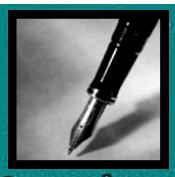
West End Poets News Letter



www.westendpoetsweekend.com

June / July / August 2019

Created and Issued by:
Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

Issue No. 70 (Est. June 2006)

THANK YOU!

To the **Carrboro Poets Council** for hosting the

CARRBORO DAY POETRY "READING IN THE ROUND"

& to **all the POETS** who shared their poetry

Carrboro Poets Council:

Fred Joiner *(current Carrboro Poet Laureate)* Gary Phillips *(former Carrboro Poet Laureate)*,
Maura High Gideon Young Abigail Browning Susan Spalt

WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL

Coordinated by the *Carrboro Poets Council*

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
through
Saturday, October 19, 2019

WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL

For more information please visit:
http://www.westendpoetryfestival.org/

Contents

Poetry	2-9	*Poetry Workshops*	16	*Carrboro Rec & Parks Info*	18
Poetry Readings & Events	10-15	*Poetry Websites*	17	*Image Credits*	19

CARRBORO ROCKS*

Essentially, the Piedmont is the roots of an ancient coastal mountain chain that is now worn down to low relief. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piedmont_(United_States)

Under the gently sloping
streets of Carrboro
lies a secret.
The remains of ancient mountains,
once taller
than the Himalayas
have slowly worn away
until they are now just

Carrboro rocks.

Workmen laying pipe
hear a clank
as their heavy equipment
is chipped and broken by

Carrboro rocks.

Just across the tracks
from a great and loved university,
a small town sits in a Carolina blue shadow,
trying not to be smug, knowing the secret

Carrboro rocks!

Summer in the farmers market,
tomatoes, sweet corn,
flowers explode with color,
friends gather and talk
of cooking tomatoes, growing flowers
changing weather, changing lives
with a spirit as solid as

Carrboro Rocks.

Young children at Wilson Park
their laughter and their shouts
echo into the future.
One of them picks up a stone, and
the necessary grown-up calls to him,
do not throw

Carrboro Rocks.

continued on page 3

CARRBORO ROCKS *continued*

A band is playing
On the lawn at Weaver Street
young people dance with hula hoops.
Their grace is astonishing.
Some in the audience rummage for comparisons
Paris? Seattle? But,
Carrboro is the Carrboro of the Piedmont,
Of the South, and

Carrboro Rocks!

While in the background
Unsuspecting workmen begin to dig
Clanking in 3/4 time,

It is summer, and

Carrboro Rocks!

*Billy Sugarfix has turned this poem
into a song for the Carrboro Centennial!

The Cardinal

She came again this morning
To sit on railing of the stoop
By ever blooming azalea bush.
She lingered, seemed to study it.
The azalea is not yet lush
With green leaves and fuchsia flower.
Will she return to build ---
To keep me company?
I would enjoy a neighbor
Especially, a red one
To watch build her new home
And hatch her babies.
Perhaps I will be blessed.

Delaney Watson

To the Bishop Where'er She Be

This gentle kiss I send through sisters of the wind.
A simple tenderness within that's brought forth;
when we begin again in this world without end;
settles us in blankets out of the cold, cold North.

Cozy comfort affords us the passions we seek.
Within a house beside the hearth inside our heart,
green spirits frolic among the words we speak.
It's a timeless space dreams invoke of sacred art.

In my arms all wounds heal and scars dissolve,
as your arms draw divine presences into our being.
Gathering snow damps down the din of humanity.

Frost stains the window glass in intricate crystal
designs formed around this moment we've conjured
and reflects the beauty of our souls intertwined.

Digging...A Poet's Prayer

Restless dreams disappear
into the fog.....slithering.

Space X ...Future,
Archeologists, Climatologists,
Fortune seekers,
befuddling us, reaping
unfounded responses while
vital force remains intact.

Earth,
Breath,
Life Source

Ambivalence of solitude and calm...
Earth's nutrients, dissipate.

Without Breath all creatures, US included,
become caged inmates, an unlikely escape.
Without Life Source the mind's
pursuit, indiscernible.
Without Earth, what was "Stone", eons ago,

guided by an energy force,
creating the NOW,
pleading for an
emerging indisputable Female
energy, who gifted us birth...

Digging!

Ostara at the Blue Whale

The gray wall beside the Blue Whale becomes my perch
to pen a March 1st verse as leap day has leapt off.
Hand in hand the lovers stroll, young and old, from porches
swept clean of winter's collections of dusty stuff.

