



Maureen Tolman Flannery

PROSE & poetry

Sandra Berris and Brian, her husband of 53 years, live in Carmel-by-the-Sea and take full advantage of their location's beauty. They have two daughters and seven grandchildren. Her life-long relationship with words is evidenced in her membership and support of PEN, Academy of American Poets, AWP, Poetry Society in America, and the League of American Pen Women. She was an active member of the arts community when she lived in the Chicago area. Active with the Barrington Area Arts Council, she founded the Barrington Writers Workshop, co-founded a contest for young writers, and served as president of BAAC. She also was co-founder and co-editor of *Whetstone* which received numerous awards in the nineteen years of its flourishing as a literary magazine.

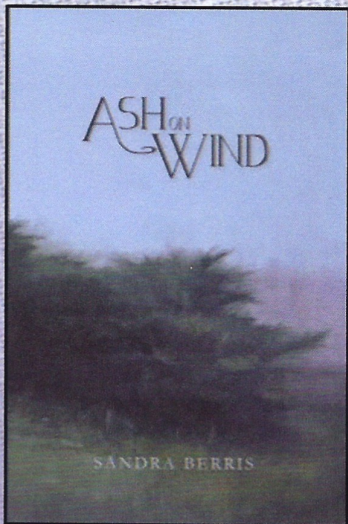
parents, the poet's fraught relationship with her muse, and the bizarre instructions on the preparation and cooking of such unappetizing wild animals as woodchuck, opossum, raccoon, squirrel.



Her poems can make you weep with her

Sandra Berris

In silence as one
Shivers into shadows, subjects oneself
To cruelties of what
Can never change.



Ash on Wind
Sandra Berris

Her latest book *Ash on Wind* is an exquisite volume of poems that share with unflinching honesty the intimacies of personal and familial grieving and childhood trauma. Yet it also explores with humor and astute observation such diverse subjects as the dilemma of how best to care for aging

and laugh through the tears when a father keeps asking "When do I get my car?" and the mother with Alzheimer's, moved to a new room, marvels "Why this furniture is exactly like mine." Her poems memorialize an unborn child, give us insight into the workings of a loving family and explore the trauma of divorce. On her words the reader is transported to Cambodia, Wales, the Bahamas, and a rural town in Iowa.

Sandra is the recipient of Prairie Schooner's Hugh J. Luke Poetry Prize. Her poems have been published and won awards in a myriad of literary journals and anthologies, attesting to the breadth of her subject matter and the depth of her ability to make language dance to her versatile drumbeat.