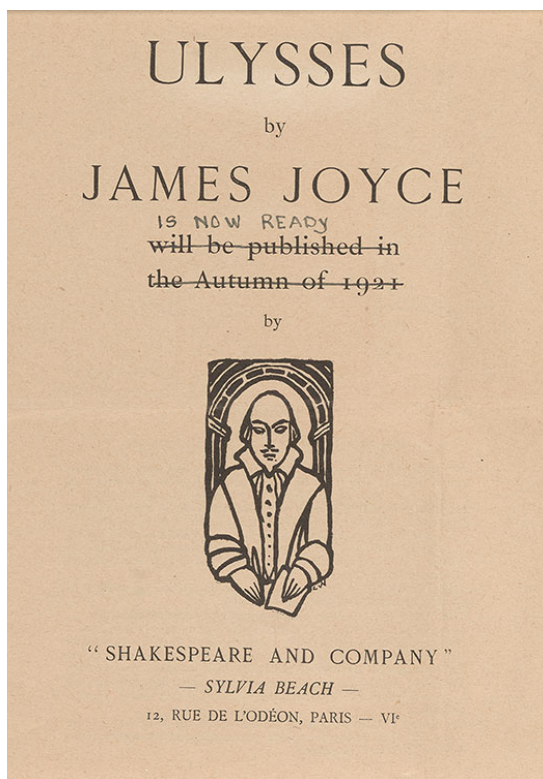




POET NEWS



The illustration is a 1921 announcement of the pending publication of *Ulysses* by Sylvia Beach, with a handwritten update.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Page 2 | JUNE EVENTS AT SPC |
| Page 8 | NEWS & UPDATES FROM SPC & PROJECTS WE SUPPORT |
| Page 13 | POETRY: EICHBAUER, GALLOWGLAS, GOURDINE, GRIFFITHS, JOYCE, O'DALY, STANLEY, & ZUMBIEL |
| Page 24 | BOOK REVIEW: GOFF ON FISK
RECOMMENDED READING:
NEW COLLECTIONS |
| Page 27 | EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY |
| Page 36 | WORKSHOPS & CLASSES,
OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES,
AWARDS & SUBMISSION CALLS |

SPC JUNE EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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

All Open Mic Night!

Saturday, June 6, 1-5 p.m.

Palestinian Tatreez Workshop & Reception

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

A Performance Featuring William O'Daly
& Shakuachi master Christopher Yohmei Blasdel

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

Bloomsday: A Celebration of James Joyce
& Book Release for Michael Gallowglas

Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.

A Farewell to Polyphonics
& Bon Voyage to Kyle Griffiths

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

A Reading Featuring Stan Zumbiel (Book Release)
& Traci Gourdine

Saturday, June 27, 5-7 p.m.

Closing Reception for Gaza Remains the Story

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

A Reading Featuring Bob Stanley & Mary Eichbauer
(Book Release)

SPC EVENTS IN JUNE

All SPC events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Some of our events are supported by a grant from the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture.

Note: We want to thank everyone who supported us for our fundraiser on Thursday, May 7 — and Maris Juwono for putting together a great poetry live stream, and for your support of the letterpress — and Bob Stanley & Joyce Hsiao for their generosity in hosting it at their home). You will find an update about the press on page 19. Your donations go a very long way in supporting all of our programs and projects.

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

An All Open Mic!

SPC will not host featured guest readers on June 1. Instead, bring your best poems on any subject and read us one or two! Time limits will be based on the number of signups, which will happen between 7 and 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 6, 1-3 p.m.: Workshop / 3-5 p.m.: Open House

In Conjunction with the Gaza Remains The Story Exhibit (Continuing through June 27)

SBSC presents a Tatreez Palestinian Embroidery Workshop with Dana Ammouri

(\$60) RSVP Required, Followed by an Open House (Free)



SPC has been honored to host the exhibit titled Gaza Remains The Story (which continues until June 27), organized by Sacramento Bethlehem Sister City. Special thanks to Patricia Daugherty and Janice Nakashima for all their work to put this together.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Sacramento Bethlehem Sister City will host a special hands-on workshop at SPC with Dana Ammouri on the art of Tatreez, traditional Palestinian cross stitch embroidery which is a kind of "living archive" — motifs, colors, and stitching styles that historically tell a larger story of cultural identity.

The workshop runs from 1-3 p.m. with an open viewing of examples of Tatreez as well as the Gaza Remains the Story exhibit following

from 3-5 p.m. Please note: The workshop is a paid event, but the open house following is free. Seating is limited to 10 people, so please register as soon as possible to reserve a spot.

Register here: <http://bit.ly/3P65pIE>. Make payments via Venmo: @Dana-Ammouri. Partial scholarships are available. Contact: SacramentoBethlehem@yahoo.com.

Cost for the workshop is \$60 per person. The fee includes fabric, embroidery threads and needles, pattern card and instructions, and more.

The workshop is geared for beginners (and more experienced people), but no sewing or embroidery experience is required to participate.

Palestinian embroidery encompasses at least a dozen different stitches. In this course you will learn the most widely recognized stitch, a cross-stitch. Cross-stitch is practiced in many parts of the world, with every culture bringing its own techniques, patterns, and traditions to the craft. In this workshop, discover how Palestinians use cross-stitch on their dresses to share stories of identity, community, and heritage. You will also learn how different regions of Palestine developed their own distinct motifs, colors, and styles, offering a unique way to experience Palestinian culture.

Workshop participants will be guided step-by-step through foundational stitches and create their own small, embroidered piece to take home.

Please join us!

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

A Performance Featuring Poet William O'Daly and Shakuhachi Master Christopher Yohmei Blasdel



Internationally renowned shakuhachi master Christopher Yohmei Blasdel will join California poet William O'Daly for a program of poetry accompanied by haunting shakuhachi music.

William O'Daly was raised in the San Fernando Valley of California and attended the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), as an economics major, but before the end of his first year he turned to literature and the writing of poetry. At UCSB, O'Daly studied with poets Kenneth Rexroth, Alan Stephens, Fredrick Turner, and John Ridland, and with modernist critic Hugh Kenner; under friend and mentor Sam Hamill, he served as assistant editor of Spectrum magazine. In 1972, he left UCSB for Denver, Colorado, where he co-founded Copper Canyon Press with Hamill, Tree Swenson, and Jim Gautney.

O'Daly's published works include eight books of translation of the late-career and posthumous poetry of Chilean Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda (*Still Another*

Day, The Separate Rose, Winter Garden, The Sea and the Bells, The Yellow Heart, The Book of Questions, The Hands of Day, and World's End), and Neruda's first volume, *Book of Twilight* — all published by Copper Canyon Press. *Book of Twilight* was a finalist for the Northern California Book Award in Translation of Poetry for 2018. With the Chinese writer Han-ping Chin, he co-authored a historical novel, *This Earthly Life*, set amid the fascinating and deadly Chinese Cultural Revolution. *This Earthly Life* was selected as a "Finalist" in Narrative magazine's 2009 Fall Story Contest. The manuscript remains unpublished.

