

Celebrating My Home Town: a biography of sorts

by David Cope (b. 1948)

Contact: dcope@grcc.edu or decope@yahoo.com

Home phone: 616 531 1442

Address: 2782 Dixie Ave. S. W.

Grandville, Mi. 49418

Early in my career as a poet, I decided that I would remain in Grand Rapids and write about the lives of ordinary people in my city and state, rather than migrating to New York, Boulder, or San Francisco as so many other budding young poets have done. I saw that our city and state have a unique history and culture worthy of celebration, and my work has accordingly celebrated our people and their struggles, triumphs and despairs.

I was fortunate to begin my study with Lucy DeLoof at GRJC, where I was editor-in-chief of *Display* Magazine; later, I studied with the great Robert Hayden at the University of Michigan, and when I returned to Grand Rapids, I won first prize in the adult category of the Dyer-Ives Poetry Contest in both 1971 and 1972. Although that period was one of continuing study, I went on to found my Nada Press and *Big Scream* magazine, now in its 49th issue; the magazine has been in continuous publication since 1974. In 1978, my "Crash" was published in *The Pushcart Prize II: Best of the Small Presses*, and selections of my work appeared in *City Lights Journal #4* and in *New Directions Anthology #37*, as well as in numerous small press magazines and anthologies. I also began teaching and giving readings in the summer sessions at the famed Naropa Institute (now University) in Boulder, Colorado. This pattern culminated in my first book, *Quiet Lives* (Humana, 1983), which included a foreword by Allen Ginsberg. My second book, *On the Bridge* (Humana, 1986), was selected by James Dickey, Irving Howe, and Ginsberg for the annual Literature Award from the American Academy/Institute of Arts and Letters.

During the 80s and 90s, I traveled to Detroit, Ann Arbor, Rochester, Manhattan and Brooklyn, New Brunswick and elsewhere, reading my work and participating in poetry convocations. I was regularly published in small press and in anthologies, and continued publishing my books with Humana until my publisher, dying, returned the rights for all six books to me. I was also fortunate to do readings, interviews, and lectures at Brooklyn College, St. Lawrence University, Wayne State University and elsewhere. In 1991, I began teaching full time at Grand Rapids Community College, where I was soon advising student editors for the same *Display* where I had worked as a student. I also organized student poetry readings, and persuaded the college to bring poets ranging from Allen Ginsberg to Anne Waldman to read and meet with the students. When our Diversity Center brought Yevtushenko to the college, I read with him in the afternoon session, and I also worked with that office to develop and put on the week-long Pablo Neruda celebration and the three-weeklong Women in the Arts Celebration. I judged the Calvin College "Good Groceries" poetry contest, the Aquinas College poetry contest, as well as the Jewel Heart Contest in Ann Arbor. Eventually, I

was selected to judge the annual Kent District Libraries teen poetry contest (which I have done for 5 years now), and I have served as program coordinator for the Kent County Dyer-Ives Poetry Contest for the past two years.

I am a strong candidate for the role of poet laureate, having long experience of working with the press and with public figures. My work writing for the Plensa Exhibit at Meijer Gardens demonstrates that I can compose high quality poetry when given a prompt. I've stayed by my city because I believe our people, places, and history are worthy of celebration, and I am particularly pleased that I might, for a time, serve as poet laureate. I already have two projects in mind: editing an anthology of the best poets from the Grand Rapids area, and hosting a conference for high school and college age student poets selected by their professors and teachers.

David Cope: Works and Publications

*Starred manuscripts and/or books and related materials are on file as "David Cope Papers" in archive at the Special Collections Library, The University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. Substantial collections of issues of *Big Scream* are also available at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library, and at the New York Public Library.

Awards:

American Academy and Institute of Arts & Letters Award in Literature, 1988. [for *On the Bridge*, 1986. Selected by Allen Ginsberg, James Dickey, and Irving Howe]

Poetry Books:

Early Poems. 88 pages, unpubl.

Quiet Lives. Foreword by Allen Ginsberg. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana, 1983. 88 pages.*

On The Bridge. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana, 1986. 88 pages.*

Fragments from The Stars. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana, 1990. 119 pages.*

Coming Home. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana, 1993. 119 pages.*

Silences for Love. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana, 1998. 119 pages. *

Turn the Wheel. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana, 2003. 88 pages.*

Masks of Six Decades: poems 2003-2010. Grandville: Nada, 2010. 40 pages.*

Moonlight Rose in Blue: the selected poems of David Cope, 1974-2010. unpubl. 1974-2009. 88 pages.

Correspondence:

Selected Letters 1992-1999. with index of correspondents and notes. unpubl. 139 pages*

The Signing Space: Interview and Letters. with Jim Cohn. unpubl. 153 pages.*

Canon Debate: Multiculturalism & The Canon. with Edward Jayne III. (1996) unpubl. 97 pages.*

Canon Debate II: Inclusion & Materialism. with Edward Jayne III. (1997-98) unpubl. 166 pages.*

Canon Debate III: Skepticism, Syntactic Risk, and The Impeachment Hearings. with Edward Jayne III. (1998-99). unpubl. 152+ pages (in progress).

New Letters: 1997-present. unpubl. 162+ pages (in progress).

Academic and Literary Essays:

The Blue Notebook: Early Autobiographical and Literary Essays. unpubl. 81 pages.*

Book One: *Dante & Chaucer.* unpubl. 175 pages.

Book Two: *Shakespeare & His Contemporaries.* unpubl. 352 pages.

Book Three: *Paradiso X: "L'Amor che l'uno e l'altro etternalmente spira."* unpubl. 114 pages.*

Book Four: *Julius Caesar: The Political Text in Performance.* unpubl. 83 pages.

Book Five: *Multiculturalism & The Canon.* unpubl. 161 pages.

