

# 2012 Poetry Festival Presenters



**Kimberly Blaeser**, a Professor in the English Department at UW-Milwaukee, teaches Creative Writing, Native American Literature, and American Nature Writing. Among her publications are three books of poetry: *Trailing You*, *Absentee Indians and Other Poems*, and *Apprenticed to Justice*, as well as the edited volume *Traces in Blood, Bone, and Stone: Contemporary Ojibwe Poetry*.



**Robin Chapman** is author of seven books of poetry, most recently *Abundance* (Cider Press) and the eelgrass meadow (Tebot Bach); and co-editor of two anthologies, *On Retirement and Love Over Sixty*. Her poems have appeared recently in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *OnEarth*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Wilderness*. Recipient of Appalachia's 2010 Poetry Prize, she teaches an annual poetry workshop at The Clearing in Door County.



**Ching-In Chen** is the author of *The Heart's Traffic* (Arktoi Books/Red Hen Press). The daughter of Chinese immigrants, she is a Kundiman and Lambda Fellow and a member of the Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation and Macondo writing communities. A community organizer, she has worked in the Asian American communities of San Francisco, Oakland, Riverside and Boston. Ching-In is a co-editor of *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities* (South End Press). In Milwaukee, she is *Cream City Review's* editor-in-chief and involved in her union and the radical marching band, Milwaukee Molotov Marchers. [www.chinginchen.com](http://www.chinginchen.com)



**Sarah Dimick** is a graduate student focusing on contemporary American poetry and environmental writing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before moving to Wisconsin, Sarah received her MFA from New York University in 2010 and taught writing at a children's hospital. She enjoys paper-making, working on old-fashioned letterpresses, and reading beside the lakes in Madison.



**Fabu**, as she is professionally known, is a scholar in African literature and African American literature culture. As the third Madison Poet Laureate (2008-2011), she put poetry in unusual places and spaces; in *Madison Magazine*, *The Capital City Hues*, the *Madison Times* and on *Madison Metro Buses*. She has her own poetry on the wall in the South Madison branch library, inside the Park Villager Mall and stamped into the sidewalk on Williamson street in front of The Weary Traveler restaurant. She has three poetry collections published; *Poems, Dreams and Roses*, 2009 by The Madison Arts Commission, *In Our Own Tongues*, 2011 by The University of Nairobi Press

and *Journey to Wisconsin: African American Life in Haiku*, 2011 by Parallel Press. She is currently working on a new poetry manuscript about Jazz great, Mary Lou Williams.



**Lisa Fishman** is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *Flower Cart* (Ahsahta Press, 2011) and *Current* (Parlor Press, 2011). She has lived on a farm in Orfordville, Wisconsin, for 13 years and is also Associate Professor of English and Director of Poetry at Columbia College Chicago.



**Karl Gartung** cofounded the Woodland Pattern Book Center with Anne Kingsbury and Karl Young in 1980. He is the author of *Now that Memory Has Become So Important*. He co-lead a Bjorklunden workshop on Lorine Niedecker and was co-organizer of the 2003 Niedecker Centenary celebration.



**Marti Gobel** is co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of Uprooted Theater in Milwaukee. She completed her degree in Theater Performance at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and an internship with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. She is a lead teacher at FirstStage Theater Academy in Milwaukee as well as lead teacher and program designer for Uprooted Theater's educational programming. Marti actively engages in public speaking opportunities and advocacy campaigns to encourage diversity in the arts. She is a favorite daughter of Fort Atkinson, her performances here are generally sold out.



**Anjie Kokan** is an award-winning poet who has been sharing her love of poetry with others for over twelve years. She was born and raised in Michigan and moved to Wisconsin in 1995. Much of her writing is inspired by nature. Her work has earned recognition from the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, the Wisconsin Writers Association, and the Council for Wisconsin Writers. Anjie's writing has appeared in various journals, devotionals and anthologies. She has also collaborated with Wisconsin artists on special projects. Anjie enjoys facilitating creative writing workshops with community groups and organizations.



**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.

**Emilie Lindemann** holds a PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's creative writing program. She lives in rural Manitowoc County and teaches



creative writing at Silver Lake College. Her recent poetry chapbook, *Dear Minimum Wage Employee: You Are Priceless* (Dancing Girl Press), was inspired by my experience in the service sector. Her poems have appeared in journals, including, *VerseWisconsin*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Arsenic Lobster*, and *Prime Number*.



**Mary Linton** is a wetland ecologist and poet from Fort Atkinson. As far as she is concerned, a day mucking about a fertile wetland could not be better spent. Her poetry has appeared in *Appalachia*, *Aethlon*, *Blueline*, *Builder*, *Country Feedback Magazine*, *Friend's Journal*, *Hummingbird*, *Poetry Motel* and *Seeding the Snow*.



