

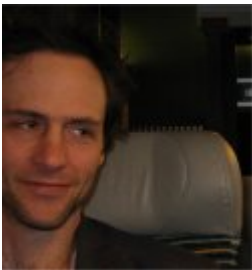
2017 Poetry Festival Presenters



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.



Amy Lutzke is the Assistant Director 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 banks 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.



David Pavelich is Director of Special Collections & Archives at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Before arriving at the UW in late 2016, David was Head of Research Services in Duke University's David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library (2010-2016) and Bibliographer for Modern & Contemporary Poetry/Reference and Instruction Librarian at the University of Chicago's Special Collections Research Center (2005-2010). David earned his MA in poetics at SUNY-Buffalo (where he wrote his thesis on Lorine Niedecker) and his MA-LIS at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Jean Preston, former 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.



Rita Mae Reese is a recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, a Stegner fellowship in fiction, a "Discovery"/The Nation award, and a Pamaunok Poetry Prize, among other awards. Her second book, *The Book of Hulga*, was selected by Denise Duhamel for the Felix Pollak Prize in 2016. She designs lesbian poet trading cards for Headmistress Press and is the Co-director of Literary Arts at Arts + Literature Laboratory (artlitlab.org) in Madison, WI. Find out more at ritamaereese.com.



James Roberts has had nine books published to date in the fields of dark fantasy *Bourland*, poetry *Derne Runes* and *Spirit Fire*, literary non-fiction *Famous Wisconsin Authors*, *Return to Derleth: Selected Essays*, *Haunted Voices: Selected Poetry and Art from Lithuania* and baseball history *Howlin' Wolf: A Fan's History of the Highs & Lows During Five Stormy Years With the Madison Black Wolf*. Previous appearances in *The Baltimore Review*, *Urbanus*, *Red Owl Magazine*, *Requiem*, and a few dozen other 'zines. Past President and current Board Member of the August Derleth Society and very active in the Wisconsin literary scene. Also sends his alter ego, *The Captain*, out some evenings to perform at musical venues in the Madison area where he plays the charango, balalaika, mandolin, guitar, and throat-sings.



Chuck Stebelton is author of two full-length collections of poetry, most recently *The Platformist* (Cultural Society, 2012). His first book, *Circulation Flowers* (Tougher Disguises, 2005), was winner of the inaugural Jack Spicer Award. As a birder and Wisconsin Master Naturalist volunteer he has offered interpretive hikes for organizations including Lynden Sculpture Garden, Friends of Lorine Niedecker, and Woodland Pattern Book Center. He was Literary Program Director at Woodland Pattern from 2005 to 2017. He currently serves as Program Coordinator for Interfaith Older Adult Programs in Milwaukee.



Joel Van Haften is a former museum director and educational programmer who currently works as a substitute teacher in the Fort Atkinson School District challenging students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. At times, when his students are finished with their lessons, he will encourage them into an impromptu poetry contest. He enjoys Lorine Niedecker's poetry, has been active with the Solitary Plover study group, and has served as a volunteer with the Friends of Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival.



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.