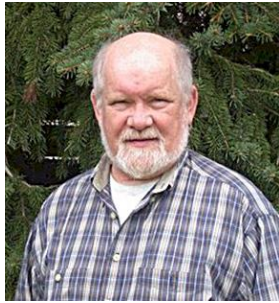


## Magic of Monadnock Presenter Biographies:

**Jim Beschta**, Wisconsin bred, born and raised, moved to Massachusetts in 1970 to earn a Masters degree



in English from Assumption College. A long time board member of the Worcester County Poetry Association, he was an award-winning teacher of writing and English at Quabbin Regional High School, won Promethean Lamp and Frank O'Hara Poetry Awards while publishing in numerous literary magazines and published copious reviews and criticism. His published books include *Cutting the Cemetery Lawn* (Haley's, 2002), *North From Yaoundé* (Adastra Press, 2010) and *Bone Cages* (Haley's, 1996), a collaboration of five New England poets. He currently teaches writing and poetry at the Worcester

Art Museum. [cybersecurity and computer networking](#).

**Clair Degutis** lives in the hill town of Princeton, Massachusetts. Clair is a member of the 4 x 4 poet-artist collaborative group. She also participates in the annual Monadnock Pastoral Poetry Retreat. She loves to hike the trails on Wachusett Mountain and woodland paths of New England. As a natural history guide at Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, she introduces children to nature and helps others appreciate the wonders of our local environment. Her poems draw on her close observations, experiences, and relationships to the natural world.



**William Doreski** lives in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and is a professor emeritus at Keene State College. His most recent book of poetry is *The Suburbs of Atlantis* (2013). He has published three critical studies, including Robert Lowell's *Shifting Colors*. He has published several other collections of poetry, *Sacra Via* (Tatlock Publications, 2005) and *Another Ice Age* (Cedar Hill, 2006), and three critical studies, *The Years of Our Friendship: Robert Lowell and Allen Tate* (University Press of Mississippi, 1990), and *The Modern Voice in American Poetry* (University Press of Florida, 1995), and a textbook titled *How to Read and Interpret Poetry* (Prentice-Hall). His essays, poetry, fiction, and reviews have appeared in many journals.



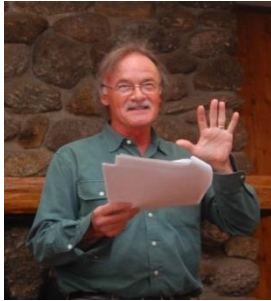
**Claire Mowbray Golding** is a freelance writer and editor whose work has been published in books, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, and reading programs. She has self-published a chapbook, *Poems and Other Offerings 1998-2009*, and she was the 2003 recipient of the Worcester County Poetry Association's Frank O'Hara Prize.



**David Gruender** has been a professional orchestra musician and a retired major orchestra librarian, having worked in that capacity for the Baltimore Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, and the Boston Symphony. At present he lives in Keene and teaches in Keene State Colleges CALL Program while serving as principal double bassist in the Keene Chamber Orchestra. He was also band director and music teacher for the Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Public School System. He took up running at age 60 and has completed 4 full marathons and 19 half-marathons.



**John Hodgen** is a Professor of English, Assumption College and is the author of *Grace*, winner of the 2005 AWP Donald Hall Prize in Poetry, (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006), *In My Father's House*, winner of the 1993 Bluestem Award from Emporia State University in Kansas, and *Bread Without Sorrow* (2001) won the Balcones Poetry Prize (2002). His other awards include the 2005 Ruth Stone Poetry Prize from Hunger Mountain (Vermont College), the 2005 Foley Poetry Prize from America Magazine, and the first place 2006 Press Award for Best Original Poetry from the Catholic Press Assoc. His latest book of poems from University of Pittsburgh Press is *Heaven and Earth Holding Company*.



**Sidney Hall, Jr.** has lived most of his life in southern New Hampshire. He is a graduate of Reed College, where he studied Greek and Latin Classics. He is the founder and Hobbleshush Books and Hobbleshush Design, which specializes in book design and production for other publishers. His poems have appeared in the *Chattahoochie Review*, *Wisconsin Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Hollins Critic*, the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, as well as on Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac*. He is the author of three books of poems, *What We Will Give Each Other*, *Chebeague*, and *Fumbling in the Light*, and a book of memoirs, *Small Town Tales*, a collection of his newspaper columns.



**J. Kates** is a poet, literary translator, and the president and co-director of Zephyr Press, a nonprofit press that focuses on contemporary works in translation from Russia, Eastern Europe and Asia. He received a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry in 1984 and a Translation Project Fellowship in 2006, as well as an Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts in 1995. He has published three chapbooks of his own poems: *Mappemonde* (Oyster River Press) *Metes and Bounds* (Accents Publishing) and *The Old Testament* (Cold Hub Press). He is the translation editor of *Contemporary Russian Poetry*, and the editor of *In the Grip of Strange Thoughts: Russian Poetry in a New Era*.



**B. Eugene McCarthy** took his PhD at the University of Kansas in 1965. He taught at Holy Cross College until his retirement in 2000. His first book was *William Wycherley: A Biography*, followed by *William Wycherley, A Reference Guide*. As a visiting scholar at Clare Hall at Cambridge University, he researched his book *Thomas Gray: The Progress of a Poet*. While publishing in African-American literature on Richard Wright and Toni Morrison, his most recent work was co-edited with Thomas Doughton, *From Bondage to Belonging: The Worcester Slave Narratives*, an edition of eight narratives by ex-slaves who lived in Worcester. He has been an editor of *The Worcester Review* and participates in the Milton Ensemble which offers dramatic performances of books of *Paradise Lost* each year.



**Dan Rockmore** is a Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Dartmouth College. He received his A. B. in Mathematics from Princeton University in 1984 and his Ph. D. from Harvard University in 1989. He taught for two years at Columbia University as a Ritt Assistant Professor before coming to Dartmouth in 1991. In 1995 he was one of only 15 scientists to receive a five-year Presidential Faculty Fellowship from the White House for excellence in education and research. He has held visiting positions at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the Santa Fe Institute and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He has authored and co-authored numerous scientific articles as well as two books, around the subject of the design of efficient algorithms for data analysis and data transmission.



**Susan Roney-O'brien** has published three volumes of poetry. Susan earned an MFA in Poetry from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoah, N.C., where she studied with Eleanor Wilner, Robert Wrigley, Ira Sadof, Edward Hirsch, and Ellen Bryant Voigt. She attended The Frost Place on four occasions and was a resident at Dorset House in Vermont. She has been giving poetry readings for many years, and worked as a poet-in-the-schools and storyteller for ten years before becoming a middle school teacher. She curates a Princeton, Mass., reading series at The Thirsty Lab, and has received MCC grants to bring poets to her community. She was an editor for *The Worcester Review* and works with young writers to publish their books.



**Sean Sodders** is a student at Keene State College majoring in United States History and Elementary Education. He has been learning Chinese Martial Arts for over a decade. He studied Shaolin Kung-Fu with his brother Vinny Sodders as well as Tai Chi and Wing Chun from Master Steve Frankel, who is a personal student of Dr. Yang Jwing Ming. Sodders says It is an honor to be invited to the Magic of Monadnock poetry sessions to perform his Martial Arts routines.



**Henry Walters** was born in Chicago and grew up in Indiana and southern Michigan. He studied Latin and



Greek at Harvard College, beekeeping in Sicily, and falconry in Ireland. He has worked as a teacher, a naturalist, a practicing falconer, and a steward of a wildlife sanctuary. His poems, translations, and essays have appeared in a range of publications, from *The Old Farmer's Almanac* to *The American Guide to Hawk Migration Studies*, and he is the recipient of *Better Magazine's* 2013 prize for poetry. He currently lives in the beech and hemlock woods of Dublin, New Hampshire, where he coordinates the New Hampshire Young Birders Club and acts as Secretary for Experimental Living at Dublin School.

**Linda Warren**, of Princeton, Massachusetts, is a recently retired software consultant for Oracle. In



addition to her work with software, Warren is poet and novelist with a dozen romances to her credit. She also served as an editor for *The Worcester Review*. One of her favorite pastimes is fishing. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Cornell University.

**Wei Lu** is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Keene State College in New Hampshire. He



received his Master of Intellectual Property in School of Law from the University of New Hampshire and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Victoria, Canada. Prior to joining Keene State College, he was a Senior Researcher with the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH) and worked with Q1 Labs Inc. (Security Systems Division, IBM since October 2011) as a Secure Software Engineer. His general areas of research interests include Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity. He is the author of three books in the field of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and computer

networking.

**Chen Yihai** (1963-). Born in Dongtai, Jiangsu Province. Educated at Soochow University, Ph.D in



comparative literature, 2002. Professor and Dean of School of Chinese Language & Literature, Yancheng Teachers University. Member of Chinese Writers Association. Publications: *Translated Images* (2009), *Lost in Translation* (2010), *Dionysus in China* (2010), *A Scholar Poet's Night* (2014), *Deus Distorted: A Study of Heterogeneous Cultural Communication* (2007), *Song of Simone & Seven Sad Songs* (2005). Translations: *Pride and Prejudice* (1993), *Robinson Crusoe* (1995), and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1995). He is the first translator of American children's books by Johnny Gruelle (1880-1938). Recipient: The Purple Mountain Literature Award (2011).

**Yuan Pan's** book, *The Last Goodbye*, by Green Writers Press, was chosen by an international jury as one



of the eight finalists at the Silent Book Contest of the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2014, and was exhibited in Montereaggio di Mulazzo and then in Milan, Italy. *The Last Goodbye* is a semi-autobiographical, children's picture book, for all ages, that tells a story about loss and offers a nostalgic reminiscence of childhood told using richly illustrated charcoal drawings that have been reproduced in a deep sepia tone. He is an Associate Professor of Art at Keene State College.

**Mi Zheng-ying:** Her pseudonym is Blue Lotus. Mi was born in Jiangbian, Shaanxi Province. Educated at



Shaanxi Normal University, M.A.1998. She is currently an editor in the Jurong Radio and Television Station, Jiangsu Province. Her poetry publications include *The Mild-Climated Regions in the South of the Yangtze River* (2010) and *My Melancholy Seems not Blue Enough* (2014). **Nanjiang Hyde**, a native of Beijing, who has studied in both China and Japan, teaches Chinese language and culture at Keene State College and directs the Chinese language and culture program at Keene High School. Hyde will speak for Mi who was denied a U.S. Visa.

**Zi Chuan** pen name of Zhang Rong-cai, was born in Gaoyou County, Jiangsu Province. He worked as a



school graduate in the country (1969-78), and then moved to work in the paper mill, Taizhou city in 1979. He has engaged in cultural work in Nanjing since 1986. Professional writer, member of China Writers' Association, member of the Council of Jiangsu Writers' Association, member of the Council of China Poetry Society and Vice-chairman of China Association for Poetics Studies. His works have been translated into English, French, German, Japanese and Korean. Publications: Verse: *You've Never Got Out of the Low-Lying Land* (1993), *Selected Poems of Zi Chuan* (2004), *Facing Time with My Back* (2007) and *The Virtual Memory* (2012). Prose: *Engraving You on the Cliff* (2002) and *The Book by the Side of Water*

(2010). Novel: *The Decline and Fall of the Ming Dynasty* (2003) Recipient: Excellent Editor Award of Jiangsu Province and the Purple Mountain Poetry Prize (2005), The Third Chinese Poetry Biennial Award (2011-2012).

## Organizers:

**Celia Rabinowicz** received her MLS from Rutgers University in 1992, a PhD in Historical Theology (focusing on early Christian theology) from Fordham University (1989), a MA in Religious Studies from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1982), and a BA in Classics & Religious Studies from Beloit College (1979). Rabinowicz was a librarian at St. Mary's College of Maryland in St. Mary's City, MD, from 1992-2014 (director of the library from 2002-2014) and arrived at Keene State in August 2014. She is the author of peer-reviewed articles in religious studies and librarianship with current research interests in information literacy. She has also taught courses in religious studies and contributed to teaching in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies.



**Rodger Martin's** new book of poetry in translation: *For All The Tea in Zhōngguó* is scheduled for release in 2017. *The Battlefield Guide* uses locations on battlefields of the Civil War to reflect upon America today. *Small Press Review* selected *The Blue Moon Series* as a bi-monthly pick of the year. A translation, *On The Monadnock*, appeared in China in 2006. Martin received an *Appalachia* poetry award, and fellowships from the N.H. Council on the Arts in Fiction Fellowship, the Bruce Kellner/Monadnock Fellowship and The National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2012 represented the U.S. at Hangzhou, China's annual international cultural festival and returned in 2015 to speak on poetry at Nanjing University and Shanghai University of International Business and Economics.



**Rodney Obien** is an Associate Professor at Keene State College and the Head of Special Collections and Archives at the Mason Library, including the Monadnock Poetry Collection. He is the curator of artist Robert Munford Catalogue Raisonné Project. Previously Obien served as Interim Dean of the Mason Library and was archivist and head of special special collections at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is a graduate of Catholic University of America.



**We thank the following Keene State organizations without whose aid and support this colloquium could not have occurred: PepsiCo Grant, Academic Affairs, CALL Program, Class of '39 Fund, Dept. of English, Global Education & Citizenship Speakers Fund, Global Education Office, Honors Program, Integrated Studies Program, Dept. of Journalism, Multimedia, Public Relations, The Mason Library, Office of Diversity & Multiculturalism, Redfern Arts Center, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.**

**We thank the following state and local organizations without whose aid and support this colloquium could not have occurred: Historical Society of Cheshire County, C&S Wholesalers, The Inn at East Hill Farm, Monadnock State Park, The Monadnock Writers' Group, The Poetry Society of New Hampshire.**

