

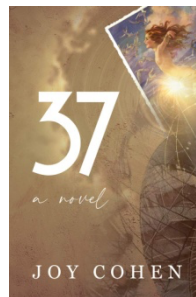
## LUNCH & LEARN

Sen. Becca Balint of Brattleboro kicked off the 2021/22 Lunch & Learn season in **October** with a talk entitled *Our Nation's Existential Crisis and How We Hold Things Together*.

In her third L&L presentation, the first woman to be elected President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate inspired us once again with her insightful thoughts and comments about the state and national political scene. A charismatic leader, Becca goes a long way toward bolstering our faltering faith in politics....and in politicians!

**Thursday, November 18 at noon via Zoom**

*Exploring the Jewish Experience through Creativity*, with Joy Cohen

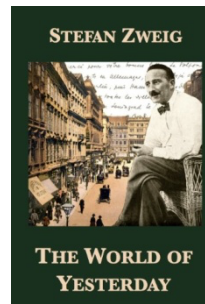


Joy Cohen will read from *37*, her debut novel; share her process and her writing; and delve into some of the themes she has addressed through her creative work: the Jewish experience, identity, oppression, resilience, freedom and the power of art.

Joy has had a varied career as an award-winning writer and educator. She is the author of three published works of non-fiction and three plays: *Anna's Journal*, *Almonds and Raisins* and *Of the Better Kind* (commissioned to capture the story of the Lost Shul Mural). Her primary focus has been on the arts, wellness, the environment and social justice. Before becoming a writer, she was a middle school science and art teacher and an adjunct at UVM, where she developed and led graduate courses on the creative process and social justice and equity. Born in Brooklyn and back often, Joy now lives in rural Vermont, where she grows, prepares and loves to share plant-based foods that are healthy for the body and the planet. ("And quite delicious, too," she adds. "You should try my vegan babka!")

**Thursday, December 16 at noon via Zoom**

*Stefan Zweig, A Cultural Insider Forced to Live on the Run*, with Natalie Neuert



Viennese Jewish writer Stefan Zweig was, in the 1920s and '30s, the most translated author in Europe and a literary superstar. His work is also the inspiration for Wes Anderson's masterful film "The Grand

Budapest Hotel.” The breadth and variety of his work is staggering: he published plays, biographies, fiction, poems, travelogues and essays. A very distinctive product of a highly cultured and sophisticated turn of the 20th century affluent Jewish world, Zweig ended his life early, in exile, as Europe collapsed under the Nazi regime. This talk will discuss Zweig’s work, influence and life in a lively discussion of just what it means to be a cultural insider forced to live on the run.

Natalie Neuert has spent her entire life within the realm of the performing arts. She has held the position of Director of the UVM Lane Series since 2012; prior to being named director she managed the series for 16 years. Before moving to Vermont in 1989 she worked in New York and New Jersey as a professional actor, director and stage manager. She teaches in the UVM Department of Music and is on the faculty of the Jewish Studies Program. In Natalie’s previous L&L presentation she discussed Jewish Weimar-era artists in the fields of architecture, music, theater and art.

*Lunch & Learn will continue virtually until further notice.*

*Watch for information about presentations on January 13 and February 17, on Thursdays at noon.*