



# Proclamation



## POETRY MONTH 2020

**WHEREAS**, in this year of the coronavirus pandemic, we all are required to “stay at home” (except for limited circumstances) during this month of April; and

**WHEREAS**, particularly in this context, it seems more timely than ever for a proclamation recognizing the value and essence of poetry to be issued; and

**WHEREAS**, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets; introduce the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry; bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways; and make poetry an important part of our children's education; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry enhances and enriches the lives of all Americans and, as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life, including education, the economy, and community pride and development; and

**WHEREAS**, National Poetry Month, under the leadership and direction of the Academy of American Poets, is the largest literary celebration in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, “Poem in Your Pocket Day” takes place this year on Thursday, April 30; on this specific date, people are urged to select a poem and carry it with them to share with others; this year on this date, people are urged to share their poems on social media using the hashtag *#pocketpoem*; and

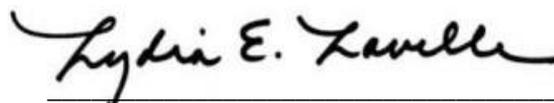
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro established the position of Poet Laureate in 2002, the current Poet Laureate being Fred Joiner; the poet laureate coordinates the opening of every Carrboro Town Council meeting with the reading of a poem; and

**WHEREAS**, as Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate and Academy of American Poets Chancellor has said, “Without poetry, we lose our way.”

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2020 as “Poetry Month” in Carrboro. I urge everyone in the town to take time this month to read selections of poetry, and to share the gift of poetry with others.

This the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2020.



  
Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor