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2014 NEBRASKA BOOK FESTIVAL:*Deliberate Shapes and Senses***Friday: April 25, 2014**

KEYNOTE: 7:00 p.m. • Don Welch • Bootstrapper Hall

Saturday: April 26, 2014

VENDORS: Centennial Hall

WORKSHOPS: 9:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Karen Shoemaker • Andersen Hospitality Room

"Family Stories into Literature" will focus on writing fiction and non-fiction.

Tosca Lee • Rhoden Board Room

"Creating Unforgettable Characters" in fiction.

READINGS: 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.**Session 1:** BOOTSTRAPPER HALL

- Cindy Grady: *Introductions*
- A.E. Fairfield: *The Polaris Effect*
- Nancy Isom: *A Name to Remember*
- Marcia Calhoun Forecki: *Blood of the White Bear*

Session 2: ANDERSEN HOSPITALITY ROOM

- Rod Wagner: *Introductions*
- Benjamin Vogt: *Afterimage*
- Marge Saiser: *Losing the Ring in the River*
- Mary Kay Stillwell: *Fallen Angels*

READINGS: 1:15-2:00 p.m.**Session 1:** BOOTSTRAPPER HALL

- Charles Johanningsmeier: *Introductions*
- John Price: *Daddy Long Legs: The Natural Education of a Father*
- David S. Atkinson: *The Garden of Good and Evil Pancakes*

READINGS 1:15-2:00 p.m.**Session 1:** ANDERSEN HOSPITALITY ROOM

- Molly Fisher: *Introductions*
- Tosca Lee: *Iscariot*
- Eileen Wirth: *From Society Page to Front Page: Nebraska Women in Journalism*

Laura Madeline Wiseman:*WOMEN WRITE RESISTANCE: POETS RESIST GENDER VIOLENCE*

Laura Madeline Wiseman is the author of *Queen of the Platform* (Anaphora Literary Press, 2013), *Sprung* (San Francisco Bay Press, 2012), and the collaborative book *Intimates and Fools* (Les Femmes Folles Books, 2014) with artist Sally Deskins, as well as two letterpress books, and eight chapbooks, including *Spindrift* (Dancing Girl Press, 2014). She is the editor of *Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence* (Hyacinth Girl Press, 2013). Her book, *American Galactic*, is forthcoming from Martin Lit Books. Wiseman has a doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has received an Academy of American Poets Award, the Wurlitzer Foundation Fellowship, and her work has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Margie*, and *Feminist Studies*. www.lauramadelinewiseman.com

David S. Atkinson:*THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL PANCAKES*

David S. Atkinson is the author of *Bones Buried in the Dirt* and *The Garden of Good and Evil Pancakes*. His short fiction has appeared in *Bartleby Snopes*, *Grey Sparrow Journal*, *Interrobang?! Magazine*, *Atticus Review*, *Sundog Lit*, *Midnight Circus*, and others. His book reviews have appeared in *American Book Review*, *The Rumpus*, *[Pank]*, *The Lit Pub*, *HTML GIANT*, and others. His writing website is davidsatkinsonwriting.com and he spends his non-literary time working as a patent attorney in Denver. He eats at Village Inn as often as once a week and frequently enjoys the multigrain pancakes.



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Lisa Kovanda & Brian Thomas: *MODIFIED FLIGHT PLAN*

Lisa's first published works were illustrated stories her grand-mother bound by hand into pasteboard fabric-covered books. A self-publishing pioneer before she'd reached third grade. After taking a thirty-year hiatus from fiction to raise a family, and a career in health care and retail, she returned to writing. Her short story, *Curls of Gold*, was awarded first place from the 2009-2010 Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation. Kovanda is a 2011 alumni of Lew Hunter's Screenwriting Colony. Her Colony script, "Til Death Do Us Part," was named a Top 25 Feature Script in the 2012 Slamdance Film Festival. It was also awarded the Bronze Oregon Screenplay in the 2012 Oregon Film Festival, and was a finalist in the Omaha Film Festival. Her script with Brian Thomas, "Modified Flight Plan," was a Second Round selection in the 2013 Austin Film Festival. Lisa is the current President of the Nebraska Writers Guild, Municipal Liaison for the Nebraska: Lincoln, and Nebraska: Else-where regions for National Novel Writing Month, NaNoWriMo, and an active member of the Local Muse, and a charter member of the Nebraska Film Association. Lisa lives in Lincoln, where her canine companions and nine grandchildren occupy her spare time. Other books by Lisa Kovanda: *Reckless Abandon The Hunt Cedar in Seattle*. *Modified Flight Plan*, is Brian's story of overcoming a life-threatening illness that left him as a triple-amputee. The South Dakota native currently lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he works at Duncan Aviation. His spare time is occupied with flying and repairing small aircraft. Brian is a member of the Nebraska Writers Guild, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Experimental Aircraft Association, (EAA), Cessna Owners Association, Pilots of America, Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Society (AMT Society), and he is a Certified Peer Visitor with Amputee Empowerment Partners.

