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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worcester author Evelyn Herwitz to launch debut WWI historical novel at Museum of Worcester

WORCESTER, Mass., October 16, 2026 — Worcester author Evelyn Herwitz will release her debut WWI historical novel *Line of Flight,* which opens in Worcester's Water Street neighborhood in 1915, on November 17, 2026, 7:30 p.m., at the Museum of Worcester.

"Making Fiction from History: On Writing *Line of Flight,"* will feature a discussion of Herwitz's research for the novel, a short reading, and book sales and signings.

Published by Köehler Books, the novel follows recently widowed Simone Levitsky as she searches for her estranged daughter, who has run off to France to volunteer in the Great War. Barely surviving the sinking of the Lusitania, Simone embarks on a desperate, dangerous search along the Western Front that forces her to confront a lifetime of loss and the true cause of their bitter parting.

Line of Flight explores the intricate dance of mother-daughter relationships during a time echoing our own—a period of massive upheaval that cracked social boundaries, strained family bonds, challenged faith, and forced a reckoning with everything held dear.

"World building is essential to the process of writing historical fiction, with details based on real people, places, and events," says Herwitz. "The challenge is selecting only the essential details to include in the story, but all of my research helped to shape the final narrative."

Deeply researched, the novel took eight years to write. Herwitz's resources included the Museum of Worcester's 1983 exhibition catalogue, *Water Street: World Within a World,* which documents the city's historic Jewish neighborhood, where the story begins. Other resources included the newspaper archive at the Worcester Public Library, records of the American Fund for French Wounded at The New York Public Library, and the history of Jewish immigrants at The Historic New Orleans Collection.

In 2015, she traveled to Europe to visit World War I battle memorials in the Vosges Mountains of France and in Flanders Fields in Belgium, to the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris, to London's Imperial War Museum, and to Cobh, Ireland, where the survivors of the Lusitania arrived and where others who perished were buried.

“What fascinates me about the Great War is how it parallels our world today,” says Herwitz. “It was an era of tremendous social and technological change, accelerating communication, new and deadlier industrial warfare, smashed social boundaries, and a global pandemic. I wanted to understand how people survived the crucible. So that was my starting point.”

The novel has received early praise. “Through extensive research and a wonderful feat of the imagination, Evelyn Herwitz has brought to life the early twentieth century in a way few novelists can. This is one to read, and to savor,” writes Daniel Torday, author of *The Last Flight of Poxl West* and two-time winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction.

The Museum of Worcester book launch is co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel and the Worcester Jewish Community Center. Books for sale provided courtesy of TidePool BookShop. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited, and registration is requested: https://www.worcesterhistory.org/events/making-fiction-from-history-on-writing-line-of-flight

Media Kit: https://evelynherwitz.com/media-kit-for-line-of-flight/

Evelyn Herwitz has told stories professionally as a public radio and award-winning print journalist, a marketing and communications professional, and an author. A Worcester resident for decades, she has taught feature writing at Clark University. Her environmental history of Worcester, *Trees at Risk* (Chandler House Press, 2001), was cited as “a major historical work with a strong environmental message.” Now devoted to writing fiction, she is a graduate of Grub Street’s Novel Generator in Boston. Her stories have been published in *Chautauqua*, *The Writing Disorder,* and *Embark Literary Journal. Line of Flight* is her first novel.

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