

West End Poets News Letter



www.westendpoetsweekend.com



March / April / May 2020

Created and Issued by:
Carrboro Recreation, Parks &
Cultural Resources Department

Issue No. 73 (Est. June 2006)

Celebrate National Poetry Month
with a MENU of LOCAL POETS reading from their works.
Bring your dinner to the Carrboro Century Center



POETRY ON YOUR PLATE



Sunday, April 26

5:00-7:00pm

Century Center

CARRBORO DAY

Carrboro Town Hall

For more information: www.Carrboroday.com

Sunday, May 3

1:00-5:00pm

All Ages **FREE**

You're Invited to

Town Hall Boardroom **A POETRY "READING IN THE ROUND"** 2:00-4:00pm

Come celebrate poetry in an easy-going atmosphere—no podiums, no experience necessary! This is an open reading—all are welcome. Come to read your own work, come to share a poem you love by someone else, come to listen only. Leave (*quietly, respectfully*) whenever you wish.

Readers will read a single **SHORT** poem (30 lines or less) at a time before we give our attention to the next in the circle. We'll rinse and repeat as time allows. Members of the Poets Council will do a reading on the main stage prior to bands beginning their set throughout the day.

The "Reading in the Round" is hosted by the Carrboro Poets Council: Fred Joiner (*current Carrboro Poet Laureate*), Gary Phillips (*former Carrboro Poet Laureate*), Maura High, Gideon Young, Abigail Browning and Susan Spalt.

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ORCHIDS

The morning light ricochets
through the poplars
echoing with birdsong.

Native orchids peek
through the pine needles
on the woodland trail

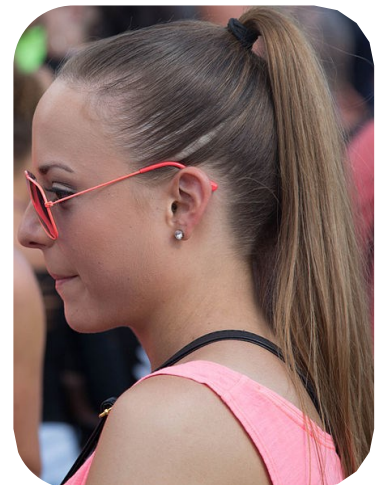
and huddle in the hollows
of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
They lift their cups

to toast a new day,
dozens of Lady-slippers
dance on a breeze.

Jean Jones

My House

We have been meeting at my house
since the beginning-
We know things about each other
no other people know-
You can tell what will happen when my breathing changes,
& I know what happens after you pull your hair back in a ponytail,
We get together over and over-
We know each other intimately
and I believe if we stay in touch, we will stay together-Bound



Watermarks

Before dusk apportions the lake
into symmetrical passages,
those wedged by cedars
and gray docks, the day's worth
of promises lean into her water.

Perched in a rattan chair, I sip merlot.
Sunglasses defuse rippling glare.
Lanes of stumps hold miscast lures,
filament twirling in slight breeze,
streamers assisting the box turtle's



navigation toward a new family of geese.
The last shard of shell still clings
to the gosling's wing. Ribs of bream
and bass vibrate foreboding,
sonar to tender fowl. One youngling

disappears amid frantic paddling.
We wince as this ransom is claimed.
Exact etching into our crystal carafe
refracts its prism beside each chalice
while freshwater clams rattle along the shore.

Those Sleepless Nights

The bed rested in calm waters away
From the craziness of land and its frailties.
Slumber always a bully
Never coming aboard, just promising
More lies until another day passes over
Like a cloud on a breezy afternoon.

The stars echo from positions
They no longer hold, afterimages
Of yesteryear and opportunities
Missed from quixotic turpitude
With those errants still living
With feeble parents now too weak
To cast their kids out of the nest.

A house that cracks its joints
At three A.M. doesn't care
How annoying and nerve-racking
Those sounds are to a single female.
At least the clock can snooze.



The Oyster

Sweet little oyster sleeps in her bed,
while salt water flows ever over her head.
With a heart oh so soft, and a shell oh so hard,
this mollusk is held in the highest regard.
For calmly, in silence, this modest plain girl
can turn an invader into a fine pearl.