Book Six: *Miscellaneous Essays, Mostly Medieval.* unpubl. 92 pages.

Renaissance Drama Plot Outlines. unpubl. 89 pages.

Ghost Dances: The Prose Writings of David Cope. unpubl. 154 pages.

As Editor:

Big Scream. poetry journal, 48 issues publ. Grand Rapids: Nada, 1974-2009 (ongoing).*

The Roaring Girl, or Moll Cutpurse. by Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker. with introduction. Grand Rapids: Grand Rapids Community College, 1996. 77 pages.*

Nada Poems. anthology of poets Grand Rapids: Nada, 1998. 128 pages.*

A Poet's Sourcebook. anthology of poems. Second ed. Grand Rapids: Grand Rapids Community College, 1997, 2004. 219 pages.*

Sunflowers & Locomotives: Songs for Allen. in memoriam Allen Ginsberg. Grand Rapids: Nada, 1997. 58 pages.*

Demotic Fire: The Postbeat Poets. Ed. Jim Cohn and David Cope. 24 poets in postbeat tradition, with biographies and acknowledgements. 239 pages. 2008-09. Unpublished as of this compilation.

Publication, Anthologies:

“Crash.” *The Pushcart Prize II: Best of the Small Presses.* . Ed. Bill Henderson. Avon, 1978.

Selection of poems. *City Lights Journal #4.* Ed. Mendez Monsanto. City Lights, 1978.

Selection of poems incl. in Ginsberg’s Choice.. *New Directions Anthology #37.* Ed. J. Laughlin, with Peter Glassgold and Frederick R. Martin. New Directions, 1978.

Selection of poems. *Friction 5/6: Obscure Genius Issue.* Ed. Allen Ginsberg and Randy Roark. Laocoon, 1984.

“Congratulations.” *Best Minds: Festschrift for Allen Ginsberg.* Ed. Bill Morgan and Bob Rosenthal. New York: Lospecchio, 1986).

“The Declaration of Interdependence.” *Disembodied Poetics: Annals of the Jack Kerouac School.* Ed. Anne Waldman and Andrew Schelling. U of New Mexico Press, 1994. (Cope was principal author, with 32 contributors).

“Sirens & Flashing Lights Stop.” *Poems for the Nation* (anthology ed. Allen Ginsberg, Andy Clausen, Eliot Katz. New York: Seven Stories, 2000).

“Tender Petals for Calm Crossing.” *Van Gogh’s Ear: Poetry for the New Millennium 2.1.* Ed. Ian Ayres. Paris/New York: French Connection/Committee on Poetry, 2003.

“Labor Day.” *Visiting Walt: Poems Inspired by the Life and Work of Walt Whitman.* Ed. Sheila Coghill and Thom Tamaro. Iowa City: Iowa U P, 2003.

“Crash.” *Poems to Live By in Troubling Times* Ed. Joan Murray. Boston: Beacon P, 2006).

Selection of poems. *Sins and Felonies.* Ed. G. F. Korreck. Grand Rapids: Barbaric Yawp P, 2007.

Selection of poems. *Fresh Grass.* Ed. Roseanne Ritzema. Rockford: Presa, 2009.

“Sirens & Flashing Lights Stop.” *Working Words: The Literature of Work, Class & Art.* Ed. M. L. Liebler. Coffee House, 2010.

Small Press Publication (1975-2010):

*Blind Alley, In The Light, Windows in The Stone; Delirium; The World; Roof, Bombay Gin; New Blood; Ferro Botanica; Wonderland; Voices; The Grand Rapids Press; Long Shot; Action; Pay Up Dead Beat; Ahnoi; Planet Detroit; La Voz; The New York Quarterly; WFMU 91.1 FM (New Jersey); Poetry Flash; Lactuca; LSA (University of Michigan); The Underground Forest; We; Big Fireproof Box; Big Hammer; Black Swan Review; The Grand Rapids College Review; Napalm Health Spa; Lame Duck; The St. Mark's Poetry Project Newsletter; The Michigan Council of Teachers of English (November 1985); Vajradhatu Sun; Headcheck Number Four; Heaven Bone; WSLU (Canton, New York); Indefinite Space; Big Fish; Shambala Sun; The Cafe Review; The Wayne Literary Review; The Ann Arbor Poetry Forum; The Brooklyn Review, Hazmat, Bill Freeman's Magazine; Louisiana Review; The Paper 4.22 (Jan 25-31, 2001); The Woodstock Journal "October Surprise" online issue; Rattapallax; The Chiron Review, Presa 1 and 2; The Grand Rapids Press ("A Well-Versed Man," by Beth Loechler, with Cope's poem "The Rhododendron," J1, 9 April 2006); prose memento celebrating Allen Ginsberg, "Allen in Memory," published in *The Paterson Literary Review* 35, Paterson, New Jersey; *The Litribune; Wildflowers: a Woodstock mountain poetry anthology*; "A Memento for Diane," published in *Big Bridge* 14 (ed. Michael Rothenberg): Features: Diane di Prima: a Retrospective Collection of Essays, ed. David Hadbawnik, and in *The Paterson Literary Review*; "Congratulations" published in *Mind Breaths* (Allen Ginsberg Festschrift) and later in *Beat Scene* (Cambridge, U. K.).*

Selected Lectures and Readings (*audiotape in David Cope Papers, UM archive):

- 1980: "On the Poetry of Charles Reznikoff and Marsden Hartley," and reading my poetry with Andy Clausen and others. Naropa Institute, Boulder, Co.
- 1982 Reading with Jack Micheline and Peter Orlovsky, Jack Kerouac Conference, Naropa Institute, Boulder., Co.
1983. Reading with Andy Clausen and Antler, introduced by Allen Ginsberg. 67th Street YMCA. New York City, March 15.
1984. Solo reading. Lines Series, Detroit Institute of Art. 3-18-1984.*
- 1987: "The Poetry of Carl Rakosi."* Objectivist Conference, Naropa Institute, Boulder, Co. Evening reading with Carl Rakosi.*
1988. Reading with Allen Ginsberg, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Mi. Two audiotapes.*
1990. "Rested Poetics." Ecopoetics Conference, Naropa Institute, Boulder, Co. Reading with Antler, Jeff Poniewaz, and Greg Keeler.

