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Poets Laureate Biographies, 2012

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg

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Dick Allen is the author of seven books of poetry, including *Present Vanishing: Poems*, *The Day Before: New Poems*, and *Ode to the Cold War: Poems New and Selected*, all published by Sarabande Books. He has received the 2009 Connecticut Book Award for Poetry, NEA and Ingram Merrill Poetry Writing Fellowships, a Pushcart Prize, six inclusions in *The Best American Poetry* volumes, and been a NBCC Finalist as well as a William Carlos Williams Poetry Prize Runner-Up for the Best American Poetry Book of the Year. Hundreds of his poems have appeared in such magazines as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Rattle*, *The Hudson Review*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The New Criterion*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The American Scholar*, *Ploughshares*, *Boulevard*, *The Yale Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Agni* and in numerous national poetry anthologies. He is an odd, married with children, liberal Republican Zen Buddhist who lives in a cottage near a small lake in Connecticut.

JoAnn Balingit is Poet Laureate of Delaware, appointed in 2008. She teaches poetry for schools and non-profit organizations, and coordinates the Delaware Scholastic Writing Awards for grades 7 through 12. She is the author of *Your Heart and How It Works* (Spire Press, 2009); and *Forage* (Wings Press, 2011), winner of the Whitebird Chapbook Prize. You can visit her at <http://www.facebook.com/joann.poetry> and <http://joannbalingit.org>

Walter Bargan has published fourteen books of poetry. His latest two books are: *Days Like This Are Necessary: New & Selected Poems* (2009) and *Endearing Ruins/Liebenswerte Ruinen* (2012), the later a bilingual edition published in Germany. His fifteenth book, *Trouble Behind Glass Doors*, is scheduled for publication in 2013. His awards include: the Chester H. Jones Foundation prize in 1997, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1991, and the William Rockhill Nelson Award in 2005. He was appointed the first poet laureate of Missouri (2008-2009). www.walterbarga.com

Alan Birkelbach, the 2005 Texas Poet Laureate, winner of the 2010 North Texas Book Festival Award, two-time presenter at the Texas Book Festival, and a Spur, Wrangler, Pushcart, and TIL Children's Book award nominee. He is the author of nine books of poetry. His current project is serving as editor for *Dark Inspiration: Selected Poetry of Robert E. Howard*. He has also partnered with 2010 Texas Poet Laureate karla k. morton to produce a traveling gallery/museum exhibit based on their collaborative book: *No End of Vision*.

Joyce Brinkman, Indiana Poet Laureate 2002-2008, believes in poetry as public art. She creates public poetry projects involving her poetry and the poetry of others. Collaborations with visual artists using her poetry for permanent installations include her words in a twenty-five foot stained glass window by British glass artist Martin Donlin at the Indianapolis International Airport, in lighted glass by Arlon Bayliss at the Indianapolis-Marion County Central Library and on a wall with local El Salvadoran artists in the town square of Quezaltepeque, El Salvador. Her printed works include two chapbooks, *Tiempo Español*, and *Nine Poems In Form Nine*, and two collaborative books, *Rivers, Rails and Runways*, and *Airmail from the Airpoets*. Joyce has received fellowships from the Mary Anderson Center for the Arts and the Indianapolis Arts Council. She is a graduate of Hanover College and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with her husband and a sweet cat.

Walter Butts, the 2009-2014 New Hampshire Poet Laureate, is the author of *Cathedral of Nervous Horses: New and Selected Poems* (Hobblebush Books, 2012), *Radio Time* (Cherry Grove Collections, 2011), named poetry winner at the 2011 New England Book Festival, *Sunday Evening at the Stardust Café* (1st World, 2006), chosen as a finalist for the 2005 Philip Levine Prize in Poetry from the University of California/Fresno and selected winner of the 2006 Iowa Source Poetry Book Prize, and other books and chapbooks. His poems have appeared most recently in *Birmingham Poetry Review*,

Drunken Boat, *The Fourth River*, and *Poetry East*. The recipient of two Pushcart Prize nominations and a Massachusetts Artists' Foundation Award, he teaches in the low-residency BFA in Creative Writing Program at Goddard College.