Wisconsin poet and essayist **Tom Montag** is author of *Curlew: Home*, *Kissing Poetry's Sister*, *The Big Book Of Ben Zen*, *The Idea Of The Local*, and most recently *That Woman*. He is at work on on a project he calls "Vagabond in the Middle," exploring what makes us middlewestern. He puts poems up daily at *The Middlewesterner*.



**Ralph Murre**, who comes without a degree or an apology, lives in Baileys Harbor and is a lifelong Wisconsinite. He confesses to "messaging about in books" and has written three small volumes of poetry to date; *Crude Red Boat*, *Psalms*, and *The Price of Gravity*. In addition to being the founder, publisher, and editor of *Little Eagle Press*, he is an architect and mariner. "And always," he says, "there is the wind and the woods and the water."



**Margot Peters** is the award winning author of several biographies including *Lorine Niedecker: A Poet's Life*, *Design for Living: Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne*, *May Sarton: A Biography*, *The House of Barrymore*, *Mrs. Pat: The Biography of Mrs. Patrick Campbell*, *Bernard Shaw and the Actresses* and *Unquiet Soul: A Biography of Charlotte Brontë*.

In addition to writing biographies and essays, Ms. Peters is an accomplished poet. She has published poems in a variety of publications including: *Wisconsin Academy Review*, *Free Verse* and *The Deronda Review II*.



**James Pollock** is the author of *Sailing to Babylon*, a book of poems published by Able Muse Press in 2012, and *You Are Here: Essays on the Art of Poetry in Canada*, forthcoming in November, 2012, from *The Porcupine's Quill*. His poetry has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *AGNI*, *Poetry Daily*, and other journals, and his critical essays and reviews have been published in *Contemporary Poetry Review*, *The New Quarterly*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and elsewhere. He earned his Ph.D. in creative writing and literature from the University of Houston, where he held several fellowships in poetry. He is an Associate Professor at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, where he teaches poetry in the creative writing program. He lives with his wife and son in Madison, Wisconsin.



**Kate Sontag's** work has appeared in numerous journals, such as *Prairie Schooner*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Kalliope*, *Seattle Review*, *Verse Wisconsin*, and she has been featured in *Valparaiso Poetry Review*. Her work has also appeared in many anthologies, including *Boomer Girls*, *Are You Experienced?*, *Sweeping Beauty* (U. of Iowa) and most recently *Villanelles* (*Everyman's Library Pocket Poets*). Winner of the *Ron Bayes Poetry Prize* (*Sandhills Review*) and recently nominated for a *Pushcart Prize*, she is co-editor with David Graham of *After Confession: Poetry as Autobiography* (Graywolf) and teaches at Ripon College.



**Sandy Stark** is the author of four self-published poetry chapbooks and a book-length collection of poems, *Counting on Birds*, (Fireweed Press, 2010). Her poems have appeared in the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*, the *Texas Poetry Calendar*, the former *Wisconsin Academy Review*, and *Verse Wisconsin*, and as part of various gallery events. An article on how to promote your own work, "After Your Book Is Published, Then What?" appeared in this summer's online issue of *Verse Wisconsin*. Sandy retired from teaching literature and communication skills in 2005 to pursue native plant restoration, birding, and more poetry, and couldn't be happier living near Madison's Lake Wingra and the Arboretum's woods and prairies.



**Jim Stevens** is a poet of Seneca heritage, born in Wisconsin, and has been active as a writer and editor for almost 50 years. In the early 1970s, he was introduced by Morgan Gibson to the work of Lorine Niedecker, and in 1975 had a poem in the seminal *Truck 16 / The Lorine Niedecker Issue*. Stevens worked for many years as a writer and editor in Madison, and was responsible for *The Journey Home: Four Centuries of Wisconsin Literature* (North Country Press) as well as well as *August Derleth Reader* and *Dreaming History: A Collection of Wisconsin Native American Writing* (both from Prairie Oak Press). He now lives in northern Wisconsin, where since 2005 he has been lead editor for *Yukhika-latuhse* (She tells us stories), an annual journal of Native writing. He is one of the principal planners for the 20th anniversary *Returning the Gift*, the national conference of Native writers held in September in Milwaukee.



**Steel Wagstaff** is a poet and graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he has earned Master's degrees in both English and Library and Information Studies and is currently writing a Ph.D. dissertation about several Objectivist poets for the English department's *Literary Studies Program*. From 2010-2012 he was the Assistant Director of UW-Madison's English 100 program, and will be employed (beginning in Fall 2012) as the lead Teaching Assistant in the newly formed *Design Lab*. He curates the *FELIX* reading series and teaches poetry to incarcerated men with the *Writers in Prisons Project*. He lives in Madison with his wife, the poet Laurel Bastian.



**John Walsler** is an associate professor at Marian University where he teaches literature, composition and creative writing. He has a PhD in English and Creative Writing from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His poetry is infused with the imagery of the upper Midwest where he has lived most of his life. His poetry has been published in a number of journals including *Barrow Street*, *Verse Wisconsin* and the *Evansville Review*. He is a founding member of the *Foot of the Lake Collective* and working on two chapbooks.