



## 2012 NEBRASKA BOOK FESTIVAL // MARCH 31, DOWNTOWN LINCOLN

### Presenters:



Paul Dickey's full length poetry volume *They Say This is How Death Came Into the World* was published by Mayapple Press in January, 2011. Dickey's poetry, creative non-fiction, and flash fiction have appeared in nearly one hundred print and online journals since the 1970's. Dickey lives in Omaha where he teaches philosophy at Metropolitan Community College.

Twyla Hansen's newest book, *Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet*, is a poetry duo with SD writer-rancher Linda Hasselstrom. She has five previous books of poetry, including *Potato Soup*, winner of the 2004 Nebraska Book Award. Her writing has appeared in a wide variety of publications. She earned a B.S. and M.Ag. from UNL. Twyla lives and works in Lincoln where her Mayor's Landscape Conservation Award-winning acre is maintained as an urban wildlife habitat.



Neil Harrison's poetry collections are *In a River of Wind* (Bridge Burner's Publishing 2000), *Into the River Canyon at Dusk* (Lone Willow Press 2005), and *Back in the Animal Kingdom* (Pinyon Publishing 2011). He teaches English and Creative Writing at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Allison Adelle Hedge Coke's authored books include: (American Book Award) *Dog Road Woman* and *Off-Season City Pipe* poetry; *Rock Ghost*, *Willow*, *Deer*, a memoir; and *Blood Run*, a verse-play. Hedge Coke has edited eight additional collections. She came of age cropping tobacco and working fields, waters, and working in factories.





Lisa Knopp is Associate Professor of English at the University of Nebraska–Omaha and the author of five collections of essays, including *What the River Carries: Encounters with the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte*, which is forthcoming from the University of Missouri Press in April 2012. She lives in Lincoln. [www.lisaknopp.com](http://www.lisaknopp.com)

David Philip Mullins is the author of *Greetings from Below*, a collection of stories. He has won the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, the Walter Scott Prize for Short Stories, and the Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame, and has received awards from Yaddo and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where he is an assistant professor of English at Creighton University.



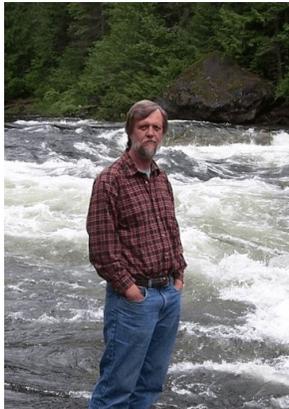
Omaha author Frank O'Neal recently released *The Awakening: Fireside Chats - A Surrealist's View of the World, Vol. II*. Award-winning writer Nikki Giovanni says of his writing, "Frank is a great new voice, and we all should heed it."

Ferial Pearson was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya. She came to the United States to pursue a college education at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota. She took her first job offer to teach at Omaha South High School, where she taught English and Reading for ten years. During the last few months, she has been working at the Avenue Scholars Foundation as a Talent Adviser at Ralston High School. She is passionate about teaching, writing, social justice, and music. She lives in Ralston with her husband Dan, son Ilahi, and daughter Iman.



Amy Plettner's first book *Undoing Orion's Belt* was released in 2011 and she continues to create a tapestry of words that brings people closer to their natural instincts. Delving into the prairie she finds inspirations under the great catalpa and these clear and brisk winter Nebraskan nights.

Rainbow Rowell is a columnist at The Omaha World-Herald and the author of two novels, *Attachments* and *Eleanor & Park*. She lives in Omaha with her husband and two sons.



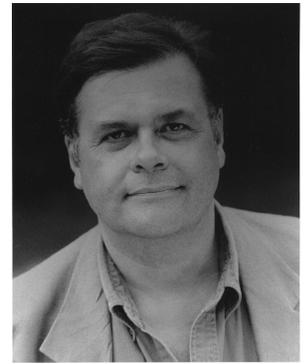
Mark Sanders is a Nebraska native, born in Creighton in 1955 and raised on the eastern rim of the Sandhills at Ord. The longtime editor of Sandhills Press, Sanders' books include *The Suicide*, *Before We Lost Our Ways*, *Here in the Big Empty*, and, most recently, *Conditions of Grace: New and Selected Poems*, which has been nominated for a Western Heritage Award, a Texas Institute of Arts Award, and a PEN Center Award. Sanders received the Mildred Bennett Award in 2007 for fostering Nebraska's literary heritage. He is Chair and Professor of English at Stephen F Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Lisa Sandlin teaches in the Writer's Workshop at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She is the author of *The Famous Thing About Death*, *Message to the Nurse of Dreams*, *In the River Province*, *You Who Make the Sky Bend*, a co-editor with Marge Saiser and Greg Kosmicki of *Times of Sorrow*, *Times of Grace* from Backwaters Press, and the lead story in Akashic Press's scary noir series, Texas edition: *Lone Star Noir*.