Kelly Cherry, Poet Laureate of Virginia 2010-2012, is the author of twenty full-length books of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction and eight chapbooks and the translator of two classical plays. Her chapbook *Vectors* is forthcoming in December 2012 and her poetry collection *The Life and Death of Poetry* in spring 2013. She is Eudora Welty Professor Emerita of English and Evjue-Bascom Professor Emerita in the Humanities at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her awards include an NEA, a Rockefeller fellowship, a USIS Speaker Grant, the Hanes Poetry Prize, the Dictionary of Literary Biography Award for best short-story collection, the Tarumoto Prize for a short story, three PEN short-story awards, and publication in the prize anthologies *Best American Short Stories*, *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*, *The Pushcart Prize*, *New Stories from the South*, and three Wisconsin fellowship awards. In 2010 she was a Director's Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

David Clewell is the author of eight collections of poetry—most recently, *Taken Somehow By Surprise* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2011)—and two book-length poems. His work regularly appears in a wide variety of national magazines and journals—including *Poetry*, *Harper's*, *The Georgia Review*, *New Letters*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *Boulevard*--and has been represented in more than fifty anthologies. Among his honors are several book awards: the Felix Pollak Poetry Prize (for *Now We're Getting Somewhere*), National Poetry Series selection (for *Blessings in Disguise*), and the inaugural Four Lakes Poetry Prize for *Taken Somehow By Surprise*. He served as poet laureate of Missouri from 2010 to 2012. Clewell teaches writing and literature at Webster University in St. Louis, where he also directs the English Department's creative writing program. His collection of Charlie the Tuna iconography is now the largest in private curatorship. And don't even get him started on the subject of flying saucers.

Katharine Coles is poet laureate of Utah. Her fifth and sixth collections of poems, *Ice Blind* and *Flight*, are forthcoming in 2013 and 2015 from Red Hen Press. She has also published two novels. Her poems, essays, and stories have appeared in such journals as *The Paris Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Poetry*, *Image*, *Seneca Review*, *North American Review*, *Southwest Review*, *DIAGRAM*, and *Ascent* and have been translated into Italian, Dutch, and Chinese. In 2009-10, she served as the inaugural director of the Harriet Monroe Poetry Institute for the Poetry Foundation. She is a professor at the University of Utah, where she founded and co-directs the Utah Symposium in Science and Literature. In 2010, she traveled to Antarctica to write poems under the auspices of the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program. She is a 2012 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow.

Bruce Dethlefsen is Wisconsin Poet Laureate for 2011/2012. He's published two chapbooks, *A Decent Reed* (Tamafyr Mountain Press, 1999) and *Something Near the Dance Floor* (Marsh River Editions, 2003). *Breather* (Fireweed Press, 2009), a full-length book, received an Outstanding Achievement Award in Poetry from the Wisconsin Library Association. His latest volume of poetry, *Unexpected Shiny Things*, was published by Cowfeather Press in 2011. He was nominated for the Pushcart Prize three times. Bruce's poems have been featured on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac* and he was Poet-of-the-Month on *Your Daily Poem*. He's performed original music with Bill Orth as *Obvious Dog* on Cathryn Cofell's CD, *Lip*. Bruce, a retired educator and public library director, was born in Kansas City, Missouri. He lives in Westfield, Wisconsin.

Claudia Emerson served as Poet Laureate of Virginia. All of Claudia Emerson's books, *Pharaoh*, *Pharaoh* (1997), *Pinion*, *An Elegy* (2002), *Late Wife* (2005), *Figure Studies* (2008), and *Secure the*

Shadow (2012) were published as part of Louisiana State University Press's signature series, Southern Messenger Poets, edited by Dave Smith. *Late Wife* won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. She also edited the 2010 *Best New Poets* anthology. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Smartish Pace*, *The Southern Review*, *Shenandoah*, *TriQuarterly*, *Crazyhorse*, *New England Review*, and other journals. An advisory and contributing editor for *Shenandoah*, Emerson has been awarded individual artist's fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts; she was a Witter Bynner fellow through the Library of Congress and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2012. A recent inductee into the Fellowship of Southern Writers, she was also awarded the 2008 Donald Justice Award from the organization. Former Poet Laureate of Virginia, she is Professor of English and Arrington Distinguished Chair in Poetry at the University Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Kathleen Flenniken is the 2012 – 2014 Washington State Poet Laureate. She began her career as a civil engineer and didn't discover poetry until her early 30s. Her collection, *Plume* (University of Washington Press, 2012), is a meditation on the Hanford Nuclear Site and her home town of Richland, Washington. Her first book, *Famous* (University of Nebraska Press, 2006), won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry and was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association. Flenniken's honors include a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Artist Trust. She is an editor and president of Floating Bridge Press, a nonprofit press dedicated to publishing Washington State poets, and president of Jack Straw Foundation, an audio arts studio and cultural center.

