

Poet Laureate Nomination for Angie Trudell Vasquez (self-nomination)

1. The candidate's established presence as a productive public poet in Madison with a history of advocacy for poetry.
 - a. I came to Wisconsin in 2005 from Seattle. I lived in Milwaukee until 2015 when my partner and I moved to Madison where he was originally from. Poetry has brought me to Madison since I arrived in Wisconsin from Seattle. Poetry is alive and well in our region. There is a poetry train that emanates in a triangle between Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. I have seen some of the biggest crowds in Racine. Twice I have written and read ekphrastic poetry at the Chazen, and at the MMOCA in 2019. I have read poems to thousands at Fighting Bob Fest and to smaller gatherings at Arts Literature Laboratory, Mother's Fool, the downtown Public Library, and just earlier this month at the City Council at the bequest of current Poet Laureate, Oscar Mireles. My poetry advocacy goes back to my early days as a young woman in my twenties in Des Moines, Iowa then later in Seattle, Washington where I was a member of the writing group, Los Nortenos. Wherever I live I exist in the literary social justice art world. For a time, I worked with the Lorine Niedicker Society and helped children write poems for a mural that later appeared in their school. Last summer I worked with Arts Literature Laboratory (ALL), the UW Madison Physics Department, a visual artist, and a physicist. I was the poet for the project. We collaborated with high schoolers from the area and created a piece that wove dark matter and mental health together with poetry for an interactive exhibit that was displayed at ALL last fall. There were several groups involved, but ours was the only one where we all wrote a poem for the exhibit that was displayed. I worked individually with each writer helping them shape the poem to be the best it could be. I was surprised and yet pleased to find we were the only group where the students and mentors wrote a poem they felt good about. I love poetry for its ability to connect and create empathy and understanding, for giving people/us a voice, for figuring out what is in our head on the page and in our deepest heart. There is music in poetry and movement. When I work with really young groups of children I start by showing them the music in their name, how many syllables exist, how many beats. I say I can teach poetry to anyone from age 4 to 80. In 2016, I presented my long time youth poetry workshop that I developed while working for the ACLU of Wisconsin at Split This Rock in Washington D.C. with other poet, activist and education friends. I change the youth poetry workshop every year to fit with current events and global happenings. I took it to Fredonia in 2018 right before I left the ACLU and taught and lectured to sixth graders on the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and showed them how poetry weaves in and out of history and movements for peace and justice by reading Langston Hughes, "Let America Be America Again," and read my own work, then we all wrote even the Principal and guest teachers who were curious. Some kids shared what they wrote. Later their middle school children sent me their earnest notes and poems. I continue to teach this and other poetry workshops in Madison and

Milwaukee, and surrounding suburbs as a volunteer taking off time from a very understanding employer End Abuse, who also allows me to teach poetry as healing, poetry as art and release through their own youth programming. I am now seeing a student I early mentored as a teen pursue her MFA in Creative Writing. I have been teaching poetry in various capacities since I arrived in Wisconsin. I would like to do more. I taught a month long online poetry series for the Speakeasy Project in 2018 that focused on Indigenous Poetics. I have a dream where once a week a poet goes into a classroom and teaches and lectures on the importance of poetry, self-expression, sensitivity, knowing who you are as a person and what your role is in the world, where we read all these great poets, recite and memorize, write our own and share on the spot. Poetry asks the big questions. When there are no words there is poetry.

2. Evidence that the candidate possesses a large body of work, whether published, self-published or unpublished.
 - a. My CV (attached at the end – current to June 2018) demonstrates a long history of publishing and performing. I am a cofounder of Art Night Books, and self-published my first two full length books in 2005 and 2013, *The Force Your Face Carries*, and *Love in War Time*. The Poetry Foundation purchased rights to two poems from each collection from me in 2018. I was a Ruth Lilly Fellow as an undergraduate at Drake University and have a page on their website. I hold a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing, poetry specifically, from the Institute of American Indian Arts, IAIA.edu, and my specialty is Indigenous Poetics and that includes Latinx poets like myself. I submitted a portion of my master's thesis in 2018 to Finishing Line Press's New Women's Voices Series, and was finalist number seven! They published my third collection, *In Light, Always Light*, in May 2019. The very first poem in the collection is called, "Wheel Kids," I wrote it for the children in my neighborhood on the far east side of Madison. The city and its residents are also featured in the book, opening and closing the collection. The cover of the book is a picture of Hiestand Park in Madison on Milwaukee Street and captures the playground. I can't help but write about place and the people I see around me – what I observe. I just learned last week a poem I wrote, "What and That," that appeared in the South Florida Poetry Journal in August 2019, is being nominated by them for The Orison Anthology, "...annual collection of the finest spiritually engaged writing that appeared in periodicals in the preceding year." I am currently working on a new collection which is the history of us/humans and the Earth in poetry, a subject I have been actively pursuing and researching for the last two years. My CV is quite long. I am proud to say that every poem in my 2017 thesis, is published now with the exception of two. There's the writing of poetry, and the business of poetry. I have been fortunate to have good people around who have coached me. I did not get to this point in my career alone. I have had good advice. Networking is key to any endeavor but especially in art. (See current press release May 2019)
3. Please find the following seven poems from my latest published collection, *In Light, Always Light*: "Wheel Kids," "Arboretum," "After the Snow," "Sound Scape," "Space

Time,” “Scribbling,” and the title poem, “In Light, Always Light.” I am including a more recent poem as well entitled, “What and That.”

