

Laurie Zimmerman Publishes Her First Collection of Poems

Praised as a “rich, reliable tutorial in soul-making”

Press release

A collection of poems by Andover’s Laurie Zimmerman, since 1989 a member of the English department faculty at Proctor Academy, has been published by Quercus Review Press, which is also honoring her as an Annual Book Award Winner in poetry.

Titled *Bright Exit*, the collection is described by fellow poet Gillian Wegener as “a study in loss – loss of names, loss of identity, loss of relationships, loss of footing in the world... But these losses do not drown the poet or the reader. Instead, Laurie’s poetry provides a tender and sure kind of lift out of what could be despair. Her words move the reader toward an understanding that even such a collection of losses can lead us toward a new sense of self and the world around us all.”

A second reviewer, poet Tony Hoagland, writes of the 83-page volume, “Honesty will never go out of fashion in poetry, especially as it is channeled through the clean lyrics of Laurie Zimmerman’s *Bright Exit*. These poems are so searching; they press against the veil of appearances, demanding to learn the truth of what’s really there – tender-hearted, and sensuous, sure, but equally smart and tough-minded; repeatedly, impressively refusing easy sentimentality. It’s that rigor of honesty that makes these poems the rich, reliable tutorial in soul-making that they are. I relish them.”



Laurie Zimmerman’s first book of poetry, *Bright Exit*, has been published to much praise.

Bright Exit, available at Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London, is Laurie’s first poetry collection. In its “Acknowledgments,” she expresses gratitude for support from Andover residents Ethney McMahon, Susan Norris, and Sarah Will, and from longtime friend and mentor Donald Hall of Wilmot.

Laurie’s work has been featured in over a dozen publications and online at *Verse Daily* and the Academy of American Poets’ Web site, among others. Laurie is the recipient of the New Letters Award in Poetry and the River Styx International Poetry Contest prize.

Bright Exit, her first full-length collection, was a finalist for several poetry awards and prizes. Her poetry has been featured on New Hampshire Public Radio, and she was the recipient of a writing fellowship from the University of New Orleans. She is former poetry editor at *Radix Magazine*.

Andover Pair to “Bookend” Literary Contest

Provide inspiration, judging

Press release

Two Andover residents are lending their talents to help a New London-based literary group stimulate and reward creative writing in the local area.

The two will be figurative “bookends” in a writing contest to be sponsored by the Literary Arts Guild, an arm of the Center for the Arts, Lake Sunapee region. The contest will run from Monday, August 11, to Saturday, September 12, and is open to all with no entry fee.

Andover’s Larry Chase and Laurie Zimmerman will figure prominently at the contest’s beginning and ending, respectively.

At the outset, entrants will be asked to peruse an online collection of Larry’s photographs with the common theme of “Circles and Spheres.” They will then be invited to write, in poetry or prose, a page or less about an inspiration drawn from one or more of the photos. The photos can be viewed online at CenterForTheArtsNH.org beginning on August 11.

At the conclusion of the contest, entries will be judged by Laurie, a Proctor Academy English teacher whose poetry collection, *Bright Exit*, has just been published by the Quercus Review Press. Winners chosen by her will join Literary Arts Guild members and others at a public awards ceremony and late afternoon reception hosted by Lake Sunapee Bank at its branch office at 321 Main Street, New London, on Friday, October 3. Laurie will also read selections from her new book at the reception.

Twelve of Larry’s photos will also be on public display at the bank during the months of September and October. After the October 3 reception, winning contest entries will also be on display.

Lake Sunapee Bank and the Tatewell Gallery of New London are active supporters and co-sponsors of the contest and longtime supporters of local arts and artists.

For the complete contest rules, visit CenterForTheArtsNH.org or contact Joan Doran, Arts Guild chair, at ttjdtd@tds.net.

Owl

The snow essential. Low moan hung like a heard moon across the flurrying night. Light calling. Body in its dress of feathers and dust. Hunched shape shifting in the dark fork of pine. Coo and muffle, swivel-fall flush. Bird or snow or shadow. Night’s mean, equation of fall-rise, song-silence. Song as betrayal. Snow as plenitude. Or the other way around.

From *Bright Exit*.

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