



2009 Inductee
to the
South Carolina
Academy of Authors

Susan Ludvigson was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin on February 13, 1942. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a major in both English and psychology, she started teaching at local junior high and high schools. Due to her husband's job relocation, Ludvigson moved to Charlotte, NC, where she and a friend then founded a women's writing group, which first encouraged her to pursue a professional career in writing.

She taught briefly at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte and then entered a Ph.D. program at the University of South Carolina. However, before she could finish this degree, Ludvigson accepted a position at Winthrop University in SC in 1975.

Ludvigson has published about one dozen books of poetry since the 1980s. Examples of her collections include the following: *Northern Lights* (1981), *The Beautiful Noon of No Shadow* (1986), and *Everything Winged Must Be Dreaming* (1993). Her most recent book, *Escaping the House of Certainty* (2006), is especially unique because many of its poems are in the forms of recipes. For instance, "Gratin Dauphinoise" uses the recipe as a metaphor for the story of Adam and Eve. Dreams, the unconscious, and the spirit are also prevalent topics in this collection.

Ludvigson has earned recognition from The South Carolina Arts Commission, The North Carolina Arts Council, and The National Endowment for the Arts. The Library of Congress houses many recordings of her poems in their archives.

Ludvigson has also been recognized internationally; fellowships have enabled her to spend time overseas, such as her recent Fulbright Fellowship to Yugoslavia, and she has given readings in several countries in Europe. In addition to her personal travels, Ludvigson has represented the United States at writers' congresses in Canada, France, and Belgium. Her experiences have inspired several of her poems about exotic locations and cultures. Her poem "Remote Viewing," for example, describes an afternoon in Rome from her perspective.

Susan Ludvigson holds the rank of professor emerita at Winthrop University; she is also still on the faculty of the Rainer Writing Workshop, an MFA program in Washington.

-Sarah Marie Williamson



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