

Utah State Poetry Society's
Poet Tree – Festival Edition

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

As the UTSPS Festival draws closer, excitement dances is in the air (or is it allergies?). This special edition of the Poet Tree Newsletter contains all things festival, all in one place. This includes special guest bios, schedules and directions. The shenanigans and tomfoolery will be kept to a bare minimum.

Before moving on, I would like to share a special moment from my first festival experience. Lunch service was about to start. As poets shuffled into the room, my attention crashed in to a handful of wonderful ladies, wearing red hats. Poetry dances different dances, it dances with different partners. Poetry and elegance have always been great dance partners. I remember thinking about this analogy as the ladies in the red hats laughed, the fellowship filling the table faster than the food, it was all basked in elegant radiance. I was new to the UTSPS at the time, but as I soaked in the energy in the room and looked at these wonderful ladies in their red hats' I knew I was now part of something special.

One final note, I do not own a red hat, but I do find myself wondering if those elegant red hats are still around!

~ Diane K. Rygh



A hint, but for what?



FESTIVAL SPECIAL GUESTS

CORI CONNORS

From small but renowned venues such as the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, to Britain's famous Liverpool Cathedral, Cori Connors carries her fresh voice to audiences worldwide. She has established herself as both a performer and a writer, joining the cluster of singer/songwriters who record their own material but whose works have also been recorded by major artists, earning her platinum status as a songwriter. International superstars such as Linda Ronstadt, Tarja Turunen and Chris LeDoux have recorded songs written by Cori.

An award winning writer and artist, Cori has received first place honors in international songwriting competitions, the Utah State Governor's Mansion Artist Award for artistic excellence, and the Parent's Choice Gold award.



Cori's newest recording, *Blowing Kisses*, is a tasteful collection of lullabies. The musicianship is first rate on this recording, employing the finest artists to create a peaceful mix of original and traditional songs that will calm the listener, regardless of age.

Community minded, Cori and her husband David, a Utah State District Court Judge, have served in various capacities. Cori has served as PTA President, teaches community guitar and songwriting classes, and serves on the board of directors of three international arts organizations.

Making their home in the quaint town of Farmington, Utah, Cori and Dave are the parents of four well adjusted children and grandparents to nine perfect grandchildren.

LANCE LARSEN



In 2012, Lance Larsen was named to a five-year term as Utah Poet Laureate. Lance grew up in Idaho and Colorado and lived in Chile for two years while serving an LDS mission. He collects antiques, plays basketball occasionally walks on his

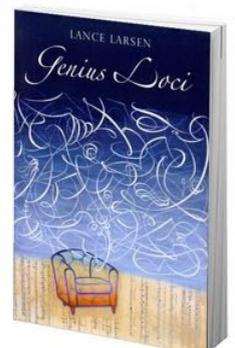
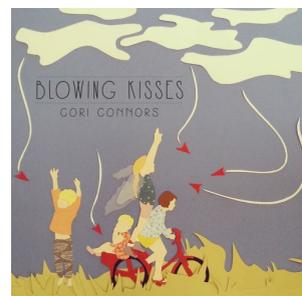
grows daylilies, hikes, and loves Indian and Thai food. He sometimes collaborates with his wife, Jacqui Biggs Larsen, a painter and multi-media artist.

Lance holds a PhD from the University of Houston. Since 1993, he has taught literature and creative writing at BYU, where he currently serves as associate chair..

Lance Larsen's fourth collection of poems, *Genius Loci*, was recently published by University of Tampa Press. His earlier collections include *Backyard Alchemy* (2009), *In All Their Animal Brilliance* (2005), and *Erasable Walls* (1998). His work appears widely in such venues as *Georgia Review*, *Southern Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, *River Styx*, *Orion*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, *Best American Poetry 2009*, *Poetry Daily*, and elsewhere.

Lance's nonfiction has twice made the Notable Essay list in *Best American Essays*. He is currently working on *Seventeen Ways to Float*, a collection of essays about place, family, and memory which won first place in the 2011 Utah Original Writing Competition

*Utah initiated its Poet Laureate program in 1997. The Poet Laureate is a Governor-appointed advocate for literature and the arts throughout the state.



2016 APRIL AWARDS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday April 24th

1:45 PM Laureates Meeting

2:45 PM Board Meeting

4:00 PM Workshop. Cori Connors on writing song lyrics. Cori is a poet and song writer. Her latest album won a National Parent's Choice Gold Award.

6:00 PM Dinner*

7:00 PM: Panel Discussion on How to Get Your Poetry Published and Noticed.

8:00 PM: Special Presentation.