1992. Reading with Anne Waldman and Jim Cohn, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, Mi.
1994. "On the Later Poetry of Allen Ginsberg," Beats & Rebel Angels Conference, Naropa Institute, Boulder, Co. Reading with Galway Kinnell, Sharon Olds, and Ed Sanders.
1997. "Black English Vernacular, Creolization, and 'Market' English." GRCC Diversity Conference. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
1998. "Slave Rebellions in Life and Literature." GRCC Diversity Conference. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
1998. Reading of my poems. Michigan Poetry Conference (with Richard Tillinghast, Diane Wakoski, Michael Heffernan, and Thomas Lynch). Northern Michigan College, Petoskey, Mi.
2002. Poetry and Buddhism panel chair, and reading of my poems. Anne Waldman Conference, The University of Michigan Special Collections Library, Ann Arbor, Mi.
2003. David Cope: A Poet's Journey, 1968-2003. Retrospective Exhibit at Grand Rapids Community College Library, October 30-November 14. Poetry reading and reception, October 30.
2004. "Translating 'Que Despierte El Leñador.'" The Pablo Neruda Centennial Celebration, sponsored by the Diversity Center. Grand Rapids Community College Library. Grand Rapids, Mi.

Websites:

David Cope Papers. *Special Collections Library.* The University of Michigan.
<http://mirlyn.lib.umich.edu/Record/000803213>

David Cope Homepage. *The Museum of American Poetics*
<http://www.poetspath.com/exhibits/cope/>

The Shakespeare Project. (curator) Course materials for Cope's Shakespeare classes.
<http://www.grcc.edu/shakespeare/>

"Fran" and other poems. *The Pier.* Bob Rixon's online zine.
http://thepier.homestead.com/files/David_Cope.html

"October Surprise: An Absurd Reverie." *The Woodstock Journal October Surprise Project.*
<http://www.woodstockjournal.com/pdf/october-surprise.pdf> (now defunct)

Poems in *Napalm Health Spa* (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 ff) David Cope
Homepage (scroll to bottom and click): http://www.poetspath.com/Dave_Cope/

"*Shakespeare in Love* course notes." *LehrerInnen Fortbildung-Baden-Wuerttemberg*.
<http://www.lehrerfortbildung-bw.de/faecher/englisch/bs/dvd/unterricht/bearbeitung.htm>

"*Shakespeare in Love* course notes." *Steven Marx Homepage*.
http://cla.calpoly.edu/~smarx/Shakespeare/Shak_inLove/SILCope.html

Three essays on renaissance drama. *Essays and Articles in Early 17th Century Literature* (search under Jonson, Dekker, or Middleton):
<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/sevenessay.htm>

"A Memento for Diane." *Big Bridge* 14 (Features: Diane di Prima: a Retrospective Collection of Essays, ed. David Hadbawnik).
http://www.bigbridge.org/BB14/2010_diprima/DiPrimaTOC.HTM

"David Cope." *Thru the 3rd Eye*. (website operated by Rod Torreson's student poets.
This page includes three poems, interview, and essay).
<http://throughthe3rdeye.com/node/322>

Dave Cope's Laureate Tasks 2011-2014

Summer 2011

1. **June:** The Museum of American Poetics publishes Allen Ginsberg's letters to me (1975-1990) and republishes Becky Spaulding's laureate interview with me for the GRCC *Collegiate* newspaper. See: <https://www.poetspath.com/napalm/nhs11/index.html>
2. **June 15: Allen Ginsberg Project article**, "David Cope—Letters from Allen Ginsberg" published online, with notice of laureate position. See: <http://ginsbergblog.blogspot.com/2011/06/david-cope-letters-from-allen-ginsberg.html>
3. **June 16:** meeting with GRCC Dean Laurie Chesley. Information on the Poetry Conference; she will also recommend three hours release time for work on my laureate projects.
4. **June 30:** completed initial contact list for Poetry Conference (GR area college connections, KISD and parochial high school connections, Media Contacts, Libraries, Bookstores, Cafés).
5. **July 5: receipt of *Paterson Literary Review* with my essay** "A Memento for Diane [di Prima]" and two poems.
6. **July 10-22:** composition and multiple revisions of "The City in Agony," poem exploring the horrors of mass murder/extreme domestic violence in Grand Rapids.
7. **July 11: interview by Kendall Pektas for *Grand Rapids Magazine***, at the Arts Council. To be published in October.
8. **July 17:** receipt of a huge trove of 1972-1980 letters and manuscripts sent to my friend and former college roommate, Gary Schmidt and his wife Lin, on July 15 at my 45th class reunion. These form an important missing link in my correspondence and 50+ poems I lost during one of the most productive periods of my writing career. I catalogued these for my UM archive on the 17th.
9. **July 21: *Through the 3rd Eye* laureate/craft interview** with Rachel McGinness. <http://throughthe3rdeye.com/>
10. **July 28, 3:45 p.m. at Rosa Parks Circle. Reading for "Milk for Thought and the Big Pink Bus"** in support of breastfeeding and other healthy parenting habits.
11. **Curated *The Beats* exhibit for GRCC English Department** display case, selecting books, anthologies, films, and CDs for display, writing captions, and arranging exhibit.