Joe Starita is Pike Professor of Journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a former investigative reporter and New York Bureau Chief of The Miami Herald where his work won more than two dozen regional and national awards. He also is the author of *The Dull Knives of Pine Ridge - A Lakota Odyssey*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and translated into six languages and more recently, *I Am A Man - Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice*, the 2012 One Book One Nebraska selection.

Brent Spencer is the author of the novel *The Lost Son* and the collection *Are We Not Men?*, chosen by the editors of *The Village Voice* as one of the twenty-five best books of its year. His most recent book, a memoir about his father's mysterious life and death, is *Rattlesnake Daddy: A Son's Search for His Father*, winner of the Little Bluestem Award and published by The Backwaters Press. He is the Director of Creative Writing and Coordinator of Film Studies at Creighton University.



(Photo credit: Miriam Berkley)



William G. Thomas is a professor of history and the John and Catherine Angle Chair in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He teaches U.S. history, the Civil War, and the history of the U.S. South. Previously, he taught history at the University of Virginia, and, as director of the Virginia Center for Digital History, created digital projects on slavery, the Civil War, segregation, and civil rights. He lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

William Trowbridge's latest poetry collection is *Ship of Fool*, Red Hen Press, 2011. One of the poems in it, "Roll Out the Fool," is in the 2012 Pushcart Prize anthology. His other collections are *The Complete Book of Kong*, *Flickers*, *O Paradise*, and *Enter Dark Stranger*. He lives in the Kansas City area and teaches in the University of Nebraska low-residency MFA in writing program.



2012 Keynote:

Ron Hansen was born, with his twin brother, Rob, in Omaha, Nebraska on December 8th, 1947. Educated in English literature at Creighton University, from which he graduated in 1970, he served as a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, then studied under John Irving and John Cheever at the University of Iowa's Writers Workshop, where his classmates included T. C. Boyle and Allan Gurganus. Iowa awarded him an M.F.A. in Creative Writing in 1974.

While traveling Illinois as a textbook salesman for Random House, he began work on his first novel, *Desperadoes*, writing much of it in motel rooms at night, and finishing it under the guidance of John L'Heureux at Stanford University, where he held a Wallace Stegner Creative Writing Fellowship. He was a Jones Lecturer in Writing at Stanford when *Desperadoes* was published in 1979, and has since held numerous teaching positions at universities around the country while publishing his subsequent work: *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (1983), a children's book, *The Shadowmaker* (1987), a book of stories, *Nebraska* (1989), and the novels, *Mariette in Ecstasy* (1991), *Atticus* (1996), *Hitler's Niece* (1999), and the screwball comedy *Isn't It Romantic?* (2003). He has also edited two short story anthologies, *You Don't Know What Love Is* (1987) and *You've Got to Read This: Contemporary American Writers Introduce Stories That Held Them in Awe* (1994). *A Stay Against Confusion: Essays on Faith and Fiction*, his first book of non-fiction, was published in 2001. His most recent novels are *Exiles* (2008), about Gerard Manley Hopkins and the 1875 shipwreck of the *Deutschland*, and *A Wild Surge of Guilty Passion* (2011), a true crime novel about the 1927 murder of Albert Snyder by his wife Ruth and her lover Judd Gray. In the fall, Scribner will publish *She Loves Me Not: New and Selected Stories*.

Mr. Hansen has twice received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as fellowships in literature from the John Simon Guggenheim, Lyndhurst, and Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest foundations. Twice a finalist for a PEN/Faulkner Award, for *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* and *Atticus*, he was also a finalist for the 1997 National Book Award for *Atticus*. *Mariette in Ecstasy* won the first prize in fiction from the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association and the Gold Medal for Excellence in Fiction from the Commonwealth Club of California. His novels and stories were recognized with an Award in Literature from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1990.

Married to the writer Bo Caldwell, and the step-father of two children, Mr. Hansen has been awarded honorary doctorates from Spring Hill College in Alabama, Le Moyne College in New York, the Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, the Thomas More College of the Liberal Arts in New Hampshire, Loyola College in Baltimore, the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California, and Merrimack College in Massachusetts. In 1995 he earned an M.A. in Spirituality at Santa Clara University, where he is now the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Professor in the Arts and Humanities. On January 13, 2007 he was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of San Jose.