

The Newsletter of the League of Vermont Writers

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Zoom Event October 28, 2023 "Using Both Sides of Your Brain to Write" 8:45 to 11:30 am Two Presentations!

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LVW Fall Zoom Event 10/28/2023 – "Using Both Sides of Your Brain to Write"

"Using Both Sides of Your Brain to Write" - October 28, 2023

Where: Zoom

Cost: \$15.00 members, \$20.00 non-members. **Where to Register:** Zeffy – Here's the **LINK**

Schedule:

8:45 - Zoom opens – log in and get settled.

9:00 - 1st Presentation: "All I Didn't Know: Riddling Out *ENDPAPERS*" with Alexander Wolff

10:00 - Short screen break



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS. INC

10:30 - 2nd Presentation: "Teaming up with Chance Similarities and Differences in Drawing and Writing" with Char Gardner
11:30 - Closing remarks

At 9:00 sharp, Alexander Wolff, author of *Endpapers: A Family Story of Books, War, Escape, and Home* will take the stage to share some of his research techniques (till 10:00).

The dilemma Wolf faced: How best to tell an intergenerational, transnational family saga, featuring two German-born men who became American citizens, when most of the primary sources are in another language or archived in another country? Wolff knew his grandfather had fled the Nazis, and that his own father had fought for them, but not much beyond that.

Wolff's Answer: He explains how he went about researching and writing *Endpapers: A Family Story of Books, War, Escape, and Home,* and explores strategies and techniques that any writer can use to help bring a reported memoir to life.

Alexander Wolff spent 36 years on staff at *Sports Illustrated* and has written or edited a dozen books, including The Audacity Of Hoop: Basketball And The Age Of Obama; the New York Times bestseller Raw Recruits; and Big Game, Small World: A Basketball Adventure, which the Times named a Notable Book. His most recent book, Endpapers, was a finalist for the Vermont Book Award. He is a former Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton and now lives with his family in Cornwall, Vermont.

We take a short break and come back together at 10:30.

At 10:30 Char Gardner will share her expertise in the process of "Teaming up with Chance Similarities and Differences in Drawing and Writing."

Char, who is a life-long visual artist, has had her work exhibited since 1974 in many juried and group exhibitions. From 1989-1998, she was represented by The Foundry Gallery in Washington, DC.

She is also an essayist. Since 2012, her essays have been published in The Gettysburg Review, The Green Mountains Review and elsewhere. Awards include the Carol Houck Smith Award from The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the Neil Shepard Creative Nonfiction Prize from the Green Mountain Review.

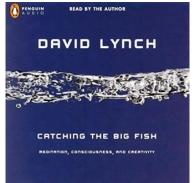
Char Gardner worked for thirty years, along with her husband, Rob Gardner, making documentary films for television. She lives with her husband and Lars, a wire-hair Dachshund, in the Green Mountains of Vermont, where she is at work on a memoir.

See some of Char's amazing art at https://www.instagram.com/chargardner/?hl=en

The LVW Book Group

The LVW Book Group met in October

Catching the Big Fish, Meditation, Consciousness and Creativity was the book under discussion at the



October 26 Book Group meeting. Shawn said, for those who missed the meeting, "It's a fast read, I've also heard the audiobook is fast and read by David Lynch himself."

On Writing- A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King was the book of the evening in August. Many had read it before, and read it again ahead of the discussion night.

At the meeting on June 22, *The Emotional Craft of Fiction: How to Write the Story Beneath the Surface* by Donald Maass was under discussion. There was a happy group of five or six and it was a lively discussion.

The next gathering of the LVW Book Group will be in December, and Shawn Anderson will send out a notice about the time and the book to be discussed soon.

If you would like to be included in future Book Group discussion evenings, please email Shawn at shawnwrites@gmail.com and ask him to put your name on his list. Everyone is welcome!



"The Book" is Alive and Well

Library Book Returned 96 Years Overdue Was Checked Out By Descendant of St. Helena Pioneers With reprint permission by Jesse Duarte-St. Helena Star Updated May 27, 2023

Here is the sequel to the story from the June 2023 issue of League Lines – an amazing story of a family who "took care of a library book for nearly a century!

