



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC

Live, In-Person Conference

July 27, 2024

“Writers Meet Agents”

4 Speakers / 6 Agents

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Burlington, VT

League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Vermont Writers

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LVW JULY EVENT: WRITERS MEET AGENTS – AN ALL-DAY CONFERENCE 7/27/2024..... 1

WRITERS MEET AGENTS 1

LVW’S BEST EVENT OF 2024..... 1

LVW BOOK GROUP..... 3

2024 BOOK GROUP RECAP TO DATE 3

LVW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1/27/2024 3

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2024 – VIA ZOOM 3

THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING WAS POET CHRISTOPHER CITRO 4

LVW SPRING EVENT 4/24/2024..... 4

LVW PRESENTED “ON THE ROAD TO GETTING PUBLISHED” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024, VIA ZOOM..... 4

KUDOS KORNER – WHERE LEAGUE AUTHORS CAN “KROW” A LITTLE! 5

KUDOS TO PHYLLIS ERSHOWSKY 5

KUDOS TO PHILIP JORDAN 5

KUDOS TO MARK PENDERGRAST 5

KUDOS TO CELIA RYKER 6

WRITING MADE EASIER – HINTS AND TIPS 7

“SIX SECRET WORD STYLE SETTINGS YOU SHOULD BE USING.” 7

THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LVW..... 7

GENERAL INFORMATION..... 8

LVW July Event: Writers Meet Agents – An All-Day Conference 7/27/2024

Writers Meet Agents

LVW’s Best Event of 2024

[Here’s the LINK](#) to get your ticket **AND** book your agent pitches.

WHO: Anyone with a book to publish or an interest in writing

WHAT: A full day of speakers, buffet lunch and pitch sessions

WHEN: Saturday, July 27, 2024: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

WHERE: Delta Hotel, 1117 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT

\$175 Members

\$235 Non-Members

Pitches \$25 each



Writers Meet Agents ~ Schedule of Events

Six well-known, active literary agents will be on hand to offer one-on-one pitch sessions: Katharine Sands of Sarah Jane Freymann Literary; Sorche Fairbank of Fairbank Literary; Carrie Howland of Howland Literary; Sheree Bykofsky of Sheree Bykofsky Associates; Rita Rosenkranz of Rita Rosenkranz Literary; and Amy Thrall Flynn of Aevitas Creative Management.

Sheree, Rita, Katherine and Jennifer Wilkov (writing-and-publishing consultant from Your Book is Your Hook) will speak on topics ranging from finding an agent, how to write a query letter, how to represent yourself in the writer-agent relationship, crafting and using book proposals and managing a writing career. Continental breakfast and a catered luncheon are included. Tables are provided for member-authors to sell books.

8:30 Hall opens for registration, meet and greet and continental breakfast

9:00 Call to order; welcome remarks by President Caryn Connolly

9:15 Panel Discussion begins:

- Katharine Sands, Sarah Jane Freymann Literary
- Sorche Fairbank, Fairbank Literary
- Carrie Howland, Howland Literary
- Sheree Bykofsky, Sheree Bykofsky Associates
- Rita Rosenkranz, Rita Rosenkranz Literary
- Amy Thrall Flynn, Aevitas Creative Management

10:30 Break: Mingle; look at others' books; agents take places in Pitch Hall, etc.

10:45 Sheree Bykofsky presentation: "Why You Need an Agent: How to Find One, How to Work with One, How to Help Them Work with You, and How to Proceed Without Them." She will cover queries, contracts and other questions you may have.

[Pitch sessions begin](#)

11:45 Break: Mingle; buy raffle tickets; buy other members' books, etc.

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Rita Rosenkranz presentation: "How to Write an Irresistible Non-fiction Book Proposal." What are the key components that define a winning book proposal? What research should an author do to help make sure the project has merit? How can an author leapfrog over the competition in the category?

[Pitch sessions resume](#)

2:00 Carrie Howland presentation: "Beyond the Query Letter: Links, Websites and More." Carrie will share information on finding the right agent, finding answers, twitter pitching calendar, example twitter pitches, resources for tracking pitches, other social media and pitching in-person.

