



POET NEWS



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The Press!

MAY SPC EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.
A Reading Featuring Jake Rose & Amanda Hawkins

Thursday, May 7, 9 a.m.
Live stream fundraiser on Facebook

Saturday, May 9, 5-8 p.m.
**Opening Reception for
Gaza Remains The Story Exhibit**

Monday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
A Reading Featuring Hart Poetry Workshop Group

Saturday, May 16, 2-5:30 p.m.
SAVE THE PRESS! Fundraiser at Random Lane

Monday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
**A Book Signing & Reading with Brad Buchanan
for The Birds of Poverty Ridge**

Friday, May 22, 6 p.m.
**Containers for our Grief: A Poetry Workshop
Facilitated by Michaela Anang-Hadjicostandi**

Monday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.
**A Reading Featuring Lenore Myers, Camille Norton,
Moira Magneson & Gene Berson**

Saturday, May 31, 4-5:30 p.m.
**Closing Reception & Reading for
Gaza Remains The Story Exhibit**

Saturday, May 9, 5-8 p.m. & Sunday, May 31, 4-5:50 p.m.

SPC Gallery: Gaza Remains The Story Exhibit, Opening and Closing Receptions



SPC is honored to host an exhibit titled Gaza Remains The Story, organized by Sacramento Bethlehem Sister City. Special thanks to Patricia Daugherty and Janice Nakashima for all their work on putting this together. We will host an opening reception on Saturday, May 9, beginning at 5 p.m., and a closing reception with a poetry reading on Sunday, May 31, beginning at 4 p.m.

From the organizers:

This installation is a selection of pieces from the large, multi-themed exhibit curated by the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit, Palestine in 2024. In response to the genocide, the Museum digitized the exhibit and offered it to the world upon request. In considering the Sacramento Poetry Center space, we have

added poetry as part of the exhibit.

The hope is for viewers and readers to experience Palestinians as whole human beings with a beautiful culture and history.

In the face of the ongoing apartheid, brutal occupation, and genocide, the Palestinian story demands justice. The exhibit attempts to lift up this story by sharing the human face of Palestine, challenging dehumanizing narratives.

This curation joins an international network of some 250 organizations that have hosted exhibits in almost 50 countries.

The photo here shows the granddaughters of Abu Ali spending a holiday at the Gaza Beach in better days.

You may see more of the exhibit at the website of the Palestinian Museum, Birzeit, Palestine <https://palmuseum.org/en>. Find more about the Museum of the Palestinian People in DC at: <https://mpp-dc.org/>, and more about Sacramento Bethlehem Sister City at <https://www.sacramentobethlehem.org/>.

The exhibit is also a shared contribution between Sacramento Bethlehem Sister City and SPC to the May national activation of Fall of Freedom — <https://www.falloffreedom.com/>.

Monday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Members of the Hart Center Poetry Workshop Group

In what has become a quarterly event at SPC, we welcome our friends from the Hart Center Poetry Workshop for another round. The readers will include Jennifer O'Neill Pickering, Mike Pickering, Frank Bowman, Dwight Jackson (aka The Nomad), and Valerie Reis-Lerman.

Jennifer O'Neill Pickering is literary and visual artist, a Pushcart Nominee for Poetry and finalist in the New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition. *I Am the Creek*, her poem was selected for the sculpture, *Open Circle*. *Fruit Box Castles: Poems from a Peach Rancher's Daughter*, is available from Finishing Line Press. Recent publications include Gunpowder Press, Tule Review and other places. Her art is featured in Persimmon Tree Magazine, N.Y. City.



Mike Pickering writes, "I was born to a preacher and his wife who both inspired in me a love of words. The inspiration I receive also comes from the passionate, colorful verse of my wife Jennifer, without whom I would have remained simply a quiet man wandering about with a pencil behind his ear."

Dwight Jackson (aka The Nomad) writes: "At 67, I'm an old soul new to creative writing. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Traveled as an army brat. Schooled in San Francisco, Ca. Join the service to travel some more. I have

visited several countries and all 48 continental states. Hence the pseudonym, The Nomad. Now I find myself settling in Sacramento. I have been published in *Voices 2024 and 2025, Poet News, and the Colonial Heights Library Newsletter.*”

Valerie Reis-Lerman has been an artist since the age of 6, and a writer and poet since young adulthood. She’s published in *Brevities*, and SPC’s *More Than Enough*. Valerie has written for publications such as Calif Council for the Blind, National Federation for the Blind, Council of Citizens With Low Vision International, and Braille and Talking Book Library. Valerie is low vision, legally blind due to retinopathy of prematurity. She will read her poems with print at 24 level magnification.

Frank Bowman is an 82 year old Viet Nam War Veteran, married, father of seven. He is a retired Hayward Police officer of 25 years, and was a High School teacher for nine years after that. He’s been a member of the Hart Center Poetry class for a little over two years.

An open mic will follow. Sign up between 7-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 2-5:30 p.m.
SAVE THE PRESS! Fundraiser on Random Lane

SPC will soon welcome an impressive addition to the room, and to our programming.



Thanks to a long term loan from poet Swanee Astrid, we will soon have an iconic 1910 Chandler & Price platen letter press at the SPC with which we will be able to create beautiful broadsides, chapbook covers, bookmarks, cards and whatever can be imagined for it. We will offer informational workshops with guest printers as well as collaborations with other groups. And make stuff for the community! And more!

On Saturday, May 16, from 2-5:30 p.m., Bob Stanley (Poet Laureate Emeritus, and former President of SPC) and Joyce Hsiao will open up their Sacramento home to host a fundraiser for the cost of shipping and purchasing supplies for the press, as well as some work that will need to be done in the room in reparation for its arrival. Save the date! Save the Press! Well, it’s not as dramatic as that, but it’s catchy, right? And it’s an opportunity that will benefit all of us.

The afternoon will feature a presentation about the press, a reading by Allegra Silberstein and Dr. Andy Jones, assorted fun poetry activities — including a short poem contest, trivia games, a mini book fair featuring books from Random Lane Press, River Rock Press and SPC, live music, and plenty of food and drink, including a BBQ. We will also have raffles and an auction for great prizes, including a couple of grand prizes that you won’t want to miss — hot off the press, so to speak!

The fun begins at 2 p.m.!

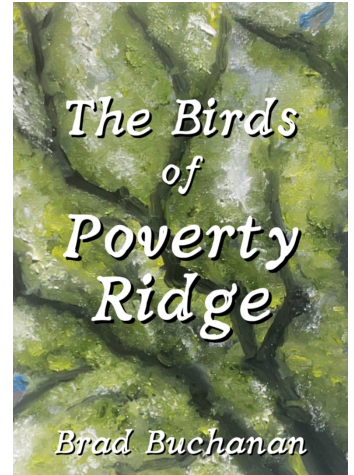
Admission is \$30 for one, \$50 for two. Your donation will be applied to your SPC membership if you choose — or you can use it to gift a membership to someone else. If you can’t make the event, but still want to support, drop an email to spcpg97@gmail.com and we’ll help you do that. Bob & Joyce’s joint is located at 4010 Random Lane, Sacramento, 95864.

We offer much gratitude to Bob and Joyce who do so much for the poetry community! See you there!

Monday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
A Book Signing & Reading with Brad Buchanan for *The Birds of Poverty Ridge*

Brad Buchanan joined us in the fall for a reading from his novel, *Spy's Mate*. We welcome him back to celebrate his new collection of poetry from Finishing Line Press. *The Birds of Poverty Ridge* is a searching meditation on the author's return — after catastrophic illness — to a changed and changing life. These poems explore both old and new neighborhoods as they observe seasonal rituals, mourn the loss of love, trace the tenuous renewal of desire, and celebrate our ongoing transformations.

About the book, Susan Kelly-DeWitt writes, "How to live after marital separation and divorce, after surviving the terrors and brutalities of cancer? How to deal with the dislocations of the heart, the body, the mind — how to cross the street into an unknown neighborhood which is both literal and spiritual? These are questions the poems in Brad Buchanan's newest book document and explore, traveling with deft musicality through the memories and experiences, 'shuffling ghosts in their bright array.' The poems grapple with themselves—the voices of songbird, family man, victim, caretaker, priest — but together they are a choir; they build a shared 'museum of compassion.' As the speaker says in 'What Will Survive in Us is Love': 'those in whom / love is so strong / can suffer almost anything...'"



Brad Buchanan taught English Literature and Creative Writing at Sacramento State University from 2002 to 2015. His poetry, short fiction, and scholarly articles have appeared in more than 200 journals, and he has published five book-length collections of poetry, three academic books, a medical memoir, *Living with Graft-Versus-Host-Disease*, and *Spy's Mate*, his first novel. He is currently Northern California chapter leader of Man Up to Cancer, a support group for men coping with cancer. He also facilitates recurring online Writing As Healing workshops through the UC Davis Cancer Center and other organizations.

An open mic will follow. Sign up between 7-7:30 p.m.



Friday, May 22, 6-7:15 p.m.

**Containers for our Grief: A Poetry Workshop
Facilitated by Michaela Anang-Hadjicostandi**

SPC invites you to join In this hour-long workshop, in which we will create a welcoming space to write about the concept of grief. Through exploring a selection of poems, structured prompts and guided writing, participants are invited to allow the page to be a container for holding some of the complexity that accompanies grief and loss. Open to all writing levels and experience!

Monday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.

**A Reading Featuring
Lenore Myers, Camille Norton, Moira Magneson & Gene Berson**

We offer gratitude to Bay Area poet, Lenore Myers, for organizing this powerful lineup reading!

Lenore Myers was born to artist parents who tried to live as semi-bohemians in the suburbs. When that fell apart, the author spent her childhood and youth moving between different towns in Northern California. After spending more years moving around the United States and abroad, she returned to the greater Bay Area to be near family while raising her son. Her chapbook, *Regards to Balthus*, was published by Seven Kitchens Press in 2023. Her poems and essays appear in a variety of literary journals.

About her new collection, *Afterimages*, just released from Sixteen Rivers Press, Dean Rader (author of *Before the Borderless: Dialogues with the Art of Cy Twombly*) writes in part, "Conventional forms of ekphrasis are often little more than poetic descriptions of art. But there is nothing conventional about Lenore Myers's *Afterimages*. The poems in this fabulous collection go beyond description, beyond the page, beyond the canvas, beyond

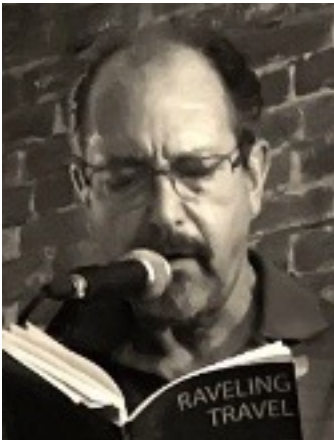




looking and seeing, beyond interpretation and reflection, beyond decoding. They participate in what we might call an expanded ekphrasis that takes the dialogue between art and poetry to new levels of interactivity.”

