## Northfield Poetry: May Newsletter Poet Laureate Northfield MN

#### Open Mic – 6:30 PM, Wednesday, May 14 Northfield Public Library Atrium



### Open Mic Poetry

Join local poets and poetry lovers for an open mic event.

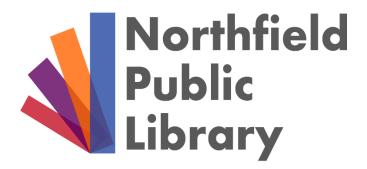
Second Wednesday of the Month 6:30-7:30



#### **Poet Laureate Announcement:**

We hosted Minnesota Poet Laureate Gwen Nell Westerman on Saturday, April 26 here at the Northfield Library. Thank-you to all in attendance. A tip of the hat (hats?) to both Tyler Gardner and to Corey China, Program Manager at the Minnesota Humanities Center, for making the day a success.

Next POME is Wednesday, May 14, and I hope to see everyone there. Thanks to all for supporting the arts at the Northfield Library and in our community.





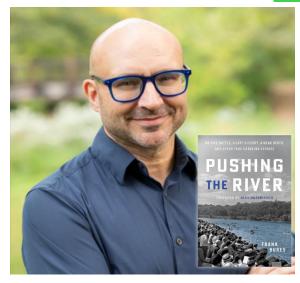
#### **Hymnody with Gracia Grindal**

Gracia Grindal, Professor Emerita of Luther Seminary, who also taught English at Luther College, will read from her books of poetry and talk about her work as a writer and translator of hymns for the Lutheran Book of Worship and other hymnals.

Gracia Grindal is a formal poet—that is she uses traditional forms of English poetry, like the sonnet, ballads, and other forms. She has written almost 1000 sonnets, some 700 hymn texts and other poems. In addition to writing poems on Scripture, she has written poems about growing up in the Upper Midwest. Gracia has also written several books on the history of Norwegian American Lutherans in the late 19th century, such as the story of Elisabeth Fedde, the deaconess who founded Deaconess Hospital in Brooklyn and Minneapolis.

This is an in-person event.

#### **Author Event**



Frank Bures's PUSHING THE RIVER Thursday, May 8, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Content welcomes award-winning writer Frank Bures back to Northfield for a reading and presentation from his new book PUSHING THE RIVER: AN EPIC BATTLE, A LOST HISTORY, A NEAR DEATH, AND OTHER TRUE CANOEING STORIES.

In this collection, award-winning writer Frank Bures tells true stories as varied as the waters, weather, and rhythms of a canoe trip. From the terror of two kayakers who barely escaped the 2011 Pagami Creek Fire in the Boundary Waters to two young campers who experienced a supernatural scare in Canada's Quetico Provincial Park in the 1970s to the author's own miraculous rescue, Bures shares varied takes on what happens when you push the river.

The heart of the book is a telling of the lost history of the Paul Bunyan Canoe Derby, an annual 450-mile race run on the Upper Mississippi in the 1940s and 1950s that gave canoe-racing legend Gene Jensen his start—and which changed the course of modern canoeing. The tale includes the dominance of racers from the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, including many members of the Tibbets family, and the unacknowledged contributions of Ojibwe canoe builders Jim and Bernie Smith, whose design features are now part of the modern canoe-racing landscape.

**Frank Bures** has work in *Harper's*, *Outside*, *The Atlantic*, and many other publications. His stories have been included in THE BEST AMERICAN TRAVEL anthologies. He lives in Minneapolis.



**Author Event** 

#### Poetry Night: Becky Boling and Susan Jaret McKinstry

Thursday, May 15, 7 - 8:30 PM

Content welcomes Northfield poets Becky Boling and Susan Jaret McKinstry for a delightful evening of poetry. Becky will read from her new collection, HERE BEYOND SMALL WONDERS, and Susan from her latest release, TUMBLEHOME.

Becky Boling, League of Minnesota Poets poetry prize winner, offers her first collection of 37 poems in HERE BEYOND SMALL WONDERS. Filled with vivid description of locales from the ice-covered pond in her backyard to the vast expanse of Lake Michigan, she works with contrasts of scale, as in Adirondack Chair in Snow, and ironies of context. Her tiny hummingbirds fly the Hudson River. Her poems describe subjects as small as the magnified fly on her windowsill in Musca Domestica. Boling's language yields striking phrases: Stridulating cicadas populate late summer's air. Her employ of a conceit terms us "squatters, who lease the land from rabbits... who leave baby carrots on back porch steps...who watch...." A chronological list provides evidence of former tenants who lie in stone gardens under mounds of earth.