[Pitch sessions continue](#)

3:00 Break for all

3:15 Jennifer Wilkov presentation: "Marketing Success." Jennifer, founder of Your Book Is Your Hook, LLC, will show you how to determine what belongs in your marketing platform – and what doesn't – before, during, and after your book has been published.

[Pitch sessions resume](#)

4:00 Quick Break for all, Pitches end.

4:15 Final Remarks, Door Prizes, Raffle Tickets

4:30 Clean up – All help welcome

5:00 "LVW leaves the building"

[Click Here to Register](#) or copy/paste:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/3e022f10-9c04-47e4-b9f3-1ce52bbdfa41>

MORE information on the website –Events/Writers Meet Agents <https://leagueofvermontwriters.org/>

LVW Book Group

2024 Book Group Recap to Date

For the first book of 2024, the group read and discussed *BIRD BY BIRD: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott, and they met virtually on Thursday, March 7 at 7pm. (Delayed from February)

Thursday, April 25 the group discussed *How to Write a Sentence: And How to Read One* by Stanley Fish.

Shawn said, “We are pushing our next virtual book discussion that should have been held in June back to mid-July—plenty of time to grab a copy of the book, *THE CREATIVE HABIT: Learn It and Use It for Life* by Twyla Tharp, and read it before the meeting, if you have not already done so. We’re going to meet virtually on Thursday, July 18 at 7pm for discussion.

Shawn suggested, “We will select a shorter book and try to get back on our even-month schedule for August.”

****If you would like to be part of the virtual – Via Zoom – book group meeting in July, drop Shawn an email and he will put you on the list. [Click Here to email the League](#) or copy lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org. Put “2024 BOOK GROUP” in the subject line. You don’t have to read all (or any) of the book of the month to join in, as during the course of a meeting the group discusses writing in general and the chat is lively and entertaining. ****

LVW Annual Membership Meeting 1/27/2024

The Annual Membership Meeting, January 27, 2024, Via Zoom

Six board members and fourteen LVW members attended the Annual Meeting. From the board were Amy Braun, Jon Meyer, Melinda Meyer, Joan Grant, Jeniah Johnson, and Gail Wind. Absent was Cindy Hill. From general membership were Betty Warner, Celia Ryker, Ellie Bryant, Henry Parker, Jerry Johnson, Katherine Quimby Johnson, Laura Power, Liz Gauffreau, Lisa Halvorson, Louella Bryant, Melody Beth Brown, Pat Goudey O’Brien, Shawn Anderson, and Thomas Carroll.

Our new treasurer, who came to the board late in 2023, presented an excel summation of the League’s income and expenses. The League had a final net gain for 2023. When Mel has had a chance to reconcile all of the accounts, she will give the board a clearer picture of its financial standing.

Member retention and recruitment was mentioned as a 2024 priority.

Shawn gave a Book Group Report, mentioning six books the group discussed in Zoom meetings.

- *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
- *Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing* by Margaret Atwood

The group meets every other month on a Thursday at 7 PM. It is usually a group of 6 to 12 people.

There was a discussion of Book Festivals, which ones the League should display at and which to send representatives to. Celia Ryker is spearheading that committee.

There was a discussion of the web platform Discord, and how LVW might use it to form a Monday morning writing group.

There was a discussion about the website Gail designed as a possible change for the League. Several people voiced concerns about the possible ‘fallout’ from such a change. Kathy Quimby Johnson moved to table the discussion so that a committee could be formed to explore such things as why our current web host was chosen and what could happen in the long term. Would others be able to run the site in the future? Concerns were voiced as to content and the technical aspects of a possible change. Cynthia seconded the motion. The new site adaptation is on hold.

Elections

Celia Ryker shared that she was on the nominating committee with Luella Bryant and Sharon Darrow. Elections were held with the following results:

The following people were voted in unanimously for Board Members at Large for three years:

- Cindy Hill – two years left
- Pat Goudey O'Brien- three years
- Jeniah Johnson- two years left
- Caryn Connolly – three years

The new officers of LVW for 2024 are:

- Caryn Connolly- president for one year
- Melinda Meyer - treasurer
- Jon Meyer - Vice President
- Gail Wind - Secretary
- Amy Braun -the Immediate Past President

The guest speaker at the Membership Meeting was poet Christopher Citro

Though Chris's medium is generally poetry, and his presentation focused on poetry, what he shared with the group also pertained to other forms of writing – fiction, non-fiction and even memoir writers.