Samuel Green served four years in the military, including service in South Vietnam. A 37-year veteran as a Poet-in-the-Schools, he has taught in literally hundreds of classrooms around Washington State. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Southern Utah University, Western Wyoming Community College, Colorado College, and at Seattle University. Among his ten collections of poems is *The Grace of Necessity* (CMU Press), which won the 2008 *Washington State Book Award for Poetry*. He has lived for 30 years off the grid on a remote island off the Washington coast in a log house he built himself. With his wife, Sally, he is Co-Editor of the award-winning Brooding Heron Press. In December, 2007, he was named as Washington's Inaugural Poet Laureate. Other honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry and an Artist Trust Fellowship in Literature.

Marie Harris was Poet Laureate of New Hampshire from 1999-2004. During that time, she co-produced the first gathering of state poets laureate, called "Poetry in Politics," and embarked upon a project that resulted in two books: *G is for GRANITE: A NH Alphabet* and *Primary Numbers: A NH Number Book*, both published by Sleeping Bear Press. She has edited several anthologies and is the author of four books of poetry including *Your Sun, Manny: A Prose Poem Memoir* (White Pine Press) and *Weasel in the Turkey Pen* (Hanging Loose Press). Her research into the life and times of Amy Beach, America's first female composer, has yielded poems and sketches for a book for young readers as well as an original narrative that she performs in collaboration with the North Country Chamber Players. Her bird haiku appear now and then on Twitter (@MarieHarris1943) and she can be contacted at www.marieharris.com

Julie Kane is the 2011-2013 Louisiana Poet Laureate. Her poetry collections include *Jazz Funeral* (Story Line Press, 2009), awarded the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, and *Rhythm & Booze* (University of Illinois Press, 2003), a winner of the National Poetry Series and Poets' Prize finalist. Her poems appear in anthologies including *Poetry: A Pocket Anthology* (Penguin, 2012); *Villanelles* (Everyman's Library, 2012); *Hot Sonnets* (Entasis Press, 2011); *The Southern Poetry Anthology: Volume 4, Louisiana* (Texas Review Press, 2011); and *The Book of Irish American Poets from the 18th Century to the Present* (Notre

Dame University Press, 2007). They have also been featured on *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, and *The Writer's Almanac* with Garrison Keillor. A former George Bennett Fellow in Writing at Phillips Exeter Academy, New Orleans Writer-in-Residence at Tulane University, and Fulbright Scholar at Vilnius Pedagogical University in Lithuania, Julie teaches at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Maxine Kumin's 17th poetry collection, *Where I Live: New and Selected Poems 1990-2010*, won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in 2011. Her newest children's books are *Oh, Harry*, about a horse with a prehensile nose, illustrated by the well-known Northampton artist Barry Moser, and *What Color Is Caesar?* about a dog who wants to know if he is all black with many white spots or vice versa. Kumin's awards include the Pulitzer and Ruth Lilly Poetry Prizes, the Poets' Prize, and the Harvard Arts and Robert Frost Medals. A former US poet laureate, she and her husband live on a farm in the Mink Hills where they raised horses for forty years and enjoyed the companionship of several rescued dogs.

Norbert Krapf was Indiana Poet Laureate 2008-12. He taught at Long Island University for 34 years and directed its C.W. Post Poetry Center. His ninth poetry collection, *Songs in Sepia and Black and White*, appeared in 2012. His recent poetry collections include *Sweet Sister Moon*, *Bloodroot: Indiana Poems*, and *Invisible Presence*, a collaboration with photographer Darryl Jones. He is also the author of a prose memoir, *The Ripest Moments: A Southern Indiana Childhood*, and released a poetry and jazz CD, *Imagine*, with pianist Monika Herzig. He has served as Fulbright guest professor of American Poetry at the Universities of Freiburg and Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany and received the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. He currently holds a Creative Writing Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis to combine poetry and music, with an emphasis on the blues.

