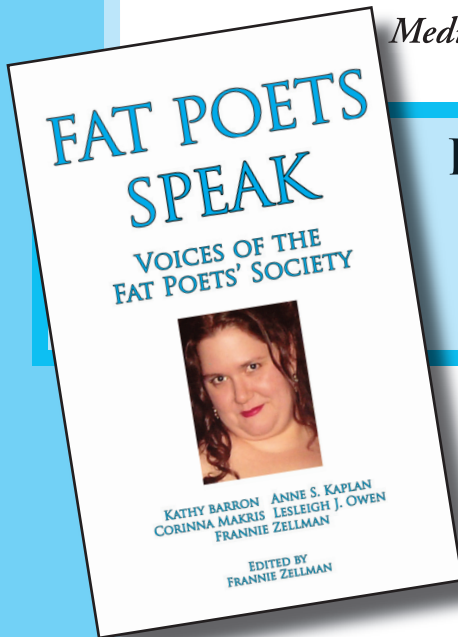


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## FAT POETS' SOCIETY SHARES THE POETRY & PROCESS OF FAT EMBODIMENT

ROYALTIES FROM NEW ANTHOLOGY WILL GO TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO ADVANCE FAT ACCEPTANCE

NASHVILLE, TN—In a sociocultural climate in which fat bodies are considered diseased and blamed for everything from rising medical costs to global warming, it takes courage for fat women, especially, to express anything but shame about their bodies. *Fat Poets Speak: Voices of the Fat Poets' Society*, just released by Pearlson Press, is part of and intended for the growing movement reclaiming “fat” as a valid way to exist in the world.

The 126-page original trade paperback by Kathy Barron, Anne S. Kaplan, Corinna Makris, Lesleigh J. Owen and Frannie Zellman has its roots in a poetry workshop at the 2006 annual convention of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, a civil rights organization celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The poets are donating their royalties to NAAFA.

“I have written poetry since the age of six,” Zellman, who edited *Fat Poets Speak*, says in the book’s introduction, “but somehow felt that I was writing in a dream before I realized less than ten years ago that I had never been centered as a poet because I had never been able to write about my own body and feelings as a fat person.

“In this book you will meet us: five fat poets writing about our hopes, despair, happiness, sensuality, dreams, hurts, healing, exhilaration—about what it is to be alive and fat in a world that hates fat people, but in which we somehow persevere to make ourselves heard and ultimately celebrate.”

Zellman, a Cherry Hill, NJ resident, received her M.A. in creative writing from Boston University in 1980 and is also the author of the novel *FatLand* (Pearlson Press, January 2009). Zellman is a pseudonym for Fern Kant Ghauri.

Co-author Kathy Barron lives in Grosse Pointe Woods, MI., has a B.A. in English from the University of Michigan, ran her own health food store, and has worked as a bodyworker, energy healer and caregiver.

Anne S. Kaplan of Rochester, NY is a Certified Personal Business and Life Coach, a “recovering scientist” with a Ph.D. in neuroscience, and a former computer programmer and consultant.

Corinna Makris of Lake Peekskill, NY is the proprietress of ThisLushLife.com, an online plus-size clothing/living resource.

Lesleigh J. Owen recently earned a Ph.D. in sociology and is a college instructor and social activist. She lives in Pasadena, CA and is president of the Los Angeles NAAFA chapter.

*Fat Poets Speak: Voices of the Fat Poets Society* (\$15.95) is available from Amazon.com, Powells.com and other online retailers, as well as directly from the publisher at [www.pearlsong.com](http://www.pearlsong.com).

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