

Coordinator Biography:

Norman Leer is a Professor Emeritus of English at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where he taught for thirty-two years. He has published a critical study, *The Limited Hero in the Novels of Ford Madox Ford* (Michigan State University Press, 1967), a chapbook, *Slightly Crumpled Survival Flower* (Spoon River Poetry Press, 1985) and three books of poetry, *I Dream My Father in a Song* (Mellen Poetry Press, 1992) and *Second Lining* (Mellen Poetry Press, 1997) and *All the Colors Happening* (Mellen Poetry Press, 2017)/ His poems and articles have appeared in several magazines, including *Wisconsin Studies in Contemporary Literature*, *Mosaic*, *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, *New Directions in Teaching*, *Oyez Review*, *Willow Review*, *Verse Wisconsin* and *The Agora*. His poems have been included in the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* for nine years. .

In 1990, Norman was awarded the Illinois Significant Poet's Award by state Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks. In 1974-75, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in English at Odense University in Denmark. He and his wife, the Danish artist Grethe Brix-J. Leer, met at an art museum outside Copenhagen, and were married in May, 1975. Grethe has illustrated his books and also exhibited her own work. After retiring from Roosevelt, Norman taught courses and served as Coordinator of Continuing Education for the Center for Life and Learning, an older adults' program in Chicago. He and Grethe retired to Madison in November, 2007, where Norman has continued his writing and teaches a course on self-discovery through the arts for PLATO, a volunteer senior program of the University of Wisconsin's Division of Continuing Studies.