League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Vermont Writers

LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC

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2026-No.6, November

Join Us: November 7th, 2026
Via Zoom. Our first event discussing AI in the writer's world.
Considerations for Authors in the Age of AI
9:00 to 11:30

REGISTER HERE

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November 7, 2026 Considerations for Authors in the Age of AI – a Zoom Presentation

Click Here to Register

Considerations for Authors in the Age of AI - an Online Discussion

November 7th, 2026 via Zoom. Our first event discussing AI in the writer's world. Two brilliant speakers. Lots of Q & A.

Time: 9-11:30 am
Schedule:

- 9-9:30 am welcome
- 9:30-10:15 Speaker 1: C. Daniel Miller
- 15-min break 1
- 10:30-11:30 Speaker 2: Tanya Brockett
- 11:30 Ending comments, announcements

Click Here to Register

- $15 students
- $25 for members
- $35 for non-members

Dr. C. Daniel Miller "Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"

"In a world increasingly shaped by AI-driven innovation, how do we navigate the complexities of copyright law?

This presentation explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and intellectual property, addressing pressing questions about authorship, ownership, and accountability.

Through real-world case studies, legal insights, and ethical perspectives, we will examine the challenges and opportunities AI brings to creative industries.

Join us as we discuss strategies for creators, businesses, and policymakers to adapt to this rapidly evolving landscape, fostering a fair and innovative future for all."



AI-Augmented photo of C. Daniel Miller

"The Invisible Author: How to Get AI to Find, Cite, and Recommend Your Books" with Tanya Brockett

Nearly 68% of online searches end without a website click. Instead of browsing search results, readers ask AI tools for direct book recommendations.

If a reader asks ChatGPT for a historical mystery set in Vermont, will it suggest your book?

Tanya Brockett reveals the mechanics of modern book discovery. You don't have to write with AI to make these systems your most powerful marketing allies.

For More inform ation on our speakers, see the 'Events' tab on our website.



Tanya Fleming Brockett

Do you love AI? Hate it? Know a lot about it? Know almost Nothing? Join us on Saturday, November 7th and "Be in the know." **Click Here to Register**

The League of Vermont Writers was founded in 1929. Its goals have remained steadfast:

- Help writers develop their skills
- Promote responsible and ethical writing and writing practices
- Increase communication between professional writers and publishers
- Promote an enduring appreciation for the power of the word

Free Zoom Events

The LVW Book Group hosted by Shawn Anderson

In 2026, book group continues to meet on even months of the year to discuss books on publishing, creativity, motivation, and writing craft.

We usually hold meetings on Thursdays, late into the month, so our next meeting will be at the end of December

If you would like to invite friends to join an evening of book group, please have them email the league at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org and put "LVW book group" in the subject line. We will add you to the email list.

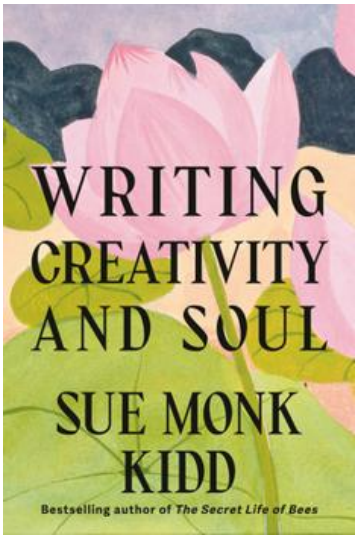
For our June book, we read THE ART OF BREVITY by Grant Faulkner.

In August we read: *DEAR WRITER* by Maggie Smith, and in October, we read *NOVELIST AS A VOCATION* by Haruki Murakami.

For December, the group chose *WRITING CREATIVITY AND SOUL* by Sue Monk Kidd.

We hope you can make it!

Shawn Anderson



Open Mic – Hosted by Gail Wind

The next Open Mic will be November

Open Mic is held on alternating months with Book Group. Open Mic is odd moths: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Book Group is even months: February, April, June, August, October, and December. Our next open mic will November 19th at 7:00 pm.

Emails are sent out prior to each open mic, but if you want to secure a spot, contact Gail Wind at gailinvermont@outlook.com.



Each reader, (depending on how many participate) will have 5-7 minutes to introduce themselves and read. A featured writer will have 10-12 minutes.

We encourage all members and families and friends to attend, even if they don't read from their writing. 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.

If you are curious about what our open mic nights look like, just join the Zoom and sit back. You can leave your video off 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!

Gail Wind

Recap of our last Event

In response to the LVW Event 9/12/2026: "A New World of Marketing for Writers"

It was a daylong in-person program exploring how authors can find readers in a rapidly changing publishing landscape.

The event opened with a presentation by Helen Whybrow, 2025 Vermont Book Award winner for The Salt Stones: Seasons of a Shepherd's Life, published by Milkweed Editions.

Lunch was provided by Grapevine Grill. Many of our members filled the tables at the back of the room with books they authored for 'show and sell.'

After lunch a panel of experts including Samantha Kolber of Rootstock Publishing, Pat Goudey O'Brien of The Tamarac Press, Barbara Ebling of The Brandon Book Store, and Heather Roberts of the 1825 Literary Agency shared their personal writing, editing, and publishing stories. The rest of the afternoon was a lively Q & A with the panel. Here are a couple of the comments:

"Last Saturday's event was my first LVW event. I had a great time and was impressed with the professionalism of it all. The speakers were great and informative. The event was well organized and lunch, by the way, was great."

Joe Covais

"I thought it was great, especially the panel. I learned many things I didn't know about how the business actually works and would love to have more of this in the future. I would have liked it to be longer. I feel like people still had questions."

Caryn Connolly

Focus on a Library

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is a community hub for lifelong learning. We are a free non-profit public library serving the central Vermont towns of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier, and Worcester!

We offer free access to nearly 70,000 books, movies, audiobooks, and more, plus a range of online resources. Our friendly staff is happy to help you find what you're looking for.

Everyone is welcome in our building! Come stay awhile, pull up a comfortable chair, and enjoy a book. We offer public computers and printing, restrooms, and free wi-fi access. You can also contact us to schedule free Notary Public services. Our Children's Library is a great place for a playdate or after school activities. We also offer spaces for work and for community groups to hold meetings and events.

We are a learning and cultural center of the community. We offer hundreds of free programs each year for all ages. We host authors and historians, storytimes and craft activities, arts and musical events, and much more. We are especially proud of PoemCity, our annual celebration of National Poetry Month, and our StoryWalk® program, which has spread the joy of reading to children across the world!

Art at the Library

The library contains a small permanent art and sculpture collection, and hosts regular monthly exhibits by local artists in the Kitzmiller Fiction room and the Children's Library.

StoryWalk®

Combine reading and the great outdoors with StoryWalk®! StoryWalk promotes early literacy, physical activity, and time together in nature. It's a fun and educational family activity that you can bring to your community! Take a stroll and enjoy successive pages from a children's story along your path.

StoryWalk® was created in 2007 by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, in collaboration with former KHL staff member Rachel Senechal, and is a registered service mark of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® now exists across the U.S. and worldwide in 13 countries including Germany, Canada, England, Bermuda, Russia, Malaysia, Pakistan and South Korea!

The Benefits of StoryWalk®

StoryWalk® provides early literacy opportunities to young children. Sharing the reading of a StoryWalk book stimulates and fosters the development of strong listening and speaking skills. StoryWalk also helps to build a child's vocabulary which is important to thinking and learning. Developing early literacy skills leads to better preparation for school.

StoryWalk® provides a teaching moment for a child's first teacher – their family. Children and their families can read the book together then discuss the text, illustrations and meaning of a great book. Many StoryWalk books have a theme: kindness, anyone can make a difference in someone's life, a love for nature, accepting differences, and more.

StoryWalk® provides a wonderful avenue for outreach and collaboration. StoryWalk is a tool to bring the library out to the community with the goal of increasing visibility of the library. Some people may experience StoryWalk at a school or park and never walk into the library. StoryWalk may be the gateway for people to come to the library.

What's up with Indie Bookstores

Adonis Bookstore

San Francisco, CA

Adonis Bookstore opened in 1967 and became the first gay bookstore in the United States. It opened at 350 Ellis Street at the edge of San Francisco's Tenderloin district which was popular with gay residents. Hal Call, the principal owner, was a WWII veteran, a well known gay activist, and a key member of the Mattachine Society (the country's first "homophile" organization). They advocated for gay rights but society members were very cautious and membership was often swathed in secrecy.

The bookstore was a result of Call's other enterprises which included a gay printing press and Pan-Graphic Press and a growing market for gay literature and erotica. Call shifted his energies and focus from public organizing to private business to more closely align with ongoing generational and institutional shifts in the broader gay rights movement. This first store paved the way for so many others and left an illustrious legacy.

I.C.I.: A Woman's Place Bookstore

Oakland, CA

I.C.I.: A Woman's Place Bookstore opened its doors on January 18, 1972, as a collective of members but began as the brainchild of Carol Wilson and Alice Molloy. The feminist-run bookstore opened in Oakland, California, and ran successfully partly based on anarchist principles. I.C.I. stands for Information Center Incorporate, indicating the store's goal of serving as a feminist community center. In 1982, amidst charges of racism, several members were locked out of the cooperative resulting in a public lawsuit and subsequent arbitration. One founding member stated that the greatest conflict among the women in the collective pertained to their "differing visions of feminism." This is clear from the disputes transcribed in the collective's minutes.

