

# West End Poets News Letter

www.westendpoetsweekend.com



March / April / May 2026

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

Issue No. 97 (Est. June 2006)

Celebrate National Poetry Month  
with a MENU of LOCAL POETS reading from their works.  
And a Poet's Open Mic!



## POETRY, POPCORN AND PIE



Monday, April 27

6:30-8:30pm

Drakeford

### CARRBORO DAY

Carrboro Town Hall

For more information: [www.carrboronc.gov/Signature-Events](http://www.carrboronc.gov/Signature-Events)

Sunday, May 4

12:00-4:00pm

All Ages **FREE**

*You're Invited to*

Town Hall Boardroom **A POETRY "READING IN THE ROUND"** 1:00-3:00pm

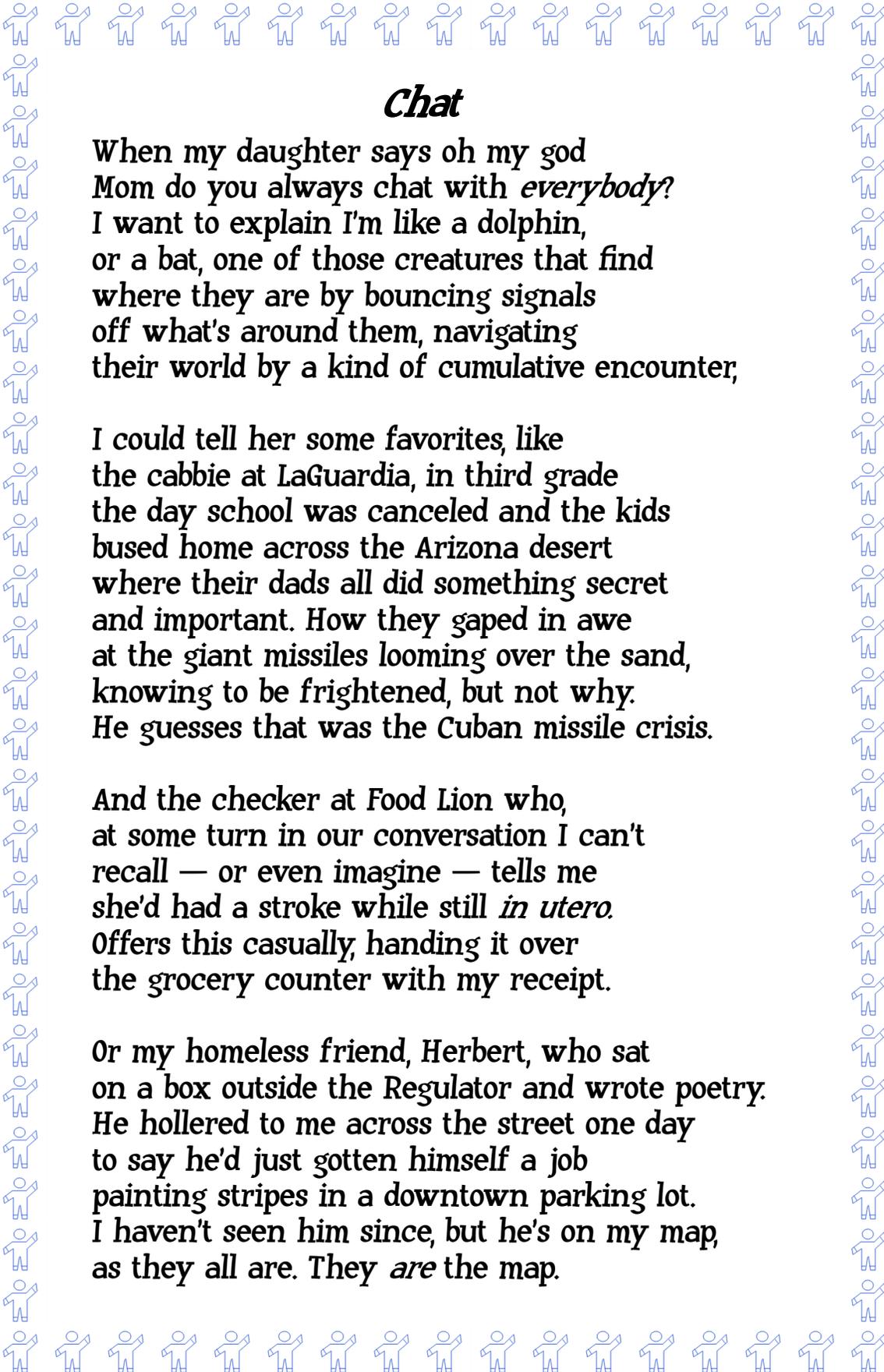
Come celebrate poetry in an easy-going atmosphere—no podiums, no experience necessary! This is an open reading—all are welcome. Come to read your own work, come to share a poem you love by someone else, come to listen only. Leave (*quietly, respectfully*) whenever you wish.

Readers will read a single SHORT poem (30 lines or less) at a time before we give our attention to the next in the circle. We'll rinse and repeat as time allows. Members of the Poets Council will do a reading on the main stage prior to bands beginning their set throughout the day.

The "Reading in the Round" is hosted by members of the Carrboro Poets Council.

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## *Chat*

When my daughter says oh my god  
Mom do you always chat with *everybody*?  
I want to explain I'm like a dolphin,  
or a bat, one of those creatures that find  
where they are by bouncing signals  
off what's around them, navigating  
their world by a kind of cumulative encounter,

I could tell her some favorites, like  
the cabbie at LaGuardia, in third grade  
the day school was canceled and the kids  
bused home across the Arizona desert  
where their dads all did something secret  
and important. How they gaped in awe  
at the giant missiles looming over the sand,  
knowing to be frightened, but not why.  
He guesses that was the Cuban missile crisis.

