West End Poets News Letter

www.westendpoetsweekend.com

June / July / August 2018

Created and Issued by:
Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

Issue No. 66 (Est. June 2006)

WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL

Coordinated by the *Carrboro Poets Council*

Wednesday, October 17, 2018
through
Saturday, October 20, 2018

WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL

For more information please visit:
http://www.townofcarrboro.org/323/West-End-Poetry-Festival

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:

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

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Excerpts From a Man's Journal to His Wife

April 7, 1889, Day After Our Wedding or Part the First

...And you dipped your toe in as if you were testing a pool of water. The soft blades of grass caressed your small foot, and the morning dew wrapped around it like the softest roll of silk. You looked back at me and tossed that captivating smile that seemed to splash like cold water across my face as my heart received it. It turned me red from head to toe.

September 19, 1897, or Part the Second

I am away in Boston now.
Business pulls me from your ravishing smile.
The library gives me no comfort
as it did in my youthful, single days
before you entered my life.
Chaucer makes me think of you,
and how you love to read his *Tales*.
And when I think of you,
my reading stops,
my thoughts wrap around the idea of you
and transform into a replica of your figure.

November 3, 1926, or Part the Third

And the ripples of your brown-gray braid glide beneath my fingers.
And the lips that haunt me when I am away
—the ones age has not touched— caress mine.
The softness of your hands of care, my love, they remember no evils.
What can I possibly say of your eyes, my beloved,
that only grow warmer with the coming of each new Summer?
Death reigns not in your blue-green eyes
during these long winter months,
but cherishes the newness of Spring.

January 27, 1953, Death of my Beloved, or Part the Fourth, the Last

"No one can tell the wind where to blow" is what you've always told me. If you were the wind, my flower, I should be a high wall: you would meet the trouble of me every morning as you tried to blow and bluster on to the other side. I would keep you out, however, so that I could talk to you and, perhaps, entice you to stay. We would play lovely games, you and I. Through crack and crevice you would try to squeeze, but I would taunt and tease just to see your smile.

If you are not the wind, but be on it, my beloved, do let it blow you my way. One flash of your captivating smile, and I don't believe even the wind could resist listening to your words.

Now you shall be able to fly. And darling, in all your pleasing glory, please do not forget the old man here that loves you. Do not forget to say hello once in a while.

Network Noon Weather Report

The sun is currently shining.
All over town, residents propped umbrellas
in corners to dry and left galoshes
forgotten on the porch.
Mrs. Calhoun reported that the spider web
under her eaves is lined with crystal drops of water.
"Why it looks just like a pretty necklace!"
she told Benny Johnson, cub reporter
who was on the scene for the dramatic
cat rescue from the old maple on Maple street.
The sun will be shining for the rest of the day
so remember your sunscreen folks.
It's going to be a hot one.

Brenda Kay Ledford

Golden Night

A Full Strawberry Moon,
shimmies over Brasstown Bald,
light spills from the dipper;
gold glitters against my window.

Shimmies over Brasstown Bald,
diamonds sparkle in the sky,
gold glitters against my window;
whippoorwills resound in the woods.

Diamonds sparkle in the sky,
night show dazzles my eyes,
Whippoorwills resound in the woods.
Moonbeams caress my face.

Is Reagan looking out her window?
Light spills from the dipper
through my bedroom window,
a Full Strawberry Moon.

When a Door Closes…

Jennifer, in June is late in the season

For spring cleaning your life of bad influences

Like that husband who never cheated but

Always stayed out in the bowels of a late night

Inebriated with freedom and a love of adventure.

The sweat upon your brow is the spent

Topics in your Lincoln-Douglas that resolved

The issue of who got the corgi

And the rock garden you labored

To relax in during those cool spring mornings

On Easter break. You think of Nora

Shutting the door on what was her past

To embrace the yet to be.

No melodrama for you because you're too refined

For any petty vengeance or a criminal record.

You're not angry of the time wasted

Just mad you didn't do something clever to remind him

Of the loss he can't payback.

Family Matters

I came upon a ragged soul,
homeless in attire
back against the wall.
He asked of me
shamelessly for
some "kindness".

Moving past him
more than a dozen steps
there came a flash!!
An instant recall. A referee, an open field
and swiftness of feet previously unseen.

I turned without my athlete's swagger,
it left me long ago.
Hand in pocket, new found "kindness"
shameless compassion
and ready cash.