His most recent book of poems, *The New Gods*, was published by Beltway Editions in September 2022. Other books of poems include *Yarrow and Smoke*, *Water Ways* (a collaboration with JS Graustein), and *The Road to Isla Negra*, all three published by Folded Word Press, and *The Whale in the Web* published by Copper Canyon Press. In March 2023, the Los Angeles Master Chorale included three poems from *The New Gods* and one from *Water Ways* in the world premiere of Reena Esmail's "Malhaar: A Requiem for Water," at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

A National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, he was a finalist for the 2006 Quill Award in Poetry and, as a finalist, was profiled by NBC news correspondent Mike Leonard for The Today Show. In September 2021, he received the American Literary Award from the bilingual Korean American journal Miju Poetry and Poetics. A four-time Pushcart Prize nominee, his poems, translations, essays, and reviews have been published in numerous journals and as part of multimedia exhibits and performances. He has received national and regional honors for literary editing and instructional design and served on the national board of Poets Against War.

Christopher Yohmei Blasdel lived in Japan for over 40 years learning the shakuhachi bamboo flute and Japanese music. His shakuhachi teacher was Living National Treasure Goro Yamaguchi, with whom Christopher studied from 1972 until the master's death in 1999. In 1982, Christopher completed an MFA degree in ethnomusicology from Tokyo University of the Art and was awarded shihan master ranking by Yamaguchi. In his musical activities, Christopher balances traditional shakuhachi music, modern compositions, improvisation and cross-genre work with musicians, dancers, poets, and visual artists. Poets he has collaborated with include John Logan, Kenneth Rexroth, Sam Hamill, Bill O'Daly and the Japanese poet Makoto Ooka. His various CD albums can be found at Bandcamp, Apple, Spotify, Amazon and other streaming services.

Christopher performs around the world and has taught at Earlham College, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok), Texas A&M University, University of Washington, Charles University (Prague), Cal Arts, International Christian University (Tokyo), University of Maryland, and Temple University Tokyo. Christopher co-organized the Boulder World Shakuhachi Festival '98 and assisted the Sydney World Shakuhachi Festival in 2008 and the World Shakuhachi Festival in College Station, Texas in 2025. His semi-autobiographical book, *The Single Tone — A*



Personal Journey through Shakuhachi Music and *The Shakuhachi, A Manual for Learning* (both available on Kindle) are two of the most important English language resource books on the shakuhachi. Christopher presently lectures at University of Hawai'i, Mānoa and holds a fifth-degree black belt in Aikido. His recent publication, *Jiuta Sōkyoku Lyrics and Explanations — Songs of the Floating World* (2024, Routledge Press SOAS Music Series), presents detailed translations and explanations of 73 commonly played urban shamisen and koto songs of 17th and 19th century Japan.

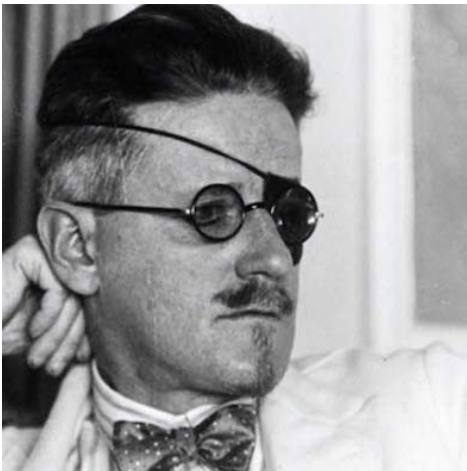
Find more at yohmei.com.

The event will be followed by a question & answer session. An open mic is not guaranteed, but will be held if time allows. Sign up between 7-7:30 p.m.

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

Bloomsday: A Commemoration of James Joyce's Ulysses with a Special Performance by Michael Gallowglas — Celebrating the Publication of his Two New Collections of Poetry

The entirety of *Ulysses*, the flabbergasting novel by James Joyce, takes place in 24 hours beginning on the morning of June 16, 1904 (also the exact day that Joyce and his future wife Nora Barnacle had their first date), and tells the story of Leopold Bloom's Homeric adventure of sorts around Dublin. There are mostly clear parallels to the *Odyssey* in the story, with the main characters mirroring their counterparts in Homer's tale: Leopold Bloom and Odysseus, Molly Bloom and Penelope, and Stephen Dedalus and Telemachus (see Daedalus, already Greek, the "Stephen Hero" we met before as a young man, and Joyce's alter ego). Comparisons are often (rightly) made to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, about which Joyce lectured long prior to writing *Ulysses*, and most obviously present in Episode 9.



Bloomsday, named in honor of the protagonist, Leopold Bloom, and which we will celebrate a day early, has become a tradition among Joyce aficionados, and is commemorated worldwide on June 16, sometimes commencing with a breakfast of grilled pork kidneys and fried livers, the meal being made by Leopold when he is introduced in the novel. We won't be doing that.

We will read from Joyce's works, including *Ulysses*, *Finnegan's Wake*, *Dubliners*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and others. The full list of readers is yet to be announced, but will include the other Irishman in the room, Michael Gallowglas, who will also read from his two new collections of poetry *Cameos 2* and *Nemo Point*. We will also hear from Joyce himself in archival recordings. Liz Ryder Baxmeyer will also join in for the Joyce chorus.

The first Bloomsday event was held in Dublin on June 16, 1954, and planned as a sort of literary pubcrawl, visiting the sites in the book one by one from the sea shore to the heart of Dublin. The organizers, including painter/pub

owner John Ryan, Irish writers Brian O'Nolan, Flann O'Brien, Patrick Kavanagh and Anthony Cronin, and a cousin of James Joyce — a dentist named Tom Joyce. It was set to begin where the novel did — at Martello Tower. After a near brawl at the Tower (the pubcrawl had started early!), the number of pubs along the way proved to be more enticing than the literary tour. But the tradition was begun.

About *Ulysses*, the writer Djuna Barnes quoted Joyce as saying, "The pity is ... the public will demand and find a moral in my book — or worse they may take it in some more serious way, and on the honour of a gentleman, there is not one single serious line in it. ... In *Ulysses* I have recorded, simultaneously, what a man says, sees, thinks, and what such seeing, thinking, saying does, to what you Freudians call the subconscious." We can take that at face value.



Joyce wrote the often rambling, stream-of-consciousness imbued modernist novel over a period of seven years, completing it in 1921. Before its full publication, the book was serialized in the US by *Little Review* which was prosecuted for publishing obscenity — the case used the term "titillating" — (the book was banned until 1931); excerpts were also

published in the UK, and it was similarly banned there until 1938. It was published in its entirety by Sylvia Beach in Paris on February 2 (Joyce's 40th birthday) in 1922, and was met with a mixed reception of awe and disdain, and cited as brilliant, obscene, immoral, and a work of utter genius. And there were more legal challenges, which all eventually failed.