And the checker at Food Lion who,  
at some turn in our conversation I can't  
recall — or even imagine — tells me  
she'd had a stroke while still *in utero*.  
Offers this casually, handing it over  
the grocery counter with my receipt.

Or my homeless friend, Herbert, who sat  
on a box outside the Regulator and wrote poetry.  
He hollered to me across the street one day  
to say he'd just gotten himself a job  
painting stripes in a downtown parking lot.  
I haven't seen him since, but he's on my map,  
as they all are. They *are* the map.

## Treasures

My memories fade like crimson clouds at sunset  
slowly swallowed by the creeping dark.  
They vanish behind time's quiet veil  
while I cradle fragile treasures.

A frayed piece of purple paper  
preserves my child's first drawings —  
yellow sun, red house, green trees,  
and a stick-figure family that time has tossed to the winds.

Collections of photos, still on paper —  
a boy's face I know was mine,  
teenage travels when time was infinite,  
houses, cars, families once mine, now gone.

Cherished keepsakes crowd my shelves —  
a plastic gorilla hugging a musical TARDIS,  
precious pebbles recall a birthplace, and a gravesite,  
a tiny metal computer that still sharpens pencils.

Framed diplomas and certificates map the walls.  
Engraved glass and carved figurines line shelves.  
The award clock, etched with my name, no longer ticks.  
Life's rugged peaks now softened by time's quiet erosion.

But memories, like people, eventually die.  
My treasures will be packed in brown boxes,  
donated to the nearest thrift store,  
and sold to strangers for twenty-five cents apiece.



## A New Year

I don't know how to save the world.

I do know how to water the dry soil of my Christmas cactus when its leaves droop and it bends with hunger towards streaks of sunlight pouring in.

I don't know how to sew together division that runs across equators, borders, and ley lines.

I do know how to smile into the eyes of strangers, reminding us that connection is an invisible web anchoring us all to the earth.

I don't know how to fight with weapons but

I do know art is resistance which will far outlast blood, bones, and scars etched on our hearts.

I don't know how to set intentions for a new year when each moment is an exercise in resilience, surrender, and fierce hope.

I do know how to start the day, on my knees, in supplication to the divine who reminds me, gently, that I was created to be present in these times.

I don't know how to erase hatred and violence.

A New Year *continued*

I do know how to sit and comfort a woman who chose to end her pregnancy after leaving her abusive boyfriend.

I don't know how to eliminate a dictator.

I do know how to walk hand in hand in protest down packed streets in Burlington, Denver, and Carrboro knowing precious lives are on the line.

I don't know how to be a body barrier to humans taking other humans, when *belonging* is a birthright.

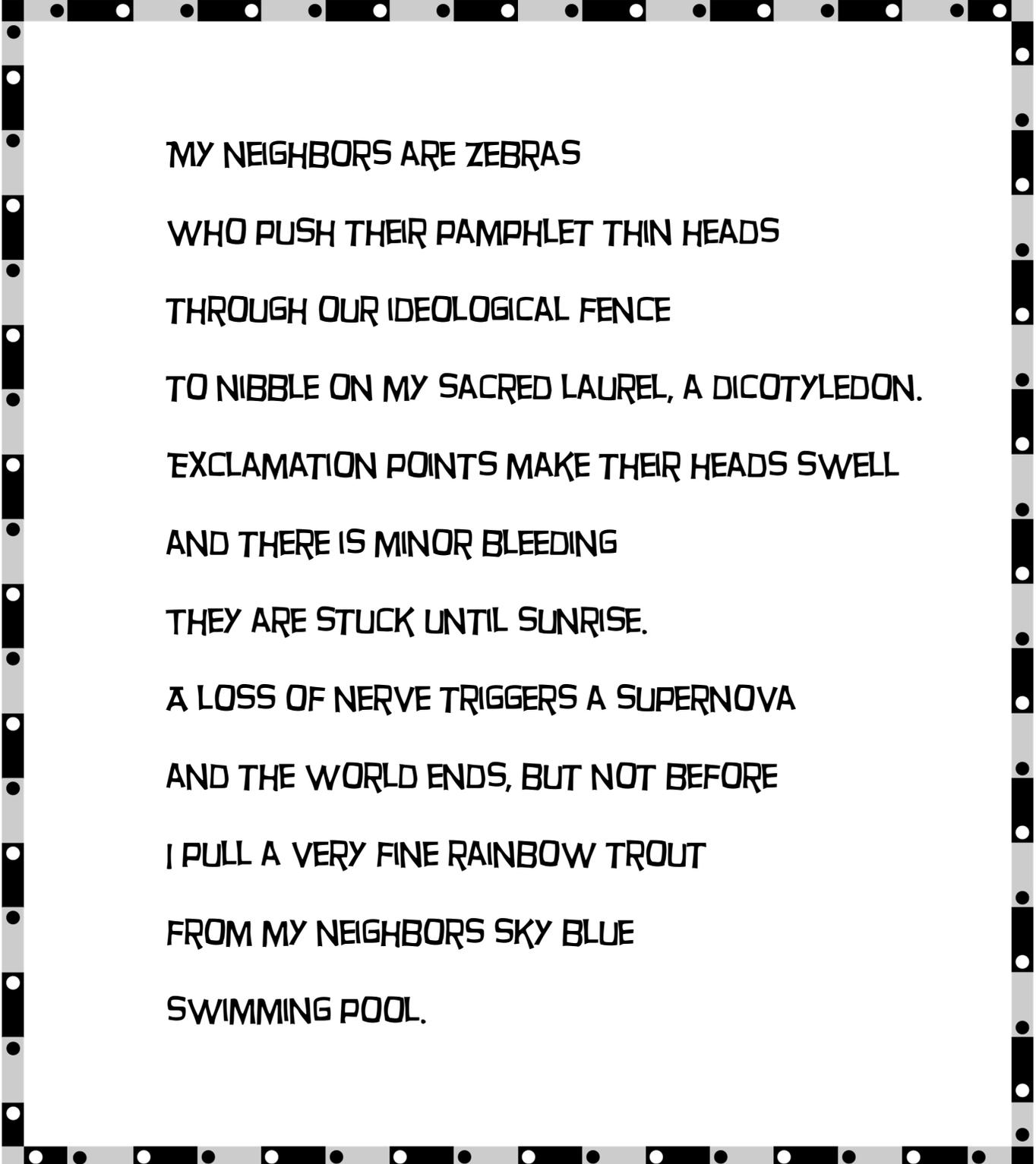
I do know how to hug longer and tighter my Indian born friend who has lived in this country for almost four decades, and now carries her passport in fear.

