

Walter Bargaen



Walter Bargaen was appointed Missouri's first poet laureate in 2008. He received a BA in philosophy and an MA in English education from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Bargaen is the author of more than a dozen collections of poetry, including *Days Like This Are Necessary: New and Selected Poems* (2009). At the Poet Laureate Awards ceremony, poet Kevin Pruffer described Bargaen as a "brilliant communicator about poetry" whose own work is "subtle, skillful and wise." Bargaen has commented that creativity happens "where one's imagination and memory collide with events."