Camille Norton is a poet, artist, and professor emerita. She is the author of *A Folio for the Dark* (Sixteen Rivers Press, 2019), and *Corruption* (HarperCollins, 2005), 2004 winner of the National Poetry Award Series. Other prizes include The Grolier Poetry Prize, and The Faye and Alex Spanos Award. Camille earned residencies at MacDowell and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Camille has worked collaboratively with artists and composers since the 1990s when she edited *Resurgent: New Writing by Women*. Her poems have appeared in *The Best American Poetry*, *Field*, & *The Colorado Review* among others. See more at www.camillenorton.com

Over the years, Moira Magnuson has worked as a river guide, artist's model, truck driver, television writer, editor, and community college writing instructor. A Northern California native, she lives in the Sierra foothills where she has spearheaded many art actions and initiatives, including El Dorado County's Poetry Out Loud Competition, Veterans' Voices, Barbaric Yawp, and Black Lives: An American Overture. In 2024, she was the resident poet for ForestSong, a community arts project exploring solastalgia, biophilia, and resilience in the face of wildfire devastation. Magnuson is the author of *A River Called Home: A River Fable*, an illustrated novella (Toad Road Press, 2024). *In the Eye of the Elephant* (Sixteen Rivers Press) is her first full-length collection of poems.



Long active in the San Francisco Bay Area poetry scene, Gene Berson holds an MA in English literature from San Francisco State University. He has taught poetry workshops under the auspices of SFSU's Pegasus Program (which eventually became California Poets in the Schools) in everything from one-room Wyoming schoolhouses to reform schools, to Indian reservations, and as a high school teacher in Oakland. Gene is the author of *raveling travel* (Open Book Press, 2019) and *Work Ethic of a Shopping Cart Shaman* (Hip Pocket Press, 2024). His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Bastard Angel*, and elsewhere. He worked in the trade show industry (Sign Display Union, Local 510) and was a translator in Korea (7th Infantry Division). Gene grew up in the Bay Area and currently lives in the foothills of Northern California with his wife Ruby.

An open mic will follow if time allows. Sign up between 7-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 31, 4-5:30 p.m.

Closing Reception for Gaza Remains The Story Exhibit

See May 9, above, for details.

Looking Ahead To June

Monday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

Summer All Open Mic!

NEW EVENT: Saturday, June 6

Special event in conjunction with the Gaza Remians the Story Exhibit, Details TBA

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED:

Saturday, June 6, 6 p.m. Screening of Julia Vinograd: Between Spirit and Stone by filmmaker Ken Paul Rosenthal

Monday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.

William O'Daly & Shakuichi master Christopher Yohmei Blasdel

Monday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.

Bloomsday Reading (tentative)

Monday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. TBA

Monday, June 29, 7:30 p.m.

Bob Stanley & Mary Eichbauer celebrating her new collection *Recipes For A Funeral*

NEWS FROM SPC

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

SPC is looking to identify at least two strong candidates to join our Board of Directors. As with all SPC Board members, this is a volunteer position.

We are especially interested in people whose experience includes community and arts organizations. The fundamental role of a board member is to govern and fundraise, but the reality for small organizations like SPC is that in addition to making key decisions creating programs, and fundraising, we also function as staff.

The board meets once a month, on — or soon following — the first Thursday. You should plan on attending at least three of them to become familiar with what we do as a board as part of the process.

It is important that candidates understand our mission and are familiar with our bylaws. There is a section pertaining specifically to board members, but general knowledge of our operations is important. The Mission Statement and bylaws can be found on our website at <https://www.sacpoetrycenter.org/spc-bylaws>. Additionally, you should be familiar with, and interested in, our programs. You don't need to be a poet, but being somewhat engaged with the poetry community at large it is a benefit.

Please review our bylaws and let us know if you are interested in helping to grow the SPC through meaningful participation. Drop a note to spcog97@gmail.com with the subject: SPC Board with your resume or query.

It's mostly a good time, but we do work!

Also, we're always looking for volunteers who may not necessarily want to be board members.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY HELP REQUEST: Assistant Needed

Julia Connor is looking for secretarial/tech assistance for 2-5 hours per week. Flexible schedule. Skills should include tech literacy, competency with basic softwares (Microsoft office, Google workspaces, Zoom, and Apple systems), printing, scanning, data organization, and general clerical skills. Experience with Poetry/Creative Writing preferred. Compensated position. Inquire: (916) 205-6172.

(Note: while Julia is an SPC board member and Sacramento Poet Laureate Emerita, this is a personal request, not an SPC position.)

SPC PUBLICATIONS UPDATES

LAST CALL: *TULE REVIEW* 2026 SUBMISSION PERIOD CLOSES MAY 15 — GET YOUR SUBMISSIONS IN!

The submission period for the 2026 print edition of *Tule Review* is closes May 15, 2026. Our publication target is October 2026. The editor is Sacramento poet Shawn Pittard. Observing the guidelines, please email your poetry or visual art submissions to tulereview2026@gmail.com using the subject Tule Review Submission. We welcome submissions from all genres of poetry, and prose poetry (no fiction, essays, or other prose at this time, please), preferably unpublished. We also invite visual artists to submit images to be considered for the cover.

For complete guidelines, please visit: <https://www.sacpoetrycenter.org/publications-tule-review>.

DIGITAL PERFORMANCE ISSUE OF *TULE REVIEW* *IMPORTANT* UPDATE

After many unresolvable delays, the first digital edition of *Tule Review* is postponed TFN, and a new call will be issued soon. If you submitted, please send a note to that effect with your original submissions to spcog97@gmail.com. Your submissions will stand while a new plan is made. Many apologies.

JULIA VINOGRAD: BETWEEN SPIRIT & STONE

A Film by Ken Paul Rosenthal

SPECIAL SCREENING AT CALSTAGE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6!



Film Director Ken Paul Rosenthal and the Sacramento Poetry Center, in collaboration with our host The California Stage Company will present *Julia Vinograd: Between Spirit and Stone*, an in-progress feature documentary, about an eccentric and indomitable street poet who fought state oppression with bubbles instead of bricks, and pushed through multiple disabilities to produce more than 70 volumes of poetry. This luminous cinematic poem is a visual and auditory feast for lovers of poetry and literary arts.

On June 6, at 6 p.m., we will host a sneak preview screening of a nearly completed full cut of the film at the California Stage Company's main stage. This will be a special opportunity to see a truly remarkable work of art about a poet whose poetry championed those surviving on society's margins.

The exclusive preview will be followed by community conversation with the director. The California Stage Company is located at 2509 R St, Sacramento, CA 95816 (in the same complex as SPC).

Watch a trailer and preview clips at: www.betweenspiritandstonethefilm.com.

Please join the film's mailing list to receive an occasional newsletter with news updates and advance film preview clips. <https://www.betweenspiritandstonethefilm.com/contact/>

Tickets are a sliding \$10 - \$20. To reserve a seat before they sell out, please RSVP to spcog97@gmail.com, or go to the SPC website, click the Donate button, write "Julia" in the dedication option, fill out the information form, and your purchase will be confirmed.

CALIFORNIA'S POET LAUREATE LEE HERRICK

Like many poets, Lee Herrick had a busy April. One of things coming up for him is that he'll be the final judge for the 2026 Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize. Get your submissions in. Details on page 36.

As always, keep up with Lee at <https://www.leeherrick.com/>.

InFormation: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE RCAF



SPC is proud to support and participate in La Raza Galeria Posada's regional tribute to the Royal Chicano Air Force/RCAF and its legacy of art, activism, and community.

La Raza Galeria Posada (LRPG) is fully immersed in a regional celebration titled InFormation in honor of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), a seminal collective of artists and activists founded in 1970 by Sacramento State art professors José Montoya and Esteban Villa, their students, and other community artists. It began in January and will run through June 2026. Fifteen art and literary organizations, including museums, galleries, library, and cultural centers in Sacramento, Roseville, Davis, and Woodland, many long associated with the RCAF, will present RCAF related exhibitions, artist panels, symposia, workshops, poetry readings, and film screenings.

Please keep up with the full schedule on the La Raza Galleria Posada website: <https://www.lrgp.org/>. Meanwhile, here's the May schedule of events.

Please visit <https://www.lrgp.org/> for details of these events, and continuing exhibits.

Illustration: Juan Cervantes, 2006

Schedule of InFormation Events In May

TANA

Sacramento Poderosas Mural Workshop
Saturday, May 2, 2026, 12-3 p.m.
Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer/TANA (map)
March 12 - May 5, 2026

This exhibition centers the powerful Sacramento Poderosas mural alongside the work of its artists, grounding it in the long-standing tradition of mural making within the Chicana/o art movement. Painted by Ruby Chacon, the mural includes Royal Chicano Air Force members Sra Angelbertha Cobb and Juanita Polendo Ontiveros, whose cultural and political activism continue to inspire new generations. Anchored in community-driven art practices, the exhibition reflects the spirit of multigenerational activism and the role of cultural spaces as sites of gathering, learning, and collective action.

(Collaboration between TANA and Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis)

CROCKER

Artist Gallery Talk: Irma Lerma Barbosa
Sunday, May 10, 2026, 2-3 p.m.

CA STATE LIBRARY

Viva la Lucha: Art and Work of the Royal Chicano Air Force Speaker Series: Stan Padilla (virtual)
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 4-5:30 p.m.

BLUE LINE ARTS

Artist Lecture: Lorraine Garcia-Nakata
Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4-5 p.m.
Exhibit: May 9 - June 20:
Lorraine Garcia-Nakata: Knowledge We Carry

A solo exhibition of recent works and sampling of earlier pieces by Lorraine Garcia-Nakata that opened in San Francisco in 2025 and now travels to Blue Line Arts. It includes recent paintings, signature large-scale drawings, fabric and paper pieces as well as a sampling of earlier sculpture and mixed media artworks.

Exhibition Reception: Saturday, May 16, 2026, 5-7 p.m.

SOL COLLECTIVE

Art and Activism Speaker Series
Friday, May 22, 2026, 7-8 p.m.

Exhibit: Malinche (Re)considered: Images and Conversation with Artist, Celia Herrera Rodríguez and Writer, Cherríe Moraga

Join us for a discussion of La Malinche, her legacy and contemporary relevance. Moderated by Terezita Romo.

(Co-presented by Sol Collective, La Raza Galeria Posada, and Kingsley Art Club.)

CAC INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FELLOWSHIPS OPEN — ADMINISTERED IN THE CAPITOL REGION BY TEATRO NAGUAL! DEADLINE: JUNE 5, 2026

The California Arts Council (CAC) is a statewide agency committed to serving California artists, arts organizations, and communities of all sizes and needs. Guided by racial equity principles, the CAC continuously evaluates its grantmaking practices to ensure fair and inclusive funding opportunities that sustain a vibrant, safe, and resilient creative ecosystem across the state.

Local theater company Teatro Nagual, led by Richard Falcon, is the administrator for these CA counties: Yolo, Solano, Sacramento, El Dorado, Alpine.

Through regionally based Administering Organizations (AOs), the Individual Artists Fellowship (IAF) program uplifts and celebrates California artists across all disciplines and traditions, highlights their excellence and acknowledges their leadership in shaping traditional and contemporary cultures. The program includes three fellowship tiers with a different award amount:

CAC Emerging Artist Fellows – \$5,000

Emerging artists are those in the beginning stages of making their work public and engaging the larger community in their practice.

CAC Established Artist Fellows – \$10,000

Artists in the Established tier regularly make their work public and engage the larger community in their practice.

