Osen and Melissa Balmain will lead a workshop on **Light Verse and Parody**.

**Frank Osen**’s poetry has appeared various places, including Ted Kooser’s *American Life in Poetry, Verse Daily, The American Arts Quarterly*, and *The Dark Horse*. He has won the Best American Poetry series poem award, been a finalist in the Howard Nemerov, Morton Marr, *Writers Digest*, and *New Criterion* competitions and been nominated for a Pushcart prize. Poet Mary Jo Salter chose his first book of poetry, *Virtue, Big as Sin*, for the 2012 Able Muse Book award, and it was nominated for the 2015 Poets’ Prize. He has contributed to various humorous and light verse contests such as *The Spectator’s Speccie, The New Statesman’s Staggers* and *The Oldie*, as well as to the *Washington Post’s Style* weekly humor contest, the Style Invitational, whose devotees (the “Losers”) named him “Most Improved Loser” for 2014 and “Loser of the Year” in 2015.

Description: What makes some poems and parodies funnier than others? Are the standards of craftsmanship different for light verse? Can contests help you get better at writing it? What the heck is “light verse,” anyway? We’ll seek answers to these questions and more, with help from poets living, dead, and (in the case of parodies) sometimes both. Topics to be explored include humor-friendly forms, rhyme and meter, subject matter, line and syntax, and types of poems that light-verse editors don’t care if they ever see again.