A few opinions from the time:

"...literary Bolshevism... experimental, anti-conventional, anti-Christian, chaotic, totally unmoral... (Molly Bloom's soliloquy is) the vilest (chapter) according to ordinary standards, in all literature. And yet its very obscenity is somehow beautiful and wrings the soul to pity." — Shane Leslie

"Ulysses was a memorable catastrophe — immense in daring, terrific in disaster." — Virginia Woolf

"(besides François Rabelais, I) can think of no other prose writer whose proportional status in pan-literature is not modified by the advent of *Ulysses*." — Ezra Pound

"...a heap of dung, crawling with worms, photographed by a cinema camera through a microscope..." — Karl Radek (All-Union Congress of Soviet Writers in 1934)

"I hold (*Ulysses*) to be the most important expression which the present age has found; it is a book to which we are all indebted, and from which none of us can escape." — T.S. Eliot

"...a divine work of art (that) will live on despite the academic nonentities who turn it into a collection of symbols or Greek myths... it towers above the rest of Joyce's writing with noble originality and unique lucidity of thought and style." — Vladimir Nabokov

"I rather wish I'd never read it. It gives me an inferiority complex. When I read a book like that and then come back to my own work, I feel like a eunuch who has taken a course in voice production and can pass himself off fairly well as a bass or a baritone...but if you listen closely you can hear the good old squeak just the same as ever." — George Orwell

"I have written *Ulysses*. What have you done?" — James Joyce

"Why don't you write books people can read?" — Nora Barnacle Joyce

And here we are. The book has been immortalized in film, theater and music, and deeply studied and analyzed. It's a beast. Controversies continue to this day, if with less gnashing.

It's been a long time since SPC celebrated Bloomsday. Join us for its return. If you'd like to read something by Joyce, let us know.

Speaking of that other Irishman, the prolific Michael Gallowglas has two new collections of poetry which he will present, and we will make great noise about, as part of the proceedings.

Michael Gallowglas is a hybrid-author (with mainstream and alternative publications), storyteller, and educator from Northern California. He has written over 20 books including novels, short story collections, poetry collections, and non-fiction books. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University, a Master of Fine Arts in Fiction from Sierra Nevada College, and a Master in Fine Arts in Poetry from the University of Nevada Reno, Tahoe. His traditional storytelling show at Renaissance Faires, Celtic Festivals, and geeky conventions has mesmerized audiences for over thirty years. When not writing, Gallowglas is an avid gamer, enjoys ballroom dancing (swing, blues, and tango are his favorites), and adores coffee. Lots and lots of coffee.

His two new collections of poetry are *Cameos 2*, more surreal poems about more real people; and *Nemo Point*, about which he notes, "Point Nemo is the farthest place spot from land on Earth. If you happened to be afloat at the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, and someone was standing at the closest shoreline, people aboard the International Space Station would be closer. The poems within explore the distance we impose upon ourselves and each other: personal, familial, cultural, intellectual, and more. What do you do to keep people at a distance? How do you keep distant from yourself? Are you ready to walk away from the Nemo Points of your own making?"

Michael will bring his palpably infectious enthusiasm about writing and performing to the event, and will also take a swipe or two at the Joyce selections.

There may or may not be an open mic, but any such will consist of Joyce related or inspired poetry, or work by other Irish writers as time allows. Sign up between 7-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.

Polyphonics Workshop Farewell to Kyle Griffiths

Kyle Griffiths has served as the facilitator of the SPC Polyphonics Workshop since June of 2025. He and his wife April are moving over to the coast soon, and so he will no longer be able to lead the workshop. On Wednesday, June 17, SPC will host a small gathering of people who have participated in the workshop will for a thank you and farewell to Kyle & April.

We are grateful to Kyle for his conscientious work on the workshop. See more on page 8.

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

A Reading Featuring Stan Zumbiel & Traci Gourdine



Traci Gourdine joins Stan Zumbiel in celebrating the new and expanded version of his collection *Standing Watch* from Random Lane Press, ten years in the making.

Stan Zumbiel taught English in middle and high school for thirty-five years. He served on the board of the Sacramento Poetry Center for twenty-five years. In January 2008 he received his MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Random Lane Press published his first book, *Standing Watch* in 2016, and has released a tenth anniversary edition. His most recent collection, *Hat Full of Leaves*, was published by Cold River Press. His poems have appeared in *Nimrod*, *Primal Urge*, *Convergence*, *Sacramento Voices*, *Medusa's Kitchen*, and others. Stan will be featured in the upcoming SPC exhibit *Living Bridges*, a collaboration between Sacramento established poets, and young visual artists associated with Club Rambutan.

Traci Gourdine is the author of *Ringling In The Wild*, *Shrugged Burdens*, and *Adjacent Planes*. Her poetry and stories have been published in many literary magazines, and she is anthologized in *Sudden Fiction Continued* (Norton). Traci and Quincy Troupe were paired in a year-long exchange of letters for the anthology *Letters to Poets: Conversations about Poetics, Politics, and Community* (Saturnalia Books). She is co-editor of *Night is Gone, Day is Still Coming* (Candlewick Press), an anthology of writing by young Native writers, as well as *We Beg to Differ*, poems by Sacramento poets against the Iraq war. For ten years she facilitated writing workshops within several California state prisons in the Arts in Corrections program for the William James Association. She is a professor of English at American River College in Sacramento, and a member of SPC's board of directors.



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

Saturday, June 27, 5-7 p.m.

Closing Reception for Gaza Remains the Story

We'd like to again thank Patricia Daugherty and Janice Nakashima for all their work putting together the powerful Gaza Remains the Story exhibit. It has been extended through Saturday, June 27, and a closing reception will be held on that day from 5-7 p.m. with a guest speaker TBA.

This installation is a selection of pieces from the large, multi-themed exhibit curated by the



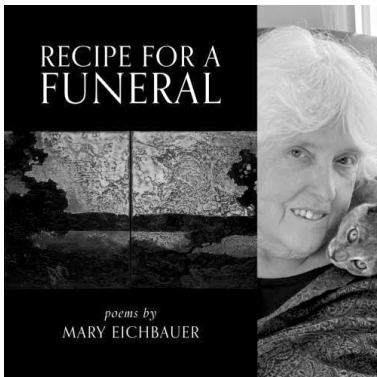
Palestinian Museum in Birzeit, Palestine in 2024. In response to the genocide, the Museum digitized the exhibit and offered it to the world upon request.

In 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.

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

A Reading & Book Signing Featuring Bob Stanley & Mary Eichbauer



Bob Stanley joins Mary Eichbauer in part to celebrate the release of *Recipe for a Funeral*, Eichbauer's new collection from Finishing Line Press.

About the book, Bob writes, "The poems in *Recipe for a Funeral* are rich and dark, laden with both the sweetness and the sadness of the world. Here you will meet a host of lost souls, people on the fringe, from childhood friends to the freaks of Coney Island. Eichbauer's poetry reveals these characters as they struggle in an unfair world. But treasured family and friends make appearances as well, bringing a love of nature and a love of language along with them. At times it feels as if afternoon sunlight, shadowed by the full leaves of late summer, casts shapes across these poems. Every gift, every sweet moment of meditation, is mitigated by thoughts of farewell. Clear-eyed and determined, funny and sad at once, these poems bring us home, reminding us, and all lost souls, that 'the world/doesn't have to be the way it is now.'"

Recipe for a Funeral meditates on loss, memory, and the mysterious stories we construct from the mundane details of our lives. Through encounters with characters and landscapes both real and imagined, Eichbauer teases out the tenuous threads of what we glean from the past, how we think about the future, how we conceive of and acknowledge a time when our presence in the world will end, and our stories will continue through others. In this poet's world, memory and imagination conjure survival: through a twist of scent from an old jewelry box, the flavors of a place never visited, a simple flower whose name evokes the universe, or a miraculous cake to feed the soul of the world. The ties of family, friendship, and motherhood act as touchstones in this collection that celebrates the fullness of human experience, from hope to tears.