8:15 PM Awards Session, followed by Open-Read Around

Saturday, April 25th

8:30 AM President's Breakfast/Chapter Presidents' Meeting

9:30 AM Awards Session

10:30 AM Poetry Reading by Lance Larsen, Utah Poet Laureate

12:00 PM Lunch*

1:00 PM Awards Session

3:00PM Book of the Year Award

5:00 PM Student Poetry Competition Awards

On a disappointing note, scheduled special guest, The Incredible Hulk has cancelled his festival appearance. His agent cited 'world-saving' duties for his recent cancellation. The festival will miss his reflective and conceptual poetry, inspired by the nature he smashes around him. Here is one of his best-loved poems:

*Hulk green,
Hulk Smash!
Hulk wear purple,
Hulk Smash!
Hulk have ten toes,
Hulk no smash...*



SPECIAL EDITION

Dinner Buffet - Friday

Soup, Salad (3 choices),
Trout, Pot Roast, Fried
Chicken, Vegetable,
Mashed Potatoes, Assorted
Desserts.

Lunch Buffet - Saturday

Salad (3 choices), Stir Fry
Beef and Broccoli, Sweet
and Sour Pork, Chicken
Tempura, Tepanyaki Style
Vegetable, Fried Rice,
Assorted Desserts



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION WINNER

You will enjoy hearing that Trish Hopkinson is this years winner of the Early Bird Registration! She will receive a complimentary room at the Hilton Garden Inn for Friday night Apr 22. Just remember Trish, keep those wild hotel room parties at a reasonable volume after quiet hours!

So now, the rest of you need to get our hotel reservations made. Call: 801 416-8899 and remind them that you are with UTSPS to get your \$99 room. You may also qualify for other discounts on it. If you order online make sure that you register at the Hilton Garden Inn LAYTON. There seem to be several of them.

If you haven't registered for the festival yet, now is the time. Send your \$100 check made out to UTSPS, to Bill by no later than April 5. O William Asplund, 2262 East 1200 North, Layton, UT 84040

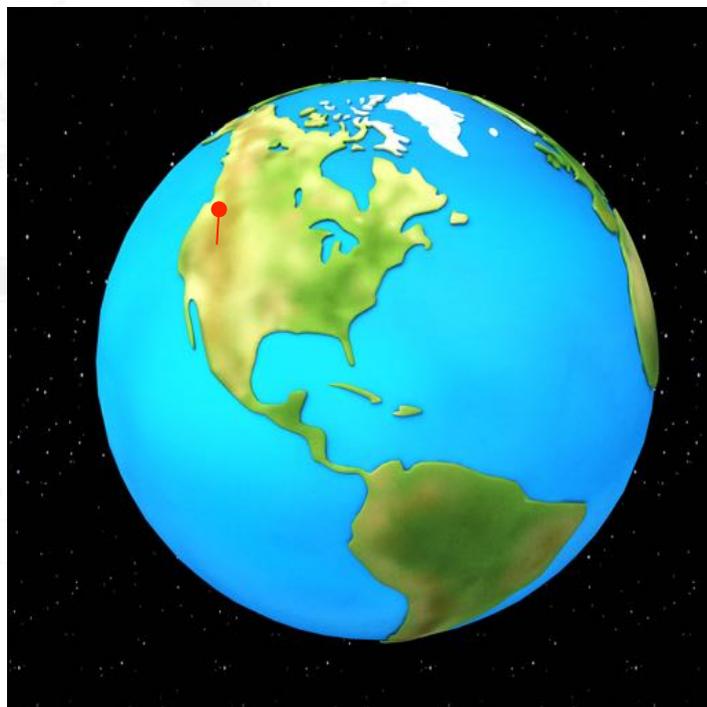


Davis Conference Center
1651 North 700 West,
Layton UT.

