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**Summer In-Person Event**  
**Into the Words August 23,**  
**Milton Grange Hall**  
**35 River St, Milton, VT**  
**9 Speakers**  
**Genre Groups**  
**Ice Breaker Bingo**

**A Writing Challenge**  
**2500 Words or Less**  
**Submission Deadline**  
**September 1, 2025**  
**Details on Last Page**

## Into The Words, Grange Hall, Milton, Vermont



**August 23, 2025 9:30 to 3:00**

## LVW's In-Person Summer Event: "Into the Words"

### INTO THE WORDS

Milton Grange 135 River Street (Route 7), Milton, Vermont

August 23, 9:30 to 3:00

To: members of the League of Vermont Writers - AND WRITING FRIENDS EVERYWHERE!

This is your chance to spend *all day* with writers. You will meet those who just published, are veterans in the published world and those who can't wait to be published. Though this event is indoors, it looks like the weather is cooperating. No storms, no floods, etc.

To keep costs down, this is a BYO lunch day. [bring your own] The League will provide water, beverages, morning pastries and lunch extras – chips and dessert.

Many League members have signed up to display their books or services.

[-->Tickets Here <--](#)

#### Schedule

8:15 Set up

9:30 Doors Open

- At registration, everyone will be given a name tag. They will put one or two writing genres below their name, for the bingo game and for Genre Groups at 2:00.
- Each attendee will be given a "Writing Bingo Card" With Ice Breaker prompts. Everyone who gets a 'bingo!' will be entered to win a prize.

10:00 Opening remarks/announcements

#### 10:15 WORKSHOP SESSIONS

##### Session A: Joy Cohen - Yoga and Creativity: The Art and Practice of Breath, Flow, and Creative Expression

Have you ever carved out a time to create, and found yourself stuck? Ever taken a yoga class and experienced that feeling, that zone you enter—centered, calm, and less full of negative mind chatter? Please join me for a unique experience in which we combine a Gentle Yoga practice with a writing workshop. Class will include a series of breath-synchronized easy, gentle movement. We will set an intention for our writing, and our practice will become an exploration of how yoga can re-energize you physically and also help you achieve mental clarity and focus to enhance your creative process.

##### Session B: Amy Braun - Collage Your Focus

In this session, I will share my passion for collage and how it has helped sharpen my observation and writing skills. Creating a collage is similar to building a sentence, paragraph, or overall idea. In this workshop, we will take some time to observe the natural world and create a collage and a detailed sentence, poem, or paragraph. At the end of the session, there will be time to share our work with one another.

##### Session C: Celia Ryker – A Publisher Ready Manuscript

How to decide when your manuscript is ready for prime time.

11:00 Break and Check out the Display Tables and meet other writers

#### 11:15 WORKSHOP SESSIONS

##### Session D: Susan Agatha Davis - Info Dumps and Other Precarious Problems

How to avoid info dumps/backstory swamps in the first chapter, when and how to avoid prologs, how to provide backstories that don't stifle the plot, and how to determine when "show, don't tell" doesn't matter.

##### Session E: Gail Wind - Use Excel to maintain research and avoid writing blunders

To keep track of mileage of travelers, ages of your characters, when they get or quit a job, get married, are born or die, use Excel. It is easy to create and edit and you don't have to keep referring to your written novel. Make sure you know when your characters met, etc.

### **Session F: Carl Nyberg - Creating "New England Screenwriters Network"**

In this session people interested in screenwriting will be invited to discuss what League of Vermont Writers can do to support people interested in screenwriting, including movies, TV and playwriting. Carl Nyberg will use his experience as a member of Chicago Screenwriters Network as a starting point for discussing what support for screenwriters could be.

### **12:00 Lunch Break and Bingo Card Networking**

### **1:00 WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

#### **Session G: Beth Malow - Do you want to self-publish your book? Strategies for success**

Each year, about 300 million books are self-published. Self-publishing your book gives you a lot of flexibility in terms of timeline, content, and marketing. Spreading the word about your book can be challenging yet rewarding, especially for first timers. We will discuss the nuts and bolts of self-publishing and share best practices. Those who have recently self-published a book, are in the process of self-publishing, or simply want to hear more are welcome to attend!

#### **Session H: Louella (Ellie) Bryant - Hook, Logline, and Stinker: The toughest challenge for book marketing**

Once you have a complete manuscript, you must shift your mindset from telling your story to the hard part—selling your story. Attracting readers involves some of the most challenging writing you'll do—developing key selling points in three formats: the hook that makes you look, the logline that distills the story, and the brief description that convinces the reader to make the purchase. We'll also discuss the author bio, tags, keywords, and the all-important author website. N.B.: Even if you're still in the writing process, this workshop will help you define the heart of your story.

#### **Session I: Alyssa Berthiaume - Keeping Up, Staying Relevant, and Making Your Book Evergreen—A Mastermind Session for Published Authors**

In this session, published authors will gather to discuss and brainstorm ways to keep their books relevant in the marketplace regardless of the date of their publication. This will include discussing the possibilities and potential of developing your online presence and digital marketing. The facilitator will customize the session to those who attend and guide the conversation with prompted questions. She'll leverage her experience as an independent author and business owner in the ways of online presence and platform and digital marketing to support published authors questions about the current online marketing landscape. This is a masterminding session not a formal presentation. Please bring a notebook to capture the ideas relevant to you and your book. No handout will be provided.

### **1:45 Break and Check out the Display Tables and meet other writers**

### **2:00 GENRE GROUPS**

- At the registration table the morning of, people get a name tag, we ask people to add to their name tag their 1-2 preferred genres
- During the Genre Group breakout, people gather with other writers in their genre
- We can provide a sheet of conversation prompts for the groups and encourage them to form writing/accountability groups that we can then promote to the rest of membership

**2:45** Closing remarks/announcements

**3:00** Program ends, clean up - helping hands welcome!

*Please note:* Handicap Parking and an inside lift are available.

More information about the presentations is on our website, here: [Into the Words](#)

**-->Tickets Here <--**

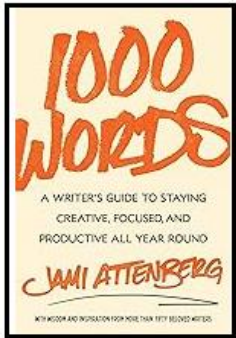
**Members \$30, Non-Members \$40, Students with ID - \$20**

## Ongoing Free Zoom Events

### Book Group – Hosted by Shawn Anderson

Hello friends and fellow writers,

Summer is in full swing! The next book-group meeting will be **Aug 28 at 7–8:30PM ET** (and you don't need to be residing in VT to join). There's still time to grab a copy of the book and read it. It's a fast read and perfect for pool, beach, or porch swing! We will be discussing will be **1000 Words by Jami Attenberg**.



We'll be trying something a little different this time around. The first hour will be an organized discussion about the book with prompts and then the back half hour we will chat and dive into a more specific topic on our current works in progress and/or publishing adventures—a little check in and accountability session.

If you would like to invite friends to join, please have them email the League at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org) and put “LVW BOOK GROUP” in the subject line, and I will add them to the email list.

As always, please feel free to come and join the discussion even if you have not read or finished the selected work. We love to get together and talk craft!

The meeting link for the Zoom is below, but I'll send it again with a reminder right before the meeting.

See you soon!  
Shawn

[Link for Book Group](#)

### Open Mic – Hosted by Gail Wind

Open Mic is held on alternating months with Book Group. Open Mic is odd months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Book Group is even months: February, April, June, August, October, and December.

The next Open Mic night is on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

This is a live, Zoom event. (It is a bit late this month as Gail will be unavailable to host on the other three Thursdays.)

