

LakeSider



Celebrating more than 135 years of nurturing Mind, Body and Spirit

Celebrate American Writers and Composers Week with these Lakeside Authors

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Lakesider Editor

Lakeside, with its picturesque tree-lined avenues and scenic waterfront, provides aspiring writers with the perfect setting to write the next great American novel, an historical perspective, a collection of poetry or even a piece about this beloved Chautauqua community. Practicing creative endeavors is a simple task in a community that promotes the arts and embraces the positive outcomes of expressing oneself through a variety of artistic outlets, writing being just one. Throughout the last 135 years, Lakeside has witnessed

a number residents publish literary works, highlighted here in honor of American Writers and Composers Week.

In 1923, General Manager Arthur B. Jones commissioned Ozmer L. Shepherd to write a historical narrative, *The Story of Lakeside*, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Chautauqua community. The title was sold at the Lakeside Association for 50 cents. Today, the book is considered a rare book. It was reprinted in 2003 so more Lakesiders would have the opportunity to learn about Lakeside's rich history. Heritage Hall has a small souvenir booklet of Lakeside from 1895

that was given to Shepherd by Rev. C.W. Taneyhill upon the commission and used to complete the book. It includes original notes about the community.

John Harding Butler decided later to write an extension to *The Story of Lakeside*. He wrote *Light and Life*, detailing the 25 years following the publication of Shepherd's book. In 1973, James Allen Kestle wrote *This Is Lakeside* to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Chautauqua community. Other books about Lakeside include *Lakeside Lore* by Eleanor Durr, *The Little Book of Lakeside* by Rosemary Callin, *Lakeside*

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Women of Distinction by Sally Sue Witten, and *Ohio Danbury Township Schools: A History* by Maryanne Ward-Laubner .

Other community members have entered the literary world, writing about a variety of topics. Vanita Oelschlager, Lakeside property owner, wrote a book entitled, *Air Mask: Poems of Passion, Love, Life & Survival*. The book of poetry describes the challenges associated with caring for a loved one with multiple sclerosis. In addition, she has written 12 children's books. All of

Oelschlager's books are available on her website, www.vanitabooks.com. Additional titles by Lakesiders include, but are not limited to, *A Tour to New Connecticut in 1811: The Narrative of Henry Leavitt Ellsworth* by Phillip Shriver and *Raising the Banner of Freedom* by Tom Edwards.

These titles are on display at Heritage Hall Museum and some are available for purchase at the museum gift shop.

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