Three days of spring air, warm and welcoming, coyly
calls gentle fancies between frisky smiling folk.
Morning birdsongs playfully give rise to friendly
conversations in which Love is freely spoken.

The town is rousing itself from hibernation.
Persephone returns from Hades' cold palace.
Demeter is pleased and her children gaily frolic.

Daffodils; dancing joyous in celebration;
mark, affectionately, a beginning to bliss.
In your gorgeous green eyes, I see Grace angelic

The Ice Cream Man

Tinny music coming down the street
signals the ice cream truck.
Mama, may I have some money?
Mama, may I get some ice cream?
Mama gives in, so she doesn't have to scream.
Silver in hand, I stand at the curb.
The children from the block, crowd around.
The ice cream man, in white, with a paper hat
leans out of the door, and shouts,
"I got enough for everyone."
Popsicles and Dreamsicles, Drumsticks and Dilly Bars
What's the biggest one I can get for my 50 cents?
I promised I'd be a good girl and do my chores
but all I really wanted was more, more, more.

OUT OF THE STORM

Out of the storm come only good things,
or at least, beautiful to the human eye from a distance.
This is what we believe, or would like to believe,
in a world small, yet vast,
where the purple in the waterspout in the horizon
matches the purple around the eyes of the dead girl,
her face and body the same as her rapist and murderer
remembers, in all his dreams and nightmares.
This is not what the couple in the white Mercedes sees.
They see the whirlwind descending in the horizon
like an elephant lowering its trunk in the water,
and they see that trunk in the horizon
far, far away in the distance as beautiful.
They cannot see the fish being sucked up in the vortex of the storm,
or the purple around the eyes of the dead girl,
her mouth in the perfect "o" of a stifled scream,
her dead body still perfect preserved, just beyond
the couples' Mercedes, only 1500 feet away in the sand.
No, the couple in the white Mercedes
see only the storm in the distance,
and they conclude as we all do,
that out of the storm come only good things,
or at least beautiful to the human eye
from a distance. . .

Ceaseless Verse

The poetry of earth never ceases.
In the poplar trees,
the wind plays a flute.

Hyatt Mill Creek blows the tuba
while a cardinal lifts tenor,
and the owl hits bass notes.

The poetry of earth never ceases.
Through a sea of grass,
the cricket saws a fiddle

and the crows squawk
soaring over the cornfield.
The poetry of earth never ceases.

Sybil Austin Skakle

FIRST AID

In their fishing boat beside the wharf,
He and his helper dropped fish they
picked out of the nets into metal baskets.
Standing above them on the wharf, I caught his
attention and told him why I came.
Chewing without teeth, his chin and nose
Nearly touching, he chewed,
Rolled the wad around, onto his tongue,
spit the wet, brown lump into the palm
of his calloused, weathered hand, he
Pinched off small bit and handed it up to me.
Chewing tobacco is first aid for a wasp sting.
I knew Uncle Monroe would share a bit.

Worldview

That person looks just like me.
Not exactly.

His eyes are brown, his hair matted.
His lips are thicker than mine.
His skin, much more melanin.

Not exactly.

The nurse is taking from
his arm
that which she also took from me.
His blood runs red, which is the same as mine.
He looks just like me
Exactly!

1962...Peninsula Hospital...Ca.
Close, very close shave.

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).

Thursday, June 13 7:00 - 8:30pm
Featured readers will be Becky Gould Gibson and David Radavich.

***Important Announcement:**
Beginning in July, the Second Thursday Poetry Reading at Flyleaf Books will move to the second Sunday of each month, an exciting change for the reading series. Please join us!

Sunday, July 14 3:00 - 5:00pm
Featured readers will be Bill Griffin and Erika Howsare

Sunday, August 11 3:00 - 5:00pm
Featured readers will be Jason Gray and Doug Stuber.

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

Jun. 23...David Radavitch. Rob Merritt and Ruth Moose

Jul. 28...Readers TBA

Aug 25...Deborah Miller

Scottish Poetry: Life, Love, Laughter

Sunday, June 16 **2:30-4:00pm**
Southeast Regional Library
908 7th Avenue, **Garner,** NC

Enjoy a program of dramatic readings and poetry recitations from Dr. George Birrell, historian and Scotsman. From Robert Burns' "Tam O' Shanter," to poetry by his contemporary Lady Carolina Nairne, to Robert Louis Stevenson's poetic encouragements to children, you'll find the heart of Scottish culture in this 90 minute presentation. Contact Name: Tess Andrews

s.P. Endeavors presents **In "Other" Words, A Poetry Showcase**

Saturday, June 22 **7:00-10:00pm** **$25 – $45**
Burning Coal Theatre Company
224 Polk Street, **Raleigh**, NC

