



Modesto-Stanislaus  
Poetry Center

## PRESS RELEASE:

The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) is pleased to announce the third in a series of quarterly poetry readings, **The Poetry on Sunday Series**, hosted by **Carnegie Arts Center** (Gemperle Gallery), 250 N. Broadway, Turlock, California on **Sunday, August 24, 2014 at**

**2 pm.** The featured readers in August for **The Poetry on Sunday Series** reading will be **Sheila D. Landre, Justin Souza, Linda Gordon Sawyer**, and Modesto's Poet Laureate Emeritus, **Ed Bearden**. The event is **FREE** and **OPEN** to the public. An Open Mic will follow the featured readers, so bring your words to share.

### FEATURED READERS SHORT BIOGRAPHIES:

**SHEILA D. LANDRE** is a retired teacher, poet, minister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who has been performing her work in public since 1995 at coffee houses, book stores, Sacramento's Luna's Art Cafe and on stage at the State Theatre, The Prospect Theatre Project in Modesto, Stockton's Haggin Museum, and the Carnegie Center in Turlock. Her poetry has appeared frequently in *Penumbra* (the literary magazine of California State University Stanislaus), *iZam Bomba!*, *TalkArt*, *Song of the San Joaquin*, *Connections*, and other northern California publications. She is a long time member of the Licensed Fools writing group.

**JUSTIN SOUZA** is a poet and photographer living and working in Modesto, California. His poems have appeared in McSweeney's Internet Tendency, Oak Bend Review and More Than Soil, More Than Sky among other publications. Justin is the Managing Editor of Contentment Health Magazine and a contributing writer to many other regional publications. He shares his life with his wife and son who he loves desperately.

**LINDA GORDON SAWYER** is an artist, writer and poet. Her work has appeared in the Modesto Bee, Watercolor Magazine, Blue Unicorn and Song of the San Joaquin. She also illustrated a chapbook of her poems, *Leaf by Leaf*. She has received many awards for her poems and is included in every Ina Coolbrith Circle Anthology since 2001. Her Poem, *The Game* is included in *More than Soil, More than Sky*, an Anthology of Modesto Poetry. Linda has four sons and nine grandchildren. She lives with her husband Tom, and dog Sophie on their ranch east of Waterford.

Linda grew up in Berkeley and graduated from Palo Alto High School. Her mother was a painter and her father was Art Director of Sunset Magazine. She went to UC Davis to study art, later married Tom Sawyer and moved to a ranch with walnut trees and lots of black and white cows.. She made her art while raising four sons, exhibiting and selling work in Modesto, Stockton and the Bay Area. When the disastrous flood on the Tuolumne River hit close to her home in 1997 she began writing essays about ranch life, which appeared in the Modesto Bee. Often those written experiences became distilled into poems and she began to write poetry seriously at that time. She writes about those who settled the land, and the women who worked on the farm, her experiences growing up in Berkeley, and her life in the country close to nature.

**ED BEARDEN** has served as editor of the Sentinel, a Stan. State literary magazine, on the editor board of the Song of the San Joaquin, President of the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, and was the 2008-2012 poet laureate for the City of Modesto. His poetry is buried knee deep in the valley soil.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION :**

**The Poetry on Sunday Series** and is an outreach of the newly formed **Modesto – Stanislaus Poetry Center**. For information about joining and supporting the **MoSt Poetry Center** visit the MoSt Poetry Center website [www.mostpoetry.org](http://www.mostpoetry.org)

The next **Poetry on Sunday Series** reading will be held Sunday May 25, 2014. For More Information about **The Sunday Poetry Series** at the Carnegie Arts Center, please contact Lynn M. Hansen, Coordinator of the Series: [hansenl@mjc.edu](mailto:hansenl@mjc.edu). See you there!