CAC Legacy Artist Fellows – \$50,000

Artists in the Legacy tier can point to a significant body of work, produced over a substantial period of time, that has engaged their communities and that has made significant social impact.

The CAC approved eight regional AOs for the fellowship in September 2025. Information about each of the AOs and details regarding their Individual Artists Fellowship programs, including application deadlines, are listed below. If you are an individual artist, apply to the statewide fellowship program through the Regional AO listed below that serves your county. Please note: Individual artists must live in the region they are applying to and may submit an application to only one region.

More details: https://arts.ca.gov/grant_program/individual-artists-fellowship/



POETRY FROM SPC's APRIL READERS

Three (untitled) Poems by Jake Rose

god sent me an absence to tend
a tiny hole of curiosity he didn't have
but could only give to others &
he never had to explain because
it was taken for granted that we
were already broken sprawled
perpetually onto inconsolable
hydrants of mercy grace and impatience
we arrived here as splinters of shade
caught on the tongues of lumbering giants
foraging in the proximity between
the melodic language of dreams and
the nudity of waking speech I don't think
anything is perverse or unlike on this earth
I practice writing my name with my left hand
I practice fetching words even on the cloudy days

*

the sun flamed at noon but too distant
except to make our cheeks blush
what a relief it was to be drowned in sleep and
finally not endlessly divided
this open queer thing my heart
like a tar dipped pearl
heavy and incandescent la charité is visible now
fastened like a bead on the horizon
and my loss too no longer immaterial
as I fell into its open terms
a loosening sensation began to form
after all the meaning
had run out & abandonment rushed in
there is no more sitting in
the mongrel shade of my youth
the unfinished feelings I like to repair
to I want the feeling of having
nothing left to prove
how I always think if I don't cut my
hair I will be beautiful but then I do
it's spelled out on my face
what I don't know I tried to download
when guillaume is speaking in the dark
it sounds like green olives soaked in oil
I swallow and the cave of
my mouth is the end of the world
I wonder can divine attention still see
through my darkest blunders
I display hints of what I want to
myself and then give them to others

with a gentle talent with a fingernail
of fear with subtle habits grown from
watchful years amid these tides of
indecision we sleep back to back you
breathe in my vowels and we
enter each other
like breaking waves

*

we were strung out then friends or more
I can never guess what's in between
a person's hands when they hold them
around my throat pulsing like a note in a
bullfrog's brain a slow pop deflating
we switch being under one another
and a stain on your shirt distracts me
a little bloodspot of morse code stutter
like the beginning of a poem I could finish
as we lay here in bed turning like fishes
believing was easy what came after that
was difficult when you ask me what happens
when we die I say I don't know how to
be more truthful in less fragments
the customs that will survive this century
scare you but they don't scare me
and that's not detachment it's somatic
the sky at night looks like a bucket of nails
and salt gathers like white flies to the ocean
I studied these landscapes all my childhood
since I was seven and heaven appeared
in the dense edges of my winching organs
spilling out the likeness of what I could not
contain but hoped to become through
some kind of idiotic insistence the wrinkled
thumb of your foot swells against the floor
and my hand sags like caesar stabbed & woozy
how do you identify beyond human
is usually my first question then how would
you choose to be unmade I used to throw up
because I was afraid of leaving my house with
its white stucco walls and crooked roof corner
but now I can't even find that familiar fear
again & I miss it dearly grief is a superpositional
state and I'm not ready to just completely bare
my brutish soul but also how can I not be at this old
there is just the endurance of passing through
each anticlimax and trying not to trust other
people's imitation over your real pain now if we
fuck a few times I'm not saving you
and I don't think that you need to be saved

Three Poems by Amanda Hawkins

At the Shrine

I knelt naked in the grotto west of the meditation pool—
the closest in years I'd gotten to belief. Around her feet:

cockleshells, one gold earring, a crochet-covered rock,
a turquoise ring, redwood bark, roses, a rosemary sprig.

In the branches: bronze bells, a disco ball the size of a fist,
a peace-sign pendant, strand of ribbon, string of pearls.

A string of elephants strung over the statue's head. Behind,
the leaves of a California bay overlapped with the leaves

of a fig. This could be the moment I recognized silence.
There was no information posted to tell of the goddess,

why she was there. How many years to revise what I see—
the varied gifts, the catalog of objects cannot keep me

from love. But what can I say about regret? And revision?
I was so focused on the gifts I didn't even look at her face.

Holy Departed

I think I imagined
death would be beautiful,

an empty church, hallowed,
darkened but still

somehow alive. I did not believe
I would dry heave alone

in the bathroom, thinking
how dead death looked.

It was the mouth,
open. The tongue purple

and dry. The eyes half shut.
The body bent

back and the chest thrust
as if in great struggle.

What questions are most
appropriate here? Did any

one of us touch her? Could I
even see her hands?

Flowerland

after Megan Denton Ray

Yesterday I drove to Flowerland
and bought the smallest cactus they had.
God, the garden
they provide every drought-tolerant

shrub grass and annual,
every succulent shape clinging to its sand—
even air plants a delicate version

of thrive. Somehow they both
tend and

encourage wildness. I asked
for one that could withstand extreme heat
and an abusive lack
of watering.

And while I looked at prisms
a woman made eye contact.

What can I say? I did not want to turn.
I saw in her my own
instinct and desire both
clear as a pane of glass.

I imagined
my alternate existence.

Touch me and remind me who I am,
I have forgotten
the ridged sensation of your finger tips
trying to be gentle.

Everyone has said
nothing can live in that corner's heat—

Meanwhile convinced I can
care for something enough to tend—
tend but also abandon.

(Jake Rose & Amanda Hawkins will read at SPC on May 4)

Poems by Members of the Hart Workshop Group

Jennifer O'Neill Pickering

Cleone Observations

i.

In Cleone sand dunes make hills without dump trucks or bull dozers---wind the steady machine
reclaims the land—Ten miles protected. Four miles of beach, a blow hole announces low tides,
and mussels hug rocks in sea pools.

ii.

Does graze the Bermuda—dandelions—fuzzy heads implode—seeds cloud the air---white stared
fawns' feast. Shasta daisies edge the lawn, three feet tall egg yolk centers—breeze swell creamy
petals. Maiden hair fern—lacey tendrils define the path. Here the deer have freedom to leap into
anonymity of rhododendrons, madrones' shadows.

iii.

The crows' nest in the Monterey pines. Converse incessantly as barn swallows dart above my
head—troll mosquitoes and gnats.

iv.

Nasturtiums climb the rose bushes. Make them bloom. Orange and yellow snake the deck—dark
centers cup honey for the hummingbirds that wing in place. Sun shatters grey domes spinning
circles of warmth.

v.

I feed the deer apples though I know better.

Mike Pickering

While in Paradise You Rest

When the blue moon settles behind your silhouette
standing in the garden outside of our bedroom,
our cat, fragile, old, and elegant climbed onto a branch
and sat there above you,
her eyes shining like two tiny, golden suns
in front of the pearl white of the dipping moon.

In the pendulum sway of our cat's tail
the rhythms of time hung
as she sat there purring in the moment.
I lay in this manmade room filled with costly trappings.
I look to you in your serenity,
shadowed by the pale moonlight,
as you gaze about yourself and at the gifts freely given.
You move out into the world.

I lay in the darkness
amidst the whole of my prosperity.
My attention is on departed dreams,
and the need for you to return to me
to complete the fullness of my form,
held open and empty,
while in paradise you rest.

The Nomad

Love's Concepts (Prose)

Love has been in this space for eons watching it populate. Before these moments that I am about to describe, Love was known to be free flowing. Fully here and everywhere. Thick in the atmosphere was Love's energy unparalleled. Seen as particles of light, if seen at all. The blindness which kept Love unseen had become common. So focused on negativities were the inhabitants that few paid any attention to the beautiful things in their world. And this, this was yet another beautiful day to enjoy. However, on this particular day Love felt an unease never felt before. Life's future had become dire, with no chance of better days ahead. Love deduced the end of good had arrived in this place. Humanity had decided to become complacently sedentary in a hopeless apathy. Had decided Love was not worth reaching for anymore. Expecting nothing more than fire, brimstone and the foul smell of discontent. War had replaced compromise in this place. An eye for an eye was leaving everyone blind. No one seemed to care that the revolution would end in a natural evolution called extinction. And Love — Love did not need to be present to witness that.

Forgetting the essence of her being, Love began running in circles trying to find an exit from this hell. Attempts to catch up with a life that understood the power of Love seemed futile. Panting the pant of an asthmatic was a sign that panic was rising as Love searched. Thinking, she might not find the portal to the parallel of which only few knew before rapture arrived.

It was then that it happened

Awakened describes the lightning bolt of thought that brought to her attention, "I am Love in the here and now, fear not. No sense in looking down. Rainbows aren't found on the ground. Keep looking up. What you search for will be found."

It was then that it happened

Clouds parted, revealing a rainbow from which sprang a winged dolphin.

Love watched in amazement as it circled, then hovered just above her head. Telepathically, Love was invited to ride on the back of this beautiful winged creature. High above treeless avenues and smog hugging skyscrapers it took her. Straight to the stars they soared, straight through the portal hidden by the rainbow. Arriving in what can only be described as Shangri La. Love felt at home at last.

Alas, she could not stay. Elsewhere there was still work to be done. Love was told she was needed on a planet called Earth. Maybe they will be more receptive to Love's concepts there.

Valerie Reis-Lerman

The Gift

admire flowers
on your cloudy day
feel sun

awakening
in the month of May

spring sky glows
trees welcome
as if to say
be strong within
as you are rooted

looking forward
not back
no control
over one's past

open arms
so they may give
radiate
from the light within

gratitude abounds
in living
that is our gift

one day at a time
blossom
uplift

Frank Bowman

Seeking Truth

is this something that only I ponder?
or do many others also wonder?
do we forget more than we remember,
or is it the other way around?

i believe there is so much we don't know
out there. It's hidden in old documents,
and buried in the ground.

we have found that lots of our History
that we were taught in school. Was really
a fabrication created by those who ruled

lets be fair and totally square and put
all historical facts on the table. If we can't
learn from the mistakes of our Country's past.
to move forward we won't be able!

lets put it all out there! I'm talking real
truth not the fable.
it's a tremendous burden ...trying to hide
atrocities of your ancestors past.
we all know lies come to light, they don't ever last!

superiority claims have stunted our growth as a nation.
by creating the idea of inferiority of blacks, it
brought on 400 years of defamation.

though we are a country of so many cultures,
we live most of our lives in segregation. we should
make a collaborative effort to be more of a DEI nation!

if we would talk and interact with each other
one thing we would certainly find,
is we may not all be the same color,
but have so much in common as mankind!

