West End Poets News Letter www.westendpoetsweekend.com





September / October / November 2019

Created and Issued by: Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

Issue No. 71 (Est. June 2006)

FND DOE

Sponsored by the Town of Carrboro & Coordinated by the Carrboro Poets Council

Wednesday, October 16th - Saturday, October 19th

October 16th-19th, 2019 will mark the 14th anniversary of the annual West End Poetry Festival in Carrboro, NC. Four days of poetry featuring some of the Southeast's most talented poets while celebrating the many exciting and varied poetic styles. While the Poets Council is still working on the format for the festival, we are very pleased to announce that our featured poets, so far, will be Allison Rollins and Jonathan Farmer. Stay tuned for more information. All events are free and open to the public.



More detailed information is available at www.WestEndPoetryFestival.org. Contact Person: Fred Joiner, Carrboro Poet Laureate fred.curates@gmail.com

October 16th Time TBD Venue TBD All Ages Free

October 17th Time TBD Venue TBD All Ages Free

October 18th 6:30-9:00pm Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill All Ages Free

On October 19th, long-time supporter Flyleaf Books will anchor the third night of readings, along with a wine and cheese reception. Starting at 6:30 pm, the line-up features Jonathan Farmer, Jacinta White (still to confirm) and Eduardo Corral.

> October 19th Noon - 8:30pm Century Center, Carrboro All Ages Free



CONTENTS



Dreams



The dream catcher hangs on my window, sacred to the Cherokee. Midas' touch turning cornfields into gold.

Two sunflowers volunteer their span of time, heads lift toward the light shimmering over sapphire hills.

The honeysuckle races across the split-railed fence, a Wind Song fragrance fills the Brasstown Valley, goldenrod pulse on a breeze.

A dozen wild geese resound over the Groves' farm, they splash on Hiwassee River like a cathedral window.

Judy Hogan

The Late Years Nine

The clock ticks steadily in a quiet house. No bird calls for the hours. My heart also ticks in quiet but regular rhythm. I don't see my doctor again for three more months. Some mornings when I drive at dawn to the dam and the lake beyond, I can barely see through the fog. Only me, my dog, and my truck's headlights to guide me. My dog waits quietly, expectant. When I turn, she knows we're nearly there, and she nuzzles into my side to be let out. I have to turn off the headlights, put on the brake, undo my seatbelt, loosen the leash, often tangled in her feet, and then we stand down, ready to walk in cold, in fog, in sun, even in rain some days, when I get out my white umbrella. The sun will be behind dark clouds, slowly turning pink. Then the clouds in the northwest turn pink, and the water. A steak of orange light on the southeast horizon. Birds high and determined. Even eagles, maybe, at their height, I can't tell. The fog dissipates, more birds fly over-gulls, I think. Are those wild ducks? I do recognize the heron, with its slow, steady wing flaps. And once, up close, I saw a fully mature American bald eagle.

December 30, 2018



Toddlers

These days, you and I toddle Like babies learning to walk. We hold onto one another's arms To steady ourselves and the other Lest, in kissing one another We take the other to the ground And fall upon our faces. We have farther to fall and Our bones are old and brittle We must be careful, cautious. Our leas will not grow stronger Nor our gait become more firm. What can old toddlers foresee? Helplessness, diapers, and death? Hopefully, a new celestial body In which to ambulate for all eternity!



John Delaney Watson

3rd Rubber

"There's nothing that I wouldn't do to make you feel my love." Dylan



On faith, I bid you grand slam in hearts, beloved.
Call my bluff and double down. I shall redouble,
run the table and count my thirteen tricks in red.
Then we sea if you really serious trouble.

Since both of us do read cards, let's be very honest with one another and admit the obvious.

My dummy, his cup overflows wine to our west.

It cannot quench my thirst for thee and thus

I propose a wager: my soul to the devil; if, given the chance, our hearts cannot beat as one. These are serious stakes. It is not a child's prank.

A lifetime of happiness could be waiting still.
This is not a game that can ever be played alone.
You shuffled, I cut, our hand is dealt. Choose your bank..

AGAPE'

Ancient prejudices have
Victimized you and me
I know I should love you
With skin another color
With opinions and practices
That may oppose mine
Have sympathy with me
Give me understanding
that you seek
Help me to love you
Love me



Do not destroy my dignity attaining yours Walk proudly, uprightly And, please, let me Respect me for myself Expect respect from me

Forgiveness redeems the past
Frees us from its pain
We need each otherto love each other
for we are both
Children of one Heavenly Father

Wet

We drown to reach the coastline

Moored to a mortgage concerned

With the interest of others who

Don't notice us O Captain where are my sails?

