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6 PM, Mon., April 8, 2019

How Did I Get Here?

*Exploring the Context of our Lives
through Memoir and Poetry..*



Speaker:

Guy Thorvaldsen, MFA
English Instructor, Poet
Madison College



Goodman Ctr., 149 Waubesa St., Bolz A, Madison, 241-1574

Our third season of "Humanities in Community" presentations runs monthly – 2nd-Mondays –
October - May. Free, public and family friendly.

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A presentation by poet Guy Thorvaldsen

6 PM, Monday, April 8, 2019

Goodman Center – Bolz A



Leaning on his own life and work, Guy asks what it means “to explore the context of our lives through *poetry* and *memoir*.”

“If time allows, we will do some of our own writing as part of the presentation.”

“Each life has its own unique *context*, its own sea of personal, cultural and social milieus in which we have swum and perhaps are still swimming. Given the complexity of this journey, most people, at some point in their lives, ask the question, in the words of David Byrne of the *Talking Heads*, ‘*Well, how did I get here?*’ The recent surge of interest in DNA-based genealogy is part of this need to know, people trying to put together or pull apart the pieces of their history, *their context*, in search of meaning and understanding. But science can only take you so far.

This is where *memoir* and *poetry* come in – writers examining the seen and unseen forces at play that have informed us, benefitted or oppressed us and, in the end, shaped us: family, mortality, gender, relationships, class, race, religion, culture, and ethnicity.”

Guy’s poetry has appeared in, among others, *Alligator Juniper*, *Forge*, *Gulfstream*, *Magma 69* (London), *Zone 3*, and *Poet Lore*. His first full-length book, [Going to Miss Myself When I’m Gone](#), came out in October 2017 through Aldrich Press.

He received his MFA from Vermont College and has taught writing at Madison College for 20 years. Alongside teaching he is a journeyman carpenter, husband, father, and contributing poet/essayist for community radio.

