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Table of Contents

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS WINTER ZOOM EVENT:	2
“FROM PAGE TO PLAYBACK: CREATING AN AUDIOBOOK	2
THAT SOUNDS – AND SELLS – LIKE A PRO” WITH MARY CATHERINE JONES.	2
JANUARY 31 ST FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.	2
90-MINUTE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP WITH MARY CATHERINE JONES OF THE AUDIOBOOK EXPERIENCE.....	2
ABOUT MARY CATHERINE JONES	2
RECAP OF OUR FALL EVENT, “FALL INTO FLASH” WITH GRANT FAULKNER	3
REVIEWING OUR FALL EVENT, “FALL INTO FLASH” WITH GRANT FAULKNER BY BRIGID BARRY	3
LVW PROSE SHARE	3
AN ANGEL IN GRAND CENTRAL STATION BY SUSAN SMITH	3
ONGOING FREE ZOOM EVENTS	4
BOOK GROUP – HOSTED BY SHAWN ANDERSON	4
OPEN MIC – HOSTED BY GAIL WIND	4
LVW POETRY SHARE	5
SPARE PARTS – BY RODERICK BATES	5
CONNECT THE DOTS BY CARL NYBERG	5
A REVIEW OF FLASH	6
FLASH- BY BRIGID BARRY	6
LIBRARIES AND BOOKSTORES NEWS	7
THE BOOK IS NOT DEAD – BY GAIL WIND	7
KUDOS KORNER	7
GEORGE LONGENECKER SHARES PUBLISHING NEWS.	7
ELIZABETH GAUFFREAU SHARED HER PUBLISHING NEWS:	8
2025 ACTIVITIES TO DATE	8
OUR BASIC INFORMATION	9

Winter Zoom Event

January 31, 2026

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Register now for:

“From Page to Playback:
Creating an Audiobook That
Sounds—and Sells—Like a Pro”

with Mary Catherine Jones

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

**Save the date for the League of Vermont Writers Winter Zoom Event:
“From Page to Playback: Creating an Audiobook
That Sounds – and Sells – like a Pro” with Mary Catherine Jones.
January 31st from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

90-Minute Virtual Workshop with Mary Catherine Jones of The Audiobook Experience

“From Page to Playback: Creating an Audiobook That Sounds—and Sells—Like a Pro”



Audiobooks are the fastest-growing format in publishing—but creating one that truly serves your book, your voice, and your business requires more than hitting “record.”

In this comprehensive 90-minute

workshop, audiobook producer Mary Catherine Jones takes authors through the entire audiobook journey: preparing your manuscript for audio, getting your voice recording-ready, choosing the right production path, and understanding how your finished audiobook lives in the marketplace.

You’ll learn how to:

- Determine whether you should narrate your own audiobook or hire a professional, based on voice, brand alignment, budget, and goals
- Adapt your manuscript for the listener’s ear, including how to handle quotes, charts, footnotes, dialogue, and back matter
- Prepare for recording day with confidence—what to wear (and avoid), what to eat (and not), vocal warm-ups, mic technique, and performance tips
- Choose the right recording and production approach, from home setups to working with a studio or producer, including timelines and realistic costs
- Navigate distribution options—exclusive vs. wide, royalties, libraries, and major retailers
- Repurpose your audiobook for marketing and visibility, using retail samples, clips, and other audio assets
 - Take smart, cost-conscious steps to bootstrap the process without sacrificing quality

Participants are invited to bring up to 150 words from their manuscript for optional live narration feedback, offering a behind-the-mic look at how small adjustments can dramatically improve listener experience. (And yes—bringing a cork is encouraged.)

With built-in Q&A and actionable takeaways throughout, this session equips authors with the clarity, confidence, and next steps needed to create an audiobook that sounds professional, reaches new listeners, and works as a powerful extension of their author brand.

About Mary Catherine Jones

Mary Catherine Jones is the Owner and Executive Producer at The Audiobook Experience, an award-winning boutique audiobook recording and production studio. She delights in working with authors in her Vermont Studio as well as partner studios across the country to bring their stories into the world, either using their voices or finding the perfect narrator for their audiobook.

To attend this Special LVW Zoom presentation, please sign up at Zeffy.

You can [CLICK THIS LINK](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/90-minute-virtual-workshop-with-mary-catherine-jones-of-the-audiobook-experience), or copy and paste this URL into your browser.
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/90-minute-virtual-workshop-with-mary-catherine-jones-of-the-audiobook-experience>

**If you would prefer to pay by check, you can register by mail and send your check to:
League of Vermont Writers
PO Box 3251
Burlington, VT 05408**

Recap of our Fall Event, “Fall into Flash” with Grant Faulkner

Reviewing our Fall Event, “Fall into Flash” with Grant Faulkner by Brigid Barry

On November 1st, 2025, LVW was pleased to host Grant Faulkner for their autumn online event: *Fall into Flash*.