My imagination plays in the tide

Weary of rip currents of sneaky Death

And her career of terminating interns

Not surefooted in the stinging sands

Burying those stuck with others

Not ready to give of themselves

To those seven beasts which take all.

If one cannot restore their assets

Before the passing to the next shore,

Better to stay afloat till you right your ship.



Ag.

Shivering, shaken, scared when you touched me the shimmering surface.

I probably slipped away flashing scales stirring reflections you see when you don't see the fish.

I sense in her a calm, gentle day waking with no one here rising from a sulfuric trench.



Jean Jones

Thinking of you

Your face your eyes-You give me hope-You give me joy-

I see nothing but grace & beauty in those eyes of yours-You are my hope even if you don't want to be-Even if you feel you don't deserve to be-

I don't careI still care about youeven if I'm not supposed toEven if it's wrongEven if you don't care for me backIt doesn't matterWhat matters
is that for the first time
in a long time
I care for someone
other than myselfI care for you & I hope
that you care for me
as well



wm mason Page 8

my exquisite around

soapstone wood stove this loving sun

sits finds me with

in its usual spot rising blood pressure

upon the pattern and asthma

tile work hearth that wood smoke

before and ash

the red brick fireplace do exacerbate

surrounded by Knotty I am in mourning

white pine paneling as I miss

installed in 1964 the flickering flames

the cast iron frame the glowing coals

is cold now from wood

it radiates that by my hand

only the solar warmth and chainsaw

that the picture window every single bolt

allows to strike it was cut

my success from trees

at having reached slowly grown

68 circuits here on my farm

wm mason Page 9

there is a radiance by such beauty

that such intimate that

connection now

with growth I must bid

and harvesting farewell

cutting as I wait to see

loading who will come

Splitting for this majestic

stacking companion

with care of so many

against winter's

the relentlessness sunrises

of gravity's caress spent

these decades praying that the flames

of sacred work would leap up

to keep myself as soon as I opened

my family the damper door

my friends as the air floods in

my visitors to begin again

warmed another day's dance

wm mason Page 10



with heat air and wood watching the wood pile diminish one stick at a time goodbye old friend my ancient connection with all the fires in all the world and all the people who find solace in their all consuming generosity....

Flyleaf Second Sunday Poetry Reading and Open Mic

All readings are the second Sunday in each month at 3:00pm

Flyleaf Books (next to The Root Cellar)

752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (Historic Airport Road), Chapel Hill

Schedule:

6:00pm - Informal get-together at The Root Cellar (formally Foster's Market) next door

7:00pm - Featured Readers - each read for approx. 10 minutes

Book Signing

Open Mic *Please sign up to read no later than 6:45 pm. Poets may read one poem no more than a page long.

For more info: 919-942-7373 www.flyleafbooks.com

or contact Pam Baggett (nightair@mindspring.com) or Joan Barasovska (msjoan9@gmail.com).

Sunday, September 15

3:00-5:00pm

Featured readers will be Tina Barr and friends of the late Susan Laughter Meyers, who will be reading from her posthumous collection, Self-Portrait in the River of Déjà Vu.

Sunday, October 13

3:00-5:00pm

Featured readers will be winners of the annual Flyleaf Poetry Contest.

Sunday, November 10

3:00-5:00pm

Featured readers will be Len Lawson and Jacinta White.



McIntyre's Fine Books Monthly Poetry Readings sponsored by the NC Poetry Society

All readings are the fourth Sunday in each month at **2:00pm** McIntyre's Fine Books is located in Fearrington Village, (half-way between Pittsboro & Chapel Hill on Hwy 15-501 South)

For more info: http://www.fearrington.com/village/mcintyres.asp

Sep. 29...Lena Shull Contest Winners

Oct. 27...Angell Caudill and Hermit Feathers Press Readers

When Magic Found Poetry: A show beyond words

by The House of Flying Cards

Saturday, September 7 7:00-9:00pm | Doors open at 6:30pm

Wake Forest Coffee Company \$10

156 S White St, Wake Forest, NC

A genre-breaking show where an ensemble of poets and magicians come together to express what can't be believed.

Featuring performances by:

- + House of Flying Cards magicians Datta Knighten & Mark Espinosa
- + Spoken word artists Travis Kyng & Watson
- + Underground magic sensei Alex Geiser from Now You See Me and Penn & Teller: Fool Us Hosted by spoken word magician Antino Art

For more info visit AntinoArt.com/shows

2019 John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities

by North Carolina Humanities Council

Wed, October 2 6:00-9:00pm

UNC Friday Center for Continuing Education 100 Friday Center Drive, **Chapel Hill**, NC

The North Carolina Humanities Council's Board of Trustees has selected **Jaki Shelton Green** as the recipient of the 2019 John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities, the Council's most prestigious honor. The Caldwell Award celebrates North Carolina's finest humanities champions.