The viral story of a mystery man who returned a book to the St. Helena Public Library 96 years overdue has taken a twist that offers another glimpse into St. Helena's history.

The mystery man was Jim Perry, who found Benson Lossing's "A History of the United States" in a box of books that had belonged to his late wife, Sandra Learned Perry.

"I was just cleaning house and moving stuff out the door that wasn't being used," said Perry, who lives in Napa. "This box of books had been in a nice cool place in our house where we kept books."

Perry said he's "pretty sure" his late wife's grandfather, John McCormick, was the person who'd checked out the book in 1927. He would have been 55 at the time.

Perry returned the book to the library's front desk earlier this month. Since the library went fine-free in 2019, he wasn't on the hook for nickel-a-day fines that would have added up to about \$1,756.

Once library staff realized the book's historical significance, they wanted to find out who had returned it, so they turned to the media for help. The St. Helena Star posted an article on May 16, and the Bay Area CBS affiliate KPIX Channel 5 followed up with a TV segment the next day.

Perry happened to be streaming the KPIX broadcast that night.

"They did a teaser on Channel 5 and I thought, 'Gee, that sure looks like my book,'" he said.

Perry then got in touch with the library and explained how he'd found it.

John McCormick was descended from one of St. Helena's oldest pioneer families, who settled in the Napa Valley in the 1840s and established the McCormick Ranch on Spring Mountain. The McCormicks were related through marriage with the Hudsons, another early St. Helena family.

John McCormick had represented District 3 on the Napa County Board of Supervisors from 1915 to 1922. It's impossible to know for sure, but Perry suspects "Big John" might have checked out the book for his daughters, Edna May "Babe" and Ina Hart, who in February 1927 would have been 10 and 13, respectively.

When McCormick died in 1963, custody of the unreturned book passed to his younger daughter, who became known as Babe Learned. Her daughter, Sandra Learned Perry, inherited the book when Babe Learned died in 2011.

Sandra Learned Perry died in 2015, leaving the library book in a box of books that her husband started digging through this month. The card envelope reading "Free Public Library St. Helena, Cal." caught his eye, so he returned it to what is now called the St. Helena Public Library.

"I thought it would be fun to just drop it off, and (the staff) would get a kick out of this book," Perry said. "But I didn't realize it would have special significance for them."

The library staff suspects Lossing's book was one of the original 540 volumes available from the Free Public Library that opened in the Kettlewell building in 1892. By the time McCormick checked it out, the library had moved to the Carnegie Building.

It's unclear how long the book had been in the box. "It might have been on a bookcase at Babe's house" at some point, high up on the McCormick Ranch, Perry said.

The remaining 654 acres of the ranch, which burned in the Glass Fire three years ago, is now in escrow to be acquired by the Sonoma Land Trust, Perry said.

The book now occupies a place of honor in a glass display case at the entrance to the library.





Recap of Into the Words

Into the Words – a wonderful gathering of writers on August 19, 2023

by Gail Wind

Well, despite the last minute decision to change the date due to severe weather conditions in Vermont, our mid-year main event, "Into the Words" was a dashing success. Jerry Johnson once again opened his beautiful home, a renovated schoolhouse built in the 1920s for the event.

Jerry prepped his barn, sugar house and home so that three sessions of speakers could be presented at once. With four session times through the day and a special presentation by Paula Munier mid-day, we had a baker's dozen of wonderful lectures to choose from. Here are the twelve from the League members:

Amy Braun- Nature Journals

Celia Ryker- Revision... the never-ending task

Donna Rae Menard – Stepping out There

Jerry Johnson and Pat Goudy O'Brien- Plotting and Researching Murder

Joan Grant-Improvisation for Writers

Kathy Quimby-Johnson- Ekphrastic Poetry (poetry written about/inspired by art)

Linn Aspen- How to Access Your Subconscious Mind and Muse

Louella Bryant Creative Research: A Full-Body Approach to Writing Historical Fiction and Family History

Paula Diaco- Sell Your Book: How to Write a Proposal that Grabs the Attention of Editors and Agents

Sharon Darrow - Imaginary Characters Moving in the Real World:

Engaging Readers' Mirror Neurons Immediately through Setting,

Senses and Synesthesia

Shawn Anderson- Landing an Agent

Stephen Russell Payne- Finding the Discipline to write

On top of this illustrious group we were proud to present Paula Munier, whose keynote address about first impressions and how they sell a book was quite an eye opener. As a writer, editor, teacher and publishing agent, she is in the center of the publishing world of knowing "how to do it and how to fail." She gave a wonderful slide show with dozens of examples of what an agent is looking for and what will push the right buttons to get an agent excited about a new offering.

Even the weather cooperated, and the day was cool and sunny. The rain held off until the last cars were pulling out of the driveway. Around forty people were in attendance.



Kudos Korner – Where League Authors can Krow a Little!

Trish Esden

Trish is the author of Scandal Mountain Antiques Mystery series: *The Art of the Decoy* and *A Wealth of Deception*. As Pat Esden she is author of Northern Circle Coven series, and Dark Heart series. To check out her workshop and sign up for her newsletter, go to https://trishesden.com Jane Kleland, award-winning author of the Josie Prescott antiques mysteries said this about Trish's work, "Eden is a gifted wordsmith, crafting pros that is evocative, raw, and meaningful."

[Ed. Note: I bought Trish's book A Wealth of Deception at the summer event and read it in three evenings. It was good enough to keep me from turning the television on! Her characters are people you'd like to know (well, most of them). Her story line is tight and intriguing and she has "done her homework" to make it all believable. I highly recommend her work.]



Celia Ryker

Celia is the author of *Walking Home: Trail Stories*, a paperback published in 2021. This book is about more than mud, sweat, and blisters while thru-hiking the Long Trail. Reminiscent of Cheryl Strayed's Wild, Ryker's mind wanders as her legs carry her forward, beyond a woodland path, to places and people she thought she had forgotten. These are her "trail stories."

More recently, in January of 2023 Celia published *Augusta*, the novel inspired by the challenging life of the author's grandmother, a woman is left to raise her four children alone during the 1920s.

Shawn Anderson, former president of the League commented on Amazon, "*Augusta* is an ideal blend of storytelling and family history, wit and heartache, persistence and vulnerability." I could not agree more.

The Loss of a Wonderful Writer, Dancer, Choreographer

Sharry Marie Traver Underwood, 1922-2022 (With permission from Seven Days)

https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/obituary-sharry-underwood-1922-2022/Content?oid=36871061

Published November 7, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. | Updated November 15, 2022 at 11:33 a.m.

Sharry Underwood was born in Harrisburg, Pa., on May 4, 1922. Sharry received her bachelor's degree in theater from Syracuse University, followed by her master's degree in dance from Texas Woman's University.

A self-proclaimed rebel, Sharry ran away from home to pursue her life's greatest passion: dance. Sharry's skill and devotion to her craft led her to Jacob's Pillow in the Berkshires, where she studied with modern dance legends such as Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn. Soon after, Sharry's exceptional talent led her to New York City, where she performed as a principal dancer on the great Broadway stage in Times Square and toured throughout the United States.

One summer, Sharry left the bustling streets of New York City to teach choreography in the Green Mountain state of Vermont. As fate would have it, that very summer Sharry would meet the love of her life and wonderful husband, the honorable Vermont Supreme Court judge Wynn Underwood. Sharry and Wynn moved to Middlebury, Vt., in the early 1950s and were married for 58 years until Wynn's passing in 2005. A modern woman, particularly for the 1950s, Sharry raised five children while continuing to manage her dynamic dance career. Sharry regularly incorporated her five children into her imaginative productions, teaching them a variety of styles from ballroom to modern ballet.