Emails will be sent out encouraging readers after the summer, but if you want to participate, contact Gail Wind at [gailinvermont@outlook.com](mailto:gailinvermont@outlook.com).

Each reader will have 5-6 minutes to introduce themselves and read. A featured writer will have 10 minutes.

We encourage all members to attend. Bring your friends for moral support! Listen to and support these courageous presenters.

When you publish, presenting your work in public is part of advertising your work. This is also a safe space to try out something new on a very warm crowd.

If you are curious about what our open mic nights look like, just join the Zoom and sit back. You can leave your video blank and just be a "fly on the wall." You will find it a comfortable, sharing space.

We welcome authors in all genres to share their published and/or unpublished work.

Come, read with us.

## Libraries and Bookstores News

### An Unusual Indie Book in Hawaii

By Melanie Yamaguchi

Published: Apr. 28, 2023 at 9:04 PM EDT| Updated: May 16, 2023 at 8:18 PM EDT

HONOLULU (Hawaii NewsNow) –

Take a stroll down Bethel Street in Chinatown and you'll stumble upon a large glass window display featuring an eclectic mix of gold alien figures, mannequins, surf boards, flying saucers and a skeleton floating midair over a pile of skulls with UFO light beams painted in the backdrop.

There's no store sign installed, but inside is a treasure trove of carefully curated books and vinyl records related to all things “deep, dark, weird or hard” — titles ranging from science fiction to horror, true crime, classics, surfing and other edgy subgenres.

Welcome to Skull-Face Books and Vinyl, one of the newest independent bookstores to emerge on Oahu.



“There’s just nothing that feels like a bookstore,” said Josh Spencer, co-owner of Skull-Face. “You know, you’re surrounded by so much knowledge and so many stories, like there’s nothing else where you can go, where you’re kind of bombarded by all this visual stimulation and mental stimulation and spiritual stimulation.”

[Excerpt from “Forget e-books. People in Hawaii are embracing the old-fashioned bookstore,” Hawaii News Now. <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2023/04/29/small-mighty-hawaii-indie-bookstores-once-near-extinction-are-roaring-back-digital-era/>

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## An Amazing Story of the Little Town that Could – The Whitefield Library of Maine by Gail Wind

There are two Whitefield Libraries that have been in the news in the last few years. One is in Whitefield New Hampshire. The one I want to share my interest in is a former Grand Old Army Hall, turned Grange Hall, at 1 Arlington Lane, Whitefield, ME 04353. It is an eye-catching, two-story, yellow beacon on top of a hill in Whitefield.

I read an online article from *Brown Alumni Magazine* “One Grange Hall, Two Alums, and 9,000 Books *The birth of a place for books and community, in rural Maine.*” by Catherine Newman / *April–May 2023* <https://www.brownalumnimagazine.com/articles/2023-04-26/the-whitefield-library-maine>



It gave some interesting background. Ann Weiss said, “The creation of this small-but-mighty rural library has had an outsize impact on the town...” Seems a little second grader was not happy that there was no library to go to in the summer. Specifically, he wanted a library open when the school library was closed, because “in the summer it’s kind of boring here,” he had explained. The local Grange Hall was in kind of poor shape, but it offered space for a warm weather library, and for a couple of years, that fit the bill just fine.

“There was no heat or insulation, so they wouldn’t be able to stay open in the winter, but local folks donated books and furnishings, and a warm-weather library was born.” Three years later Covid hit and the library had to close. The two Brown alums and two other friends were the “library group” set

about to get a library grant from a local bank. They bought the Grange hall. Nicknaming themselves, “The Geezer Gang,” they set about to restore the building.

They stored the shelves they had gotten from a laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine in the barn of one of the gang members. They’ve done a tremendous amount of work on the place and the work is ongoing. The library now has heating and cooling. They’ve received donations from many sources, including Stephen King!

