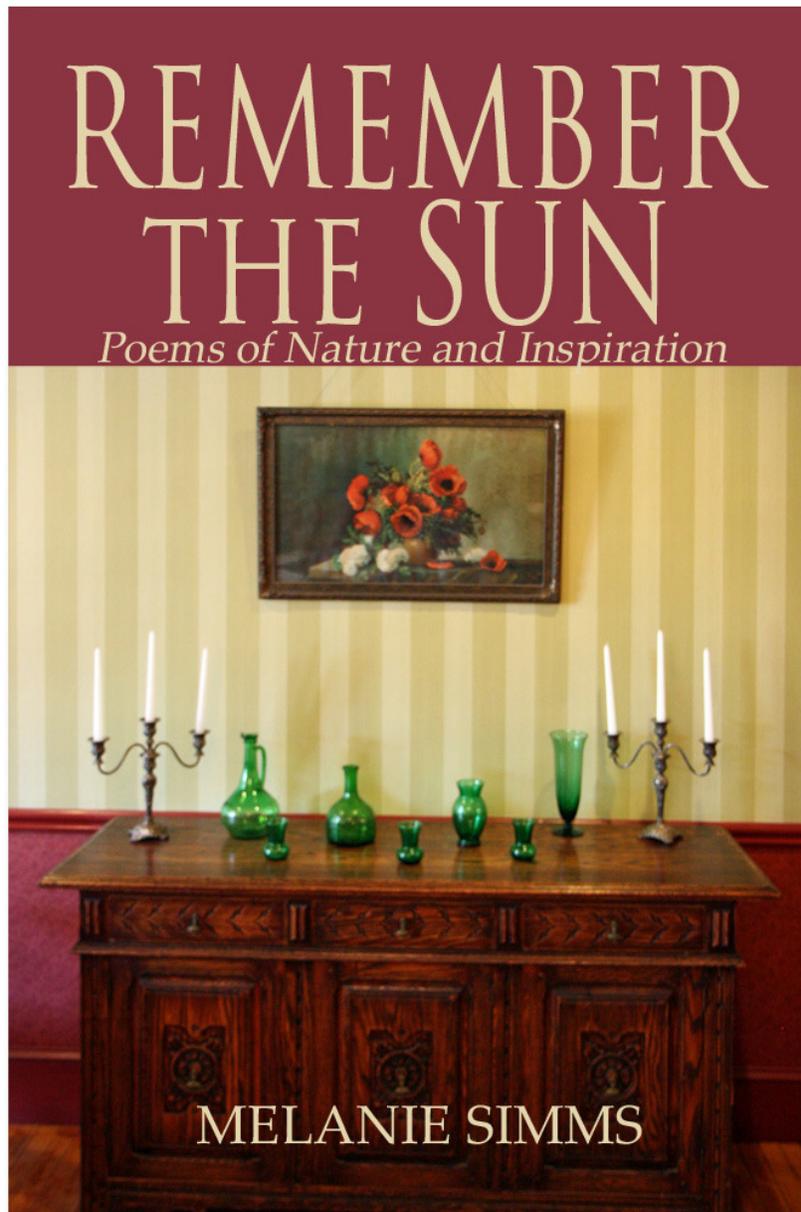
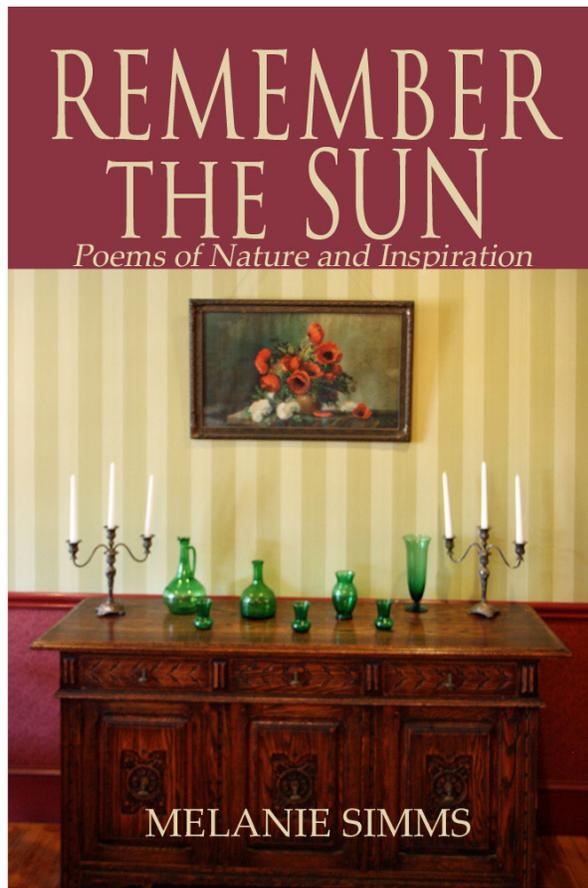