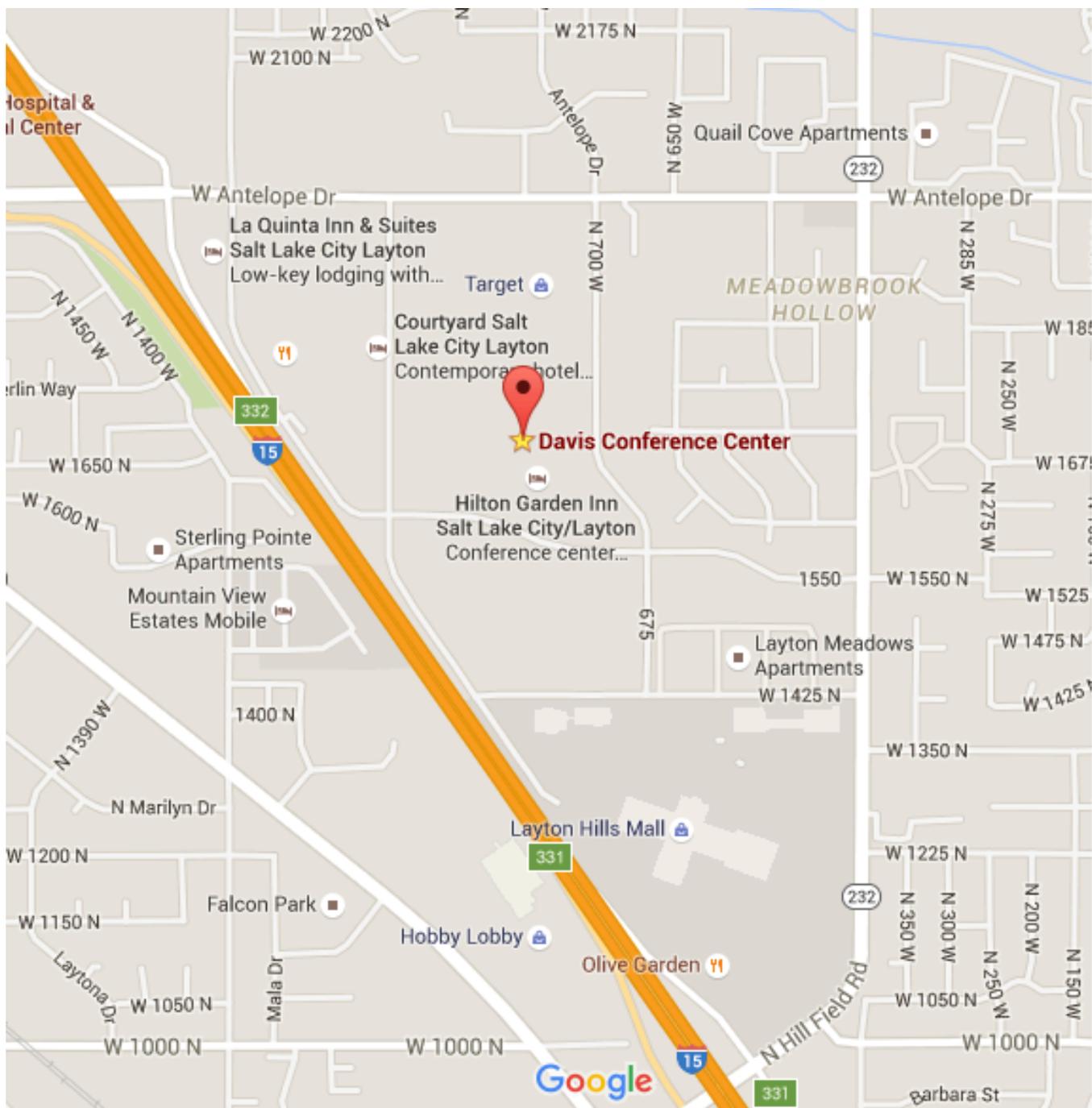
Directions from freeway: Take the Antelope Island exit 332 off I-15. You will want to be in the right turn lane. Turn right on either at the first light, University Parkway or at the next light, Woodland Park Dr (go about 2 blocks turn left onto Univ. Parkway). Continue on University Parkway until you reach the Hilton Garden. The parking lot surrounds it -- 762 W University Parkway, Layton. If you are just coming for the day, the entrance to the Convention part is on the north-east corner of the building. Enter the conference center either through the lobby of the Hilton Garden or the large doors on the north-east side of the building.



Map to Davis Conference Center (Wide View)



Map to Davis Conference Center (Wide View)
If driving at night.



Registration Form
Utah State Poetry Society April Awards Festival
April 22-23, 2016, Hilton Garden Inn (Davis Conference Center)
1651 North 700 West, Layton, Utah 84041

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

Registration Fee: \$100, includes Dinner on Friday and Lunch on Saturday. Breakfast is not included but the hotel has a restaurant and there are many other restaurants in close vicinity. Both meals will be buffet style and have a variety of choices. It will be \$60.00 for the meals for non-member spouses or guest who will not be attending the meetings but want to eat with us. Please indicate any special needs on meals: _____

Registration by March 23rd will be entered in a drawing for a free room reservation. Registrations should be submitted no later than April 5th. After that you will need to register at the conference site.

Registration Fees enclosed: _____

Mail This Section and Check To:
O. William Asplund, 2262 E 1200 N Layton, Utah 84040-7743

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Call to make your own room reservations by April 1st. Our price is \$99 per night (but additional discounts like AARP, etc, will lower the cost further. The phone number is 801-416-8888 and e-mail is davisconferencecenter.com

UTSPS APRIL AWARDS FESTIVAL, 2016
Hilton Garden Inn (Davis Conference Center)
1651 North 700 West, Layton, Utah 84041

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- 2:45 PM Board Meeting
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