

New York Times, Opinion, Letter, October 10, 2017

72 Friends of Literature, in Defense of the Poet Jill Bialosky

To the Editor:

We, as writers and friends of literature, wish to register our concern in regard to [“Jill Bialosky, Poet and Editor, Faces Plagiarism Accusations”](#) (news article, Oct. 4, 2017).

The Times, by giving a large platform to a small offense, has tainted the reputation of this accomplished editor, poet, and memoirist.

It is important for your readers to understand that the charges brought against Jill Bialosky by the critic William Logan refer to a handful of commonly known biographical facts gleaned from outside sources. Given the trust that is assumed between a writer and her readers, this mishandling is not something to shrug off. Yet it bears saying that Ms. Bialosky’s inadvertent repetition of biographical boilerplate was not an egregious theft that was intentionally performed.

All 72 of us stand with Ms. Bialosky and her statement of apology. She is working with the publisher on adjustments to the text, which will appear in future editions of the book. It would be a terrible disservice to Ms. Bialosky and to your readers if the article kept people from appreciating her substantial contributions to American letters.

Signed,

KIMIKO HAHN, DAVID BAKER

The writers are authors whose works have been edited by Jill Bialosky. The letter had 70 other signers, including Jennifer Egan, Louise Glück, Ann Hood, Amy Hempel, Claire Messud, Robert Pinsky, and Roxanne Robinson.

The other authors are as follows. We have placed an asterisk next to the names of writers who have published with WW Norton, a number of them edited by Jill Bialosky.

Rae Armantrout
Molly Antopol *
David Baker *
Eavan Boland*
Marilyn Chin*
Cynthia Chinelly
Bill Clegg
Nicole Cooley
Peter Cooley
Angela Davis-Gardener
Toi Derricotte*
Mark Doty*
John Dufresne*
Jennifer Egan
Amanda Filipacchi *
Barbara Fischkin
Nick Flynn *
Alice Fulton*
Forrest Gander
Louise Glück
Lynn Goldberg
Beverly Gologorsky
Marilyn Hacker*
Kimiko Hahn*
Masha Hamilton
Joy Harjo*
Amy Hempel
Bill Henderson
Ann Hood*
Marie Howe*
Major Jackson*
A. Van Jordan*
John Kinsella*
Adam Kirsch*
Caroline Leavitt
Harriet Levin
Paul Lisicky
Thomas Lynch*
David Lynn
George Makari*

Michael Maren
Cate Marvin*
Donna Masini*
Alice Mattison
Maaza Mengiste*
Joshua Mensch*
Claire Messud*
Honor Moore*
Carol Muske-Dukes
Robert Pinsky*
Stanley Plumly*
Victoria Redel
Roxana Robinson
Helen Klein Ross
Michael Rulman*
Sherod Santos*
Elissa Schappell
Harold Schechter
Deborah Schneider
Philip Schultz*
Grace Schulman
Helen Schulman
Dani Shapiro
Akhil Sharma*
Joan Silber *
Elizabeth Silver
Kate Sontag
Lisa Spaar
Gerald Stern*
C. P. Sucher
Lynne Tillman
Ann Townsend