

Wednesday Words- IAF Writers Reading Series

Fred Simon Gallery

Nebraska Arts Council

1004 Farnam St, Lower Level

Held the second Wednesday of each month, from 11:45 am to approximately 1:00 pm.

Wednesday Words is a new reading series featuring the Nebraska Arts Council's Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature award winning writers.

Join us the second Wednesday of each month from 11:45 a.m to approximately 1 p.m. to listen to these talented Nebraska writers. The readings are held in the Fred Simon Gallery at the NAC offices. A discussion period follows each reading, allowing the audience to interact with the writer.

Readings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

Brought to you by the Nebraska Arts Council and The Backwaters Press. Contact JD Hutton for more information: 595-2142 or jayne.hutton@nebraska.gov

Wednesday Words Reading Series Schedule

2008

- **October 8: Susan Aizenberg**
- **November 12: Richard David Wyatt**
- **December 10: Karen Gettert Shoemaker**

2009

- **January 14: Kelly Madigan Erlandson**
- **March 11: Steve Langan**
- **April 8: Marjorie Saiser**
- **May 13: Mary K. Stillwell**
- **June 10: Jonis Agee**
- **July 8: Michael Catherwood**
- **August 12: Grace Bauer**
- **September 9: Barbara Schmitz**
- **October 14: Anna Monardo**

About the Writers of *Wednesday Words*...



Jonis Agee

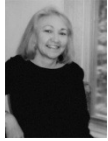
Jonis Agee was born in Omaha, Nebraska and grew up in Nebraska and Missouri, places where many of her stories and novels are set. She was educated at The University of Iowa (BA) and The State University of New York at Binghamton (MA, PhD). She is Adele Hall Professor of English at The University of Nebraska — Lincoln, where she teaches creative writing and twentieth-century fiction. She is the author of thirteen books, including five novels — *Sweet Eyes*, *Strange Angels*, *South of Resurrection*, *The Weight of Dreams*, and her most recent, *The River Wife* — and five collections of short fiction — *Pretend We've Never Met*, *Bend This Heart*, *A .38 Special and a Broken Heart*, *Taking the Wall*, and *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*. She has also published two books of poetry: *Houses* and *Mercury*.

Jonis Agee's awards include the Gold Award from *ForeWord* magazine for *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*, 2004; the NEA grant in fiction; a Loft-McKnight Award; a Loft-McKnight Award of Distinction; the Nebraska Book Award for *Weight of Dreams*, 2000. Three of her books — *Strange Angels*, *Bend This Heart*, and *Sweet Eyes* — were named Notable Books of the Year by *The New York Times*.



Susan Aizenberg

Winner of the 2003 Distinguished Artist Award from the Nebraska Arts Council, poet Susan Aizenberg's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in many journals, including *Prairie Schooner*, *AGNI*, *Blackbird*, *The Journal*, *Laurel Review*, *Passages North*, *Third Coast*, *Chelsea*, *the Journal*, *ONTHEBUS*, and the *Prague Review*. Her first collection, *Peru*, appeared in *Graywolf's Take Three: Agni New Poets Series*, which has been chosen as a "Recommended Book" by both the Poetry and Small Press editors of Amazon.com, and as a "Noted Book" by *American Poet*. She is the author more recently of *Muse* (Southern Illinois UP), a book-length collection that won the Nebraska Book Award for Poetry and the Larry Levis Prize for 2003. She's a two-time winner of the Individual Artist's Fellowship from the Nebraska Arts Council (1997, 2000). She holds the MFA in creative writing from Vermont College and has taught at the University of Nebraska — Omaha. She served as Poetry Editor of *The Nebraska Review* for ten years and later as Contributing Editor. She is an associate professor of English and Creative Writing at Creighton University, where she directs the Creative Writing Program. With Erin Belieu, she is the editor of *The Extraordinary Tide: New Poetry by American Women* (Columbia University Press, 2001).



Grace Bauer

Grace Bauer, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Nebraska by way of New Orleans, Montana, Massachusetts, and Virginia. She is the author of *Beholding Eye* (CustomWords, 2006) and *The Women at The Well* (Portals Press, 1997) as well as three chapbooks of poems: *Where You've Seen Her* (Pennywhistle Press), *The House Where I've Never Lived* (Anabiosis Press), and *Field Guide to the Ineffable: Poems On Marcel Duchamp* (Snail's Pace Press). Her poems, stories, and essays have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals, including *Arts & Letters*, *Colorado Review*, *Doubletake*, *Margie*, *Poetry*, *Rattle*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and others. She has received an Academy of American Poets Prize, Individual Artists Grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the Nebraska Arts Council, and Fellowships from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center. She is co-editor (with Julie Kane) of *Umpteen Ways Of Looking at a Possum: Critical and Creative Responses to Everett Maddox* (Xavier Review Press). She has taught at the University of Nebraska — Lincoln since 1994, where she serves as Coordinator of Creative Writing and as a senior book prize reader for *Prairie Schooner*.