I don't know if any of this is enough.

I do know that keeping my light bright might be a signal flare to other bright lights, remembering we can't do this alone.

I don't know how it will end.

I do know that love is what will save us.



MY NEIGHBORS ARE ZEBRAS  
WHO PUSH THEIR PAMPHLET THIN HEADS  
THROUGH OUR IDEOLOGICAL FENCE  
TO NIBBLE ON MY SACRED LAUREL, A DICOTYLEDON.  
EXCLAMATION POINTS MAKE THEIR HEADS SWELL  
AND THERE IS MINOR BLEEDING  
THEY ARE STUCK UNTIL SUNRISE.  
A LOSS OF NERVE TRIGGERS A SUPERNOVA  
AND THE WORLD ENDS, BUT NOT BEFORE  
I PULL A VERY FINE RAINBOW TROUT  
FROM MY NEIGHBORS SKY BLUE  
SWIMMING POOL.

## PATCHWORK MEMORIES

Grandma's Friendship Quilt hid in her Clay County, North Carolina home was a lasting masterpiece of a time of simplicity, when people mattered, families were large, and neighbors would lend a helping hand.

Each patchwork square was designed by women engineers was a living picture of pain, joy, and plans, overcoming trials with faith and needles, they traded patterns like bubble gum cards.

Around the quilt bee, young girls stitched the Double Wedding Ring and dreamed of the boys they would marry, their lasting marks embroidered on each homemade quilt was a keepsake for future daughters.



## For a Student Using AI to Complete the Assignment

Are thinkers becoming extinct  
As classrooms fill with zombies  
Doom scrolling the next viral outbreak  
Which lacks a vaccine to distract?

Yes, life is hard if life is lived.  
So, a little reading and writing  
May be needed to gain clarity  
But you choose something inexperienced.

No, I read stale thoughts captured  
On the page from someone who proudly  
Insults my intelligence thinking I don't read, But I know your idiolect better than you

And wonder why you silenced your voice  
Voluntarily while killing little piece of a democracy.



Jean Jones

## Meditations on Good and Evil

---

### Ourselves alone

I try to do right  
here, where nothing is certain,  
What makes us do right?

---

### Origins of Evil

Like anything else,  
It comes down to what you choose,  
And what you decide.

---

### Because they want to

People have asked me  
Why people hurt each other?  
Easy- They want to.

---

### The equation so hard to understand

God is all knowing,  
God is all powerful, yet



## AT THE PHARMACY DRIVE-THRU

I wonder if she's trained to know  
I might be picking up  
the drug that keeps me alive  
when she walks away from the window  
just as I arrive?

Maybe she's adding  
some newly filled prescriptions to the bin  
for other patients  
who might show up later...  
or not.

But it would be nice if she would focus on my Eliquis  
instead of taking an unscheduled break  
in her arduous afternoon.

For I have just noticed a spider web  
in the corner of the pick-up window  
against the red bricked wall.

The grin weaver, a wolf spider, I think,  
hangs there,  
waiting for some unsuspecting moth,  
just doing its daily fluttering chores,  
to get stuck in the sticky silk.

"Please attend to me!" I cry.  
For death comes to all,  
unexpectedly  
and I am feeling a sudden affinity  
with the doomed.





### *If you find my journal*

*Best keep the clasp tight  
not for any secrets sitting within  
(poets don't write those down)  
but for everything  
that might spill out*

*A stem of heather picked  
in the Ring of Brodgar  
on the winter solstice*

*A credit card receipt  
from the first date  
with a tragic muse*

*An autumn leaf collected  
in April while eating street  
pancakes in Auckland*

*A strapless bra  
left in my bed that still  
smells of her body wash*

*A candle glowing  
from the first anniversary  
of her death*

*A cliff overlooking the sea  
to stand upon while wind  
scrapes tears from your eyes*

*No— Best drop my journal  
in the mail unopened  
it may look like a bible  
but there's no religion within  
just the truth*

### My favorite mortician

actually just so

Below rabbit ears

happens to be a

silver foils

never

wavy light soundy waves

eva ! patrician

trust Walter Kronkite

decent mathematician

they ain't Alien

( NO bell prizes yet tho )

sang a sixth sense since

Tho they theorems oft

Rather Brokaw tangled

s e e m

as one magician then

a a

dippity do did they

l i e n

rangle

!!