With a great audience turnout, this workshop featured a slide show and free flowing conversation about the mechanics of writing fiction and nonfiction under 1000 words. Grant concentrated on 100-word stories to demonstrate how much information can be left up for interpretation.

As writers, it is important to form a connection with our audience. With flash, trust must be instilled into the reader. There may be many details missing, but it gives the opportunity for the reader to fill in the gaps and draw their own conclusions.

One activity Grant brought with his teaching was the opportunity to write a six-word short story in a five-minute time frame. Many found it challenging to write a complete story that didn't sound like a phrase. However, writers were able to toy with the idea of simplicity, as to not over think every detail as one would with a long form project. Many powerful six-word stories were shared.

Faulkner has written many long form and short form works and has published three books on writing. The craft book pertinent to flash is *The Art of Brevity: Crafting the Very Short Story* which provides information and examples on the importance and effective practice of writing short.

Even if you don't write flash, it is useful to learn to convey as much information in as little detail as possible. From the novel, “A writer must learn how to form narratives around caesuras and crevices instead of strings of connections, to move a story through the symbolic weight of images, to master the power of suggestion.”

For more information on Grant, visit his website, <https://grantfaulkner.com/>. Listen to his podcast Memoir Nation and subscribe to his newsletter Intimations: A Writer's Discourse, or visit his Substack:

grantfaulkner.substack.com
grantfaulkner.substack.com

LVW Prose Share

An Angel in Grand Central Station by Susan Smith

An amazing coincidence may be God's arrangement. I met my fiancé Steve at UVM. He graduated in 1968 with his Master's Degree in Physics. He was off to a great job at AMF in Stamford, CT and set up an apartment there. Soon, he sent me a train ticket to visit him, so I took a bus to New York City and planned to catch the train to Stamford.

When I got to Grand Central Station's enormous hall with people running every which way to get to their trains, I searched for my train, but I was so lost. There were so many hallways and stairways and nothing matched the platform number that was on my ticket. I went up to the teller windows a few times, but the tellers talked so fast, pointed briefly and were dismissive, then the next person in line pushed me away. I was panicking: I had exactly one minute to make the train and had no phone number for Steve (now that was silly). Then, a disheveled young man ran up to me and said, “Carry your bag for a dollar, lady?”

I yelled to him, “Get me to my train and I'll give you the dollar!” He charged down a stairway with my bag and I went running after him. He caught up to the train which was about to leave, handed my bag to the conductor and reached for the buck. I gave him five. I hopped on as the train was taking off. If not for him, I would still be lost in New York City.

What does this mean? Was the Holy Spirit of God watching over me, or was it just a happy coincidence? Not only did I forget Steve's phone number, and never realized how massive Grand Central was for a girl out of rural Vermont, but I was too shy to speak up to a teller until I got an answer, and right then, there was a sad young man who was desperate for a dollar. I know deep in my soul that God was there, and that it was a reminder of His protection and His will.

Ongoing Free Zoom Events

Book Group – Hosted by Shawn Anderson

The LVW Book Club: New Year, New Opportunities to Connect with Writers and talk Craft and Creativity



Join our virtual book group! Our next Zoom meeting will be **Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm ET**. The book we'll be discussing is ***THE SECRETS OF STORY: Innovative Tools for Perfecting Your Fiction and Captivating Readers* by Matt Bird**. The first hour is book discussion, and then we open it up and chat about our progress and current projects.

Since 2020, The LVW Virtual Book Group has met virtually in even months. We're focused on reading and discussing books that focus on creativity, writing craft, and the publishing industry.

To join, simply email the League at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org and we'll add you to the email list to receive updates and Zoom links to the discussions. Please put "BOOK GROUP" in the subject line. You don't have to be a member or live in Vermont to join, so feel free to invite friends to join—the more the merrier.

We read some amazing books in 2025! These titles included ***Devotion* by Patti Smith** (DEC), ***Never Say You Can't Survive* by Charlie Jane Anders** (OCT), ***1000 Words* by Jami Attenberg** (AUG), ***Before and After the Book Deal* by Courtney Maum** (JUN), ***Worlds within Words* by our very own Sharon Darrow** (APR), and ***The Creative Act* by Rick Ruben** (FEB).

We hope to see you virtually at upcoming 2026 meetings.

Open Mic – Hosted by Gail Wind

2025 Open Mic Had Some Wonderful, Creative Moments. Help us Continue the Tradition

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 Thursday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Emails will be sent out encouraging readers early next year, but if you want to participate, contact Gail Wind at 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. Share the link and 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 to us!