As an ambassador for Vermont's dance community, Sharry also worked as a dance critic for *Dance Magazine* and *The Burlington Free Press*. Ceaseless in her advocacy for the importance of dance, Sharry left an indelible mark on Vermont's dance and theater community. She will forever be remembered as a vital and accomplished Vermont dance pioneer.

At 100 years old, Sharry passed away on Thursday, September 22, in Burlington — a city she grew to deeply cherish. Sharry Underwood is survived by her beloved children: Sky Underwood Cardile, Joel Traver Underwood, Andrea Jones, Darcy Carter and Hillary Underwood.

Sharry was a woman of action in every sense of the word. With a strong sense of self and a deep understanding of what was most important in life, she never wavered in her commitment to be the best she could be. A treasured wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and dancer, Sharry will be forever loved, forever missed and never forgotten. We know she is dancing with her beloved husband among the stars.

[Editor's addition: from https://prabook.com/web/sharry_marie_traver.underwood/238100] Choreographer for local pageants, art festivals, community theater productions, Vermont. Member League of Vermont Writers (president 1984-1985), Vermont Association Theatre and Theatre Works (board directors 1988-1990).



An Unusual Challenge from the American Library Association

Read These Banned Books: A Journal and 52-Week Reading Challenge from the American Library Association

There is a new book out (which I am not endorsing for purchase) called Read These Banned Books: A Journal and 52-Week Reading Challenge from the American Library Association. It is the concept of the book that has piqued my interest.

The concept is this: Each week for an entire year, buy, beg or borrow one of the books from the '100 most banned books list' in the appendix, read it and then write up your personal reflections in the paperback book.

The promo says: "Expand your reading list and stand against literary censorship with this one-year reading challenge and book journal! Featuring 52 modern and classic books that have been challenged or banned, from The Hunger Games to Maus, this book log includes ALA's insights into each title as well as writing prompts for further reflection..."

Includes:

- 52 banned, censored, or challenged book recommendations and the reasons they were banned
- Room to reflect on each book and how you can relate to it as you complete the challenge
- Pages for your personal reading log, perfect for sharing on social media or with friends
- An appendix highlighting the 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books from 2010-2019 and information about how YOU can help fight book banning.

Being a relatively ingenious bunch, I bet we could grab a colorful blank-page journal from any local indie bookstore, print this list of books, tuck it in the back and do our own "I read these banned books" journal. Bottom line, I love the challenge. Anyone want to have a 'banned book' discussion night? Just a thought. Here's the list from the American Library Association: If you want to print the list, here is a link to it. It is one long list with a blank column to the right for date you read it and a brief comment.

Link to List of 100 Banned Books

This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson
This book is day by Julio Dawson
Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
Gossip Girl (series) by Cecily von Ziegesar
House of Night (series) by P.C. Cast
My Mom's Having A Baby by Dori Hillestad Butler
Neonomicon by Alan Moore
The Dirty Cowboy by Amy Timberlake
The Giver by Lois Lowry
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya
Draw Me a Star by Eric Carle
Dreaming In Cuban by Cristina Garcia
Fade by Lisa McMann
The Family Book by Todd Parr
Feed by M.T. Anderson
Go the Fuck to Sleep by Adam Mansbach



Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan	<i>Habibi</i> by Craig Thompson
A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by Jill Twiss	House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende
Sex is a Funny Word by Cory Silverberg	Jacob's New Dress by Sarah Hoffman
Alice McKinley (series) by Phyllis Reynolds	Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov
Naylor	
It's Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris	Monster by Walter Dean Myers
Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult	Nasreen's Secret School by Jeanette Winter
Scary Stories (series) by Alvin Schwartz	Saga by Brian K. Vaughan
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson	Stuck in the Middle by Ariel Schrag
A Brave New World by Aldous Huxley	The Kingdom of Little Wounds by Susann Cokal
Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak	1984 by George Orwell
Out by Susan Kuklin	
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck	A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood	Almost Perfect by Brian Katcher
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas	Awakening by Kate Chopin
Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison	Burned by Ellen Hopkins
Bechdel	
It's a Book by Lane Smith	Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark	Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers
Twain	
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien	Glass by Ellen Hopkins
What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones	Heather Has Two Mommies by Lesle'a Newman
A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Bad Kitty (series) by Nick Bruel	Madeline and the Gypsies by Ludwig
	Bemelmans
Crank by Ellen Hopkins	My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis
Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich	Prince and Knight by Daniel Haack
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi	Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth
	Anthology by Amy Sonnie
The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby by Dav Pilkey	Skippyjon Jones (series) by Judith Schachner
This Day in June by Gayle E. Pitman	So Far from the Bamboo Grove by Yoko Kawashima Watkins
This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki	The Color of Earth (series) by Tong-hwa Kim
A Bad Boy Can Be Good For A Girl by Tanya Lee	The Librarian of Basra by Jeanette Winter
Stone	
Beloved by Toni Morrison	The Walking Dead (series) by Robert Kirkman
Goosebumps (series) by R.L. Stine	Tricks by Ellen Hopkins
In Our Mothers' House by Patricia Polacco	Uncle Bobby's Wedding by Sarah S Brannen
Lush by Natasha Friend	Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks
The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-
	Time by Mark Haddon
The Color Purple by Alice Walker	The Holy Bible



The Growth and Development of LVW

How the Year is Shaping Up – Despite strange weather and the absence of a treasurer, we persevere!

Jan 28, 2023	Annual Business Meting	Joni Cole "Five Tips for Productive Revision."
Feb. 24, 2023	Book Club –	Wonderbook by Jeff Vandermeer
March 23, 2023	Open Mic	
April 13, 2023	Book Club	The Heroine's Journey: For Writers, Readers, and Fans of Pop Culture 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	The Emotional Craft of Fiction by Donald Maass
August 19, 2023	Summer Event	Into the Words – Rescheduled due to Weather
August 10, 2023	Book Club	On Writing: A Memoir Of The Craft by Stephen King
Sept. 28, 2023	Open Mic	
October 26, 2023	Book Club	Catching the Big Fish, Meditation, Consciousness and Creativity
October 28, 2023	Fall Event – Zoom Presentations	Using both sides of your Brain in Writing
Nov. 2023	Open Mic (t/b/a)	
December	Book Club (t/b/a)	Notice will be sent out soon

General Information

LVW Encourages Its Friends and Members To Submit Articles for The League Lines.

Articles should be:

- Less than 1000 words please.
- Well edited! Ask a friend or two to proofread for you.
- Pertinent to the craft of writing, i.e., book reviews, writing event reviews, recaps of LVW events, publication credits, speaking engagements past or upcoming.
- Word documents please. (This helps in formatting for the newsletter)
- LVW particularly invites its members to reviews books published by other members.

Reviewing one another's books is one of the best ways to support each other! Please send any submissions to Gail Wind at gailinvermont@outlook.com. Subject: "League Lines"

Editor's note: League of Vermont Writers is alive and well.

HOWEVER, the League is nothing if not a social creature, and so we have been sponsoring more in-person events. Some have asked for them to be on Zoom, or hybrid and we are looking into it, but that takes personnel to pull off. We are short on volunteers.

In April we presented "Stay on the Write Side of the Law: Legal Issues Every Writer Should Know." Plans are underway for the "Into the Words" special biennial summer event.



Our open mic nights and book club evenings are still on Zoom.

To keep our 94 year old organization heading to its Diamond Anniversary in 6 short years, we need your help.

- Read the League emails and League lines.
- Attend the events.
- Join the book club.
- Submit articles to the Newsletter.
- ♥ Volunteer when you can.
- Communicate with fellow members.
- Present at open mic.
- ▼ Read books published by members and send us a review. This helps authors get "noticed."

LVW Board:

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

Board Members at Large

- o Cindy Hill
- o Jeniah Johnson,
- o 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 receiver to 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 subject line re: League Lines 2023.

For general questions, contact the League at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org

For membership questions, please contact Tommy Walz at twalz@aol.com

Send mail to PO Box 398 Rochester, Vermont 05767 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? ©