

# West End Poets News Letter

www.westendpoetsweekend.com



June / July / August 2017

Created and Issued by:  
Carrboro Recreation and Parks  
Department

Issue No. 61 (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:

Abigail Browning  
Gideon Young

Jay Bryan  
Celisa Steele

Maura High  
Gary Phillips

Susan Spalt  
(current Carrboro Poet Laureate)

## WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL

Coordinated by the Carrboro Poets Council

Friday, October 20, 2017  
&  
Saturday, October 21, 2017



For more information please visit:

<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/323/West-End-Poetry-Festival>

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## WHERE SHELLS COME FROM



*An animal woo-wails out there beneath  
the fog cloaking treetops like lace mantillas  
on the heads of senoritas in dusty Iglesias.*

*Likely handed down, the lace hand made  
by a wizard of an ancestor, her hook  
the finest, carved from a scrap of bone.*

*She crocheted family secrets into the pattern  
of flowers, leaves, swirls and scallops -  
secrets enough to make that dog howl  
late at night or early - in the fog.*

*The mantillas delicately washed and spread  
to bleach-block in the equatorial sun.*

*Some say the secrets escape into the suds -  
when emptied into a creek, the water flowed  
through tributaries until the greedy mouth  
of the ocean opened and the secrets swallowed.*

*Stumbling onto the beach with the tide,  
thousands of broken shells turned pink  
with the rising sun.*



Brenda Kay Ledford

## BARN QUILTS

Winding through Appalachia,  
quilt blocks painted  
on the old red barns.

A legacy of love,  
pioneer women pieced patterns  
around the quilting bee.

Hours of labor,  
feed sacks ripped up,  
treasured scraps reused.



Folk art born  
of necessity,  
beauty in handiwork.

Gracing the barn walls:  
a Lone Star quilt  
and Double Wedding Ring.

Gary Phillips



## Packing Up the House

At that kitchen sink in the 1960s I saw a ball of blue lightening emerge from the faucet during an electrical storm and travel across the wall while my cousin Judy screamed in the corner. That image is frozen in my brain like a negative, the blue-tinged light, Judy's short hair and her hands over her eyes, Mom's arms on Judy's shoulders from behind. The back of our little house trailing beyond and losing itself in a dark haze, as if we were on a spaceship, hurtling through the accidental galaxy.



Jean Jones



### In the end

all that's left  
is a hasty phone number  
scrawled on a piece of paper  
the smell of a musty bathroom  
a strand of hair in a used bedroom  
despite  
the best  
of intentions. ..

Mario D. Kersey

### From Man to Husband

He gave birth to more bad ideas than a sailor in a swearing contest,  
but she loved him in spite of his stillborn ideations.

The night he popped the question, they were under the stars  
on campus after a long day with tweens in a summer camp.

She ranted about how things must be different and that he should  
really listen to logic and not dreams too distant from reality.

His heart broken, but adulthood demanded he be responsible realist  
and not a dreamer sleepwalking through life while she lived responsibly.

A sip of warm beer brought sobriety to a life drunk with possibilities  
and he married his responsibility and died just a little ever after.

A sip of warm beer brought sobriety to a life drunk with possibilities  
and he married his responsibility and died just a little ever after.



