

Judith Baumel

Biographical Information

Judith Baumel is a poet, critic and translator. She is Associate Professor of English and was Founding Director of the Creative Writing Program at Adelphi University. She blogs at <http://www.judithbaumel.com>. She also lectures on modern and contemporary American poetry at Oxford University, UK. A former director of the Poetry Society of America, her poetry, translations and essays have been published in *Poetry*, *The Yale Review*, *Agni Review*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker*. Her work is represented in a number of anthologies including *Telling and Remembering: A Century of Jewish American Poetry*; *Gondola Signore Gondola: Poems on Venice*; and *Poems of New York (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets)*. Her books of poetry are *The Weight of Numbers* (Wesleyan University Press, 1988) for which she won the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets and *Now* (University of Miami Press, 1996). Judith Baumel was born in The Bronx in 1956. She attended The Bronx High School of Science, Radcliffe College (Harvard University) and The Johns Hopkins University Writing Seminars. She was awarded Adelphi University's 2009 President's Award for Excellence in Outstanding Service to the University. She has received awards from The New York Foundation for the Arts, Bronx Recognizes Its Own, Laurence Goldstein Award in Poetry from MQR, and fellowships for residencies at Yaddo, Saltonstall, Millay, among others.

Campaign Statement

I am honored to be nominated to represent the AWP member writing programs of the Northeast. This is an important and interesting moment in the history of AWP, with two different areas of work in the coming years. We will be developing a new strategic plan, and, working together with our members, individuals and institutional, we will confront the difficult economic future. Thoughtful leadership will keep the association and its members on track to continue the progress the organization has made in recent years.

The AWP strategic plan should renew focus on our core mission of supporting writers who are teachers of writing and supporting the teaching of writing. Support will take many forms. We must continue AWP's successful arts advocacy. We must continue our work on behalf of all members, those at 2-year colleges and those at the 4-year colleges; those who are full time and those who are part time professors; those outside the academy and those in the worlds of publishing and journalism. We must establish and extend a serious conversation throughout the association about the intellectual and practical issues of concern to us. These include women's issues; work/life issues; reaching out to underserved populations; the state of copyright, fair use, and the creative commons; the future of the book, university assessment. Our conversation should take place among and between all of us: individual members, program directors, the board and its subcommittees. My goal is a board that actively reaches out for feedback, listens carefully, and creates meaningful collaborations.

Public and private colleges are suffering through an economic downturn that has given us depleted tax revenues, shrinking investment returns, lower contributions, and increased

student need. Well-deployed, AWP's considerable resources--both material and advisory--will enable our community to survive and thrive.

If elected, I would bring significant administrative experience to the board of AWP. In the past decade, I established an MFA program at Adelphi University. I began as the only creative writer in an English department offering one workshop a year. We currently have seven full-time and three part-time faculty members, a fully articulated undergraduate major, and a fully enrolled graduate MFA program. This past spring we graduated our second class of MFA students and I was awarded Adelphi University's 2009 President's Award for Excellence in Outstanding Service to the University. In addition, I serve as the chair of our university-wide committee on assessment, am currently the General Education Capstone Coordinator, and am a member of the university strategic planning committee. In the 1980s, I served as executive director of the Poetry Society of America, responsible for recruiting the board, the development and fundraising activities and the day-to-day operations of the PSA.

These experiences have given me an appreciation of the complexity and possibility facing the writer and writing programs in the academy.

Ours are indeed interesting times. I believe interesting times are not a curse, but an important challenge to reassert our core values, to assess where we are, and to renew our path. I hope for your support and I look forward to serving AWP.