“Without the library,” Margot says of the Grange Hall, “this lovely old building would have continued falling into ruin. The library has been created by volunteers out of nothing—with donated books, free labor, and love.”

The background history of the building, now over 135 years old, can be found on the library’s website at <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/>

From what was a fairly dismal looking structure, with peeling shingles, peeling paint inside, and peeling wallpaper, the photos of the reconstruction and the final project are truly stunning. The “Geezer Gang” and local volunteers did plumbing, wiring, flooring, cabinetry in the kitchen and hundreds of hours of drywall work and painting. They dug French drains around the foundation to create runoff and keep the foundation dry.

In 2022 the Whitefield Library Association received grant funding from the Lincoln County Fund and the Raymond McKinley Rideout Jr. Marguerite Waterman Rideout Fund to support ongoing work on the library. March 3, 2025, they announced the completion of the second-floor renovation! Read about this great milestone at <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/whats-happening-at-the-library-you-ask-4/> Community action at its finest.

## LVW Book Group / Open Mic Reports

### Open Mic 2025 Update

by Gail Wind

LVW has hosted four open mic nights so far this year. January 30<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and July 10<sup>th</sup>. we've had a total of twenty-six people read at our events. The next will be September 25<sup>th</sup>. 7:00 p.m. We plan for an hour but often people stay for chat or more readings.

We are slowly building an audience too. I firmly believe that open mic will be more fun if we can gather a nice audience of onlookers. We unmute our microphones after a reader is finished and give them a good round of appreciation. Who doesn't like applause?

July 10<sup>th</sup> was our last live, Zoom event. We had a record number of folks who attended. We had six readers but 18 extra people in our audience from LVW and even two or three other states who came to support the readers. So, our Zoom screen had 24 individuals! One of our guests actually offered to read a poem. What a night!

### The LVW Book Group Updates: Before and After the Book Discussion

by Shawn T. Anderson

The book for June's discussion was *BEFORE AND AFTER THE BOOK DEAL* by Courtney Maum. The virtual discussion was held on June 12 from 7:00PM–8:00PM ET. Book group discussions are usually on Thursday nights in the even months of the year. This was a well welcomed reread for me, and I picked up new things this time around. It's a great crash course into the world of the publishing industry, a book I'm sure I'll come back to time and time again.

2025 is off to a great start with this book joining Rick Rubin's *THE CREATIVE ACT* (February's pick) and our very own Sharon Darrow's *WORLDS WITHIN WORDS* (April's selection) on the LVW book club's shelf. We are currently compiling a list of all the books we've read since the book group has started to use as a resource, so stay tuned.

Our August book will be *1,000 WORDS: A Writer's Guide to Staying Focused and Productive All Year Long* by Jami Attenberg. The meeting date will be set at our June discussion and announced soon after.

Run by League Vice President Shawn Anderson and friend of the League, Gowri Savoor, the LVW Book Group will continue throughout the year. We exclusively select and discuss books on publishing, creativity, and writing craft. If you would like to join and invite friends, please email the League at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org) and put "LVW BOOK GROUP" in the subject line, and I will add you to the email list.

## CONTESTS

### August Contests 2025 – No Entry Fee

<https://curiosityneverkilledthewriter.com/36-writing-contests-in-august-2025-no-entry-fees-c6fbbf6842e5>

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**Next Generation Short Story Awards-** <https://www.shortstoryawards.com/>

**A not-for-profit international awards program for authors of short stories.**

**Enter Your Story For The 2026 Award Season!**

**Entry deadline: February 26, 2026**

**Brought to you by the Next Generation Indie Book Awards (the largest book awards program in the world for self-published authors and independent publishers) and Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group**

(There are entry fees here)

