

## Book & Leaf Press Release

10 Park Street

Brandon, Vermont

### **Roads Taken: Chard deNiord and Sydney Lea**

with the poets of the Anthology

Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:00PM

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In celebration of contemporary Vermont poetry, the Book & Leaf Bookstore in the heart of Brandon, will offer a night with co-editors, **Chard deNiord** and **Sydney Lea** with some of the poets included in ***Roads Taken***, an Anthology of Vermont poets published by Dede Cumming's **Green Writers Press**. This is a unique reading by members of the group that comprises both experienced and newly published poets. There will also be an **Open MIC** for writers, with a brief, one poem limit. All invited to this celebration of poetry and conversation, and of course, complimentary tea, coffee and sweets.

With its mystical landscape and fiercely self-reliant citizenry, Vermont has inspired poets from its earliest days. ***Roads Taken*** is an anthology of contemporary Vermont poets that represents a wide range of accomplished voices—both young and old, both renowned and relatively un-established. Their poems offer news, in Ezra Pound's words, that stays news, and they do so in a wide variety of forms and subjects. While there is no such thing as a particular brand of Vermont poetry, the poems in this volume claim Vermont as their place of origin, bearing witness to the remarkably rich and ongoing legacy of the state's poetic tradition.

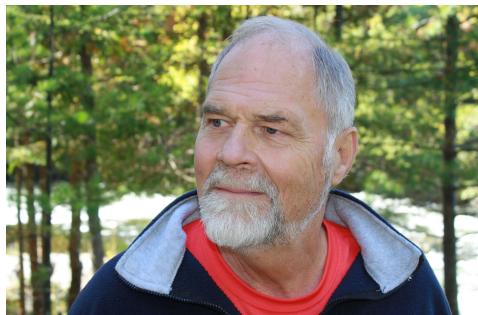
Vermont is often described as a particular "state of mind." Both native Vermonters, and those who have made a life choice to live here share a sense of independence and fierce individuality. In the introduction to ***Roads Taken***, Dan Chiasson writes, "Many people move to Vermont because of the idea of it, an idea that has proven remarkably durable over time: as these poems suggest, so powerfully do the daily necessities of living there, of surviving there, assert themselves. This is where Frost comes in: Frost's poems are the great rural instruction manual for our neck of the woods. His influence is everywhere in the poems collected here, which so often take 'nature' not as an idyllic refuge but as a site of careful, strenuous, and repeated steps or actions. The Vermonters in this book come from and live all over. ***Roads Taken*** is a 'constellation/of patches and pitches,' proof to me that Vermont will always require the imagination of its citizens to exist."

Please join us for an unusual evening of rich poetic sharing with **Chard deNiord** and **Sydney Lea**, and a sampling of poets who have been included in ***Roads Taken***. We look forward to sharing stimulating, thought-provoking poetry that speaks with great sensitivity to the complex world we live in. Support your local talent and keep expanding our community of lovers of the written word.

## BIOS



**Chard deNiord** is the poet laureate of Vermont and author of six books of poetry, most recently *Interstate*, (The University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015) and *The Double Truth* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011). His book of essays and interviews with seven senior American poets (Galway Kinnell, Donald Hall, Maxine Kumin, Jack Gilbert, Ruth Stone, Lucille Clifton, Robert Bly) titled *Sad Friends, Drowned Lovers, Stapled Songs, Conversations and Reflections on 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Poets* was published by Marick Press in 2011. His new book of interviews with nine contemporary poets (Jane Hirshfield, Natasha Trethewey, Carolyn Forché, Galway Kinnell, Martín Espada, Stephen Kuusisto, Peter Everwine, Ed Ochester, Stephen Sandy) and James Wright's widow, Annie, is forthcoming from the University of Pittsburgh Press this May under the title *I Would Lie To You If I Could*. He is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Providence College and a trustee of the Ruth Stone Trust. He lives in Westminster West, Vermont with his wife Liz.



**Sydney Lea**, a former Pulitzer finalist, founded and for thirteen years edited *New England Review*. He retired after 43 years of teaching at Dartmouth, Yale, Middlebury and several European universities. His thirteenth collection of poems, *Here*, is due from Four Way Books this year. Likewise, in fall of 2018, Vermont's Green Writers Press will publish *The Music of What Happens: Lyric and Everyday Life*, his collected newspaper columns from his years (2011-15) as Vermont Poet Laureate. Green Writers Press has just re-issued his collaborative book of essays with former Delaware laureate Fleda Brown, *Growing Old in Poetry: Two Poets, Two Lives*. He lives in Newbury, Vermont with his wife Robin Barone.