



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

# League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

*Join us!*

**Writers Meet**

**Agents 2016**

**Saturday, July 23**

**DoubleTreeHotel**

**1117 Williston Rd So.**

**Burlington, VT**

**SUMMER 2016 PROGRAM, Sat., July 23, 2016**

**BIENNIAL WRITERS MEET AGENTS EVENT**

**Presentations, Pitch Sessions, Day-long Networking**

## Calling All Vermont Writers!

It's that time again. The League's biennial **Writers Meet Agents Event** is here, Saturday, July 23, at the Double-Tree Hotel in Williston Road in South Burlington.

We have a dynamite line-up this year, including eight agents eager to talk with you and hear about your book projects. These dedicated literary reps are actively building their lists, but take a look below -- they're also authors who have toiled in the trenches just like the rest of us. They offer a wealth of advice to Vermont writers.

Ten minute pitch sessions will be scheduled throughout the day for writers to present their projects one-on-one with the agent or agents of their choice (limit two per writer, while they last). Also on the program are presentations on the business and skills of writing.

This is a conference you don't want to miss--a chance to immerse yourself in your craft and network with peers and professionals.

Space is limited, so register early [visit [www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org) for full details, online shopping cart, or downloadable registration form]

### Our Agents

**Dede Cummings: Green Writers Press, West Brattleboro, Vermont**

**literary agent, author, publisher, and design services**

**<http://greenwriterspress.com>; <https://dedecummingsdesigns.com>**

Dede Cummings is a writer, literary agent/publisher and commentator for Vermont Public Radio. She started her publishing career at Little, Brown after graduating from Middlebury College, where she was the recipient of the Mary Dunning Thwing Award, and attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference as an undergraduate writer. She also studied with Hayden Carruth at the Bennington Writers' Workshop. In 2013, Dede was a poetry contributor at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Her poetry has been published in *Mademoiselle*, *The Lake*, *Inquire*, *Vending Machine Press*, *Kentucky Review*, *Connotation Press*, and *Bloodroot Literary Magazine*. She was a Discover/The Nation poetry semi-finalist and was recently awarded a writer's grant and a partial fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center.

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## *Letter from the President*

It is difficult to believe that half the year is about to be over – July is only days from being upon us. Just as these last six months have felt short, I will keep this letter and its sentiments short(ish) and sweet, too.



and offer a variety of organizational and networking capabilities that will make certain administrative functions more manageable for our volunteers and leaders, and also provide a great number of benefits to our members.

This first half of the year has been dedicated to planning an amazing Writers Meet Agents. There is a phenomenal line-up of agents and presentations, a great setting with good food, and some 'bonus items' like a cocktail social and book sale to close out the day.

I am quite confident that this will be the best WMA we've ever had. I encourage all of you who will be attending to thank an organizer when you see them for their dynamite work, including: Shawn Anderson (Chair), Pat Goudey O'Brien, Paula Diaco, Melinda Meyer, Nancy Kilgore, Kara Joyce, and Amanda Wedegis. There will also be several volunteers working the day-of, please give them your appreciation as well.

*[If you are interested in being a volunteer, please get in touch through email at:*

*lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org,  
subject line, WMA VOLUNTEER*

*for more information on what the committee's needs are for that day. ]*

The other initiative that has had our focused attention is the redevelopment of our website – a project started long. Our new website will include a membership password-protected portal

Selveral Board members and Membership Chair, Tommy Walz, have formed a subcommittee that has been working to garner proposals from web designers and to develop a plan of action to present to the Board. Once a designer has been selected and a concrete plan developed with Board approval, we will enter into the production stage. We hope to have a new website to unveil to membership at the Annual Business meeting in January of 2017.

Both WMA and the website redevelopment project have taken a great deal of attention, thought, and action in this first half of the year. Though other projects are idle at this time, I know it will have been worth setting them aside if the results are that WMA is a hugely successful and memorable event and LVW's website and membership portal propel our organization forward into the 21st century in ways we hadn't imagined up until now.

I have the utmost faith that these results will be achieved and we will certainly be seeing the first case of this July 23rd – register for WMA today!