Karen Kovacik, the Poet Laureate of Indiana, is the author of four books, most recently *Metropolis Burning* (Cleveland State), and a translator of contemporary Polish poetry. Her translation of Agnieszka Kuciak's *Dalekie kraje: poetów nieistniejących* (Distant Lands: An Anthology of Poets Who Don't Exist) is forthcoming from White Pine Press in 2013, and she is currently editing the anthology of Polish women poets, *Calling Out to Yeti*. Her awards include the Charity Randall Citation from the International Poetry Forum and a fellowship in literary translation from the National Endowment for the Arts. She directs the creative writing program at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda served as Poet Laureate of Virginia from 2006-2008. She has published five poetry books and co-edited two anthologies. Her poems have been nominated for six Pushcart Prizes and appear widely in journals and anthologies, including *Nimrod*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Best of Literary Journals*, and *An Endless Skyway*, an anthology of poems by U.S. State Poets Laureate. Her many awards include five grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts; a Spree First Place award; a Special Merit Poem in Comstock Review's Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial contest; a Passages North contest award; an Edgar Allan Poe first-place award; the Ellen Anderson Reader Award, and a Resolution of Appreciation from the State Board of Education for her contributions as Poet Laureate of Virginia. She recently served as a Literary Arts Specialist on a Metrorail Public Art Project, which will integrate literary works, including her own, into art installations at metro stations in Virginia.

Denise Low, Kansas Poet Laureate 2007-2009, is the author of collections of poetry and essays, including *Natural Theologies: Essays* (The Backwaters Press 2011) and a biography of Langston Hughes. The Circle of Minneapolis recognized her *Ghost Stories of the New West* (Woodley 2010) as one of the ten best Native American books of 2010; it also won a Kansas Notable Book Award. Her

writing appears in *North American Review*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *Connecticut Review*, *Chariton Review*, and many others. She serves on the national board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs Association 2008-2013. She has taught at Haskell Indian Nations University, the University of Kansas, University of Richmond, and currently Baker University. She has awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Sequoia National Research Center, Lannan Foundation, Poetry Society of America, and others. She was featured poet on the Academy of American Poets Forum. She reviews poetry for the *Kansas City Star*. Her website is www.deniselow.com and award-winning blog about poetry is <http://deniselow.blogspot.com>. She and her husband own a small press, Mammoth Publications.

David Mason is poet laureate of Colorado. His books of poems include *The Buried Houses*, *The Country I Remember*, and *Arrivals*. His verse novel, *Ludlow*, was also featured on the *PBS News Hour*. Author of a collection of essays, *The Poetry of Life and the Life of Poetry*, his memoir, *News from the Village*, appeared in 2010. A new collection of essays, *Two Minds of a Western Poet*, followed in 2011. Mason has also written the libretti for composer Lori Laitman's opera of *The Scarlet Letter* (which will have its professional premiere at Opera Colorado in May 2013) and her oratorio, *Vedem*. In addition, he has edited or co-edited several anthologies and textbooks.

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg is the Poet Laureate of Kansas, and the author of 14 books, including a novel, *The Divorce Girl* (Ice Cube Books), a non-fiction book, *Needle in the Bone: How a Holocaust Survivor and Polish Resistance Fighter Beat the Odds and Found Each Other* (Potomac Books); *The Sky Begins At Your Feet: A Memoir on Cancer, Community & Coming Home to the Body* (Ice Cube Books); the anthologies *An Endless Skyway: Poetry from the State Poets Laureate* (co-editor, Ice Cube Books) and *Begin Again: 150 Kansas Poems* (editor, Woodley Press); and four collections of poetry. Founder of Transformative Language Arts – a master's program in social and personal transformation through the written, spoken and sung word – at Goddard College where she teaches, Mirriam-Goldberg also leads writing workshops widely. With singer Kelley Hunt, she co-writes songs, offers collaborative performances, and leads writing and singing Brave Voice retreats. She blogs at www.CarynMirriamGoldberg.com

Maureen Morehead, Kentucky's poet laureate for 2011-2012, has published four books of poetry: *In a Yellow Room* (Sulgrave Press, 1990), *Our Brothers' War* (Sulgrave Press, 1993), *A Sense of Time Left* (Larkspur Press, 2003), and *The Melancholy Teacher* (Larkspur Press, 2010). *Late August Blues: The Daylily Poems* is forthcoming, also from Larkspur. Her poems have appeared in *America*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The American Voice*, *The Black Warrior Review*, *The Kenyon Review Online*, *The California Quarterly*, *The Greensboro Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Kansas Quarterly*, *The Louisville Review*, *The Southern Poetry Review*, *Poet and Critic*, *Poetry*, and other literary journals. She won fellowships for her poetry from the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Early in her career, she was selected to the Bluegrass Poetry Circuit, a competition judged by Robert Penn Warren. She has taught at Western Kentucky University, the University of Louisville, and for the Jefferson County Public Schools. She currently teaches poetry in Spalding University's Low-Residency MFA Program in Creative Writing.