(The Hart Group will Read at SPC on May 11)

Brad Buchanan

The title poem from his new collection:

The Birds of Poverty Ridge

this is the domain of the barn owl
and the yellow-rumped warbler
and the house finch
and the rock pigeon
among other avian avatars—
all my local rivals in song

the bushtit
and the California scrub jay
accompany me on my errand today
a quest to find out where we all are
somewhere west of Newton Booth
an enclave of mission-style architecture

a Nuttal's woodpecker
offers a love tap or two to assess
the sturdiness of arboreal structure
and craftsman design
a northern flicker deserves its name
on its flitting way to someplace else
in concert with a graylag goose

a red-winged blackbird
comes to crown
my search with its
satanic thorn

citizens of this humble rise
on a flat-as-piss-on-a-platter maze
of grids and trees
we are at least not poor in noise
and do not lack variety
of tweets and thrums
the poetry of neglected feathers
and gawping young

these are the cries
of my neighborhood
in all its beauty
and disrepute

(Brad reads from the book at SPC on May 18)

Lenore Myers

At the Window

Inscrutable tangle
of fir and thicket, almost
concealing the barn
across the field, those greens
and golds of nearly summer
and the single door, barely
visible—here,
she's partway out
the window, half-
way to the world
beyond the sill. She reclines
headfirst into the green,
one thick leg
braced upon the chair, good
and bare for climbing up and out
and running far . . .

But no,

most of her remains
in here, cramped
and cool and gray, so gray
it dulls the blouse, the hair.
Why linger in a room
so cold and narrow?

Outside the window

grows a world resinous
and evergreen, deepening
its roots, the shrubbery
with its newly yellow
shoots, the tumultuous
thicket, virtually unseen—oh
let it be my own, the distant barn,
the waiting door, quit
this patient, unnatural
wondering!

(from *Afterimages*, see: Balthus, *Jeune fille à la fenêtre*, 1955)

The Triangular Field

Beyond the hedgerow, just a
scritch, barely human
form, so close to being
landscapey—two triangles
away from serious
grazing sheep, indistinct
as growing grass. Waving
in the solemn green, a blue

someone hailing from
the larger field—calling
another someone—
we'll never know who,
or if they heard. The horse
is grazing comfortably within
the reassuring geometries,
these green, orderly lanes
of light and land. Across
the golden field, aglow
in summer's lengthening, an
apple tree seems to leap
into the light, screaming
beneath her bouffant of leaves—
isn't it usual to see
something a bit wrong?
But leaping is unfolding
life, its nervous squiggles,
in plain sight—here it is
only seeming, and horses,
undisturbed, lack perspective.

(from *Afterimages*, see: Balthus, Great landscape with trees, 1955)

Moira Magneson

The Force That Rules The World

While the other guides were spending their tips
on beer and chips for the long drive over the mountain,
you and I wandered out behind the Agness General Store.
There, a knotted rope and tire suspended from the giant
cottonwood. I climbed on and we didn't dare speak
as you pulled me back as far as the rope would go,
one hand on my hip as you pushed me out out out
I sailed over the gulch, the dappled stones, until I was
midriver, feet skimming the sky—that wide shock of blue—
the summer air humming. To the west, the river's silver sinew
rushing to the ocean. Below, in the shallows, shadows
of steelhead winnowed the current, summoning the force
for the final swim. The rope and I entwined, illumined,
a hot, gold filament. I hung there midair— minutes,
hours, days—then pendulumed back to you,
my body ripe sweet willing.

Camille Norton

The Houseflies

The houseflies are dying
more quickly now.
They no longer live with me
an entire summer, or even half.
This is how I know
that transience
escalates.

I used to name them, make space
for them as I wrote
in my book of sentences.

The flies became tame in the silence
until their iridescence lured me
away from the words on the page
into the mosaic of their five eyes.

And when they died, I was sorry.
That's how lonely I was.

Who was this "I" who was lonely?
I can hardly say.

Lonely as dirt, a common condition.
Tread softly in the dust, Christian.
Tread softly, dust.

Come, little book.

We are a small nocturnal creature
slipping like a comma
into the everlasting gap.

Gene Berson

Geese

I thought for a second they were bowling pins
balanced on the bank of the drained reservoir
but they were so attentive
radiating a devout aura, a congregation
of little monks robed in light
soaking in the last rays of the sun
their brown-hued breasts
filling with the day's last warmth
about twelve of them.
We didn't think wed disturb them
since they seemed far enough away
on the opposite shore
but one started working the rusty hinge of his voice
and they all gently took to the air, flying as one fabric
layering the valley with trombones
spiraling higher as they circled the reservoir
passing above us, lifting just enough
to thread an opening in the trees.
But what if we had been more patient
crouched on our haunches
in the shadows at the base of the trail
and attended the last light with them
felt the coolness come, the darkness, and when
they took off, unable to fully see them,
listened to their wings
as they swept overhead and escaped
with that part of ourselves
no one can see.

(Lenore Myers, Camille Norton, Moira Magneson & Gene Berson will read at SPC on May 25)

LITERARY EVENTS & SERIES IN THE COMMUNITY

All events are Pacific Standard Time unless otherwise noted.

EVENTS NEAR & FAR

Listed by Venue/Organizer

**A SEAT AT THE TABLE BOOKS, ELK GROVE, OPEN
MIC 3rd FRIDAY NIGHTS & MORE**

For Open Mic Night, join ASATT as a performer or attendee and cheer on your fellow artists. Play an instrument, sing a song, perform a dance, or do spoken word, share your poetry, or do a standup routine. All experience levels welcome. Third Fridays, 6:15-7:45 p.m. ASATT hosts many events weekly and throughout the

month. Please see the full schedule at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/a-seat-at-the-table-books-33385319729>. Visit the store website at <https://www.aseatattablebooks.org/>.

A Seat at the Table Books is a community safe space and supportive environment for all. ASATT is located at 9257 Laguna Springs Drive #130, Elk Grove, CA.

THE 3RD ANNUAL ALL IN: THE FESTIVAL OF ACCESSIBLE THEATER, MAY 7-9 & 14-17



For these dark times, Sacramento actors with disabilities prescribe a healthy dose of hope Theater by and about people who are neurodivergent, blind, low-vision, Deaf and hard-of-hearing

The three productions to be presented at next month's ALL IN: The Festival of Accessible Theater find the answer in community and humor.

The 3rd annual ALL IN festival will be presented May 7-9 and 14-17, 2026, at the Wilkerson Theater, 1725 25th Street, in the R25 Arts Center in Midtown Sacramento.

ALL IN: The Festival of Accessible Theater showcases theater without barriers, created by and about people who are blind, low-vision, Deaf, hard-of-hearing and neurodivergent. The festival is presented by Short Center Repertory, a community outreach initiative of Developmental Disabilities Service Organization, in collaboration with InnerVision Theater and Theater V58.

In InnerVision Theater's production, *Somebody to Lean On*, a technology failure leaves two groups of blind travelers stranded together far from home, where limits are tested, assumptions are discarded, and new connections are formed. Guided by blind actress and director Regina Brink, InnerVision's company of blind and low-vision actors collectively devised the production using elements of method acting, improvisation, theatrical clowning and the Theater of the Oppressed techniques of Brazilian theater director Augusto Boal.

Through improv, poetry, music and visual vernacular, the highly physical and expressive form of storytelling unique to Deaf culture, Theater V58's production, *Hands of Hope*, invites us to share some joy and optimism. Co-founded by director Carrie King, an American Sign Language instructor at Cosumnes River College, Theater V58 presents theater in ASL as a cultural resource for the Deaf community in the Sacramento region.

In *Clowns at Play*, directed by Alan Springwind, Short Center Rep's neurodivergent performers mix classical theatrical clown technique with cheerful chaos and a little live music to explore uncertainty with curiosity, imagination and laughter. Short Center Rep's artistic director James C. Anderson has trained and presented neuro-diverse performers for nearly 40 years.

"Unlike what you'll see on mainstream stages, the ALL IN productions place people from these communities at the center of the creative process," said Anderson, who also serves as the ALL IN festival's artistic director. "These productions offer audiences the rare opportunity to see these communities represented onstage on their own terms."

This year's festival takes place over two consecutive weekends, with four performances of each production. Performances will be made accessible using live audio description, ASL interpretation and/or spoken English interpretation.

General admission tickets are available at no charge. Details about the festival partners and productions, performance schedule, tickets and more can be found at www.allintheaterfestival.org

AMATORIA FINE ART BOOKS

<https://amatoriafineartbooks.shop/>

On May 8 at 6 p.m. Amatoria welcomes Dr. Akua Banful for a conversation.

Attensity! will be an evening of discussion and attentional practices surrounding the newly published book *Attensity! A manifesto of the Attention Liberation Movement*.

Akua Banful is a Friend of Attention. She is also an Assistant Professor of English at UC Davis where she teaches courses on literature and food, the environment, and the global black diaspora.

On May 27, Amatoria launches its new music series featuring *Rituals of Mine* on Wednesday, May 27, from 6-8:30 p.m.

Amatoria and the incredible team at Abridged by KVIE are so thrilled to have Rituals of Mine as the first artists in this new series.

Grab your tickets before they're gone for an evening of music, discussion, and possibly discovering your new favorite author or musician.



Joined by members of experimental jazz legends LabRats, @ritualsofmine will play a short set followed by an interview with Terra to chat about her background, her favorite books, and other Sacramento artists that have her

attention.

Important Event Notes:

Seating! This event will be a mix of cozy floor seating with a limited number of chairs. If you will require a chair feel free to reach out ahead of time once your ticket is purchased.

Parking + Bike Rack! Amatoria now has its own bike rack right out front of the store so feel free to opt for two-wheel transport for this and any future event. If you are driving, there is plenty of neighborhood parking available.

Filming! This is a filmed event that will be the property of KVIE and shared on the Abridged platform. The focus will be on the artists and the interviewer but all concert guests may appear on film.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rituals-of-mine-plays-amatoria-fine-art-books-abridged-by-kvie-pbs-tickets-1987956984856?aff=oddttdcreator>

BIRD & BECKETT BOOKS & RECORDS (SF) EVENTS

<https://birdbeckett.com/>

Poets! Series, 1st Thursdays, 7 p.m, Featured poets and open mic

VirtualPoets! — Kim Shuck hosts this Second Monday series, 7-9 p.m.

Walker Talks — Last Thursdays of each month, 7:30 p.m. (except June/July and December), hosted by Walker Brents III.

Bird & Beckett is located at 653 Chenery Street, San Francisco. Phone: 1-415-586-3733.

THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB EVENTS

The California Writers Club (CWC) is one of the oldest and largest writers' clubs in America, founded in 1909. Their mission is to provide education and support for writers in our communities.

They have two meetings every month:

First Friday, 9 - 11 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 7900 College Town Dr. Sacramento 95826

The Friday meeting is a network meeting, with a speaker — gather to talk about your work and to exchange ideas.

Third Saturday, 1 - 3 p.m., at Unitarian Church, 2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95825.

There is a \$12 meeting fee. This meeting features a speaker on topical writing or publishing issues.

More info: <https://cwcsacramentowriters.org/activities/>

CITY LIGHTS BOOKS (SF) UPCOMING EVENTS (IP/OL)

Here are a but a few of the many events coming up at City Lights. Some are in person, others virtual. Details and more at <https://citylights.com/events/>. 261 Columbus Ave, San Francisco, CA 9413, All events and programs are supported and hosted by the City Lights Foundation, dedicated to sustaining a vibrant community of readers, writers, and independent thinkers. Sign up at <https://citylights.com/newsletter/> to receive their weekly calendar.

HIGHLIGHT:

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 7 p.m.