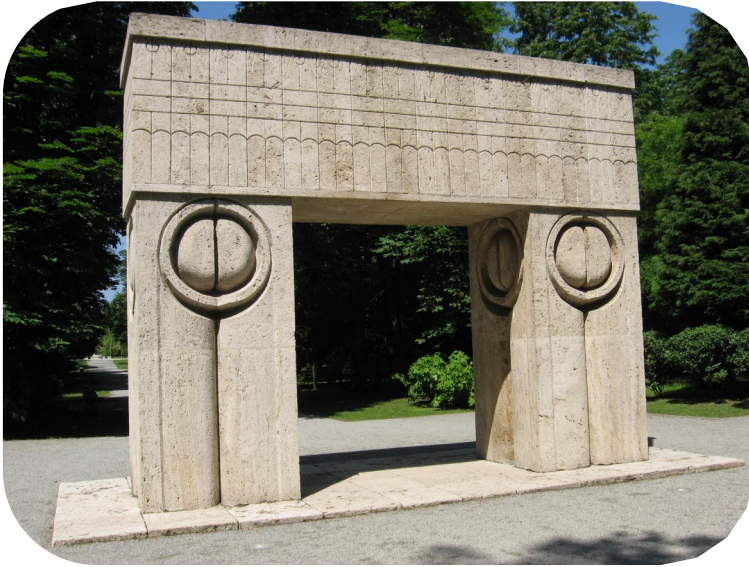
*MORNING at the BEACH*

*Up from my warm bed, I dress  
go onto the cottage deck  
into the bright sunlight of a  
September morning.  
Lured by the siren sound of ocean  
My bare feet touch wet, cool sand  
at the foot of the steps and  
I follow the sandy path to the dunes.  
The crisp sea air makes me shiver  
As I walk toward the shore.*



*A sandpiper scurries past  
I remember a small girl's quote  
"A sandpiper is an omen of joy."  
My heart leaps with hope  
It is lonely and needs a home  
Attracted by a thin white shell  
Its fragile beauty familiar,  
I pick it up and examine it  
for imperfections  
And I slip it into my pocket  
This dove-white shell  
Preserves this moment.*



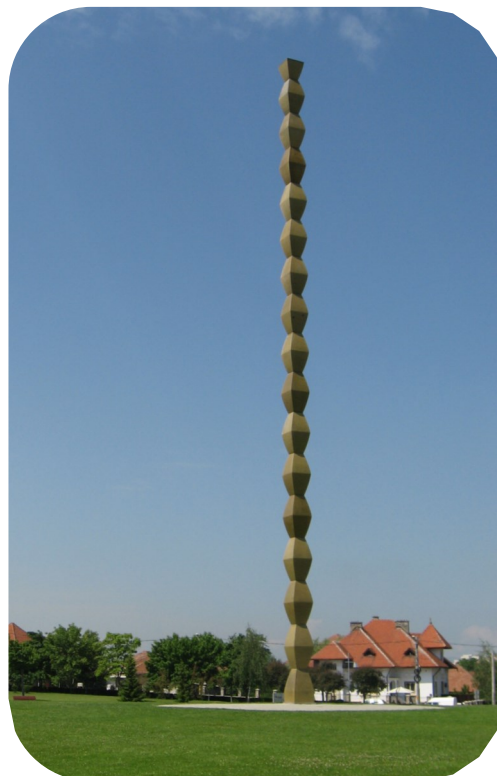


## Pass on bye

Another train is passing by,  
Another child was born,  
Another man of age has fall,  
It's a matter of time!  
Another man has fallen down,  
Another lonely night,  
Another train is passing on.  
It's a matter of time!  
Another spectacle of light,  
Another open door,  
Another train has stopped,  
It's just a moment more...

## SOUND

*Millions of spectacles,  
Grand illusion,  
Hopes and broken dreams,  
Unaccompanied by sorrow,  
Gathered in unison,  
To tell my story,  
What, do you hear them?  
Love songs or sonnets.  
Miracles of broken days,  
Nights of meditation,  
Sleepless walks of mist,  
I am, I insist!  
All of them, tell a story,  
Of my life complete.  
Hear them or not,  
Will I be complete....?*





## Yucca and Lilac



A lilac bush stands at the front left corner.  
Yucca grows on the right side at the back.  
These influenced me toward this house.  
Which became home in October 1958

Mama holding me sang:

"Lilac trees were blooming ..."

Yucca grew and bloomed at Hatteras,  
Its sharp bayonets brought pain.  
But I'd never seen a lilac blossom  
Nor smelled its sweet perfume.  
My lilac bush is no longer vibrant.



Honeysuckle has smothered  
The yucca, which never bloomed.  
I've grown old in this house,  
Teeming with memories  
Of three sons and husbands,  
Voices of children and friends.  
Only the lazy lilac bush, the yucca  
And I live here now.  
"Lilac trees were blooming in the  
Garden by the gate.  
Mammy in her little cabin door..."