# Media Information



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## **About Sunbury Press**

"Continue the Enlightenment". During the 18th century, a societal shift occurred based on the core values of a strong belief in rationality and science and the critical questioning of traditional institutions, customs, and morals. Out of this era came the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. This "Age of Reason" has shaped our Western tradition and continues to resonate to this day throughout the globe. At Sunbury Press, we champion these core values and support authors who challenge "the establishment", regardless of their socio-economic status or nationality.

Lawrence Knorr  
Publisher

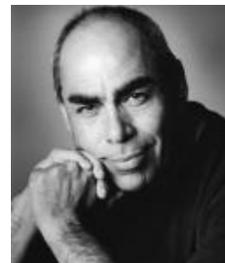


# Praise for

## REMEMBER THE SUN: Poems of Nature and Inspiration

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Melanie's poems are unique in that they exude a certain physicality that is both sensuous and deeply mysterious. One senses the '...beyond' in them, at the word's edge where the line meets the end of the page, like fire in the darkness where night meets light, opposites collide to create an emerging voice that often succors our spirits in her wisdom. Melanie's poems are so enjoyable to read and enjoy. – **Jimmy Santiago Baca, Poet**



Melanie Simms is a poetic force of nature. She has unbridled enthusiasm for the craft of poetry, and for the promotion of poetry. She is an impressive poet and person.

– **Jerry Wemple, Professor of English, Bloomsburg University**

Melanie Simms has the rare gift of seeing the world around her in a slightly different way than the rest of us might. She then weaves wonderful, magical descriptions of what she sees – what she feels – that allows the reader to see things through Melanie's eyes and feel them in Melanie's heart. Her poetry describes scenes and emotions that swirl all around us every day, but we never take the time to pay attention. Melanie pays attention and brings them to life.

- **Craig Quigley (Admiral, Retired, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs)**



"Deeply rooted in the Romantic tradition, her poetry is by turns humorous, mocking, serious and heart wrenching"

- **Gary Young, Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz**



# Synopsis

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## *Poems on Nature and Inspiration*

This collection of poems by Melanie Simms (all previously published in magazines, newspapers and poetry journals) covers such themes as Pennsylvania place poetry, inspirational poetry, and reflections on nature and love. Remember the Sun: Poems on Nature and Inspiration offers a wide variety of poems to suit the diverse tastes of the poetic palette.



## About the Author

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Melanie Simms is an award winning poet with over 200 publications of poetry in numerous magazines, newspapers and literary journals including: The Santa Cruz Sentinel, The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, The Daily Item, Taj Mahal Review, Penn Review (University of Pennsylvania) and CLAM (UC Berkeley). She is the author of a book of poetry titled, *Waking the Muse*, and her newest release, *Remember the Sun: Poems on Nature*. She is also the recipient of numerous awards for poetry including a Sophie Award, A Vermont Writer's Studio Scholarship, and a finalist in the Richard Savage Award from Bloomsburg University. Melanie served with distinction as a former Poet Laureate of Perry County, and is listed in Marquis Who's Who of the World and Cambridge Who's Who of Women in Publication. Her recent poem "Sunbury" penned for

the city of Sunbury, PA has received continued acclaim and air time with such radio stations as WKOK, WVIA, NPR, WMNF 88.5, (Tampa, Florida) The Tom Morgan Show, (in que), WITF, and recently PA Radio. Presently "Sunbury" is being readied for air time with Garrison Keillor's radio show, A Prairie Home Companion. Sunbury has also been published in the Susquehanna Life Magazine, the Daily Item and the York Daily Record and it today resides behind glass in Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver's Sunbury District office.