Barry Gifford: City Lights and Seven Stories Press celebrate the publication of *The Exception: Uncle Buck's Book of Irrepressible Navigation* by Barry Gifford, Seven Stories Press

CLASSY HIPPIE OPEN MIC, 1ST FRIDAYS

Vincent Kobelt has brought the Classy Hippie series back in style with live music by the Kamikaze Music Ensemble (KME), featured Poets, open mic, and amazing tea by Leo. Produced by V-Dub and managed by Vincent Kobelt.

On Friday, May 2, 7-9 p.m., Classy Hippie welcomes local legend Ike Torres as the feature for "Luna's Night." hosted by Mario Ellis Hill. Admission is \$10.

Classy Hippie is located at 3200 Broadway, in Oak Park.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE CHRIS BENNETT IN VIRTUAL CONVERSATION, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 6 p.m.

(From Progressives for Bennett)

On May 6, from 6-7:30 p.m., you are invited to join local progressive leaders and community organizers from across CA-03 for a virtual conversation about candidate Congressional Chris Bennett, with a focus on our priorities as a community and how we build it together.

California's 3rd congressional district is a U.S. congressional district in California. It includes the northern Sierra Nevada and northeastern suburbs of Sacramento, stretching south to Death Valley.

This call is an opportunity for this candidate to hear directly from you about what is affecting your area. We will hear from Chris Bennett about his platform, from organizers helping power it, and from our neighbors as they ask Chris questions about the campaigns positions, platform, and how it can best represent the region.

If you haven't already met Chris, you should know that he is a people first, corporate free progressive who wants to be a part of building a better future where our tax dollars go to housing, healthcare, and education instead of starting wars and funding genocide. He has already been endorsed by TrackAIPAC, SEIU California, California Teachers Association, Wellstone Democrats, Courage Candidates, and more.

There is a growing coalition of people who believe we deserve leadership that is clear-eyed, values-driven, and truly representative of its community members. We hope you can be a part of it. We aren't just building to put Chris in Congress, we are building regional power. These times demand for us to meet these moments and we would love to have you on this call!

Please check www.bennettforca.com for more information about the wonderful community built platform this area is creating and more.

You can register for the call at tinyurl.com/progressivesforbennett or directly join day of at: meet.google.com/awg-hipq-upk. You can directly respond with a "count me in" and we can send you the calendar invite if that would be more helpful.

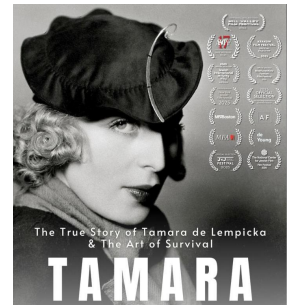
CROCKER MUSEUM PRESENTS: THE TRUE STORY OF TAMARA DE LEMPICKA & THE ART OF SURVIVAL

The Sacramento Jewish Film Festival, in collaboration with the Crocker Art Museum, will showcase The True Story of Tamara De Lempicka & the Art of Survival on May 17, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Details and tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/TAMARA0517>

"I live life in the margins of society. The rules of normal society don't apply to those who live on the fringe."
(Tamara De Lempicka)

Tamara De Lempicka & the Art of Survival is a visually stunning documentary that traces the life and survival of the renowned painter through her powerful paintings — from her rise to international stardom in 1920s Paris, to her move to the United States fleeing fascism in 1940, to her revival in the current art market.



The film follows this remarkable refugee as she reinvents herself multiple times, looking behind the veneer of the publicity she generated for herself and examining the bisexual, Jewish artist who embodied talent, resilience, passion, and a relentless pursuit of artistic freedom.

Join filmmakers Julie Rubio and Blake Wellen, co-producers at East Meets West Productions, LLC, for a post-film Q&A and Reception.

Over 19 years, writer-director-actor Rubio conducted in-depth interviews with Lempicka's family, art historians, museum curators and Art Deco experts. The film reveals Lempicka's true name and Jewish heritage for the first time, through newly-discovered birth and baptism certificates. 8mm home movies, plus her stunning drawings and paintings, depict Lempicka's passionate relationships with both her male and female models. Collectors – including Barbra Streisand, Madonna, and Anjelica Huston – are featured in the film, as Lempicka's popularity soars today; one painting recently sold at auction for over \$21.1 million.

**CULTURE CIRCLE EVENTS
2nd & 4th Thursdays**

Culture Circle is a space to cultivate creativity that presents Open Mic, Open Aux, Open Cypher and guest features. Check out their shows every 2nd & 4th Thursday at 8 p.m. at Whiskey Tango (Foxtrot), 2667 Alta Arden Expressway.

**FIRST CHURCH OF POETRY: SUNDAYS @ NOON
THROUGH MAY @ MCKINLEY PARK**



First Church of Poetry's weekly season starts on Sunday, May 3. The five featured speakers in May are rooted in community and the power of poetry.

There is a hot mic at each Sunday service, so don't miss your chance to hop on it.

5/3 Mercy Rei Tanq
5/10 J.Rowe
5/17 Dylan Collins
5/24 Rita Taste
5/31 MLuv

FCOP will be accepting donations to benefit Sacramento Poetry Week (October).

Hosted by Mercy Rei Tanq and Des.

HE BREWS COFFEE PRESENTS Chocolate and Pearls Spoken Word and Talent OPEN MIC THIRD THURSDAYS

HeBrews Coffee holds an open mic on Third Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. The event is organized and hosted by Roslind Miles. First timers are encouraged to come out! Coffee and snacks will be available for purchase, plus wine tasting.

The event is held at He Brews Coffee & Tea Company, 1540 Jefferson Boulevard, West Sacramento.

LABRATS SUNDAY SESSIONS AT THE TORCH CLUB, WEEKLY 8 p.m.

LabRats Sunday Sessions Music and Poetry Jam is held weekly at the Torch, and features the eponymous jazz / hiphop group in support. Bring your axes and words and join in on this open space for musical and poetic creativity. The Torch Club is located at 904 15th St, Sacramento.

LUCID POETRY SERIES THURSDAYS, 7-9 p.m.

Check out this open mic series at Lucid Winery, located at 1015 R Street.

**MAHOGANY URBAN POETRY
2ND SATURDAYS SERIES**

MalikSpeaks presents the Mahogany Urban Poetry 2nd Saturday Series, 7 p.m. at All City Homes, 3401 34th Street. Hosted by JRowe.

Info, tix link at <https://www.facebook.com/MahoganyUrbanPoetry>

IG: mahoganyurban

**M.I.A. ART MIXER AT MUSICLANDRIA,
THIRD THURSDAYS, 6 p.m.**

M.I.A. (Make Important Art) is a new community-building gathering for Sacramento artists who believe art can move people and shift systems. This is about turning creativity into impact. Finding your entry point. Linking arms. Making change louder together. Come find out and build with at @musiclandria. All mediums. All genres. All levels.

It occurs on Third Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. at Musiclandria, 808 I Street in Sacramento.

MOSAIC OF VOICES LODI 2nd SATURDAYS AT 2 p.m.

The Mosaic of Voices series, hosted by Lodi Poet Laureate Nancy Gonzalez St. Clair, is held at the Lodi Public Library (201 West Locust St, Lodi, CA 95240), on the second Saturday of the month at 2 p.m.

OUT THE WAY ON J SERIES

Held at Mahogany and Rose Salon, 2612 J Street, Suite 5, the Out the Way on J series feature periodical reading and performance. The series is an intimate and soulful event featuring live jazz and spoken word. They have other special cultural events as well. For more info, visit their website at <https://www.mahoganyandrose.com/>.

**POETRY & REVOLT OPEN MIC
S.F. LAST SATURDAY MONTHLY, 6 p.m.**

Black and Brown Social Club, 474 Valencia St (near 16th), San Francisco features poetry, songs, and visions! Last Saturday of each month, 6-8 p.m. Free.

**POETRY IN DAVIS AT NATSOULAS GALLERY:
1st & 3rd THURSDAYS, 7 p.m.**

The Poetry Night Reading Series hosted by Dr. Andy Jones takes place on Thursdays at 7 p.m. on the third floor or on the roof — weather permitting — or in the gallery of the John Natsoulas Gallery, 521 First St. in Davis.

The March 5 reading features Bob Stanley and Connie Johnstone.

Details at <https://poetryindavis.com/>.

**POETRY CENTER SAN JOSE EVENTS (IP/OL) Details:
<https://www.pcsj.org/>**

Check out PCSJ events on their website, including their regular series:

Poetry Lounge, Saturdays

Hosted by Lesa Medley!

Contact Lesa Medley, lmedley016@gmail.com

Well-RED, Tuesdays

Co-sponsored by Works / San José

38 S. 2nd Street, San José

Beautiful Black Books, Saturdays

BBB is a recurring program featuring black writers in conversation followed by a Q&A.

310 South 1st St., San José .

Poetry Exchange, Sundays 1 p.m. via zoom

Contact Lesa Medley, lmedley016@gmail.com

Third Thursdays

Third Thursday is a monthly poetry program in partnership with Poetry Center San José and Willow Glen Public Library, 1157 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose.

Poets@Play Creative Writing Workshop!

Sundays, 1-3 p.m. at Markham House (enter gate at 635 Phelan Avenue, S.J.) Free (donations welcomed).

**POETRY OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS SERIES
AT CHATEAU DAVELL, THIRD SUNDAYS**

(Note: There is no event at Davell in May)

Poetry of the Sierra Foothills at the Chateau Davell Boutique Winery series occurs on the third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

The Chateau Davell Boutique Winery is located at 3020 Vista Tierra Drive, Camino, CA. Details: larag@aol.com.

POETRY IN VALLEJO

Poetry In Notion (Second Saturdays)

Poetry in Notion Poetry Circle is held at the John F. Kennedy Library at 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo. Founded in 2015 by Vallejo's First Poet Laureate Genea Brice, community members are invited to share poetry or just come and listen, every second Saturday. Vallejo's Co-Poets Laureate Jacalyn Eyvonne and Kathleen Herrmann host. Follow the new Vallejo Poets Laureate to stay updated on all their upcoming events! Vallejo Poet Laureate Jacalyn Eyvonne: <https://www.facebook.com/jacalyn.eyvonne.author>. Vallejo Poet Laureate Kathleen Herrmann. solanolibrary.libnet.info/events.

Art Beat Poetry Hour (Fourth Thursdays)

Join host DJ Lala in the studio for Art Beat Poetry Hour. Poets must show up by 10:15 a.m. if you wish to read live on the air. The show is open mic style with sign up right before airtime. Location: 1026 Georgia Street in Vallejo. Studio is on the side of the house. The building has stairs and therefore may be inaccessible. There are also dogs on the property. Locals can listen to OZCAT at 89.5 FM. To listen worldwide use the TuneIn app: <https://tunein.com/radio/Ozcat-Radio-895-s130679/>

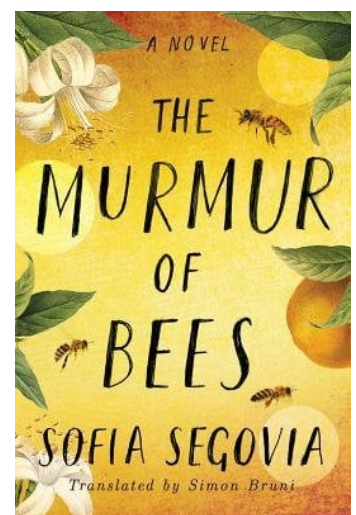
**POETRY UNLEASHED AT PARLIAMENT WINE
LOUNGE, 3RD SUNDAYS**

Michael Gallowglas hosts Poetry Unleashed, a new open mic on the 3rd Sunday of every month 4-6 p.m. Sign ups at 3:30. It's held at The Parliament Wine Lounge, 1001 2nd Street, Old Town, Sacramento. Free.