karla k. morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate, is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, a graduate of Texas A&M University, and Board Member of the Greater Denton Arts Council. Described as “one of the most adventurous voices in American poetry,” she has been featured on Good Morning Texas, NPR, ABC News, CBS News and in countless newspapers, blogs and magazines. A Betsy Colquitt Award Winner and twice an Indie National Book Award Winner, she has been widely published in literary journals, and is the author of six books of poetry. Her seventh book is an

ekphrastic collaboration with 2005 Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach, with Morton's photos inspiring Birkelbach's poetry. A native Texan, Morton has trekked thousands of miles across Texas and beyond -- bringing poetry and the arts into schools, colleges, universities, civic groups, cancer support groups, and festivals in communities all across the states.

David M. Parsons, 2011 Texas Poet Laureate, grew up in Austin, joining the U.S. Marine Corps out of high school, where he served as a Squad Leader in a rifle company and Recon Scout Boat Team Leader. After attending U.T. Austin and Texas State University, he operated a haberdashery and an advertising agency. He moved to Houston in the mid seventies, where he coached at Bellaire High School. In 1991 he graduated the Univ. of Houston's Creative Writing Program. Parsons has taught Creative Writing and Handball/Racquetball classes at L.S.C.- Montgomery since 1992. Parsons was inducted into The Texas Institute of Letters in 2009. His four collections of poetry are *Editing Sky*, *Color of Mourning*, *Feathering Deep* (Texas Review Press/Texas A&M Univ. Press Consortium), *Dave Parsons: New & Selected Poems* (TCU Press) and is currently co-editing, with Wendy Barker, a sixties anthology. He lives in Conroe with his wife, Nancy, an award winning Fine Artist & Graphic Designer. www.daveparsonspoetry.com

David Romtvedt, born in Portland, Oregon and raised in southern Arizona, is a graduate of Reed College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he has worked as a cab and truck driver, an assembly line worker in a ski pole factory, a field hand in grapes, oranges, cantaloupe and blueberries, a bookstore clerk, and now, a half time professor at the University of Wyoming. It's surprising. He is a recipient of the Pushcart Prize, NEA fellowships from the literature and international programs, the Wyoming Literature fellowship, and the Wyoming Governor's Arts Award. His book *A Flower Whose Name I Do Not Know* was selected for the National Poetry Series. His other books of poetry include *Moon, How Many Horses*, *Certainty*, and *Some Church*. With the Fireants, he plays dance music of the Americas. The Fireants most recent cd is *It's Hot (About Three Weeks a Year)*.

Tom Sexton was Alaska's poet laureate from 1995 until 2000. He is the author of several collections of poetry including *I Think Again of Those Ancient Chinese Poets*, University of Alaska Press, 2011 and *Bridge Street at Dusk*, Loom Press, 2012. Tom and his wife Sharyn have lived in Anchorage for almost fifty years.

Betsy Sholl served as Poet Laureate of Maine from 2006 to 2011. She is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *Rough Cradle* (Alice James Books), *Late Psalm, Don't Explain* (University of Wisconsin Press), and *The Red Line* (University of Pittsburgh Press). She was a founding member of Alice James Books. Her awards include the AWP Prize for Poetry, the Felix Pollak Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and two Maine Individual Artists Grants. Recent poems have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Image*, *Field*, *Brilliant Corners*, *Best American Poetry, 2009*, *Best Spiritual Writing, 2012*. She teaches at the University of Southern Maine and in the MFA Program of Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Peggy Shumaker is Alaska State Writer Laureate. Her most recent book of poems is *Gnawed Bones*. Her lyrical memoir is *Just Breathe Normally. Toucan Nest*, a book of poems set in Costa Rica, will be published by Red Hen Press. Professor emerita from University of Alaska Fairbanks, Shumaker teaches in the Rainier Writing Workshop. She is founding editor of Boreal Books, publishers of literature and fine art from Alaska. She edits the Alaska Literary Series at University of Alaska Press. Please visit her website at www.peggyshumaker.com.