With Chris, we explored the craft element of voice—creating a sense of a living personality behind our words.

We learned that a well-crafted voice can help our writing come alive. It was a lively and interactive session and we used Chris's writing prompts to create short pieces aimed at giving 'recognizable voice' to our words.



LVW SPRING EVENT 4/24/2024

LVW Presented “On the Road to Getting Published” on Saturday, April 27, 2024, via Zoom

Dawn Reno Langley regaled the group with hints and tips and personal anecdotes from her own life about the “Ups and Downs of Publishing.” Dawn Reno Langley is a writer, theater critic, mosaic artist, and educator, who has devoted her life to giving a voice to social justice issues. Dawn took us through the labyrinth

of publishing woes and successes of her life, which included publishing poetry, writing children's books, writing antiques books and so much more. Her current book newly published is *Analyzing the Prescotts*, a heart-wrenching tale of a family in crisis and their therapist.

She shared with us the importance of having a good relationship with your editor and publisher.

She said that she believes that a good amount of the writing / publishing business is serendipity, the rest is hard work.

She has freelanced for magazines and newspapers, and has written children's books, antique collectible books and others.

Jennifer Wilkov gave a three-hour workshop, “Pitch your Project like a Pro.”

She walked us through the entire pitch process from what to wear, what to expect, what to bring, and what to say and how to say it.

She taught us that it is all important. Know your agent. Know your surroundings. Know your project.

She took attendees offerings of pitches and showed us what was good, bad and ugly about our pitches. She taught us how to hone them to perfection. She showed us that pitching is a science; it has a formula that works.



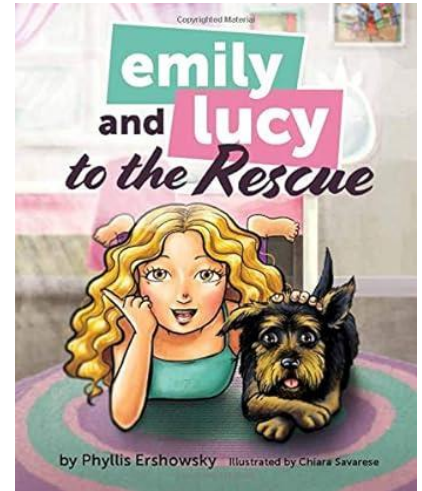
“The person who deserves most pity is a lonesome one on a rainy day who doesn't know how to read.” ~ Benjamin Franklin

Kudos to Phyllis Ershowsky

Phyllis wrote, “I am new to the group, and my children’s book was published during the pandemic, so I am only just getting started with publicizing and marketing my book, *Emily and Lucy to the Rescue*.”

Her wonderful children’s book was illustrated by Chiara Savarese and published in 2020 by Mascot Books. allbookedupnow on Instagram said, “This story empowers children and assures them that they are strong and can help someone they love have a great day!”

Brief synopsis: When Emily’s mom gets sick, Emily feels scared and helpless, and she doesn’t know where to turn. Amidst all the fear and uncertainties, it’s so hard to be strong! With the help of her dog, Lucy, Emily learns that though life may look a little different now, the most important thing she can do is be there for her mom with love, kindness, and compassion. When someone gets sick, it’s easy to feel sad and overwhelmed, but *Emily and Lucy to the Rescue* teaches children that it’s still important to have fun and enjoy life every day. The book is written to help children feel empowered and to be the heroes of their own story. Kudos Phyllis!



Kudos to Philip Jordan

Born in Bennington and raised in Manchester, Philip R. Jordan is the retired editor of Vermont Magazine and lives with his wife Edie in a quirky old schoolhouse in Sunderland. His crime novel, *As Crooked as They Come*, was published in 2021.



Philip’s story “Stove Pipe Blues” was published in the Spring, 2024 edition of *The Vermont Almanac* <https://www.vermontalmanac.org/> [Vermont Almanac is a 288-page, 7×10-inch book. The first volume was published in December 2020; volumes two through four were published annually in each following December. All are available on the website and in independent stores throughout Vermont.]

More good news: Philip says, “Despite recent (partial) loss of vision in one eye, I finally sent off *Bootlegger, Bullets and Brothers in the Kingdom* (my second novel) to

Onion River Press yesterday. I’ll keep you posted on the progress (as I keep an eye out for it!) It’s a coming-of-age tale, set in the depths of the Great Depression in Caledonia County.

