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March 2023

### Press Release: Can Poetry Save the World? 20 Poets Laureate Converge in Lawrence, Kansas To Find Out

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg

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January 20, 2011

PRESS RELEASE:

Can Poetry Save the World?

20 Poets Laureate Converge in Lawrence, Kansas To Find Out

"Poetry has the power to bring us together, help us find a language of connection and unity, and through that discovery, craft lives of greater meaning and build communities of greater strength," Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, poet laureate of Kansas, and organizer of a national event bringing together poets laureate from throughout the U.S. "In our convergence, we'll be looking and speaking about what poetry has to say about our social fabric, spiritual paths, and healing potential for ourselves and our culture."

20 poets laureate, including former U.S. poet laureate Ted Kooser, are coming to Lawrence Kansas, March 13-14 for POET LAUREATI: A NATIONAL CONVERGENCE OF STATE POETS LAUREATE. The event, organized by United Poets Laureate -- a group of Midwestern Poets Laureate -- brings together U.S. poet laureate Ted Kooser, plus W.E. Butts (NH), Marilyn L. Taylor (WI), Peggy Shumaker (AK), Wargen Barga (MO), Mary Swander (IA), Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (KS), Sue Brennan Walker (AL), Lisa Starr (RI), Denise Low (KS), Norbert Krapf (IN), Marjory Wentworth (SC), Mary Crow (CO), David Romtvedt (WY), David Evans (SD), Jonathan Holden (KS), Joyce Brinkman (IN), Karla Morton (TX), Bruce Dethlefsen (WI) and Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda (VA).

"It's a landmark poetry extravaganza that brings together some of our nation's best poets, who are deeply involved in and committed to serving their communities and showing us how the poetry can show us more of who we are, where we live, and how to make the most of our lives," explains Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, poet laureate of Kansas and organizer of the convergence.

The convergence features several public readings, museum tours at the University of Kansas' Spencer

Museum of Art with a poet laureate, an auction to win dinner at a local restaurant with a poet laureate, an all-day conference featuring panels on poetry as it relates to healing, the land, spirituality, publishing, making a living and the process of writing. This event is also the book launch for *An Endless Skyway: Poetry from the State Poets Laureate of America* (Ice Cube Books), an anthology featuring close to 40 poets laureate. The convergence is co-sponsored by the Lawrence Arts Center, Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence Publicity Library, Raven Bookstore, Ice Cube Books, Free State Brewery, Kansas Area Watershed Council, Kansas Arts Commission, Kansas Public Radio (KPR), and the Community Mercantile

For full information, please see [www.UnitedPoetsLaureate.wordpress.com](http://www.UnitedPoetsLaureate.wordpress.com). Registration is available on-line, and at the website, there is information on accommodations.