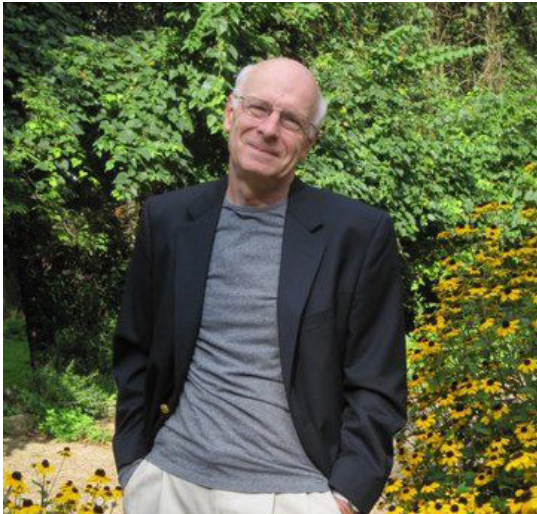

The Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award and Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence (AHWIR) Project were conceived and developed by the Shepherd University Foundation and the West Virginia Humanities Council in 1998 to honor distinguished contemporary writers whose work celebrates the cultural heritage and people of Appalachia.

The AHWIR Project was designed to function in concert with the Appalachian Heritage Festival, an annual celebration of Appalachian cultural, musical, and visual arts, traditions, and achievements, developed by the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University (PASS). The Appalachian Heritage Writers Project is housed under the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities.



The 2024 recipient of the Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award is West Virginia Poet Laureate and 2024 One Book One West Virginia author Marc Harshman.

“He hears a cello . . . a burst of melody where echoes reinvent summer. And with that the dancers inherit the party.” —*Green Silver and Silent Poems*

The Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award is funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council, the West Virginia Center for the Book, and Shepherd University. The award has been given to an honor roll of extraordinary Appalachian writers:

Sharyn McCrumb, 1999	Gretchen Moran Laskas, 2012
Marilou Awiakta, 2000	Frank X Walker, 2013
George Ella Lyon, 2001	Homer Hickam, 2014
Denise Giardina, 2002	Nikki Giovanni, 2015
Robert Morgan, 2003	Charles Frazier, 2016
Fred Chappell, 2004	Wiley Cash, 2017
Jayne Anne Phillips, 2005	Karen Spears Zacharias, 2018
Terry Kay, 2006	Crystal Wilkinson, 2019
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., 2007	Dorothy Allison, 2020
Adriana Trigiani, 2008	Marie Manilla, 2021
Silas House, 2009	Barbara Kingsolver, 2022
Bobbie Ann Mason, 2010	Ann Pancake, 2023
Ron Rash, 2011	

The AHWIR Project is made possible with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council in partnership with the Shepherd University Foundation, the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, and the West Virginia Center for the Book, whose One Book One West Virginia selection for 2024 is Harshman's latest collection *Following the Silence* (Press 53 2023). Other partners include the Scarborough Society, the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd, the Shepherdstown Film Society, the Shepherdstown Public Library, the Martinsburg Public Library, and Four Seasons Books in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SHEPHERD
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN
STUDIES AND COMMUNITIES

“Poetry All Around Us”

*The Work of West Virginia
Poet Laureate Marc Harshman*

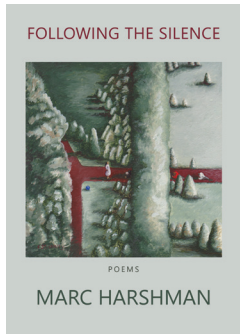
2024 Recipient of the Appalachian
Heritage Writer's Award

SEPTEMBER 20-27, 2024

Presented by the West Virginia Humanities Council, West Virginia Center of the Book, Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities, and Shepherd University Foundation

Listen and learn more at
www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb/harshman

MARC HARSHMAN is a nationally acclaimed children's book author, storyteller, and Poet Laureate for West Virginia. He holds degrees from Bethany College, Yale Divinity School, and the University of Pittsburgh. His collection of poems, *Woman in Red Anorak* (2018), won the Blue Lynx Prize and was published by Lynx House/University of Washington Press. *Believe What You Can* (WVU Press 2016) won the prestigious Weatherford Award and was named Appalachian Book of the Year by the Tennessee Mountain Heritage Literary Festival.