4. Personal and Professional References:
 - a. Sherwin Bitsui, poet and former MFA Mentor, sbitsui@gmail.com
 - b. Jon Davis, poet and my former MFA Director at IAIA, jdavissimo@me.com
 - c. Santee Frazier, poet and current MFA Director at IAIA, santeefrazier@gmail.com
 - d. Freesia McKee, MFA Candidate, poet, friend, mentee, freesiamckee@gmail.com
 - e. Margaret Rozga, poet and current Wisconsin Poet Laureate, mvroz@hotmail.com
 - f. Patti Seger, current boss at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, pattis@endabusewi.org
5. Proof of the candidate’s current residency in Madison. (Voter ID Card)
6. If I am so honored to be selected as the Poet Laureate of Madison, I would heartily accept. I am nominating myself, and do not do so lightly. I have bought a house with my husband and we are committed to the area for the foreseeable future, certainly more than two years. We have elderly family and extended family in the area. We waited a long time to buy a house and are thrilled to be homeowners in a great city like Madison. I know some of the Poet Laureate’s previous work in this position. I attended events Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman held, and then later I attended events held by Oscar Mireles including his inauguration. I would love the opportunity to continue to build ambassadors for poetry in the community. Poetry is my passion. I began writing as a young girl at the age of seven and have never stopped. My parents read to me nightly and it was through literature that I formed my sense of self and found my way to poetry.
7. Documentation of established relationships that will enable the Poet Laureate to further develop the community partnerships necessary for effective.
 - a. Public Libraries – I would query them for family friendly poetry workshops and readings for the community. These could be offered at different age levels depending on the patrons.
 - b. Public Schools – I have this dream of poetry being taught at every level from elementary, middle school and high school to all classes. Art is as essential to good health as physical fitness. I remember one of my young elementary highlights was when we would get the art teacher once a week. Students could create zines, host an annual performance for all students and parents, they would learn confidence and make connections with each other through the sharing of poetry. We could include music and movement.
 - c. Arts Literature Laboratory – They are expanding to a new building. They are growing. I have done more than a few readings there over the years, and once taught a month long poetry workshop series on dissecting craft. I have my

official book release reading in Madison for *In Light, Always Light*, coming up November 16th. Rita Mae Reese is great to work with at ALL.

- d. WORT 89.90 Radio Literature Hour – Melvin Hinton is the host. I have had the good fortune to be on his show a couple of times promoting poetry. I would reach out to him to be on air to promote the activities of the position like gathering poems for the poems on the bus project which I love. I read the same William Carlos Williams poem on the bus in Milwaukee every day for months, and never got tired of it. WORT is a great partner for the entire city, and in fact beyond, their reach is huge and poetry at its heart is an oral tradition. It is meant to be heard.
- e. Literary Art Shows – When I lived in Seattle I was a member of Los Nortenos and produced literary art shows at the Richard Hugo House for the group on several occasions. We often raised funds for a nonprofit. The last one I did was at the Richard Hugo House and brought music, poetry and dramatic readings together in one place. We raised money for Real Change, the homeless people of the area often sold this newspaper throughout the city, and they published some of my early poems in their pages. It was a really great newspaper full of good information and commentary. I would emulate something along these lines for the city of Madison, but include movement and dance. I watched Joy Harjo’s inspiring inaugural performance on Thursday, September 19th at the Library of Congress for the US Poet Laureate, and marveled how she incorporated all these different art forms together with words.
- f. My reach is not just regional, it is national. I was a featured reader in March 2019 at AWP in Portland, Oregon and read from my latest book, *In Light, Always Light*. I was the guest editor along with Millisa Kingbird for the esteemed, *Yellow Medicine Review*. I am going to Southwest Minnesota State University in early November to meet with three poetry classes and to do an evening reading from my new book on campus. I have writer friends all over the country. My literary circle is ever expanding. While my specialty is Indigenous Poetics I am well versed in the craft, theory, and the great traditions of poetry all over the world. I was an English major as an undergraduate but I focused on poetry, and received attention early becoming a Ruth Lilly Fellow when I was at Drake University. Attending the Institute of American Indian Arts for my MFA was one of the best things that ever happened to me, my cohort, my mentors/professors, the writers I was exposed to in my time there. We had access to the best writers and had one on one personal time with them when they would come to campus. I used to think poetry was all inspiration, but now I think editing is where the real writing is and while my practice is to free write and see what lands on the page and then rework it and rework it until I am satisfied, and sometimes I get lucky and it is published and nominated for an award, or I get a book accepted or a nice rejection letter. I am a second and third generation Mexican American with Iowa roots going back to the late 1800s. What is not taught in our nations’ history is vast from many perspectives and levels. Poetry bridges distances. I have seen it work magic.

- g. Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee – I am serious about a “poet train.” I envision Madison and Milwaukee citizens riding this train carrying poems into schools, community centers, hospitals, public libraries. Collaboration is key. I would work with WP and local poets in both cities. I was at WP last night for a reading of IAIA poets. I mentioned to them a partnership if I was awarded this great honor. I served as a board member for them for a time and am still active.

Poetry Sample

Wheel Kids

Chocolate children
race down cul-de-sac
tight curls bounce
jeans t-shirts rise with air
clenched fists, taped bars,
tennis shoe brakes, no breaks
a shout they cruise
out of sight of the window
bikes, scooters shake quake
skinny kid arms, legs, torsos
skin flattens –
neighbors arrows straight
shooting stars flesh flies
bodies grow wings.

Arboretum

An 1880 census conceals us
carving holes in steel cars,
for light, night air, hanging
hammocks for sleeping wives
to rock under galaxies.

One woman rides the continent
follows her man from Zacatecas.
Thighs astride her clacking motorbike.
Belly swings on a swing sways on the rails until...

Where they lived in box cars until kids were grown.
Where post partum was unknown
and unbalanced women got sent back.

Where my grandma, her cousins
hid on the school hill to eat quesadillas.

Neighbors claim the old man rode with Pancho Villa
when men in suits leap off skyscrapers in New York.

Where my mom and tia pretend not to speak English
teasing shopkeepers on the square.

Where my dad ran cross country to escape
those fences, farmland until he broke –
a mahogany streak on burnt clay tracks.

Where my uncle strove through bullets in Vietnam
dragging his buddy to the helicopter.

And grandmothers trade apples for pears
fingertips and ashy wrists
dig out change at the market,
dole out tortillas during meals.
One hand on the open flame,
one hand flutters holds the blue house dress.

Where peony roots divide on their own
sparking an arboretum of sweet pink light.
Whose perfume carries itself uptown
to the courthouse in drafts with garlic and chile.

Where my sister came the day my grandfather was buried.
Water gushing graveside.

And summers meant volting between family houses.
Rhubarb sticks dipped in bone white sugar.
Rope swing thigh burns. Treasure hunts in the gully.

Where I visit now water their parched Easter Lilies
as they lie beneath the grass.

Thank them:

for surviving Midwest winters, wars and lynchings,
for firewood split, *mole* recipes on parchment,
for raising people who love so much it hurts to swallow,
for lessons on how small caramel women united overcome great sorrow,
for sharing their one red lipstick and rose hand lotion when I was a girl flowering.

After the First Snow

Bushes shake white gifts. Fleck flecks.
I am under their spell. Earth quakes.

Pine, oak, maple trees dance lift limbs, bow
burning bush trembles with each footstep droplets thunder.

Icicles on my birthday sparkle, clear candles.
Icy breath of pine cones, each branch breathes out clean.

Dust off flakes give thanks to the trunks who let me linger
in their froth, a child again beneath this skin package.

Winter's tongue landscapes the morning, silver palette –
sleds come out of storing children shriek, flock
to the hill carve runs all afternoon, sweaty kid brows shine.

Sound Scape

Plane engines whir
leaves clap
footsteps crush
red earth crunch
dry twigs laugh
tiny bird chirps
gecko scramble
water splashes
hand carved rows
corn bathing grows
fan whirs behind
sidewalk voices float
disembodied hello –
lands near,
bees buzz cackle
wings hover
fly wings trickle
water soaks
red earth drinks
whippoorwill calls
motorcycles buzz
writer cries out
road runner scratches
tree leaf quakes
cool breeze blows
hair joins chorus
wind whistles ears -
farmer kneels, knee
hits ground
plants leap
crab apples drop
red earth receives
ants march to feed.

Space Time

I.

We are magic dying.

Pink peonies gasp tight ants assist open petals

no peony exists without ministrations of light

brick wall frames space between drive

a garden of red clay pots brightens balcony

all balconies lit with green light caress eyes

eyes are mystery, upset images transform in skull

how we got here is fought over in courtrooms

people pretend to be god brandish fire sticks

hands are tools, nails are weapons

a newborn is a garden of purple heirloom potatoes

she is an angel reads minds from her high chair, babbles

mother feeds child smashed orange skin sweet potatoes with tiny spoon.

We are most vulnerable when we sit at the table with fork and knife.

II.

Early rose light calls from window

jack rabbits bound

flight occurs on ground.

Where are my crow friends?

Hawk brown circles school bathed in blue light

students descend stairs fade into brilliance

talks done talk begins

black pen scratches white paper

mind waxes sheds peacock feathers.

How do you begin to think mired in thought and self-doubt?

Walk clears canvas, blank sheets beg

pull feet to mountain ascend.

Scribbling

I prefer crowds with voices echoing
up and down the train cars, city bus gears singing *stop here*
exhaust spewing, laughs rolling to the page –
boots, heels, sneakers step on and off the curb,

voices flood ears become stolen dialogue in ink.

I write in public to feel stilettos slap pavement,
for the roar of pigeons in flight, the scent of yeast
to count those who stop to give the cold and knocked about
coins on the corner. Watch a little boy with his grandma
hand out raisins, buy their newspapers, deliver popcorn
balls, candy canes, cards full of glitter, signed
in a seven-year-old scrawl *God Bless You.*

I write so we can rest our bones,
our driving force to live without capture,
to forget about death float words
to the page without waking rise above
ego brain become scribbler with no name
observe life teeming: chipmunks who skedaddle
at the crow's shadow, squirrel highways in city parks, on power lines, pitches
to see young men assist a tottering woman
and her bags cross the street when traffic does not
stop for thin bones, the way the sun
goes to sleep, casts a halo over structures humans
construct to shield people from ice sheets whistling
across lakes, prairies, the summer rays that burn
foreheads and cheeks stamping a fury

so we can sleep at night embrace the soft dark light.

In Light, Always Light

Grass strands gleam weave, undulate from the window

The vendor screams *build the wall*
lifts his hands works the crowd
look at me sells more t-shirts.

My mind waxes. Brilliant wet glass winks, waves shine back
my reflection.

I am dazzled by the sun glinting off my cat's whiskers. He lays
on his back, flanks splayed by the deck half-shade, half-light.

First graders play football on marigold carpet in our shared back yard.
The smile on their faces when they catch it warms us –
childless apartment dwellers behind glass walls.

The poet reads a book of poems then walks to the park to think.
She does not know what she is going to do hike
the sled hill or swing on the swing. If no children are present
she will swing until her stomach says no, then descend
from her height among the tree tops and head home.
She circles the preserve full of earth thoughts: falling leaf
music, crashing, crushing sounds and auburn smells
float up from her footsteps.

She thinks.

We spin on Earth's axis half-blinks of history.

What and That

What woman picked the corn
split the husk and molded the seed
that fed the people and opened the world?

What being climbed down the tree
made the savannah a refuge?

Who caught the strike
that lit the bush that started the spark
that became the flame that lit the hearth
and traveled village to village
hallowed horn of smoldering smoke
that started the fire that cooked the kill
that fed the self to grow so big?

What worker birthed the child cut the cord
swaddled it, and kept on going down her row?

What mother walked thousands of miles
with two hands held in those smaller than her own?

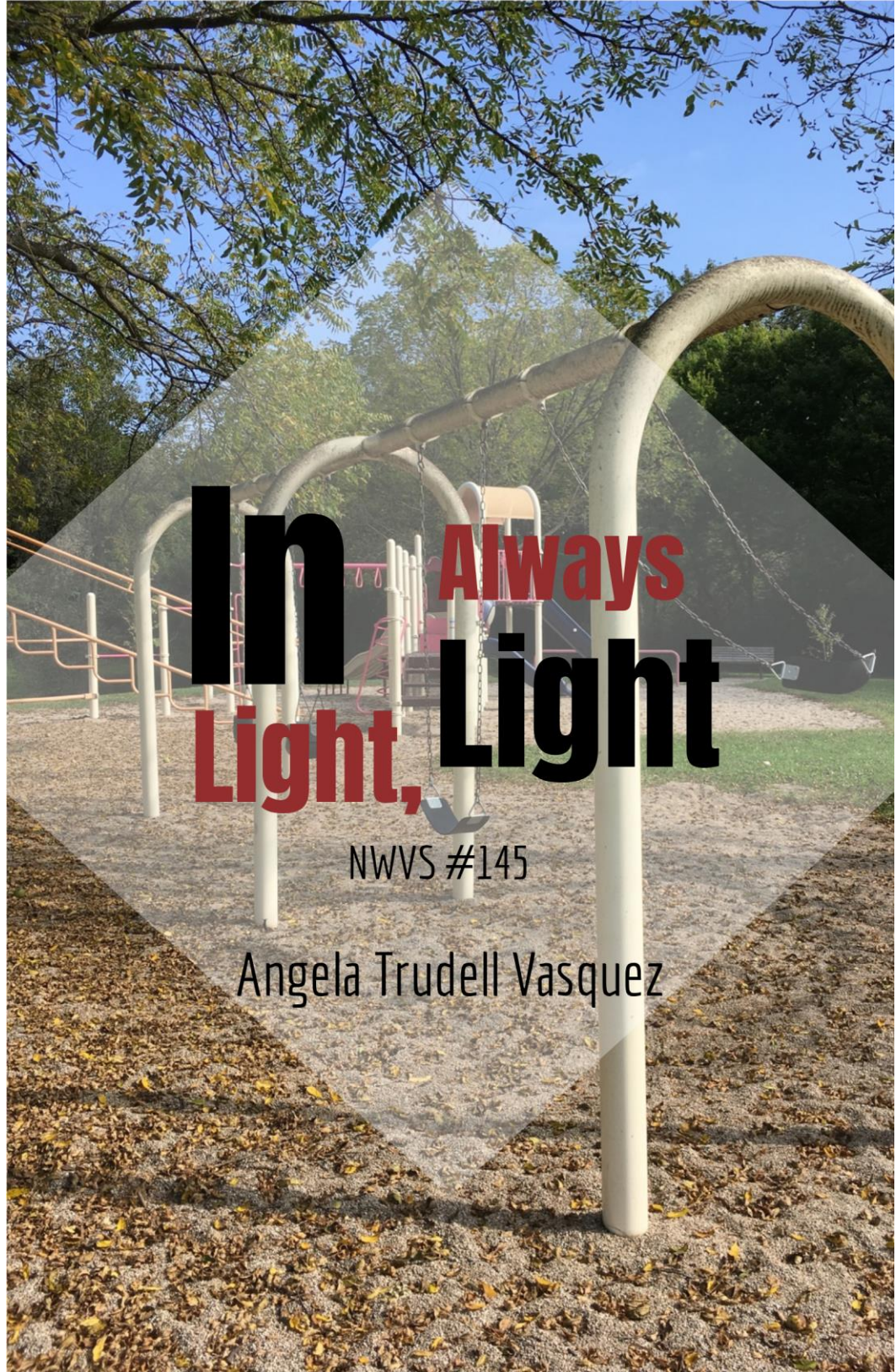
What father carried his child over mountain tops
swam through rivers crossed deserts and lakes with one arm?

What prisoner pierced the lock
walked out into the sunshine?

What grandparent let her daughter sleep
while the child rose, bathed its skin
in rose water and lavender sang songs
of one and twos until it cooed back
ohhhhs and ahhhhs blowing bubbles?

What woman picked the corn, split the husk
and spilled the seed that fed the people
and opened our world?

*first published by the *South Florida Poetry Journal* online August 2019



**In Always
Light, Light**

NWVS #145

Angela Trudell Vasquez

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PRESS RELEASE

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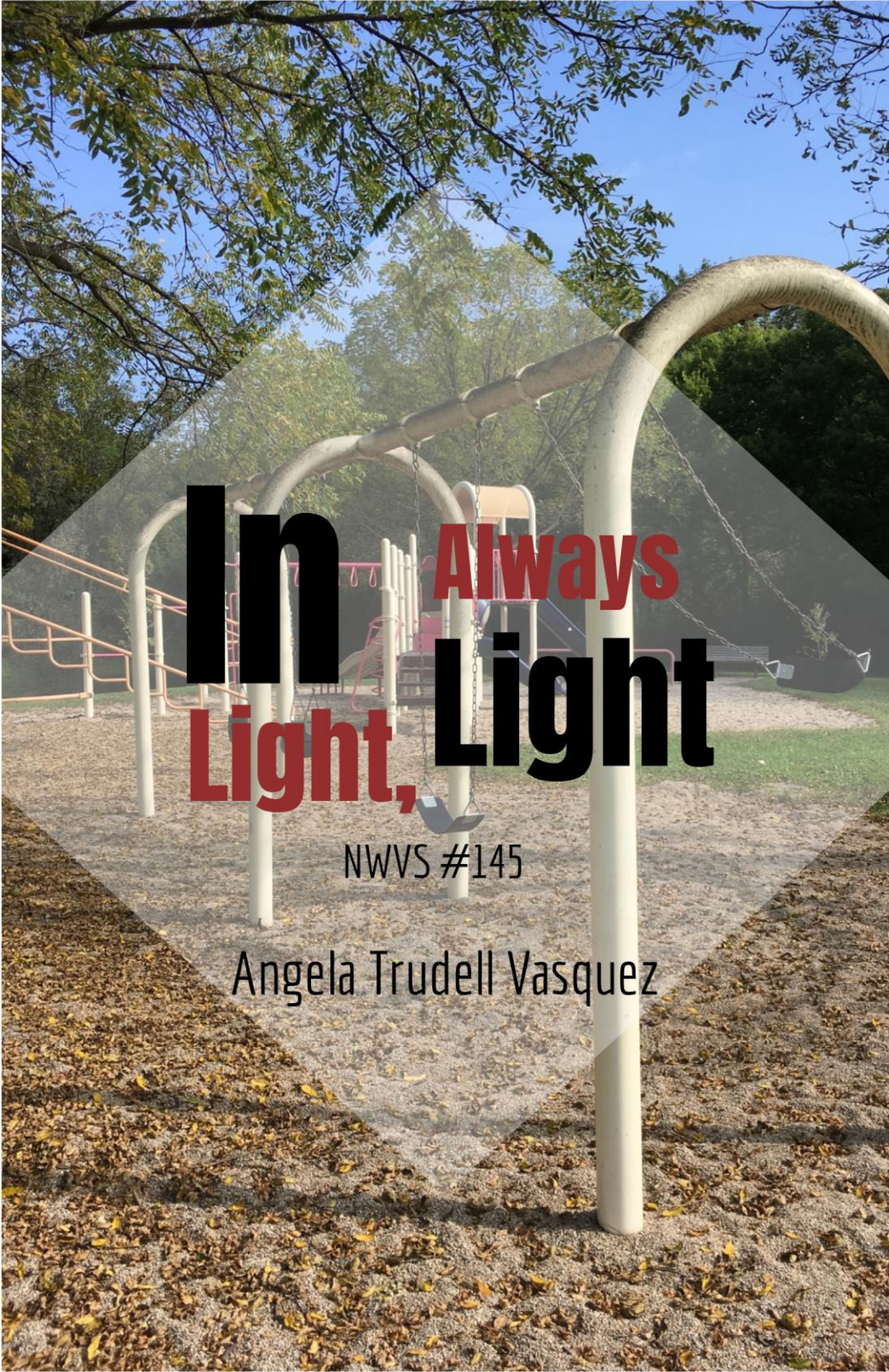
Finishing Line Press is proud to announce the publication of:

In Light, Always Light, a collection of poems, by **Angela (Angie) Trudell Vasquez**

In Light, Always Light, a new collection of poems by Angie Trudell Vasquez, weaves poetry with history, familial and personal, through image, sound and great attention to detail. An Iowa native, her roots go back to late 1800s when her family came up from Mexico with the Rock Island railroad.

The poems of *In Light, Always Light* afford space for the lyric to clarify and delineate the self “... through the ravine to the seam / the V peak of the hills / where dappled light spills / between rocks and discarded beer cans.” Here Angela Vasquez presents poems that struggle to contend with family history, a history of diaspora and relation, of assertion and insistence that the reader and the poet must bring to bear the imperative of “*yes, yes fight back.*” The poems travel, as we do, to observe the poet in the eternal dimension where one must write, and read — “Let me sit in sadness for a spell. / I need to write this out.”

--Joan Naviyuk Kane, 2018 Guggenheim Fellow



**In Always
Light, Light**

NWVS #145

Angela Trudell Vasquez

The poems in Angie Trudell Vasquez's *In Light, Always Light* honor the illuminating power of poetry, but they also speak eloquently of racial injustice and the dark "inherited grief" that is its offspring. These are poems of history, endurance, and remembrance. They vividly story the strength and survival of migrant ancestors "who built railroads / with broken backs" or shared "*mole* recipes on parchment." In those relatives "passed. . .to vases of bone and ash," Vasquez recognizes the fleeting quality of human reality. Like our forebears, we are mere "half blinks of history," "we are magic dying." But in this volume, Vasquez offers her ancestors colorful and enduring literary lives. "Poets," she writes, "resist the death of a people" and "beyond death, art speaks."

Kimberly Blaeser, author of *Apprenticed to Justice*, Wisconsin Poet Laureate 2015-2016

"Trudell Vasquez speaks for those who have no voice, and her well-crafted poems face injustices both global and personal. Readers can feel the weight of deep moral center at work in this collection by a fine poet who deserves their regard." Excerpt from Mark Zimmerman's review of *In Light, Always Light*, in the current edition of the *Wisconsin People & Ideas Magazine*:

<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/magazine/spring-2019/book-review/light-always-light-angela-trudell-vasquez>

Angie Trudell Vasquez received her MFA in poetry from the Institute of American Indian Arts in 2017. Her work has been published in *Taos Journal of Poetry*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Raven Chronicles*, and *Cloudthroat*. She has poems on the Poetry Foundation's website, and was a Ruth Lilly fellow as an undergraduate at Drake University. She has new work forthcoming from *RED INK: International Journal of Indigenous Literature, Arts & Humanities* and the *South Florida Poetry Journal*. In 2018 she was a finalist for the New Women's Voices series and her book, *In Light, Always Light*, was published by Finishing Line Press in May 2019. She guest edited the Spring 2019 edition of the *Yellow Medicine Review* with Millissa Kingbird, just released.

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ANGELA C. TRUDELL VASQUEZ (Angie) – Current as of June 2018

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Institute of American Indian Arts, MFA Creative Writing - Poetry 2017
Drake University, BA in English & Poetry 1996
Des Moines Area Community College
University of Iowa

Volunteer - Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission, At Large Member 2017

Books

Love in War Time, 2013, poetry chapbook published under own label, Art Night Books, an independent publisher of poetry and comics, co-founded with cartoonist partner

The Force Your Faces Carries, a chapbook/ poetic novel published under own label, Art Night Books, 1st edition 2005, 2nd edition 2009 with spine

Revolution & Reclamation, 2014, edited anthology of poetry, short stories and flash fiction on love and social justice, Midwest & Pacific Northwest poets, Art Night Books

Cries for Justice – Poems for Dontre Hamilton, 2016 edited anthology of poetry from Wisconsin poets on Black and Brown Lives Matter movement, Art Night Books. Includes members of the Prose & Con Group at Racine Correctional Institute.

Poems in Anthologies & Magazines (in print & online)

2018

Identity – Poetry Foundation online

Mark Twain – Poetry Foundation online

Scribbling – *Wisconsin Academy*

Sweet Scent – Poetry Foundation online

Swan Lake – *Poems in the Waiting Room* (New Zealand)

Trying to See Auras at the Airport – Poetry Foundation online

Wheel Kids – *Where I Want to Live*

2017

Chicago (For Eschikagou) - *Raven Chronicles*

Fragments in Time – *Taos Journal of Poetry*

In Light, Always Light – *Return to the Gathering Place of the Waters*
On Loyalty – Woodland Patter Book Center online
On Patriotism – *The Rumpus* online
Once in Seattle – *Subtle Forces*
Patina – *Subtle Forces*
The Photograph – *Return to the Gathering Place of the Waters*
Sea Burial – *Subtle Forces*
Space Time – Woodland Pattern Book Center online
The Truth – *BASTA – 100+ Latinas Against Gender Violence*
Wild Prayer – *Return to the Gathering Place of the Waters*, Woodland Pattern Book Center online
What the Well Witnessed – *Yellow Medicine Review*
Wheel Kids – *Cloudthroat* online
Winegardner Road – *Yellow Medicine Review*
Woodstoves & Outhouses – *Raven Chronicles*

2016

But I Want Everyone to Know I am Alive – *[Insert Title Here]* – *Literature and Art from the institute of American Indian Arts*
Child Pose Cannot Hold – *Yellow Medicine Review*
The Congregation – Woodland Pattern Book Center online
Dark Knight – *San Diego Poetry Annual 2015 – 2016*, Woodland Pattern Book Center, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign online at wisdc.org, <http://www.wisdc.org/pr051316a.php>
Maize Maiden – Woodland Pattern Book Center
On Loyalty – *Yellow Medicine Review*
Raven - *[Insert Title Here]* – *Literature and Art from the institute of American Indian Arts*, Woodland Center Book Center
Space Time – *Yellow Medicine Review*
Synonymous - Wisconsin Democracy Campaign online at wisdc.org, <http://www.wisdc.org/pr051316a.php>
Taxes - Wisconsin Democracy Campaign online at wisdc.org, <http://www.wisdc.org/pr051316a.php>
Tree Friends - Wisconsin Democracy Campaign online at wisdc.org, <http://www.wisdc.org/pr051316a.php>

2015

Cousin Betty – Woodland Pattern Book Center online
De Colores – Woodland Pattern Book Center online
Wild Things – Woodland Pattern Book Center online

2014

Butterfly Children – *Verse Wisconsin, Issue #113, April 2014*

Cousin Betty – *Revolution & Reclamation, Spring 2014, Art Night Books*

Nia Class 2013 – *I Didn't Know There Were Latinos in Wisconsin, 3rd edition, Cowfeather Press*

Peace Brokers – *Peace & Freedom, Magazine of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Spring/Summer 2014, Vol. 74 No. 1 & Harbinger, Swords into Ploughshares, Peace Center & Gallery, Summer newsletter 2014, Vol. XXVVI No. 2*

Trying to See Auras at the Airport – Hybrid project, poems and photographs, paired & available in Madison & Milwaukee green taxi cabs, 6 months per city

Wild Things – *Revolution & Reclamation, Spring 2014, Art Night Books*

2013

After Richie Havens – *Turn Up the Volume, Poems About the States of WI – Nov. 2013*

Eyes Alive – *Chazen Museum of Art, Bridge Poetry Series, March 21, 2013, online*

Fair Oaks Ave, August 2009 – *Echolocations: Poets Map Madison, 2013*

2012

Crazy Spaghetti House Benefit – *Verse Wisconsin, Issue 109, July 2012*

Dream Act Poem – *Verse Wisconsin, online issue 108, April 2012*

Kauai – *Burdock 11, Teppichfresser Press, 2012*

Lessons - *Verse Wisconsin, online issue 108, April 2012*

Peace Brokers – *The New Verse News, November 13, 2012, online*

Swan Lake – *Wisconsin Poets Calendar 2013 & Verse Wisconsin, Issue 109, Sept. '12 online*

We Dream - *Verse Wisconsin, Issue 108, April 2012.*

Who Am I – *Verse Wisconsin, Issue 108, April 2012*

2009

Taxes – *Poetic Asides, April 9, 2009*

We Dream – *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, jsonline.com, March 30, 2009, in blog post, "Dreams of a Poet," by Georgia Pabst, review of the play, "The Latina Monologues," featured poet and participant.*

2007

Heredity – *Woodlandpattern.org, March 2007, online*

On the Bus – *Nerve House #4, Spring 2007*

2005

A Dream Within A Dream - *Real Change, Volume 11, No. 5, Feb. 9 – 15, 2005*

Alienation – *Purgatorius.org* 2005

Mental Gymnastics – *Purgatorius.org* 2005

On Getting Out – *Real Change, Volume 16, No. 16, Feb. 2 – 8, 2005*

Though This May Age Me a Hundred Million Years – *Real Change, Volume 11, No. 9, March 2 – 8, 2005.*

Twiggyesque – *Real Change, Volume 12, No. 18, May 4 – 10, 2005*

Vanity – *Real Change, Volume 11, No. 5, Feb. 9 – 15, 2005*

2004

Lost and Found – *Real Change, Volume 11, No. 16, July 22 – Aug. 4, 2004*

Mark Twain – *Real Change, Volume 11, No. 18, Aug. 19 – Sept. 1, 2004*

The People's Petition – *Purgatorius.org, 2004*

Today's News – *Real Change, Volume 11, No. 10, April 29 – May 12, 2004*

2003

Charity – *Real Change, Volume 10, No. 1, Dec. 26 – Jan. 8, 2003*

Obituary for Tent City – *Real Change, Volume 10, No. 12, May 29 – June 11, 2003*

On the Question of War – *Real Change, Volume 10, No. 1, Dec. 26 – Jan. 8, 2003*

Poem on 911 – *Raven Chronicles, What Will Take Root? Volume 10, Spec. edition 9/03*

The Living Room – *Viva La Word! Conquista & Rebellion, April 2003, El Milagro Press.*

Trying to See Auras at the Airport – *Taj Mahal Review, Volume 2, Number 2, December 2003*

We Dream – *Real Change, Volume 10, No. 3, Jan. 23 – Feb. 5, 2003*

2002

View at Jose Rizal Park – *Real Change, Volume 9, No. 10, May 2 – 15, 2002*

White Washer Plant Town – *Real Change, Volume 9, No. 1, Dec. 27 to Jan. 9, 2002*

2001

Lessons – *Real Change, Volume 8, No. 4, Feb. 8 – 21, 2001*

2000

Facial – *Jet City Maven, A North Seattle Community Newspaper, January 2000*

Living in the Jungle – *Real Change, Volume 7, No. 22, November 15, 2000*

1999

Human Maze – *Our House, A Publication of CASA Latina, Volume 6, Issue 3, Nov. 1999*

1997

Cursed – *Stand Alone, Volume 1, #10, November 1997*
Dark Man – *Stand Alone, Volume 1, #10, November 1997*
Dear John – *Stand Alone, Volume 1, #10, November 1997, also reviewed in issue.*

1996

I Could Never – *Drake University Update Winter 1996*
One Brown Face - *Periphery, 1996 (as Color Contrast)*
Poem For Men Who Think Their Wives Are Their Maids – *Periphery, 1996*

1995

I Could Never – *City View, November 13, 1995 & 5th Annual Des Moines National Poetry Festival Chapbook, April 1995*
One Brown Face – Iowa Humanities Board fall 1995 for diversity conference, and in *The Times Delphic, Vol. 114, No. 8 & the 5th Annual Des Moines National Poetry Festival Chapbook, April 1995* (as Color Contrast)
Why I'm Dying – *5th Annual Des Moines Nat. Poetry Festival Chapbook, April 1995*

Op-eds & Essays

Written for the Progressive Media Project affiliated with *The Progressive* magazine online &/or in print:

Trump's Appeal is Based on Racism, June 2016

People should be able to afford their longtime neighborhoods, October 2015

In Immigration Debate, Candidates Stake Ground but Miss Point, May 2015

My Public Education, April 2015

Wisdom from the Kitchen Table, March 2015

For Thanksgiving, America Stops Splitting up Families Like Mine, Nov. 2014;

Five Years After Dr. Tiller's Murder, Need to Lessen Rhetoric, May 2014;

Why Wisconsin Should Legalize Marijuana, May 2014;

Don't Let Boston Bombers Derail Immigration Reform, April 2013;

Planned Parenthood Essential for Millions of Women, September 2012;

Tucson United School District Crosses the Line, January 2012;

Hispanic Heritage Month piece – Latinos are an American Success, Oct. 2011;

House Has Betrayed Women in the Military, June 2011;

Stop Scapegoating Immigrants, February 2011;

Arizona's New Immigrant Law is Unjust, June 2010.

Essay: The Making of the Latina Monologues*, Verse Wisconsin, Issue 108, online, April 2012:

http://www.versewisconsin.org/Issue108/prose/trudell_vasquez.htm

*Essay now in print in the collection, *Local Ground(s) – Midwest Poetics*, and nominated for Pushcart Prize in 2014 by Cowfeather Press.

Major Performances

Guest Poet for Haiku Festival, Chicago, IL April 28, 2018

Featured speaker, poet & activist for Fighting Bob Fest, September 13, 2014, Baraboo, Wisconsin at Sauk County Fairgrounds, 13th annual festival.

Featured poet for the Latina Monologues, 2009 to 2011, Milwaukee & Madison, WI; poems performed include: Who Am I, Human Maze, Dark Man, Lessons, We Dream, Milwaukee Poem #2, Dream Act Poem.

Featured poet at Bumbershoot 2003, Seattle's annual art & music festival.

Awards, Prizes & Honors

- 2017 nominated for Pushcart Prize for poem, "Wheel Kids," by *Cloudthroat*
- 2014 nominated for Pushcart Prize for essay, "The Making of the Latina Monologues," printed in *Local Ground(s)-Midwest Poetics* from Cowfeather Press
- 2014 won 3rd place at Raise Your Voices Award for poem Milwaukee #2, Riverwest Arts Association
- 2013 Voices Award, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin
- 2003 Featured poet at Bumbershoot, Seattle's annual art and music festival
- 1996 Recognized for outstanding artistic achievement by Drake University
- 1995 Ruth Lilly poetry fellowship finalist
- 1986 Minority Achievement Award & Scholarship from University of Iowa
- 1986 LULAC Queen, League of United Latin American Citizens, Des Moines, IA

More Performances, Presentations & Workshops (selected)

100,000 Poets For Change, Woodland Pattern Book Center, September 30, 2017

Featured poet at Bonk! Poetry Series, Racine, Wisconsin, Eco-Justice Center, August 12, 2017

Featured poet for Wisconsin's Poetry in the Park, Milwaukee, June 13, 2017

Featured poet at Mother Fool's, July 1, 2016, Madison, Wisconsin

Watershed Readling – The Lucky Reading, Art + Literature Laboratory, May 13, 2016, Madison, Wisconsin

Poetry panelist at Split This Rock! 2016, Washington, D.C.

Annually teach poetry workshop I created, entitled, 'Poetry, Politics & Power' for ACLU of Wisconsin's, Youth Social Justice Forum from 2010 to present.

Presenting poet for Latino Mental Health Summit, Alverno College, February 23, 2013

Featured poet for Stillwater Collective, Milwaukee & Madison, WI January & February 2013.

Poet in residence for Latino Community Center 2010, 6 weeks, Fall/Winter

Young Authors Conference, the Glendale-River Hills School District, 2009 – 2010, presenter and workshop leader - one day only

Taught week long summer poetry camp for Woodland Pattern Book Center 2009 & 2010

Poet for the Other America Tour, a youth program for the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation, from 2006 to 2009

Taught poetry workshop: Feminism and The Beats, January 2007, Woodland Pattern Book Center, Milwaukee, WI

Featured reader/speaker/poet at 7th Annual Minority Student Achievement Network Student Leadership Conference, September 2006, Wisconsin, Green Bay Area Public School District

Featured reader at Milwaukee Area Technical College, (MATC), May 1, 2006, Milwaukee, WI, for Latino Awareness Week

Special Appointments & Community Service (selected)

Participated in every annual poetry marathon at Woodland Pattern Book Center since 2005.

HYBRID: Transported by Word and Image, an installation of poetry and photography by Thomas Ferrella in taxi cabs, 2014 in Prius cabs in Madison, WI, Green Cab Company and as of September 1st, 2014 in hybrid cabs owned by American United Taxi Cab Company. Public reading at Woodland Pattern November 23, 2014 in Milwaukee, WI

Featured poet at Good Eats, all ages open mic, Express Yourself Milwaukee November 14, 2014.

Objects d'Art, benefit/fundraiser for Stillwater Collective, at Kasana, October 28, 2014, commissioned piece.

I Didn't Know There Were Latinos in Wisconsin book release readings: Madison, WI, September 28, 2014 at Downtown City Library; Milwaukee, WI, October 4, 2014 at Woodland Pattern; and Waukesha, WI, October 15, 2014 at La Casa De Esperanza.

Featured poet at Downtown Books, Milwaukee, WI July 31, 2014.

Revolution & Reclamation chapbook release reading at People's Books May 8, 2014, 1st edited collection of poetry and fiction from Art Night Books.

Featured poet for Feminism on Tap, Reproductive Health Clinic and Planned Parenthood, March 27, 2014.

Panelist on behalf of ACLU of Wisconsin and Skylight Music Theatre on Freedom of Speech and the Allen Ginsberg Trials, March 24, 2014, Milwaukee, WI.

Love in War Time, book release reading at Woodland Pattern, March 23, 2014.

Presenting poet at ACLU of Milwaukee Chapter's annual meeting, Riverwest Public House, January 23, 2014.

Presenting poet at ACLU of Wisconsin's annual membership meeting at Kasana, December 14, 2013.

Presenting poet for book launch of Echolocations, premiered poem, Fair Oaks Ave, August 2009, at downtown Madison Public Library, November 23, 2013.

Presenting poet for anthology debut/launch, Turn Up the Volume: Poems About the States of Wisconsin, November 15, 2013, Woodland Pattern Book Center, premiered poem, After Riche Havens.

Panelist for 2013 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival's screening of the documentary entitled, Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth, October 20, 2013, spoke on art and activism.

Presenting poet for 9to5.org's 40th Anniversary Celebration, September 25, 2013, Milwaukee, WI.

Milwaukee Arts Board panelist, May 2013, grant reviewer

Beat Music & Poetry Series, May 31, 2013, Art Bar, Milwaukee, WI, featured poet

Bridge Poetry Series/1934: A New Deal for Artists, Chazen Museum of Art, March 21, 2013, presenting poet, wrote and premiered ekphrastic poem, Eyes Alive, in response to Lily's Furedi's commissioned piece, Subway, circa 1934. {Traveling exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian. (Bridge III) }

Presenting poet/reader for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin's 40th anniversary celebration of Roe v. Wade, January 27, 2013, Milwaukee Poem #1, and premiered poems, The Act & After the Act for 'Our Lives, Our Stories, Our Celebration' at the Majestic Theatre, Madison, WI.

Board Member for Woodland Pattern Book Center, Milwaukee WI, 2009 to 2012

Presenting poet for Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's Lifetime Achievement Award & Recognition, Milwaukee Friend's House, November 10, 2012, premiered poem, Peace Brokers.

Presenting poet at Librotraficante: 50 for Freedom of Speech, September 21, 2012

Presenting poet at Oakhill Correctional Institution, August 2012

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Milwaukee, WILPF, poetry performance, Jackaloupe Lounge, June 28, 2012, Milwaukee, WI

1st Annual Midwest Small Press Festival, June 2, 2012, Burdock #11 release, Jackpot Gallery, Milwaukee, WI.

Presenter for Stillwater Collective, May 21, 2012, Scholastic Writing Awards of Milwaukee, The Stackner Cabaret, Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

100 Thousand poets for change, September 24, 2011, Milwaukee, WI.

Beat Music & Poetry Series, September 23, 2011, Art Bar, Milwaukee, WI, featured poet

19th Annual Wisconsin Fellowship of Poetry Invitational Poetry Marathon, Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI, June 26, 2011

Bonk! June 25, 2011, featured poet, Racine, Wisconsin.

Crosshatxh Poetry Series, featured poet, November 18, 2010, Project Lodge, Madison, WI

Pathfinders Youth Shelter presentation March 13, 2009, Brewing Grounds for Change, Milwaukee, WI.

Avol's Bookstore, August 31, 2008, featured reader, Madison, WI

Featured reader at A Room of One's Own, September 3, 2006, Madison, WI

Featured reader at Woodland Pattern Book Center, May 19, 2006, Milwaukee, WI

Los Nortenos – as a member and volunteer produced literary art shows & benefits locally at the Richard Hugo House and Elliott Bay Books, in the original Pioneer Square location, Seattle, WA: The Peace Show in 2005 with special guests and shows open to the public for Cinco de Mayo and Dia De Los Muertos, etc., 2001 to 2005.

MALCS – Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social, organized literary art show, performed and served as MC, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, August 6, 2004.

Taped poem, There But For The Grace, by Wislawa Szymborska, for non-profit, Washington Women in Need, for annual benefit, Seattle, WA, March 2002.

Videos: Clips from Latina Monologues from 2009, Bonk! 2011 performance & Milwaukee Public Television, MPTV's Adelante show #1104

http://www.versewisconsin.org/Issue108/prose/trudell_vasquez.html

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5_qk2EUs6E

<http://www.mptv.org/video/watch/?id=247>

More Videos & Audios:

Institute of American Indian Arts, IAIA.edu, May 2017

Poetry Craft Talk – Arts as Resistance

<https://vimeo.com/217941751>

Poetry Reading – Lannan Foundation

<https://vimeo.com/224216188>

Interview with Burdock Radio, March 20, 2014: <https://soundcloud.com/riverwestradio/17-00-00-burdock-radio3-1>

Watershed Reading: Lucky, May 13, 2016 by Arts & Literature Laboratory:

https://soundcloud.com/artlitlab/watershed-reading-lucky-may-13-2016?utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=facebook

Winter Poetry Festival Reading: January 22, 2017

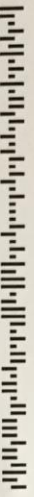
<https://soundcloud.com/user-627259523/winter-festival-of-poetry-2017-january-22-2017>

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