

2018 Paula Jones Gardiner Memorial Award Recipient



Photo Credit: Leah McAloon

Rachel Mehl was born in Mt. Vernon, WA and currently lives in Bellingham. She has an MFA from University of Oregon. Her poems have appeared most recently in *Pontoon*, *Twyckenham Notes*, and are forthcoming in *Crab Creek Review*. Follow her on Twitter @rachelamehl.

You cried too loud here, amongst a tangle
of mourners, lost, wearing suits, freshly shaved.
For the funeral of a soldier, who was once your age.
Nearly all the dead were once your age.

- from "[Watching You Sleep](#)"

Floating Bridge Press is excited to announce this year's recipient of the Paula Jones Gardiner Memorial Award! Northwest poets Kelli Russell Agodon and Sheila Bender, along with a number of other generous donors, started this poetry award in 2009 to honor the memory of beloved Seattle-area poet, teacher, and mentor, Paula Jones Gardiner, who died in 2008. Together, Kelli and Sheila choose a poem from each year's [Pontoon Poetry](#) that best exemplifies the spirit of Paula.

This year, Kelli and Sheila chose "[Watching You Sleep](#)" by Rachel Mehl. Congratulations!

Floating Bridge Press would like to thank Kelli and Sheila and all the others who help continue Paula Jones Gardiner's legacy of generosity and love of poetry.



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