

MOLLY SPENCER

1698 Old Salem
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
mollyspencer@gmail.com | 612-859-3004
www.mollyspencer.com

EDUCATION

- MFA** Poetry, Rainier Writing Workshop, 2017, with Pedagogy Endorsement
Linda Bierds and Carol Houck Smith Graduate Scholarship
- MPA** Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, 1997
Teaching Assistant; Departmental Research Assistant
- BA** Economics, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame, 1994
With High Honors

TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Lecturer IV Writing Instructor, September 2021 – present
Lecturer III Writing Instructor, September 2018 – August 2021

Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University – Tacoma, Washington

Flash class faculty AY 2021-22
Visiting Faculty and Featured Faculty Reader, July 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19)

The Rumpus – San Francisco, California

Senior Poetry Editor, August 2019 – present
Poetry Editor, August 2016 – 2019

Washtenaw Community College – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Adjunct Instructor (Composition I), Winter Term 2017

Freelance teaching-artist (Poetry)

Through community literary centers and local school districts, Fall 2008-present
Through California Poets in the Schools, 2015 – 2016

State of Minnesota Department of Administration – Saint Paul, Minnesota

Legislative Liaison, 2001 session

Consultant, public sector project management (various clients and locations), 1997 – 2000

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs – New York, New York Graduate

Teaching Assistant, writing section for Public Management, Fall Semester 1996

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

Judge, Teppola Prizes for Creative Writing (Poetry), Willamette University, February 2022

Summer Faculty Fellow [University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities](#), for my critical work-in-progress, "Six and Rose: A Study of Form in Free Verse Poetry," Summer 2021

Teaching Honor Roll at the Ford School of Public Policy: Fall 2018, Winter 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Winter 2021 (no teaching honor roll in Winter 2020 due to COVID-19)

Glenna Luschei Award from *Prairie Schooner* for six poems in the Summer 2019 issue

The 2019 Brittingham Prize for Poetry awarded by the Wisconsin Poetry Series / University of Wisconsin Press for the poetry manuscript *If the House*; Carl Phillips, judge

The 2019 Crab Orchard Open Competition in Poetry awarded by the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry / Southern Illinois University Press for the poetry manuscript *Hinge*; Allison Joseph, judge

Poetry Society of America Lucile Medwick Memorial Award, "[Interior with a Woman Peeling Oranges, Snapping Beans](#)"; Maggie Smith, judge; 2018

New England Review Award for Emerging Writers, [finalist](#); 2018

Cave Wall Press Broadside Contest, "[In Southeast Lower Michigan, a Chance of Snow After Midnight](#)," runner-up, 2017

Vermont Studio Center – Rainier Writing Workshop Fellow, March 2016

Writers @ Work Fellowship in poetry, Ellen Bass, judge, 2014

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Poetry Collections

Hinge, Crab Orchard Series in Poetry - Southern Illinois University Press, 2020, winner of the 2019 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry Open Competition judged by Allison Joseph.

If the House, Wisconsin Poetry Series – University of Wisconsin Press, 2019, winner of the 2019 Brittingham Prize in Poetry judged by Carl Phillips

Critical Writing and Essays

The Rumpus, "[What to Read When You or Someone You Love Has a Chronic Illness](#)," January 15, 2021

Literary Hub, "[Against the Muse Myth: On Motherhood and the Writing Life](#)," October 22, 2020

RWW Soundings, "[On Scavenging, or, How to Read Like a Poet](#)," Summer 2020 issue

The Writer's Chronicle, "A Light Goes on in Me: Laura Jensen's Singular Poetry," with Marianne Boruch, Sharon Bryan, Kevin Prufer, and Joy Manesiotis, April 2020

The Rumpus, a review of [Still Life with Mother and Knife by Chelsea Rathburn](#), February 14, 2020

The Georgia Review, "Back Roads and Ditchwise: Against Ben Lerner's *The Hatred of Poetry*," Fall 2019

The Rumpus, a review of [Kill Class by Nomi Stone](#), March 15, 2019

Kenyon Review, a review of [Some Say the Lark by Jennifer Chang](#), Winter 2018

Tupelo Quarterly, a review of [Holdfast by Christian Anton Gerard](#), January 28, 2018

Colorado Review, a review of [Anyone by Nate Klug](#), Fall 2016

Kenyon Review, a review of [Errata by Lisa Fay Coutley](#), Spring 2016

The Rumpus, a review of [Multitudinous Heart: Selected Poems by Carlos Drummond de Andrade](#), Richard Zenith, trans., March 16, 2016

Colorado Review, a review of [Surrounded by Friends by Matthew Rohrer](#), Spring 2015

The Rumpus, a review of [Bone Map by Sara Eliza Johnson](#), June 24, 2015

Flycatcher Journal, reviews of Camille Dungy's *Smith Blue* and *The Place That Inhabits Us: Poems From the San Francisco Bay Watershed*, No. 2, January 2013

Poetry

Los Angeles Review, "Rowing, and Then Light"; "Cobalt Jar in Morning Light," May 2021

Prairie Schooner, "I Talk Myself Through the Facts of Each Day," "Fluvial," "Conversation with Lace Thong and Car Keys," "Conversation with Glass and Joist," "Love Story," "Elegy at the Strandline," Vol. 93 No.2, Summer 2019

Poetry Daily (reprint), ["Elegy Beginning with a Text From My Brother,"](#) April 3, 2019

Cave Wall, ["In Southeast Lower Michigan, a Chance of Snow After Midnight,"](#) "Picture of the Sun," "There Was Always That Hill and the Swaying," Issue #15, 2019

ZYZZYVA, "Disclosures | If you are aware of any settling," No. 115, Spring 2019

Pleiades, "Meditation at Fishtown," Vol. 39, No. 1, Winter 2019

Georgia Review, "Address to the Meadow in the Dusk," "Elegy Beginning with a Text From My Brother," and "[Somewhere in the meadow is everything]," Fall 2018; "Idiopathic," "How to Lure the Wolf," "Flare," as ["Love Songs for Lupus,"](#) Vol. 70, No. 1, Spring 2018

THRUSH Poetry Journal, ["Persephone: Since she kept asking,"](#) ["Novembering,"](#) November, 2018; "Berry," July 2012

Blackbird, [“Elegy.”](#) [“Poem that Begins on a Staircase.”](#) Vol. 17 No. 2, Fall 2018

Copper Nickel, “Disclosures | If you are aware of any nuisance animals such as crows, chickens, or barking dogs,” Issue 27, Fall 2018

FIELD “Conversation with Shower and Vestibule,” “Conversation with Distance and Shaking,”
“Conversation with Windows and Green,” No. 98, Spring 2018

Poetry Society of America Lucile Medwick Memorial Award, [“Interior with a Woman Peeling Oranges, Snapping Beans.”](#) Maggie Smith, judge; 2018

Ploughshares, “Meditation at Ice-Out,” Vol. 43, No. 4, Winter 2017-2018

New England Review, “Self-Portrait as the River Floods” and “Self-Portrait as Something Like a Heart,” Vol. 38, 2017, No. 4, Spring 2018

Gettysburg Review, “Disclosures | If you are aware of any shared features,” “Disclosures | If the house is built on a hillside,” Vol. 30, No. 4, Winter 2017

Crab Orchard Review, “Four Views of November,” Vol. 22, No. 2, Fall 2017

Verse Daily Web Weekly feature, [“Love Poem for Lupus.”](#) November 13, 2017

Memorious, [“Love Poem for Lupus.”](#) [“At Dock’s End.”](#) Issue 28, 2017

Poetry Northwest, “Night Repairs” and “Tentative Theories,” Vol. XI, Issue 2, Winter/Spring 2017

Copper Nickel, “Portrait of Hometown as Constellation,” Number 23, Fall 2016

North American Review, [“Most Accidents Occur at Home.”](#) Vol. 301, No. 2, Spring 2016

The Missouri Review, [“After Reading the Story of Assumption Chapel in Cold Spring, Minnesota.”](#) Poem-of-the-Week Web Feature, September 14, 2015

ZYZZYVA, “Frank Next Door,” “As If Life Can Go On As It Has,” “Translation,” No. 104, Fall 2015.