## 2025 Activities to Date

Date	Event	Description
1/25/2025	Annual Meeting	Business Meeting and Guest Speaker – Nadia Colburn
1/30/2025	Open Mic	Seven Readers – Cynthia Bogard Featured Reader
2/13/2025	Book Group	The Creative Act, a Way of Being, by Rick Rubin
3/20/2025	Open Mic	Five Readers – Louella Bryant Featured Reader
4/10/2025	Book Group	<i>Worlds Within Words</i> , by Sharon Darrow
4/12/2025	Spring Event	LIVE EVENT! Underhill Town Hall. 5 Panel Discussion and Breakout Sessions, “The Job of the Author to Help a Book Succeed.”
5/08/2025	Town Hall	Open discussion of the future of the League
5/22/2025	Open Mic	Seven Readers – Celia Ryker Featured Reader
6/12/2025	Book Group	<i>Before and after the Book Deal: A Writer's Guide to Finishing, Publishing, Promoting, and Surviving Your First Book</i> , by Courtney Maum.
7/10/2025	Open Mic	Six Readers- Nancy Kilgore Featured Reader; 18 in the audience -total at meeting -24!

## 2024 Activities

### A look back at the events of 2024.

Date	Event	Description
1/27/2024	Annual Meeting	Business Meeting and Guest Speaker – Chris Citro
3/7/2024	Book Group	<i>BIRD BY BIRD: Some Instructions on Writing and Life</i> by Anne Lamott
4/25/2024	Book Group	<i>How to Write a Sentence: And How to Read One</i> by Stanley Fish
4/27/2024	Spring Event	Dawn Reno Langley and Jennifer Wilkov – Zoom
7/18/2024	Book Group	<i>THE CREATIVE HABIT: Learn It and Use It for Life</i> by Twyla Tharp
7/27/2024	Writers Meet Agents	Premier In-Person Event of the year at Delta Hotel, South Burlington. Five Agents, plus Jennifer Wilkov
8/29/2024	Book Group	<i>THE WRITING LIFE</i> by Annie Dillard.
10/10/2024	Book Group	<i>Meander, Spiral, Explode: Design and Pattern in Narrative</i> by Jane Alison
11/2/2024	Fall Event	Event via Zoom: Ann Dávila Cardinal
12/11/2024	Book Group	<i>27 ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF STORY</i> by Daniel Joshua Rubin

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." -Toni Morrison

## Our Basic Information

### LVW Board:

- President, Alyssa Berthiaume
- Vice President, Shawn Anderson
- Secretary, Gail E. Wind
- Treasurer, Gail E. Wind
- Immediate Past President, Caryn Connolly

### Board Members at Large:

- Pat Goudy O'Brien- three years
- Jeniah Johnson- two years left

### 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](mailto:gailinvermont@outlook.com) with a subject line Kudos Korner.

Please send submissions in a "press release" format. Write a nice, concise, third-party article that is press ready.

### For other League Lines questions, corrections, or contributions:

Please submit these to the editor Gail Wind at:

[gailinvermont@outlook.com](mailto:gailinvermont@outlook.com); subject line re: League Lines 2024.

**General questions:** contact the League at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org)

**Membership questions:** please contact Tommy Walz at [twalz@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Writing Challenge:

This challenge is open to members and friends of LVW. Write alone or with a partner.

### THESE ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE CHALLENGE:

1. Characters – You must have **One main, two supporting**. (cast of minor characters is optional)
2. Choose the time frame – a few minutes, a day, a week, a year.
3. Specify the historic time period: Now, future, past – up to you.
4. Keep it on this planet. (Next challenge will be 'outer limits.')
5. **Max word count** 2500 words!

## Here's the challenge:

Your main character sees a knothole in the woodwork (you pick where). He/she/they discovers that by pushing a finger into the middle of the knothole, they can enlarge it (as much as they want). What do they find beyond? Write that story.

The deadline to submit your short story (First Paragraph of a New Book??) has been extended to September 1<sup>st</sup>. They will all be printed in the fourth quarter League lines. Any questions? Email Gail Wind at [gailinvermont@outlook.com](mailto:gailinvermont@outlook.com)