Benjamin Vogt: *AFTERIMAGE*

Benjamin Vogt's poems and creative nonfiction have appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Diagram*, *Orion*, *Subtropics*, and *The Sun*. He also writes a weekly prairie gardening column at Houzz. Benjamin has a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska, an M.F.A. from The Ohio State University, and blogs at *The Deep Middle* about writing and the Great Plains environment.

Darrell Wendt: *CONFESSIONS OF A RAILROAD CREW VAN DRIVER*

After graduating from high school in Omaha, Darrell Wendt studied radio broadcasting. His 14-year radio career as an on-air personality took him to radio stations in both Nebraska and Iowa. Most notable was a seven-year stint at WOW-AM&FM in Omaha using the on-air name of Jeff Connors. Darrell then worked in the printing industry before an eight-year stint (2000-2008) as a railroad crew van driver for Renzenberger, Inc. He currently works in security services for a defense contractor. His interests include scenic and railroad photography, writing articles for train enthusiast publications and working with model trains. Darrell and his wife, Kathy, live in Bellevue, Neb.

Eileen Wirth: *FROM SOCIETY PAGE TO FRONT PAGE: NEBRASKA WOMEN IN JOURNALISM*

Dr. Eileen Wirth is professor and chair of the Department of Journalism, Media and Computing at Creighton University. Her six books include "From Society Page to Front Page Nebraska Women in Journalism," recently published by University of Nebraska Press.

Wirth, a native of Nebraska City, was a reporter for the Omaha World-Herald and a public relations official for Union Pacific Railroad before joining Creighton in 1991. She holds a BA in journalism and political science from UN-L, an MA in political science from the University of Minnesota, an MA in journalism from UN-L and a doctorate in political science from UN-L. She has been active in many community groups including the Omaha Public Library Board and Foundation and the Omaha Press Club Foundation.

READINGS 2:15-3:00 p.m.**Session 1:** BOOTSTRAPPER HALL

- **Marvel Marling:** *Introductions*
- **Jim Reisdorff:** *Un-Driving the Gold Spike*
- **Darrell Wendt:** *Confessions of a Railroad Crew Van Driver*

Session 2: ANDERSEN HOSPITALITY ROOM

- **Marvel Marling:** *Introductions*
- **Lisa Kovanda, Brian Thomas:** *Modified Flight Plain*
- **Kent Krause:** *Behind in the Count*

READINGS 3:15-4:00 p.m.**Session 1:** BOOTSTRAPPER HALL

- **Marvel Marling:** *Introductions*
- **Paul Dickey:** *Wires Over the Home Place*
- **Kelly Madigan:** *The Edge of Known Things*

Session 2: ANDERSEN HOSPITALITY ROOM

- **Cindy Grady:** *Introductions*
- **Lucy Adkins, Becky Breed:** *Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life*
- **Laura Madeline Wiseman:** *Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence*

Bennett Award • 4:00 p.m. • BOOTSTRAPPER HALL

Reception • 4:30 p.m. • CONCOURSE/LOBBY

Seven Doctors Project • 6:00 -7:30 p.m. • BOOTSTRAPPER HALL

FESTIVAL BIOS

Don Welch: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Don Welch was the Reynolds Chair of Poetry at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where he recently completed his 50th year teaching English and Philosophy. He is the winner of a number of national prizes in poetry, the most significant being the Neruda Prize. His book of selected poems, containing almost all of his prize-winning poems, is *Inklings* (Sandhills Press).