For the good of the cause,  
Alyssa

**WMA registration forms are on page 7 of the newsletter, or go to our web site at [www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org) to access PayPal services.**

# PROGRAM

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Dede is also a journalist and published author of six nonfiction health and organic lifestyle titles from Hatherleigh Press, distributed by Random House and Skyhorse Publishing in New York. Dede lives in West Brattleboro, Vermont with her family, where she designs books and runs her own publishing imprint, DCDesign Books, and the startup Green Writers Press.

Green Writers Press is a small Brattleboro-based publishing company founded by Dede in 2014, dedicated to spreading environmental awareness by publishing authors who proliferate messages of hope and renewal through place-based writing and environmental activism. In the past three years, Green Writers Press has expanded significantly, publishing such authors as Julia Alvarez, John Elder, and (upcoming) Clarence Major. Green Writers Press recently debuted their own literary magazine, *The Hopper*, a cultural space, both online and in print, that allows literature, art, poetry, and interviews to come together toward an invigorated understanding of nature's place in human life.

**Sorche Fairbank: Fairbank Literary Representation, Hudson, NY**  
<http://www.fairbankliterary.com>

Sorche is a good friend of LVW returning this summer to meet our writers. From her web site, she describes Fairbank Literary Representation as a small, selective agency and member of AAR, the Author's Guild, and Grub Street's Literary Advisory Board,. Sorche is giding her agency into its eleventh year working with authors. Clients range from first-time authors to international best-sellers, prize winning-journalists to professionals at the top of their fields. Sorche's tastes tend toward literary and international fiction; the occasional mystery or thriller with a firm sense of place; memoir that goes beyond the me-moir; topical or narrative non-fiction with a strong interest in women's voices, global perspectives, and class and race issues; quality lifestyle books (food, wine, and design); pop culture; craft; and gift and humor books.

We are most likely to pick up works that are of social or cultural significance, newsworthy, or that cause us to take great delight in the words, images or ideas on the page. Genres: Narrative non-fiction, general fiction, literary fiction, international voices, mystery/thriller (selective), reference, biography, works on race and class issues, lifestyle, pop culture, cookbooks, science, architecture and design, food and wine, humor.

Lately we have been doing extremely well in the humor/gift/pop culture category, and we'd love to take on more projects in those categories. We do have a strong sense of humor, but above all, we look for a fresh voice, approach, story, or idea.

**Jan L. Kardys: Black Hawk Literary Agency LLC;**  
**Chairman, Unicorn Writers' Conference, Redding, CT**  
[http://www.jankardys.com/BlackHawk\\_Literary\\_Agency.html](http://www.jankardys.com/BlackHawk_Literary_Agency.html)  
<http://www.unicornwritersconference.com/jan-kardys.html>

Jan's diverse book publishing career includes executive positions at ten of the major book publishers: Doubleday; St. Martin's Press; Scholastic, Macmillan, Scribner's, Little, Brown & Company; Warner Books; Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; Lippincott & Crowell Publishers; Simon & Schuster/Prentice Hall; and Condé Nast Publications.

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Jan's experience and know-how are in editorial, art/production, subsidiary rights, contracts, copyrights, permissions, book agenting, editing, writer's conferences, publishing consulting, and freelance editing. She worked for Google for three years, where she added Internet sales and marketing to her already extensive expertise.

As chairman of the Unicorn Writers Conference, Jan brings writers and publishing professionals of all stripes together year after year. This summer, she brings her expertise to Vermont writers in July.

**Paula Munier: Senior Literary Agent, Author, Blogger, Coach, and Content Strategist**  
**Talcott Notch Literary Services, LLC, Milford, CT**  
<http://www.paulamunier.com>

On her web page, Paula says: for nearly twenty years, this framed quotation has graced my office: “Après les choses qui sont de première nécessité pour la vie, rien n'est plus précieux que les livres.” The quote is from Pierre Simon Fournier's 1764 typography manual, and it means: “After all the basic necessities of life, there is nothing more precious than books.”

The only thing I love more than books are the writers who write them, Paula says. She has worked with talented writers in a wide range of endeavors—reporters, nonfiction authors, content creators, from memoirists to novelists, screenwriters, graphic novelists, cartoonists, comic book writers, short story writers, and poets. From Gannett, Greenspun and Prima Games to Disney, Quayside, and F+W Media, Paula has worked in the cause of good writing and good writers. Her specialties include mystery/thriller, SF/fantasy, romance, YA, memoir, humor, pop culture, health & wellness, cooking, self-help, pop psych, New Age, inspirational, technology, science, and writing.