LVW Poetry Share

SPARE PARTS – by Roderick Bates

Spare Parts

Mid-January Sunday afternoon in Vermont,
shovel in one hand, toolbox in the other,
wife and newborn waiting in a borrowed car,
I trudged the junkyard, looking for AMC
products of a certain vintage. When I dug,
the snow came up in thick chunks,
the kind that makes igloo bricks.
Good luck—the tire and rim are gone,
leaving only a brake drum between me
and a rear axle shaft that will save my ass,
for which I gladly pay ten dollars.
Another two hours work in my dooryard
put me back on the road.

Years later the old man up north
who had an orchard full of Volvos:

*I tell you what, Mister,
the way my arthritis is today,
you pull that caliper yourself,
I'll pretty much give it to you.*

The Winooski River flowed by
and I worked slowly in the warmth
of early August, gave praise
that so far, my own joints
had not betrayed me;
that the only pain
is the skinned knuckle
I got when a grudging bolt
finally yielded.

I have always seen beauty
in the stained-glass red of blood
pooling on a grease-black finger,
have heard my father's voice
*It's not worth calling it a job
if it doesn't draw blood at least once.*

Older now, more likely to pay
and let someone else do the work,
my driver's license has a motorcycle
endorsement and a notice that I am
an organ donor —
the two have always seemed a fitting pair.

And when I think of myself lying in the dirt
under winter's snow or summer's weeds,
it seems altogether proper
that I might be shy a kidney or lung —
still useful in death,
like that Matador, the old 240 DL,
the blur of VW bugs and JEEPs
whose lives I jumpstarted
in new bodies so long ago.

*Spare Parts first appeared in the February
2021 issue of Anti-Heroic Chic (Issue 19).*

Connect the Dots by Carl Nyberg

Connect the Dots

Terrorism is violence
With a political goal
War is politics
By other means
War is
As Oscar Schindler noted
A chance for
Failed businessmen
To redeem
Their failures
To get rich off
Someone else
Many someone elses
Dying somewhere else
A long tailpipe
So profit happens here
And death happens there

<https://vvaw.org/veteran/article/?id=4447>

A Review of Flash

Flash- by Brigid Barry

Flash

Ernest Hemingway's famous six-word story: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn," serves as the perfect example of how six words can create more emotion than six pages of the same content. One is you're left with this overarching feeling of dread and discomfort. This is the perfect example of how a story can come in many forms. Fiction and nonfiction can go as small as the author chooses, even miniature.

Referred to by many names, Flash Prose (a term which includes nonfiction as well as fiction), is the practice of writing extremely short. The goal of flash is to write a story with as many words as it takes to convey a meaning, but usually less than 1000. With flash, the ideal number to hit is around 100, successfully conveying an entire plot. Other titles suggest anywhere between 400 and 750 words, but follow the same guidelines: short, sweet, and mostly fulfilled.

Fall into Flash, a workshop presented to the League of Vermont Writers by author Grant Faulkner, explored this idea. After discovering a memoir written only in 100-word increments, which gave the feeling of "collage of snapshots," Faulkner continued to work in the medium, eventually founding the 100 Word Story literary journal and teaching others how to execute a flash prose.

Writing in flash involves multiple schools of thought, mainly focusing on the relationship between writer and reader. This genre of storytelling involves telling with omission, alluding to a larger picture but only focusing on information immediately relevant to the short. It's inviting the author in as a co-writer to the project, using constraints to enhance creativity. Considerably, it's writing as little as possible for the possibility of something more.

Faulkner explains that there are many forms or frames for flash, such as mimicking a Mad Lib, (a children's activity). He shows an example how an author used this as an effective frame for a story about childhood sexual assault.

I tried my hand at writing short, and I couldn't quite get it. It was difficult to fully express everything I wanted to say in so many words, so my stories were silly and unimpressive. Part of Grant's demonstration was creating our own six-word short stories, similarly to that of Hemingway. Many participants had great shorts, emotionally inviting around real, genuine topics. Mine were more mundane, my personal favorite being *I am a dirty little mouse*.

From this experience, I've learned that writing concisely might be one of the most challenging skills a writer must learn. Many of us tend to fit in as much detail as possible into one paragraph to highlight the scene. After being told for eons to show, not tell, jumping into cutting out *everything* but the basics is extremely difficult. That being said, the practice allows for a relationship between writer and reader, one of the most important aspects of the profession. Additionally, writing short practices telling a story in so many words, without feeling the need to over explain.