Born in New York City, poet and prose writer Mary Eichbauer makes her home in Benicia, California. She was in the first class of women admitted to Caltech. Her first book of poetry, *After the Opera* (Random Lane Press, 2020), was partly inspired by her extended stays in France and her love of French language and culture. With three other woman poets, she collaborated on the poetry anthology *Love's Meditation* (Random Lane Press, 2023). Her poetry has appeared in *Tule Review*, *The Gathering*, *the Benicia Herald*, and many Benicia First Tuesday Poetry Group anthologies, while her prose writing has appeared in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* and *Paragraph*. A book of literary criticism, *Poetry's Self-Portrait: The Visual Arts as Mirror and Muse in René Char and John Ashbery*, was published by Peter Lang in 1992.



Bob Stanley studied poetry at Caltech and UCLA in the 1970s, and earned his Masters in English at Sac State in 2005. Bob taught English at Solano College, Sacramento City College, and Sacramento State before retiring in 2021. He has organized poetry events in California for many years, and served as President of the Sacramento Poetry Center from 2007 to 2019. Selected as Sacramento's fifth Poet Laureate in 2009, Bob's books include *Walt Whitman Orders a Cheeseburger* (2009), *Miracle Shine* (2013), *November Sun* (2022), and *Language Barrier* (2024). Bob and his wife Joyce Hsiao live in Sacramento and organize online poetry seminars that help support nonprofit organizations.

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY

Much of the July Monday Night Reading schedule is still being worked out, but we do have a good start!

Monday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.

Dianna Henning & Lara Gulate come to visit, each with new books!

Saturday, July 11 6-9 p.m.

Reception for the Collaborative Exhibit "Living Bridges"

Poets from the Sacramento area and Visual Artists associated with Club Rambutan in San Francisco.

See More on page 9.

Stay tuned for the rest of what's in store for July! In August, we will have only one event, and it'll be a big one!

NEWS FROM SPC

A THANK YOU TO KYLE GRIFFITHS & POLYPHONICS!



Kyle Griffiths, the host of the weekly Polyphonics Workshop, has informed us that he and his partner in all things, April (who's been very involved in the workshop), are moving to the coast, and he has to bring the workshop to a close. Kyle has been facilitating the workshop since last June, taking the helm after the founding facilitator, Carson Wignall, had to leave due to work obligations.

Kyle has drawn from his extensive knowledge of poets — and styles of poetry — to present a thoughtful weekly session. His contribution to SPC's workshop offerings are greatly appreciated — and will be missed. Kyle is also an accomplished poet with a unique approach. You can find two of his poems on page 23.

Kyle writes that "(he) is honored to have had the opportunity to meet and share with a variety of talented poets and artists, thanks to the Sacramento Poetry Center and all participants past and present; (and) encourages any former participants to keep writing

and hopes his activities have been stimulating."

From all evidence, it has been. We offer our deep thanks to Kyle for the effort he put into the Polyphonics Workshop.

He will be in the area for a while before the move, and is participating in the SPC/Club Rambutan poetry and visual art collaboration which will be going up in the gallery in July, with a reception on July 11. If you were a participant in any of his workshops — for Polyphonics or Sac Poets, please join us on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. at SPC for a little celebration for Kyle.

We won't immediately continue or replace the workshop.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANYEN POWELL!

We want to give a special congratulatory shout out to Danyen Powell — who's been the host of the SPC Tuesday Night Workshop for 31 years and counting — in celebration of the publication of his new book, *Seeing Again*, just out from The Poetry Box.

The poems of *Seeing Again* are both concrete and imagistic. Sometimes surreal, they evoke a sense of place in the heart and mind as well as in the world. Light on the page, they balance like a mobile, sing visually. Powell's rich imagination inspires the reader to tap into their own, to join him in his exploration of the ordinary and the astonishing.

Here is what Bei Dao has to say about it:

“Danyen Powell’s *Seeing Again* builds a secret garden by words, which is the labyrinth of unknown human darkness. In his poems, dealing with death and dying, he tries to find the way out with great passion, but meanwhile he indulges in details of the darkness leading him to be lost. We will explore complexity in his almost minimized forms.”

—Bei Dao, poet and editor of *Jintian (Today)*, Beijing, China

In addition to facilitating the weekly Tuesday Night Poetry Workshop, Danyen Powell has been a judge for the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest and is the author of two chapbooks, *Anvil* and *Blue Sky Flies Out*, both from Rattlesnake Press. In 2014, Danyen published a bilingual collection of poems, *Las Palabras Mueren de Sed / Words Die of Thirst*. His poem “Pantoum of the Oncology Ward” was the grand prize winner of the Ad Schuster’s Annual Citation at the 74th Annual Poets Dinner in Berkeley California. He volunteered as a docent at The Crocker Art Museum with his wife Betsy, and runs a family construction business with his son Joel.



Congratulations, Danyen!

LIVING BRIDGES: A COLLABORATION BETWEEN POETS FROM THE SACRAMENTO AREA AND VISUAL ARTISTS ASSOCIATED WITH CLUB RAMBUTAN IN SAN FRANCISCO

A few months ago, Maris Juwono, SPC Secretary, and her colleague Maria Manaog, Founder and Director of Club Rambutan in San Francisco, developed an idea for a collaboration between poets and artists for an exhibit and reading. Maris, a member of Club Rambutan, and a writer for its publications, invited poets from Sacramento and, with Maria, artists from Club Rambutan to participate. The result was a project titled Living Bridges — which aptly symbolizes the multiple ways this project intersects: not only artistically and geographically, but also across genre, age and cultures.



Eleven pairs of collaborators are at work creating their pieces for the project, which will also be memorialized in a special edition of the SPC periodical, *New Rivers*. The exhibition will be installed by July 5, and a reception will be held on Saturday, July 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. at SPC, and will include the participating poets reading their poems, the artists talking about their work, and a bit of a dialogue about the process by the organizers.

The pairings for collaboration are (visual artist followed by poet): Eamon Win and Vincent Kobelt, Zheshi Afandi and Stanley Zumbiel, Jasmin Mobasher and Moira Magnuson, Isabel Li and Dotty Wilber, Sam Daly and Kyle Griffiths,

Percy Humphrey and Bob Stanley, Angelina Byun and Allegra Silberstein, Gianpaolo Pabros and Oswaldo Vargas, Sam Winans, and Bill Carr, Wyatt Fields and Julia Levine, and Destiny Ann Montoya and Laura Hohlwein.

Here’s a note from Maria Manaog:

“Club Rambutan is very excited and honored to work with the Sacramento Poetry Center on this incredibly special exhibit which includes 11 of our vetted artists — a mix of our own team members and alumni from our digital residency.

CR’s mission is to celebrate and preserve intersectional stories through art, and we do so by curating resources and professional development opportunities to the needs of the emerging, marginalized artists we work with. Because CR’s artists are paired with SPC’s network of established and deeply knowledgeable poets, we hope for this to be a unique, fun, and highly valuable opportunity for our visual artists to exercise different methods of storytelling through teamwork.

When thinking of a name to title this exhibit, Maris and I decided on “Living Bridges” — it represented how we are bringing together artists of different mediums, ages, and backgrounds to experiment and create something beautiful, with the goal of intentionally connecting with one another through shared curiosities, ideas, and perspectives.”