12. **August 11: Reading at Downtown Schuler Books**, between 5:30-6:30, with Katherine Marty.
13. **August 1-15:** letters sent out to initial group of local poets, asking for input on poetry conference setup, as well as manuscripts, bio, etc. for GR Poets Anthology.
14. **August 28:** finished editing *Big Scream* 50 (my litmag, 72 pages). Script is ready for layout and design; to be published for national distribution, January 2012.

Fall 2011

15. **September 15: Professors Poetry Panel**, Literary Life Bookstore, 7:00-8:30, with Keith Taylor (UM) and former poet laureate Patricia Clark (GVSU).
16. **GR Poets' Conference:** MCACA grant writing through the month of September; conferring with GRCC grants folk and with Angela De Luca Placencia (Sept 15); Venues for April 2-5, 2012 tentatively secured at GRCC for Poets' Conference; met with Heath Chelesvig at GRCC to design performance evaluation sheets for conference (MCACA requirement); began talks with Provost and Dean re 1: 1 support of conference per MCACA requirement. Designed template letters of support to be sent to numerous organizations, asking for help in promotion, etc.; established advisory group of professors at GRCC (the third such: the Arts Council Committee is my first group; the 12 poets who will perform and facilitate panels is the second).
17. **Wednesday, September 21: Meeting with Dean Chesley** and grants folk to locate GRCC funds in support of the Grand Rapids poets' conference:
18. ***Song of the Owashtanong: Grand Rapids Poetry in the 21st century***, the poetry anthology I developed, is now $\frac{3}{4}$ complete at 158 pages, including text by 12 poets, brief bios, and acknowledgements for prior publication. When the anthology is complete, I will begin searching for a publisher or, failing that, a grant for the book.
19. **The University of Buffalo Library of Poetry** contacted me, wishing to purchase a nearly complete set of the 49 extant issues of my *Big Scream* magazine, and to establish a subscription for future issues. This is an important archive, associated with the influential Electronic Poetry Center (<http://epc.buffalo.edu/>); it will complement already-extant collections at the University of Michigan Special Collections Library and in Periodicals at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
20. **October 3, 2011. MCACA Grant due for GR Poets' Conference at GRCC.**
21. **October 8, 2011.** Reading at WYCE radio with local performance poet Smith Pettis.

22. **October 10, 2011. One of a panel of “distinguished judges”** chosen by Mayor Heartwell to select top 6 phrases in MyGR6 Contest. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Skunkworks Conference Room at GRid Building.
23. **October 18:** MyGR6 breakfast buffet announcing winners.
24. **October: *Grand Rapids Magazine* feature article on me as laureate.**
25. **October 21, 2011. Dinner with GVSU President Haas and his wife, with poets Terrance Hayes and former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.** Prior to the poets’ reading at Grand Valley’s annual Poets’ Night.
26. Several of my poems and short essays are being translated into Chinese by Professor Zhang Ziqing, of the Institute of Foreign Literature at Nanjing University. My work will appear in publications in China in the near future. This is, incidentally, a long-delayed Chinese response to Allen Ginsberg’s teaching trip to China in 1984, when he read my poems as examples of American excellence to students there.
27. **November 4:** meeting with Arts Council committee to begin determining the future of the laureate position now that the Arts Council is going defunct.
28. **November 4:** Reading on behalf of the Literacy Council of West Michigan at Billy’s Lounge, arranged by GRCC creative writing club, The Jules.

Winter 2012

29. Continued work on the Grand Rapids Poets’ Conference

- <December 12, 2011. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant awarded in full—conference is a “go.”
- <1-5: request to Dean Chesley for additional funds re presenters and refreshments.
- <1-6: Deirdre Chervenka Cunningham and Zachary Tomaszewski OK their appearances on reading series panel.
- <1-6: sent out request for confirmations to poets re their appearances in conference schedule. Poets have confirmed one-by-one in weeks following.
- <11 January: Website meeting with Dan Syckle, Malinda Powers, Raul Alvarez.
- <13 January: 7:30-9:00: Library. Meeting with Nan Schichtel and Bryan Wible re venue for evening readings (layout—stage, audience seating, refreshments table, etc.), traffic, signage, seating, recording, etc.
- <13 January: 10:45-12:00: meeting in Sneden 108 with Becky Yoder, Ben Wright, Dan Zehr, Vicky Janowiak, DeWayne Faber, Mike Rowe, Rebecca Whitman. Exploration of various venues for conference, with concerns about parking, etc.
- <16 January: meeting with Dan Syckle to begin building conference website.
- <17 January: discussion with Daniel Zehr re refreshments.

- <18 January: Klaas Kwant confirmed videorecording of evening readings, and requested that I nominate other sessions that should be recorded.
- <23 January: email resend to Becky Yoder, Rebecca Whitman, and V. Janowiak addressing parking and other concerns. Rebecca responded with comments.
- <23 January: email to Nan Schichtel, Bryan Wible, Miriam Pederson, and Mursalata Muhammad re exhibits at the library (set up and length of time they'll be up).
- <23 January: sent request to Heath Chelesvig for making of audience response forms.
- <23 January: sent email to Dan Zehr asking for revised quote per refreshments at readings (reduction of grapes / elimination of coffee and decaf from order).
- <23 January: sent email to poets re orders for their books.
- <24 January: Poets' Conference website goes live:
<http://cms.grcc.edu/grpoetsconference>
- <27 January: refreshments order OK'd for evening readings.
- <27 January: provided documents to James Holyfield for setting up account/budget for dispersal of MCACA funds for conference.
- <10 February: meeting with Nan Schichtel at the library to discuss book purchases and display of books for conference.
- <12 February: wrote script for poster and press release, sending poster to Andrew Schmidt/Dan Syckle for design and both documents for attachment of logos.
- <13 February: received account number for grant funds.
- <14 February: press releases and poets' bios sent out to *The Grand Rapids Press*, *On the town*, *Grand Rapids Magazine*, *Revue Magazine*, *The Collegiate*, *The Michigan Poet*, *MLive*, *The Raptidian*, and *Through the 3rd Eye*. Postings on my Facebook page and on the *Poetry West Michigan Facebook* page. Contacted Vicki Hudson re GRCC advertisement in *Press* during March.
- <Feb 10-March 15: Press releases sent out to major media outlets, poets, interested
- <March 1 and after: Conference posters sent out to Kent District Libraries and to the Grand Rapids Public Library System for distribution.
- <Promotion of the conference at *The Michigan Poet*, an email newsletter that goes out to poets and those interested in the art across the state (March edition).
- <March 12: Email interview with Kyle Austin for *Through the 3rd Eye* poetry website.
- <March 13: Invitation to GRCC Board of Trustees to attend the conference.
- <March 15: Email interview with Matt Siegel for *Rapid Growth Media*.
- <March 19: Email interview with Lori Slager for *The Raptidian*.
- <March 23: Email interview with Matthew Waldrep for *The Collegiate*.
- <March 24: Poet Laureates Photo Shoot on the "blue bridge" for *RGM* article.
- <March 24: "Calling All Poets: Grand Rapids set to Host Inaugural Poets' Conference," by Kyle Austin, *Through the 3rd Eye*.
- <March 24: "An Interview with David Cope on the 1st Annual Grand Rapids Poets' Conference," by Kyle Austin, *Through the 3rd Eye*.
- <March 24-25: Completion and uploading of The Grand Rapids Poets' Conference Facebook page.
- <March 26-April 2: GRCC Communications Department Radio Ad for the conference on Michigan Radio.
- <March 26: receipt of audience response printouts needed for compliance with MCACA grant.

- <March 27: procured parking passes for conference performers.
- <March 29: Mayor Heartwell offers to present opening remarks at the conference, and OKs spreading the word that he will be there.
- <March 29: “A Local First: Grand Rapids Poets’ Conference,” by Matt Simpson Siegel, *Rapid Growth Media*.
- <March 30: “First-time Grand Rapids Poets Conference puts spotlight on West Michigan talents,” by Maria Amante, *MLive*.
- <March 31: “Poet Laureate David Cope initiates first poetry conference in city,” by Lorena Slager, *The Rapidian*.
- <**April 2-5: The Grand Rapids Poets’ Conference**: 14 featured poets, 42 poets and artists performing, 837 members in audiences. Further, the project director’s core benchmarks were all met:
 - <Local media were extremely helpful in promoting the conference, ranging from radio ads on Michigan Public Radio to a feature story on WZZM-TV evening news, to interviews and articles in a wide variety of venues, to posters and other notices presented across the city.
 - <Mayor George Heartwell opened the conference with a paean to poetry and the reading of two Billy Collins poems.
 - <All of the conference events went off without any significant hitches; GRCC personnel from the President and administrators to librarians, those responsible for venues, web and poster design, parking, policing, custodial work, food service, and a great variety of others all contributed as consummate professionals who made the program director extremely proud of his college. Poets from other colleges were pleased with the result, remarking on the cordiality and professionalism of GRCC staff.
 - <Poets who had previously existed in their own arenas—whether university roles, solitary publishing workers, indie poets and street poets, those running slams or open mic sessions, young writers who “came out of the woodwork” to showcase their work—all had opportunities to perform and showcase their work.
 - <The conference attracted a widely mixed audience, ranging from GRCC students, faculty and staff, to students and faculty from Grand Valley State University and Aquinas College, as well as numerous audience members who self-identified as community members and as people from other cities and towns.
 - <The conference showcased a vast variety of styles of performance, approaches to the composition of poetry, and philosophies of language inherent in them, presenting Grand Rapids poetry not as a stylistic monolith or as a community isolated from national and international practice, but highlighting the cosmopolitan variety of work being done here.
 - <April 23: Meeting with Judith Larsen and Lisa Dopke re final report to MCACA, assessing the conference and reconciling funds spent with the grant numbers.
 - <April 30: Meeting with James Holyfield for final review of dollars spent.
 - <Final grant report sent to MCACA representatives on May 1.

30. Continued work on *Song of the Owashtanong: Grand Rapids Poetry in the 21st Century*.

- <3 January: Anthology completely finished (192 pages, intro, contents, text, brief bios and pub credits). Script emailed to poets as first proof copy, with request for their corrections. Poets have emailed or otherwise sent their changes via snail mail up to January 20.
- <5 January: began discussions with Scott Baisden re layout and design.
- <13 January: email exchange with Jennifer Holberg (laureate committee member) re grant and word of library as new home; email to Caroline Older to begin discussion of grant.
- <23 January: Meeting with Caroline Older (Arts Council executive) to get a grant for publication of the anthology.
- <23 January: sent email to poet-publisher Eric Greinke re help with copyright issues and distribution via the anthology.
- <24 January-February 2: wrote and submitted grant request for funds to publish the anthology.
- <April: news that the \$2300 grant I requested for the anthology was not only accepted, but that I was to receive \$3100 for this project.

31. Transfer of the Laureate program from the Arts Council to the Grand Rapids Public Library.

- <24 January-February 2: wrote and submitted grant request to the folding Arts Council for funds to publish the *Song of the Owashtanong*, the second of my two major projects during my term as laureate (see above). This will allow me to complete my named projects without impacting whatever budget the library will have for the laureate's projects and stipend.
- <7 February: meeting with GRPL archivist Chris Byron, exploring what the library can and cannot do in this new role. Areas of importance: clarifying what I've done to ease their budget concerns, the need to seek a large fund base from donors or other organizations to provide for the future of the program after I've completed my term, and questions re imprint for the anthology.
- <15 February: meeting with GRPL Archivist Tim Gleisner, exploring what kinds of events or literary series the library could create for poets, continuing discussion on the need to learn what the library foundation can and cannot do re laureate future, etc.
- <March 22: Meeting with archivist Tim Gleisner to discuss disposition of remaining laureate funds at Arts Council and the \$3100 Arts Council grant I obtained for publication of *Song of the Owashtanong*.
- >Also, discussion of difficulties of communication with KISD and GRL writing teachers and means to develop poetics discussions for gifted high school students and for reeducating elementary and secondary teachers about how to teach poetry to students. GRPL would like to develop these kinds of discussion groups so that poets could reach out to gifted students in need of further development as they approach college.

<March 28: Final Arts Council Poet Laureate Party at the GRAM, with official transfer of the program/ delivery of \$3100 check for publication of *Song of the Owashtanong* deferred until later.

32. Publication of landmark 50th issue of my indie poetry magazine, *Big Scream*.

<May-September 2011: going over manuscripts submitted by poets from across the nation and beyond, selecting those proper for this issue, and beginning the editing process.

<December 2011-January 2012: completed arrangement of the magazine manuscript, sending it out as initial proof for the poets to check presentation of their work, with an opportunity for them to check typos, and request other changes.

<January 2012: work with Scott Baisden on selection of covers, approach we want to take with this issue.

<January 31: last changes made in manuscript. Scott presents front and back covers for inspection and approval.

<3 February: pdfs of covers and text dropped off at Print Solutions for cost estimate.

<6 February: revised pdf of text sent via email to replace text dropped off on the 3rd.

<10 February: final approval of proof sheets for text and cover; issue goes to print week of Feb. 13-17. Begin addressing envelopes.

<15 February: issue printed and ready for distribution.

<17 February: first mailings (contributors' copies and copies to close friends).

33. Work on The David Cope Papers at the University of Michigan Special Collections Library.

<19 January: email to UM SCL archivist Peggy Daub, updating her on progress with my projects here in Grand Rapids—with request for archive visit sometime in May and possible visit for cataloguing materials.

<18 February: creation of list of materials to be included for archive visit. Email to UM SCL archivist with list as attachment, requesting possible visit during GRCC March mid-winter break or perhaps later in semester.

<8 March 2012: meeting with archivist Peggy Daub, delivering correspondence (Oct 2011-March 2012), manuscripts and manuscript collections, editing materials, poet laureate papers and notes (May 2011-March 2012), *Big Scream* 50 manuscripts, correspondence and editing materials, audio CD of reading at WYCE promoting benefit reading for Literacy Council, Teaching notebooks, and gift books and serials.

<Preliminary discussion re archive visit in July or August to finally catalogue materials from 2002-2012, uploading them to my Finding Aid at SCL.

34. Preliminary work for GRCC honor graduate, my former student, and winner of the Bakeless Prize for memoir Carmen Bagan's local book launch.

<March 7: News that , in addition to winning the Bakeless Prize, Carmen has a second book in the works. *Seamus Heaney and East European Poets in Translation: Poetics of Exile*—a book developed from her doctoral thesis—will be published by

Oxford in September, about the time planned for a booksigning and reading for her here at the college.

Link for the Heaney monograph:

<http://www.legendabooks.com/titles/isbn/9781907975646.html>

- <March 27: email to Carmen, asking her if she can appear at GRCC on Thursday, September 20 (or failing that, September 17, 18, 19), also asking what stipend she might want.
- <Formalizing of date and request to Dean Chesley for \$250 stipend, as well as securing of venue (GRCC Library?) to begin in May.
- 35. February 20:** Nomination of Eliot Katz's poem "Taking Inventory September 2010," published in my *Big Scream* 49 (Winter 2011), for a Pushcart Prize, a volume published annually and featuring the "best of the small presses." This is an honor for both the poet and the publisher.
- 36. March 16:** accepted as performer at the Grand Rapids Art Museum / Rauschenberg exhibit readings.
- 37. March 19:** my poem "American Pewter with Burroughs II," based on the Rauschenberg collage, accepted for publication in upcoming edition of *The Newark Review*, published at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Summer and Fall 2012

- 38. Disposition of Laureate Funds / Providing for the future of the program at the Grand Rapids Public Library**
- <Laureate funds to cover the remaining two years of my tenure and one year of the next laureate's tenure (\$3000) plus the \$3100 grant I earned, to help with publication of *Song of the Owashtanong: Grand Rapids Poetry in the 21st Century* were to be transferred from Humanities Council/Arts Council to Grand Rapids Public Library in May. I was to receive my second \$1000 stipend around May 20, one year after completing the first year of my laureate.
- <After a protracted dialogue, the Arts Council delivered a \$5100 check to the Grand Rapids Public Library on 14 August 2012. Though \$1000 short of the money owed, this check will pay for the last two years of my laureate and enable me to seek publication of *Song of the Owashtanong*.
- <\$1000 stipend for second year of laureateship delivered to me on 15 August; on 16 August, I emailed archivist Tim Gleisner with a 19 page description of how the laureate competition operates, qualifications for applicants, method of choosing the new laureate, sample application (mine), and list of laureateship guidelines for other states, counties and cities that have similar programs.
- <21 August: meeting with Tim Gleisner to discuss future of the laureate program: we laid out plans to obtain grants and search for so that there would be stipends for future laureates; discussed the nomination process and visiting the GRPL auditorium as likely site for next laureate's welcome ceremony. We also discussed

getting the anthology of GR Poets out in time for the Michigan Notable Book Awards for 2013.

