

Sebastopol Center for the Arts  
282 South High Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Catherine Devriese (707) 829-4797  
June 1, 2022 Sebastopol Center for the Arts

### **Announcing Sonoma County Poet Laureate 2022-2024**

The Sonoma County Poet Laureate Selection Committee is proud to announce that Elizabeth C. Herron has been named Sonoma County Poet Laureate 2022-2024 from a field of gifted and well-qualified finalists. Her term runs from August 2022 through July 2024.

Every Poet Laureate is a Sonoma County resident whose poetry manifests a high degree of excellence, who has produced a critically acclaimed body of work, and who has demonstrated a commitment to the literary arts in Sonoma County.

After attending the University of Hawaii, Elizabeth earned a Masters in Counseling at San Francisco State University. She studied the origin of aesthetic behavior, and received a PhD in Psychology from the University for Integrative Learning, a fleeting distance-learning program founded by graduates of the Harvard School of Education. She joined the Counseling Center at Sonoma State University and subsequently moved to a faculty position, teaching Creative Writing, Creativity and Contemplative Practice, and Ecological Identity.

Elizabeth writes poetry and articles on art and ecology, the role of art in society, and the importance of natural systems and biodiversity in the physical and spiritual well being of individuals, communities, and the planet. During her tenure, she will be gathering poems from the community on the theme of Being Brave.

Herron's artistic work includes collaboration with other poets, musicians and visual artists for performances and print projects. Her collaboration with sculptor Bruce Johnson on his, Poetry House, led her to write a handwritten book length poem housed within his large redwood sculpture, Poetry House, in Cazadero studio.

She writes essays as well as poetry, and her work appears in literary journals and magazines including *Reflections*, *Canary*, *West Marin Review*, *Parabola*, *Ecological Citizen* and *Center for Humans & Nature*. Her poetry has shaped itself into three full-length collections and four chapbooks. (She is also the author of a book of short fiction.)

*Insistent Grace*, published a year and a half ago by Fernwood Press brings together poems of the natural world –largely watershed poems. Her forthcoming book (also from Fernwood) is a collection of poems written about the ramifications of climate change and presented in a roughly chronological arrangement, going back to a log of Northern California coastal environmental data begun over a decade ago and completed in a long poem titled *Report* (previously published as a chapbook by dPress). Included in the forthcoming book is Last Report, chronicling the ecological changes of the Anthropocene. Her current manuscript-under-construction explores domestic life as well as global events such as the war in Ukraine.

The Sebastopol Center for the Arts, along with the Poet Laureate Selection Committee, invites the public to a reception on Saturday, July, 30, 2022 at 4PM. We'll be honoring our outgoing Poet Laureate, Phyllis Meshulam, our new Laureate, Elizabeth. Register for the reception on the SebArts website at [sebarts.org](http://sebarts.org).