

2014 Poetry Festival Presenters



After her retirement from teaching English at Milwaukee Area Technical College, **Martha Bergland** took a break to write an article on Lapham for Milwaukee Magazine. This break became five years of studying Increase Lapham. She has written two novels, *A Farm Under a Lake* and *Idle Curiosity*, both published by Graywolf, and is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Glendale, Wisconsin.



CX Dillhunt was born in Green Bay and grew up nearby along the Fox River in the city of De Pere. He is the third child after two sisters, first of seven boys, interwoven with three more sisters. He is author of *Girl Saints* (Fireweed, 2003) and *Things I've Never Told Anyone* (Parallel, 2007). CX was named a Commended Poet by the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission in 2010. He is the editor of *Hummingbird Magazine of the Short Poem*; hummingbirdpoetry.org.



Thomas Ferrella speculates in a variety of artistic mediums. His aesthetic is a natural abstraction, a graphic documentation, a personal dialogue, an invitation to poetry. For a look inside go to www.ferrella.com.



Lisa Fishman is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *Flower Cart* (Ahsakta 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 Bjorklund workshop on Lorine Niedecker and was co-organizer of the 2003 Niedecker Centenary celebration.

Paul G. Hayes reported about environment, energy and natural sciences for *The Milwaukee Journal* from 1962 until 1987, and for *Wisconsin, The Journal's Sunday*



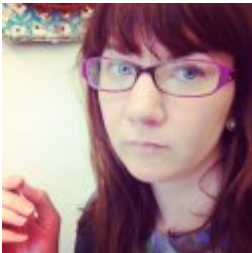
magazine until 1995, the year The Journal merged with the Milwaukee Sentinel and he retired. While writing for Wisconsin, he often profiled outstanding Wisconsin citizens, including Lorine Niedecker, a story that concentrated on the years of her marriage to Al Millen, her most productive years as a poet. Most recently he co-authored with Martha Bergland *Studying Wisconsin: The Life of Increase Lapham*. Hayes and his wife Philia live in Cedarburg where they raised two sons and where he continues to write.



Dion Kempthorne played on the 1963 Wisconsin Rose Bowl team, earned a PhD in English at UW-Madison, taught writing and literature in the UW Colleges, and served as CEO/Dean at UW-Richland. Now a professor emeritus, he lives in the woods of Richland County and spends his days reading, writing, hiking, and cutting firewood. His poems have appeared in the Wisconsin Academy Review, *Verbatim*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *The Capitola Review*, *Mature Years*, *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, *Julien's Journal*, and the Wisconsin Poets' Calendar. Kempthorne was the first-place winner of the Wisconsin People & Ideas 2014 poetry contest. In addition to writing poems, he is at work on a memoir that explores the personal benefits of reading and writing poetry.



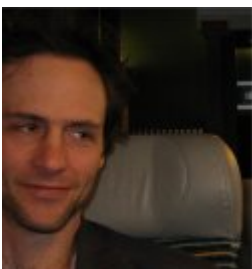
Karen Laudon is a visual artist living with her two daughters in Madison, Wisconsin. Educated at UW-Madison and the San Francisco Art Institute, she lived for many years in the bay area. She works in series, incorporating closely related oil paintings, sculpture, and mixed media drawings. Having deep roots in Wisconsin, and having grown up in a local lake, her affinity with Lorine Niedecker's poetry and life is a natural one. Both have had a profound impact on Laudon's work over the past twenty years, resulting in her two most recent series, including the collaborative effort with poet Emilie Lindemann. Laudon's work has been shown nationally, with modest success.



Emilie Lindemann holds a PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's creative writing program. She lives in rural Manitowoc County and is an assistant professor of English at Silver Lake College. Emilie is the author of several poetry chapbooks: *Dear Minimum Wage Employee*, *The Queen of the Milky Way*, and *Small Adult Trees* (forthcoming)--all from Dancing Girl Press. In her free-time, she's part of an art rock group called Villainess.



Amy Lutzke is the Adult Services Librarian at the Dwight Foster Public Library. As such she has had the opportunity to be immersed in the world of Lorine Niedecker. Growing up on the shore of Lake Michigan she is a child of the water and considers herself lucky to live on the bank of the mighty Rock River.