Mark Goodson Bill Toddman

in a carbon dating game

of Matches & Feuds

**My favorite mortician** *continued*

Halfway moused down the Hall	Fore
Money bets Pierre Salinger	as about always
who will win the Israel	said mortician has
Egypt war	been elusive stayed
	slinky like
Side bets placed	a stare
O the bold	a step
O the beautiful	an
days of our peace	
strife treatise	
peace lives....	"ah"

### *Apology to a leaf*

*Your death, stellar in its glory, brings me utter  
joy.*

*Yellow to orange to red you bare your soul in  
exquisite display.*

*Back farm roads, I pilgrimage to places where your last  
breaths make me breathless.*

*I anticipate the season of your dying time. Cool  
days, flannel jackets, I sit under the Maple tree and  
watch you descend, perhaps even brushing against  
my knee.*

*My dear, I apologize for such selfish desire.*

*Don't be mistaken, I also want you at the height of green,  
my limbs lithe and bare with the summer  
sun.*

*Then, I yearn for you during dark months, staring out at  
bare branches, I fantasize about your return.*

*And ever so shyly, you appear upon the smell of moist  
spring earth and budding promise.*

*Oh what a voracious and seasonal lover I am.  
I know.*

*So, forgive me that I adore you most when dying ~*

*If only we could all go out in a burst of blazing color.*

## After the Snow

*Smothering liberties that once bloomed free,  
a merciless snow descends, day after day.  
An endless pure-white shroud smothers the land  
a leaden weight too righteous to be fair,  
too scrubbed clean to be honest,  
too frozen to bend.*



*Along paths of time, worn smooth by generations,  
sits a house, white, like the falling snow.  
In its doorway, a man lingers.  
His skin, like bleached-parchment,  
drawn taut across joints worn ragged  
by years of failure, neglect, and dishonesty.*

*His vacant stare reveals his inner void.  
A dominion distorted by drifting dreams,  
where truth is a fabricated illusion  
and the hush of obedience, bleached like snow,  
layers his thoughts and longing  
where only he, the master, may rule.*

*But perhaps, with the rise of a new spring,  
the dark clouds, pregnant with their weight of snow,  
shall burst, melt and nurture tender seedlings  
stirring, growing, deep within the soils,  
and new life will erupt, a riotous array of colors  
restoring, at last, the majestic glory of diversity.*



## MOUNTAIN CREEK ANTIQUES

I open a door to ghosts of the past:  
these things belonged to people  
who once lived and labored to purchase them.

Depression-era bowls and plates shimmer  
like gold on a dusty shelves graced  
by cherubs with their sweet faces.

A funeral fan grabs my attention:  
parishioners flapped them like wings  
enduring services in steaming-hot churches.

Whatnots that the mountain women cherished  
find their way in the antique shop:  
birds, flowers, mushrooms, frogs, and children.

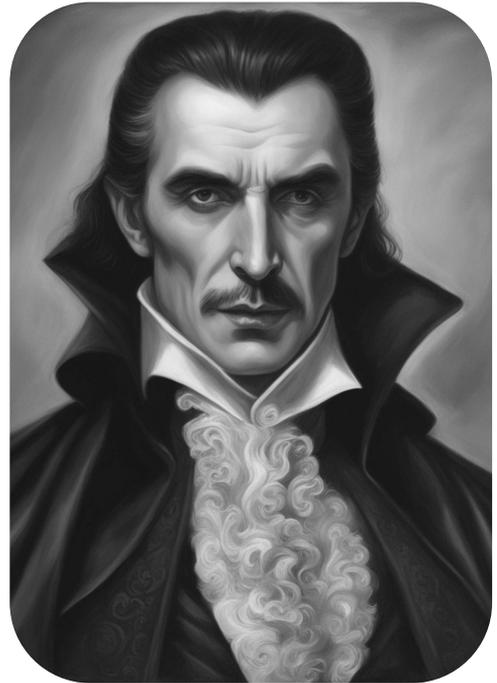
Croqueted scarves drape a rocking chair,  
colorful quilts stitched during a quilting bee  
kept the family warm on cold, winter nights.

This antique shop brings back memories  
of my ancestors who settled Appalachia,  
and the history of America's 250th celebration.



## *I wish you were a vampire*

*I wish you were a vampire,  
And like Lestat in Interview with the Vampire,  
Visit me and, attracted by my loneliness and aloofness,  
Offer me immortality.  
and because I was so stunned  
by your offer, I would accept  
and in your passion  
You would drain me to  
the point of death,  
every drop of my blood  
in your mouth,  
down your throat  
and I would moan  
with pleasure knowing  
you took everything of me  
in your mouth,  
and the last words  
I would hear as a human  
would be you saying,  
"Get ready to see your  
last sunrise, for this  
is just the beginning~"*



**WHAT REMAINS...**

*...when dust and ash have settled in the sand  
and all that remains of my remains floating in the sea  
are splashes of my disappearing memory,  
coming back to mind, then fading...?*

**BUT!**

**I WILL REMEMBER YOU**

*when you come back to walk the edge of the beach,  
where the oceans reach to touch the land,  
you, smiling, to talk with me and hold my hand,*

*remembering*

*the moon-lit-white-snow around our home on the hill...*

*(But was it a log cabin?)*

*when our toboggan tossed the snow aside...*

*(Yes! That sturdy, old Norwegian toboggan, no rickety Red Arrow for us!)*

*the wind mixing with our joy filled whoops and hollers!*

*And later, the sighs and moans of our coming and our coming once again  
together, under the warm, white-sheets and the fleece...*

*("Nope! Ya can't have too much fleece!" all the old timers said)*

*and they were right.*

*And in each other through the night.*

*And your groans and clenched teeth smiles through your travail  
as you birthed our first-born babe...*

*(Wait! Was it a boy? A girl? My memories fade)*

*But it was ours!*

**WHAT REMAINS... continued**

*And that spark of pride in your eyes when you first held her...*

*(Her! Yes! Our first was the girl!)*

*We wrapped her in a pink-blush-fleece-papoose)*

**OH! YES! I REMEMBER!**

*(oh...yes...sorry...the threads fray  
and I can't help but feel it unravel.)*

*And the love...when you held our daughter...*

*(Yes! Our daughter, Carra, we named her!*

*"Love" for our love that made her!)*

*And as you held our daughter's daughter...*

*No. I'm sorry. I can't recall....*

*(Oh! Yes! Constance!*

*Our first grandchild!)*

*And the tears in your eyes and on your cheeks  
as you held my hands  
and I felt that last touch of your lips on mine,  
so softly as I passed on...*

