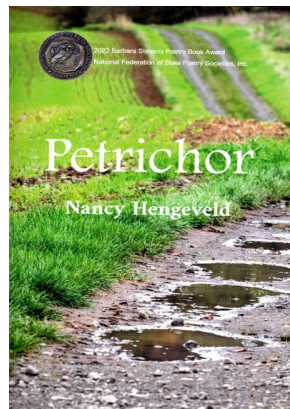


2023 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition Winner



Nancy Hengeveld is retired and lives with her husband in the Driftless Area in Preston, Minnesota, where they have restored most of their yard into native tallgrass prairie. She grew up in southwestern Minnesota, began writing poetry at an early age, and was encouraged by teachers while attending Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa. Years later, Nancy completed both her B.S.T. in English and M.S. in Counseling at Winona State University. She worked as a licensed psychologist and served as adjunct faculty in Winona State University's Counselor Education program and in the Psychology Department at Rochester Community and Technical College. Nancy served on the editorial staff of the Green Blade at the Rural American Writers' Center in Plainview, Minnesota, and wrote a monthly op-ed column for the Rochester Post Bulletin on mental health and social justice issues. Her work has been published in *Dust and Fire*, *Green Blade*, and *The Talking Stick*. *Petrichor* is Nancy's first full-length book.



Petrichor is a powerful collection of honest poems declaring the power of resilience. They are filled with fresh, engaging imagery that holds the tension between beauty and harsh truths. Nancy Hengeveld takes us into the life of a woman with a son in prison, an abusive husband, and her challenges in beginning again. When she is “gasping behind the bathroom door waiting for the deep voice the pounding,” we feel fear. When she finds solace, so do we: “I came to see the firmness of marble, carvings on oak, curves of arches and windows, to feel the space between my head and the ceiling.” These spare poems hold a compelling transformation. By the end, we are moved to follow her imperative: “When you think of me, don’t visit a graveyard. Wear walking shoes, bring drinking water, bring your children. *** ”Ellen Bass, author of *Indigo*, *Like a Beggar*, and *Mules of Love*, judge for the 2022 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition***