

2016 Poetry Festival Presenters



Brenda Cárdenas is the author of the poetry collection *Boomerang* and the chapbooks *From the Tongues of Brick and Stone* and *Bread of the Earth/The Last Colors* with Roberto Harrison. She also co-edited *Between the Heart and the Land: Latina Poets in the Midwest*. Cárdenas' poems and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in many anthologies and literary magazines including *Latina/o Poetics: The Art of Poetry*, *POETRY*, *The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry*, and *RATTLE*, among others. Cárdenas served as the Milwaukee Poet Laureate from 2010-2012, and in 2014, the Library of Congress recorded a reading of her work for their Spotlight on U. S. Hispanic Writers.



Norma Cole's books include *Win These Posters and Other Unrelated Prizes Inside* (Omnidawn, 2012), *To Be At Music: Essays and Talks* (Omnidawn, 2010), *Where Shadows Will: Selected Poems 1988 - 2008* (City Lights, 2009), *Spinoza in Her Youth* (Omnidawn, 2002), *Natural Light* (Libellum Books, 2009), and most recently *Actualities* (Litmus Press, 2015), her collaboration with painter Marina Adams. A new translation of Jean Daive's first book, *White Decimal*, is forthcoming from Omnidawn. She lives in San Francisco.



Nick Demske lives in Racine and works at the Racine Public Library. He is the author a self-titled collection of poetry, which was picked for the 2010 Fence Modern Poets Series prize, and a chapbook, *Skeetly Deetly Deet*, which was published by Strange Cage Press. His work has been taught at dozens of universities and colleges throughout the country, including Notre Dame, Columbia, Cleveland State, Marquette and many more. In 2011, Nick went on a 40+ city book tour that covered both coasts of America and back. Nick is a vegan, an urban gardener and a crappy student of sitting meditation.



Kathryn Gahl traveled the *Inside Passage*, waited tables in Switzerland, and cared for the poor as an R.N. at Johns Hopkins. She married twice, gave birth twice, and admits to hero worship of her grandson. Her fiction and poetry appear in many journals. Inspired by Ted Kooser, she wrote a daily postcard poem for fifteen months and mailed it to twenty-two people. When not writing, she dances ballroom, eats dark chocolate, and enjoys deep sleep.



Journalist and poet **Ronnie Hess** is the author of three poetry chapbooks, *Whole Cloth* (Little Eagle Press, 2009), *Ribbon of Sand* (Willet Press Prize, 2014) and *Woman in Vegetable* (Kattywompus, 2015). She has also written two culinary travel guides, *Eat Smart in France* (Ginkgo Press, 2010) and *Eat Smart in Portugal* (with Joan Peterson, Ginkgo Press, forthcoming). She lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dot Kent has been a member of the Solitary Plovers Lorine Niedecker Study Group and the Friends of Lorine Niedecker for three years. She loves the annual Poetry Festival and has enjoyed writing poems in the company of other attendees. She lives in the Kettle



Moraine State Forest with her music making husband. Formerly a pediatric nurse practitioner for military families, she spends time dancing, leading dances, participating in festivals (including this one!), and inhabiting the natural wonderful world.



Oscar Mireles has been writing poetry for 25 years. He is the editor of two anthologies including *I Didn't Know There Were Latinos In Wisconsin: 30 Hispanic Writers*. His chapbook is titled *Second Generation* and he has had over 50 poems published in anthologies and magazines including *Gathering Place of the Waters: 30 Milwaukee Poets*, *Revista Chicano-Riquena 'Hispanic Literature In Wisconsin*, *Visions and Voices Against Apartheid*, *Dreams and Secrets*, *Woodland Pattern* and *Telling Tongues*. Mr. Mireles was recently appointed the fifth and first Latino "Poet Laureate" for the City of Madison for two years (2016-2018).



Patrick Moran is the author of five collections of poetry: *Tell A Pitiful Story*, *The Book of Lost Things*, *Doppelgangster*, *Rumors of Organized Crime*, and the 2015 Grayson Book Prize Winner, *There Are Things We Live Among*. His poems, essays, and translations have appeared in many journals and magazines including *The New Republic*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Crazyhorse*, and *The Writer's Chronicle*. He is a 1995 graduate of the Iowa Writer's Workshop and is currently a professor of creative writing at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.



Angie Trudell Vasquez is poet, writer, activist and publisher. Her words, poetry, essays and op-eds, have appeared in print, online, and on stage, nationally and internationally. She is currently getting her MFA in poetry at IAIA, the Institute of American Indian Arts, in Santa Fe, New Mexico and fulfilling her childhood dream. She was a panelist in April 2016 at *Split This Rock!* Her poems have appeared most recently in the *San Diego Poetry Annual* and in the anthology, *Insert Title Here - Literature and Art from the Institute of American Indian Arts*, and are forthcoming in *Basta: 100+ Latinas Against Gender Violence*. She currently lives in Madison, Wisconsin.



John Walser, an associate professor of English at Marian University, holds a doctorate in English and Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in numerous journals. He was a featured poet in September 2014 at *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*. Walser was the recipient of the 2015 *Lorine Niedecker Poetry Prize* as well as a *Pushcart* nominee and a semi-finalist for both the 2013 and the 2016 *Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry*.

Paul Wiegel lives and writes in Berlin, WI and is the founder of *Fox River Poetry Company*. He has been writing poems for passersby on his 1963 Smith Corona typewriter at *Flea Markets*, art galleries, and storefronts for the past four years. In doing so, he hopes to bring an appreciation of poetry to a wider audience. One of his own poems was awarded the 2014 *Joseph Gahagan Poetry Prize*.



David Wilk has published and distributed poetry in print and digital formats since the 1970's. He was editor of the influential literary journal TRUCK and affiliated Truck Press, devoting an entire issue to Lorine Niedecker's work. He currently publishes pop culture startup Frederator Books and the independent Prospecta Press. His podcast at writerscast.com features hundreds of interviews with writers and publishers. For more on his current projects, see booktrix.com and livewriters.com