*But that taste of that kiss remains  
waiting for you, my Darling.*

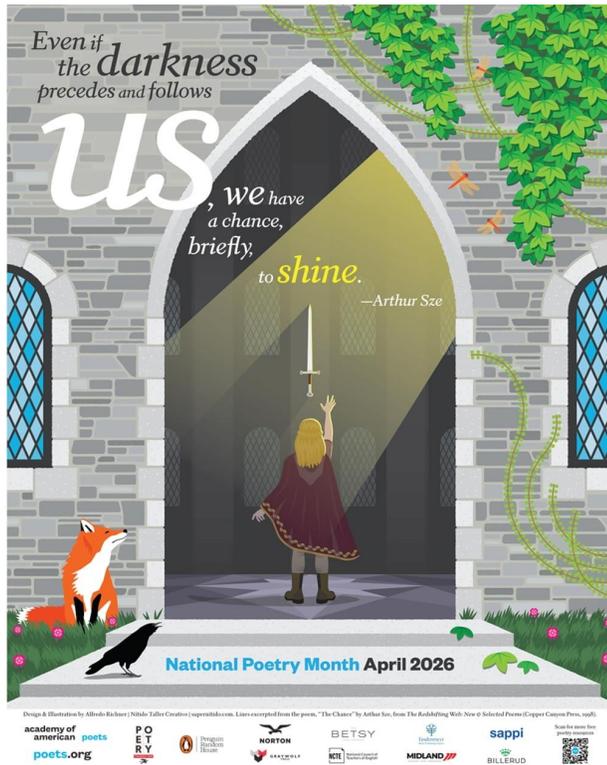
**Waiting**

*for our once-again-embrace.*

*Somewhere else where we will be*

*in that shining, shimmering white-cloud-light  
which gathers us all  
into eternity.*

# national poetry month



Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month is a special occasion that celebrates poets' integral role in our culture and that poetry matters. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K–12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, publishers, families, and of course poets, marking poetry's important place in our lives.

Encourage students in grades 5-12 to participate in the [Dear Poet project](#). Sign up for [Poem-a-Day](#) and enjoy a free daily poem in your inbox, Follow the thousands of National Poetry Month celebrations taking place and follow the Academy of American Poets on [YouTube](#).

For more info: <https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home>.

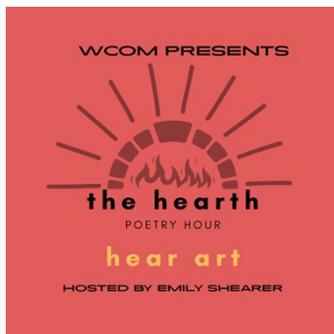
## Share a #pocketpoem on Poem in Your Pocket Day Thursday, April 30, 2026

April 30 is Poem in Your Pocket Day. People celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them, and sharing it with others throughout the day at schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, and on social media using the hashtag #pocketpoem. Join us in celebrating Poem in Your Pocket Day this year!



## Announcement

### REMINDER: WCOM 103.5 has "The Hearth Radio Hour" - A Weekly Poetry Showcase



Emily Shearer, host of The Hearth Poetry Hour, Fridays at 10 am on WCOM 103.5 (or stream live on the internet from [wcomfm.org](http://wcomfm.org)) welcomes listener submissions. Listen for the weekly prompt on the show and send your response to [fire-dog.thehearth@gmail.com](mailto:fire-dog.thehearth@gmail.com). All submissions will be read on the air!

## Congratulations



Gideon Young is a member of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective, a Fellow for A+ Schools of North Carolina, and a former Title 1 elementary school teacher. After a decade of service on the Carrboro Poets Council, he currently serves on the Orange County Arts Commission advisory board, and as the 2025-2026 North Carolina Poetry Society's Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poet. Gideon lives in Chapel Hill, NC. Discover more at [www.gideonyoung.com](http://www.gideonyoung.com)

## Flyleaf Poetry Series and Open Mic

Flyleaf Books  
752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (*Historic Airport Road*),  
**Chapel Hill**  
919-942-7373  
flyleafbooks.com

On the second Sunday of each month from 2:30-4:00pm, two featured poets read from their new books, followed by an open mic. Come early to connect with local poets and poetry enthusiasts and to browse the bookstore. Bring one of your own poems for the open mic (one page or less, please).

**Sunday, March 8, 2026, 2:30-4:00pm**

**Earl Huband**, *The Dix Hill Blues*  
**Erin Miller**, *Inner Species*

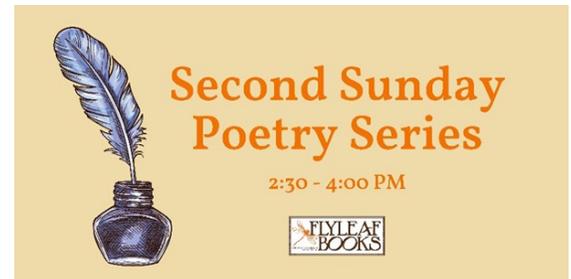
**Sunday, April 12, 2025, 2:30-4:00pm**

**Catherine Carter**, *By Stone and Needle*  
**Scott Owens**, *Elemental*

**Sunday, May 17, 2:30-4:00pm**

**Jay Bryan**, *Behold*  
**Myra Rasmussen**, *Chakana*

For more info: 919-942-7373 or [flyleafbooks.com](http://flyleafbooks.com) or contact Pam Baggett at [nightair@mindspring.com](mailto:nightair@mindspring.com).



