

## ABOUT OUR SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

### JACOB FRICKE

Jacob Fricke is the current Poet Laureate of Belfast. A Belfast native and longtime Porter colleague, he has performed poetry in the area for more than a decade, appearing on the stage, on sidewalks, on radio, at rock concerts, at schools and summer fairs. He has also been featured twice at the Belfast Poetry Festival. His full-length poetry collection, *This Book of Poems You Found*, was recently published by Belfast's Illuminated Sea Press.

### BILL HIGGINGS

William Higgins is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, and the Navy Nuclear Power Program. After 5 years, he then provided Nuclear services to Combustion Engineering and Westinghouse Nuclear Plants. He provided plant license changes for Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval, to allow the plants to operate more efficiently.

### BOB HIGGINS

Bob Higgins is an Opinion/Editorial columnist for The Portland Daily Sun, and a contributor to the forthcoming Big Gonzo Politics. He follows and reports on energy issues, within the State of Maine, with particular interests in nuclear safety, waste storage, wind power, and licensing issues.

### SHEILA HOLTZ

Sheila Holtz met Bern through the mail art network in 1984, and came to Maine to be his disciple in 1995. She collaborated, as "Natasha Bernstein," with Bern on his later work for Roger Jackson Publications, and also published the 'zine "Bern Porter International"; she currently publishes its successor, Gazette Le Duc. She hopes to meet Bern again soon, "in the Plasma."

### DON HUDSON

Don Hudson retired in 2010 as President of the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset, where he served on the staff in one capacity or another since 1966. Governor King appointed Don to serve on the Community Advisory Panel for the decommissioning of Maine Yankee in 1997. Don filled the 'slot' on the panel for a scientist who lived and worked within 10 miles of the plant.

### PAUL JOSEPHSON

Paul Josephson teaches Russian and Soviet history at Colby College, and is a specialist in the history of science and technology. He has written and lectured extensively on nuclear power in the former Soviet Union and the United States.

### BILL LINNELL

Bill Linnell is a Colby graduate, Class of 1980. As Co-founder and Spokesperson for Cheaper, Safer Power, a grassroots nuclear watchdog group, he led the successful fight which shut down the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in 1996, twelve years early. Today, he is a Program Manager for Jobs For Maine's Graduates, working with youth at the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland, Maine.

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### JOEL LIPMAN

Joel Lipman is Professor of English at the University of Toledo and Lucas County Ohio Poet Laureate. Founding director of the Toledo Poets Center, he arranged readings for Bern Porter on 2 occasions in Toledo in the 1980s & early 1990's, during which time Bern demanded that Joel move to Belfast. He is now a summer resident of adjacent Northport in Waldo County. He's been researching Porter's archives the last 3 years and wrote the introduction to the 2011 Nightboat Books republication of Porter's classic *Found Poems*.

### MARK MELNICOVE

Mark Melnicove is Bern Porter's literary executor. From 1980-1993 he published six books by or about Porter, and traveled throughout Maine and the northeast with him as his poetry performance partner. He can be heard performing with Porter on the newly released vinyl recording, MUSIC FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, VOL. 1.

### PETER NEILS

The intellectual honesty of Los Alamos Study Group's incisive analysis of U.S. nuclear weapon's policy and programatic activities over a period of two decades has earned it the respect of people in our government and around the world as well as scientists within the weapons complex.

The Study Group's unequivocal mission is the abolition of nuclear weapons, yet it frequently is called upon to submit its unique perspective to senior cognizant personnel in both Congress and the Executive branch.

Peter Neils resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He worked a hillside farm in Appleton, Me for 28 years. He has been the president of the Study Group since 2006.

### ULDIS VANAGS

Uldis Vanags presently lives in Dixmont, Maine. He holds a bachelors in Physics from the University of **Maine at Orono**, and a **Master's in Radiological Protection and Sciences from University of Lowell** in Massachusetts. He was the Maine State Nuclear Safety Advisor to Governor McKernan and Governor King during the operational years and decommissioning of the Maine Yankee nuclear power station in Wiscasset, Maine. Currently, Mr. Vanags commutes to Vermont where he works for the State of Vermont as a nuclear engineer overseeing the operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station.