

2022 Princeton Women's Poetry Reading

Eve Rifkah was co-founder of Poetry Oasis, Inc. (1998-2012), a non-profit poetry association dedicated to education and promoting local poets. She was the founder and editor of DINER, a literary magazine with a seven-year run and is author of six books of poetry, most recently *Lost in Sight* and *One Kid a Telling*. She is recipient of the 2021 Stanley Kunitz award.

R. Joyce Heon is a Lunenburg great grandmother of Finnish heritage who writes her poetry in English and French. She attends Worcester State University to avail herself of their excellent French program.

Kathleen Fagley is a Pushcart-nominated poet whose chapbook, *How You Came to Me* was published by Finishing Line Press in July 2012. Her work has appeared in *The Stillwater Review*, *Memoir Journal*, *Cutthroat*, *The Comstock Review*, *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, *Fourth River*, *Switched-on Gutenberg* and *Nimrod Journal*. She taught poetry and creative nonfiction at Keene State College in Keene, NH. from 2016 until 2020. She is a graduate of the New England College's MFA program in poetry.

Dolores Paljus is the new facilitator of The Stern Eye Poetry Workshop that focuses on key existential, psychoanalytic and theological themes. Her upcoming collection "Don't Shoot the 3rd Rate Hermenuet" includes poetic bios of literary & philosophic notables and resolves many literary mysteries & disputes.

Rhett Watts lives with her husband a mere twenty-five feet from Dark Brook in Auburn, MA. She has poems in many journals, in the book *Best Spiritual Writing 2000*, and in her books—*Willing Suspension* and *The Braiding*. Rhett facilitates writing workshops in CT and MA.

Susan Elizabeth (Beth) Sweeney's poems have appeared in *Diner*, *Worcester Review*, *Journal of Irish Literature*, and elsewhere, and won an Academy of Poets Prize, a Frank O'Hara Poetry Prize, and other awards. Her chapbook, *Hand Me Down* (Finishing Line, 2013), was a semifinalist in the New Women's Voices Competition. She is now collaborating with composer Matthew Jaskot on *Close and Apart*, a song cycle about tragedy, transplantation, and hope, and directing Mapping Worcester in Poetry, an initiative supported by the Mellon Foundation with the Worcester County Poetry Association as community partner.

Meg Kearney is author of four books of poems for adults, most recently the award-winning *All Morning the Crows*, which spent seven months on SPD's poetry bestseller list when it was released in 2021. Meg is also author of a trilogy of verse novels for teens as well as an award-winning picture book, *Trouper*, published by Scholastic and illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Meg lives in New Hampshire and is founding director of the Solstice MFA Program in Massachusetts. www.megkearney.com

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Devon Evans is a librarian in Massachusetts. Through her work she encourages writers of all ages and helps them bring poetry into their lives. She regularly facilitates and attends writing workshops. Her work has been performed at several events, including open mics and the Princeton Women's Reading.

Catherine Reed is an ordained minister, poet and host of WCCATV's *A Journey of Words*. She is the author of four books of poetry – *Crossing Boundaries*, *Between Midnight and Dawn*, *Sankofa*, and *Fire Goes out Without Wood*. Her motto is, "Ministry keeps me grounded, poetry helps me dream and my family keeps me real."

Francine Sterle is the author of *What Thread?* (David Martinson—Meadowhawk Prize, Red Dragonfly Press), *Nude in Winter* (Tupelo Press), *Every Bird is One Bird* (Editor's Prize, Tupelo Press), and *The White Bridge* (Poetry Harbor). Her poems have appeared in such journals as *Ploughshares*, *The North American Review*, *Poetry International* and *Nimrod* and have been anthologized in *Written on Water*, *Letters to the World*, *To Sing Along the Way*, *The Cancer Poetry Project* and *33 Minnesota Poets*.

Andrea MacRichie, a first-generation American, Andrea graduated with a BA in Art History and a minor in English from Middlebury College where she went to Breadloaf, though just to bus dishes. Her work careers were in insurance and Academic library administration though her true interests range from being a docent for 20 years at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, heirloom cottage flowers, traveling and being an American Kennel Club Scent Work judge. After writing poetry in college, she recently started writing again, her poetry and prose, often from her own life, focuses on women who have taken different paths than expected or accepted.

Kyle Potvin's debut full-length poetry collection is *Loosen* (Hobblebush Books, 2021). Her chapbook, *Sound Travels on Water*, won the Jean Pedrick Chapbook Award. Her poems have appeared in *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Rattle*, *Ecotone*, *The New York Times*, and others.

Karen Elizabeth Sharpe is from Westminister, Massachusetts. Karen is a poetry editor at the Worcester Review, and her poems have recently appeared in Catalyst, the Mizmor Anthology, Mason Street Review, among others. Karen has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Best of the Net, and her chapbook, *Praying Can Be Anything*, has recently been accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press.

Kathleen Agüero has published six books of poetry, her most recent being *World Happiness Index* from Tiger Bark Press. She has also co-edited three volumes of multi-cultural literature for the University of Georgia Press. She teaches in the Solstice low-residency M.F.A. program and in Changing Lives through Literature, an alternative sentencing program, and is a consulting poetry editor at *Kenyon Review*.

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Nancy Baillie Strong lives in Manchester, NH. She has workshopped with Jim Beschta at the Worcester (MA) Art Museum, and presently participates in Susan Roney-O'Brien's on-line workshop. Her poetry has been published in The Poets' Touchstone, and was included in the anthology *WOMEN'S UNCOMMON PRAYERS* (2000).

bg Thurston received her MFA in Poetry from Vermont College in 2002. She has taught poetry courses at Lasell Village, online at Vermont College, and conducts poetry workshops. Her third book of poetry, titled *Cathouse Farm*, is about her 1770's farmhouse.

Polly Brown's most recent book, *Pebble Leaf Feather Knife*, was released by Cherry Grove Collections in 2019. She's a long-term member of Boston's Every Other Thursday Poets, and has roots in the Worcester poetry community also, having taught at the Worcester Art Museum, the Worcester County Young Writers Conferences, Stanley Kunitz's childhood home, and Touchstone Community School in Grafton. With her husband, Polly recently resettled a family place in rural Maine, where she is writing more than ever in splendid isolation, but very grateful for zoom connections to her Massachusetts poetry roots.

Sharon A. Harmon has poetry published in *The Patterson Literary Review*, *The Aureorean*, *Compass Roads* and *Writing The Land Northeast*. She has two chapbooks, *Swimming with Cats* and *Wishbone in a Lightning Jar*. Sharon has recently published two children's books and also writes articles for magazines. She is a hiker and camper and lives deep in the woods of Royalston with her husband.

Claire Mowbray Golding is a freelance writer and editor. The 2003 recipient of the Worcester County Poetry Association's Frank O'Hara Prize, she has also been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her poetry has been published in *The Worcester Review*, *New Millennium Writings*, *Contour*, *Penning the Pandemic*, and *The Scenes and Seasons of a Small New England Village*.

Muriel Nelson's publications include *Part Song* (Bear Star Press, Dorothy Brunsmann Poetry Prize), *Most Wanted* (ByLine Press, ByLine Chapbook Award), and *Please Hold* (Encircle Publications, Poetry Chapbook Award). Nominated five times for the Pushcart Prize, Nelson's poems have appeared in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Bloom*, *Guesthouse*, *New American Writing*, *Ploughshares*, *Smartish Pace*, and others journals, as well as in several anthologies. She holds master's degrees from the University of Illinois School of Music and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, and lives in Federal Way, Washington.

Susan Roney-O'Brien curates a monthly poetry venue through the Worcester County Poetry Association and The Thirsty Lab. Her poetry has been published in numerous journals, translated into Braille and Mandarin, nominated for eight Pushcart Prizes and includes two chapbooks and three full-length volumes. She received the Kunitz medal for Poetry in 2020.