

2010 Poetry Festival Presenters



Faith Barrett received her MFA in poetry from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley. Her chapbook */Invisible Axis/* was published by Etherdome Press in 2001. She is currently finishing up a book manuscript on American Civil War poetry and has published articles on Whitman, Dickinson, and Herman Melville. She is the chair of the English Dept at Lawrence University where she teaches courses in 19th century American culture, American poetry, and creative writing.



Bill Camplin singer-songwriter, poet and owner of the Café Carpe, gathering spot for folk, bluegrass, country and eclectic musicians, poets and actors, will offer a non-conforming evening to cap the Poetry Festival.



Chris Fink is associate professor of English and creative writing at Beloit College and editor of the *Beloit Fiction Journal*. Since 2000, he has published more than twenty stories at various journals in the United States and Canada, as well as several poems and essays.



John Lehman is the founder and original publisher of *Rosebud*, a national magazine of short stories, poetry and illustration for people who enjoy good writing. He is the poetry editor of the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* as well as managing partner of *Zelda Wilde Publishing*. John was a finalist for the Wisconsin Poet Laureate position in 2004 and again in 2008. Dramatic readings of his plays, *A Brief History of My Tattoo*, *The Jane Test* and *The Writer's Cave* have been presented in Milwaukee and Madison. His collections of poetry include *Acting Lessons*, *Shrine of the Tooth Fairy*, *Dogs Dream of Running* and *Shorts: 101 Brief Poems of Wonder and Surprise*. His latest nonfiction books are *America's Greatest Unknown Poet: Lorine Niedecker Reminiscences*, *Photographs, Letters and Her Most Memorable Poems* and *Everything is Changing: How to Gain Loyal Customers and Clients Quickly*.

John grew up in Chicago but for the last twenty years he has lived with his wife, Talia Schorr, their four dogs and six cats in Rockdale, the smallest incorporated village in Wisconsin.



Pat Moran's poetry, translations and essays have appeared in many magazines and journals including the *Boston Review*, the *Iowa Review* and *The New Republic*. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa's Writer's workshop. Currently, he is a professor of Creative Writing at the UW-Whitewater.



Wisconsin poet and essayist **Tom Montag** is most recently the author of *The Big Book Of Ben Zen* and *The Idea Of The Local*. He recently wrote the lyrics for 14 original train songs on Doc Abbick in Trinity's *The Last Caboose* cd. He blogs as *The Middlewesterner*.



Nancy Rafal was a student of Morgan Gibson in the 1960's but it took her until the early 90's to "meet" Lorine Niedecker. Nancy attended the Niedecker Centenary Festival in 2003 and was instrumental in Cid Corman's appearance there. From her home in the boreal forest outside Baileys Harbor Nancy crafts poems when she's not working as treasurer of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. She co-edited the 2009 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar with Kathy Dodd Miner. Nancy also is a member of the Wisconsin Regional Writers Association.



Angela Rydell, MFA, teaches creative writing through UW-Madison Continuing Studies. She has also taught at Edgewood College, in the national program Senior Summer School, and been a poet-in-residence in elementary schools. She is a recipient of Poets & Writers' Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award and her work has appeared in *Poets & Writers*, *The Sun*, *Alaska Quarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and other journals.



By day, **Lester Smith** is a writer and Web technologist for UpWrite Press, an educational design house in Burlington, Wisconsin. He is also the current president of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, principal of Popcorn Press, and an award-winning hobby-game designer. Learn more at www.LesterSmith.com.



Angela Sorby is associate professor of English at Marquette University. She is the author of three books, *Distance Learning: Poems*, *Schoolroom Poets: Childhood, Performance, the Place of American Poetry* and *Bird Skin Coat* which won the 2009 Brittingham Prize in Poetry and a 2010 Outstanding Achievement in Poetry award from the Wisconsin Library Association.



Dr. Laurel Yourke of UW-Madison is the author of *Take Your Characters to Dinner*, a creative writing text, and *Waiting for Beethoven*, a poetry chapbook. In 1999, she received a Council of Wisconsin Writers Award for Encouragement of Wisconsin Writers and in 1997, a UW-Madison Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. Her poetry, which has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes, has appeared in university presses, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, the Wisconsin Fellowship Calendar, and many other periodicals.