

Learning from *One Hundred Hungers*:

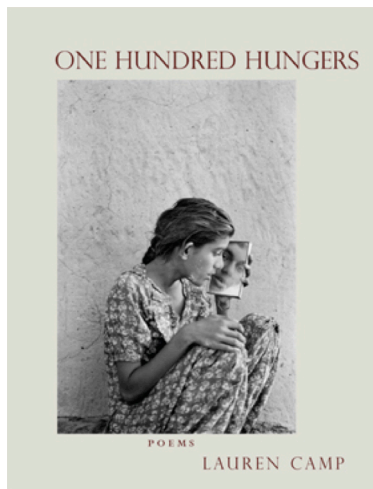
Educational opportunities with author Lauren Camp, winner of the Dorset Prize

Lauren Camp's third book, a memoir written as poetry, explores the conflict of Arabic heritage and Jewish customs, and the effort of holding both in contemporary American culture. *One Hundred Hungers* tells overlapping stories of food and ritual, immigration and adaptation. It evokes her father's boyhood in Baghdad in the 1940s, a time when tensions began to emerge along ethnic and religious lines. In these poems, Lauren also draws upon memories of Sabbath dinners in her grandparents' new home in America to reveal how family culture persists.

The author is available for readings, class visits, craft talks, workshops and discussions. Below are some possibilities to consider.

Main Presentation:

“Discovering Baghdad: How Writing My Father’s Story Took Me to the Tigris”



This presentation is part reading and part inside look at the writing of *One Hundred Hungers*.

Lauren says, “Since my father did not want to—or could not—recall old memories, parts of *One Hundred Hungers* are an informed invention of his childhood. I will talk briefly about the research effort and the frustration of writing without a personal sense of Baghdad in the 1940s.

“As the writing progressed, I began to understand the city’s sights and smells, but discovering why the family left their homeland came more gradually. Through words, I drew situations and conversations that allowed me to explore the dislocation that defined my father’s life and led to my existence as an Arab-American girl in an old-world family.”

Presented at DIWAN6: A Forum for the Arts, at the Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan.

Other Possibilities for Presenting Organizations to Consider:

- Lauren can lead a writing workshop on the ancient pantoum form.
- *One Hundred Hungers* poems were written to the sound of the oud, and would pair well with Middle Eastern music. Host organizations could coordinate a performance with a university music department to accompany a reading.
- Consider partnering with a university’s religious studies and/or Arab and Jewish departments to arrange a panel discussion or Q&A.

About the Poet

Lauren Camp is the author of three books of poems. She is a Black Earth Institute Fellow, as well as the 2014 RL International Poetry Award winner, the 2014 Margaret Randall Poetry Prize winner, and the 2012 Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award winner.

Her poems appear in *New England Review*, *Poetry International*, Academy of American Poets *Poem-a-Day*, *Slice*, *The Seattle Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal* and elsewhere, and she has twice guest-edited special sections for *World Literature Today*,

A veteran public radio producer, she hosts “Audio Saucepan”—a global music program interwoven with contemporary poetry—on Santa Fe Public Radio.

For fees and availability, contact Lauren Camp (lauren@laurencamp.com).