## Main Street Rag Open Mic Series at So & So Books

Third Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm.

So & So Books  
704 N Person St. **Raleigh**, NC 27604

Open to the public: all writing genres welcome! Bring poems, stories, or essays to read to this Third Wednesday monthly event. Following the featured reader, twelve people will read for 5 minutes, any literary genre welcome. Social hour from 8:30-10:00pm follows the readings at The Station at Person St.

If you'd like to read at the Open Mic, join us between 6:30 pm and 6:45 pm to put your name on the list. This event is hosted by Suzanne C. Miller and Hemed Mohamed.



**Wednesday, June 21:** Richard Allen Taylor (Armed and Luminous) from Charlotte, NC (poetry)

**Wednesday, July 19:** Mike James (Peddler's Blues) from Chapel Hill, NC (poetry)

**Wednesday, August 16:** Suzanne C. Miller (fiction)



## 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>

**Sunday, June 25...** Kelly Lenox, Maureen Sherbondy, Terri Kirby Erickson  
and Guy & C. Pleasants York are moderators

**Sunday, July 23...** Ricky Garni, Guiseppe Getto, Tina Barr  
and Guy & C. Pleasants York are moderators

**Sunday, August 27...** Tim Mattimoe, Jane Shlensky, Irene Blair Honeycutt  
and Guy & C. Pleasants York are moderators



## **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 (formerly 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](http://www.flyleafbooks.com)

or contact Pam Baggett ([nightair@mindspring.com](mailto:nightair@mindspring.com)) or Joan Barasovska ([msjoan9@gmail.com](mailto:msjoan9@gmail.com)).

**Thursday, June 8**

**7:00 - 8:30pm**

Featured readers will be Michael Beadle and Irene Honeycutt.

**Thursday, July 13**

**7:00 - 8:30pm**

Featured readers will be Jan Harrington and Kit Weinert.

**Thursday, August 10**

**7:00 - 8:30pm**

Featured readers will be Janet Joyner and Kelly Lenox.



## **The Broken Flower: A Reading of Nature Poems by poet Jeffery Beam**

**Thursday, June 22**

**6:00pm to 7:00pm**

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum BRAHM

159 Chestnut St.

Free for Members, \$5 for Non-members. For more information: 828-295-9099 or [info@blowingrockmuseum.org](mailto:info@blowingrockmuseum.org)

## **Next North Carolina Poetry Society Meeting**

**Saturday, September 16, 2017**

Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities

**Southern Pines, NC**

For directions to the Weymouth Center & other information visit <http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org>.

Join us for our fall meeting at beautiful Weymouth Center for the Arts.

For further information, go to: <http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/events/>.





## Recurring Events:

### Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department Presents:

#### Poet's Open Mic Night at Open Eye Café

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

Open Eye Café  
101 S. Greensboro St., **Carrboro**

Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department the first Tuesday of each month 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.



### Sacrificial Poets Touchstone Open Mic

First Monday of Each Month, 6:30-8:30pm

Flyleaf Books (next to The Root Cellar)  
752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (Historic Airport Road), **Chapel Hill**

Ages 10+

Sacrificial Poets is dedicated to empowering people through spoken word. Come rock with us every month and share poetry, music, stories and family!

For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/SacPoe/>  
or <http://www.flyleafbooks.com/event/sacrificial-poets-touchstone-open-mic-22>

### Passionate Poets

Third Monday of Each Month, 6:30-8:30pm

4404 Cedar Pass (near New Hope Rd.)  
**Hillsborough**

Join us for inspiration, creativity and FUN.  
If you want to play an instrument or sing? That is acceptable too. ☺☺  
Host: Dough Stuber. MC: Vanessa Vendola.

For more info, contact Vanessa Vendola at 919-810-3548 or Dough Stuber at 919-271-0727.





