

**Crossing the Rift: North Carolina Poets on 9/11 & Its Aftermath (a Poetry Reading)**  
**Poet Bios**

**Diya Abdo** is a professor of English at Guilford College. A second-generation Palestinian refugee born and raised in Jordan, Dr. Abdo's teaching, research, and scholarship focus on Arab women writers and Arab and Islamic feminisms. Her book *American Refuge: True Stories of the Refugee Experience* is forthcoming (2022). Dr. Abdo is the founder and director of the national campus-based refugee resettlement program Every Campus A Refuge (ECAR) and is the recipient of the J. M. Kaplan Fund's Innovation Prize (2021) for her work with the program.

**Betty Adcock** is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *Rough Fugue* (LSU Press, 2017). She is the recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the North Carolina Award in Literature, and the Texas Institute of Letters Prize for Poetry. Adcock has held teaching positions at Duke, NC State, the MFA program at Warren Wilson College, and for a number of years was writer-in-residence at Meredith College.

**Joseph Bathanti**, former poet laureate of North Carolina and recipient of the North Carolina Award in Literature, is author of 18 books, most recently the volume of poems *Light at the Seam* (Louisiana State University, 2022). Bathanti is McFarlane Family Distinguished Professor of Interdisciplinary Education at Appalachian State University. He served as the 2016 Charles George VA Medical Center Writer-in-Residence in Asheville and cofounded the medical center's creative writing program.

**Fred L. Joiner** is the poet laureate of Carrboro and an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow who has read his work and curated exhibitions and public programming locally, nationally, and internationally. He is the cofounder of the Center for Poetic Thought, a board member of the American Poetry Museum and Arch Development Corporation, and the board chair of the Orange County Arts Commission. Most recently, Joiner guest-curated an exhibition (*Micro / Macro*) featuring the 2021 studio art MFA graduates for the Ackland Art Museum.

**Debra Kaufman** is the author of the poetry collections *God Shattered*, *Delicate Thefts*, *The Next Moment*, and *A Certain Light*, as well as three chapbooks, many monologues and short plays, and four full-length plays. Her poetry has appeared in many journals and anthologies. A recipient of an NC Arts Council fellowship for playwriting, she recently adapted *Johnny Johnson*, Paul Green's 1936 antiwar play.

**Lenard D. Moore** is an internationally acclaimed poet, whose books include *Long Rain*, *Geography of Jazz*, *A Temple Looming*, and others. He is the editor of *All the Songs We Sing*, *One Window's Light*, and other collections. Moore is the founder and executive director of the Carolina African American Writers Collective.

**Benito del Pliego** is a Spanish-born North Carolina poet, translator, and Appalachian State University professor with a long record of publications in Spanish. *Fábula/Fable* was published in a bilingual edition in 2016. His work has been showcased in Forrest Gander's anthology *Panic Cure: Poetry from Spain for the 21st Century*

**David Potorti** is the cofounder of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. He served as the literature and theater director for the North Carolina Arts Council and is active in ONE Wake, a nonpartisan, multi-ethnic, multi-issue group of religious congregations, associations, and other nonprofits in Wake County implementing systemic changes within society to achieve the common good.