Bellingham Review, “Onset,” Vol. XXXVIII, Issue 70, Spring 2015

Mid-American Review, “Aubade with Book and Angel,” Vol. XXXV, No. 1, 2015

SELECTED READINGS, PANELS, & LECTURES

Panelist, “Stone, Tree, Monument: Poets at the Intersection of History and Landscape,” LIT Youngstown Fall Literary Conference, October 2021

Panelist, “Suturing the Wound: A Poetry Panel on Writing About Illness,” LIT Youngstown Fall Literary Conference, October 2021

Marin Poetry Center Fall Reading Series September 16, 2021 (remote due to COVID-19)

Panelist, “Hacking the Workplace: Boundaries and Negotiation,” University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers’ Program career series, June 2021 (remote due to COVID-19)

Rainier Writing Workshop 2021 Opening Reading, July 2021 (remote due to COVID-19)

Bazaar Reading Series, San Francisco, California, March 2021 (remote due to COVID-19)

One Pause Reading Series featured debut poet, October 2020 ([recorded](#) due to COVID-19)

Skazat! Reading Series, featured poet, Ann Arbor, Michigan, November, 2020

Further Notice Reading Series, with Sumita Chakraborty, June 2020 (remote due to COVID-19)

Café Muse Reading Series, with Tommye Blount, The Writer’s Center, June 2020 (remote due to COVID-19)

Moderator, “I Keep My Eyes Open and Have to See: The Poetry of Laura Jensen,” with panelists Sharon Bryan, Kevin Prufer, and Joy Manesiotis, and Miguel Murphy, *Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) National Conference*, March 2019

State Budget Office Writing Workshop, State of Michigan, November 2018

Open Books bookstore, “A Night of Poetry and Conversation with Katie Ford,” Seattle, Washington, moderator, April 2017

Moderator, “Breaking the Silence: Writing Infertility and Pregnancy Loss,” *Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) national conference*, February 2017

The Peninsula Literary Series, Palo Alto, California, April 2017 and September 2013

Valona Poetry Series, Crockett, California, February 2016

ZYZZYVA issue launch reading, Diesel Books, Oakland, California, September 2015

LitCrawl San Francisco, October 2013

CONTRIBUTOR SPOTLIGHTS & INTERVIEWS

[10 Must-Read Books of October](#), featuring *Hinge*, *Chicago Review of Books*, October 2020

[Say the True Things: A Conversation with Risa Denenberg and Molly Spencer](#), *The Adroit Journal*, January 13, 2021

[Interview at *pulp*](#), a publication of the Ann Arbor District Library, December 2020

[Hinge: Featured selection at The Rumpus Poetry Book Club](#), November 2020

[Interview at *Women’s Voices for Change*](#), January 2020

[Interview at *The Rumpus*](#), January 2020

[Interview at *pulp*](#), a publication of the Ann Arbor District Library, October 2019

[Contributor spotlight at *Memorious*](#), October 2019

[Contributor spotlight at *North American Review*](#), Spring 2016

[Contributor spotlight at *Mid-American Review*](#), Winter 2015

REVIEWS OF CREATIVE WORK

[Review](#) of *Hinge* by Twila Newey at *Ecotheo Review*

[Review](#) of *Hinge* by Alina Stefanescu at *On The Seawall*

[Review](#) of *Hinge* by Megan Otto at the *Chicago Review of Books*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Meghan McClure at *Ecotheo Review*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Hannah M. Vanderhart at *The Rumpus*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Alexandra Barylaski at *Los Angeles Review of Books*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Susanna Lang at *RHINO*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Risa Denenberg at *Entropy*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Donna Vorreyer at *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*

[Review](#) of *If the House* by Katherine O'Hara at *Beloit Poetry Journal*