See more about Club Rambutan at <https://www.clubrambutan.com/>

AN UPDATE ABOUT THE PRESS

As you likely know by now, the Poetry Center has entered into an agreement with Swanee Astrid and Vibrissae Editions for a long term lease of a 1910 Chandler Price letterpress. Within a few weeks, after some relatively minor construction — or deconstruction — in the room, the press will be in place.

This is an exciting development, and will be a great addition and resource for the community. As much as possible it will be used to the benefit of poets, especially younger poets, as a publishing and educational tool. Vibrissae Editions will also use the press, of course, and there will be guest printers coming in to work on projects as well.

We will be able to create beautiful broadsides, portfolios, chapbook covers, bookmarks, cards and whatever can be functionally imagined for it. We will offer informational workshops as well as collaborations with other groups.

We will host a couple of “show and tell” events once the dust — literally — settles, as well as demonstrations illustrating the potential of the press.

Stay tuned. If you're a regular at SPC, you will likely see the work in progress. We apologize in advance for a few days of dust and inconvenience.



SPC PUBLICATIONS UPDATES

TULE REVIEW 2026 SUBMISSION PERIOD CLOSED ON MAY 15, NOW UNDER REVIEW

The submission period for the 2026 print edition of *Tule Review* closed on May 15, 2026. Editor Shawn Pittard is now reviewing submissions, and will let folks know the status of your work by the end of August. Shawn reports that he has over 400 poems to choose from, so he's got his work cut out for him. He is grateful for the response to the call, and expects to select a powerful and diverse collection for this year's anthology. The publication target is October 2026.

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 previously, 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.

OTHER NEWS

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

SPC is looking to identify 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 at least somewhat 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 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.

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.)

PROJECTS WE SUPPORT

JULIA VINOGRAD: BETWEEN SPIRIT & STONE **A Film by Ken Paul Rosenthal**



The planned screening of Ken Paul Rosenthal's latest edit of his film *Julia Vinograd: Between Spirit and Stone* (originally scheduled for June 6) has been postponed. We look forward to presenting the complete film in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, Ken is hard at work on the final cut of his powerful documentary about the 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.

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/>

CALIFORNIA'S POET LAUREATE LEE HERRICK

A cool thing:

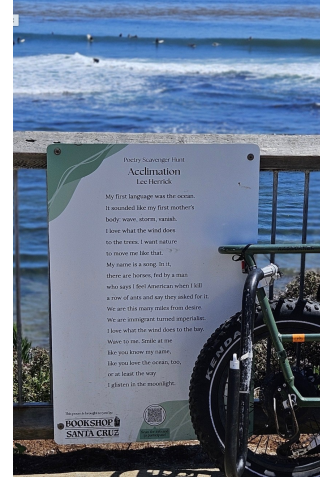
For Poetry Month, Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate Nancy Miller Gomez worked with Santa Cruz County Parks & Recreation and local businesses to install poems by local and national poets in sixteen parks across Santa Cruz County.

One of them is Lee Herrick's poem "Acclimation," sponsored by Bookshop Santa Cruz. It comes with an ocean view.

Lee will be the final judge for the prestigious Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize 2026, co-sponsored by Poetry Center San José and Red Wheelbarrow Literary Magazine.

The submission period is open until July 31. Get your submissions in. Details on page 45.

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



InFormation: A CELEBRATION OF THE ROYAL CHICANO AIR FORCE



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

Illustration: Juan Cervantes, 2006

Schedule of InFormation Events In JUNE

Sunday, June 7, 12-1 p.m.

At The Crocker Museum, 216 O St., Sacramento, CA

Artist Gallery Talk: Luis G. Garcia on José Montoya and Esteban Villa

Sunday, June 7, 2-3 p.m.

Film Screening: El Pachuco: From Zootsuits to Lowrides, Joseph Camacho, Director (1994)

At the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Sacramento, CA

The film explores the culture of Chicanos, and specifically the Pachucos in the 1940's in Los Angeles, largely through an interview with the RCAF's José Montoya. It ends with a look at present day Chicanas/os who are working to recapture their past, which has been largely written out of history books. It includes footage of the opening of Montoya's seminal exhibition, "Pachuco Art: A Historical Update" in 1977.

La Raza Galeria Posada is grateful to Special Collections at the Stanford Library for preserving, digitizing, and making Joseph Camacho's film available for viewing onsite. We also appreciate Joseph's brother, Jaime Camacho's permission to screen the film at the Crocker Art Museum.

Saturday, June 20, 5-7 p.m.

At Blue Line Arts, 405 Vernon Street, Roseville, CA,
Encore Reception: Lorraine García-Nakata: Knowledge We Carry
concluding the exhibit for the exhibit that runs May 9 - June 20

A solo exhibition of recent works and sampling of earlier pieces by Lorraine García-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.

Saturday, June 27, 2-3 p.m.

At Sol Collective, 2574 21st Street, Sacramento, CA
Of Art and Spirit: A Conversation with Artists, Viviana Paredes and Dominick Porras

Moderated by Terezita Romo

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

Sunday, June 28, 12-4:30 p.m.

At the Crocker Museum, 216 O St., Sacramento, CA
Family Festival: Mercado de las Flores
Sunday, June 28, 12-4:30 p.m.

The Sacramento Poetry Center wishes to congratulate curator and organizer Terezita Romo and everyone who worked so hard on this months-long series of exhibits, talks, special presentations and so much more for an enormously successful and significant undertaking!

POETRY FROM SPC's JUNE READERS & OTHERS

Two Poems by William O'Daly

(from *The New Gods*, Beltway Editions, September 2022)

Come Out of the House

*They will say you are on the wrong road,
if it is your own.*

~ Antonio Porchia

Before the house burns down,
open your eyes to the rain and the owl.
In the plaza a soldier is smoking—
the elm puts on new leaves.

My daddy doesn't want me to be
any artist, not even a rancher
like him. His sweat goes to deadbeats,
like the cattle and the songs.

I still have that part of me fire
transformed. Is it wrong
for a man to cry
at three in the afternoon?

Poet, don't you know
fire makes you young,
gives you something real
to fear?

In my pocket, I carry the jawbone of an ass.
I learn virtue
planting myself among the delphiniums.

Poet, feel the flames at your fleet—
feel this ground, like water in the earth.

Spring is demolishing the dead.
Wrapping myself in the sun's ribbons,
I am learning to be young, delirious
among the ruins at three in the afternoon.

Why do you keep fighting, poet
—sharing pain and joy in difficult times—
is it the ashes collecting on your teeth?

Why are so few born
at three in the afternoon? Why do I die?
Are words bitter seed or fierce anemone,
weapons or prayers?

Poet, what is your favorite color of kite?
Why are words never what they seem,
falling eyes, rising mouths, charging bulls, or smoke?

Will you remain on the earth
or flee like a lost river, an archaeologist chasing
the stars?

