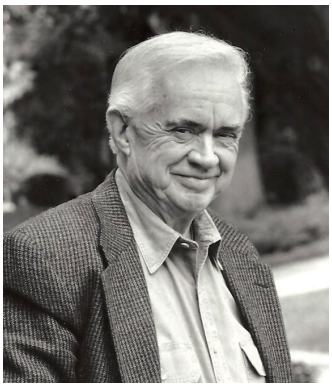
Kurt Andersen is author of *True Believers* (2012), *Heyday* (2007), and *Turn of the Century* (1999). Born in Omaha, Andersen graduated from Harvard College, co-founded *Spy Magazine*, and wrote for *New York Magazine, The New Yorker, Time*, and *The New York Times*. He is also host of the Peabody-winning public radio program *Studio 360*, a co-production between Public Radio International and WNYC.

Leo Adam Biga writes newspaper-magazine stories about people, their passions, and their magnificent obsessions. He's the author of the books *Alexander Payne: His Journey in Film – A Reporter's Perspective 1998-2012*, a compilation of his journalism about the acclaimed filmmaker, and *Open Wide* a biograpy of Mark Manhart. His popular blog, leoadambiga.wordpress.com, is an online gallery of his work.

Joy Castro was born in Miami and is the author of *The Truth Book: A Memoir* (University of Nebraska), the literary thriller *Hell or High Water* (St. Martin's), and the essay collection *Island of Bones* (University of Nebraska). Her work has appeared in anthologies and in journals including *Seneca Review, Fourth Genre, North American Review, Brevity, Afro-Hispanic Review*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Her website is at http://www.joycastro.com/

Neil Harrison's poetry has been published in the chapbook *Story* (Logan House Press 1995 & 1996) and in the collections *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).

Art Homer has taught at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Writer's Workshop since 1982 and is author of *Blind Uncle Night* (CW Books, 2012). He is the recipient of a 1998 NEA Writing Fellowship, a 1995 Individual Artist Fellowship from Nebraska Arts Council, and a Regents Professorship from the University of Nebraska. Homer's nonfiction book *The Drownt Boy: An Ozark Tale* (University of Missouri Press, 1994) was published as a finalist for the AWP Award in Creative Nonfiction.



Ron Hull Ed.D**.**, is Senior Advisor to Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and Professor Emeritus of Broadcasting, UNL. *BACKSTAGE –Stories from My Life in Public Television* is stories about people – stars and unsung heroes – he's worked with during the past 58 years in Nebraska Public Broadcasting, as head programming at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in Washington DC, and serving as the television Programming Advisor to the Government of South Vietnam when we brought television to that country to help win "the hearts and minds of the people" in 1966. People, such as Nebraska authors, Mari Sandoz and John G. Neihardt, Actress Sandy Dennis are featured along with personal reminiscences of people who were the "builders" of public television in Nebraska, Washington DC and Saigon, Vietnam.

Andrew Jewell is Associate Professor in the University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and editor of the *Willa Cather Archive* (cather.unl.edu). Andy has published several essays on Willa Cather and other American writers, scholarly editing, and digital humanities. He is co-editor of the books *The American Literature Scholar in the Digital Age* (University of Michigan Press, 2011) and *The Selected Letters of Willa Cather* (Knopf, 2013).

Lisa Knopp is the author of five collections of essays, each of which explores the concepts of place, home, nature, and spirituality. Her most recent collection, *What the River Carries: Encounters with Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte*,was published by the University of Missouri Press in 2012. Knopp's essays have appeared in many of the best publications, including *Shenandoah, Gettysburg Review, Michigan Quarterly Review, Missouri Review,Connecticut Review, Creative Nonfiction, Iowa Review, Prairie Schooner*, and *Northwest Review*. Six of her essays have received Notable Essay citations in the *Best American Essays* series (1991, 1994, 2001, 2001, 2008, 2010). To learn about her recent publications, please visit her website at: www.lisaknopp.com

Barb Malek was born into a Mennonite family with deep roots in Nebraska. Her biography, *Soft Like Steel*, tells the story of her grandmother, Barbara Kennel, who not only survived an unfaithful husband, but also the heat and starvation of the Dust Bowl to raise her eight children. Her story is one of courage, mixed with forgiveness, that has impacted the author's family for three generations and counting.