## McIntyre's Fine Books Monthly Poetry Readings *sponsored by the NC Poetry Society*

McIntyre's Books  
220 Market St.  
Farrington Village, **Pittsboro**, NC  
*Farrington Village is located half-way between Pittsboro & Chapel Hill on Hwy 15-501 South*



The McIntyre's Books Poetry Series is sponsored by the North Carolina Poetry Society and hosted by Joan Barasovska. Each reading features three poets with recent books and an open mic. Readings are the last Sunday of the month 2:00-3:30pm, January through October. All are welcome! *Bring a poem for open mic!*

**Sunday, March 29, 2026, 2:00-3:30pm**

**Jameela Dallis**, *Al Maginnes*, *Cheryl Wilder*

**Sunday, April 26, 2026, 2:00-3:30pm**

**Michael Hettich**, *Narya Deckard*, *Mark Cox*

**Sunday, May 31, 2026, 2:00-3:30pm**

**Scott Owens**, *Rob Merritt*, *Lucinda Trew*

## **Triangle Poetry Festival**

**March 20 & 21, 2026, 7:00-9:00pm**

Boxyard RTP  
900 Park Offices Drive  
**Durham, NC**

The Triangle Poetry Festival invites North Carolina's expansive ecosystem of art, literature, and community aid to respond to this year's theme: MOVEMENT. Movement towards what? We answer with our bodies, together.

Bring your soul into motion at the Triangle's new two-day experience of poetry from acclaimed poets and arts experiences with local community heart leaders.

In November 2024, poets from around the triangle joined together at THIS IS REST, a listening forum by Poets' Playground, to discuss and understand what's needed in our community as we reckon with dramatic social change. Since then, Poets' Playground has responded to the community with four more events that nourished the body and soul, magnified the light within, sheltered like-hearted creators, and burned away what's no longer serving us. The Triangle Poetry Fest will complete the cycle and begin a new one.

<https://boxyard.rtp.org/events/triangle-poetry-festival/>



## **Carrboro High School Creative Writing Program Showcase**

**May 1, 2026, 6:30-9:00pm**

Century Center  
100 N. Greensboro St,  
**Carrboro, NC**

An event showcasing the work from the Honors Creative Writing 3 class of 30 students with an invitation to booksellers/vendors, seasoned adults/professional writers, parents and family members, students and the poetry and creative writing community to come and celebrate Teen Poets.

Event will start with a Q & A panel followed by readings.

Proposed Topic: AI (how the students are NOT using AI and their philosophies around technology)

## Poetry Café & Open Mic

By Wake County, NC

**Saturday, April 25 from 2:00-4:00pm**

Northeast Regional Library

14401 Green Elm Lane

**Raleigh, NC**

It's open mic "night" in this special National Poetry Month and Read Local edition of Poetry Club. Bring a poem (or 2) to recite, and enjoy light refreshments in the company of other poetry lovers. Original work encouraged! Registration required.

## A Walk with Poetry

By Raleigh Arts

**Saturday, April 11, 12:00-5:00pm**

Shelley Lake Park

1400 West Millbrook Road

**Raleigh, NC**



Sign up to take one of the guided poetry walks, or show up with a camping chair/blanket and settle in to listen to the headliner performances at the trailhead, or do both.

### Guided Poetry Walk Schedule

- Group 1: 12:30-2:00pm
- Group 2: 1:00-2:30pm
- Group 3: 1:30-3:00pm
- Group 4: 2:00-3:30pm

**FREE tickets required to participate!**

### Mainstage Performances in the Pecan Grove

- 2:30-4:30pm

*No tickets are required for the mainstage performances. Bring your own blanket or camping chair.*

*A Walk With Poetry* is an immersive, community-centered arts experience created in celebration of National Poetry Month, designed to highlight and uplift the vibrant poetry community of Raleigh. The event invites attendees to slow down, reflect, and reconnect through spoken word poetry in a natural outdoor setting. Throughout the day, guests will engage with stationed poets along the walk, as well as featured performers whose work anchors the experience and deepens the collective narrative of the event.

The program culminates in a powerful headlining performance by Dasan Ahanu, an award-winning poet, playwright, cultural organizer, performing artist, and scholar. A Southern storyteller, Dasan uses poetry to deepen awareness of our social and cultural landscapes.

For tickets and more info go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-walk-with-poetry-tickets-1984071547408?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

# POETRY, POPCORN AND PIE

**Celebrate National Poetry Month featuring a few poets reading and a Poets Open Mic! There will be 20 spaces available for the Open Mic, signups start 30 minutes prior to the event. Poets may read one poem with a five-minute maximum time limit. Come out and feast on an evening of poetry with popcorn and pie!**



Monday, April 27, 2026  
 Drakeford Library Complex 6:30pm-8:30pm  
 Ages 16+ FREE



2026 Featured Poets will be announced closer to the date

## Upcoming North Carolina Poetry Society Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
 ZOOM

10:00am-1:00pm



NORTH CAROLINA  
 POETRY SOCIETY

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00am - Greetings from NCPS VP of Programming, Chad Knuth

10:15am - 12:00pm - **Reading in Conversation with Stuart Dischell & Timothy Seibles**

12:00pm - 12:15pm - Break

12:15pm - 1:00pm - Open Mic

Join us for a Reading in Conversation, featuring poets **Stuart Dischell** and **Timothy Seibles**, as they reflect on the craft of poetry, the influences and inspirations that have shaped their writing, and the evolving role of the poet in contemporary verse. This event offers a rare opportunity to hear two distinguished writers engage one another in thoughtful exchange, all while sharing the work that defines their careers.

