

West End Poets

News Letter

www.westendpoetsweekend.com



September / October / November 2020

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

Issue No. 75 (Est. June 2006)

WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL - VIRTUAL

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

Wednesday, October 14th - Saturday, October 17th

Watch and be a part of the most unique poetry event in NC! The 15th Annual West End Poetry Festival will feature some of the Southeast's most talented poets while celebrating the many exciting and varied poetic styles. The festival provides a setting where poets can engage, share, and encourage the reading, writing, and listening of poetry.

All events are free and open to all ages.

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

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Talking to Myself One

It's a priority now to talk to myself first. People I love want me to do as they say, but I hold them off. "Say whatever you like, but first, I must talk to myself." Funny, how my authority dims as I add years. Sometimes I have to stand up and fight. Then go off in a corner and think what I'd better do. My plan worked out. All that money went to fix my car. New tires, new hoses, new steering column fluid. \$800 gone in a flash, but my truck works again. When my ex-husband came to visit, I got quiet. I'd been miserable in that marriage. He said his family did too much harm so he would stay away so he couldn't do any. I never knew he felt that way. He seemed happy to meet his grandchildren, to see me and offer to help. "What can I do?" "Nothing. Make yourself at home." But as I gathered plates, he took them out of my hands. He wanted to hug me. "I'll be gone when you come out of the bathroom," he said. But he was still here as they set up his phone to get him back to his motel. Maybe he wanted to get lost. The grandchildren want him to return, and maybe he will.



*Watching October's Good-bye
from my Kitchen Window*

*Two golden-clad trees beyond my brown
leaf-covered lawn
Catch the sun and sing GLO'RY.
A dogwood tree, having touches of
red, watches the breezes shuffle
Dry leaves and laments the fading
Flowers and dormant bulbs
As earth prepares for its winter rest
So as to will have all that is needed
for spring's blooming.*



Brenda K. Ledford

Cicadas



Autumn creeps into the mountains,
nature dips her paintbrush
into a bucket of gold
and highlights the walnut leaves.

The morning sun shimmies
through the tree-filtered light,
three white-tailed deer
munch in the cornfield.

On Brasstown Bald,
the buzzing of cicadas,
males shake their drums,
each makes its own song.

Red-eyed with greenish marking,
the female bores into twigs
and lays her eggs:
cicadas saw their fiddles!

Gift on a Drumlin'

Evening time in Cashel while Father slept
I journeyed out without a plan.
Along the way, a young lady dressed in white
was heading home during the dusk of night.
Why would I not stop and ask her gently
if a lift was what she needed to the farm of family.

Soon, sitting at the kitchen table, just us three.
Her Dad, herself and curious me.
Up front, I mentioned I was most content with bride and family.
Several hours on, I left aware that I must be back to the Cashel
former Presbyterian monastery, a B and B
for my Dad at dawn, patiently waiting for me.

A wagon of sorts rested by the side of the hiway
with a weathered man, a traveler by
himself, alone with a comforting familiar fire.
Had to stop and visit just awhile,
up the hiway from the monastery about one mile.
We chatted and as the sun began its rise
I soon returned to my Dad's surprise.

We headed towards Caherseveen for eggs, a biscuit, coffee...
Approaching this historical town a drumlin came into view.
My *well versed travelling friend was there to teach me
once again, something new.
We just respectfully sat together and
as I'm now passed his age when we were one .
We sat on this drumlin where I acquired, again,
authentic knowledge from Father to son...

Father's Day 2020



The Orange Lady



Oh, October!
You put on a show
tap dancing over the hills
dressed in bright garments
of orange, lemon, and cranberry.

Oh, October!
You are a sassy month
stopping carloads of folks
flocking to view fall foliage:
you somersault on the wind.

Oh, October!
You are a naughty child.
On Halloween you deck
out in spooky costumes,
trick-or-treat through the night.

Mario D. Kersey

Aubade?

You wake, hair matted with forgotten dreams,

Slapping the alarm clock to sleep, annoyed.

The sting of yesterday sits heavy in your stomach

Sour with ice cream and lemonade you gorged

Yourself like it was your last day.

You don't wake me as our morning breath

Pools between us mingling into a new life

Loud with stench of comfort food long

undigested like the debate over bad politics.



Heirlooms of All Sorts

We stop for heirlooms at *Dean's Farm Market*
on a melted-jelly, August afternoon
for down-home makings of Low Country comfort food.
My mind's compass returns to South Carolina suppers,
seed pearls tightly stitched to my soul,
a signet of tatted tastes and textures.

Saliva seeped through a corner of Grandmother Pearl's mouth,
turned down from Bell's Palsy,
at the sight of a mess of Choppee Okra,
purple hulled Crowder peas,
butter beans.

Granny would sit in slatted chair on wrap-around porch,
shell into the strainer, then tote all to kitchen
to rinse, season, simmer,
summon neighbor Cottingham to supper with her and sister Lynda,
ladle onto *Golden Wheat* patterned plates,
savor until every spoonful of pot liquor was sopped up
with cast-iron cornbread, leaving
"the best left for last."

The day-old French lentil salad with Romas,
feta and cilantro I toted to the church picnic would confuse.
But, both would know why I bought the market's trademark
heirloom 'Hen Peck' collards with salt pork to carry along.
The first frost is still some time away.



Absence

His absence haunts at the start and finish of my day.
 Leaving the house, there's no need to turn on the radio.
 Away, I do not have to watch my time and may delay.
 At my door, I expect the charge of a small white body.
 I turn the key and find the rug unrumpled.
 I go into my office to check my messages.
 There is no dog following at my heels.
 I go into my bedroom to comb my hair.
 He is not there to jump onto the bed to watch,
 To beg to have his white coat combed and brushed.
 There will be no long white hair to brush and comb,
 For, I took Bogey to have him groomed today.



Timothy Crowley

DECEIT

If by life you were deceived. (L.1)
 that which passes will be dear... (I.9)

Pushkin...1799-1837.*

Delving deeply into the journey
 of such an unkind piece of
 one's life
 where despair
 simply will just not go away
 out of nowhere deceit and deception
 appear.
 attacking, eliminating any feel for joy
 one must move the sadness to the rear
 grasp onto hope
 spiting what some note
 is caused by fear.

Who watches the watchmen?

"Quis custodiet ipsos custodes" - "Who will guard the guardians?"

The ceremony of innocence is drowned. WB Yeats, Second Coming

*Who watches the mob,
who watches the police,
the politicians, the mayors, the governors,
the President, the Congress, and the Supreme Court?*

Who watches the watchmen?

*Who destroys the statues
and the monuments,
who kills the children,
who kills the black men,
who brings the guilty to justice
who stops the black on black crime
who prevents the killing
in the cities of this country?*

"Who watches the watchers?"

When the mob takes power, when

*Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned.*

Who watches the watchmen?

What are the three estates of the realm?

What is the fourth estate?

Who watches the fourth estate?

"Who will guard the guards themselves?"



Please note that the following events are *subject to change* due to the current public health situation. Please check ahead of time to see if the event is still being held.

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 14 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 VIRTUAL Open Mic

Wednesdays, 8:30pm

VIRTUAL on ZOOM
425 Glenwood Ave, **Raleigh**

**Free
21 & over**

Open to #poets , #singers, #lyricists, #comedians and #performers. City Soul Café is the spot for a night of poetry, music, and so much more. DJ Supreme will be providing the music. Krystal Da Muse and Church Da Poet will be hosting. The CSC team will be present. Featured performers from all over the country. Sign up between 6:30 - 8:30pm. Hosted by "The City Soul Café Group". The show will be hosted on Zoom and streamed on FB Live from our City Soul Open Mic page. Zoom LINK WILL BE POSTED IN THE EVENT PAGE AND ON THE MAIN FB PAGE.

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.

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.

Jambalaya Soul Slam Outdoors

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

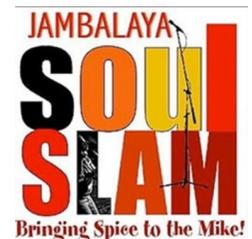
Third Saturday of Each Month, 8:00pm

(Participating Poets sign up @ 7:30pm)

\$10 Admission

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

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



Tongue & Groove Open Mic Redux

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

Second Sunday of Each Month, 7:00pm

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/



*The link changes each month; find it in the Events section on FB.

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://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!
Events tentative due to COVID.

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:
****No Open Mic in September****
October 6
November 3
December 1

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)

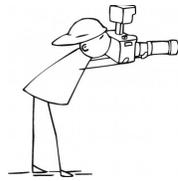


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Pg. 2, Photo of Judy Hogan by Elisabeth Platner.

Pg. 4, Andechs, Naturdenkmal Bäckerbichl, ein Drumlin auf Erlinger Flur, Boschfoto .
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andechs,_B%C3%A4ckerbichl_\(Drumlin\)_HB-13.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andechs,_B%C3%A4ckerbichl_(Drumlin)_HB-13.jpg)
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Pg. 6, Half a loaf of cornbread in cast iron fry pan, Douglas P Perkins .
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Pg. 8, Watchmen at WonderCon 2013, Pat Loika. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/patloika/8612915938/in/photostream/>
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Pg. 9, Daniel Kitson's chair, Mc-Q. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mc-q/2510906537/>
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Pg. 12, white figure with pen. <http://300palabrasdemarketing.com/comportamiento-humano/la-disciplina-el-factor-que-marca-la-diferencia/>
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Pg. 13, poetry wordle (*color modified*), Angela Quiram. <https://readingafterbedtime.wordpress.com/tag/poems/>
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>

Pg. 15, photographer drawing. <http://tejasforyou.blogspot.com/2012/05/photo-collection-from-all-over-world.html>
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