

Activities 2024 – Friends of Lorine Niedecker, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Mission – Dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker.

The move of Lorine Niedecker materials at the Dwight Foster Public Library to the Hoard Historical Museum was completed. FOLN has been working with museum staff to inventory materials, place them in the archives and update finding aids. Access to the collection is available during museum hours and by appointment only.

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker continue to accommodate visits to the Blackhawk Island property by appointment.

“Solitary Plover” Newsletter Published

- Spring issue #39, articles included:
“Amy Lutzke Retires from FOLN Board of Directors”
“Nick Gulig Focuses on Niedecker” by Nick Gulig
- Summer issue #40, articles included:
“Fort Atkinson Niedecker Archive Consolidated”
“A New Look for the FOLN Website” by Steel Wagstaff
“Girlfriend, Three for The Solitary Plover” by Barbara Henning

[All issues](#) can be found on the Web site.

Amy Lutzke retired as Editor of the Solitary Plover. A new team is in place to continue publishing the Plover.

Virtual Readings (Public events via Zoom. Recorded and available [online](#).)

North Central: A Virtual Reading Series

- Merrill Gillfillan, Sunday, March 3, 2024
- Sara Ellen Fowler & José Felipe Alvergue, Sunday, October 20, 2024

Solitary Plover Readings - Poets published in the Solitary Plover issue read their published poem and a Niedecker poem

- Thursday, February 29, 6:30 and August 8, 2024, 6:30

The Lorine Niedecker Lecture (New series starting this year)

Patrick Morrissey “Lorine’s Binoculars”, November 10, 2024

Monograph – What Region? (4.1)

- “Lorine Niedecker’s Short Fiction” by Kate Colby, Jenny Penberthy, & Flora Coker

Web Initiatives

A [redesigned](#) Web site was launched. The goal is to provide a user-friendly browsing experience for all visitors that honors the life and work of Lorine Niedecker.

Education Initiatives

- The Lorine Niedecker Fellowship, is a partnership between Write On Door County and the Friends of Lorine Niedecker. Applications opened October 1, 2024 and a winner will be announced late January 2025. Judges this year are Tom Montag, Publisher, Poet and Friends of Lorine Niedecker Emeritus and Nick Gulig, Wisconsin Poet Laureate.

The purpose of the Fellowship is to encourage research into Niedecker's life and writing and to promote new work that explores poetry of place. The Fellowship is offered every two years to an established or emerging poet familiar with the work of Lorine Niedecker. Two weeks are divided between Door County and Fort Atkinson in May.

- The Hoard Historical Museum continues to support a 4th grade study unit on poetry and Lorine Niedecker. Four public schools participate, students write their own poetry in the style of Lorine Niedecker. The students visit the museum to learn more about Niedecker and her influences and visit Blackhawk Island to see her cabin.

Activities and Presentations

- McFarland Public Library reached out in April to request a Niedecker event. There were 10 in-person attendees and 57 virtual viewers with board member Richard Meier.
- PBS Wisconsin series, "University Place" featured Caryl Pagel. The presentation "Life of a Wisconsin Poet" by [Caryl Pagel](#) was recorded on August 29. Caryl is the director of the Cleveland State University Poetry Center and associate professor at Cleveland State in Cleveland, Ohio. This episode will eventually be broadcast on PBS Wisconsin and is currently available for streaming on [YouTube](#).
- PBS Wisconsin is working on a six part digital series on Lorine Niedecker, her life, legacy and influence on Wisconsin Poet Laureate Nick Gulig (2022-2024) united by place and intertwined across time. The launch is tentatively planned for May 2025.

Board Initiatives - The Board meets bi-monthly. Amy Lutzke retired as Board Chair. Ann Engelman resumed the position.

Acquisitions

- "New Directions in Prose and Poetry", edited by James Laughlin 1936
- "Hummingbird Magazine of the Short Poem" began publication in 1990 by Phyllis Walsh. She worked with Lorine at the Fort Atkinson public library though was not an acquaintance. Phyllis was inspired by Niedecker's poetry and other short poems. Cid Corman encouraged her to begin the magazine. The final issue, published in summer 2024 featured Lorine Niedecker. The Friends of Lorine Niedecker was gifted a complete set, 1 of 5. These are now in the collection of the Hoard Historical Museum.