### ZOOM DETAILS / REGISTRATION

Please follow the link below to register through Zoom. Once you have registered through Zoom, you will receive an email direct to your inbox with the link to the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/iOYzEJgeQuWuUkMVRtpjbQ>

## Recurring Events:

### Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Department Presents: Poet's Open Mic Night 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Each Month listed, 7:00-9:00pm

Join Carrboro Recreation, Parks and Cultural Resources Department for POETS OPEN MIC NIGHT. This is a night where poets can engage with others and share the power and diversity of poetry. This event is staged to provide the venue for people to celebrate, to share, and to encourage the writing, reading, and listening of poetry. To celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month in June and World Friendship Day in August, feel free to share related poetry with other local poets. For information on this program, please call (919) 918-7364.



**March 3, 7:00-9:00pm ZOOM**

<https://townofcarrboro.zoom.us/j/86909388333?pwd=XtyquEBZB7eU8sOC9zQWlqJacqXgQO.1>

**April 7, 7:00-9:00pm ZOOM**

<https://townofcarrboro.zoom.us/j/88671558897?pwd=iXbtQDoNNjJ7gCmfjdmwcfbXn2zfYE.1>

For Poetry information in Carrboro, visit the town's Poetry website: [www.carrboronc.gov/poetry](http://www.carrboronc.gov/poetry).



### Free the Mic

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of Each Month, 7:00-11:00pm**

Lucky Tree  
3801 Hillsborough St., Suite 137  
Raleigh, NC

Bring good energy & support for local artists. Artists and spectators welcome!!! We ask that you respect the space & audience! What can you sign up to do: ANYTHING! How to sign up: Send us a message on Instagram to reserve a spot on the list. We hope to see you there!!••

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

## More Recurring Events:

### Open Mic Night at Yonder

Tuesdays, 7:30-11:00pm

114 W King St.  
Hillsborough, NC

Every Tuesday, Hillsborough's coziest living room turns into a showcase of local talent—and you're invited! Whether you're a seasoned performer or just ready to belt out a tune after a beer, Yonder's Open Mic is the place to be. Starts at 7:30pm with poetry & spoken word, followed by live music from 8-11ish, and maybe a late-night jam if the vibe is right.

Got something to share?

- Sign-ups open at 7:00pm (in person)
- Musicians: 3 songs or 15 mins
- Poets: 3 poems or 5 mins
- No drums, no amps, no mimes (seriously)
- First come, first-ish served

Grab a cocktail, cheer on your neighbors, and maybe even surprise yourself. This isn't just open mic—it's open heart, open ears, and open tabs.



### City Soul Café Open Mic

Wednesdays, 8:00-11:00pm

Terminal-8 Bar and Lounge  
2109 Avent Ferry, Suite 152  
Raleigh, NC

**\$7** (No cash accepted at the door)  
**\$10** on Feature Artist Night  
**21 & over**

City Soul Cafe Open Mic is the most dynamic poetry & spoken word open mic in the Triangle! Running for 12 years strong!

Come join the City Soul Team on Wednesdays for a night of music, spoken word, fun and memories you can't get anywhere else! Open to poets, singers, lyricists, comedians, and musicians. Performances are acapella or acoustic.

Make sure to get there early if you want to be on the mic! Text CITYSOUL to 888-549-0199 to get reminders for City Soul and other area events. For more info, email [citysoulcafeopenmic@gmail.com](mailto:citysoulcafeopenmic@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays.



## More Recurring Events:

### Free Open Mic Poetry at Five Points

1st Wednesday of each month, 3:00-4:30pm

Five Points Center for Active Adults  
2000 Noble Road Raleigh, NC 27608

Open Mic Poetry, Prose, or Spoken Word hosted by Freshly Brewed Poems. Come join us for an afternoon of sharing your poetry at our open mic event for adults 18+ at Five Points - let your creativity shine! 1-3 poems or 5 minutes of prose depending on the number of readers for our first round. Original pieces encouraged but you may bring other authors you admire. If time, we will go around again. Discussion of subject between pieces is welcome, critiques of work not necessary unless requested by poet. Sign up to read to the group 2:30-3:00pm.

### Poetry at The Plant

2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:00-7:00pm

Fair Game Beverage Company wheelhouse  
192 Lorax Lane  
Pittsboro, NC

Join us for a night of original poetry from local poets. Enjoy food and drinks from the various Plant businesses while you're at it!

### Weave & Spin

3rd Wednesdays of each month, 6:00pm

*Temporary location*  
Eno House  
903 Eno St  
Hillsborough, NC

Weave & Spin is not your run-of-the-mill open mic. It's a safe space for all humans 18+ to share tales of life: from joy to trauma, from hilarity to drama. If you are a poet, storyteller, or musician, bring your truth. Each month will showcase one featured artist followed by an open mic. We particularly invite BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and anyone else who has waited too long to be heard. Join our host, Hillsborough poet Morrow Dowdle.

Contact event host [morrowdowdlepoetry@gmail.com](mailto:morrowdowdlepoetry@gmail.com) for more information.



### Friday Noon Poets

Fridays, 12:00-1:30pm

### Zoom

Informal meetings every Friday. Read original poem or prose or a selection written by someone else. Writings should be no longer than 1½ pages. All are welcome!

Those wanting to attend should email [dougstuber@gmail.com](mailto:dougstuber@gmail.com).

## More Recurring Events:

### “Chime In” Open Mic Night

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of Each Month, 6:30-9:00pm

Lanza’s Cafe,  
601 West Main Street  
Carrboro, NC

Chime In is an open mic for poets and singers with a focus on the spoken word. We welcome poets, writers, artists, and singers. We take a hybrid approach, celebrating performances but also providing space for audience members to give handwritten notes to performers. We meet at Lanza’s Café in Carrboro, NC on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 6:30–9:00pm (signup starts at 6:00). Find us on Instagram.

### Poetry Brunch

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, 10:00am-12:00pm

Panera Bread  
1004 Parkside Main St  
Cary, NC

Having a lazy breakfast at Panera, enjoying a break before or after the errands while chatting and reading poetry is my kind of Saturday morning. When it's warm we will sit outside. Host will be there from 10:00am to roughly 12:00pm. Please join - even if you are coming later! - for a poetic breakfast!