TUMBLEHOME is structured like a musical fugue, moving in three sections from the west coast of Ireland to London, then to Galway, and back to a small town in Minnesota as it interweaves and deepens themes of home, time and loss. The poems contemplate vast human history and the small space of our lives in distinct voices and episodes, with

closely-observed objects – coins, stones, birds, water – reappearing and echoing to create a harmonic poetic travelogue. Audrey Helbling wrote a lovely review of Here Beyond Small Wonders in her blog:

https://mnprairieroots.com/2025/04/24/words-that-resonate-from-northfield-poet-becky-boling/

Becky and Susan were guests Friday, August 25 on ARTZANY! KYMN Radio with Paula Granquist: https://kymnradio.net/local-programs/art-zany-paula-granquist/.

A Pushcart nominee, **Becky Boling**, the Stephen R. Lewis, Jr. Professor of Spanish and the Liberal Arts, emerita, taught Latin American Literature and Language at Carleton College for 36 years. Her poetry appears in *Agates, 3rd Wednesday, Gleam, Lost Lake Folk Opera, Misfit, Persimmon Tree, Willows Wept Review*, as well as in recent anthologies: WE LOOK WEST, BRIDGE AND DIVISION, KAKALAK: ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY AND ART, and LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE BIRD BUILDS ITS NEST. HERE BEYOND SMALL WONDERS is her first published collection of poetry (Finishing Line Press, March 2025). A "naturalized" Minnesotan, she was Northfield's co-Poet Laureate, along with her husband D. E. Green, 2023-2024. Recently, she won Pennsylvania Poetry Society's First-Place Prize. She writes and publishes novels under the name Sadie Montgomery.

**Susan Jaret McKinstry** has published poems in *Plain Songs I & II, Crosswinds, Willows Wept, Red Wing Poet Artist Collaboration,* and *The Journal of General Internal Medicine.* A professor of 19th century British literature, theory, and creative writing at Carleton College, she yearns for the sea, and has been lucky to teach in Ireland, Scotland, Norway, London, Florence, and Moscow.

### Northfield Poetry: May Newsletter



# **BOC**LITERARY EVENT

Join us **Thursday, May 22 at 6 p.m.** as we celebrate the launch of *Here Beyond Small Wonders*, the debut poetry collection from local poet **Becky Boling.** 

Becky will open the evening with a reading from her new book, followed by a special lineup of featured guest poets: D.E. Green, Heather Candels, Larry Gavin, and Audrey Helbling.

Come celebrate the power of poetry and support local writers!

#### About the Author:

A "naturalized" Minnesotan, Becky Boling taught at Carleton College for 36 years while raising her family in Northfield. Her work has appeared in numerous print and online journals and anthologies. She served as Northfield's co-Poet Laureate (2023–24) alongside her husband, D.E. Green, and has earned awards from the Pennsylvania Poetry Society and the League of Minnesota Writers. Here Beyond Small Wonders is her first published collection.

Free admission.



Contact Us booksoncentral@gmail.com



#### BOOK LAUNCH AND POETRY READING WITH BECKY BOLING



22

6 PM

MAY

#### **BOOKS ON CENTRAL**

227 CENTRAL AVE N FARIBAULT, MN 55021

## Northfield Poetry: May Newsletter Poet Laureate Northfield MN

# 24th Annual Poet-Artist Collaboration Exhibition Friday, April 18 - Sunday, June 8

Red Wing Arts Depot Gallery, Red Wing, MN.

#### May Poetry Readings, Sundays 1-3 pm:

#### May 4

Featuring participating poets: Betty Benson, Elizabeth Curry, Daniel Dietrich, Rob Hardy, Mary Kelly, Loren Niemi, and Pamela Sinicrope.

#### May 18

Featuring participating poets: Amelia Colwell, Becky Boling, Tom Driscoll, Catherine Galascione, Kathleen T. Leuschen, Susan Jaret McKinstry, Marcia Savela, Amie Stager, and Steven R. Vogel.