- <September: poets agree to donate proceeds from *Song of the Owashtanong* anthology to laureate fund.
- <November: Tim Gleisner, GRPL archivist and laureate advisor, agrees with me re a tentative plan to seek grants for funding the laureate program after my term is up. Keynote is to raise \$50,000, per recommendation of former Arts Council President Dan Carter, so that the program could live indefinitely off the interest (paying both laureate stipend and reasonable costs for laureate's projects).
- <December 1-6: after examining his promotional copy of the anthology, GRPL Foundation Board President Tom Dillely wants to meet with me on the future of the program. He and others on the Foundation Board see the value of the program, and if we can work out something in terms of funds (grants, donations from local philanthropists, etc), we can then proceed to set up the next laureate competition, based on the requirements developed in committee prior to my getting the laureate. Hopefully, GRPL can set up a website as the Arts Council once did, and appoint a laureate committee to select my replacement in 2014. Competition should begin in September 2013; laureate should be selected by January 2014, and the celebration and appointment of the laureate should happen in May 2014.

39. Frank Salamone Memorial Performances

- <May 7: performed "Blues for Frank," elegiac paean for Grand Rapids guitarist and composer Frank Salamone, GRCC graduate and West Michigan Blues Society Lifetime Achievement Award winner, at his memorial service at Stegenga Funeral Chapel. My performance was one of many contributions by local blues greats, former guitar students, and poets.
- <May-June: "Blues for Frank" published in *Preso* magazine and in *Napalm Health Spa* (see <http://www.poetspath.com/napalm/nhs12/>).
- <June 23: Performed "Blues for Frank" with Jim Leitch on guitar at Memorial Concert and CD release party for Frank's last CD; I was part of a large cavalcade of performers at this Intersection Front Line Show (a portion of my performance is on the following Youtube clip, beginning around 1:50: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvzJCKhQRwM>)

40. Continued Efforts to publish *Song of the Owashtanong: Grand Rapids Poetry in the 21st Century*

- <August 15: Ridgeway Press agrees to publish *Song of the Owashtanong*, with projected early 2013 publication date. I immediately sent out requests: to Scott Baisden, to complete the editing changes requested by the poets and to meet me for photo shoot of the river; to Print Solutions, with request that they confirm or revise the printing estimate they had given me last year; and to Tim Gleisner at GRPL, that we meet to discuss access to the grant funds for publication and to begin planning the future of the laureate program. Key is to publish the anthology in time for the 2013 Michigan Notable Book Awards.

- <August 20: photo shoot for covers along Indian Mounds Drive and downtown.
- <August 27: proof revisions complete; proofs sent out to poets for one last round of corrections.
- <September 4: meeting with Phil Knight at Color Graphics to discuss printing of the anthology. Initial print run of 500 copies will be followed up with a second run of 500 if the anthology earns a 2013 Michigan Notable Book award. Goal is to print the book by October 1 so that advance copies may be mailed to *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Foreword*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Publishers Weekly* according to their submissions guidelines. Official publication date is planned for April 1, 2013, in good time to be considered for the Michigan Notable Book Award.
- <August/September: ML Liebler of Ridgeway Press presents me with book ISBN and connections to Bowker distributing; we cover costs of printing via the Humanities/Arts Council grant, and I supervise most of the details.
- <19 September: printing contract signed (for 1000 copies, reducing unit price from \$3.20 to \$2.05, and allowing for more promotional/review/ complimentary copies to be sent out. Also we set the price at \$12.95, and obtained bar code for back cover; covers are now in second draft, and I sent information to ML Liebler at Ridgeway so that he can file with Bowker for publication and distribution.
- <1 October: cover with blurbs and text with corrections now complete; files sent to Print Solutions for printing of two editing copies for final check.
- <10 October: CD with press-ready copies of text and cover delivered to Color House Graphics, initiating print run.
- <16 October: Proof OK'd with Color House, printing to be done by 31 October. Cope will pick up entire run of 1000 copies.
- <4 November: picked up check for final payment on print job; November 5, picked up complete printed copies.
- <November 6-15: review copies to be sent out to a variety of review outlets, most of which demand copies for prospective reviews 4-5 months before official pub date. Thanks to Eric Greinke and Roseanne Ritzema, I also have an extensive list of Michigan literary magazines and editors, as well as a pretty exhaustive list of Michigan poets; I'll send out review copies to them as well, as we hope to generate reviews and increase sales. We'll also submit it for the 2013 Michigan Notable Book Award in January.
- <December 1: review copies with press releases and cover letters sent to *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *ForeWord*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Third Coast*, *Small Press Review*, *The Midwest Book Review*, as well as to initial group of poets and editors. Five copies each given to contributors as payment; funds from sales go 100% to laureate program.
- <December 3: Also, we set the date and place for the book launch and book signing of the anthology: Friday, April 5, 7-9 p.m., in the Grand Rapids Public Library Ryerson Auditorium. Email sent out to all the poets, to ML Liebler, and to Tim Gleisner with details of the date and review copies, as well as detailing plans for laureate program future.

41. May-July: "Blues for Frank" published by *Napalm Health Spa*, *Presa*, and *Big Hammer*; "American Pewter with Burroughs II: Green is a Man / To Fill is a Boy,"

poem written for Rauschenberg Exhibit at GRAM, published by *Newark Review* and *Napalm Health Spa*; "The Price of Liberty" review of Carmen Bagan's *Burying the Typewriter* and "Student and Master Change Places" memento of my friendship with Carmen, published at *The Rapidian*; three poems submitted to *Poetry in Michigan/Michigan in Poetry* anthology to be published by New Issues Poetry and Prose.