### Jambalaya Soul Slam

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month, doors 7:30pm | show 8:00pm

Hayti Heritage Center  
804 Old Fayetteville St  
Durham, NC

\$10 General Admission

Join us for some of the most amazing poetry you will hear. Come see these wordsmiths bring stories to life on stage. The best poets in the area will compete for cash prizes. This will be a wonderful event full of dynamic poetry performances.

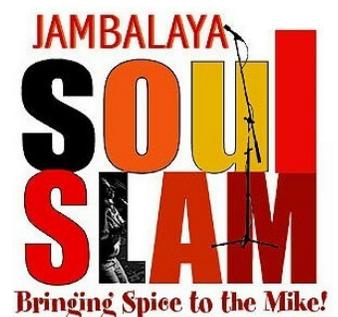
All poetry shared must be original.

The Jambalaya Soul Slam is the Triangle’s longest running spoken word event!

Limited seating is available. Guidelines and tickets at  
<http://www.bulldcitypoetryslam.com>

For more information: [jambalayasoulslam@gmail.com](mailto:jambalayasoulslam@gmail.com)

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council,  
a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources



## More Recurring Events:

### Sunday Night Open Mic - Moon Dog Free Events

Sundays, 6:30-9:00pm

Moon Dog Meadery and Bottle Shop  
1104 Broad St Suite C  
Durham, NC

Hosted by Deb Aronin. Comedy, Music, Poetry, Ventriloquism and whatever other talents and performance skills you might have. All are welcome to showcase their talents here. This is a judgement free zone come have some fun! Dog Friendly as well bring your pups!

Event is **FREE**. Registration is at 6:30pm.

Follow **Moon Dog Meadery** on social media to see all our upcoming events!

<https://www.meetup.com/moon-dog-meadery-events/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MoonDogMeadery>



### Tongue & Groove Open Mic Redux

2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of Each Month, 1:00pm  
*No shows in March or April*

#### Artspace - *NEW Venue*

201 E. Davie St.  
Raleigh, NC

This is an open mic hosted and organized by Anna Weaver, Sarah Egan Warren, and Andrew Warren, with help from a handful of friends and open mic enthusiasts. . We welcome poetry, music, storytelling and the occasional interpretive dance. Anything but comedy (which is not say you can't be funny). Doors open at 12:15pm. Lottery for the list opens at 12:15. Names are Drawn at 12:45pm. Show at 1:00. Main slots are 7-minutes (2 songs max, musicians).

For event updates and to get/stay in touch: <http://tongueandgroove-openmic.com>



poetry  
**WORKSHOPS**



**Jambalaya Soul Slam Academy Writing & Performance Workshop - ZOOM**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month

6:30-8:30pm

Hayti Heritage Center  
804 Old Fayetteville St., Durham, NC

The Jambalaya Soul Academy offer tools and strategies for writing poetry. You will gain poetry writing tips and prompts, develop new ideas or complete unfinished poems, and share your work with other poets. Bring your notebook, a pen, and an open mind.

Facilitated by Dasan Ahanu. For more info go to <http://www.bullcitypoetryslam.com>.  
Email [jambalayasoulslam@gmail.com](mailto:jambalayasoulslam@gmail.com) with any questions and to get the link!

**Sharing Creativity: Poetry Critique Workshop - ZOOM**

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

7:00-9:00pm

Join Living Poetry's feedback workshop. We meet on Zoom to review our poems, provide constructive feedback and work together to hone our poetic skills. Sign up at <http://www.meetup.com/living-poetry/>.

**P O E T R Y**



**By Request:**  
**Poetry Revealed Presents**  
***OPEN MIC NIGHTS!***

**Poet's Open Mic Night - ZOOM**

Join Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Department on the first Tuesday of each month listed. This is a night where poets can engage with others and share the power and diversity of poetry. This program will provide the opportunity for people to celebrate, to share, and to encourage the writing, reading, and listening of poetry. For information on this program, please call (919) 918-7372. For monthly locations, check the website: <https://www.carrboronc.gov/2780/Poetry-In-Carrboro>

**March 3**  
**April 7**  
**May 5**  
**June 2**

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

Carrboro Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources Dept.  
203 S Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC 27510  
919-918-7364  
[carrbororec.org](http://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@carrboronc.gov](mailto:KKessler@carrboronc.gov)



Information about the  
2026 West End Poetry Festival  
can be found closer to the event at:

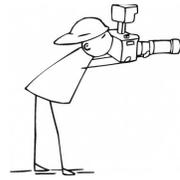
[https://www.carrboronc.gov/  
2781/West-End-Poetry-Festival](https://www.carrboronc.gov/2781/West-End-Poetry-Festival)



TOWN OF CARRBORO • NC  
RECREATION, PARKS &  
CULTURAL RESOURCES

203 South Greensboro Street  
Carrboro, NC 27510  
919-918-7364

<http://carrbororec.org>  
[www.facebook.com/carrbororec](https://www.facebook.com/carrbororec)



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Pg. 7, Closeup of quilt stitched in mid-20th century, United States, Downtowngal.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Quilt\\_Double\\_Wedding\\_Ring\\_2.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Quilt_Double_Wedding_Ring_2.jpg)  
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Pg. 9, Drive-through pharmacy at Super Bi-Lo in Matthews, NC, Mike Kalasni.  
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Pg. 24, Daniel Kitson's chair, Mc-Q. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mc-q/2510906537/>  
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Pg. 30, poetry wordle (*color modified*), Angela Quiram. <https://readingafterbedtime.wordpress.com/tag/poems/>  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>

Pg. 32, photographer drawing. <http://tejasforyou.blogspot.com/2012/05/photo-collection-from-all-over-world.html>  
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