This year's Caldwell Award will recognize Green for her lifelong achievements as a teacher, humanities advocate and ambassador for poetry and the spoken word in North Carolina. A longtime friend of the Council, Green is a former Board Trustee and currently participates in the Council's Road Scholars program, providing scholarly presentations in the humanities to engage community groups.

Presenting the 2019 John Tyler Caldwell Lecture in the Humanities during the award ceremony is Nikky Finney, Poet, Activist, and Teacher.

The 2019 Caldwell Award is sponsored in part by the North Carolina Writers' Network.

Admission is free but registration is required.

The evening's events are as follows:

6:00 p.m. Welcome Reception with hors d'oeuvres served

7:00 p.m. Ceremony and Lecture

Closing Reception to follow with heavy hors d'oeuvres served

For questions or special assistance, contact Melanie Moore (704) 687-1520 or mmoore@nchumanites.org

Speaking with the Universe an Evening of Poetry and Music with Li-Young Lee and David Whetstone by Jacar Press

Fri, October 25, 2019 7:30-9:30pm

Durham Arts Council \$25

120 Morris Street, Durham, NC

Jacar Press proudly presents world-renowned poet Li-Young Lee and musician David Whetstone.

Poet Li-Young Lee was born in Indonesia to Chinese political exiles. Lee's father was arrested and held as a political prisoner for a year, and after his release, the Lee family fled through Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan, arriving in the United States in 1964. Lee and his parents moved from Seattle to Pennsylvania. His father read to him frequently as a child. Lee began to seriously write poems at the University of Pittsburgh, where he studied with Gerald Stern. Influenced by the classical Chinese poets Li Bo and Tu Fu, Lee's poetry is noted for its use of silence and its mysticism, engaging in life and memory while building and shaping the self from words. His work has been awarded the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Poetry Award, the Lamont Poetry Selection, and the William Carlos William Award.



Musician, artist & composer David Whetstone has collaborated and toured extensively with poets Robert Bly and Coleman Barks since 1974, appearing with them in numerous recordings and films.





Poets on Nature

Wednesday, November 13 6:00-8:00pm
Orange County Main Library
137 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC

Pam Baggett, Florence Nash, Garrett Sharpe, and Caren Stuart will read work that focuses on the beauty and interconnectedness of the natural world, the nature of climate change, humans as a part of and apart from nature. The event is free and open to the public.

Recurring Events:

Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department Presents:
Poet's Open Mic Night at Oasis First Tue

First Tuesday of Each Month listed, 7:00-9:00pm

Oasis

Carr Mill, Carrboro

Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department the first Tuesday of each month listed for this great event! This is a night where poets can engage with others and share the power and diversity of poetry. The event is staged to provide a venue for people to celebrate, to share, and to encourage the writing, reading and listening to poetry.

See page 20 for listings.

Free the Mic

Second & Fourth Monday of Each Month, 7:00-10:00pm

Lucky Tree 3801 Hillsborough St., Raleigh

This platform welcomes your bold, and original talent in poetry, spoken word, rap, song, and instruments of all kind. This is a positive place to share, and be inspired! Artists and spectators welcome!!!

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For more info: http://www.luckytreeraleigh.com/

City Soul Café Open Mic

Noir Raleigh 425 Glenwood Ave, **Raleigh**

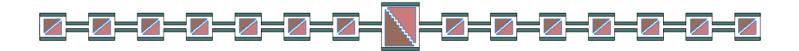
Wednesdays, 8:30pm

\$5 Cover / \$7 Features Nights 21 & over

THE HOTTEST SET IN THE TRIANGLE!
OPEN MIC POETRY | SPOKEN WORD | SINGERS

City Soul Café is the spot for a night of poetry, music, and so much more. Live DJ provides the musical backdrop. Food and Drink specials. Featured performers from all over the country. Come out and bring friends! Sign up between 8:30 - 10:00pm. Hosted by "The City Soul Café Group".

For more info: https://citysoulcafe.splashthat.com/



More Recurring Events:

Passionate Poets

Unity Center of Peace 8800 Seawell School Rd., **Chapel Hill**

Second Wednesday of Each Month, 7:00-8:30pm

\$10 suggested donation

Passionate Poets invites all to this evening of creative expressions where performers are encouraged to share their gifts of music, poetry, dance or comedy. Performance times will be 3-5 minutes each depending on the number of participants. A piano is available if required. Arrive early at 6:30pm to sign up. MC: Vanessa Vendola.

