

Bio for Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Poet and organic fruit grower Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer “is a chanteuse of the heart,” says poet Art Goodtimes. She is Poet Laureate Emeritus of San Miguel County.

She has authored and edited eleven books, including:

- *Intimate Landscape: The Four Corners in Poetry & Photography*
- *Holding Three Things at Once*, finalist for the Colorado Book Award
- *Suitcase of Yeses* (audio CD);
- *Charity: True Stories of Giving & Receiving*;
- *If You Listen* winner of the Colorado Independent Press Association poetry award.

She’s widely anthologized, including *An Elevated View: Colorado Writers on Writing*, *Poems of Awakening*, *Red Thread*, *Gold Thread: The Poet’s Voice*, *Come Together: Imagine Peace*, *The Geography of Hope: Poets of Colorado’s Western Slope* and *What Wildness This Is: Women Write About the Southwest*. Her work has also appeared on *A Prairie Home Companion* and in *O Magazine*.

In addition to writing, Rosemerry leads writing workshops for hospice, recovery programs, women’s groups, teachers and people who think they hate poetry. She performs with a poetry troupe (EAR), teaches poetry in schools, independently and with Think 360, sings with a 7-woman a cappella group, leads (for 13 years) a poetry discussion series, and is mother and step-mother to six-year-old Finn, two-year-old Vivian, and 27-year-old Shawnee. For ten years, Rosemerry served as director of the Telluride Writers Guild and wrote an award-winning column on linguistics for the *Telluride Daily Planet*. In 2007, she and her husband, Eric, bought a 75-acre orchard and now grow organic peaches, pears, cherries, apples and apricots. Her master’s degree in English Language & Linguistics is from University of Wisconsin—Madison.

“To witness Rosemerry Trommer’s myriad talents before a group and to hear her message is to restore one’s faith in humanity.” —Mike Nobles, Director of “A Gathering of Writers”

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bibliography: books that have influenced me

Books of Poetry:

These volumes, or anything by these authors ...

Aaron A. Abeyta, *Colcha*, (University Press of Colorado)
A. R. Ammons, *The Selected Poems* (W.W. Norton & Co.)
E.E. Cummings, *73 Poems* (Harbrace Paperbound Library)
Hafiz, *The Subject Tonight is Love* (Pumpkin House Press)
Jane Hirschfield, *Given Sugar, Given Salt* (Perennial)
Gerard Manly Hopkins, *Poems & Prose* (Penguin Classics)
Li-Young Lee, *Book of My Nights* (BOA Editions)
Heather McHugh, *Hinge & Sign: Poems* (Wesleyan University Press)
Pablo Neruda, *100 Love Sonnets* (University of Texas Press)
Mary Oliver, *Thirst: Poems* (Beacon Press)
Naomi Shihab Nye, *Words Under the Words* (Far Corner Books)
A. E. Stallings, *Archaic Smile* (University of Evansville Press)
May Swenson, *May Out West* (Utah State University)

Books on Poetry:

Ted Kooser, *The Poetry Home Repair Manual: Practical Advice for Beginning Poets* (University of Nebraska Press)
David Mason & Mark Jarman, *Rebel Angels: 25 Poets of the New Formalism* (Story Line)
Clive Matson, *Let the Crazy Child Write: Finding Your Creative Writing Voice* (New World Library)
Francis Mayer, *The Discovery of Poetry* (Harcourt, Inc)
Michael Meyer, *Poetry: An Introduction* (Bedford: St. Martins)
Jack Myers, *The Longman Dictionary of Poetic Terms* (Longman)
Ron Padgett, *The Teachers & Writers Handbook of Poetic Forms* (Teachers & Writers)
Joseph Parisi, *Poets in Person* (Poetry Press)

Books on Other Things:

Pema Chodron, *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* (Shambhala Classics)
James Gleick, *Chaos: Making a New Science* (Penguin)
Lewis Hyde, *The Gift: Imagination & the Erotic Life of Property* (Vintage Books)
Dean Ornish, *Love & Survival: The Scientific Basis for the Healing Power of Intimacy* (Harper Collins)
David Peterson, *Writing Naturally: A Down to Earth Guide to Nature Writing* (Johnson Books)
Twyla Tharp, *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life* (Simon & Schuster)

Journals:

Poetry
The Writers Chronicle
Ode (a magazine for optimists)
Pilgrimage: Story Spirit Place Witness