## More Recurring Events:

### City Soul Café Open Mic

44 Soul Café  
7361 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh

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. DJ Supreme provides the 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](http://www.citysoulcafe.splashthat.com)

**Wednesdays, 8:30pm**

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



### 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](mailto:caren@windstream.net) or C. Pleasants York at [cpsy711@gmail.com](mailto:cpsy711@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/KarmaandCoffee](http://www.facebook.com/KarmaandCoffee).

### Main Street Rag Open Mic Series

So & So Books  
704 N Person St., Raleigh

Features a new poet every month! Open to the Public and all writing genres welcome. Bring poems, stories, or essays to read. After our featured poet, 12 people will read for 5 minutes, and any literary genre is welcome. Social hour from 8:30-10:00pm follows the readings at The Station at Person Street.

If you would like to read your work at the Open Mic, sign your name on the clipboard at So & So from 6:30 to 6:45. This event is co-sponsored by Main Street Rag Publishing Company and is hosted by Beth Browne, Jane K. Andrews and Suzanne C. Miller.

**Third Thursday of Each Month, 6:30-9:30pm**

### Friday Noon Poets

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 1 ½ pages. Free parking, side entrance. All are welcome!

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

**Fridays, 12:30-1:30pm**





## More Recurring Events:

### Center OpenMic

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

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

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

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>

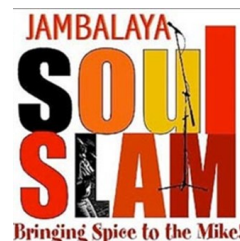
### Jambalaya Soul Slam

**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.bulldcitypoetryslam.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 Open Mic! Drink Specials. Early arrival is a must! Hosted by Joseph Churchwell (Church DaPoet) and Dasan Ahanu. DJ Vespertine will be spinning R&B, Neo-Soul, and more...strictly vinyl. All that is missing is YOU!

For more information: contact 919 729-9939 or [theexpericelive@gmail.com](mailto:theexpericelive@gmail.com) or [www.uptownpoetrydurham.splashthat.com](http://www.uptownpoetrydurham.splashthat.com)

### Tongue & Groove Open Mic Redux

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

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



Cohosts Anna Weaver and Ben Molini welcome poets, musicians, jugglers, mimes, whatever...anything but comedy. (Comics have their own open mic nights.) List opens at 7:00, show starts at 7:30. Slots are 7 minutes (2 songs max, musicians), and beer/wine/water are available. Covers welcome. Originals encouraged!

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

## **Piedmont Laureate Mimi Herman: Flirting with your reader workshop** **June 15, 2017    7:00-8:30pm**

Durham South Regional Library  
South Regional Meeting Room  
4505 S Alston Ave, **Durham**

Do you find yourself writing wallflower prose? Does your poetry sometimes feel heavy-handed, shy, lurking in corners, unable to charm even your Aunt Gladys? If so, this master clinic is for you. Find the part of you that is charming and churlish, marvelous and mysterious. Learn to sustain a certain intrigue and to read your reader. Mimi Herman—writer, teacher and flirt extraordinaire—will help you pull your prose and poetry out of the corner and onto the dance floor. Complete strangers will follow you for blocks, begging for the privilege of whisking you off to Paris (their treat, of course). Presenter: Mimi Herman  
For more info: Jenny Levine (919) 560 - 0268 or [jelevine@dconc.gov](mailto:jelevine@dconc.gov).

# POETRY



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 Open Eye Café**

Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department the first Tuesday of each month 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 6**  
***\*No program in July***  
**August 6**  
**September 5**

**Time: 7:00-9:00pm**



Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department  
100 N Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC 27510  
919-918-7364  
[carrbororec.org](http://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](mailto:KKessler@townofcarrboro.org)



Information about the  
2017 West End Poetry Festival

Can be found at:

[www.westendpoetryfestival.org](http://www.westendpoetryfestival.org)



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

<http://carrbororec.org>

[www.facebook.com/carrbororec](https://www.facebook.com/carrbororec)

Twitter [@CarrboroRecPark](https://twitter.com/CarrboroRecPark)





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