Origin

Long ago you and I struggled to be born
among the standing stones,
underground fire, mineral rain,
furrows of imagination yellowed by the sun.
Our immobile blood burned blue
even as the wind shaped
our serene incarnation. We deciphered
the doors of the earth, found the one to open
on who we would become.
Our still-closed eyes strived to name oneness,
to behold the mystery of our bodies
falling in a rage of flame, in the rhythms
and textures of our appetites. We tuned ourselves
to sow and reap, shepherd and slaughter,
to be true to many selves
and the singularity

from which we came.
Forging weapons that turn night to day
we meditated on the clouds
littered with the psalms of migrating birds.
We mourned the wild horses,
the range stripped of native forage.
The prayer wheel spun us at our core
as we labored to learn that how
we live is what we leave behind.

Returning to the solace of not seeking,
we need no face or syllable or seed,
as we come to know in our hearts
what we cannot know any other way.

(Bill O'Daly will read in performance with shakuhachi master Christopher Yohmei Blasdel @ SPC on June 8.)

James Joyce
An Excerpt fom *Ulysses*, Episode 18

(Molly Bloom, a more human Penelope, ends the thing)

...yes...and the vague fellows in the cloaks asleep in the shade on the steps and the big wheels of the carts of the bulls and the old castle thousands of years old yes and those handsome Moors all in white and turbans like kings asking you to sit down in their little bit of a shop and Ronda with the old windows of the posadas 2 glancing eyes a lattice hid for her lover to kiss the iron and the wineshops half open at night and the castanets and the night we missed the boat at Algeciras the watchman going about serene with his lamp and O that awful deepdown torrent O and the sea the sea crimson sometimes like fire and the glorious sunsets and the figtrees in the Alameda gardens yes and all the queer little streets and the pink and blue and yellow houses and the rosegardens and the jessamine and geraniums and cactuses and Gibraltar as a girl where I was a Flower of the mountain yes when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used or shall I wear a red yes and how he kissed me under the Moorish wall and I thought well as well him as another and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again yes and then he asked me would I yes to say yes my mountain flower and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes.

Two Poems by Michael Gallowglas

FINNEGAN'S EPIPHANY IN WAITING

Here I am again, circling round James Joyce
screaming at me from atop the tombstone
at the head of Finnegans empty grave.
Around and around, the road winds
round the shore bending round that bay
of broken words—broken Irish; broken English—
broken and repurposed and reborn into epiphanies
that strike like cast-iron skillets soaked in a tonic

of 1 part Guinness, 1 part Jameson,
and 3 parts confusion and consternation
of overworked adjunct English Lit teachers
trying to be cleverer than their students
and unclever Anglicized dissertations
that completely missed every point.
Listen for the whish between the words
wrapped in the quiet between letters
that don't quite match one language
or the other. Which of them will die
on that road winding round the hill
next to the bay next to that grave,
that empty hole where Joyce screams
atop that blank tombstone, screams
in the bastard, stepchild lexicon born
of two languages that never really got on.
And I'll keep circling—round and round,
hoping I'll make some semblance
of sense out of the senselessness of all.

(from *Cameos 2*)

COMING SECOND

Irish in America are tenacious in their cultural identification.
— Eileen Markey

We are that rough beast standing
proud but grasping for a slouching hour,
ticked-tocked long away past
any semblance of prime.
Ulster, that once greatest
of kingdoms now long-devolved,
might as well be Uruk or Atlantic.
Wiley Finn and mighty Cuchulain
have gone drinking in whatever afterlife
has claimed Gilgamesh and Enkidu.
Though long removed by years and miles,
the epigenetic troubles and triumphs
drown our innocent convictions
with the utmost intensity
of performative passions
or perhaps, passionate performances.

With apologies to W.B. Yeats

(from Nemo Point)

(Michael Gallowglas will feature @ SPC as part of our Bloomsday Celebration on June 15. James Joyce will appear in overbearing spirit.)

Two Poems by Stan Zumbiel

Veiling the Mirrors

for Nina Weiss

What might she be thinking, hands behind her back,
staring into the lavender field? Life is constant
composition. Through the cracked eye of a Greek mask,
a man begs with a cloth hat empty at his feet. Time

drips like heavy rain, the same heavy rain falling
in narrow streets of Montmartre. A pencil reveals
remnants of a vineyard, forms stones, remnants
of lavender, new shadows of stones. Through the split

eye of a Noh mask, a butcher, blood abstract
on his apron. The painter sings while she contemplates
the garden, the horizon line, color massing
along a diagonal, an arched entry, sky the color of steel,

clouds like twisting snakes. Leaves begin to whistle.
In the café, tablecloths wick water. Brandy.
Hot coffee. A man and a woman play chess. Someone
lives behind the second story window. Falling water

obscures the crying of ghosts looking for respite,
one with a horsehair brush, clotted with paint,
sticking out of his back pocket. Through the broken
eye of a wooden mask, Mass celebrated in the burnt

cathedral of Notre Dame. It rains on the statues
in Rodin's garden, streaks and shadows on marble,
streaks and shadows on bronze. Everyone shakes
rain from their umbrellas. The painter sings while

she paints. No one's death occurs on Thursday.
Constant composition. From now on, she will
title everything *Veiling the Mirrors*.

From the second story window, a voice.

Still, the Dream of Horses

A thousand magnificent mythical beasts
cannot justify war. Refugee women with crooked
fingers and bent backs tend gardens and graveyards.

Shrieks and howls mutate into song.

Dressed in pressed khaki, battle scarred
veterans fly kites in the onshore breeze,
wound-red tails dipping in and out of fog.

Soldiers vanish, children vanish in acrid
smoke as by a flourishing magician's cape,
leaving only rubble, the martial singing of fools,

and horses drowning in a flaming river.

Two Poems by Traci Gourdine

Fathers

All fathers were once small children
hiding behind doors a finger to their lips

This one here lived in short pants
feared the dogs that barked at night

His longings? Only for a small sailboat
seen radiant in a window at the 5 and 10

Every father, remember, was once a child
wandering as far as daylight would allow

They scavenged wheels for boards, traded cat's eyed marbles
tin soldiers rode their pockets, along baseball cards, cap guns,

These children soon to men had dirt on their necks
behind their ears, grass and mud spelled the day

These men, these fathers, once climbed trees to build
palaces from scraps found useless on the ground

All fathers were boys, tinkerers without tools
reducing toasters and TVs to plates and screws

Watch how they whoop, row the air in arms atilt
exuberant down dirt roads, and lifting to flight

Little boys harvested to fathers
Imagine them, they were singing

There's Walter

for Nancy Bertoglio

Known him for about 5 years now
Walter dressed like all the familiar
strangers I use to know
The ones behind the high electric fence
The ones who moved in lines uneven
Shufflin' and mumblin'
under their breath
secret codes / curses
arranged into new cadence
because old curses don't spit the same fire anymore

So, there's Walter
dressed like a free man
but his eyes slit and question
like any old con's would

He wrote letters home
Letters to those left behind
but soon to return
3 friends / 3 cousins

He told them he met a teacher
who gave him a break, so he gave them the address
to this place and how to find it
via Greyhound and two bus transfers

I've taught almost 5 of them
They wander up hallways and stairwells
clutching a baton of papers in their sweating hands
as if I'm some judge or a good public defender

They arrive in white T-shirts
sneakers and baggy jeans
pencils swallowed within their closed fists
In the back of each room they sit
against the wall with a clear view of the door
Eyes slit and questioning
Mouths softly ajar

They are learning as Walter has
the ways of this place
How we're out here acting
as free people looking for a way out
all of us following this recipe someone set up

They join in
half-hearted and cynical
mimicking this awkward dance
Freedom

(Stan Zumbiel and Traci Gourline will read @ SPC on June 22.)