Melanie has read in many venues including the Degenstein Community Library, the Sunbury River Festival, The Bloomsburg Public Library, on live podcast at The Midtown Scholar Bookstore and at the Joseph Priestly Chapel. She recently read her poetry in the Harrisburg Capitol. First Lady Susan Corbett attended. Melanie has also shared her poems with the Pennsylvania Cable Network, and has upcoming readings in November with former Harrisburg poet laureate Nate Gadsden's TV Show "Life Esteem" (WHP-21, CBS), and "Tell Me a Story" with Joy Hockman (WFTE, Scranton, PA).

Melanie hails from a talented literary family including her late mother Elinor Melvin a poet, pianist and former newspaper editor, and her Uncle, Patrick Sloyan, a two-time Pulitzer-prize winning war journalist from Newsday.

[www.melaniesimmspoet.com](http://www.melaniesimmspoet.com)

[facebook.com/melaniesimmspoet](https://facebook.com/melaniesimmspoet)



# An Interview with Melanie Simms

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**As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?** I wanted to be a famous singer. I used to pretend to be Marie Osmond.

**What do you do to unwind and relax?** I love to peruse the shops in Sunbury, Pa and walk along the Susquehanna River. I also love to spend a day at the beauty school getting a mani, pedi, facial and hairstyle.

**Tell us a bit about your family.** Very creative – my mother was a newspaper editor/journalist, concert pianist and poetry teacher. My Uncle a 2 time Pulitzer prize winning war journalist, and my father a painter, florist and hair stylist. My dad was in the Navy so we traveled a lot as a kid. I remember seeing at least 50 different states in the USA as a child.

**What is your favorite food?** Wow – I love all foods, but by far steak and mashed potatoes and cheesecake.

**What inspires you?** Nature, culture, art, love, people. I love to just sit and observe.. like Ferdinand in the children’s book Ferdinand the Bull who preferred to sit under the trees and smell the flowers instead of clashing horns with his fellow animals.

**Do you have a day job and how if at all has it helped in the writing of your book(s) ?** I work from home as a life coach /intuitive advisor. It definitely helps me to grow in my understanding of human behavior, nature and motivations.

**What is your favorite quote?** Thomas Edison, “Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.”

\*\*\*\*\* Writing Questions \*\*\*\*\*

**Do you ever experience writer’s block and what do you do about it?** Yes. I find that reading other works help me to regenerate and inspire my writing. Also its important to work with an editor. I work with David Miller a playwright and professor at Bloomsburg University. Having outside feedback gives you a sounding board to work off of.

**Do you work with an outline, or just write?** It depends upon what I’m in the mood for or what style I’m writing in. With poetry I prefer free form; with articles or short stories I tend to work with an outline.

**What writing genre are you and what makes this genre so special?** I’m a poet first and foremost. For me poetry gives us one of the most challenging and creative platforms to express ourselves linguistically.

**Who is your intended audience and why?** ...my audience will likely be spiritually minded or interested in nature and the human condition.



# An Interview with Melanie Simms (CONT)

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**Is anything in your book based on real life experiences or purely all imagination?** Many of my works are based on life experience or are a product thereof.

**What was your favorite chapter (or part) to write for this book? and why ?** The poems about Sunbury and the area ...I love writing for my town.

**What has been the toughest criticism given to you as an author? What has been the best compliment?** The toughest criticism was to focus more .. the best compliment was being told how my poetry touched their spirit profoundly.

**Did you learn anything from writing your book and what was it?** I learned to develop my skills of observation and to appreciate poetry of place.

**How has your environment/upbringing colored your writing?** Well .. being raised by artists, soldiers, poets and medical professionals has certainly influenced what aspects of life I prefer to observe. Traveling a lot as a kid colored my observations on placement / living /dwellings.

**Do you recall how your interest in writing originated?** My mother – she gave me a journal at age 10 and told me to start writing.