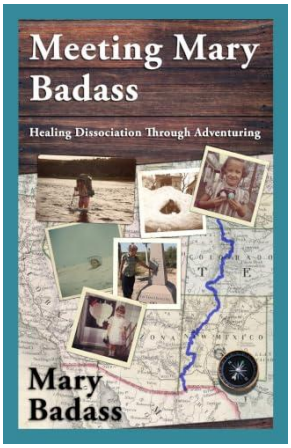
Strong community and media involvement followed the lockout, with many in support of the plaintiffs who felt that their rights and agreements with the defendants had been violated. These women held several community benefits to support their cause, and arbitration and litigation (with Bay Area Lawyers for the Arts — BALA) began soon after. On February 22, 1983, both parties submitted the Arbitration Agreement, the provisions of which required the collective to become incorporated. In October of that year, Molloy and Wilson opened a new feminist bookstore of their own in Berkeley called Mama Bears, which operated until 2003.

Kudos Korner

Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson's book *Meeting Mary Badass: Healing Dissociation Through Adventuri*ng is published through Ensō Press which is an extremely small, new press that uses ingram sparks to print. Her book was published July 4 2026 and has already reached number 33 on ingram sparks list for top memoirs/autobiographies/biographies and it is in the top 5% of eBooks! She has written for newspapers and has a blog but this is her first book.

Mary's bio: After surviving an abusive childhood, Mary found healing in the natural world. In the 1980's she became the first woman to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail in winter. She immediately followed this up with a thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail, becoming the first person to complete two of the triple crown trails in one year.



Over the years, Mary worked as a farmer, weaver, writer, teacher and advocate for people in emotional distress. After another devastating trauma left her struggling for survival, she turned once again to the trails, completing the Continental Divide Trail and earning hiking's coveted Triple Crown

Mary has backpacked more than 22,000 miles. She has also thru-hiked the Long Trail, biked to all 251 cities and towns in Vt in one month, skied the entire Catamount Trail in one winter and paddled the entire length of the Connecticut River in one summer. In her late 60's, she is now working on completing the last of the 11 National Scenic Trails.

Kudos Mary!

Little Free Library News

Little Free Library's Impact Library Program

The Little Free Library's Impact Library Program provides no-cost Little Free Library book-sharing boxes to underserved communities where they can make a meaningful impact on book access and literacy engagement. This month we heard from a steward who was previously granted a library through our Impact Library Program and wanted to share their story.

Additionally, we granted 20 Impact Library Packages to applicants from schools, libraries, and nonprofit organizations in October 2026. These new Little Free Libraries will be expanding book access across the U.S. and Canada! Learn more about where we've placed Impact Library Program awards over the years.

Melanie A. in Rome, GA, wrote," "We love sharing the joy of reading with our students, families, and neighbors. As a neighborhood school serving a largely Hispanic community, we want everyone to feel welcome and connected. Our Little Free Library brings that spirit into our school garden, giving neighbors a place to discover a book, share a favorite story, and connect with one another. Our new Little Free Library provides free, convenient access to books while strengthening the connection between our school and neighborhood. Each student is required to turn in a weekly reading log, but students exchange their school library books every two weeks. The Little Free Library gives them more reading choices between those visits, helping them find books that spark their interests and keep them excited about reading at home."



Events and Support

[Disclaimer Note: "Any mentions of events, products and services in this section does not constitute endorsement by the League of Vermont Writers."]

One of our Speakers shares.

Samantha Kolber, one of our speakers at our September Fall event shared this:

Rootstock Publishing is a full-service hybrid and traditional publisher with worldwide distribution and a track record of award-winning and indie bookstore bestselling titles. In addition to the professional editing, proofing, cover design, interior layout, printing and distribution to independent bookstores and global online print- and e-book retailers, your book will receive top-notch marketing and promotion. Rootstock maintains a commitment to books that reflect competence, creativity, political and social awareness, and a distinct voice. New for 2027: LVW members will receive 10% off the hybrid fee if their book is accepted for publication. Learn more and submit here: https://www.rootstockpublishing.com/working-with-authors

Current Writing Contests

Current Contests:

Vermont Stage, Burlington's professional theatre company

Each December, we produce Winter Tales, an evening of short stories and songs celebrating the winter season. We've been doing this show for 32 years and recently decided to open up the call for stories to a wider network of Vermont writers.

This year, we're especially looking for stories that make us laugh. Think holiday celebrations gone hilariously wrong, eccentric family traditions, childhood misadventures, the indignities of a Vermont winter, or those embarrassing moments that have become funnier with every retelling. Here are the details below.

