



NORTH
Dakota | Council on the Arts
Be Legendary.™

2022-23 VISITING POETRY OUT LOUD POETS



Carol Kapaun Ratchenski (Fargo)

Poet, Author, Licensed Professional Counselor

lunasight@gmail.com

(701)261-2955

Carol Kapaun Ratchenski is the author of two books of poetry, [A Beautiful Hell, New Rivers Press, 2016](#), and [A Certain Kind of Forgiveness, Meadowlark Press, 2019](#). Her work has won the Many Voices Project Award for poetry and the Birdy Poetry Prize. *A Beautiful Hell* has since been adapted to the stage by Laurie J Baker with the support of Theatre B and Humanities North Dakota. Ratchenski is a Licensed Professional Counselor and the owner/operator of [The Center for Compassion and Creativity](#) in Fargo, ND, where she also lives. She is at work on a second novel while she prepares to be honest, loving, disruptive and groovy at 60.



Joseph Davis (Minneapolis)

Poet, Performer, Teacher, Activist

JoeDavisPoetry@gmail.com

(701)721-1935

[Joe Davis](#) is a nationally-touring artist, educator, and speaker based in Minneapolis, MN. He employs poetry, music, theater, and dance to shape culture. His work has been featured on BET, CNN, and VH1. He is the Founder and Director of multimedia production company, [The New Renaissance](#), the frontman of emerging soul funk band, [The Poetic Diaspora](#), co-creator of [JUSTmove](#), racial justice education through art, and the author of *We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates*. See more at [JoeDavisPoetry.com](#)



Christine Ellsworth

Poet, Author, Poetry Therapy Facilitator

christine.ellsworth.ce@gmail.com

(763)200-0072

Christine Madline Ellsworth is a Minnesota native who currently resides in Wyndmere, North Dakota, with two cats and a Blue Heeler. She holds a BA in English literature from Minnesota State University Moorhead and an MA in English literature from Marquette University. As a member of the [International Federation for Biblio-Poetry Therapy](#), she is in her fourth year working toward certification as a certified applied poetry therapy facilitator. Poetry therapy has been recognized as beneficial to people who seek healing and growth. Ellsworth has also published a book of poetry, titled [Girl Again](#) (Potter's Wheel Publishing House, 2021).



Chuck Suchy (Mandan)

North Dakota Poet and Troubadour

chucksuchy@msn.com

(701)663-7682 or (701)390-3067

Chuck Suchy, North Dakota's Official State Troubadour, is a [folk musician](#), songwriter, and working farmer from [Mandan, North Dakota](#) who writes, sings and records songs evoking and extolling the Great Plains region and lifestyle. His themes include songs about human relationships, spirituality, motorcycles, and even sailing. The Plains have seen a lot of change over this time, including farm crises, loss of population, oil boom, and a major restructuring of the agricultural economy. Chuck remains an astute observer of it all and his songs chronicle not only the events, but the emotions and feelings that accompany such upheaval and change. [See Chuck Suchy: Sure Glad to be Around.](#)



Jessie Veeder (Watford City)

Award Winning Musician, Author, Poet, Columnist

jessieveeder@gmail.com

(701)770-8659

Jessie Veeder has been a symbol of folk music in the badlands of Western North Dakota since she released her first original album, *This Road*, when she was sixteen years old. Her album recordings include: *A Place to Belong*, *Jessie Veeder Live*, and *Nothing's Forever*. Veeder's renowned single, [Boomtown](#), the song that put her in the national spotlight, pays homage to the people working to make a living in North Dakota oil country. Jessie's poetic lyrics swell with references to her own life experiences growing up on a cattle ranch in the rugged land of Western North Dakota. She captivates audiences with stories of the changing landscape, the culture, and the people of small-town America. Jessie Veeder is an inspiration to aspiring artists and musicians throughout North Dakota and is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 North Dakota Governor's Award for the Arts in the category of

Individual Achievement. Check out Jessie's blog [Meanwhile, back at the ranch](#) where she reflects on rural living, its characters, heartbreaks, triumphs, absurdity and what it means to live and love in the middle of nowhere.



Emily Vieweg (Fargo)

Poet, Playwright

emily.vieweg@gmail.com

www.emilyvieweg.com

(701)200-9512

Emily Vieweg, MFA is a poet and writer originally from St. Louis, Missouri. Her work has been published in *Foliage Oak*, *The Voices Project*, *Red Weather Literary Magazine*, *Soundings Review*, *Art Young's Good Morning*, *The Basil O'Flaherty Feminist Voices* and more. Emily's full-length poetry collection *but the flames* is available through Finishing Line Press and Amazon. Click [HERE](#) to order. Emily's debut chapbook *Look Where She Points* is available from [Plan B Press](#) and her [store](#). Emily's chapbook *Conversations with Beethoven and Bach* is available through her [store](#) and [Amazon.com](#). She lives in Fargo, North Dakota where she is a mother of two, cat wrangler and office assistant.



Kevin Zepper (Fargo)

Teacher, Poet, Author

Kdzepper@gmail.com

(218)443-5901

Kevin Zepper is a Professor of English at Minnesota State University Moorhead with an MFA in Creative Writing. Kevin teaches a variety of writing and Humanities classes and is the author of a book-length poetry collection, [Moonman](#). He has also authored four chapbooks of poetry: *The Fifth Ramone*, *(Suffering from) An Apartment Complex*, *I Bring you Dead Things and other Love Poems*, and *Sugartown*. Several of his audio pieces are posted on the Northern Community radio website through the program called "The Beat." He has read, presented, slammed his poetry in numerous venues including schools, bars, churches, and at the county fair. Zepper also makes up one half of the performing duo [Lines&Notes](#), a synergistic collision of music and poetry.