**Is there anything you find particularly challenging in your writing?** I want to pursue higher education and hone my craft towards an even deeper focus and insight.

**What were your feelings when your first novel was accepted/when you first saw the cover of the finished product?** Awe. It was like the birth of a first child.. to see your own creation finally ALIVE.

**What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?** I tend to write in my bed with my laptop beside me.

\*\*\*\*\* Reading Questions \*\*\*\*\*

**Is there any particular author or book that influenced you in any way either growing up or as an adult?** Oh yes, the imagery of Science Fiction author Ray Bradbury. I was also very interested in poet Eugene Field, and I loved to read all of the Little House on the Prairie books by Laura Ingalls Wilder and the Little Women series as well.

**What are you reading now and what peaked your interest in reading it?** I'm re-reading the Martian Chronicles. I like to compare how they looked at travel to Mars to current technological advances and opinions.

**Who is your favorite author and what is it that really strikes you about their work?** Again Ray Bradbury – he knows how to paint with words and to transport me to another world



# An Interview with Melanie Simms (CONT)

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\*\*\*\*\* Conclusion \*\*\*\*\*

**For those interested in exploring the subject or theme of your book, where should they start?** With any book that inspires them.

**What makes your book stand out from the crowd?** It's a book about town and place; it brings us back to our roots and our sense of home.

**Many authors set themselves very ambitious goals. What are yours?** To become an internationally known author; to be featured regularly on top U.S. talk shows and in the New Yorker, etc. To pursue an MFA and teach in a top MFA program.

**What historical events have you witnessed in person?** I saw John Denver's plane go down while driving with my ex-husband through Carmel California. I was surprised how such a bright star went down in flames so quickly. Didn't know it was his plane, until the news came on shortly after.

**Are you working on any books/projects that you would like to share with us?** I always have a book project in process it seems. Currently I'm working on book titled 'An Anthology of Pennsylvania Poet Laureates', a collection of poems by county poet laureates in Pennsylvania with a foreword by Sam Hazo our one and only state poet laureate. I'm also working on a collection of poems by military leaders; the collection includes poems by such leaders as General Tommy Franks, Ho Chi Minh, General Douglas MacArthur etc as well as poems by ancient leaders, Samurai, etc. I'm having an issue however affording the rights to reprint poems from the MacArthur estate and my have to exclude that one.

**Any recent appearances that you would like to share with us about/any upcoming ones?** I was a return guest on The World Poetry Café hosted by Ariadne Sawyer and Israel Mota. My poems were aired internationally on CFRO 100.5, Vancouver Canada, and translated into Spanish. I was also recently featured in Inside Pennsylvania for my poem, Ode to a Lover on the Susquehanna. I will be the guest poet, alongside poet Jerry Wemple for the Sunbury River Festival and will be aired on WKOK with host Mark Lawrence.

**Do you have any advice to give to aspiring writers?** Advice for aspiring authors: write because you love it; write because you are passionate about it. Also don't forget to include a background in business and marketing/sales. If you want to publish, you have to be proactive, and get out there and meet people. Don't be shy. Don't be afraid to ask to read your work on radio or to send out a book review. Network, network, network! Attend writing workshops, go to poetry readings and meet people. If you cant find the right groups to hook into, start your own, and promote poetry readings in your area.

**Is there anything that you would like to say to your readers and fans?** Thank you for your support and feedback. Your support gives me an opportunity to continue my dreams as a writer as well as to continue sharing my creativity and experiences with the public.



# **An Interview with Melanie Simms** (CONT)

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**Do you hear from your readers much? What kinds of things do they say?** Many of the comments mention how genuine and to the heart my work is; that it touches them on an universal level. They say I write from a place that everyone can understand. Other comments have included, even from State Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver that “my writing emotes strong images. I paint with words.” Other comments are posted on my testimonial page and follow a similar theme/concept of response.

**What question do you wish that someone would ask about your book, but nobody has and how would you answer?** “How do you hope your writing affects the public?” That it touches my soul; and in particular this book, teaches us to look to nature for hope and inspiration, as well as to investigate and appreciate the strengths of the human spirit.



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