

Prospero's Parkside Books

208 Missouri 7 Blue Springs, MO 64014
(816) 224-9082

Reading on Tuesday evening, July 16th, 7:00 pm.

From Our Roots: an evening of poetry and song.

Janet Sunderland's father was a farmer and an elder in church; Jesse Barnes' grandfather was a farmer and his father is a church pastor. These backgrounds gave both artists a lasting foundation of faith and family.

Janet will read from her recently released book of poems, "At the Boundary," and Jesse will perform the music that was integral to both their childhoods.

Janet Sunderland grew up on a farm in Kansas and drifted like a cottonseed throughout the USA, Europe, Mexico, and the Caribbean, before moving to Kansas City with her husband, Cliff Kroski. She holds a BFA from Kansas State University, an MA from St. John's College in Santa Fe, and an M.Div from Sophia Divinity School. Her work has appeared in a variety of venues. She's a member of The Kansas City Writers Group and sits on the executive board of Whispering Prairie Press. She's also a professional actress, a member of SAG, and an adjunct professor at MCCCKC. Her chapbook, *At the Boundary*, was released by Finishing Line Press in May of 2013. <http://janetsunderland.wordpress.com>.

Jesse Barnes is the Executive Director of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center & Museum. He has spent the majority of his adult life involved with non-profit organizations and museums. A native of Wichita, Kansas, he is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and holds an MA from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. As a former museum curator and library media specialist, Jesse has been a consultant, keynote speaker, and lecturer for many venues. He is also a writer and collaborated with his sister, Prisca Nicole Barnes on the children's book *The Magic Tooth*. A trained vocalist he enjoys singing during his spare time. He is married to Mary Barnes.