Curated by @spthewriter Hosted by @krystaldamuse

This production is ALL ABOUT THE ARTIST'S WORK! @spthewriter has hand chosen poets that will be flexing their poetic muscles and showcasing their own work for the first time on the s.P. Endeavors stage! You will hear BRAND NEW, NEVER PERFORMED pieces from each artist; as well as some of your favorites. Jasmine Mans will be featured! @poetjasminemans is making another appearance in Raleigh, NC and her debut on the s.P. Endeavors stage. #jasminemans will be the only commissioned artist to perform an s.P. original for this show. You don't want to miss this!!!

Jasmine Mans will conduct a brief meet & greet for limited guests so be sure to get your all-inclusive ticket.

The lineup is crazy! Returning to the s.P. Endeavors stage we have the queen of eroticism Debrita @wildperfectionthepoet, the mastermind @dswill83 of @pressplaypoetz, and the passionate storyteller Watson @spokenwatson. Making their debut we have beautiful and talented Ayanna Albertson @untouchableyann, and the veteran beast Church @churchdapoet.

Space is limited so get your tickets early!

K-Love the Poet Presents: **Love, Lipstick & Letting Go**
National Women's Empowerment tour

Saturday, June 29 **6:00-9:00pm** **$25 – $55**
Hampton Inn & Suites
600 Glenwood Avenue, **Raleigh**, NC

Featuring:
- Elite Spoken-word Poetry by K-Love
- Empowering & Interactive Conversation
- Lipstick bar and MUA Giveaway
- Complimentary Beverage

Great Ladies Night Out Event! Grab your Girls and Get Tickets

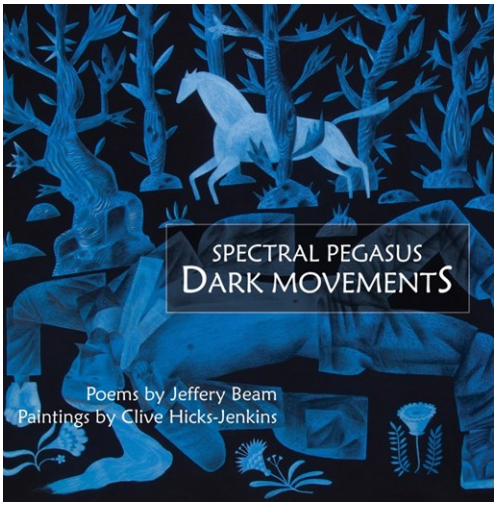
K Love the poet is an International Spokenword Artist, Published Author and Multi viral video influencer. Fresh off the " The Future Wife tour " & "I LOVE ME " summit where she shared a platform with Mega Relationship Experts such as Ace Metaphor, Derrick Jaxn and Stephan Speaks, K love embarks on her highly anticipated LOVE LIPSTICK & LETTING GO tour.

Offering advice on SELF CARE, EMOTIONAL DETOXING, and how to MANIFEST the love you desire.

Though this event is geared towards women, men are welcome to attend.

Poetry Reading by Jeffrey Beam

Wednesday, August 14 **7:00pm**
GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art
(co-sponsored by Scuppernong Books),
Greensboro Cultural Center
200 North Davies St., Greensboro, NC



Jeffrey Beam will be reading from his new book of poems ***Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements***, a collaboration with Welsh painter Clive Hicks-Jenkins.

Singer Mary Rocap will be joining him to perform the "antique" ballad from the book.

Recurring Events:

Carrboro Recreation & Parks 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 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 18 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!!!

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

City Soul Café Open Mic **Wednesdays, 8:30pm**

Noir Raleigh
425 Glenwood Ave, **Raleigh**

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

Unity Center of Peace **$10 suggested donation**
8800 Seawell School Rd., **Chapel Hill**

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 **Third Saturday of Each Month, 8:00pm**

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

(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 **Second Sunday of Each Month, 7:00pm**

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!

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

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

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:
June 4
No program in July
August 6
September 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

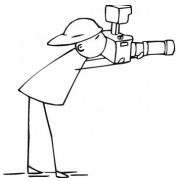
Information about the 2019 West End Poetry Festival Can be found at:

www.westendpoetryfestival.org

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

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

The Town of Carrboro does not endorse the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter. The Town of Carrboro does not assume responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information enclosed.



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