s in northern New England before spending twenty years in the South as a Navy wife. After working for Granite State College in Concord, New Hampshire for eighteen years, she accepted a faculty position as Assistant Dean of Curriculum and Assessment at Champlain College Online in Burlington, Vermont. In addition to academic advising, teaching, and higher education administration, her professional background includes assessment of prior experiential learning for college credit. Liz lives in Nottingham, New Hampshire with her husband; their daughter has flown the nest to live in sunny California.



## The Loss of a Longtime Supporting Member, Marie Tedford

### Obituary: Marie Flaim Tedford, 1924-2023 (With permission from Seven Days)

Marie Adele Flaim Tedford, 99, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and dear friend, passed away on September 15 at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. She succumbed to a heart ailment that came on suddenly, after a full day spent in some favorite pastimes — animated conversation, dining out, walking in her Underhill Center neighborhood, and planning activities with friends and family. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Walter “Ted” Tedford; son Thomas O’Brien and his wife, Linda; son Charles O’Brien; daughters Patricia Goudey O’Brien and Paula Diaco; nine beloved grandchildren and their spouses; 11 great-grandchildren; son-in-law Jonathan Draudt and Miya Cline; two nieces; and a cousin. She was predeceased by two daughters, Barbara-Jean O’Brien and Laurie Tedford, and her son-in-law Robert Diaco.

Marie was the second of four children born to Jenny Genantone Flaim and Charles Flaim in Fort Lee, N.J. She attended Catholic schools in Fort Lee and graduated from St. Cecilia High School in Englewood, N.J. She was a writer all of her life, publishing numerous articles for craft magazines in New Jersey and newspaper articles in Vermont. She published a children’s book, *The Bearamores Visit the Badlands*, for an educational publisher, and she wrote six editions of *Collecting Books* with her daughter Pat for Random House’s House of Collectibles. In 2019, Marie released a volume of short stories about growing up in Italian neighborhoods in New Jersey, *Nanny Goat Hill* from the Tamarac Press.

A lifelong lover of books, Marie was a founding member of the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association. For decades, she conducted her business, Mountain Reverie Books, selling rare and antiquarian books from the small shop beside her house in Underhill Center.

In recent years, Marie enjoyed spending time with friends and family, especially enjoying a weekly gathering of writers from around the neighborhood in her adopted state. She never liked leaving Vermont, except to visit special people, and she would say about taking her leave now, “It was not my idea.”

**(Lisa Halvorsen shared this with LVW, and Tommy Walz,  
our membership manager added that Marie joined LVW in 1975!)**

## The Growth and Development of LVW

### Despite strange weather and the absence of a treasurer, we persevered! This is the 2023 Wrap-Up

|                 |                                      |                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 28, 2023    | Annual Business Meeting              | Joni Cole “Five Tips for Productive Revision.”                                                  |
| Feb. 24, 2023   | Book Club –                          | <i>Wonderbook</i> by Jeff Vandermeer                                                            |
| March 23, 2023  | Open Mic                             |                                                                                                 |
| April 13, 2023  | Book Club                            | <i>The Heroine's Journey: For Writers, Readers, and Fans of Pop Culture</i> by Gail Carriger    |
| April 22, 2023  | Spring Event – Middlebury VT Library | “Stay on the Write Side of the Law: Legal Issues Every Writer Should Know”– by Cindy Hill, Esq. |
| May, 24 2023    | Open Mic                             |                                                                                                 |
| June 22, 2023   | Book Club                            | <i>The Emotional Craft of Fiction</i> by Donald Maass                                           |
| August 19, 2023 | Summer Event                         | Into the Words – Rescheduled due to Weather                                                     |
| August 10, 2023 | Book Club                            | <i>On Writing: A Memoir Of The Craft</i> by Stephen King                                        |



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|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 28, 2023   | Open Mic                        |                                                                                       |
| October 26, 2023 | Book Club                       | <i>Catching the Big Fish, Meditation, Consciousness and Creativity</i> by David Lynch |
| October 28, 2023 | Fall Event – Zoom Presentations | Using both sides of your Brain in Writing                                             |
| December         | Book Club (t/b/a)               | <i>Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing</i> by Margaret Atwood              |

## General Information



### LVW Board:

- President, Amy Braun
- Vice President, Jon Meyer
- Secretary, Gail E. Wind
- Immediate Past President, Shawn Anderson,

### Board Members at Large

- Cindy Hill
- Jeniah Johnson,
- Joan Grant

### Spread the word:

Do you have a personal website or Facebook page?

→Tell your friends about the league!

It's easy. Just copy and paste this:

Check out the League of Vermont Writers at

<https://leagueofvermontwriters.org/>

And, here's the link to our [Newsletters](#)

Please send information about your recent publication successes, upcoming or recently past public readings or any writing awards you might receive to [gailinvermont@outlook.com](mailto:gailinvermont@outlook.com) with a subject line Kudos Korner.

Please submit League Lines questions, corrections or contributions to the editor Gail Wind at: [gailinvermont@outlook.com](mailto:gailinvermont@outlook.com) subject line re: League Lines 2023.

For general questions, contact the League at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org)

For membership questions, please contact Tommy Walz at [twalz@aol.com](mailto:twalz@aol.com)

Send snail mail to League of Vermont Writers PO Box 398 Rochester, Vermont 05767  
[www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org)

The League is a fully approved 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.  
All donations are tax deductible.

p.s. How many banned books are you proud to have on your shelves? ☺

**We hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting January 27, 2024**

Check [EVENTS](#) on the Website

Sign up at [Zeffy](#)