Lucy Adkins, Becky Breed: *WRITING IN COMMUNITY: SAY GOODBYE TO WRITER'S BLOCK AND TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE*

Lucy Adkins grew up in rural Nebraska, attended country schools, the University of Nebraska and received her degree from Auburn University in Alabama. Her poetry has been published in various journals and magazines which include *Rhino*, *Red Wheelbarrow*, *Northeast*, *South Dakota Review*, *Concho River Review*, and several anthologies including *Times of Sorrow/Times of Grace*, *Women Write Resistance*, *Crazy Woman Creek*, and *the Poets Against the War anthology*. Her chapbook, *One Life Shining: Addie Finch, Farmwife*, was published in 2007 by Pudding House Press, and her book of non-fiction, *Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life*, co-written with Becky Breed, was published by WriteLife in 2013. She also co-writes a blog of encouragement and inspiration for writers which can be found at www.writeincommunity.com. Lucy has conducted workshops and worked with writing groups for many years. She lives and writes in Lincoln, and spends a lot of time on her hands and knees in the garden.

Becky Breed, veteran educator, poet, and essayist, attributes the support of her writing community for inspiring her to craft the most honest and authentic writing of her life. She has an Ed.D. in Education, and has developed a series of creativity workshops for women on the prairie. She is the co-author, with Lucy Adkins, of *Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life*. The Midwest Book Review said of our book: "Suggested exercises, a wealth of insights, and inspirational anecdotes pepper this excellent motivational resource!" *Writing in Community* was recently featured as a book to read in the NEBRASKA alumni magazine. Tapping into thirty-five years of participating in writing groups, Becky and Lucy are excited to provide writing and creativity workshops to Nebraska writers.

Paul Dickey: *WIRES OVER THE HOME PLACE*

Paul Dickey's most recent volume of poetry is *Wires Over the Homeplace* published by *Pinyon Publishing* in September, 2013. Dickey is a poet and philosophy instructor in Omaha who has published poetry, fiction, plays, book reviews, and creative non-fiction. He gives poetry readings and workshops throughout the Midwest in colleges and elsewhere. Dickey's previous volume of poetry, *They Say This is How Death Came Into the World* was published in 2011 by *Mayapple Press*. His work has appeared in many leading literary journals.

Marcia Calhoun Forecki: *BLOOD OF THE WHITE BEAR*

Marcia Calhoun Forecki is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, and has been writing for as long as she can remember. Her first book, *Speak To Me*, a non-fiction account of her son's deafness, was published by Gallaudet University Press and won a Book Award from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Her middle grade novel, *Better Than Magic*, was self-published in 2008. Marcia has published short stories in the *Bellevue Literary Journal*, *Kaleidoscope*, *copperfieldreview.com*, and *Fine Lines* literary journals. Her story "Gift of the Spanish Lady" was nominated for a Pushcart. A collection of her stories was published by Write Life LLC, entitled *Hurricane Blues and Other Stories*. A novel, *Blood of the White Bear*, written in collaboration with award winning screenwriter and director Gerald Schnitzer and published by Write Life LLC in 2013. Marcia is currently working on a novel set in Clay County, Missouri during the Civil War called *The Road to Liberty*.

A.E. Fairfield: *THE POLARIS EFFECT*

A.E. Fairfield was raised in Lincoln, NE. Throughout her youth she was a competitive equestrian, traveling across the country for hunter/jumper competitions. After graduating Lincoln East High, she moved to New York where she worked in the fashion and television industries while attending New York University. She is now writing full-time in New York where she resides with her husband.

Nancy Isom: *A NAME TO REMEMBER*

Nancy Isom discovered her first mystery novel in third grade and has had a passion for them ever since. Her formal education is in business and interior design, and she recently became a qualified Lay Speaker. She has been married to the love of her life for 43 years, and since his second retirement, the couple hope to travel much more. She has three married children—Christina, David, and Angela, and between all three, nine precious grand children. Her books include: *A Name To Remember* and *The Elements Of Death*.

Kent Krause: *BEHIND IN THE COUNT*

Kent Krause writes content for online high school history courses and social studies textbooks. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Iowa State University, and a doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to his three novels, he has published articles in *Great Plains Quarterly* and *The International Journal of the History of Sport*. USA Book News selected his novel *The All-American King* as a category finalist for the National Best Books 2009 Awards. Visit Kent online at: kentkrause.com

Tosca Lee: *ISCARIOT*

"Superior storytelling." —Publishers Weekly
Tosca Lee is the New York Times bestselling author of *Iscaiot*, *Demon: a Memoir*, *Havah: the Story of Eve*, and the Books of Mortals series with New York Times bestseller Ted Dekker (*Forbidden*, *Mortal* and *Sovereign*). Tosca received her B.A. in English and International Relations from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts with studies at Oxford University. She is a lifelong world adventure traveler who currently makes her home in the Midwest. To learn more about Tosca, visit www.toscalee.com.

