

Poet Laureate Report

February 2021

I attended (Zoom) a meeting to make preliminary plans for the sidewalk poetry capstone in September, which will be part of the Hispanic Heritage Month kick-off event. As soon as the sidewalks are clear of snow, I will start scouting locations for the 2021 sidewalk poem installations.

With the able assistance of Natalie Draper and Tyler Gardner, I applied for the Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellowship. Winners will be announced in April.

Northfield High School and St. Olaf College graduate Alexis Hernandez (currently living in Denver) will be hosting an online poetry open mic reading on March 12. I'll be joining to read a poem or two. <https://fb.me/e/22a854xWA>

Kudos

Leslie Schultz had a poem, "White Flag," published in the Winter 2021 issue of *Tipton Poetry Journal*. <https://issuu.com/tiptonpoetryjournal/docs/tpj47>

D.E. Green and *Steve McCown* have beautifully-illustrated poems in the chapbook *Bright Lights Stories in the Night*, produced by Southeastern Minnesota Poets. The poems were read as part of a Zoom event on Friday, February 26.

https://issuu.com/domsinicropedesign/docs/blsn_book_final

Four Northfield poets—*Marie Gery*, *D.E. Green*, *Rob Hardy* and *Diane LeBlanc*—will have poems featured as part of Redwing Arts' 20th annual Poet-Artist Collaboration. The exhibit will open in Redwing at the end of April.

Rob Hardy's poetry chapbook, *Shelter in Place*, was accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press in Kentucky. Most of the twenty poems were written in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Northfield poet *Leslie Schultz* is contributing a blurb (along with *Cathy Wurzer* and *Emilio DeGrazia*), and the cover art will be by Northfield artist and ACC member *Matt Klooster*.

Diane LeBlanc is participating in *Ruminate* magazine's *Ruminate Happenings* fundraiser on March 7th from 7-8am. Purchase a ticket online, and Diane will write you a poem live on Instagram. https://www.ruminatemagazine.com/products/ruminate-happenings?fbclid=IwAR2DOBPswl_7W9PtX92ewkwmylk6eWCoBxqorQuFcmbIZhsd_a3PrNjW1mg&variant=38572884164777

Becky Boling's poem "Send, Sending, Sent" was published on the *Visual Verse* website. <https://visualverse.org/submissions/send-sending-sent/>