Lisa Starr is an inn-keeper, a mother, a bartender, a coach and a teacher, who divides her time among a variety of interests, her children, and her passion for poetry. She is a two-time recipient of the R.I. Fellowship for Poetry. In her capacity as Poet Laureate, Starr has established dozens of poetry circles around Rhode Island in elderly communities (assisted living facilities, nursing homes, etc.), hospitals, shelters, the state prison, and agencies for children and adults living with severe mental and physical disabilities. In April of 2009 Starr assembled more than a dozen US State Poets Laureate in Rhode Island for Poetry for Hope, a series of readings, workshops, and public forums featuring the visiting poets and emerging and established Rhode Island poets and musicians at schools, libraries and cultural attractions around the state. Her books include *Mad With Yellow*, *This Place Here*, and *Days of Dogs and Driftwood*. She is the founder and director of the Block Island Poetry Project, a nationally acclaimed celebration of the arts and humanity, now in its 7th year. The brightest lights of her life are her two children, Orrin and Millie, and her dog, Brother. When time permits, she writes her heart out.

Kevin Stein has served as Illinois Poet Laureate since 2003 and has published eleven books of poetry, criticism, and anthology, notably the forthcoming collection *Wrestling Li Po for the Remote* (Fifth Star Press, 2013). Recent books include the essays *Poetry's Afterlife: Verse in the Digital Age* (University of Michigan, 2010) as well as the poetry collections *Sufficiency of the Actual* (University of Illinois, 2009) and *American Ghost Roses* (University of Illinois, 2005) – winner of the Society of Midland Authors Poetry Award. His poems and essays have appeared in journals such as *American Poetry Review*, *Boulevard*, *Colorado Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, and *TriQuarterly*. His work has earned the Frederick Bock Prize from Poetry, the Indiana Review Poetry Prize, the Devins Award, an NEA fellowship, and other distinctions. He teaches at Bradley University.

Marilyn L. Taylor, former Poet Laureate of Wisconsin (2009 and 2010) and the city of Milwaukee (2004 and 2005), taught poetry and poetics for fifteen years at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She facilitates poetry workshops, readings and presentations throughout the state and at venues across the country from Connecticut to California, and serves on the advisory board of the Low-Residency MFA Program at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. Marilyn is the author of seven collections of poetry, including *Going Wrong* (Parallel Press, 2009). Her poems and essays have also appeared in many anthologies and journals such as *The American Scholar*, *Poetry*, *Measure*, *Able Muse*, *THINK Journal*, *Hot Sonnets*, Ted Kooser's "American Life in Poetry" column, and *Villanelles* (Random House, 2012). Marilyn has been awarded first place in contests sponsored by *The Atlanta Review*, *Dogwood*, *Passager*, *The Ledge*, and the *GSU Review*. She is a Contributing Editor for *THE WRITER* magazine, where her column on craft appears bi-monthly.

Marjory Wentworth is poet laureate of South Carolina. Her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize five times, and her books of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, and *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle*. She is the co-writer with Juan Mendez of *Taking a Stand*, *The Evolution of Human Rights* and the author of the children's story *Shackles*. Marjory teaches creative writing at the following institutions: The Art Institute of Charleston, Roper St. Francis Cancer Center "Expressions of Healing" program and LILA's Poets-in-the schools program at Burke High School in Charleston, SC. Her work is included in the South Carolina Poetry Archives at Furman University. She is the Poet Laureate of South Carolina. www.marjorywentworth.net.

Maggi Vaughn is poet laureate of Tennessee, and the author of nine books of poetry, short stories, and children's literature. Her poetry has appeared in numerous magazines, journals, and newspapers. As poet laureate, she wrote the official bicentennial poem of Tennessee, the official poem for the Tennessee state quarter, the governor's inaugural poem, and a poem celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Air Force. Her media appearances include programs on PBS, USA, TNN, TNT, and the BBC, as

well as a variety of local radio and TV programs.

Sue Brannan Walker is the Stokes Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of South Alabama and Alabama's Poet Laureate. She has published seven books of poetry, numerous anthologies, critical works on James Dickey, Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, and Marge Piercy. She has also published fiction and drama. She is the recipient of a Fellowship from the Alabama Council on the Arts as well as awards from the Medical Society of Alabama for her work in Literature and medicine. She is the publisher of Negative Capability Press, which for twenty years published the literary journal, *Negative Capability*.

Larry Woiwode's first book of poetry, *Even Tide*, was published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in 1977. He's working on a second. He's the author of five novels, two collections of short stories, two memoirs, and other books, over a dozen. Six have been chosen "notable books of the year" by the *New York Times Book Review*, and his work has appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, *Harpers*, *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, and other venues. Since 1995 he has served as Poet Laureate of North Dakota and is Writer in Residence at Jamestown College.