Kelly Madigan: *THE EDGE OF KNOWN THINGS*

Kelly Madigan is a poet and essayist whose work has been published in literary magazines, newspapers and anthologies such as *Best New Poets 2007*, *Crazyhorse*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Terrain.Org*, the *Omaha World Herald* and the *Des Moines Register*. She is the author of a collection of poetry, *The Edge of Known Things*, published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press, and a how-to book titled *Getting Sober: A Practical Guide to Making it Through the First 30 Days*, published by McGraw-Hill. She has been awarded writing residencies at Brush Creek Ranch and Jentel, both in Wyoming, and at KHN Center for the Arts in Nebraska. Her poetry has been featured by Garrison Keillor on his national radio broadcast, *The Writer's Almanac*. She is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Creative Writing, and the Distinguished Artist Award in Literature from the Nebraska Arts Council. She is currently writing about adventure and minimalism on her blog at kmadigan.com.

John Price: *DADDY LONG LEGS: THE NATURAL EDUCATION OF A FATHER*

John T. Price is the author of the Midwestern nature memoirs *Daddy Long Legs: The Natural Education of a Father* (Trumpeter Books/Shambhala Press, 2013); *Man Killed by Pheasant and Other Kinships* (Da Capo Press, 2008; paperback U. of Iowa Press, 2012) and *Not Just Any Land: A Personal and Literary Journey into the American Grasslands* (U. of Nebraska Press, 2004). Born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, he attended the University of Iowa, where he earned his B.A. in Religion, M.F.A. in Nonfiction Writing and Ph.D. in English. A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and other recognitions, his nonfiction about nature, family, and spirit has appeared in many journals, magazines, newspapers, and anthologies including *Orion*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Best Spiritual Writing 2000*. He is a Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he directs the department's Creative Nonfiction Writing Program.

Jim Reisdorff: *UN-DRIVING THE GOLD SPIKE*

James J. Reisdorff has been a lifelong railroad enthusiast. In 1982 he established South Platte Press, a small press devoted to the publication of railroad-related titles, focusing mainly on the railroads of the Midwest and western United States. To date, it has published more than 75 titles. The company's offices and the publisher's residence are located in David City, Neb., on the south side of the Platte River (hence the name). Jim is a 1978 graduate of Creighton University in Omaha, with a BA in Journalism. A lifelong resident of the David City area, Jim is also a news correspondent for the David City Banner-Press. His wife, Shari, is also a journalist and serves as office manager for South Platte Press.

Marge Saiser: *LOSING THE RING IN THE RIVER*

Marge Saiser is the author of seven books of poetry and co-editor of two anthologies. Saiser has received several Nebraska Book Awards. Garrison Keillor has read five of her poems on the *Writer's Almanac*, and her work has been featured in *American Life in Poetry*. Her poems can be found on her website, poetmarge.com, as well as in literary journals such as *Prairie Schooner*, *Nimrod*, *Field*, *burntdistrict*, *Rattle*, and in the anthologies *Untidy Season* and *Nebraska Presence*.

Karen Shoemaker

Karen Gettert Shoemaker is the author of *The Meaning of Names and Night Sounds and Other Stories*. Her awards include a Nebraska Center for the Book Award and Independent Artist Fellowships from the Nebraska Arts Council. She is a faculty mentor with the University of Nebraska MFA in Writing Program.

Mary Kay Stillwell: *FALLEN ANGELS, THE LIFE & POETRY OF TED KOOSER*

A Nebraska native, Mary K. Stillwell has studied writing in New York with William Packard and on the plains with Ted Kooser. Stillwell earned her PhD in plains literature from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She served as coeditor of *Nebraska Presence*, an anthology of contemporary Nebraska poets, and has published her work in widely, with poems appearing in *The Paris Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *South Dakota Review*, *The New York Quarterly*, and numerous anthologies. Her first full-length collection of poems was *Moving to Malibu*, published by Sandhills Press.

Stillwell's *The Life and Poetry of Ted Kooser*, the first full-length study of the former U.S. Poet Laureate, will be published in September 1, 2013, by the University of Nebraska Press. Her chapbook of poems, *Fallen Angels*, will be published October 25, 2013, by Finishing Line Press. *Maps & Destinations: New and Selected Poems* will be published in 2014 by Stephen F. Austin State University Press.