John Delaney Watson

Sonnet on Order

*A sparkling wine art thou, merriment embodied
and fine to imbibe on a fair midsummer's eve.
The faintest blush blooms a bouquet, floral, fragrant
beckoning up bartered secrets that few believe.*

*Flavors foreign in motive hint of delights intense
to be savored and released each delicious drop.
You intoxicate, exciting every sense!
Having drawn my glass, would that it would never stop.*

*What sacred grove summons up these grapes so sublime
that dissolve despair in joyous effervescence?
Take me hand in hand to that space in mortal time.*

*Mysteries hidden within your vintage divine
fill my spirit full and saturate my essence,
leaving no question of the heavenly design.*



Mall People

Walmart, KMart Shoppers;
Please... fairness here...
Kerr Drug dyed blue hair,
Ninety-nine-cent white sox
climbing knees,
winding varicose pathways,
bulging bellies, lovehandles(middle tires)
cursed by "Christy Dream, Mighty Mac,
Hague in the Dish Delish ice cream...."

Jogging with a cane
at a desperate pace,
window shopping in a place
quiet... an early mall event
prior to opening time: at least an hour
when shopkeepers, over worked
over "houred" attend
to daily preparation,
reluctant to join GI Joe's Gym.

A strikingly confident thirty something Nubian beauty
passes by,
magnificently attired
in her shop's clothing
which she was entitled to purchase
at 40% discount ,still too much.
All should be free, not half a week's paycheck.
She's their gift.

Why try to fool her?
You cannot...

Soon malls will be replaced.
Possibly, neighborhood shops
will reappear with professional space .
The community we once knew
will again become most cherished
and dear.

Nothing is permanent...

Everything changes...

2010
Tyson's Corner
2 hours early for noon appointment.



The Privy

*The weathered gray privy over the ditch
had three sized holes,
Daddy's, Mama's, and little one for baby,
Rightly shaped and smoothed by wear
I never remember communing there.
I invited school friends to come and see
The new pine, WPA-built privies blooming
in our back yard,
and to sit on the rough holes and chat.*



*Seven bedrooms and one bathroom,
Five children and extra people.
needed the privy as an auxiliary.
Emergencies: drought or a running commode
Sometimes emptied a cistern.
A broken water pump, or frozen pipes
robbed us of water.
Mosquitoes in the summertime, nor the stormy
Weather and chill of winter never
Dissuaded us from spending time in the
new white privy, with a window.*

TWILIGHT

*Not long after the sun set
the eye could still see a tall cloud
decorated with dying sunlight
Etched against the sky
shifting as the light faded
Ghostly image
evocative of strange dreams
of memories just beneath the surface
too elusive to capture
yet relentlessly present
Slowly the cloud receded into darkness
Leaving only an impression
painted on the mind.*

Barbara Foster Schutz

Laundry Day 1942

Dainty white hankies draped
the bushes with little linen caps.
A pull on the pulley made room
for sheets and cases, blue'd white,
smelling of yellow sunshine -
freed at last from pillow and bedstead,
to be impaled, held hostage
by stalwart wooden clothespins
and whipped by the fickle wind,



If I Fall for You, I Fall Forever

In the morning when dreams come true

I know I will be holding you

close and tight

music drives Magick lyric

the band America

spills into the cafe

coffee urns clank and brew

there's noone here

at all to hear

but moi and staff

As I dream silently

sad, somber thought

pervades today's cold

December rain

awareness of your presence

gentle and warming

doesn't go away



Ferris Wheel

- Carolina Beach, 1970

Affixed at steely apex
amid taffy and ocean air
bucketed into red upholstery
ungrounded to safer realms
in this foundry of untested mettle;
a mind-tease of peril without
gravity. Below we see
the sheet-metal roof
of the merry-go-round
its yellow and white lights spin
into blur as stars wheel overhead.
Novices now vertical
the operator yanks the lever
swings us, sways us;
we gasp surging in reverse
unwinding risk-free pleasures
virgins seized in untouched elation
at portioned, molecular levels



primordial, pre-delightful
pre-everything we trusted
and whispered to ourselves.
Innocents smelting indecision
in and up, over and under
bending any iron-fast bonding
back to front, then again
un-gripping the comfortable helm
turning and churning
guiltless to the twirl;
witnesses in whirling thrill
risk cathartic, hearts ecstatic
laughing along our expanding edge.
A calliope's sinful pulse: bass drum kick - high hats stick;
polkas, blue waltzes, oomph-pa frolic - golden cherub's sing.

THE TEACHER

The surface of the pond begins to lighten
Small patches of pollen and leaves
float softly on the water
On the shore a great blue heron
awaits the opportunity for breakfast
In him there is no motion
Only a teasing breeze fluffs his feathers
He is content simply to be
Blue gray teacher
Waiting with you
Very
Very
Still.



Sybil Austin Skakle

Cure for Chaos

Political opinions
Cause strife and alarm
Prejudice and fear
Shadow my life and
Tempt me to worry
"My peace I give you...."*
I may claim it
May speak peace.
May live peace.
May be peace.

