

Will Reger Poet Laureate 2019-2020 Biography



Will Reger was born and raised in the St. Louis, Missouri area. He obtained his Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois and lives in Champaign, Illinois, with his wife and two youngest children. A co-leader of CU Poetry Group, Reger has lent his energies towards initiatives such as MTD Poetry, CU Haiku in the News Gazette, and Poets at the Post, a monthly open mic held at the Iron Post in Urbana. Reger teaches within the Department of History at both Illinois State University and Parkland College and has read his poetry work at The Urbana Free Library, Boneyard Arts Festival, Imbibe Urbana's Love for All Poetry Crawl, SPEAK Café, Respect the Mic, and as part of an annual reading at Danville Correctional Center.

Reger began writing in the 7th grade and has published over 100 poems both in print and on-line, including in Front Porch Review, Chiron Review, Zingara Poetry Review, Passager Journal, Eclectica Magazine, The Blue Nib Literary Magazine, Broadkill Review, Cagibi, Innesfree Poetry Journal, and the Paterson Literary Review. His first chapbook is *Cruel with Eagles*, a self-published volume of poems illustrated by his daughter, Gretchen Valencic, formerly of Savoy. As the City of Urbana's inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger will work with the City of Urbana's Arts and Culture Program to spearhead his proposed projects. He will also present poetry at various civic events throughout the year.

Will Reger served as Poet laureate for Urbana in 2019-2020. Since then, he has encouraged an increased understanding of the historical role of poetry in the community and an environmental celebration of waterways through poetry. He is currently putting finishing touches on his third volume of poems. His first two volumes, *Petroglyphs* and *Kaleidoscope* are available through Amazon.

IAP, Department of History, Illinois State University
Poet laureate Emeritus, Urbana, IL (2019-2020)
Petroglyphs
Kaleidoscope