Two Poems by Bob Stanley

Wobble

The woman walks as if her feet were old, but her eyes still move quickly. She has seen enough cities, palaces, bridges, piazzas of reflected light. She has tired of people, climbing stairs, trains entering stations. Not tired of wild lands, though, granite crags lit by an unclouded moon, high valleys tilting into snow-lakes and glacier-moss, mountain hemlock's twisted crown. And the sea still carries its song for her, crashing rhythms to her conch-cupped ear.

She sang the stories of kings, men, gods, and women; things above, below, and in between. She keened the longest tales; when the salt-drenched mariner washed upon the beach, she knew his schemes would keep the journey alive. The damned fool always found his way back home.

She still loves the old stories, wonders who will sing the new ones. She walks to the east, waiting for night to change the sky, that sky which has shifted just a little in 5,000 years. The planet wobbles on its invisible axis, so the pattern changes. She looks ahead as she walks, focused on the fading light, trying to discern something new.

Zombie Movie

Venezuela? I mean *what*? Like you just won one of those teddy bears at the carnival and it isn't good for anything. It's really ugly, and it makes your daughter cry when she sees it. The oil execs don't like it either, they don't have a closet big enough to stuff it into their McMansions. But Xi likes it, it sets him up to toss his rings at Taiwan. Now that's a prize to take home from the county fair. And Vladimir likes it. It was probably his idea. And even if it was a prize, I mean Venezuela, how many people do you like to kill to find a toy that nobody wants to play with?

Kill, shoot, watch the screen like it's a game from the situation room with your pals. How many families do you enjoy terrorizing to create a nation entirely built on terror? Greenland? Minneapolis? Golf? Crypto? It's all the same, it's all the new ballroom, the people gave you in your infantile mind the whole ballgame and it's stupendous, spectacular, it's words that are hard to say, hard to understand for any real people who go to work in the morning and turn on their phones to get the news the way they want it.

Somehow they don't get your smirking-face-of-explosion that nobody seems to be able to stop, an earthquake sliding the plates off the table, all the crystal carafes on the shelves crashing to the floor and Jeffers was right, the republic was perishing then, and now it's long gone, crushed under the heel of the idiot-in-charge, this monster that's so destructive the best directors in Hollywood can't even make a zombie movie that bad.

Two Poems by Mary Eichbauer
(from *Recipe for a Funeral*, Finishing Line Press)

Cosmos

As a child, I remember
first seeing these flowers,
pushing up through the weeds
in my mother's unkempt garden—
pink, white, or darker pink,
striated petals, delicate as wings,
surrounding a yellow center
of bright flecks,
each bloom a small explosion.

The long green stems,
with their ferny leaf fingers
smelled earthy, minty,
when I squeezed them
between my little fingers,
or when I crushed
the faded blooms
to release a shower
of sickle-shaped seeds
that dropped through the weeds
to the soil below.

My mother told me their name,
starting with a percussive, hard "c,"
then the vowel,
said with an open mouth,
like the sound a crow makes,
but the rest escaped
into other sounds—
an "m," an "s"—
too sibilant,
unpronounceable.
She said it over and over
as I struggled to repeat it,
and the beauty of the flower
faded into an echoing forest of sounds.

Years later, in a garden store,
I saw the familiar flower
on a paper packet,
recognized the name I couldn't say,
was too young to read—
cosmos, two syllables,
encompassing the universe.

Palermo

In Palermo it's 83 degrees,
light wind from the southwest.
Later, they foresee severe weather—
thunderstorms, swollen clouds,
plump raindrops dashing against cobblestones
as people take shelter under awnings,
hop from one foot to the other
while they hold dripping umbrellas
and gossip with the shopkeepers.

In Palermo,
as in all the other places I will never go,
late afternoon turns cool and sultry.
Fitful breaths of wind promise
a change in the weather.

It's the hour of the *riposo*,
when the shopkeepers close their doors,
cover their wares,
and return to their beds—
sheets slightly damp,
covers still rumpled—
for an hour's rest.

Later, red wine
in the café down the street
with a few friends,
quick trip to the vegetable market
for ripe tomatoes that fill your hands
with their warm flesh,
bouquets of broad-leaved basil
that perfume the air.
The fragrance follows you
down the street in a cloud.

What would it be like
to live in a place you had never seen?
The mysterious city you've always heard about
where there are still people
who share your ancestry,
who never waste a thought on you
as they run home laughing from the market
through the rain,
arrange the sprigs of basil in an ordinary jam jar,
set the tomatoes on the windowsill
for later.

(Bob Stanley and Mary Eichbauer will read @ SPC on June 29.)

And Two Poems by Kyle Griffiths

Sacred

I can do sacred drugs like birth
Water grows grass with light
Feuding neighbors speak
Potencies of form
Granules caught off my drift
by doors sparking flash landscapes
The boat comes apart when the planks touch bottom
Games are the origins of words
A bird shuttles its feathers in my throat
Fun's easy to have
Bikes, Christmas gifts, bridges, basketball, hazel irises

The Bees

The moon
Reflecting in the water
Black as night
On a horse
Frightened
Table's set

The mirror
in the mirror
Shows the silver show
Written
Wet

Roses
Rise, red

The bees

(Kyle Griffiths has been facilitating the Polyphonics Workshop at SPC since June, 2025. A poet and a biologist, Kyle will be moving away from the area soon. We thank him for his dedication to the workshop, his friendship, and commitment to poetry.)

BOOK REVIEW

LOVE AND WORK IN CALIFORNIA'S SURPRISE VALLEY

A Review of Molly Fisk's *Walking Wheel*, A Novel-in-Verse

by Tom Goff, in prose & verse

Walking Wheel

by Molly Fisk

160 p. \$19.95 from Red Hen Press

Molly Fisk's *Walking Wheel* is that rarity among today's poetry collections, a novel-in-verse which satisfies two hungers in readers of verse: an utterly convincing novel for all who crave compelling stories, and a lovely blend of the lyric with the episodic in poetry. *Walking Wheel* is composed of sequential vignettes from the lives of Miles and Phoebe Imlay, newlyweds who move from Central Oregon to the Surprise Valley in far northeastern California, hoping to surmount the challenges any young homesteading couple would meet in the late 19th century.

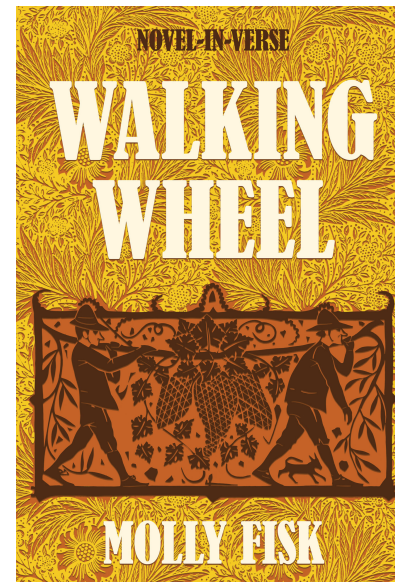
A D.H. Lawrence essay is titled "Men Must Work, and Women as Well." In the Imlay story, Miles and Phoebe certainly work—boy, do they ever work—but the focus throughout is on the love and mutual respect achieved in the whole process of building, building a life. As the cover blurbs for *Walking Wheel* indicate, we aren't left in suspense about the outcome, but the spoiler-proof quality of the telling lends the book some of the grandeur we associate with, say, Homeric epics, where the reader knows from start to finish how the tale will run, but the excitement never lets up or lets down. Through their raptures of bliss and extremes of exertion and endurance—oh, how we moderns like to brag about our "sweat equity!"—these brave young settlers gift us a daunting, inspiring example.