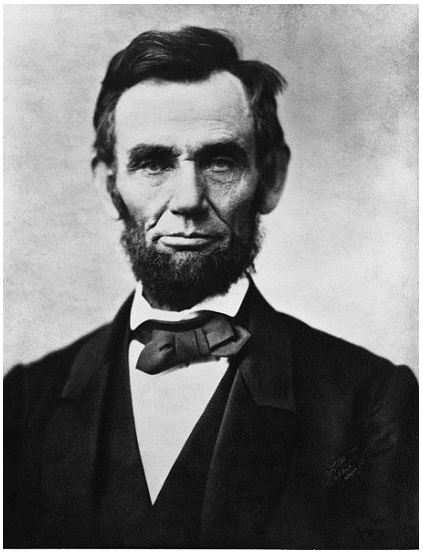
He was gone, our eyes had touched
Our youthful memories as playmates
on life's fields passed into
this ever so fleeting moment of time.

Oh brother mine!!
Oh brother mine!!

tfc

From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia...could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide."

Abraham Lincoln



One thing By Jean Jones

Lincoln was right about was this

As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide.
Over 51,000 Americans were killed, wounded or missing at Gettysburg Pennsylvania, and over 58,000 Americans died during the entire Vietnam War.
What does this tell us?

That Americans are pretty good at killing each other.

When Americans realize we are all Americans and that all American lives are valuable regardless of who these Americans are

White people make up roughly 62 percent of the U.S. population but only about 49 percent of those who are killed by police officers. African Americans, however, account for 24 percent of those fatally shot and killed by the police despite being just 13 percent of the U.S. population. As The Post noted in a new analysis, that means black Americans are 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be shot and killed by police officers.

Then and only then

will we

live forever or die by suicide.

Silent Suffering

(from "Prayers to Survive" in the NC Collection of UNC Library)

I lost my self-esteem, under the power of your arms.
Not wrapped around me as they could have been, in love.
But raised above me as they shouldn't have been, in rage.
I listened to your words, edged like barbed wire.
And took them to heart; that was not smart.
I let your mood swings carry me from sunlit morns to gloomy nights.
Stepping off the rollercoaster seemed impossible.
Your charm lured me back.
I couldn't wake up from the nightmare.
No one seemed able to help set me free.

I kept on asking you to change, but the change took place in me.
Your inner rage had kept you caged, and made a rug of me.
You told me I was no one.
My words deserved no ear.
But then I saw a mirror, and all became crystal clear.
I knew my quiet empowered you.
So I shouted at the top of my lungs.
I'll tell the world about you.
I'm worthy to be free.
####

a dismal swamp

Learned helplessness, “dustbin..”.
A challenge from
breath’s ultimate gift.
A pathway
to stay above the fray.

Breath escapes
all barriers,
hardened by millenniums of
Mother Earth.

It is breath,
without acknowledging
this source of all wisdom,
nothing exists.
One is
treasured with a
journey called life.

Breath is all.

Breathe!

tfc 2018

(avoiding politics and politicians.)

Book Launch for Cindy B. Stevens's book *Naked*

Sunday, June 3 **3:00-5:00pm**
Fleming Hall
New Hope Camp & Conference Center
4805 NC 86
Chapel Hill, NC

Cindy B. Stevens covers a number of poignant topics in Naked. Each poem gives you a glimpse of a decisive moment in Steven's life or expands your viewpoint on conflicts in her world. Some poems, like the powerful "kind of girl", speak of a larger personal experience and the nuances of navigating identity as a woman. Others still, like "folding laundry", show the psychological impact of death in the family. In each poem, Stevens captures moments of longing and loss.

Reader's Party

Sunday, June 3 **2:00-3:30pm**
Hayti Heritage Center
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC

Come out and be heard! Celebrate your reading skills with poetry, prose, monologues, shorts stories and original works. Students ages 9—16 are encouraged to participate in the "Spotlight!" program. Email spotlightreadersparty@gmail.com for more information. Limited reservations available. Come early to sign up to read at the open mic.

Contact Jenny Levine at jelevine@dconc.gov or 919-560-0268 for more information.

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. 24... Chris Abbate, Dorothy Baird, and Beth Copeland

Jul. 29... Shelby Stephenson, Doug Stuber, and Lynn Veach Sadler

Aug. 26... David Posten, Tom Hines, and Priscilla Webster Williams

Flyleaf Second Thursday Poetry Reading and Open Mic

*All readings are the second Thursday in each month at **7:00pm***
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. Each open mic reader will be limited to no more than a page of poetry.*

For more info: 919-942-7373 www.flyleafbooks.com
or contact Pam Baggett (nightair@mindspring.com) or Joan Barasovska (msjoan9@gmail.com).

Thursday, June 14 7:00 - 8:30pm
Featured readers will be Pam Baggett and NC Poet Laureate Shelby Stephenson.
A reception to celebrate Pam's book launch and Shelby's 80th birthday will begin at 6 pm. Pam is the author of *Wild Horses*, chosen as a runner-up for the 2017 Cathy Smith Bowers Chapbook Contest by Main Street Rag. Shelby's two new books are *Paul's Hill: Homage to Whitman* (Sir Walter Press) and *Our World* (Press 53).

