



*Friends of
Lorine Niedecker*

*Issue #27
Winter 2018*

I was the solitary plover



Lovely snowy day on Blackhawk Island

I was the solitary plover

a pencil

for a wing-bone

From the secret notes

I must tilt

upon the pressure

execute and adjust

In us sea-air rhythm

“We live by the urgent

wave of the verse”

Millen/Niedecker Home in Milwaukee To Receive Designation

On Saturday, May 12th, Lorine’s birthday, a commemorative plaque will be placed on the home where Lorine lived in Milwaukee with her husband Al Millen. The home at 2042 S. Sixth in Milwaukee is where Lorine and Al lived until he retired and they relocated permanently to Blackhawk Island. The Friends thank Jill Lackey and Rick Petrie of the Milwaukee Urban Anthropology group for their work on this project.

All are welcome to attend. Alderman Jose Perez will be there to say a few words. Hot dogs and lemonade will be served and poetry will be read. The festivities begin at noon.



2042 S. Sixth St. Milwaukee, WI



POETRY

Root Lock

This tree slowly freezes
eases into the solstice
to a root lock
of tundric embrace.

If color
is the language
of light
on this waning
afternoon
what amber glow
might we see
pulsing
in feeble rise
and steady fall
beneath the bark?

Nikola Tesla insisted
on his alternating current.
Childhood persists
in the linger
and cling
of moss and lichen.

O, how my sap snaps
electric,
sparking towards
the gathering brittle.

Sylvia Cavanaugh



Ode to Seeing

The Migraine

Jagged peaks
in a fly's eye

Hail in July
a floor of ice-vials

The Lake

Gray swells
break into foam

I hear water
I hear tide

Today they'll dash
and drown my boat

Tomorrow make me float
in weeping fog

Our season's over

The Restaurant Restroom

The blind woman's hand
asks for soap
from an empty wall

Peggy Turnbull



for a wing-bone

Chestnut

You always paid
attention to the sky

so we climbed
until we ran out
of branches

Pasture

Spear thistle
Lespedeza
white clover

And a mare
rolling
on her back

unbridled

Holly Wren Spaulding



Winter

river
frozen

human heart

cracks

ice

deep

James P. Roberts

[Darwin]

Darwin
sighed

Hermes
traded in
his lyre

music
aspires
to the con-
dition
of
Nature

Stephen Williams



hospital entrance
leaves hiding each other
from the wind

*

office windows
the sound snow brings
to the future

Gary Hotham

From the secret notes

down
pour

my furious heart

*

the crow
first to rise, its
silent aubade

o dark,
dark nature

of light

Donna Fleischer



Add Trees

To the small of your life
the crinkle and snap
of cellophane, peas
add trees

older wider taller
wizened crack-limbed
lightning-furrowed

Hear wind whistle, rustle
whoosh through
needles, leaves
“Hear here,” hiss the trees

Georgia Ressimyer

Bread's Daughter

I buy the fresh Red Star Yeast
having gone to three different stores,

no one here bakes
with a seriousness.

Whose recipe? First Oma's,
generations later: yours,

and now: mine. So, I'll try not to burn the yeast
like last time.

But, it's raining now so
I can't be sure of outcomes.

Sometimes too, I shake.

This damp air, the warm water (too warm),
the doubling folds, halved conversations from people long gone

rolled out, and again into
a firm elastic ball

greased into your bowl, now mine.

Covered, left to rise, or not.

Julia Kadlec-Wagner



execute and adjust

Yom Kippur Ducks

Mergansers
overhead,
half a dozen
whistling

 this most holy of days
 in the most holy of seasons.

I follow the ducks,
the motes of my eyes
flying with them,

but always coming back,
zigging, trapped, grounded
at the edge of this river.

 Why must I accept age?
 How do I begin to pray?

Ronnie Hess



The waning moon
fills the cool
house with silence
instead of light.

Kortney Garrison

Switching Reservations/Passing

Florence Fanny Cheezig immigrated to South Dakota, 1893
From the Pale of Settlement, in existence 1791-1917.

She eluded the pogroms
& the Russian Revolution
& the Ukranian People's Republic
& the Einstazgruppen
& the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Fanny's parents were hired as tailors at
Lake Traverse Reservation, established 1867.
The U.S. Government paid them to sew
Crisp new suits for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe.

& Fanny and Leo (maybe Leon) and
Elizabeth (maybe Louise)
Passed for regular white on the prairie.
The Cheezigs weren't Jewish in South Dakota
They were not Jews on the Rez.

Fanny married Nikolas (Sometimes called Nicholai), 1898.
Fanny died in Montevideo, Minnesota, 1949.
Far away from the Odessa Massacre, 1941.
Closer now to Wounded Knee, 1890 & 1973.

