

Activities 2011, Friends of Lorine Niedecker

On January 21 the Niedecker Collection was moved from the archive storage of the Hoard Museum to the new Lorine Niedecker Study Room at the Dwight Foster Public Library. Shelves and cupboards are archival. The room is beautiful. Public Opening was February 1.

Margot Peters' biography "Lorine Niedecker: A Poet's Life" was published by University of Wisconsin Press in October. The book is getting excellent reviews and will certainly contribute to the visibility of Lorine's life and poetry.

"Solitary Plover" Newsletter Published

- winter issue (#13)
- summer issue (#14) First foreign language submission - Spanish
- Policies and guidelines were established for poetry submissions.

Web Initiatives

- Site continues to be updated, embellished and supported by Amy.
- Moved site from "Go Daddy" to "Newtek Technology Services"
- Post current "news" to site on a regular basis. Poetry and Archive Item of the Month rotate monthly.
- Added Lorine's recipes to the About Lorine tab (just for fun!)

Education Initiatives

- Amy Lutzke began a monthly "Third Thursday" poetry event at the library. An invited poet reads/speaks for 20-30 minutes, a discussion and open mic follow. Attendance has been consistent and growing.
- Ellen Last and Amy Lutzke created a Lorine Niedecker slide presentation available for use in almost any venue and available on the Web site.
- Laurette Greenhalgh, former Fort Atkinson School Board member, was enlisted to work with Fort High School to have a study unit on Lorine.
- Ellen Last and Margot Peters made a presentation to a PLATO Biographies class. (PLATO is the Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization, presenting classes and discussion groups for retirees through the UW Dept. of Continuing Studies.)
- Ellen Last worked with the officers of the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English, sharing information on the Poetry Festival via the WCTE website and leadership networks. She also worked with teachers involved in Poetry Out Loud as a judge and as a resource person and liaison to the FOLN.
- Ann Engelman made two presentations in Galena IL on February 25 and 26. The first "Two Unknown Wisconsin Artists" for the Grace Episcopal Arts Council at an Art Open, the second to the Galena Poetry Gathering at a downtown coffee house.

Public Art Project

- FOLN donated \$300 to a partnership between the Wisconsin Arts Council, the Fort Community Foundation, Fort Atkinson Arts Council and the Dwight Foster Public Library to support a community, handmade paper mural located just inside the front door of the library. Artists Sally Koehler (Fort) and Kirsten Christensen (Door Co.) facilitated the project titled “Along The Rock River.” Lorine’s poetry is featured throughout and oral histories from a museum initiative was included. FOLN supported the Unveiling/Community Celebration event with a volunteer and a table promoting Lorine.
- Margot Peters collaborated with James Tyler of Ithaca, New York to create a letter pressed broadside of the poem “When Ecstasy is Inconvenient.” Several copies are available for sale, most recently, at the Poetry Festival.

Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival

- Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival, October 14 -16 at the Dwight Foster Public Library and the Café Carpe. Approximately 130 attended. Verse Wisconsin magazine was a new partner this year coordinating a Publishers Showcase that included twenty publishers from around the state and choosing poets for the new Poetry Round Tables initiative. The Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Department was also new partners funding advertising in Madison’s publication “Isthmus.” Margot Peters’ biography was launched at the closing event at the Café Carpe.

Hosted

- May 21, Plein air painters from Madison. 2nd annual spring gathering on BHI
- June 12, five poets visited on Blackhawk Island for talk and tour
- Summer, Freshman Class from Beloit College
- Began the Third Thursday Poetry” series.
 - April 21 Bruce Dethlefsen, Wisconsin Poet Laureate
 - May 19 John Lehman, Cambridge
 - June 16 Poetry Out Loud winners
 - July 21 Margot Peters, Lake Mills
 - August 18 Mary Linton, Fort Atkinson
 - September 15 Nancy Rafal, Bailey’s Harbor
 - October 20 Pat Moran, Fort Atkinson
 - November 17 Robert Nordstrom, Mukwanago
 - December 15 Mark Kraushaar, Lake Mills
- October 16, Plein air painters from Madison, third annual fall BHI gathering.
- Hosted national and international scholars. The Guest Book register is impressive.
- Film screening, “Immortal Cupboard: In Search of Lorine Niedecker,” December 8 at the DFPL for general public.