Michael Catherwood

Michael Catherwood is a Nebraskan and a graduate of the MFA program at the University of Arkansas — Fayetteville, where he taught for four years. He's been published in the *AGNI*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Borderlands*, *CQ*, *The Georgetown Review*, *Hawai'i Review*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Mankato Poetry Review*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, *Kimera*, *Nebraska English Journal*, *Nebraska Review*, *Plainsongs* (for which he serves as an essayist), and elsewhere. He is the author of the collection *Dare* (The Backwaters Press, 2006). He graduated from the University of Nebraska — Omaha with a BFA, working full-time as a truck driver for fourteen years, attending school at night until he received his degree. He has won an Intro Award in Poetry from AWP and the Holt Prize in Poetry. In 1994 he was one of fourteen national finalists for the Ruth Lily Collegiate Fellowship. He has also won the Lily Peter Fellowship from the University of Arkansas and was a finalist for the Pig Iron Press Poetry Book Award. He teaches English at Creighton University.



Kelly Madigan Erlandson

Kelly Madigan Erlandson was born in Massachusetts and has lived in Lincoln, Nebraska since 1980. Her poems and essays have appeared or will appear in *Barrow Street*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Southern California Review*, and elsewhere. Her chapbook *Born in the House of Love* won the Main-Traveled Roads Chapbook Award in 2004.

She is the recipient of a 2008 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and received a Distinguished Artist Award from the Nebraska Arts Council in 2006. Kelly is married to Eric Erlandson and has two daughters, Tara and Maggie. She has worked since 1983 as a drug and alcohol counselor and is the author of *Getting Sober: A Practical Guide to Making It Through the First Thirty Days* (McGraw-Hill, 2007). In recent years, she has been exploring Nebraska rivers by canoe, including the Middle Loup, Dismal, Platte, Missouri, Elkhorn, Little Blue, Cedar, Calamus, Niobrara, and Big Blue rivers.



Steve Langan

Poet Steve Langan graduated from Omaha North High School, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he received the Paul Engle Postgraduate Fellowship from the James Michener Foundation. He is the author of a collection of poems, *Freezing* (New Issues, 2001), and a chapbook, *Notes on Exile and Other Poems* (Backwaters, 2005). His collection of poems titled *Meet Me at the Happy Bar* is forthcoming from BlazeVOX [books]. Langan serves on the teaching and residency faculty of the University of Nebraska MFA in Writing program. Additionally, he is the primary investigator and facilitator of the Seven Doctors Project at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. For questions on the Seven Doctors Project, please contact Langan at smlangan@unmc.edu or 402.659.6343.



Anna Monardo

Anna Monardo's novel *Falling In Love With Natassia* has been published by Doubleday. Her first novel, *The Courtyard of Dreams* (Doubleday, 1993; reprinted by iUniverse.com, 2000), has been translated into German, Norwegian, and Dutch. Her stories, essays, and poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Sun*, *Indiana Review*, *Redbook*, *Other Voices*, *Clackamas Review*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *McCall's*; and anthologized in *A Different Plain: Contemporary Nebraska Fiction Writers* (University of Nebraska Press), *The Dream Book Anthology of Writing by Italian-American Women* (Schocken Books) and *The Good Parts: The Best Erotic Writing in Modern Fiction* (Berkley Books).

Her fiction has also been included in the NPR reading series, "Selected Shorts." She is Associate Professor and Chair of the Writer's Workshop at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she has been awarded several University Creative Research grants. Before moving to Nebraska, Monardo taught in the MFA Program at Eastern Washington University and in various writing programs in New York City, including the Writer's Voice of the West Side Y, New York University School of Continuing Education, and Marymount Manhattan College Courses for Adults. Originally from Pittsburgh, she received her BA from St Mary's College (Notre Dame, Indiana) and her MFA from Columbia University. She has also worked as an editor at *McCalls*, *Time*, and Random House. She is a 2000 and 2003 recipient of Merit Awards from the Nebraska Arts Council.