Kudos Philip, to a long history of writing, editing and publishing – and to many more years of the same!

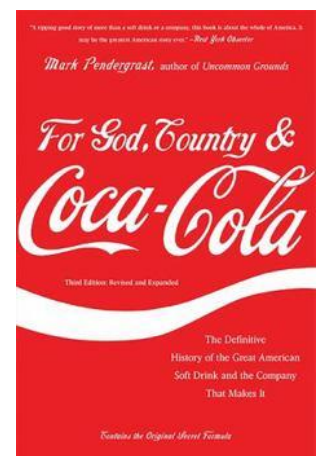
Kudos to Mark Pendergrast

Mark says, “I don’t know if this counts, but I will be published in September, a fourth edition of *For God, Country and Coca-Cola The Definitive History of the Great American Soft Drink and the Company That Makes It* from Basic Books/Hachette.” September, 2024

Does it count? But, of course. Mark’s website is markpendergrast.com and the publisher is <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/>.

How did an innocuous soft drink, more than 99% sweetened water, come to be regarded as “the sublimated essence of all that America stands for”?

For God, Country & Coca-Cola is a cultural, social, and economic history of America as seen through the green glass of a Coke bottle. And what a quintessentially American tale it is. Coca-Cola began humbly as a patent medicine



amid the fervor and chaos of Reconstruction Atlanta. A shrewd marketer saw its value as a beverage, and it rapidly grew through the Gilded Age to become the dominant consumer product of the American Century and beyond.

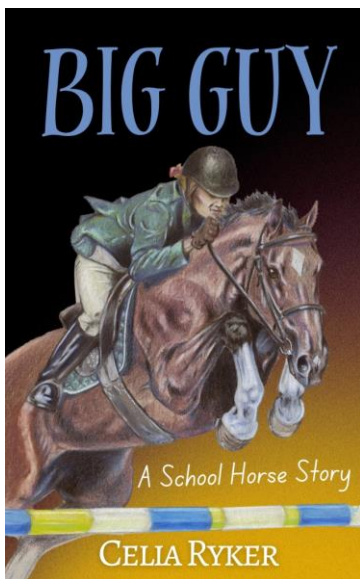
Mark has been praised in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*!

Here's a sample, "'In For God, Country & Coca-Cola, Mark Pendergrast has written an encyclopedic history of Coke and its subculture, and used Coca-Cola as a metaphor for the growth of modern capitalism itself. His research and storytelling skills are prodigious.'" ~ Robert Kuttner, *Washington Post*

"A ripping good story of more than a soft drink or a company, this book is about the whole of America. It may be the greatest American story ever." *New York Observer*. Kudos Mark!

Kudos to Celia Ryker

Celia has published her third book, *Big Guy – A School Horse Story*. This is a middle-grade children's novel. Big Guy faces big changes when his horse-show career ends and he is moved to the school horse barn. The horse-show circuit is the only life Big Guy has known. He will be used to teach inexperienced riders in a lesson program, and he sees this as a huge step down. This is a story about accepting changes, making new friends, and dealing with the curves life sends your way. Illustrated by Kathy Connell.



"Big Guy tells a horse's story in his own words. Big Guy is a thoroughbred who moves as he ages from the coddled life of a show horse to become part of a herd of well-tended school horses for young riders.

Ryker trained hunter jumpers and taught riding students for more than thirty years. The adventures, injuries, and idiosyncrasies that Big Guy narrates come from horses Ryker has known including former racehorses and circus horses. She shares their stories with compassion.

We meet Shorty, the chatty horse who welcomes newcomers to the barn, and Kaiser, the grumpy gelding who kicks at stall walls. We meet their owners. We witness what good care looks like. I read the book in one sitting – as a horse-crazy senior who always slows down as I pass a pasture of horses grazing". ~ Tricia Knoll, poet of *Let's Hear It for the Horses*.

Celia's first book, *Walking Home: Trail Stories*, was a Gold Winner in the 2022 Human Relations Indie Book Awards in Travel, and a Silver Winner in Motivational Memoir and Personal Determination. Her second book, *Augusta: A Novel*, about her grandmother's life of hardship at the turn of the twentieth century, won the 2023 Literary Titan Gold Book Award.

