



## SAVE THE DATE Poetry Reading and Book Release

### *Confluence*

by Geoff Wilkinson

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Milton Public Library, Keyes Room

476 Canton Ave., Milton, MA

Sponsored by Friends of the Milton Public Library

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*Available now* from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other booksellers  
[geoff.wilkinson@comcast.net](mailto:geoff.wilkinson@comcast.net) for more information

#### **About the author**

Geoff Wilkinson is a professor at Boston University School of Social Work, where he teaches community organizing and advocacy. A life-long activist, he worked as a tenant organizer in Boston public housing, directed the Massachusetts Senior Action Council and the Massachusetts Public Health Association, and served as director of planning and policy for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He is a founding board member of the National Association of Community Health Workers and co-founder of two social justice organizations where he lives in Milton, MA with his wife of over 40 years, Sally Johnson. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

#### **Reviews**

*“Language, in the hands of a skilled poet, brings possibilities to life—witnessing time, place, happening, memories, emotions, absurdity. The skilled poet draws us into essential moments that take us on journeys we may not have imagined. Geoff Wilkinson is a skilled poet, worth savoring like a great cup of tea! Enjoy!”*

— Michel Duncan Merle, Artistic Director, Akademia Duncan  
Former president of the Worcester County Poetry Association

*“Geoff has turned urgency in the poetry . . . beautiful images, he takes pieces of the grand universe and turns some into palpable bites of everyday reality. Geoff’s interest into the mystery of humanity is without hesitation and weaves for us the intimate connection between human and the cosmic experience. Beautiful work!”*

— Jean Lozoraitis, D.Ed., Poet, musician, painter, and educator  
Author of *loud cracks/soft whispers; On the longest Road*

*“In these finely crafted, potent poems, Geoff Wilkinson gives us new ways to look at ourselves and each other. The settings range from rural Vermont to the American southwest, from Haiti to Hiroshima, from the cityscapes of Central Massachusetts to Chile under the brutal dictatorship of the 1970s. His main theme is connection: to self, to the beloved, to friends, to nature, to the wider community, to ancestors, and to future generations. His work is informed by a stubborn hope borne of long experience and painful lessons. Wilkinson invites us to look more closely, more intently, and more bravely at ordinary life, and to see the moments of beauty, wonder, and grace that are present there if we pause and pay attention. Yet he also engages with harsher truths. This collection asks us to look squarely at the many forms of violence that surround us, but it does so not through dogmatism but by a quiet, attentive bearing-of-witness to the world in which we live.”*

— Shanee Stepakoff, MFA, Ph.D., author of *Testimony*,

Winner of the Independent Book Publishers Association, 2022 Benjamin Franklin Gold Award for Poetry