Marjorie Saiser

Marjorie Saiser is a poet living in Lincoln, Nebraska. She received an MA in creative writing at the University of Nebraska — Lincoln, winning the Vreelands Award and the Academy of American Poets competition. Her work has been published in literary journals including *Prairie Schooner*, *Georgia Review*, *Zone 3*, *CrazyHorse*, and *Cream City Review*. Her poems have been finalists for the Robert Penn Warren Prize, the *New Letters* Literary Awards, and nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She is a 2000 recipient of the Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council and in 1999 received the Literary Heritage Award from the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association. Saiser is a speaker for the Nebraska Humanities Council. Her first full-length collection, *Bones of a Very Fine Hand*, won the Nebraska Book Award for poetry in 2000. Her second book, *Lost in Seward County*, was published in 2001 by Backwaters Press, 3502 N 52nd St, Omaha, NE 68104, and is available there or from Lee Booksellers 888-665-0999. She is co-editor of *Times of Sorrow, Times of Grace* (Backwaters Press, 2002), an anthology of poetry and prose by women of the Great Plains, which was named Poetry Honor Book in 2003 by the Nebraska Center for the Book, and also co-editor of a book of interviews, *Road Trip: Conversations with Writers* (Backwaters Press, 2003).



Barbara Schmitz

Poet Barbara Schmitz retired from her teaching position in English at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska, though she still teaches occasionally. She is a former editor of *Elkhorn Review*, and she has had poems published in such journals as *Prairie Schooner*, *Laurel Review*, *Nebraska Review*, *Silverfish Review*, *Poetry Motel*, *Hurakan*, *River Styx*, and *Kansas Quarterly*. Her chapbook, *Making Tracks*, was published by Suburban Wilderness Press in Duluth. She's also the author of *The Lives of the Saints* (Main-Travelled Roads #8, 1996). and *How to Get Out of the Body* (Sandhills Press, 1999). She is also the author of *The Upside Down Heart* (Sandhills Press, 2003) and the forthcoming *How Much Our Dancing Has Improved?* (Backwaters Press, 2005). A resident of Norfolk, she gives psychic readings in the form of poems and is a winner of the Encouragement Award from the Nebraska Arts Council's Individual Artists Fellowships program (1997).



Karen Gettert Shoemaker

Karen Gettert Shoemaker's first collection of short stories, *Night Sounds and Other Stories* (Dufour Editions), won the Nebraska Book Award for Short Fiction in 2003. Her fiction and poetry have been published or are forthcoming in a variety of journals, including *Prairie Schooner*, *South Dakota Review*, *West Wind Review*, *Kalliope*, *Credo*, *Arachne*, *Foliage*, *Fine*

Lines, Heartlands Today, and The Nebraska Review. Shoemaker received each and every one of her degrees — a Bachelor's in Journalism, a Master's and a PhD in Creative Writing — from the University of Nebraska — Lincoln. Awards for her writing include a Nebraska Press Association Award for Feature Writing, Vreeland Award, the *Prairie Schooner/Mari Sandoz Award for Fiction*, and a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council. A native of north central Nebraska, she currently lives in Lincoln, NE, with her husband and two children.



Mary K. (M.K.) Stillwell

Mary K. Stillwell is a native of Nebraska. She has studied writing in New York with William Packard, Erica Jong, and Marilyn Hacker. Stillwell has published widely in a number of poetry journals, including *New York Quarterly, Paris Review, The Little Magazine, The Massachusetts Review, Confrontation*, and others, as well as in a variety of anthologies, including *Leaning into the Wind, The Decade Dance: A Celebration of Poems*, and *The Paris Review Anthology*. Her book of poems, *Moving to Malibu*, was published by Sandhills Press. Stillwell is coeditor of *Nebraska Presence*, an anthology of contemporary Nebraska writers published last year by Backwaters Press. Winner of a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council (2006), she received her doctorate in Plains Literature from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where she is a lecturer. She and her husband, Frank Edler — who teaches philosophy at Metropolitan Community College — have two children: Wil and Anna.



Richard David Wyatt

Richard David Wyatt is a poet living in Omaha. His latest book, entitled *Approaching a Diner in Potsdam*, is forthcoming from Crying Dime Press. He has been the Associate Editor of The Backwaters Press since 2000.

Wyatt was born and grew up in Southern California and has lived in Oregon, Illinois, Long Island and Nebraska. He attended San Diego State, UNO and University of Oregon. Wyatt received his BFA in creative writing from UNO's Writer's Workshop, and held a teaching fellowship in poetry at University of Oregon in the early 80s. His poems have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review, Carolina Quarterly, Prairie Schooner, Poetry, Northwest Review, Ninth Letter, ABZ, Greensboro Review, Briar Cliff Review, Christian Science Monitor and Poetry East*, among others. Wyatt was nominated for Pushcart Prize in 1996 and received the Distinguished Artist Award in Poetry from NAC in 2006.

Look for *Wednesday Words* and other NAC events on our *Facebook* page— become a fan and receive event and update reminders from the Nebraska Arts Council.