"Engaging, endearing, and downright charming... There's something timeless and special about this story of horses, as told through the eyes of the horses. It's an ideal read for horse lovers of all ages. ~ Shawn T.

Anderson – Writer/Author, Past President of The League of Vermont Writers

Celia's website is www.celiaryker.com Contact her at celia@celiaryker.com. Kudos Celia.

Kudos to Elizabeth Gauffreau

Elizabeth is a New England fiction writer in poet's clothing. She has published fiction and poetry in literary journals, including DASH, Remington Review, and Woven Tale Press. She has also published a novel, *Telling Sonny*, and a poetry collection, *Grief Songs: Poems of Love & Remembrance*.

She has been a very busy writer this year. Her poem "At the Greyhound Station" was published in the *Epistemic Literary* in June.

Her short story "There Ain't No Gold on Mount Jasper" was included in Volume 6, 2024 of the *Reedy Branch Review*.

She has also had several book reviews posted in *Masticadores USA* and the *Black Fox Literary Review*! Kudos Liz!



Writing Made Easier – Hints and Tips

“Six Secret Word Style Settings You Should Be Using.”

Deborah Savadra has a YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/dsavadra> with 4.17k subscribers.

Now that’s not much in the general scheme of things, but what she shares with her viewers, she does with style and grace. She bills herself as a “Legal Office Guru, helping legal professionals get the most from Microsoft Office.” Now, though she is largely aiming her videos at those in the actual legal profession, much of what she shares can certainly be applied to professional writers.

First of all, Deborah speaks in careful, clear English, showing her steps along the way. One video, which was quite impressive, was called “Six Secret Word Style Settings You Should Be Using.” Step by step, she showed how to do things like – keeping your formatting style from page to page, even if you insert page breaks. A simple click of one button solves the problem of your style suddenly going off the rails.

She teaches how to unclutter the styles menu box by either removing a style you won’t likely use again or putting it at the end of the styles list. She puts in a reminder to click on the little button that saves a style for future documents. (For a newsletter perhaps or weekly posting.)

She strongly warns NOT to click the ‘Automatically Update Styles’ and explains why. Then, she reviews the difference between paragraph and character styles. She explains the problems you may cause by choosing “Linked Style.”

General writers may not need to know these things, but if an author wishes to put their manuscript in a fully formatted state before submitting it to an editor, agent or publisher, these hints and tips can be invaluable. Their writing and presentation will seem more polished and professional.

The Growth and Development of LVW

Despite strange weather and seven months without 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
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, Caryn Connolly
- Vice President, Jon Meyer
- Secretary, Gail E. Wind
- Treasurer, Melinda Meyer
- Immediate Past President, Amy Braun

Board Members at Large:

- Cindy Hill – two years left
- Pat Goudy O'Brien- three years
- Jeniah Johnson- two years left
- Caryn Connolly

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](#)

Kudos Korner: Please send information about your recent publication successes, public readings or any writing awards you might receive to gailinvermont@outlook.com with a subject line Kudos Korner.

League Lines questions, corrections or contributions: Please submit these to the editor Gail Wind at: gailinvermont@outlook.com; subject line re: League Lines 2024.

General questions: contact the League at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org

Membership questions: please contact Tommy Walz at twalz@aol.com

Snail mail: League of Vermont Writers, PO Box 3251, Burlington, VT 05408

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

We hope to see everyone on July 27, 2024, in South Burlington at the

Writers Meet Agents Conference

Check the [EVENTS](#) tab on the Website <https://leagueofvermontwriters.org/>

Sign up at [Zeffy](#)

ALSO, JUST ANNOUNCED:

A Masterclass with NYC Literary Agent Katharine Sands

“Getting Ready, Getting Read, Getting Readers”

Celebrated NYC Literary Agent Katharine Sands, Sarah Jane Freymann Agency, is offering a MASTER CLASS on how to gain the attention of agents and editors for your book project.

This class is a run-up to the League's summer event, **Writers Meet Agents** happening at the Delta Hotel on Saturday, July 27, when six literary agents will meet writers and hear pitches for books. [CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS \\$49.00](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on our website! Call (802) 349-7475 for Information.