42. **Late summer:** my poem written in response to Robert Rauschenberg's collage, "American Pewter with Burroughs II," published in the *Newark Review*: <http://web.njit.edu/~newrev/3.0//d-cope.html> . Poem was also published at *Napalm Health Spa*, along with "Blues for Frank" and Thru the 3rd Eye Interview: <http://www.poetspath.com/napalm/nhs12/>
43. **Reading with Jack Ridl at Schuler's Downtown,** 13 September 2012. My reading was video-recorded by my student Mike Zone, who edited the performance and delivered a DVD: this will be archived at UM, and the video is now uploaded on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiz4NFj9xMs&feature=youtu.be>
44. **14 September:** "Blues for Frank" republished in *Squalorly*, local online litmag edited by former students and former GVSU students: <http://www.squalorly.com/contents>
45. **18 September:** "On Poetry and Music and Growing Up in Grand Rapids," craft interview posted both at Through the 3rd Eye and on my own sampler page at the Museum of American Poetics:
At *Through the 3rd Eye*: <http://www.throughthe3rdeye.com/node/947>
At my sampler page at the Museum of American Poetics (scroll down on left sidebar to "Interview" and click on the second entry): http://www.poetspath.com/Dave_Cope/
46. **19 October:** with my wife Sue, guest of Mrs. Marcia Haas at special supper and poetry reading (Nikky Finney and B. H. Fairchild) at Grand Valley State University's annual Poetry Night.
47. **24 October:** "Blues for Frank" published in *Big Hammer*, New Jersey's premier American postmodern proletkult literary magazine.
48. **26 October:** performed my poem "River Rouge" as part of poets reading poems responding to the *Real/Surreal* exhibit curated by the Whitney Museum and hosted by the Grand Rapids Art Museum. This poem was written in response to Charles Sheeler's painting of the same name.
49. **26 October:** "River Rouge" and .jpg electronic copy of the Sheeler painting to be published in the upcoming "long poems" issue of *Napalm Health Spa*.
50. **29 November:** per request of my Chinese editor Zhang Ziqing, I located jpg. of group portrait of Antler, Andy Clausen and me (plus several other poets and

spouses) in Allen Ginsberg's kitchen (photo taken by Allen Ginsberg in 1983 or 1984). My son-in-law Scott Baisden worked on the photo to bring it into greater focus, and I sent it on to Mr. Zhang. He was delighted with it, and it will grace the chapter on our postbeat group in his forthcoming history of 20th Century American Literature, to be published in Chinese for poets and scholars of that nation. The volume will contain seven of my poems translated and analyzed in Chinese.

51. 8 December: performance of my poem "Until Love is Equal" as Youtube Public Service Announcement for LGBTQ activists who are initially shooting 10 of these announcements for public distribution. Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ji2yg1Jqzw&feature=youtu.be

52. Carmen Bugan appearance at GRCC:

- <1 June: Library confirmation for reading and booksigning 20 September 7:00-9:00.
- <1 June: Video confirmation for lecture/discussion recording 20 September 2:30-4:30 Sneden 108 and for evening reading/booksigning at GRCC Library.
- <1 June: Bookstore request sent for 75 copies of *Burying the Typewriter* and 25 copies of *Crossing the Carpathians*.
- <1 June-5 June: with help from Kim Wyngarden and Carmen, I assisted Nan Schichtel in compilation of a bibliography of Eastern European poetry, to be posted online at the library site during Carmen's visit.
- <16 August: completed a 14 page study guide for *Burying the Typewriter*, to be used by my English 247 and 102 students, and shared with the English Department so that others might benefit. Emailed this guide out to Carmen so that she could suggest editing changes, if needed.
- <27 August: poster for Carmen's event approved and printed.
- <1-19 September: final arrangements for Carmen's appearance, including making sure books came in, recording is ready, maintenance prep completed for events, dinner arranged at Heritage Restaurant, and press release, story on GRCC homepage, helping radio interviewer connect with Carmen, etc.
- <20 September: Carmen's lecture and reading went off without a hitch; SAS provided funds for her family's dinner at the Heritage; Media filmed her performances and they are available on Youtube for interested students and scholars: afternoon lecture: 108 Sneden: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGX4BhBhcb4> evening reading and booksigning: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOybyitj7E0&feature=relmfu>

53. UM Special Collections Library "David Cope Papers" archive project.

30 July-August 1: archive visit to Buhr Library for sorting donations from 2002-2012 for final cataloguing and for uploading to finding aid for David Cope Papers at Special Collections Library. Student researchers under the direction of chief archivist Kathleen Dow will complete this work, likely in the fall semester.

2013 (Winter to Fall)

54. **3 January 2013:** New Issues Poetry and Prose accepted “the dharma at last” for publication in *Michigan in Poetry / Poetry in Michigan* anthology to be published in September, 2013.
55. **February, 2013:** publication of *Big Scream 51*, indie poetry magazine I have edited and published since 1974.
56. **16 February 2013:** poetry and art workshop at Meijer Gardens in conjunction with Hanneke Beaumont exhibit.
57. **24 March 2013:** reading in the “Poetry and Pints” series at New Harmony Brewing Company, hosted by Michael Sikkema.
58. **5 April 2013: Formal Anthology Book Launch at Grand Rapids Public Library Auditorium.** 16 poets, introduced by Detroit poetry impresario M. L. Liebler.
59. **July 18: poetry reading at the Bookbeat, Oak Park, Michigan,** with Andy Clausen and Rod Torreson.
60. **July 26: convened new laureate committee to choose my replacement as poet laureate.**
61. **July 29: Completed editing 40th anniversary issue (#52) of my *Big Scream* poetry magazine,** to be published in January, 2014.
62. **August 7, 9:** my book *Moonlight Rose in Blue* submitted to Copper Canyon Press and to the Green Rose Prize at New Issues Press. This book is the product of six years of editing and revision.
63. **September 29:** “Dave Cope and Friends” reading scheduled with Kent District Library.
64. **September: *Poetry in Michigan / Michigan in Poetry* anthology of Michigan poets** to be published by New Issues Press, including my poem “the dharma at last.”
65. **October 23 or 24:** My lecture and reading, “Poetry Saved My Life,” to be presented at *Who Cares? Why Bother?* Writing Conference at GRCC.
66. **November 24:** second reading scheduled at Kent District Library.
- 67n. **Search for grants for the program:** more to come through May 2014.