Assistance

- Continued assistance to Margot Peters on her biography. Helped coordinate press and related events.
- Assisted the Fuge family with poems and pictures for Marilla Fuge's funeral. Amy arranged a Tribute at the Poetry Festival. Marilla's daughter attended.

Board Meetings – April 16 and August 9

- Sylvia Sipple resigned from the board. In April, before her departure, Sylvia coordinated a fundraising letter to the membership list raising \$2,530. This initiative allowed us to be solvent this year.
- Margaret Schroeder was invited and joined the board in October. Margaret brings to the board an interest in poetry, chutzpa assistance and leadership creating a stronger local poetry community. She will be setting up local events and will be invaluable as we begin to plan the Festival for next year.

Acquisitions/Accessions - 2011

From Ellen Fuge (daughter of Marilla) books including observation notes from Blackhawk Island.

- A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern and North-central North America by Roger Tory Peterson and Margaret McKenny, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1968
- A Field Guide To The Birds by Roger Tory Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, The Riverside Press Cambridge, 1961
- Wildflowers and Weeds, Booth Courtenay, James Hall Zimmerman, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1972

Copies from the Hoard Museum, Jan Shaw Knox papers:

- Clair Kentzler, UW Extension letter
- Information from Jonathan Williams regarding "Epitaphs for Lorine" dated Feb. 7, 1971 and his own epitaph.
- Letter from Jonathan Williams to Jane regarding publications and his part in them. 4-4-71
- Copy of a note and page from a birthday book that Lorine signed.
- Letter from Cid Corman to Gail and Bonnie, January 2, 1980
- Excerpt from Lorine's letters to Gail
- Letter from Gail and Bonnie to Jane July 29, 1986

Knox museum duplicates added to FOLN collection:

- Duplicate copy of Lorine Niedecker by Lisa Pater Faranda
- Duplicate copy of Steppin' Out
- Duplicate copy of "Her Poetry Lives On Wisconsin State Journal 3-21-71

(These duplicates are "public documents" as we assist scholars. Normally we do not attempt to duplicate museum holdings. These papers also help support our understanding of the creation of Jane Shaw Knox's biography.)

Other

- "Tamarack" Poetry Issue, The Tamarack Review, Issue 63, October 1974, donated by Robert Appel, Canada, spring 2011 poetry by Canadian poet Nelson Ball, "Round Stone, Seven Poems" dedicated to Lorine Niedecker. Page 57
- West Coast Line, Journal of Contemporary Writing and Criticism, Spring 1992
Includes: "The Revolutionary Word": Lorine Niedecker's Early Writings 1928 – 1946 by Jenny Penberthy and The "New Goose" Manuscript by Lorine Niedecker
Donated by Robert Appel, Canada, July 2011
- "Radical Vernacular, Lorine Niedecker and the Poetics of Place" Edited by Elizabeth Willis. Donated by Lynn Keller, visitor to BHI and co-editor of the book through Iowa Press. August 2011
- "Lorine Niedecker, A Poet's Life" by Margot Peters, donated by Ann Engelman
- Chapbook "Round Stone" by Nelson Ball, donated by Nelson Ball, October 2011
- 20 chairs from Fort Atkinson Parks and Rec. Folding chairs will be kept on BHI for use by scholars and the Poetry Festival as needed.
- Plein air painting by Diane Washa, 16 x 16, "Poet's Backyard, Blackhawk Island" Spring, 2010. Donated to the Friends of Lorine Niedecker, fall 2011.