Thursday, July 12 7:00 - 8:30pm
Featured readers will be Andrea Fry and Lauren Moseley.

Thursday, August 9 7:00 - 8:30pm
Featured readers will be haiku poets L. Teresa Church, Sheila McCoy, Lenard Moore, and Crystal Simone Smith.

Poetry Reading by Judy Hogan

Friday, June 15 4:00-5:30pm
The Joyful Jewel
44-A Hillsboro St. (near the circle)
Pittsboro, NC

Judy Hogan will be reading from her poetry book *Those Eternally Linked Lives. Contact:* Mariah Wheeler, mariah.joyfuljewel@gmail.com and Judy Hogan 919-545-9932 judyhogan@mindspring.com.

Poetry Reading by Judy Hogan

Sunday, July 14 2:00-4:00pm
South Regional Library
4505 S. Alston Ave.
Durham, NC

Judy Hogan will be reading from her poetry book T*hose Eternally Linked Lives* and doing a poetry workshop. Contact for details: Teresa May, tbmay@dconc.gov or Judy Hogan, 919-545-9932 judyhogan@mindspring.com.

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 21 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, song, and instruments of all kind. This is a positive place to share, and be inspired!

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

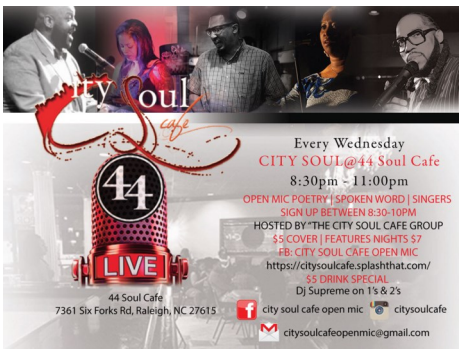
City Soul Café Open Mic **Wednesdays, 8:30pm**

44 Soul Café
7361 Six Forks Rd, **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: www.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.

1st Thursday 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.

Viva Voce - Spoken Word & Poetry Open Mic **Fourth Thursday of Each Month, 6:30-8:30pm**

Cocoa Cinnamon (Lakewood)
2013 Chapel Hill Rd Suite A, **Durham**, NC

Viva Voce is a monthly spoken word and poetry open mic event in the heart of Durham for all of its people to listen and share their lyrics, rhymes, experiences, and stories through living voices. Sign-up from 6:30-7:15pm Performances start at 7:15pm Stay after the event for small writing and performance feedback workshop. Free admission. Hosted by Omari Akil.

For more info, please visit https://www.facebook.com/events/442212712898732/

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.

More Recurring Events:

Center OpenMic — **First Saturday of Each Month, 7:00-10:00pm**

Doors open at 6:30pm
Recommended for ages 13+

LGBT Center of Raleigh
411 Hillsborough St., **Raleigh**

We welcome people of all ages, identities, genders, colors, and sports team preferences.

The LGBT Center of Raleigh's Open Mic Night seeks to teach members of the community the power of their own voices and provide a safe place for them to express themselves. Attendees are invited to share songs, poems, personal stories, and anything interesting. They may also initiate discussions and share anything that may be on their minds. Attendees are not required to share; whether they do or not, we ask that they all respect each other's identities, pronouns, and experiences. The Center provides pizza and soda, and guests are invited to bring more food to share.

For more info: http://www.lgbtcenterofraleigh.com/events.html

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/

Uptown Poetry Lounge — **Second Sunday of Each Month, 7:00-10:00pm**

@ Uptown Bar & Lounge
5504 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Suite B, **Durham**

$7 Cover

Poetry/Spoken Word/Singing/Comedy. Hosted by Church DaPoet and Dasan Ahanu. Enjoy a wonderful event at one of the sexiest spots in the Triangle. At Uptown, we provide an amazing poetry vibe with good music. We will have an open mic list, special guests, and drink specials at the bar! All that is missing is YOU!

For more information: contact 919-729-9939 or theexperiencelive.gmail.com or www.uptownpoetrydurham.splashthat.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.

Poetry Workshop by Judy Hogan

Sunday, July 14 **2:00-4:00pm**
South Regional Library
4505 S. Alston Ave, **Durham**

Judy Hogan will be reading from her poetry book T*hose Eternally Linked Lives* and doing a poetry workshop. Contact for details: Teresa May, tbmay@dconc.gov or Judy Hogan, 919-545-9932 judyhogan@mindspring.com.

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 5
****No program in July***
August 7
September 4

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 2018 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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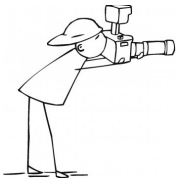

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