

# SMC Prof Tapped as Poetry Editor for The New York Times

By A.K. Carroll



Saint Mary's English professor Matthew Zapruder is the new Poetry Editor for The New York Times Magazine. Photo Chris Hardy

Matthew Zapruder, professor of English at Saint Mary's College and editor at large at Wave Books, did not always set out to be a poet. "I didn't start writing poetry until I was in my 20s," said Zapruder, who earned a doctorate in Russian Literature at UC Berkeley before going on to pursue a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

"I always wanted to be a writer of some sort and when I started writing that's what I wrote and I wasn't really interested in writing anything else." Now, the author of four collections of poetry and the forthcoming book of prose "Why Poetry," has another feather to add to his literary cap — being named editor of the poetry column for The New York Times Magazine.

The position, which debuted in February 2015 along with the re-launch of the publication, was previously held by former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey. "I assumed Natasha would do it for a while," said Zapruder, who went to graduate school with Trethewey. "When I got an email from the Times magazine asking if I would do it I was doubly surprised: [firstly,] that it was available and [secondly, that] they were interested in having me do it."

In keeping with the previously set guidelines, Zapruder is limiting his selections to poems that have been recently published or are forthcoming. "I'm looking for a wide variety," he said. "I want to show off the strength and diversity of American poetry, both aesthetically and in terms of the people who are producing it."

While Zapruder is also restricted by the size of the column, which is a quarter page at most, he finds there are still plenty of poems to choose from. "I'm thinking of what's different and what's new. What's going to blow peoples' minds," he said. "As people keep reading they'll continually be sur-

prised at what can be good."

Zapruder introduced his first selection, "You Throw a Stone" by Juan Felipe Herrera, as a poem that depicts the elemental facts of an unnamed conflict. "I think of the Middle East, but really, it could be anywhere," writes Zapruder. "The unexpected and disorienting spaces in the poem force us to pause, think and empathize in places where we usually don't, but probably should."

The poem is accompanied by R. O. Blechman's illustration of two opposing hands throwing stones at one another, their trajectories marked by thick red arrows. The illustration, much like Zapruder's introduction, makes the poem more approachable, the kind of poem that anyone can read.

"I don't imagine poets or experts in poetry," Zapruder said of his hypothetical readers. "I imagine someone who doesn't necessarily read a lot of poetry. Someone curious and interested in culture and the news, generally educated but not an expert in literature or anything." Zapruder likes to think this about his own poems as well — that they're there for people who want them.

When he makes his selections and crafts his introductions, it takes much the same trajectory as presenting a friend to an audience. "I imagine what it would be like to read this if you didn't know anything about poetry and just turned the page," said Zapruder. "I picture someone who has a life and does things and cares about things like family and politics and the world."

Zapruder will hold the curatorial position for only a year before it passes on to another nominee. "People seem to really like it," he said of the poetry column. "It used to be that a lot of major magazines ran poetry. They're bringing back something that used to be a tradition in American journalism and publishing."

For Zapruder, one of the high-

lights of the position is getting to tell writers that their poems have been selected. "It's just such a treat to get to tell people the news."

You can find Zapruder's most recent selections in the latest issue of The New York Times Magazine or at <http://www.nytimes.com/column/magazine-poem>.

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## KAPOW! ComicFest Comes to the Lafayette Library

Submitted by Patrick Brogan



Graphic submitted

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center presents ComicFest 2016. This mini Comic Book Convention style event will feature artists and their work, along with workshops, crafts, cosplay, photobooth, scavenger hunt, raffle prizes and more.

Joe Field, owner of Flying Colors Comics in Concord and founder of Free Comic Book Day, will be the event's guest of honor. Field will kick off the event and give a talk on his life and how comics has and continues to affect it.

San Francisco-based comedian and cartoonist Mike Capozzola will perform a comedy routine and host a table. Guest artists include

San Francisco resident Oliver Chin who will host a workshop and table and Concord resident Sam Filstrup, who will host a table. Guest authors include Lamorinda residents and cartoonist Betsy Streeter and Raea Gragg (cartoonist for the Acalanes Blueprint student newspaper).

Participants are encouraged to come in their best superhero or villain costume. There will be a giveaway of free comic books while supplies last (children first).

This event is part of Free Comic Book Days @ Your Library ([www.tinyurl.com/comicbookdays2016](http://www.tinyurl.com/comicbookdays2016)) and is sponsored by Friends of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. For ages 5 and up.

**Samira Says**



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

## How do I choose where I go for recovery?

The center you choose will significantly impact your rehabilitation outcome—here's some information to help you choose:

- (1) **Visit and Tour different facilities.**  
View the rehab department, view the rooms, meet the staff in different departments, and ask questions about care delivery. Tour the center for cleanliness, friendliness and the amenities that are important to you.
- (2) **Make sure the facilities can demonstrate a proven track record of successful outcomes.** Ask for evidence of how successful they are at improving patients walking, bathing, dressing, and ability to manage their own care at home. ManorCare measures these things on admission and discharge, so we can see the impact our services have on our patients. More than 90 percent of ManorCare rehabilitation patients are discharged to home.
- (3) **Social workers are a crucial part of the equation.**  
Ask how they plan discharge and who manages the process. At ManorCare, we plan patients' discharge from the start so that the patient has a smooth transition back home. This eliminates worry and anxiety for both the patient and the family.
- (4) **Who is managing your insurance?** At ManorCare, we have RN Case Managers who manage your insurance benefits from admission to discharge. You have an advocate during your stay to ensure that you are able to maximize your benefits.
- (5) **Specialized care and services.** Certified wound care nursing, specialized pain management techniques, speech language pathology and respiratory care are standards at ManorCare—they are critical pieces of recovery. Ask the facility how they manage these clinical issues.
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- (7) **Customer service.** How does the facility measure its customer service outcomes? As with clinical outcomes, ManorCare measures how it does with its customers—you. A third party surveys all discharged patients and asks questions about the quality of care and service they received while a patient at ManorCare. We're proud to say that the scores come back over-whelmingly positive.

We invite you to tour both of our ManorCare post-acute rehab centers—we'll answer all these questions for you and more.



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