



DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

**Join us Sunday February 5th
at 10am at St. Scholastica's
Somers Lounge to hear Linda
LeGarde Grover discuss**

Native American Spirituality

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NEWSLETTER

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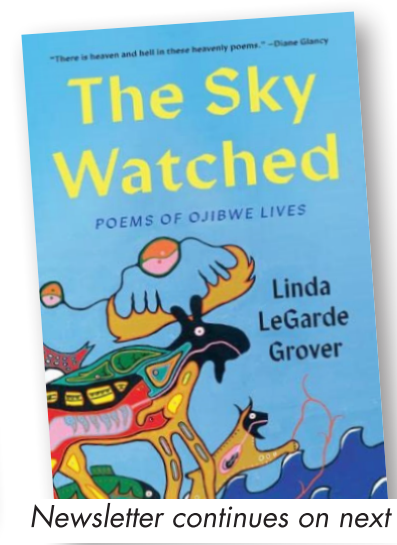
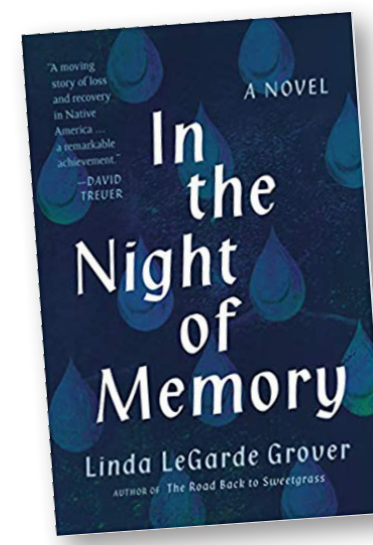
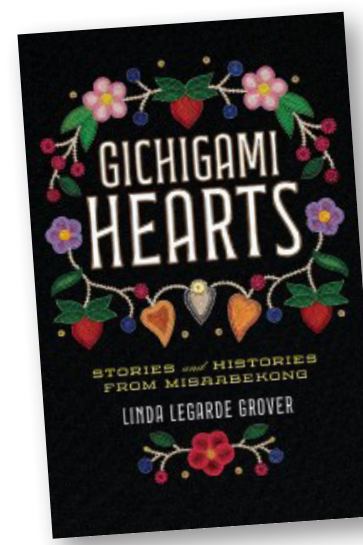
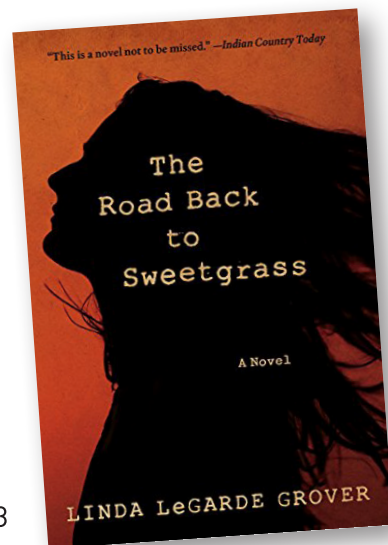
Native American Spirituality

Linda LeGarde Grover is an Anishinaabe novelist and short story writer. She is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte band of Minnesota Chippewa. She is also a professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, as well as a columnist for the Duluth News Tribune.

Books by Linda LeGarde Grover



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Directions to St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge, 1200 Kenwood Avenue



HAPPY HOUR

**Join us from 4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, February 2nd
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's
Brewery Complex**

The fun begins at 4:00 pm! The restaurant will validate your covered parking and we will validate your skepticism about religion. Come on out, bring a friend, and enjoy the monthly merriment of Lake Superior Freethinkers.

February Social Dinner

Join us Wednesday February 15th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner
at the Merryweather Inn, 2318 East First Street, Duluth



Next Pavilion Party Saturday February 25th



Pavilion Parties continue on the fourth Saturday of each month at the home of our “Flounder”, Bill Van Druten.

Plan to arrive at 1pm. Bring a food item you have made, or maybe an interesting libation to share with other attendees.

We'll talk and laugh at Bill Van Druten's home: 2931 Greysolon Road in Duluth.

Park anywhere on Greysolon Road but not on 30th Avenue!

Charles Dickens



On February 7th 1812, novelist Charles Dickens was born in England. As a child he chafed at the two-hour religious services he and his family attended. His brief experience working as a 12-year-old in a factory when his father was sent to debtor's prison had a life-changing effect on him. Although he returned to school, he began work as a clerk at age 15 when his family was evicted. Moving to freelance reporting, he soon turned to story writing.

Dickens launched his budding celebrity with the serialization of his first book, *The Pickwick Papers* (1836-37). He married Catherine Hogarth in 1836. The death of her younger sister Mary, virtually in Dickens' arms, was said to inspire *Little Nell*. The Dickenses had 10 children, nine of whom survived. Long incompatible, they separated, to Catherine's grief, in 1858, when Dickens fell in love with actress Ellen Ternan.

Dickens' hugely successful novel-writing career included *Oliver Twist* (serialized 1837-39), *A Christmas Carol* (1844), *David Copperfield* (1849-50), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) and *Great Expectations* (1861). His books called public attention to the scandalous conditions of child labor during the Industrial

Revolution. His social conscience brought him to North America in 1842 to speak against slavery (and for international copyright).

Dickens was orthodox in many respects, praying daily and writing a "Life of Our Lord" (which took out much of the superstition) for his children. In the early 1840s he joined for a time the creedless Unitarians, describing it as a religion that "ventures to pass judgement on none." Although he returned to the Church of England, he quit it once again, saying, "I cannot sit under a clergyman who addresses his congregation as though he had taken a return ticket to heaven and back."

Dickens actively opposed a bill to ban public activity and recreational outlets on Sundays, writing in an essay titled "Sunday Under Three Heads" about the "intolerant zeal and ignorant enthusiasm" of the pious: "Look into your churches — diminished congregations, and scanty attendance. People have grown sullen and obstinate, and are becoming disgusted with the faith which condemns them to such a day as this, once in every seven." D. 1870.

"He hated the Roman Catholic Church, 'that curse upon the world,' as the tool and coadjutor of oppression throughout Europe. ... He thought the influence of the Roman Church almost altogether evil."