*John 14:27



Cousin Awa

Awa bids good morning
addressing me "Percentage Man".
I dig in for early
morning coffee change.

Alone by the extravagant indoor
waterfall, created within the "belly"
of International Place,
adjacent to the most prestigious
World Bank.

How she knows who
I am, this Awa?
She smiles a sweetness
a "third world" kind.

I know that engaging smile,
encountering it
often on vacation.
The almost purple skin
believes all innocence
and a troubled mind.

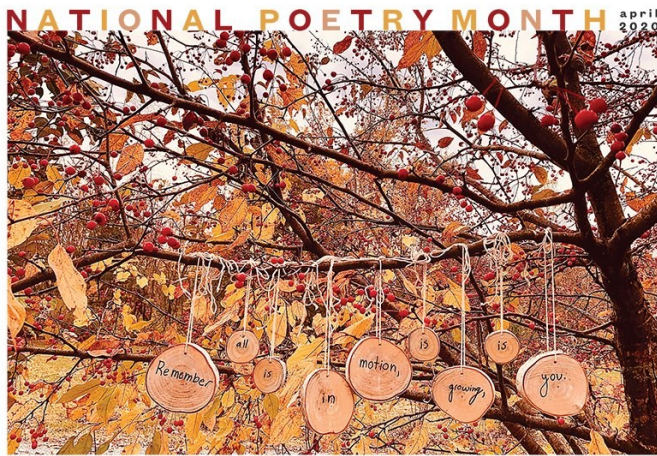
Oh, she'll find her way.
"they" always do, just
as my ancestors worked
their joy and tears of sorrow
with the music of their birth.

I know Awa well!

The answer is NO

I'm just afraid to give it....
All the what ifs Popping like Popcorn!
All over inside my head
But when all is quiet
And calm
And I look and focus,
and ask,
As myself
Of myself
The answer is NO
All that's led me here I need to trust
It's all connected
For a reason
I know it in my heart
And my core
So why am I afraid?
Why is the word "No" so scary?
Letting go of mind chatter
Not so easy
But the key to unlocking answers
So I turned the key
And guess what?
The answer is NO!
I will not be afraid
I will move forward on this current path
Keep going along its road
For this journey I like
This journey excites
Fear be damned
Again and again
I will not let it stop me from my destiny
It's only fear that makes me wanna say yes
But then there's fear of it too!
Less fear to say no
And move forward with feelings of excitement
Not dread
I'll make it work
I know I will!
I'm gonna trust in me
And in God
And in all the wise people I've heard thus far....
Hold on tight
'Cause I'm gonna say NO!

national poetry month



Artwork by Samantha Adams. Line excerpt from the poem "Remember" by Jay Harjo, from the Red Bone House (© W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1991). For more free poetry resources, visit [Poets.org/national-poetry-month](https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month).

Founded by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month each April is the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, publishers, bloggers, and, of course, poets marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives.

Encourage a young person to participate in the Dear Poet project. Participate in National Poem in Your Pocket Day. Sign up for Poem-a-Day and read a poem each morning. Follow the thousands of National Poetry Month celebrations taking place and follow the Academy of American Poets on Twitter [@POETSorg](https://twitter.com/POETSorg).

For more info: <https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home>

Celebrate *National Poem in Your Pocket Day* Thursday, April 30, 2020

Every April, on Poem in Your Pocket Day, people celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them, and sharing it with others throughout the day at schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, and on social media using the hashtag #pocketpoem. Join us in celebrating Poem in Your Pocket Day this year!



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:

2:00pm - informal get-together at The Root Cellar next door

3:00pm - Featured Readers

Open Mic *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, March 8

3:00-4:30pm

Featured readers will be Diana Engel and Annie Woodford.