#### 2025 Poet & Artist Jurors

Sherrie Fernandez-Williams (photo by Anna Min) Liz Miller (photo by David Hamlow)

<u>Sherrie Fernandez-Williams</u> is a Black, Queer writer who earned her MFA in Writing from Hamline University. She was a Jerome Hill Artist Fellow and received a Black Voices in Children's Literature award. <u>Liz Miller's</u> awards include a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Fiber Artists, a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant, and numerous grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board.



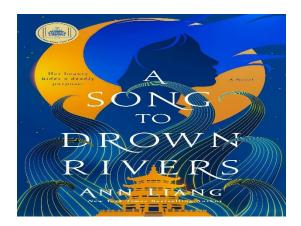
#### **Open Writing Group**

Interested in joining a writer's group? All genres and all levels of experience are welcome!

We meet one Wednesday a month from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Northfield Public Library meeting room. Contact: Joan Ennis at <<u>jcennis@gmail.com</u>> or Torild Homstad at <<u>homstad@gmail.com</u>>

This is an in-person event.

# Northfield Public Library

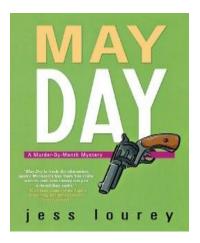


The Glass Half-Full Book Club

meets at Imminent Brewing, 519 Division St S, #2, in Northfield. For May, we will be reading *A Song to Drown Rivers* by Ann Liang. Order the book <u>here</u>. For further information, contact Alexus Kreft at alexus.kreft@northfieldmn.gov.

This is an in-person event.





#### **Mystery Book Group**

meets the second Monday of the month at the Northfield Public Library. Titles are popular mystery fiction (often the first of a series), true crime nonfiction, or popular thrillers. Discussions are led by group members or library staff. For May we will be discussing *May Day* by MN author Jess Lourey.

For further information contact: Karin Bartlett, Northfield Public Library (507-645-1807) or karin.bartlett@northfieldmn.gov. This is an in-person event.



#### Northfield Library Contemporary Women Writers Book Group

meets eleven times a year, January through November. Meetings are held at the Northfield Public Library in the Bunday Meeting Room.

For May we will be reading THE HAZELBOURNE LADIES MOTORCYCLE AND FLYING CLUB by Helen Simonson. **Helen Simonson is joining our discussion live via ZOOM.** 

#### **ZOOM** registration is here -

-> https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6YylvlTGQAWdiAod5KD1vQ

You do not need to register if attending in person.

Order book here ---> The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club

For further information please contact Joan Ennis at **jcennisbooks@gmail.com** 



The New Romantics Book Club

is Content's romance novel book club and meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 - 8:30 PM. Our May pick is THE KISS QUOTIENT by Helen Hoang.



Content Storytime! Friday mornings 11 - 11:30 AM at Content Bookstore.

On Friday mornings, bring your little ones to Kids'Content for a delightful half hour of reading and singing, brought to you by our very own bookseller Rachel. We can't wait to see you there!



Jazz Jam on Sundays 4:00 PM 5:30 PM/Second Saturdays Open Mic 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



<u>Ukulele Jam Session</u> Tuesdays 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM



Folk Jam Session third Tuesday of every month! 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Open to all instruments and abilities. Stop on by!

#### LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS

The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) was established in 1934 "to make Minnesota poetry conscious, and conscious to its own poets" through four objectives: 1.) to encourage the study of Minnesota poetry in the state's schools; 2.) to create newspaper and magazine outlets for the best work of Minnesota poets; 3.) to publish periodic collections of verse by members, to publish a League magazine called The Moccasin, and to assist in providing a permanent record of accomplishments; and 4.) to accumulate historical material for a scrapbook, thereby preserving pertinent information about the organization.

LOMP achieves these goals through sponsorship of various poetry contests and sponsorship and participation in readings, collaborations, retreats, and other events throughout the state. Through publication of The Moccasin and other works, both digital and print, LOMP is committed to the highlighting our members' work. LOMP diligently documents our events, creating a lasting body of historical data. We hold biannual state meetings for our members in the spring and fall and annually send delegates to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' June convention. (For more information see League of Minnesota Poets' History.)