**THE PRINCESS BOOK CLUB PRESENTS
MURMUR OF BEES BY SOFIA SEGOVIA MAY 15 ,10-3**

Please join The Princess Book Club at the California Honey Festival at the Yolo County Fairgrounds for a book discussion and to enjoy the festivities. Look for the white tent with the pink sign, "The Princess Book Club".

From a beguiling voice in Mexican fiction comes an astonishing novel—her first to be translated into English—about a mysterious child with the power to change a family's



history in a country on the verge of revolution.

From the day that old Nana Reja found a baby abandoned under a bridge, the life of a small Mexican town forever changed. Disfigured and covered in a blanket of bees, little Simonopio is for some locals the stuff of superstition, a child kissed by the devil. But he is welcomed by landowners Francisco and Beatriz Morales, who adopt him and care for him as if he were their own. As he grows up, Simonopio becomes a cause for wonder to the Morales family, because when the uncannily gifted child closes his eyes, he can see what no one else can—visions of all that's yet to come, both beautiful and dangerous. Followed by his protective swarm of bees and living to deliver his adoptive family from threats—both human and those of nature—Simonopio's purpose in Linares will, in time, be divined.

Honey Festival, 1125 East St., Woodland, CA 95776
Questions: Call or text (916) 470-8951
ThePrincessBookClub@yahoo.com

**SELF DESIGNS:
VINCENT KOBELT HOSTS, 2ND FRIDAYS**

Vincent Kobelt & Solidarity will be featured on 2nd Friday in February. Self Designs Art Gallery is a vibrant art gallery at 708 K St, that features talented and award-winning artists from different creative backgrounds from Sacramento and International musicians from around the globe. It is also growing a reputation as a popular venue for poetry and performance. Check out their schedule at <https://selfdesignsartgallery.com/>

**SPEAK YOUR PEACE OPEN MIC AT
ROBERTS FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
THURSDAYS, 6:30 p.m.**

Please check their website for actual event specifics. Roberts Family Development Center provides services to the Greater Sacramento area that meet the individual needs of each family member. Their services provide a holistic approach focusing on PreK-12th grade academic support and enrichment, parent education and engagement, and community involvement and advocacy. <https://robertsfdc.org/>. 766 Darina Ave, Sacramento.

**T-MO PRESENTS EPIC VIBES (POETRY, MUSIC, AND
COMEDY SHOW) SATURDAY, MAY 9, 7 p.m.**

Whether you're a fan of spoken word, live music, or stand-up, this show promises something for everyone. The event features Comedian Insane Wayne (as seen on AGT), Live band Public, Poets David Loret de Mola and Anna Marie. Hosted & MC'd by Terry Moore.

The event will be held at The Lock & Key (by Harlow's), 2718 J Street, Sac, CA 95816.
Info: 916 208-POET. Admission \$10

**TWIN LOTUS THAI POETRY SERIES:
3rd TUESDAY, 6 p.m.**

Bob Stanley's Twin Lotus poetry series welcomes featured readers at 6 p.m. with an open mic following. Note that it is now held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Featured on May 19 at Twin Lotus Thai will be Patricia Wentzel, with a video of Mike Owens reading his poems. Mike is incarcerated.

Twin Lotus Thai serves wonderful Thai food (full menu) is open during the reading, and is located at 8345 Folsom Blvd # 119 in Sacramento. Reservations and pre-ordering are strongly requested for events — please go to twinlotusthai.com to reserve your table and place your order. Please arrive at 5 or 5:30 if you can!

**TWO RIVERS CIDER POETRY & MUSIC SERIES,
FIRST FRIDAYS, 6 P.M. MAY 1**

Poets join Local Sounds at Two Rivers Cider from 6-9 p.m. on First Fridays from here on out. Featured on Friday, May 1 will be Maris Juwono, Wren Hoggan, Thomas Vogt, and Leone VuetiavaValagi. Explore the Local-Verse, imbibing with poets from Sacramento and beyond. Poets will read between music sets. Two Rivers is located at 4311 Attawa Ave in Sacramento.

**WRITE CLUB IS NOW THREE TIMES A MONTH; 1ST
MONDAYS, 2ND SATURDAYS, 3RD THURSDAYS**

Write Club, political poetry writing campaign, will now be offered three times a month. The poetry workshop is facilitated by Sacramento poet Mercy Rei Tanq.

First Monday, 7:30 p.m. at The Silver Lining Piano Bar, 1414 16th St. Sacramento.

Second Saturday, 2 p.m. at the Lavender Library (@sacllace) 1414 21st St. Sacramento.

Third Thursday, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom in partnership with the incredible Listen To Your Skin (@listen2yourskin)

All skill levels lovingly encouraged. The events are free.

More at @atransklaxon / @grrlphag.

STORYTELLING

THE SACRAMENTO STORYTELLERS GUILD: THIRD SATURDAYS AT 2 p.m. @ SPC

The Sacramento Storytellers Guild meets at the Poetry Center, 1719 25th St., on the third Saturday of each month from 2-3:45 p.m. for themed storytelling and poetry, and provides light refreshments.

Zoom in at: <https://zoom.us/j/91354356933> Meeting ID: 913 5435 6933 For further information, contact Karen Daly at dalyact5314@gmail.com or Joyce Ormond at ormondjoyce2@gmail.com.

CAPLIT STORYTELLING @ CLARA, MAY 22

CapLit (at CLARA) presents Features Vanessa Hua and Rob Davidson, Friday, May 22, 7pm, at CLARA. CapLit, the successor to the long-running Stories on Stage Sacramento series, pairs prose selections with professional actors who read the pieces to a live audience. The May event will feature excerpts from Bay Area writer Vanessa Hua's new novel, *Coyoteland*, as well as a short story by Chico-area writer Rob Davidson, from his most recent collection, *Welcome Back to the World*.

Friday, May 22, 7pm at the Auditorium at CLARA, 1425 24th St. in Midtown Sacramento. Doors open at 6:30. \$10 donation requested; no one turned away for lack of funds. CapLit.org.

WORKSHOPS NEAR & FAR

SPC AFFILIATED WORKSHOPS

SPC TUESDAY NIGHT POETRY WORKSHOP: NEW START TIME: TUESDAYS AT 7 p.m.

Due to the good fortune of growing participation, the Tuesday Night Workshop is now starting at 7 p.m. Danyen Powell has been facilitating the Tuesday Night Poetry Workshop at The Sacramento Poetry Center for over 30 years. It's a hybrid event: both in person at the Sacramento Poetry Center, 1719 25th St., and on Zoom. Designed to elicit constructive feedback, the workshop involves a critique of presented work. It begins promptly at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Writers can participate in the workshop by emailing one poem on a standard sized sheet of typing paper to: sac.tuesday.poetry@gmail.com by 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays so all the poems are screen-shared from one place. For more information, please write to sac.tuesday.poetry@gmail.com.

POLYPHONICS: A WORKSHOP OF POETS IN CONVERSATION, WEDNESDAYS AT 7 p.m. @ SPC

The workshop is conducted by poet and SPC member Kyle Griffiths. The generative writing workshop explores the intersections of diverse voices and creative energies, shaping a shared poetic dialogue. Overarching themes will be proposed as the lens through which to guide your writing. Each session will center on one of these themes, using a variety of writing modalities — journal entries, personal letters, descriptive exercises, and reflective prompts — to deepen the exploration. This workshop will foster intimate discussion, meaningful feedback, and a deeply supportive creative space. The workshop is conducted by poet and SPC member Kyle Griffiths. If

you're interested in participating, or have questions, drop a note to kylegriffithsband@gmail.com.

COAST TO COAST POETRY CONSORTIUM SUNDAYS, 3 p.m.

Coast-to-Coast Poetry is a critique workshop dedicated to working through the process that brings poetry to the printed page. They meet once a week, Sundays at 3 p.m. via Zoom. This is a serious group of writers that will stretch your levels through kind and constructive questioning. The questions are always about the work and never about the poet. Each participant brings a poem (1) to be read followed by a round robin discussion that takes approximately ten minutes per poem. The group is curated by Len Germinara. If this interests you, contact Len directly at www.lensir@hotmail.com

MARIEWRITERS WEDNESDAYS AT 6 p.m.

MarieWriters was founded in honor of Marie Reynolds, a Sacramento poet whom many were lucky to know. Before Marie died of breast cancer in fall 2018, we started a weekly writing group in her name. MarieWriters is a generative workshop—one person brings a prompt; and we all write for 30 minutes. Then we share what we've written and provide positive feedback—commenting on the strong points in each other's writing. The workshop is facilitated by Bob Stanley. MarieWriters meets Wednesday nights, online, starting at 6 p.m., and always welcomes new writers!

New link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81754439193?pwd=HFFo6xbvVllaiKYGu8M4LOgg8sfvIL.1>

info: www.nickleforce.com → Inside Out. Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/upwkde-opjkpnyQECAVBKoiY4hKCdl61uAT>

WRITING FROM THE INSIDE OUT, THURSDAYS 5 p.m.

Writing From The Inside Out is a weekly prompt writing course facilitated by Nick LeForce, attended by a group of your fellow writers, poets, and those wishing to use writing for personal growth and expression. You get a prompt at the beginning of the week, and then have a read-around on zoom at the end of the week. It's free, fun, a great way to share, and reading a poem is optional. Please register to participate. You will receive a writing prompt every Monday morning by email to use as a catalyst (or use your own inspiration) to write your original work. We meet on Thursday afternoons at 5 p.m. via zoom to read our work to each other, and use the basic AWA format for commenting on shared work. Once you have registered, you do not need to register again, simply use the link sent to you in your confirmation email. More

SAC POETS WORKSHOPS AT SPC, THURSDAYS (EXCEPT FIRST), 7 p.m.

Sac Poets, directed by Chio Saetern, is a poetry community that hosts a variety of workshops, a poetry book club, and a poets' group therapy (with a professional, offsite). Their mission is to empower the diverse poets of Sacramento through free and accessible workshops and education, and create a collective identity for poetry in our city. They meet on Thursdays (except for the first Thursday of the month) at SPC, and hold events on other days elsewhere. Follow them on instagram @sacpoets; for more information/questions write to them at sacpoets916@gmail.com.

OTHER WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, LECTURES, RETREATS, & CONFERENCES

LOCAL, MORE OR LESS, & ONLINE

COMMUNITY OF WRITERS SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Poetry Program June 22-28, 2026

The Poetry Workshop is founded on the belief that when poets gather in a community to write new poems, each poet may well break through old habits and write something stronger and truer than before. The idea is to try to expand the boundaries of what one can write. In the mornings, meet to read to each other the work of the previous twenty-four hours, and in the late afternoons gather for a conversation about some aspect of craft.