For more info, contact Vanessa Vendola at 919-810-3548.

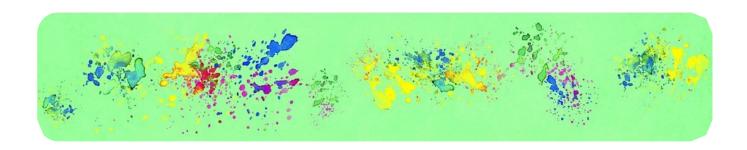
Open Mic at Fig

Third Wednesday of Each Month, 6:30pm

Fig

100 Brookside Dr. #109, Raleigh, NC

Open to the public: all writing genres welcome! Bring poems, stories or essays to read. Following the featured reader, 10-12 people will read for 5 minutes, any literary genre welcome. If you'd like to read at the open mic, join us between 6:00pm and 6:25pm to put your name on the list. The event starts at 6:30pm. This event is hosted by Suanne C. Miller and Hemed Mohamed. Social hour starts at 8:00pm.



TAKE FIVE Poetry & Prose Open Mic

First Thursday of Each Month, 6:00-8:00pm

Karma Boutique & Coffee Bar 131 Wicker Street, Downtown **Sanford**, NC

First Thursday Take Five draws in all ages and levels of experience for five-minute open mic presentations of poetry and prose. The sign-up for the readings begins at 5:30, with the guideline that writers 15 or under are encouraged to share their original works from 6:00 to 6:15. Works *containing adult language or mature themes* may be shared after 6:15 pm. To make a day of it, come early and explore the antique stores, the restaurants and craft galleries of Historic Downtown Sanford.

You deserve to Take 5!

For further information about the Take Five open mics, contact Caren Stuart at caren@windstream.net or C. Pleasants York at cpsy711@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/KarmaandCoffee.

More Recurring Events:

Friday Noon Poets

Fridays, 12:30-1:30pm

Amity United Methodist Church Corner of Estes Dr. & Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (Historic Airport Road) Chapel Hill

Informal meetings every Friday. Read original poem or prose or a selection written by someone else. Writings should be no longer than 1½ pages. Free parking, side entrance. All are welcome!

For details, call Dave Manning at 919-462-3695.

Jambalaya Soul Slam

The Hayti Heritage Center 804 Old Fayetteville St., **Durham**

Third Saturday of Each Month, 8:00pm

(Participating Poets sign up @ 7:30pm) \$10 Admission

Spoken-word poetry competition hosted by Dasan Ahanu. The area's best performance poets compete for a cash prize & a possible spot on the Bull City Slam Team. *Mature content*.

For more info: http://www.bullcitypoetryslam.com/



Tongue & Groove Open Mic Redux

VAE Raleigh 309 W Martin St, Raleigh

Got something to say? We want to hear it and we're not just blowing smoke. Come out and we'll send all our flares up together. List at 7:00. Show at 7:30. 7-minute slots. Covers welcome. Originals encouraged!

Second Sunday of Each Month, 7:00pm



For event updates and to get/stay in touch: www.facebook.com/tongueandgroove/



poetry WORKSHOPS



Prompt Writing Class with Nancy Peacock Second Saturday of Each Month, 10:00am-12:00pm

Flyleaf Books (next to Flying Burrito and Foster's Market) 752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (*Historic Airport Rd*), **Chapel Hill** www.flyleafbooks.com/event/free-prompt-writing-class-nancy-peacock-25

Serious writing begins with playful writing. Please join this unique ongoing group of supportive adult writers and play your way into the possibilities of the written word. Based on the work of Natalie Goldberg ("Writing Down The Bones", "Wild Mind") we set a timer for fifteen minutes and write using prompts as our launch pads. This class is free and open to the public.

Jambalaya Soul Academy Writing & Performance Workshop 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30-8:30pm

St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/Hayti Heritage Center 804 Old Fayetteville St, **Durham**, NC 27701

www.discoverdurham.com/includes/calendar-of-events/lambalaya-Soul-Academy-Writing-Performance-Workshop/97529/

Facilitated by Dasan Ahanu. The Jambalaya Soul Academy offers tools and strategies for writing and performance. You will gain poetry writing tips and prompts, improve your performance, develop new ideas or complete unfinished poems, and share your work with other poets. Bring your notebook, a pen, and an open mind.

SOLANDA SIGNATURE OF THE MIKE!