Harshman's latest poetry collection is *Following the Silence* (Press 53 2023). Harshman is co-winner of the 2019 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award for his poem "Poet in the Schools," and his poem "Dispatch from the Mountain State" was printed in the Thanksgiving 2020 edition of the New York Times.

A prolific children's author, Marc Harshman co-authored *Fallingwater: The Building of Frank Lloyd Wright's Masterpiece* with Anna Egan Smucker (Roaring Brook/Macmillan 2017), which was named an Amazon Book of the Month and was selected as the 2024 West Virginia Children's Common Read. Harshman's journey from the flat terrain of Randolph County, Indiana, to the rolling hills of West Virginia, has been driven by both service and creative expression. After graduating from Bethany College in 1973, Harshman went to Yale Divinity School, where he earned a master's degree in 1975. The following year, he married librarian and artist Cheryl Ryan, who shared his love of literature and art. Harshman's literary proclivities pushed him to the University of Pittsburgh, where he finished a Master of Arts degree in 1978. There and at West Virginia Northern Community College, he taught creative writing and English composition until he settled into a teaching job in the three-room schoolhouse of Sand Hill, teaching fifth and sixth grades in Marshall County, West Virginia. In 1995, Marc Harshman was

selected by the West Virginia Language Arts Council as the West Virginia English Teacher of the Year for his work with children.

From his experiences as a middle school teacher, Harshman's love of language turned to inspiring children through words and stories. Harshman believes that his purpose as a storyteller is to help children understand themselves through language and to appreciate writing as a vehicle for self-discovery: "I want them to see that they have at their fingertips possibilities for creating new visions of themselves and their world, visions that will not only help them be better writers but better people as well."

Harshman's verse is about the people and places that inform the Appalachian region. His poetry immerses the reader in the specific to gain a sense of the universal. "I believe our language holds the power to challenge and persuade, comfort, inform, and ultimately to reveal truths about who we are," said Harshman.

**"A poet might learn a thing or two,
hair-strung over such silence,
treading lightly upon the eggshell paths,
... slipping past and through and out
of doors and windows
studying the arcane craftsmanship
and the carefully measured placement of a dollop of oil."**

—*Following the Silence*

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

August-September

Anthology Photographic Art Exhibit, curator Mike Mendez, Scarborough Library Reading Room and virtual art online

Friday, September 20

6:30 p.m.—Shepherdstown Film Society screening of *Mountain Minor*, with discussion led by Appalachian scholar and ethnomusicologist Rachael Meads, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

Saturday, September 21

Appalachian Heritage Festival, produced by the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd (PASS)

Monday, September 23

6:30 p.m.—"Running with Whiskey: A Journey of Resiliency Through Music, Poetry, and Story," with Doug Van Gundy and Marc Harshman, followed by reception and book signing, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

Tuesday, September 24

6:30 p.m.—A Celebration of the Anthology of Appalachian Writers with poets Randi Ward and Marc Harshman, followed by reception and book signing, Scarborough Library Reading Room

Wednesday, September 25

9:30 a.m.—Reading and Q&A with Marc Harshman for Berkeley County students, sponsored by the West Virginia Library Commission, Martinsburg High School

11:30 a.m.—Marc Harshman Reading and Zoom Conversation with West Virginia book clubs, public librarians, and public school teachers

1 p.m.—Lunch and Q&A with Marc Harshman and the Shepherdstown Library Nourishing Literary Giving Circle, Bavarian Inn

6:30 p.m.—The Writing Life with Marc Harshman, followed by reception and book signing, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

Thursday, September 26

Noon—Lunch with Senior Moments Book Club

2-3:30 p.m.—Writers Master Class: The Art of Children's Literature with Marc Harshman, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

5 p.m.—Dinner with West Virginia Fiction Competition winners, The Press Room

7 p.m.—Scarborough Society Lecture, Keynote, and Awards Ceremony, followed by reception and book signing, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

Friday, September 27

Interview with West Virginia Public Radio's Liz McCormick

6:30 p.m.—"Stories All Around Us" with Adam Booth, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education