Poetry Staff

Kazim Ali, Ama Codjoe, Carmen Giménez, Brenda Hillman, Brian Teare, Matthew Zapruder

Writers Workshops July 10-17, 2026

These workshops in fiction, narrative nonfiction, and memoir assist serious writers by exploring the art and craft as well as the business of writing. The week offers daily morning workshops, craft lectures, panel discussions on editing and publishing, staff readings, special programs, and brief individual conferences.

Special Guests: Thomas Barbash, Jean Guerrero, Katy Hays, Michelle Latiolais, Michael Spurgeon, Amy Tan

Teaching Staff & Authors: Lisa Alvarez, Chris Feliciano Arnold, Mac Crane, Leslie Daniels, Tyler Dilts Janet Fitch, Samuel Freedman, Francisco Goldman, Sands Hall, Dana Johnson, Louis B. Jones, Dylan Landis, Krys Lee, Ananda Lima, Kelly McMasters, Keenan Norris, Peter Orner, Jason Roberts, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, Julia Flynn Siler, Gregory Spatz, Héctor Tobar, Andrew Tonkovich, Josh Weil

Literary Agents & Editors: Lashanda Anakwah (Tiny Reparations), Michael Carlisle (Inkwell Mgmt.), Lucy Carson (Friedrich Agency), Michael Mungiello (Inkwell Mgmt.), Tara Parsons (HarperCollins), Todd Portnowitz (Knopf), BJ Robbins (BJ Robbins Literary), Andrew Tonkovich (Santa Monica Review), Oscar Villalon (ZYZZYVA), Blaise Zerega (Alta Journal)

Published Alumni Reading Series

Each summer, recently published alumni are invited to return to Olympic Valley to read from their books and talk about their journey from unpublished writers to published authors. The Community of Writers is delighted to celebrate the success of these writers and to present them to the participants, staff, and the public.

Features include Jeanne Carstensen, Vishwas Gaitonde, AnnElise Hatjakes, Daniel Pope, and A.M. Sosa.

Other Opportunities at the Writing Workshops

The Alchemy of Adaptation — From Book to Screen:
A special afternoon class led by writer/producer Patricia K. Meyer & assisted by screenwriter Mel Bloomer

The Book Proposal:

A special afternoon seminar for writers of nonfiction or memoir led by author Samuel Freedman

Open Workshop:

A special afternoon workshop led by Sands Hall
The workshops are held in-person at Palisades Tahoe, a ski resort located in the California Sierra Nevada, (site of the 1960 Winter Olympics) in Olympic Valley near the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Our workshops and events take place in the Olympic House, a ski lodge at the foot of the slopes. Summers are warm and sunny; participants will have opportunities to hike to the local waterfalls, take nature walks up the mountain, swim in Lake Tahoe, or bike along the Truckee River. The elevation is 6200 feet.

JAN HAAG WRITING GROUP WORKSHOP: INQUIRE FOR MORE DETAILS

Jan Haag leads generative creative writing workshops, both in person and online in Sacramento using the Amherst Writers and Artists method. Her writing groups (limited to 10 in person, a dozen online) are not critique groups, but places to craft spontaneous poetry, fiction or nonfiction/memoir inspired by prompts. Participants can also revise / add to something the writer already has in progress — or simply to journal and see what shows up. Every session offers writers an opportunity to write, then read their brand new work aloud. Listeners respond with observations — no critique, questions or suggestions. Fee: \$30 per writing session, either in person or online. Jan's workshops are generally full, but if you want to inquire about availability, contact Jan at janishaag@gmail.com. The in-person group meets at Jan's space in the R25 Theater complex. "Team Haag" as someone has named it, publishes an annual chapbook called *Soul of the Narrator* that contains work by writers who have written in the group over the previous year.

Everyone who wishes to may submit work for inclusion. Copies are available for \$10, including shipping, by contacting Jan Haag at janishaag@gmail.com.

THE HART CENTER WORKSHOP TUESDAYS, 2 p.m.

The Hart Center Workshop is facilitated by Olga Browne and Aiesha Jones and meets at Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street in Marshall Park in Sacramento Tuesday from 2-3:30 p.m. More information: chulabrowne@gmail.com.

SIP AND SCRIBBLE:

CREATIVE WRITING LAB WITH MICHAEL GALLOWGLAS, 1ST SATURDAYS, NOON

Michael Gallowglas facilitates this lab on the 1st Saturday of every month 12 p.m. at The Parliament Wine Lounge, 1001 2nd Street, Old Town, Sacramento. Free.

VETERANS' VOICES WORKSHOP EL DORADO COUNTY 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS

Veterans' Voices is a free writing workshop that is open to all veterans, from any branch of service. It offers a supportive environment and the tools needed for the writing of fiction and nonfiction stories, service related or not, as well as memoir, poetry and drama.

Sue Norman and Lara Gularte will be facilitating new Veteran's Voices Writing Workshop sessions in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville respectively. Lara Gularte's Placerville Workshops will be held the first and third Wednesdays at the Switchboard Gallery, 525 Main Street, Placerville.

CAMERON PARK LIBRARY WORKSHOP — 1st TUESDAYS & 3rd THURSDAYS, 5:30 p.m.

Lara Gularte and Beverly Paranyo facilitate these free all-levels, multi-genre writing workshops in an encouraging space for poets and writers, held at the Cameron Park Library.

For the workshops bring up to six pages of prose or one or two poems to share. Make copies to handout. For information, contact laralg@aol.com.

POETS AND WRITERS OF EL DORADO WRITING WORKSHOP: WRITING WORDS TO LIGHT THE WAY Last Thursday, Monthly

Poets and Writers of El Dorado, "Writing Words to Light the Way" workshop series is focused on expanding boundaries of thought and exploring themes of social action and human rights. It includes critique of writing, sharing notable works, encouraging publication.

The workshop, facilitated by Lara Gularte, will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the El Dorado Hills Library, 7455 Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills.

POETS & WRITERS CLASSES & WORKSHOPS
INFO: www.pw.org/content/workshops_classes

Are We There Yet?

A Class on Story Revision, Led by Peter Ho Davies
May 6, 7, & 8, 2026 6–8 p.m. EDT

In this course, we'll endeavor to resee revision; to confront our various biases against it; to study examples of it from life, literature, and pop culture; and to practice several strategies for achieving it, all in an effort to address that primal writerly wail: "Are we there yet?" To talk, in other words, about doneness, the final draft—how we get there, and crucially how we know we've gotten there.

Peter Ho Davies' most recent books are the novel *A Lie Someone Told You About Yourself* (Mariner Books, 2021), a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and *The Art of Revision: The Last Word* (Graywolf Press, 2021), his first work of non-fiction.

Letting Characters Misbehave: Writing Ethical Tension in Fiction, Led by Uttama Kirit Patel
May 13 & 20, 2026 7–9 p.m. EDT

Compelling fiction often emerges from characters who act against expectation—morally, socially, or emotionally. This course focuses on writing ethically questionable characters and sustaining narrative tension without simplifying for likability or resolution. We will explore how contradiction, ambiguity, and restraint deepen characters and strengthen a story's emotional force.

Uttama Kirit Patel is a writer, editor, and author of the novel *Shape of an Apostrophe* (Serpent's Tail, 2025), whose work has been featured in the *Tribune*, *Vogue*, *BBC*, *Literary Hub*, *Times of India*, and *Wasafiri*, among others.

How to Work With an Editor
Led by Adrienne Westenfeld
June 1, 8, & 15, 2026 6:30–8:30 p.m. EDT

This class is your guide to navigating the entire life cycle of a story, from pitching your writing to shaping it throughout the entire publishing process. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and writing exercises, students will learn how to craft the perfect pitch, collaborate effectively with assigning editors, and shine during the revision process.

Adrienne Westenfeld is a writer and editor with a decade of experience at the intersection of glossy magazines and book publishing. Most recently, she was the books and fiction editor at *Esquire*. In January 2025, she founded *Adrienne Westenfeld Editorial* to continue her mission of empowering writers and championing impactful stories.

The Act of Self-Confrontation in Memoir
Led by Deborah Taffa
June 3 & 10, 2026 7–9 p.m. EDT

If you weren't frightened by what others might think, what story would you tell? In this two-series class, we'll explore the act of ethical remembering, how to create characters out of your people, and how to build a persona for yourself. Through close readings, craft lessons, and discussion, we will explore your subjective lens, the role of fear and honesty in memoir, and the importance of honoring your nesting dolls and/or former selves.

Award-winning author, Deborah Taffa, is the director of the MFA in Creative Writing program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her memoir, *Whiskey Tender* (Harper, 2024), was a finalist for the 2024 National Book Award, as well as a longlisted title for a 2025 Carnegie Medal, and won both a Southwest Book Prize and an International Latino Book Award.

The Art of the Travel Essay. Led by Matt Ortile
June 6, 13, & 20, 2026 1–3 p.m. EDT

In this three-session generative craft class, we will study the fundamentals of how to write a first-person travel essay. Sessions will focus on multiple ways of telling a tale, the power dynamics between a writer and their subject, and how to sell an article to an editor for publication. It will culminate in a "pitch symposium" where students will volunteer to share their ideas and get feedback from the instructor.

Matt Ortile is the author of the essay collection *The Groom Will Keep His Name* (Bold Type Books, 2020) and a co-editor of the essay anthology *Body Language: Writers on Identity, Physicality, and Making Space for Ourselves* (Catapult, 2022). He is also an editor, writer, and on-camera host at *Condé Nast Traveler*.

Spring Ahead: Applying for Grants, Fellowships, and Residencies, Led by Shelley Wong
June 7 & 14, 2026 3–5 p.m. EDT

In this two-day virtual workshop, we'll discuss where to find opportunities and get introspective for artist statements, project descriptions, and other documents to build the foundation portfolio for your applications for grants, fellowships, and residencies.

Shelley Wong is the author of *As She Appears* (YesYes Books, 2022), longlisted for the National Book Award for poetry and winner of the Lambda Literary Award for lesbian poetry. Her recent poems have appeared in *Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, and the *New Republic*.

AWARDS, CONTESTS, SUBMISSIONS, FELLOWSHIPS, & PUBLISHING

You can find more information about publishing opportunities at <https://www.pw.org/>, <https://murphywriting.com/resources-for-writers-and-poets/> and other sources online.

ARRANGED BY DEADLINE

FRONTIER 2026 DEBUT CHAPBOOK CONTEST PATRICIA SMITH JUDGES; DEADLINE: MAY 10

For this contest, Frontier is looking for submissions from poets with no prior chapbook or full-length manuscript of poetry published or forthcoming prior to submission to this contest; manuscripts which center a clearly envisioned and executed theme, motif, and/or throughline.

Submit a manuscript of 15-30 pages. The winner will receive \$2,000 and publication, which includes 25 physical author copies to share and sell and distribution at Bookshop.org, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble, earning 50% royalties on your chapbook. Additionally, tens of thousands of readers, editors, and magazines will receive chapbook access through their newsletter. Their goal is to offer a catalytic stepping stone to help launch your poetic career.

The guest judge, Patricia Smith, will select the winner this year from ten finalists curated by our editorial team.

