

Book & Leaf Press Release

10 Park Street

Brandon, Vermont

Writers Read: A Potpourri of Poets: Nancy Means Wright, J. C. Ellefson, Sharon Webster

Open MIC for poets and prose writers

Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM

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Book & Leaf Bookstore is presenting three authors, **Nancy Means Wright, J. C. Ellefson, and Sharon Webster** for its June 9th **Writers Read** series. All three have newly-published books of poetry, ranging from Wright's life dramas between two sisters, to Ellefson's wildly entrancing poems to Webster's poem-paintings on a page. There will also be an **Open MIC** for poets and prose writers (five minute maximum). Come and enjoy great presentations and conversation, and of course, complimentary tea, coffee and sweets!

In *The Shady Sisters*, **Nancy Means Wright** offers her readers a rich tapestry of women's voices, young and old, bitter and hopeful, wise and otherwise. The poems in this collection are deftly narrative but never prosaic, with clearly drawn characters and language alternately beautiful and acidic. Informed by her Scots-Irish heritage, Wright's characters appear and reappear throughout to create a web of generational alliances. Wright has published poems in *Green Mountains Review*, *Bellingham Review*, *Comstock Review*, et. al as well as three chapbooks, and in several anthologies. *The Shady Sisters* is her twenty-first book, published by Wind Ridge Books in April, 2016. She lives in Middlebury, Vermont with her spouse and two Maine Coon cats.

J. C. Ellefson will read from his newest collection, *Foreign Tales of Exemplum and Woe*, published by Fomite Press. Jim's skills run the range from fiddling, blacksmithing, farming to writing. Philip Baruth writes, "*Only the bravest artists work so openly, and so triumphantly, with the obscure, the ineffable. ... Here you'll find the world entire—teeming humanity is all here, every one of us—but not for the peckish reader merely looking to snack. This is an honest-to God feast, a groaning board. Come very hungry. Plan to stay very late.*" Jim has published widely and currently teaches writing and literature at Champlain College, where he is the Poet-in-Residence. Jim and his wife, Lesley, direct the Champlain College Young Writers' Conference, as well as own and operate Summer's Gale Farm in Leicester, Vermont.

Sharon Webster is both a poet and mixed-media artist who will be presenting *Everyone Lives Here*, a book of poems and photographs. She creates a world of varied, yet singular voices. In speaking of a friend with Down Syndrome, a partner having heart surgery, or a tired cleaning lady, Webster looks for the common thread and finds how "Step after step/ is everyone's name." Moving through the seasons, these poems, and the evocative photos of Webster's visual artwork that accompany them are sensuously alive and watchful, on the lookout for new ways to see – and say. Webster taught Word and Image and studio art classes at Burlington College, Community College of Vermont, and has worked with developmentally challenged adults for many years. She lives and works in Burlington, VT.

Please join us for a reading and tea at the Book & Leaf. Bring your prose or poems to the **Open MIC**. Support your local talent and keep expanding our community of lovers of the written word.

BIOS:

Nancy Means Wright has published poems in numerous literary journals, including *Green Mountains Review*, *Bellingham Review*, *Comstock Review*, et al.; in three chapbooks—most recently *Finishing Line Press*—and in anthologies from *Ashland Poetry Review*, *Beacon Press*, *St. Martin's Press* & elsewhere. A full collection of poems, *The Shady Sisters*, is out (April, '16) from Wind Ridge Books. She has taught at Marist College, and led workshops at Middlebury College's New England Young Writers' Conference, and at the Champlain College Young Vermont Conference. Poet, novelist, and play director; former Bread Loaf Scholar and Vt Humanities Scholar, she lives in Middlebury, Vermont with her spouse and two Maine Coon cats.

At one time or another, **J.C. Ellefson** has made his living as a hired hand, a blacksmith, farmer, and fiddler in an “old-timey” band. He has taught at Shanghai International Studies University, the Universidade Dos Acores, and he has had poetry and short fiction published in magazines throughout the United States and abroad, including *Green Mountains Review*, *Virginia Quarterly*, *Berkeley Poetry Review* and elsewhere. His poetry collection, *Foreign Tales of Exemplum and Woe*, is recently out from Fomite Press. Jim currently teaches writing and literature at Champlain College, where he is the Poet-in-Residence. Jim and his wife, Lesley, direct the Champlain College Young Writers' Conference, as well as own and operate Summer's Gale Farm in Leicester, Vermont.

Sharon Webster is a mixed media visual artist and poet. Her book of poems and art, *Everyone Lives Here*, was published by Fomite Press in 2014. Her sculptural work creates poignant images of the world as seen from within and involves almost any material that you can think of. Webster taught Word and Image workshops and studio art classes at Burlington College and Community College of Vermont for a decade – and has worked with developmentally challenged adults for many years.