Sunday, April 5

3:00-4:30pm

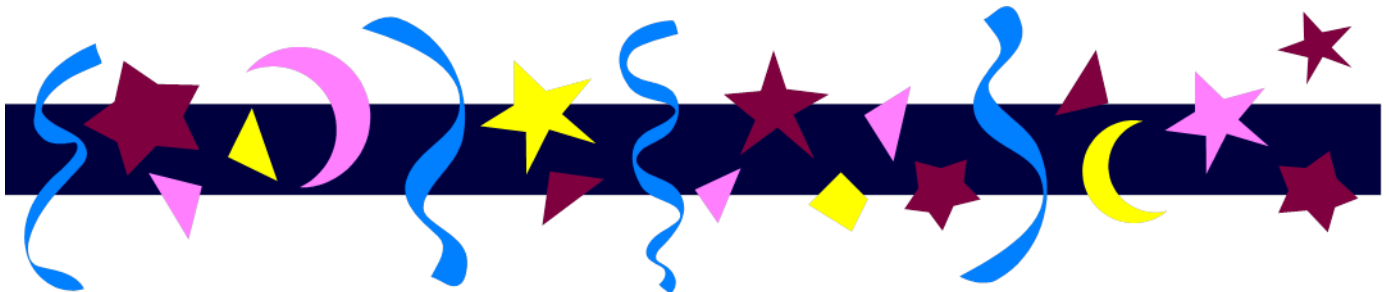
**Note the change of date to the first Sunday for April's reading.*

Featured readers will be Rose McClarney and Cedric Tillman.

Sunday, March 8

3:00-4:30pm

Featured readers will be Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Maureen Sherbondy.



Poetry Reading by Brenda Kay Ledford

Wednesday, April 15

10:30am

Coffee With the Poets

Moss Memorial Library

26 Anderson St.

Hayesville, NC

Brenda Kay Ledford will be the featured reader at Coffee With the Poets. This event is sponsored by North Carolina Writer's Network-West. It's free and open to the public. An open mic follows the featured reader.

Black Poetry Theatre presents... HIS Thoughts

Friday, March 6 & Saturday, March 7

8:00-10:00pm

Hayti Heritage Center

\$15 in advance | \$20 at the door

804 Old Fayetteville St

Durham, NC

This production tells a story of relationships, hope and triumph. It dissects love and reminds us how powerful and necessary it is. Woven together with a soulful soundtrack, this presentation will leave you uplifted, encouraged and inspired. Join a romantic journey.

Contact: Dasan Dasan Ahanu. *For more info:* blackpoetrytheatre@gmail.com / 919-539-6227

Corcoran Poetry Wall Reading and Mural Launch Party

Saturday, March 7

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Corcoran St between Ramseur St & Main St

Durham, NC

The Corcoran Poetry Wall is a public installation of two different poems, written by Durham residents, Kristi Stout and Nina Oteria in the form of a mural painted by Bethany Bash. The launch party will feature Kristi and Nina reading selections of their poetry, as well as readings by Dasan Ahanu, Megan Bowser, Kate Van Dis, and Kofi Robinson. There will be a brief open mic portion following the readings, for community members who would also like to share work. Refreshments will be provided by Jeddah's Tea.

12th Annual NAZIM HIKMET POETRY FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 29

1:00-6:00pm

Page-Walker Arts & History Center

FREE

Cary, NC

Honoring Greek Poet **Federico Constantine P. Cavafy**

Nâzım Hikmet Poetry Festival is an annual celebration of poetry bringing together poets, scholars, and poetry fans in the humanistic spirit of the internationally renowned poet Nâzım Hikmet Ran.

Congratulations to the winners of the 12th Annual Nazim Hikmet Poetry Prize:

1st Prize - Laurel Faye, Sharpsburg, GA

2nd Prize - David Sullivan, Santa Cruz, CA

3rd Prize - Jeri Theriault, South Portland, ME

Honorable Mentions:

Alan Michael Parker - Davidson, NC

Heather Green - Fairfax, VA

For more info: <http://www.nazimhikmetpoetryfestival.org/>

Recurring Events:

Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Department Presents:

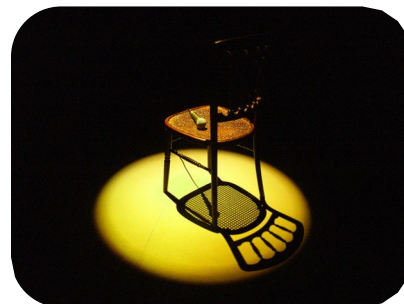
Poet's Open Mic Night at Oasis

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

Oasis
Carr Mill, **Carrboro**

Join Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources 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 22 for listings.



Free the Mic

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

Lucky Tree
3801 Hillsborough St., **Raleigh**

For people who are not afraid to believe in themselves, for people who are thinking of believing in themselves, and also for people who like supporting people who believe in themselves. Just bring good energy & support for local artists. Artists and spectators welcome!!!