Submission Guidelines

Theme: Winter or the holidays. We're especially interested in humorous stories about family, community, Vermont life, seasonal mishaps, and the absurdities that come with gathering together during the coldest months of the year.
Length: 1,500–1,700 words.
Deadline: EOD on November 13, 2026.
Submit: Email your story to cristina@vermontstage.org with "Winter Tales Submission" in the subject line.
Selection: Selected stories may be asked for light suggested edits (as needed) and will be read aloud as part of Winter Tales, December 9–13, at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington.
Complimentary tickets: Selected writers will receive complimentary tickets to attend a performance.
Cristina Alicea (she/her) Producing Artistic Director 802-862-1497 www.vermontstage.org

Vermont Writers' Prize: Organized by Green Mountain Power and Vermont Magazine, this contest challenges writers to explore Vermont—its people, places, values, or history. Open to Vermont residents and students.

- Deadline: January 1, 2027
- Prizes: $1,250 for both the Prose and Poetry winners, with publication in Vermont Magazine
- Apply via: Vermont Writers' Prize on Submittable [1, 2, 3, 4]

Next Generation Short Story Awards A not-for-profit international awards program for authors of short stories. https://shortstoryawards.com/enteryourstory.php The deadline for entry is January 28, 2027

Should you Love or Hate Whispr Flow

The AI description of Whispr Flow:

Wispr Flow is an AI-powered voice dictation and speech-to-text software application developed by Wispr AI. Amy X Wang from the New York Times had a lot to say about it. Here is a small excerpt from her article:

> "To tell you the truth, I hate this. I hate Wispr Flow so much. I hate that so many people in the world are lauding this like it's the greatest invention, when actually I think it's making everyone sound a little like an idiot, and now everybody has t oread everyone else's idiot words. I wish I could describe elegantly how much I hate it with some kind of handy, clever metaphor, but that kind of creativity comes to me through writing with my hands.
>
> Because writing, when it comes down to it, is a higher form of thinking. Writing takes time and editing and a deep level of commitment. Writing is a rigorous process to understand your own thoughts and then lay those thoughts out in a way
>
> that convinces or inspires or moves other people. But speaking is not that process. Speaking out loud can be tremendously useful when you need to deliver instructions or talk something out with another person or jot down a quick brainstorm while you are in the middle of washing your face in the bathroom or something."

. Read the full article at:
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/19/magazine/ai-dictation-app-wispr.html

2026 LVW Events to Date

Date	Event	Description
1/31/2026	Winter Presentation	Audio Books with Mary Cathrine Jones / Zoom
1/22/2026	Open Mic	Seven attending- Liz Gauffreau was our Featured Reader
2/26/2026	Book Group	*THE SECRETS OF STORY: Innovative Tools for Perfecting Your Fiction and Captivating Readers* by Matt Bird

3/26/2026	Open Mic	Eight attending – one guest.
4/16/2026	Book Group	*Fear Less: Poetry In Perilous Times* by Tracy K. Smith
4/11/2026	Annual Meeting	Annual Meeting and Writers' Presentations with Joni B. Cole and Jennifer Belton at Bridgewater Community Center
5/21/2026	Open Mic	Eleven at the event, Michael Cahlin was our featured reader
6/25/2026	Book Group	*THE ART OF BREVITY* by Grant Faulkner – Six members joined the discussion
7/23/2026	Open Mic	Nine Attending Readers. Michael Cahlin and guest Ceth Slick were our featured writers.
8/27/2026	Book Group	*DEAR WRITER* by Maggie Smith
9/12/2026	Fall Event	A New World of Marketing for Writers
9/17/2026	Open Mic	Seven Attending, Mary Anderson was our featured reader
10/29/2026	Book Group	*Novelist as a Vocation* by Haruki Murakami.
11/19/2026	(Open Mic)	*Scheduled*

Our Basic Information

LVW Board:

- President, Melissa Lindberg
- Vice President, Tom Carroll
- Secretary *pro tem*, Tom Carroll
- Treasurer *pro tem*, Gail E. Wind
- Immediate Past President, Alyssa Berthiaume

Board Members:

- Pat Goudy O'Brien
- Jeniah Johnson
- Celia Ryker
- Barbara Tanner-Wallace
- Jay Dubberly
- Elizabeth Gauffreau

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/

Also, 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 concise, third-party article that's press-ready. A picture of your book and a headshot of you are welcome!

For other League Lines questions, corrections, or contributions:

Please submit these to the editor Gail Wind at:

gailinvermont@outlook.com; subject: League Lines

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 1253, Burlington, VT 05402

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