Kelly Henkel



In us sea-air rhythm

CONTRIBUTORS

Originally from Pennsylvania, **Sylvia Cavanaugh** has a background in Urban Planning and teaches high school cultural studies. Her chapbook, *Staring Through My Eyes*, was published in 2016 by Finishing Line Press.

Donna Fleischer's poems and essays appear in literary anthologies and journals worldwide. < *Periodic Earth* >, is her fourth chapbook. She makes her living by assisting the University of Hartford's departments of biology and chemistry as an office coordinator.

Kortney Garrison lives with her family in the Pacific Northwest where she homeschools her three children. Her days are filled with stories, poems, nature walks, journaling, and many cups of tea.

Kelly Henkel is a librarian at the McGovern Library at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. Her poetry has appeared in *The Oakwood* and *Four Quarters to a Section*. She is grateful for Lorine Niedecker's lean and handsome poetry as well the example of her hushed yet reverberating introspective life.

Ronnie Hess is a journalist and poet. She is the author of three poetry chapbooks: *Whole Cloth*, *Ribbon of Sand*, and *A Woman in Vegetable*; as well as two culinary travel guides: *Eat Smart in France* (2010) and *Eat Smart in Portugal* (forthcoming, 2017). She lives in Madison, WI.

Gary Hotham grew up in northern Maine and currently lives in Maryland. He took up the art of English language haiku as a teenager and has had many published in literary magazines and journals since then. He has also had a number of chapbooks published since his first: *Without the Mountains*. Some larger collections of his haiku have appeared in print: *Breath Marks: Haiku to Read in the Dark* (1999); *Spilled Milk: Haiku Destinies* (2010); and *Nothing More Happens in the 20th Century* (2011).

Julia Kadlec-Wagner is Director of the Metro Writing Studio located in the Giovatto Library on the Metropolitan Campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University where she has lectured in Academic and Creative Writing for many years. She writes poetry, literary analysis, music reviews, and when time permits, good teaching practice for conferences.

Georgia Ressimeyer, twice a Pushcart Prize nominee in poetry, received last year's Honorable Mention in the Lorine Niedecker poetry contest sponsored by the Council for Wisconsin Writers. Her third poetry book is *Home/Body*, published in 2017 by Pebblebrook Press. She lives in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Please see georgiaressmeyer.com for more information.

James Roberts has had nine books published to date in the fields of dark fantasy *Bourland*, poetry *Derne Runes* and *Spirit Fire*, literary non-fiction *Famous Wisconsin Authors*, *Return to Derleth: Selected Essays*, *Haunted Voices: Selected Poetry and Art from Lithuania* and baseball history *Howlin' Wolf: A Fan's History of the Highs & Lows During Five Stormy Years With the Madison Black Wolf*.

Holly Wren Spaulding is a writer and teaching artist living in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. She hails from the Great Lakes originally and appreciates Niedecker's connection to that part of the country. She is the author of *If August* and two poetry chapbooks, as well as numerous poems, articles and essays in anthologies and in magazines. She studied creative writing at Trinity College (Dublin) and University of Michigan. www.hollywrenspaulding.com.

Peggy Turnbull is a poet and librarian who lives in Manitowoc, WI. Some of her recent poems can be found in *Plum Tree Tavern*, *One Sentence Poems*, and *Soul-Lit*. <https://peggyturnbull.blogspot.com/>

Stephen Williams is a poet living in Chicago.

"We live by the urgent"

NEWS

On Saturday, July 28, a second Poetry Wall will be unveiled in Fort Atkinson. This poetry mural will be directly across Main Street from the first one on Sherman Avenue. Poetry activities will take place in an adjacent lot next to the wall before and after the unveiling. These activities will be guided by Angie Trudell Vasquez, Milwaukee poet, and include reading and writing activities utilizing Niedecker's poem *Paeon to Place*. Attendees can create a sidewalk chalk poetry piece. Paul Wiegel will be there writing poems on request.

Saturday, September 29 the Friends of LN will host Writer's Workshops on Blackhawk Island.

Watch our Web site and Facebook page for details of these events.

For a look back at EVERYTHING that happened for Lorine Niedecker in 2017 the impressive activities report can be found at lorineniedecker.org.



2017 Poetry Festival open mic at the Island Bar & Grill

ABOUT US

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker is a non-profit corporation. There are no staff, just devoted volunteers. Our goals include preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker, as well as, offering educational materials, access to archives, a semiannual newsletter and events as time and resources are available. We are supported through donations and grants.

Donations are always welcome and are fully tax-deductible.

The Solitary Plover is issued twice yearly, in winter and in summer. Sign up for the email version on our website.

Friends of Lorine Niedecker
209 Merchants Avenue
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
(920) 563-7790
www.lorineniedecker.org
Find Lorine on Facebook



2017 Blackhawk Island Writer's Workshop

*Friends of Lorine Niederker
209 Merchants Avenue
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538*