Richard Meier is the author of three books of poetry, *In the Pure Block of the Whole Imaginary* (Omnidawn, 2012), *Shelley Gave Jane a Guitar* (Wave, 2006), and *Terrain Vague*, (Wave/Verse, 2001). He is writer-in-residence at Carthage College and lives in Madison and Chicago.

Wisconsin poet and essayist **Tom Montag** most recently published *In This Place*:



Selected Poems 1982-2013. He is the author of *THE BIG BOOK OF BEN ZEN* and *THE IDEA OF THE LOCAL*. He wrote the lyrics for 14 original train songs on Doc Abbick in Trinity's *THE LAST CABOOSE* cd. He blogs as *THE MIDDLEWESTERNER*. He was named a Wisconsin Commended Poet in 2004.



Kori Oberle is one of many fans of Lorine Niedecker and Black Hawk Island. She also is a fan of history museums and has directed the Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson since 2008.



Sara Parrell co-curates the Bridge Poetry Reading Series at Madison's Chazen Museum, and her work has been recognized with awards from the Poetry Center of Chicago, The Taos Summer Writers' Conference, and the Wisconsin Academy of Science Arts & Letters. She has appeared in various published forms (including Crab Orchard Review, Tupelo Quarterly, qarrtsiluni, & the 2013 Cowfeather Press anthology, Echolocations, Poets Map Madison). By day, she works as a nurse in Madison public schools, and is faculty at the UW-Madison School of Nursing.



Jean Preston, newly appointed Poet Laureate for the City of Kenosha, is the Director of the Writing Center and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of English at Carthage College. She earned her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Writing Program. Jean is the co-author of a photo-journal, *Tete's Story: One Woman's Work Among the Karen of Thailand*, and author of a poetry collection, *All the Queen's Horses*, and a chapbook, *Sixteen Mothers*. Her work has been published in *Pleiades*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *The Solitary Plover*, and *The Journal of the Association of Research on Mothering*. Jean has been a presenter, instructor, and tutor for various academic and community organizations including the Kenosha Literacy Council and the Racine Odyssey Project. She facilitates seminars and workshops on writing poetry, and performs her poetry with *Women of an Uncertain Age*. Jean lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with her husband, Tom, and her Scottish Terrier, Maggie.



Margaret Schroeder is the founder of The Solitary Plovers, a group dedicated to the living legacy and study of the works of Lorine Niedecker. She continues to coordinate the Plovers and is the warmth behind the Poetry Cafe during the Wisconsin Poetry Festival. She writes occasional poetry and also has a psychotherapy practice in Fort Atkinson.



Shoshauna Shy is the founder of Woodrow Hall Editions which sponsors the Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf initiative, and the Woodrow Hall Jumpstart Award program: www.PoetryJumpsOfftheShelf.com. She works for the Wisconsin Humanities Council in Madison where, for a decade, she helped create, coordinate and facilitate poetry programs for the annual Wisconsin Book Festival. Shoshauna is the author of *Souped-Up on the Must-Drive Syndrome* (Pudding House Publications, 2000), *Slide into Light* (Moon Journal Press, 2001), *White*

Horses on Sale for a Song(Parallel Press, 2005) and What the Postcard Didn't Say (Zelda Wilde Publishing, 2007).



Marilyn L. Taylor, former Poet Laureate of Wisconsin (2009 and 2010) and of Milwaukee (2004 and 2005), is the author of six collections of poetry. Her award-winning poems and essays have appeared in many anthologies and journals, including Poetry, The American Scholar, and Ted Kooser's "American Life in Poetry" online column. Marilyn taught poetry and poetics for fifteen years at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and currently serves as a board member for several writers' organizations.



Jeanie Tomasko is the author of Sharp as Want (Little Eagle Press), a poetry / artworks collaboration with Sharon Auberle, Tricks of Light (Parallel Press) and the e-chapbook, If I Confess Before 5:00 (Right Hand Pointing). Recent work appeared in The Midwest Quarterly, Right Hand Pointing and Rattle. Her story/poem (Prologue,) is the recipient of an Editor's Choice award from Concrete Wolf Chapbook Series, and will be published in the fall of 2014. She works as a home health nurse in the Madison area. Jeanie and her husband, Steve, are the editors of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets 2015 Poets' Calendar.