Details: <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/2026/04/13/may-deadlines-2026/>

THE STANLEY KUNITZ MEMORIAL PRIZE DEADLINE: MAY 15

The Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize honors the late Stanley Kunitz's dedication to mentoring poets. The winning poem will appear on the feature page of the September/October issue of The American Poetry Review, and the poet will receive a prize of \$1,000. All entrants will receive a copy of the magazine. Poets may submit one to three poems per entry (totaling no more than three pages) with a \$15 entry fee by May 15, 2026.

No limit on number of entries per poet. Previous winners of the Kunitz Prize include Ocean Vuong, Alex Dimitrov, Nicole Sealey, Jane Wong, Elly Bookman, Maggie Queeney, Jared Harel, Katie Peterson, Ruth Madievsky, Iris McCloughan, Joy Priest, Casey Thayer, and Susan Nguyen.

Guidelines and details: <https://americanpoetryreview.submittable.com/submit/11755/stanley-kunitz-memorial-prize>

THE ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS PRESENTS DEAR POET 2026, DEADLINE: MAY 15

Engage directly with award-winning poets as part of National Poetry Month.

Every National Poetry Month we present Dear Poet, a multimedia education project that invites young people in grades five through twelve to write letters in response to poems written and read by award-winning poets.

Students may choose a poem provided below, watch the poet read their poem, and write a letter in response to the reading. Students may submit their letters themselves, or teachers may submit on behalf of their students using the linked Google forms below.

Every letter will be read by a team of volunteers, and all students can expect a general response from the poet to whom they wrote, as well as a certificate honoring their work. Five letters to each of our nine participating poets will be selected at the end of National Poetry Month, and the poets will write a personalized response to the selected student letters. The letters will be published in a shareable, PDF booklet during the summer.

Details: <https://poets.org/dearpoet>

CRAB CREEK REVIEW POETRY PRIZE DEADLINE: MAY 15

The Crab Creek Review Poetry Prize is open for submissions. This year's judge is Vandana Khanna. Winning poem will receive \$500 cash prize. Winner and finalists will be published in the fall issue of Crab Creek Review. All poems are eligible for publication. Semifinalists will be notified by early July. The winner and finalists will be announced in July. Please submit no more than up to four (4) poems in a submission.

Details: <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/2026/04/13/may-deadlines-2026/>

GEORGIA REVIEW THE LORAIN WILLIAMS POETRY PRIZE, DEADLINE: MAY 15

Brian Teare will serve as the final judge for the 2026 Loraine Williams Poetry Prize. Each year one winner gets

\$1,500 and publication. We also publish three finalists, each of whom receives \$200.

A 2020 Guggenheim Fellow, Brian Teare is the author of seven critically acclaimed books of poetry, including *Doomstead Days*, winner of the Four Quartets Prize, and *Poem Bitten by a Man*, winner of the William Carlos Williams Award. A selected essays, *Textual Preference*, will be out from Nightboat in 2027. A professor of poetry at the University of Virginia, Teare lives in Charlottesville, where he makes books by hand for his micropress, Albion Books.

The winner and selected finalists of last year's prize can be read in our Spring 2026 issue, arriving later in March.

Submissions to the Loraine Williams Poetry Prize must be sent either through Submittable from March 1 through May 15 or by regular mail postmarked within the same span of time. Submissions cost \$25. All submitted poems will be considered for publication; any selected will be paid our regular poetry honorarium of \$4 per line.

<https://www.thegeorgiareview.com/the-loraine-williams-poetry-prize/>

THE RIVER HERON POETRY PRIZE DEADLINE: MAY 31

"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself."
— Albert Camus

The 2026 Poetry Prize Winners will be announced on or before July 31, 2026
The River Heron Poetry Prize awards the winning poet \$500 and four finalists \$100 each, a Zoom reading, plus publication.

The winning poet will receive a \$500 award and four finalists \$100 each, a Zoom reading, and publication in a special contest issue released on August 1.

Final judge is Alison Tanik, winner of the 2025 River Heron Poetry Prize.

Details: <https://www.riverheronreview.com/the-rhr-poetry-contest>

THE ANHINGA PRIZE FOR POETRY DEADLINE: MAY 31

The Anhinga Prize for Poetry began in 1983. The competition is open to all U.S. poets for a manuscript of original poetry in English. The winner receives \$1000, 25 author copies, and a 50% discount on books. They will

also offer an online reading for the winner and a \$500 stipend for book-related travel. All manuscripts are screened carefully by paid readers and Anhinga Board members/directors. Our reading team is diverse in aesthetic and style. Five of six current readers are published poets, and all have advanced degrees and/or experience in publishing and writing. The top ten finalists will be sent to judge Karin Gottshall.

Details: <https://www.anhingapress.org/new-page>

TWO SYLVIAS PRESS CHAPBOOK PRIZE JUDGES BY KIM ADDONIZIO, DEADLINE: MAY 31

Created with the belief that great writing is good for the world, Two Sylvias Press mixes modern technology, classic style, and literary intellect with an eco-friendly heart. Submit a manuscript of 17-24 pages of poetry (not including title page, table of contents, end notes). In the body of your emailed submission, include a short bio, manuscript title, page length, author's name, address, email, and acknowledgements of previous published poems, if any. Winner receives \$1000, print publication of their chapbook, 20 author copies, and an amethyst depression glass trophy. This prize is judged by Kim Addonizio.

Details: <https://twosylviaspress.com/chapbook-prize.html>

BUTTON POETRY FIRST BOOK CONTEST DEADLINE: JUNE 1

Entry Details:

\$25 entry fee, per submission (multiple and simultaneous submissions allowed)

Prize: \$1,000 + Publication + 25 Author Copies

Submitter Eligibility:

This competition is open to writers of ALL AGES from anywhere in the world. If chosen for publication and under the age of majority, you will need a signature from a legal guardian.

Submitters must not have a full length published poetry collection available or forthcoming from any press. If submitters have previously published in a different genre or a chapbook collection, they may still submit.

More detailed guidelines will be available via Submittable. If you have questions please reach out to support@buttonpoetry.com.

Details: <https://buttonpoetry.com/first-book-contest/>

**POETRY CENTER SAN JOSÉ
CALL FOR SUBMISSION TO CÆSURA 2026
DEADLINE: JUNE 1 (JUNE 15, PCSJ MEMBERS)**

This year's theme is: LIFELINE.

What helps you feel grounded? How do you remember what you know? We live life with a constant sense of urgency and it is hard to filter through the chaos. What or who is your filter to calm, inspiration, and or radical joy?

Caesura acceptc submissions from March 15th–June 1st 2026 for the general public, June 15th 2026 for Poetry Center San Jose Members. They have a print and online edition. During the submission process, you will be asked if you want to be considered for print, online or both. Submissions may be published on one format or the other. They accept unpublished work only. No reprints. No AI submissions!!

Simultaneous submissions are welcome. If your work is accepted elsewhere, please email caesura@pcsj.org to withdraw the whole or part of your submission.

Details: <https://www.pcsj.org/submission-guidelines>

2026 RATTLE POETRY PRIZE, DEADLINE: JULY 15

The annual Rattle Poetry Prize offers \$15,000 for a single poem to be published in the winter issue of the magazine. Ten finalists will also receive \$500 each and publication, and be eligible for the \$5,000 Readers' Choice Award, to be selected by subscriber and entrant vote. Additional poems from the entries are frequently offered publication as well. In 2024 we published 29 poems that had been submitted to the contest from over 5,000 entries.

With the winners judged in an anonymized review by the editors to ensure a fair and consistent selection, an entryfee that is simply a one-year subscription to the magazine—and a large Readers' Choice Award to be chosen by the writers themselves—we've designed the

Rattle Poetry Prize to be one of the most inspiring contests around.

Details: <https://rattle.com/page/poetryprize/>

**RED WHEELBARROW POETRY PRIZE
JUDGED BY LEE HERRICK; DEADLINE: JULY 31**

The Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize 2026 will be open for submissions through July 31, 2026. Lee Herrick will be the final judge!

Simultaneous submission OK but please notify immediately if your work is accepted elsewhere.

The contest is open to all styles of poetry from national and international participants writing in English except individuals who are employees and/or board members for Red Wheelbarrow Literary Magazine and Poetry Center San José.

Three prizes: \$1,000, \$500, \$250.

Five finalists published in 2026 red Wheelbarrow Literary Magazine. Letterpress broadside of winning poem printed by Gary Young, Greenhouse Review Press!

Submit up to three unpublished poems in a single manuscript. Fee per manuscript is \$15.00;

Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize is sponsored by Poetry Center San José and Red Wheelbarrow Literary Magazine. For information about Poetry Center San José, visit www.pcsj.org. For information about Red Wheelbarrow Literary Magazine, visit <https://www.deanza.edu/english/creative-writing/red-wheelbarrow.html>

*2026 Red Wheelbarrow
Poetry Prize*



*Submission Deadline: July 31st
Final Judge: Lee Herrick*

<https://redwheelbarrow.submittable.com/submit>

“I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We’ve been taught that silence would save us, but it won’t.”

— Audre Lorde

POET NEWS INFO & REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION & PARTICIPATION

POET NEWS, The Sacramento Poetry Center's literary review and calendar, is published ten times a year.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR STUFF: POETRY, ESSAYS, BOOK REVIEWS WELCOME!

Submissions of poems, reviews, essays, and other work of interest to the literary community, including community events are welcome, via email to spcog97@gmail.com. We are also accepting submissions of poetry, translations of poetry, reviews of poetry and poetry related books, articles about poetry and poets, interviews with poets and literary writers, and essays relevant to contemporary literature. We are also interested in info about original theater in the community as well as reviews of local performances of original pieces. All submissions are subject to reasonable editing (except poetry!). The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month prior to the publication date.

EDITORS WANTED

Additionally, we are seeking volunteer editors to help make the newsletter a more useful resource in the community by helping to gather information regarding literary events, workshops, grants and the like in region, solicit articles and essays for publication, gather information and announcements of importance such as new books by local writers in the community, and so forth. We also need volunteer copy editors to aid in making sure that what we publish is accurate, and who can distill a lot of information into a concise format and meet important deadlines prior to publication. If you're

interested in this, please contact us at spcog97@gmail.com.

Poet News, for the time being, will be available via a link in an email to our subscribers and members, and posted on our website. (NOTE: Work published in Poet News will also appear on the SPC website, sacpoetrycenter.org.) Editor: Patrick Grizzell .

The Poet Tree, Incorporated, dba **The Sacramento Poetry Center** is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing forums for local poets — including publications, workshops, readings, conferences, and other special events. It is operated by an entirely volunteer board and staff. The SPC Board of Directors meets the 1st Thursday of each month, except for special meetings, which will be announced in advance.

Board of Directors (as of July 2025)

Patrick Grizzell — President
Maris Juwono — Secretary
Phyllis Hayes — Treasurer
Julia Connor — Member at Large
Traci Gourdine — Member at Large
Charlize Velasco — Member at Large

Contact us at:

The Sacramento Poetry Center,
1719 25th Street, sacpoetrycenter.org
Sacramento, Ca 95816
or via sacpoetrycenter.org

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF SPC

Your tax-deductible donation helps us keep the lights on and our events free to the public. In addition to our endless gratitude, you'll receive our publications, such as the annual *Tule Review*, and special publications and discounts on rare ticketed events that we present or co-sponsor.

Visit: <https://www.sacpoetrycenter.org/draft-membership>

OUR WARMEST THANKS IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER!