



Wordsmiths

— Fall 2020 —



FRI. OCTOBER 9 • 7:30PM
Christopher Bursk,
Joseph Chelius, and Greg Probst

Christopher Bursk, recipient of PEW, NEA, and Guggenheim Fellowships, is the author of seventeen books, most recently *Dear Terror* and *Answer the Door*. He is the grandfather of six, the companion of three imaginary friends, Wobbly, Oliver, and Nobody, and at age 77 is working towards his associate degree at Bucks County Community College.

Joseph Chelius works as an editorial director for a health care communications company in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He has published two chapbooks of poems with Pudding House Publications and two full-length collections with WordTech Communications: *The Art of Acquiescence* (2014) and *Crossing State Lines* (2020). A resident of Bucks County for more than 25 years, Joe is a former Bucks County Poet Laureate and the first-prize winner of the inaugural short story contest (2017) at Bucks County Community College.

Greg Probst is a writer of poetry and fiction, as well as a filmmaker. He is a recipient of the Pam Perkins-Frederick Memorial Scholarship for the Marriage of Art and Poetry and the Dr. Allen Hoey Memorial Scholarship for Short Fiction. His writing has been featured in *The Centurion*, *The Temple News*, and in *Hyphen*, Temple University's undergraduate literary magazine.



SUN., NOVEMBER 15 • 1:00PM
Bucks County Poet Laureate
Reading + Celebration
with Liz Chang

The Annual Bucks County Poet Laureate Reading + Celebration with previous Poet Laureate, Mary Jo LoBello Jerome, the new Poet Laureate, and one of this year's judges, Liz Chang.

Liz Chang published her second book of original poetry and translations in 2012 with Book&Arts press, *What Ordinary Objects*. Her chapbook *Animal Nocturne* from Moonstone Press is now available. Her poems have recently been included in *Verse Daily*, *Origins Journal*, *Stoneboat Literary Journal* and *Breakwater Review*, among others. Her translations from French appeared in *The Adirondack Review*.

She is 2012 Montgomery County Poet Laureate and an Associate Professor of English at Delaware County Community College. Liz is a member of the poetry editorial board of Philadelphia Stories and the Advisory Board of the Montgomery County Poet Laureate program. She received her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and lives with her family, cat and honeybees en les environs of Philadelphia.



FRI., DECEMBER 4 • 7:30PM
Carole Maso and Cheryl Baldi

Carole Maso is the author of the novels: *Mother and Child*, *Ghost Dance*, *The Art Lover*, *AVA*, *The American Woman in the Chinese Hat*, and *Defiance*; as well as *Aureole* (a book of short fictions); *Break Every Rule* (essays); *The Room Lit by Roses* (a journal of pregnancy and birth) and *Beauty Is Convulsive: The Passion of Frida Kahlo*. She is the recipient of many awards, including a Lannan Fellowship. She is a Professor of Literary Arts at Brown University.

A resident of Bucks County for more than 40 years, **Cheryl Baldi** is a former Bucks County Poet Laureate and finalist for the Robert Frasier Award for Poetry. She has taught at Bucks County Community College, worked as a free lance editor, and served as cofacilitator for community based workshops exploring women's lives through literature. A finalist for the 2006 Francis Locke Memorial Award, her work also was nominated for 2008 Best New Poets Anthology. Her collection of poems, *The Shapelessness of Water* was published in 2018; she currently is working on a second collection, *In the Golden Hour*.

All events are free and open to the public and will be broadcast on the
Bucks County Community College YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/user/BucksCCC](https://www.youtube.com/user/BucksCCC)

Contact: Ethel Rackin, ethel.rackin@bucks.edu • The readings are funded by the Cultural Programming Committee.



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