



LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

# League Lines

The League of Vermont Writers Newsletter

*Join us!*  
**September 30,  
2017**  
The Old Labor Hall  
Barre, VT

## FALL 2017 PROGRAM — Wicked Wording This Way Comes!



### Wicked Wording This Way Comes — Registration is now open!

The annual fall program is on **Saturday, September 30** — and for this event, we’re going historical! We’ll be gathering at a national historical landmark, **The Old Labor Hall** in downtown Barre, [www.oldlaborhall.org](http://www.oldlaborhall.org).

All writers are welcome. Admission is \$45 members / \$55 non-members. **Register now at [www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org).**

### J.W. OCKER

PRESENTING:

#### “So What Kind of Books Do You Write?”

*Continued on page 2*

J.W. Ocker explains how he became a travel writer of the strange, how he transitioned into middle-grade fiction, and why the best things about writing nonfiction are also the worst.



### Laurie Forest

PRESENTING:

#### “The Black Witch: One Author’s Path to Publication”

*Continued on page 2*

Laurie Forest will share her fascinating journey inside the publishing world — from writing as a hobby to debuting her YA fantasy book series.



### WILLIAM ALEXANDER

PRESENTING:

#### “Ghosts and Smoke”

*Continued on page 2*

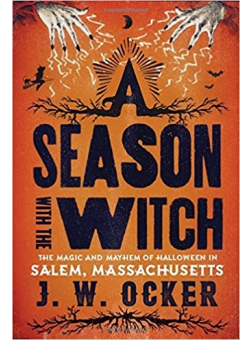
William Alexander’s presentation will steal shamelessly from ghost stories and unsettling parlor games in order to explore narrative structure and associative character creation.



## 2017 Fall Program, continued

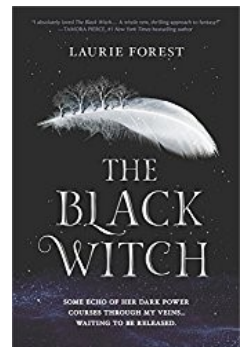
### J.W. OCKER I, CONT.

**J.W. Ocker** is the Lowell Thomas Award- and Edgar Award-winning author of *Poe-Land: The Hallowed Haunts of Edgar Allan Poe* and *A Season With the Witch: The Magic and Mayhem of Halloween in Salem*. His latest book is *Death and Douglas*, a middle-grade novel about a boy who lives in a funeral home. His work has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *CNN*, *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, and other places people stick writing. He's from Maryland, but has lived in New Hampshire for almost a decade. Visit him at [www.oddtthingsiveseen.com](http://www.oddtthingsiveseen.com).



### LAURIE FOREST, CONT.

**Laurie Forest** lives deep in the backwoods of Vermont where she sits in front of a wood stove drinking strong tea and dreaming up tales full of dryads, dragons and wands. *The Black Witch* (May 2017, Harlequin TEEN) is her first novel, and *Wandfasted* (*The Black Witch* prequel, Summer 2017, Harlequin TEEN) is her first e-book novella. Read more about Laurie and her writings at [www.laurieforest.com](http://www.laurieforest.com).



### WILLIAM ALEXANDER, CONT.

**William Alexander** is a National Book Award-winning, New York Times best-selling author of fantasy and science fiction for kids. Additional honors include an Eleanor Cameron Award, an Earphones Award, a Junior Library Guild Selection, a finalist for the International Latino Book Award, two Minnesota Book Award finalists, and two CBC Best Children's Book of the Year Awards. Will is a second-generation Cuban-American immigrant to the United States. He studied theater and folklore at Oberlin College, English at the University of Vermont, and creative writing at Clarion. He teaches at the Vermont College of Fine Arts program in Writing for Children and Young Adults. Read more about Will and his writing at [www.willalex.net](http://www.willalex.net).



## BREAKING NEWS!

**Next Chapter Bookstore will be selling books at the program.**



Shop titles from the presenters and select books on publishing and writing craft.

Join us in supporting a state treasure, our local Vermont bookstores.

## Every Building Tells a Story...

The Old Labor Hall is a national historic landmark and has non-profit status. The Barre Historical Society is working to restore and preserve this building. To read more about the story behind this location, please visit [www.oldlaborhall.org](http://www.oldlaborhall.org).



READ ALL ABOUT OUR SUMMER PROGRAM ON OUR BLOG  
VISIT [WWW.LEAGUEOFVERMONTWRITERS.ORG](http://WWW.LEAGUEOFVERMONTWRITERS.ORG)

# Letter from the President

This year has been flying right by. I find this is the time of year when I tend to reflect on the way things have been going. It is important for me to see what I have accomplished, what still needs to be done, and how I can improve on the processes I use to reach my goals.



front of the other learning in the role as president of the LVW. There is a lot to learn but I am enjoying every step of the process!

Being in my first year as president of the LVW, I am learning in leaps and bounds. Also in trips and stumbles. As time goes by I am able to see where my strengths and weaknesses are in my role within our organization. I have found acknowledging both my strengths and weaknesses gives me a stronger determination when working towards my goals. Understanding and building upon my strengths holds my focus so that I can accomplish what I set my mind to do, and reflecting upon my weaknesses builds my drive to overcome obstacles. Finding ways to work with strengths and through weaknesses gives me greater pride in reaching my goal-oriented accomplishments.

When I reflect on our membership, I see how our personal strengths and weaknesses bring us together. I have seen this at every event I have attended. Networking, teaching, learning, support, and friendships. I have seen members congratulate one another for their accomplishments. I have seen members encourage one another. This inspires me.

Let's continue to move forward with the rest of this year cheering each other on. Let's find the best in ourselves and each other and acknowledge and celebrate it! Let's give support and encouragement to those who need it. I have always believed in strength in numbers. I also believe in people inspiring great possibilities in others. Let's keep this spirit going strong in Vermont's oldest statewide writers' organization since 1929!

This dualistic view carries through to many parts of my life. Whether it be at home, at work, when writing, and even the many hobbies I enjoy. It drives me to never stop bettering myself and to never let go of an opportunity to keep learning. I keep putting one foot in

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the board members, committee members, and individuals who have worked hard volunteering their time. Thank you for all that you do.

## Registration Form

**LVW FALL 2017 Program** : Register online at [www.leagueofvermontwriters.org](http://www.leagueofvermontwriters.org) or fill out the form below and mail with a check to: **PO Box 5046, Burlington, VT 05402**. Make check payable to: *LVW Spring 2017 Program* Registrar: [lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Members:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45ea. registration = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Nonmembers:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55ea. registration = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[Students, ask about our student discount]

Tax deductible donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

**LVW Board:** Bobbi Jo Davis, president; Shawn Anderson, vice-president; Julia Hoover, secretary; Alyssa Berthiaume, past president; Ron Jensen, treasurer; Wendy Heilig, Annalisa Parent, Tammy Hetrick, Shannara Johnson and Lisa Halvorsen at large.

Membership: Tommy Walz.

*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](mailto:lvw@leagueofvermontwriters.org)

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