



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

Join us!

JAN 31, 2015:

Double Tree Hotel,
So. Burlington

8:00am-2:30pm

2015 WINTER PROGRAM & ANNUAL MEETING

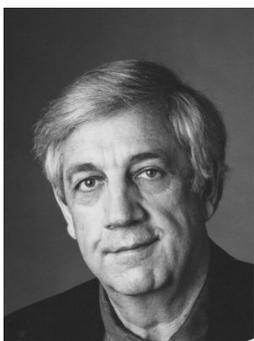
STEPHEN KIERNAN

PRESENTING:

1. **Finding the Almost Right Word**
2. **The Biz: Breaking in to Publishing**

Program descriptions on page 7

With nearly four million words in print, Stephen Kiernan is a longtime newspaper journalist and author. His books include *LAST RIGHTS* and *AUTHENTIC PATRIOTISM* (nonfiction), plus the novels *THE CURIOSITY* and *THE HUMMINGBIRD* (out in the fall of 2015). A graduate of Middlebury College, the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University, and the Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa, he has won more than 40 writing awards. His work has been translated into numerous languages, and *THE CURIOSITY* was optioned by 20th Century Fox for a feature film. Each year his "Winter Tale" is part of The Vermont Stage Company's annual December performance of the same name. He lives in Charlotte with his two sons.



New York Times book-reviewer and editor Christopher Lehmann-Haupt has worked in the world of books for his entire professional career. He began as an editor for various New York City publishing houses, among them Holt, Rinehart & Winston and The Dial Press. In 1965 he became an editor on the *Sunday New York Times Book Review*. In 1969, he was appointed senior Daily Book Reviewer for the *New York Times*, a position he held until 1995, when he became a regular daily book reviewer.

From 1965 until 2000, he wrote more than 4,000 book reviews and articles on a range of subjects from trout fishing to Persian archaeology. In April 2000, he assumed the job of Chief Obituary Writer for the *Times*, and in June 2006, he retired from the paper.

Since then, he has taught writing courses at Marymount Writing Center, the College of Mount St. Vincent, the CUNY Graduate Center, and Columbia University School of Journalism. He has also written freelance for the *Times* and served from 2007 until 2012 as editorial director for a small publishing company, Delphinium Books.

He still provides occasional obituaries to the *Times*, and he continues to supervise student projects at the Columbia School of Journalism.

CHRISTOPHER LEHMANN-HAUPT:

PRESENTING

Have you seen any good books lately? Writers in the Visual/Digital Age

Program descriptions on page 7

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Though the holidays will have passed by the time this issue of *League Lines* gets to you, I write this now in the spirit of that season, a time for letters and cards to be sent to friends and family reflecting on the past twelve months' activity while setting sights on all to come in the New Year.

Over the last year, I have kept you updated on the work being achieved by LVW committees and the board of directors. I began my series of president's letters highlighting the goals we set out for the year 2014. Now, in my last letter of the year, it seems only fitting to remark on what has been accomplished since last January.

At every board meeting, I facilitate an opening exercise usually centered around our annual goals. This November, I asked board members to reflect on what they felt were the year's successes, and not just successes of the board, but of LVW activity as a whole. I am happy to say, it was a long list. We identified the following as achievements for 2014:

- Ran great quarterly programs
- Broadened our committee and board participation to develop new voices and thoughts
- Started work on re-vamping of the website (an initiative still underway, but hopefully completed in time for the January meeting)
- Expanded our reach to other professional writers' groups
- Completed all bios for Burlington Book Festival and successfully liaised with them on the event
- Hosted a successful Writers Meet Agents summer event
- Laughed a lot/had great fun at board meetings
- Formed a sub-committee to research hiring an administrative person
- Began using our new logo in marketing materials
- Rolled out a membership survey
- Created a new and updated marketing brochure
- Developed an internship program in coordination with Champlain College (effective January 2015)

Though our original goals for 2014—identified in my first letter of the year—were not all met explicitly (namely, increasing *League Lines* visibility and our presence in other parts of the state), I believe we achieved a fair number of goals and others that weren't on the original list of goals begin with.

I would especially like to highlight the tasks of revamping our website, developing an internship program and relationship with Champlain College, and creating a subcommittee to research possibilities for future (temp) staffing to assist the board administratively. For all of these extra initiatives, we should be proud.

Our momentum won't stop here. We will be ushering in new board members this January, revitalizing our group of leaders who dedicate hours upon hours to serve this organization. We will have new goals to work toward. We will have an intern for the first time and, from that, a newly established relationship to nurture and a new pool of members to reach.

The year 2014 has been one of growth and, in that, greatness. And as

I reflect on all this, as I share this with all of you, I am humbled by what the hands of this organization have been able to accomplish in such a short amount of time, most especially the hands of board members: Deb Fennell, Pat Goudey O'Brien, Paula Diaco, Amy Kolb Noyes, Kerry Skiffington, Elizia Meskill, Wendy Heilig, and Mary Muncil.

Before I end this letter, I offer a most special thanks and farewell send-off to those board members who are resigning this coming January:

Paula, Amy, and Kerry, you have served this organization with attentiveness, care, dedication, and enthusiasm. You will be missed within our ranks. Thank you for your time and for your service. Be well.

For the good of the cause,

Alyssa Berthiaume



SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Program

April 18, 2015

Franklin Howe Conference
Center, Rutland VT

"Loser's Crown" – Vermont based producer speaks at the League of Vermont Writers.

By Nicolette Asselin

The League was pleased to welcome producers Colin Thompson and Myles David Jewell at our fall meeting.

Loser's Crown is a full-length movie production for Colin and Myles. Colin gave a candid presentation on how he chose to write, produce and star in this movie.

"I like the idea of being the director rather than fight with the director over my script," he said.

Colin grew up in Chittenden County in Vermont. He attended UVM, majoring in English with a minor in Filmmaking, before he moved to Los Angeles intending to become a screenwriter. During his seven-year stay out West, he wrote movie scripts but coached lacrosse to support his aspirations.

For LVW, he shared stories of his years living in LA, the film industry's hierarchy, and his own self-doubts in short comical vignettes.

"I wrote many scripts but never was offered any money for it," he said. "So I returned with less money in the bank and less hair on my head."

Returning to Vermont with a small fund that he was awarded when his LA apartment building was shut down, he and cinematographer Miles David Jewell decided to produce Loser's Crown. The budget for this movie was \$10,000.

"We do not have an agent and are swimming upstream," Colin said. "While our movie was not accepted at film festivals, now that it's out, we've received stronger reception for our upcoming project. We're working on the next film—it's called 'It's US.' "

Colin and Myles are enthusiastic about this next stage, after taking Loser's Crown on a tour to small movie houses and outlets this past summer. Audiences seemed to like it. With that experience, they found an investor willing to put up \$100,000 for the new movie.

"We'll be able to pay people," Colin said. He described how screenwriting differs from other writing. In a script you describe the scene and then compose dialogue to tell the story, he emphasized, and he illustrated his struggle with writing.

"I hate writing in the same way I hate running," he said. "But for some reason, I have to do it. For some reason, I know that I will hate myself even-more if I don't."

When asked about his writing process, he said, "I start with an idea, but I don't know where it is going to go." Some of the story comes to him as he goes along.

"I try to write ten pages a day," he said. "Some of it is painful and hard work, but I have to do it."

Lessons from Colin's presentation include the following: A young screenwriter should not feel shamed nor discouraged when overnight status in the movie world of Los Angeles doesn't happen. Colin's return to his native town in Vermont brought him the personal nourishment and encouragement he needed to be where he is today.

Members of the LVW audience laughed at his tales, applauded his achievement, and thanked him for sharing his struggles.

SLATED FOR BOARD-OF-DIRECTORS

We would like to thank the members of the nominating committee, Jerry Johnson, Paula Diaco, and Cardy Raper, for reaching out to the following individuals who are slated to join the Board-of-Directors following the voting taking place at this January's annual meeting:

Julia Hoover, Officer Position: Secretary

Bobbi Jo Davis, At-Large

Elizia Meskill, Officer Position: Treasurer

Mary Muncil, Officer Position: Vice President

Alyssa Berthiaume, Officer Position: President

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We would also like to announce that due to the resignation of two of our at-large board members, we have appointed **Lisa Halvorsen** and **Sharon Putnam** to replace them, effective after the annual meeting on January 31, 2015:

Thank you to all of these individual for volunteering their time to help us lead and serve this League.

Writing Opportunities and Contests

PROGRAM
RECAPS

**Editor Panel with Cindy Barnes, Kim MacQueen,
Linda Bland, Pat Goudey O'Brien, and Angela Palm
by Julia Hoover**

PROGRAM RECAPS

After a wonderful day of being advised, entertained, and nourished (both physically and intellectually), we were treated to a panel of editors, publishers, and client interface managers. The panel—including Cindy Barnes and Kim MacQueen of Barnes/MacQueen Publishing; Pat Goudey O'Brien of PGO Editorial Resource; Linda Bland of Cahoots Writing Service; and Angela Palm of Ink and Lead Literary Agency—discussed the various types of editing and the services many editors and consultants offer to authors.

Manuscripts undergo several types of editing before publication. Developmental Editing helps authors envision, revise and rework their manuscripts—authors may brainstorm ideas before writing, or get assistance during writing to set the chapter layout or overall framework of a book. Once the initial structure is set and the first drafts are completed, copy and line editing are typically the next steps; line editing offers stylistic improvements to sentence and paragraph structure, while copy editing ensures accuracy in spelling, grammar, and internal consistency. Proofreaders provide the “last buffer” before the final product is ready to go out into the world, banishing typos and punctuation errors—they may also fact-check or ensure that there is good character consistency.

Editors and publishers offer different services. Kim MacQueen is a production editor who helps clients understand the entire process of getting the book completed, while other editors might help clients at other steps along the way. Her business partner, Cindy Barnes, works

with client expectations and manages what can reasonably be accomplished, balancing the ‘triple point’ of cost, time, and client wishes.

Pat Goudey O'Brien does developmental and line-editing for her non-fiction authors and then typically hires a copy-editor; with fiction authors, she will do an initial work assessment and developmental suggestions, possibly line-editing, and then she and the author will work with a proofreader before going on to publication or shopping to agents and editors. Linda Bland discusses

strengths of manuscripts with authors and then works on what needs improvement, emphasizing that the quality of the work reflects on both author and editor. Angela Palm works often with academic publishing, and follows a similar process to Pat's; she mentioned that proofreading reference citations, footnotes, and bibliographies in these projects is also important.

Editors can also help decide what type of publishing is best for an author and address other publishing questions. All of the panelists offer initial free consultations and urge authors to recognize that knowing what they need is of utmost importance—an initial consultation can be the editor interviewing the author to ascertain needs!—making these consultations of great benefit to both parties.

One topic of great interest currently involves traditional vs. self-publishing. There are benefits to each: traditional publication offers authors the opportunity to become published with little to no money spent on the production end; self-publishing allows greater flexibility, but a lot of work. It is important to realize that traditional publication does not guarantee either help with marketing or book sales; authors have to be realistic expectations and in their definitions of ‘success.’ If an author has the time to try traditional publishing, the lower cost may make that a better option.

The audience had many excellent questions, and all of the panelists were willing to be contacted for simple follow-ups—or for free consultations!

**As a member of the
League of Vermont Writers you
have access to a free manuscript
critique service!**

Visit the website for more details.

Please note that the address for sending your manuscripts has changed.

Please send to:

LVW Manuscript Critique Service
Director c/o Sharon Putnam
108 Waterford Lane
North Springfield, VT 05150

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE LEAGUE!
HAVE THEM VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.leagueofvermontwriters.org**

2015 Winter Program, continued

STEPHEN KIERNAN, PRESENTATIONS

The Almost Right Word: The foundation of writing is language, though we often take for granted its tools and powers because we use them in conversation all day. Through a series of interactive exercises (and writing if time allows), we'll examine the potency of language and how to give our writing greater specificity and strength.

The Biz: Breaking in to Publishing: As the publishing industry simultaneously innovates and consolidates, the challenges of reaching an audience and making an income from writing grow ever more complex. This interactive session will address such topics as how to find an agent, how to submit a manuscript, what an editor is now, and what the merits and demerits of self-publishing are. Please bring questions of your own.

CHRISTOPHER, PRESENTATION

Have You Seen Any Good Books Lately? Writers in the Visual/Digital Age: In the last century or so, our culture has shifted away from print and towards cinematics. A number of really first-rate TV shows have been created from books, some of them arguably equal or superior to the original. Superseding this visual age, is the digital one, where there are new ways of combining print and image, still and otherwise. So, while the talk always seems to be that the book is dying, and therefore writers growing ever-anxious that they're becoming superfluous, this isn't the case. Writers won't ever be unnecessary or obsolete, but they may play a different role in this visual/digital culture we are in. 'Have You Seen Any Good Books Lately?' will enlighten writers to what they're facing in today's multimedia age, how to keep up with and engage with these new mediums and formats, and ultimately, how to redefine their role as 'writer' in the 21st century.

Registration Form

LVW 2015 Winter Program & Annual Meeting

Register online at www.leagueofvermontwriters.org or fill out the form below and mail with a check to:
League of Vermont Writers Registrar, PO Box 172, Underhill Center, VT 05490

Make check payable to: *LVW Winter Program*

Registrar: info@leagueofvermontwriters.org

DATE: January 31, 2015

TIME: 8am-2:30pm

LOCATION: Double Tree hotel:
1117 Williston Road, South Burlington.

Directions: From I-89 N/S—Take Exit 14 E.
Follow Williston Road eastward through the light at Dorset Street
(Holiday Inn will be on the left).
Continue on Williston Road a few hundred feet farther to Double
Tree Hotel on the right.
Conference center parking is around the back.

Schedule at a glance:

8-9am: registration, meet n' greet and refreshments

9-10:15 The Almost Right Word

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 The Biz: Breaking in to Publishing

11:30-12:15 Business Meeting

12:15-1:00 Lunch (buffet)

1:00-2:30 Have You Seen Any Good Books Lately? Writers in the Visual/Digital Age

[2:30-3:15 Board of Directors Meeting]

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Members: _____ @ **xx** ea. registration = \$ _____

Nonmembers: _____ @ **xx** ea. registration = \$ _____

[Students, ask about our student discount]

Tax deductible donation: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check # _____

Do you have special dietary needs? _____

LVW Board: Alyssa Berthiaume, president; Pat Goudey O'Brien, vice-president; Deb Fennell, secretary, past president; Elizia Meskill, treasurer; Amy Kolby Noyes, Paula Diaco, Mary Muncil, Wendy Heilig, and Kerry Skiffington, at large.

Membership: Tommy Waltz; Critique service: Sharon Putnam.

LVW Volunteer Opportunities: Pat Goudey O'Brien is looking for someone with editing and graphics skills to help out with (and eventually take over) the workings of League Lines and the League's web site. If you'd like to put your skills to use for the League (or work with Pat to learn new skills), drop us a line at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org.

In general, the League needs volunteers for marketing and publicity purposes as well. Please email the same address if interested.

League Lines is published four times per year, in January, April, July, and September. Questions or information can be emailed to us at lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org

Tommy Waltz
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Barre, VT 05641