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

FREE





Fall 2019 Poetry Class with Judy Hogan

September 9-November 11, Mondays 7:00-9:00pm

Cost: \$150, or \$180 by Skype

To Register: Call 919-545-9932 or judyhogan@mindspring.com. To sign up: mail \$20 deposit to Hogan,

PO Box 253, Moncure, NC 27559-0253.

Location: Judy Hogan's home in Moncure and by Skype

We will read and discuss various writers' thoughts and perspectives on writing poetry.

Authors studied will include: Virginia Woolf (A Room of One's Own); Jacques Maritain's Creative Intuition in Art and Poetry–selections; Joyce Cary's Art and Reality (Selections); T.S. Eliot's "Tradition and the Individual Talent." (An essay in his The Sacred Wood.) We will be thinking about poetics or the philosophy of writing poetry.

Writing About Nature - A poetry workshop with Pam Baggett

Saturday, November 16 1:00-4:00pm

Cost: Free

To Register: Call 919-245-2536

Location: Orange County Main Library, 137 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough

In this generative workshop, we'll explore techniques used in published poems that focus on the beauty, power, richness, and drama found in nature, as well as the devastation wrought by increasing human populations and climate change. We'll then use those techniques to begin our own poems. The event is free and open to the public. Writers working at all levels and in other genres are welcome.

Poetry Websites

http://www.ncPoetrySociety.org

Home of *The North Carolina Poetry Society*, an all-volunteer organization especially for poets and friends of poetry. There are approx. 370 members.

http://www.poets.org

Award-winning website of the Academy of American Poets. Find thousands of poems as well as hundreds of poet biographies, essays, interviews, and poetry recordings. Also available are resources such as the National Poetry Map, a national events calendar, and poetry lesson plans for teachers.

http://www.ncwriters.org/

Home of the *North Carolina Writers' Network*. The *Network* strives to lead, promote, educate, and–most importantly–connect writers, at all levels of skill and experience, from across the state and beyond.

http://www.poemhunter.com

Poetry Search Engine with thousands of poems and poets.

http://poems.com

"Poetry Daily" is an anthology of contemporary poetry. Each day, we bring you a new poem from new books, magazines, and journals.

http://livingpoetry.net

Fascinated by the power of poetry, members of Living Poetry are dedicated to keeping the pulse of poetry alive in the North Carolina Triangle area.

http://poetry.meetup.com/cities/us/nc/

Join a Poetry Meet-Up in your area.

http://poetry.bellaonline.com

Visit for even more great content about Poetry.



http://forums.bellaonline.com/ubbthreads.php?ubb=postlist&Board=109

A community forum all about Poetry. You can participate in free, fun online discussions.

http://griffinpoetry.com/

Bill Griffin created this website to showcase vivid poetic imagery, from established as well as emerging poets. He hopes you'll read a line that reaches out and grabs you by the throat - the image that is so vivid, novel, sensual, emotionally imperative - so satisfying you find yourself saying, *Damn, I wish I'd written that!*

http://theoriginalvangoghsearanthology.com

Seeking submissions of poetry, short stories, and art. Submission guidelines are on the site.

http://www.facebook.com/UNCwordsmiths

A student organization at the UNC at Chapel Hill founded for the purpose of hosting poetry events, functions, and initiatives on campus. We serve as the collegiate branch of Sacrificial Poets.

https://writenaked.net/

Here you will find vignettes from the freelance writing life, behind-the-pen scoop on articles, tips for working with editors, overviews of conferences, interviews with publishers, guest bloggers in the publishing industry, and a few miscellaneous blogs with a writerly twist.

By Request: Poetry Revealed Presents OPEN MIC NIGHTS!

Poet's Open Mic Night at Oasis in Carr Mill

Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department the first Tuesday of each month listed for this great event! This is a night where poets can engage with others and share the power and diversity of poetry. The event is staged to provide a venue for people to celebrate, to share, and to encourage the writing, reading and listening to poetry.

Dates Held: September 3 October 1 November 5 December 3

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department 100 N Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC 27510 919-918-7364 carrbororec.org

Created and Issued by the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

For the newsletter, we welcome:

- Poetry News
- Upcoming Poetry Events
- Articles
- Contest Information
- Festival and Event Recaps
- ...and of course, Poetry

Please email your information to Karen Kessler at KKessler@townofcarrboro.org



Information about the 2019 West End Poetry Festival Can be found at:

www.westendpoetryfestival.org



100 North Greensboro Street Carrboro, NC 27510 919-918-7364

http://carrbororec.org www.facebook.com/carrbororec Twitter @CarrboroRecPark



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