Tunette Powell's passion for speaking and writing led her to publish her first book, *The Other Woman*, in 2012. Since the book's release, Tunette has graced the covers of magazines and has traveled the country sharing her story of overcoming the odds. Powell, former staff writer for the San Antonio Express-News, currently writes for Momaha, a parenting site offered through the Omaha World-Herald. Her website is http://www.tunettepowell.com/

John T. Price is the author of the memoirs *Daddy Long Legs: The Natural Education of a Father* (forthcoming in Spring 2013 by Trumpeter Books/Shambhala Press); *Man Killed by Pheasant and Other Kinships* (Da Capo Press, 2008; paperback to be released by University of Iowa Press, Spring, 2012) and *Not Just Any Land: A Personal and Literary Journey into the American Grasslands* (U. of Nebraska Press, 2004). He is a Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he teaches nonfiction writing,and a fellow at the Black Earth Institute. His website is at http://www.johntprice.com/

John Rector is the Wall Street Journal bestselling author of the novels *The Grove, Already Gone*, and *The Cold Kiss* (optioned for a feature film now in development). His short fiction has appeared in numerous magazines and won several awards including the Porterhouse Prize. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

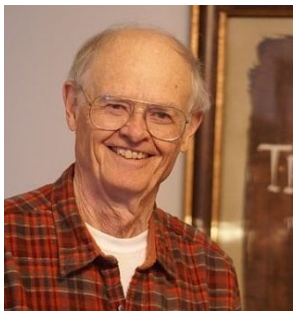
Todd Robinson's poems have appeared in *Margie, The Southeast Review, The Potomac Review, Strange Machine, Natural Bridge, The Midwest Quarterly*, and elsewhere. He is a founding member of the Seven Doctors Project, served for a time on the board of the Backwaters Press, has judged several writing contests, and has presented his work in bars and classrooms, hospitals and restaurants, at dinner parties and art museums, parks and coffee shops, and at Ted Kooser's farm.

Barbara Schmitz' spiritual memoir, *Path Of Lightning*: *A Seeker's Jagged Journey* was released from Pinyon Publishing in October 2012. Her latest poetry collection, *How Much Our Dancing Has Improved*, from Backwaters, won the 2005 Nebraska Center for the Book Award. She taught writing and literature at Northeast College for thirty years and ran the Visiting Writers Series there.

Brent Spencer is the author, most recently, of the memoir *Rattlesnake Daddy: A Son's Search for His Father*, winner of the Nebraska Book Award. He is also the author of the novel *The Lost Son* and the short story collection *Are We Not Men?* He teaches creative writing and screenwriting at Creighton University in Omaha.

Benjamin Vogt is the author of the poetry collection *Afterimage*. His poems and essays have appeared in *Creative Nonfiction, Diagram, ISLE, Orion, The Sun, and Verse Daily*. Benjamin has a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska and an M.F.A. from The Ohio State University. He lives in Lincoln where he has an award-winning 1500' prairie garden. Visit him at bevogt.com.

Stacey Waite is currently Assistant Professor of English at the University of Nebraska and has published four collections of poems: *Choke* (winner of the 2004 Frank O'Hara Prize), *Love Poem to Androgyny* (winner of the 2006 Main Street Rag Chapbook Competition), *the lake has no saint* (winner of the 2008 Snowbound Prize from Tupelo Press), and *Butch Geography* just released this year from Tupelo Press. Waite is also the co-host of the podcast "Air Schooner," free to download from the *Prairie Schooner* website. Waite is also a coach for two high school poetry slam teams in Lincoln through the Nebraska Writers Collective's Louder Than a Bomb.



Don Welch is a poet and an educator who was born in Hastings, Nebraska. The author of several published poetry collections and regular contributor to literary magazines, Welch was an English professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney from 1959 to 1997. While there he was awarded the Distinguished Paul W. Reynolds and Clarice Kingston Reynolds Endowed Chair in English, Poetry & Creative Writing. In June 2001 a bronze sculpture of Welch was finished and dedicated to him on the campus.

Fred Zydek has published more than eight hundred poems and is the author of nine collections. After having taught for several years, first at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and later at the College of Saint Mary, he now writes full time. He is also editor of Lone Willow Press. His website is at http://fredrickzydek.com/

The Nebraska Writers Collective is an Omaha-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting creativity, literary awareness, poetry, and performance poetry throughout the Midwest. They put on the Louder Than a Bomb: Omaha Youth Poetry Festival each spring and have more information at http://newwriters.org

Young Chicago Authors transforms the lives of young people by cultivating their voices through writing, publication, and performance education. See more at: http://youngchicagoauthors.org