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

City Soul Café Open Mic

Noir Raleigh
425 Glenwood Ave, **Raleigh**

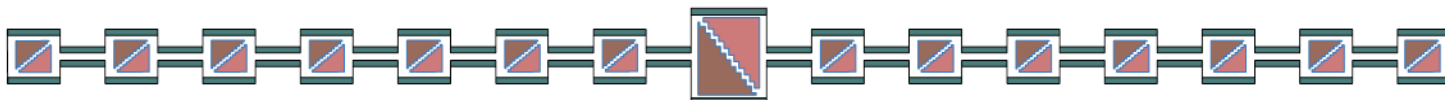
Wednesdays, 8:30pm

**\$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

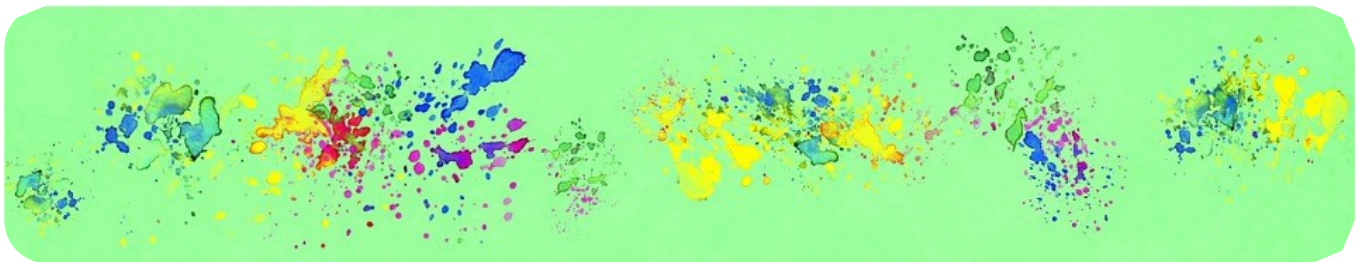
Unity Center of Peace
8800 Seawell School Rd., **Chapel Hill**

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.



TAKE FIVE Poetry & Prose Open Mic

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

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

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.

Friday Noon Poets

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

Fridays, 12:30-1:30pm

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.

More Recurring Events:

Jambalaya Soul Slam

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

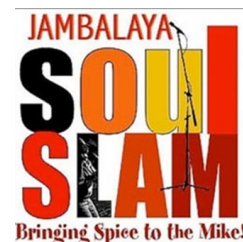
Spoken-word poetry competition hosted by Dasan Ahanu. The area's best performance poets compete for a cash prize & a possible spot on the Bull City Slam Team. *Mature content.*

For more info: <http://www.bulldcitypoetryslam.com/>

Third Saturday of Each Month, 8:00pm

(Participating Poets sign up @ 7:30pm)

\$10 Admission



Open Mic Night with DL ZENE

Unscripted Durham
202 N Corcoran Street, **Durham, NC**

First & Third Sunday of Each Month, 7:00pm

Free

Join DL ZENE for open mic night every. Anything goes: music, poetry/spoken word, comedy, rap. \ Sign up when you arrive and show Durham what you got!



Tongue & Groove Open Mic Redux

VAE Raleigh
309 W Martin St, **Raleigh**

We welcome poets, musicians, storytellers, jugglers, interpretive dance ...anything but comedy (which is not say you can't be funny) and sermons (which is not to say you can't do poems/songs/stories/juggles/dances about faith). List at 7:00. Show at 7:30. 7-minute slots.

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

Second Sunday of Each Month, 7:00pm



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

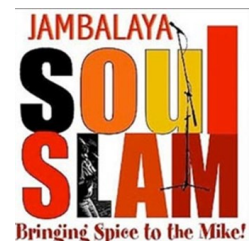
St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/Hayti Heritage Center
804 Old Fayetteville St, **Durham**, NC 27701

www.discoverdurham.com/includes/calendar-of-events/Jambalaya-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.

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

FREE



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, Parks & Cultural Resources Dept. 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:

March 3

April 7

****No Open Mic in May****

June 2

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Dept.
100 N Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC 27510
919-918-7364
carrbororec.org

Created and Issued by the
Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources 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
2020 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](https://twitter.com/CarrboroRecPark)



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Pg. 2, Street Parade Zürich 2013, Deortiz from Schweiz. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Street_Parade_2013_033.jpg
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Pg. 17, Daniel Kitson's chair, Mc-Q. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mc-q/2510906537/>
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Pg. 20, white figure with pen. <http://300palabrasdemarketing.com/comportamiento-humano/la-disciplina-el-factor-que-marca-la-diferencia/>
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Pg. 21, poetry wordle (*color modified*), Angela Quiram. <https://readingafterbedtime.wordpress.com/tag/poems/>
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Pg. 23, photographer drawing. <http://tejasforyou.blogspot.com/2012/05/photo-collection-from-all-over-world.html>
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