P.S. from Paula: “If you write crime fiction...you should know that I'm very involved with the mystery community, having served four terms as President of the New England chapter of Mystery Writers of America as well as on the MWA board. (I'm currently VP of that organization.) I've also served as both co-chair and Agents and Editors chair on the New England Crime Bake committee for seven years and counting. And I'm an active member of Sisters in Crime.

**Katharine Sands: Literary Agent**  
**Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency, New York City**  
<http://www.sarahjanefreymann.com>

From her web bio: Katharine is the agent provocateur of *Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent's Eye*, a collection of pitching wisdom from leading literary agents. She recently contributed “Grey is the New Black” to *Fifty Writers on Fifty Shades of Grey*, a nonfiction look at the cultural phenom of the bestselling novel.

Actively building her client list, Katharine likes books that have a clear benefit for readers' lives in categories of food, travel, lifestyle, home arts, beauty, wisdom, relationships, parenting, and a fresh look at issues, life challenges, or popular culture. When reading fiction she wants to be compelled and propelled by urgent storytelling, and hooked by characters. For memoir and femoir, she likes to be transported to a world rarely or newly observed.

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Katharine's genres include: History, Mind/body/spirit, Health, Travel, Lifestyle,. Cookbooks, Science, General fiction, Mystery, Romance, Suspense/thriller, Reference, Biography, Business/investing/finance.

**Rebecca Podos: Literary Agent, Rees Literary Agency, Boston, MA**

<http://www.reesagency.com/rebecca-podos/>

<http://www.rebeccapodos.com>

Rebecca is a graduate of the MFA Writing, Literature and Publishing program at Emerson College. Her debut YA novel, *The Mystery of Hollow Places*, was recently published by Balzer+Bray (HarperCollins).

Rebecca is interested exclusively in Young Adult and Middle Grade fiction; particularly books about complex female relationships, beautifully written contemporary, romance with more at stake than "will they/won't they," genre fiction with a strong focus on character, books featuring marginalized voices and cultures, and LGBTQIA stories across all genres.

**Janet Reid: Literary Agent, Fine Print Literary Management, NYC**

<http://fineprintlit.com>

On her website, Janet tell us she specializes in compelling fiction, particularly crime fiction; and narrative non-fiction. She's always on the lookout for fabulous projects.Â

Her publishing background includes fifteen years in book publicity with clients both famous and infamous. In her spare hours she drinks scotch and stalks Jack Reacher.

And do not forget her wildly helpful, popular and incredible web site on writing the killer query: Query Shark. See it at: <http://queryshark.blogspot.com>

**Heather Flaherty: Literary Agent, The Bent Agency, NYC**

<http://www.thebentagency.com/home.php>

Heather grew up in Massachusetts, between Boston and the Cape, and started working in New York City as a playwright during college. After much country hopping and some work in editorial, Heather became a YA and Children's Literary Scout, consulting with foreign publishers and Hollywood regarding what the next big book will be. Now as an Agent, she's thrilled to grow authors for that same success.

Currently, she's looking for authors of Middle-Grade and Young-Adult fiction, as well as select Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction projects. For YA, she's looking across all genres, and loves an excellent and authentic teen voice. For MG, she's looking for more realistic stories (either contemporary or period), about coping, coming-of-age, or situations seen through the eyes of a young person. In Adult, she's specifically wanting female-centric thrillers and commercial woman's fiction with solid storytelling and strong voices. She's also always on the look-out for fantastic upmarket projects that bridge the gap between commercial and literary lists.

On the non-fiction side, she leans towards pop-culture, humor, and social-media based projects, as well as teen memoir. @HeddaFlaherty

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Do You Write Plays? Are you Looking for a Group of Playwrights?

Please send LVW member Marge Sharp an email stating your interest. Marge is looking to start a playwriting group.

She can be reached at: [margesharp@gmail.com](mailto:margesharp@gmail.com)

**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

### LVW Member Speaks to Writer's Digest Convention

**Annalisa Parent** will be speaking at the Writer's Digest Annual Convention this year.

The three-day event at the Midtown Hilton in New York City welcomes writers and agents from around the world, and offers learning and networking opportunities. Annalisa's talk, entitled "FROM MIRE TO PAGE-TURNING MOMENTUM: Three Common Plotting Mistakes Most Writers Make that Keep Them Frustrated, Unpublished and at the Bottom of the Slush Pile," will take place on Saturday evening August 13.

