

December 1998 Meeting

This meeting was on December 12th. [Click here](#) to see some pictures of Ms. Hillman.

Two time [Pushcart Prize](#) winner, poet **Brenda Hillman**.

Brenda Hillman teaches poetry writing at St. Mary's College in Moraga. She is the author of five collections of poetry: *White Dress* (1985), *Fortress* (1989), *Death Tractates* (1993), *Bright Existence* (1993), and *Loose Sugar* (1997). All are published by Wesleyan University Press.

Hillman's first book of poetry, *White Dress*, won both the 1985 [Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award](#) from New York University and the [Norma Faber First Book Award](#) from the Poetry Society of America. She received an NEA fellowship and completed her second book, *Fortress*, which won a Silver Medal from the Commonwealth Club in 1989. Her work has also appeared in numerous anthologies, including *The Wesleyan Tradition* and *Best American Poetry*, 1990.

In 1994 Professor Hillman received the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award for Poetry for *Bright Existence*; the collection was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Professor Hillman also received a 1994 Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1999, she will be a Visiting Writer at The Vermont Studio Center in rural Johnson, Vermont as well as a featured guest at the Aran Islands International Poetry and Prose Festival. Hillman received her BA in English from Pomona College, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Iowa. She lives in Kensington.



Here are some places to read about Brenda Hillman's works, including a poem are online -

<p>Loose Sugar Barnes & Noble</p>		<p>Bright Existence Barnes & Noble The Snakeskin Poem online.</p>	
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<p>Death Tractates Barnes & Noble</p>		<p>Fortress Barnes & Noble</p>	
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The \$1,000 Delmore Schwartz Memorial Poetry Award is presented by New York University. The award is given to a young poet of exceptional promise or a more mature poet who has received insufficient national acclaim. There is no application process.

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The Norma Farber First Book Award of \$1,000. is given for a first book of poetry published in the preceding year. It is open to all poets.

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Winner of the **Publishers Weekly** Carey-Thomas Award, selected many times as an "outstanding book of the year" by the **New York Times Book Review**, and chosen for two Book-of-the-Month-Club QPBC selections, the annual **Pushcart Prize** sets the standard of excellence for literary anthologies. Picking from thousands of nominations, each year it presents the most distinguished short stories, essays, and poetry first published by small presses and magazines nationwide, and each year it is hailed as a touchstone of literary discovery. "The single best measure of the state of affairs in American literature today." - New York Times Book Review. The Pushcart Prize for literary excellence has previously include the works of Saul Bellow, Raymond Carver and John Updike. Reviewing last year's edition (the 21st) of The Pushcart Prize, **Booklist** commented, "If you buy one 'best of' anthology this year, make it the Pushcart Prize." The **Chicago Tribune** recently raved, "When it comes to contemporary American literature, the small press is where the action is . . . of all anthologies, Pushcart's is the most rewarding to read straight through."

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