Overall, I believe writing short takes a certain kind of person, one who is poetic enough to say so much in so little space with phrasing being the most challenging part of the process. However, it isn't poetry, its devastation, joy, excitement, depression, boiled down to its bare bones.

Libraries and Bookstores News

The Book is Not Dead – by Gail Wind

I was doing some morning doom scrolling (reading about politics) a few days ago when I saw a link titled “**Barnes & Noble to open 60 stores in 2026. See new locations.**” With all the stories of store closings and tariff fallout, I thought – this must be news from a long time ago.

It Was Not! Barnes & Noble is actually planning to open SIXTY new stores in 2026. Now, I realize this is not an Indy bookstore story, but I think it is worth noting that in this era of audio books, reading everything online and now AI, that this is an oddly refreshing bit of news, especially for authors or would-be-authors. And there is an “Indy” element to the story too.

According to the article in USA Today, ¹

“After nearly two decades of “declining store numbers,” the bookseller has plans to open 60 new locations across the country in 2026, in addition to the dozens opened this year.

While the details are still “being worked out” as far as locations and grand opening dates, the expansion follows a period of “strong sales” in existing stores, Barnes & Noble confirmed to USA TODAY.

“Barnes & Noble is enjoying a period of tremendous growth as the strategy to hand control of each bookstore to its local booksellers has proven so successful,” the bookstore chain said in a statement. “In 2024, Barnes & Noble opened more new bookstores in a single year than it had in the whole decade from 2009 to 2019.”

1 https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2025/12/21/barnes-noble-new-locations-2026/87850873007/?utm_source=usat-DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-briefing&utm_term=Content%20List%20-%20Stacking%20-%20optimized&utm_content=8872UT-E-NLETTER02

Kudos Korner

George Longenecker Shares Publishing News.

My poem “Poetry Moving,” which I read at our open mic, is now published and online in *Ravens Perch*.

POETRY MOVING BY GEORGE LONGENECKER

Oct 20, 2025 | Poetry

All they asked were reasonable rates and went carefully, carefully with the plates.

Yelp review of Poetry Moving Company

If you read Victor a poem or pass his history quiz,
he’ll give a discount on your moving.

Victor moves anything and misses nothing:

pianos, wood stoves, sofas,
but he can’t help you decide
whether to take sorrow or leave it behind.

She packs half their set
of blue peony porcelain plates,
her clothes except those she gave away,
and not the dress she wore that night—
she takes her sofa but not the chair,
her quilts but not the bed —

the bed where—

her poetry books,
but not his novels.

Even with what she has left,
so much is not now,

Victor and his movers don't take her sorrow,
 She takes that in her car with the cats—
 their flat is half empty now.
 Down Atherton Street moves Victor's van,
 full of what she's kept,
 towards Beacon Street,
 where they turn south towards Hyde Park,
 they'll have it all unpacked before supper.

George Longenecker lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and muse, Cynthia Martin, and their dog Aiko. His poems, stories and book reviews have been published in *Caesura*, *Evening Street Review*, *Rain Taxi*, *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Best Short Stories from the Saturday Evening Post* Great American Fiction Contest and *The Mountain Troubadour*.

<https://theravensperch.com/poetry-moving-by-george-longenecker/>

Elizabeth Gauffreau shared her publishing news:

I want to let you know that *The Weight of Snow and Regret* is now available for purchase. I've set up a direct sales link[below the photo] to buy the paperback directly from the publisher, Paul Stream Press. Five dollars of every sale will be donated to Age Well Meals on Wheels for Franklin County.

My other news is that I had my in-person book launch on October 25th at the Sheldon Historical Society, where I gave my presentation, "Closing the Sheldon Poor Farm: Honoring History through Fiction." I've attached a photo from the event.



<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML30HRPN9X7B7/checkout/FHHLKQBIL7VIIUG56GUECZS6>

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	IN PERSON! 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!
8/23/2025	Summer Event	Into the Words – 9 teachers, Beautiful Day – Great Fun
8/25/2025	Book Group	<i>1000 Words</i> by Jami Attenberg
9/25/2025	Open Mic	Seven Readers and four extra in the audience – Super!
10/23/2025	Book Group	<i>Never Say You Can't Survive: How to Get Through Hard Times by Making Up Stories</i> by Charlie Jane Anders.
11/1/2025	Fall Event	“Fall into Flash” with Grant Faulkner
11/13/2025	Open Mic	Seven Readers – Peter Cobb was our Featured Reader
12/16/2025	Special Meeting	Discussion of Bylaws to delay 2026 Annual Meeting

Our Basic Information

LVW Board:

- President, Alyssa Berthiaume
- Vice President, Shawn Anderson
- Secretary, Tom Carroll
- 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](#)

To be included in Kudos Korner: 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.

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; 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

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