If you would like to win a free ticket to the event, she is hosting a raffle that will be drawn on July 5. For more information and to enter:

<http://datewiththemuse.com/giveaways/raffle/>

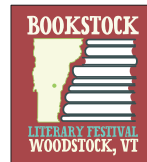
## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer Search!

We are still looking for a person who can take over editorship of our flagship newsletter, *League Lines*. There's no better way to become involved with and knowledgeable about the League of Vermont Writers than helping out with our communications and outreach. And editing our newsletter gives you a chance to rub elbows with all of the people who run the League and all of the special guests who come to speak to us.

We need someone with a bit of news acument and some experience with layout programs -- OR two people to share the responsibilities.

If you'd like to put your skills to use for the League in one of the above ways please drop us a line at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org).



### More Bookstock News!

The League of Vermont Writers members Alice Eckles, Justine O'Keefe and Cardy Raper will appear on a panel at the eighth annual Bookstock literary festival, held on July 29 - 31 in Woodstock VT. Their panel is at 12 PM, Friday, in the Norman Williams Public Library. Bookstock welcomes all League members to the festival, which is free of charge and open to the public. Dozens of authors, music, a juried book art exhibit, and a huge second hand book sale are included. Go to [www.bookstockvt.org](http://www.bookstockvt.org)

### LVW PO Box Address Has Changed

Effective immediately, LVW's new address is:

**P.O. Box 5046, Burlington, VT 05402**

TAKE PART WITH THE LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS @ BOOKSTOCK IN WOODSTOCK 2016!  
JULY 29-31

Bookstock Literary Festival returns to Woodstock the weekend of July 29-31, transforming the village green into a book-lovers dream, and providing unique opportunities for LVW members.

More than 35 authors of all stripes, including several invited LVW members, will be reading, presenting, and participating on panels and workshops. In addition, local artists showcase their work in the 6th annual juried exhibit of Book Art by artists working in New England or New York, Friday, July 29th at 5:30, at the ArtisTree Gallery in South Pomfret. Plus, the Barn will be filled with used books for sale. Check out the Bookstock web site for details on this fun and informative three-day event at <http://bookstockvt.org>.

**AND LVW will be present again this year, and YOU can participate! We will have a table all day (10am-4pm) Saturday, July 30 where LVW authors can interact with visitors, sell and sign their books. We will rotate in two-hour intervals. Each author is responsible for selling her/his books, and for managing her/his cash/card transactions.**

For details and a sign-up sheet, please join the LVW GoodReads Group at: <http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/181957-league-of-vermont-writers>.

You will receive email updates from the Group or you can visit the site often for updates. Can't find what you're looking for on the site? You can contact League members Tammy Flanders Hetrick at [TFHetrick@gmail.com](mailto:TFHetrick@gmail.com), or Jerry Johnson at [Jerry@VTPoet.com](mailto:Jerry@VTPoet.com), for more information.

## Writers Meet Agents 2016 Registration

**When:** Sat., July 23, 2016, 8:30 am -- 5:30+ pm. **Where:** DoubleTree Hotel, 1117 Williston Rd., So. Burlington, VT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Members (@ \$125/ea) \_\_\_\_\_ total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members (@ \$155/ea) \_\_\_\_\_ total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dietary or mobility restrictions? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check to: League of Vermont Writers, PO Box 5046, Burlington, VT 05402.

Programming is designed for writers with or without book projects, but if you are planning to pitch to one or more agents, email us at [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org), subject line: PITCH ARRANGEMENT WITH AGENT. Only registered writers can purchase pitch sessions.

**LVW Board:** Alyssa Berthiaume, president; Bobbi Jo Davis, vice-president; Julia Hoover, secretary; Deb Fennell, past president; Elizia Meskill, treasurer; Pat Goudey O'Brien, Sharon Putnam, Wendy Heilig, Shawn Anderson, Annalisa Parent, Lisa Halvorsen, at large.

Membership: Tommy Waltz; Critique service: Sharon Putnam.

Tommy Waltz  
157 Camp St.  
Barre, VT 05641