Perhaps best of all, the free-verse musicality and imagery are twenty-first-century, but the book is unmarred by present-day anachronisms. At story's end, Fisk provides a section titled "References / Inspirations," displaying just how much historical research went into this work of fiction in poetry. Molly Fisk's great book speaks to us all the more deeply and intimately because of the firewall she's built between the Imlay "then" and our technological "now."

Finally, my own thumbnail review-in-verse:

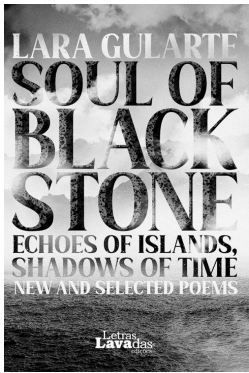
Imlay Honeymoon

An idyll of a California novel,
Tracing a couple's lives: hard work. Not idle.
But be it never so fraught, life's no poor hovel
They aim to build and love in. From the bridal
Chaplet Phoebe wears to consecrate
Her union with the strong, smart, quiet Miles,
To wasp-nest stings, harsh soap, and delicate plate
Brought from her home intact by frontier wiles
Inside a pitching wagon, to the barn
They raise with good help, sped by fierce exertion.
Homespun paid out on walking wheel in yarn
Knit taut as their lives...we savor our immersion
In clear verse of a good marriage, pregnancy
And arduous birth, expectant for the outcome
As if their bond were ours, the infancy
Of Phoebe's and Miles's child delivered out from
Her womb by nature's force, blood-simple care.
And: Lion and Bright, their mules, no sweeter pair.



(Tom Goff is a regular contributor to Poet News. He is an instructional assistant in the Reading and Writing Center at Folsom Lake College. He's written five poetry chapbooks. His first full-length poetry collection, *Twelve-Tone Row: Music in Words*, was published in 2018.)

RECOMMENDED READING



Soul of Black Stone: Echoes of Islands, Shadows of Time
Lara Gualarte, Letras Lavadas, 2026

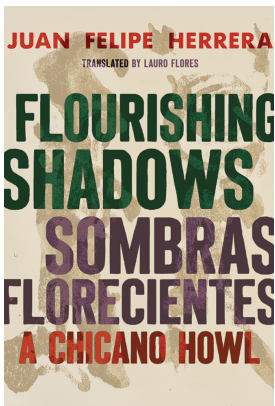
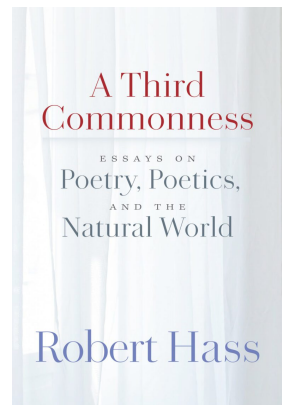
Lara Gualarte's *Soul of Black Stone: Echoes of Islands, Shadows of Time* rises like mist over volcanic water. In her work, poetry is not an escape—it is an encounter, almost a reckoning. She writes as one who understands that language is a bridge time has tried, unsuccessfully, to erode. Her lines move between California and the Azores as if geography were only a suggestion, as if belonging were a verb rather than a noun.

The ocean in her pages does not forget, and neither does the soul. In her hands, memory is not nostalgia—it is resistance. It is inheritance transformed into song. What she offers is not merely poetry, but a reassembling of fragments: the Pacific speaking to the Atlantic, the present answering the ancestral.

A Third Commonness: Essays on Poetry, Poetics, and the Natural World
Robert Hass, Copper Canyon Press, 2026

In *A Third Commonness*, U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass follows a literary river through time and topography — from Zen Buddhism to California ecopoetics, from Barry Lopez to Walt Whitman, and even through an unlikely fellowship between Kentucky poet-priests. Told through essays and lectures, *A Third Commonness* is as much a love letter to landscape as it is a sprawling exploration of poetic heritage. Hass weaves histories with the boundless hand of a passionate reader inseparable from literary vitality.

Hass revels at genius as if saying, Here it is, this stretch of it. Sometimes with a requiem, at others with romance or political reckoning, Hass returns to the amazements of a poetry that encounters itself over and again, beckoned into being by some “propelling force.”



Flourishing Shadows / Sombras Florecientes — A Chicano Howl
Juan Felipe Herrera (Author), Lauro Flores (Translator), University of Arizona, 2025

From former U.S. poet laureate Juan Felipe Herrera comes a searing bilingual collection that speaks directly to America and all its peoples. *Flourishing Shadows / Sombras Florecientes* is a lyrical journey through migration, memory, and resistance—an urgent address to a nation grappling with its identity. Blending autobiography and Indigenous, Chicanx, and Beat traditions, Herrera reclaims language as a tool of compassion and truth. With ink drawings and evocative verse, this book honors the migrants who traverse borders and histories, flourishing even in the shadows. A call to listen, to remember, and to act.

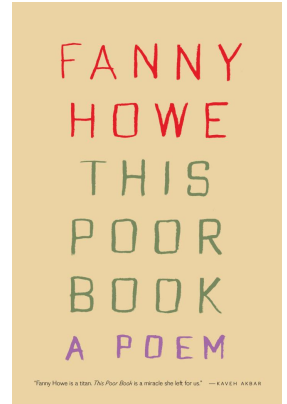
More than a poetic critique, this book initiates a conversation — a direct address to readers that invites reflection, solidarity, and action. Drawing on his anthropological training and lived experience, Herrera weaves together the cultural richness of Indigenous Mexico, the urban vibrancy of San Francisco's literary scene, and the enduring legacy of migrant journeys.

Flourishing Shadows / Sombras Florecientes is a vital addition to the Camino del Sol series and a powerful testament to the resilience and humanity of those too often relegated to the margins.

***This Poor Book: A poem*
Fanny Howe, Graywolf Press, 2026**

For decades, Fanny Howe has been our great poet of spirit and conscience, dislocation and bewilderment. In *This Poor Book*, completed just before her death, she has gathered a selection of poems and excerpts from the last thirty years, including new and revised poems, and has arranged them into an astonishing singular poem. Across this brilliant reconfiguration of her work, we follow the poet as seeker, both faithful and foolish, searching for language and existence beyond the machines of economy, judgment, and war. Howe interrogates the contradiction and violence of the twenty-first century, the misbegotten experiences that have given rise to a culture of authority and adulthood rather than one of innocence and childhood.

These spare lyrical shards move with a jagged but persistent direction — leading us between doubt and belief and toward Howe's enduring vision for a life of humility, justice, and imagination.



***Reconstructing Eden: A Southern Bastard's Lyric Journey*
Indigo Moor, KavanKerry Press, 2026**

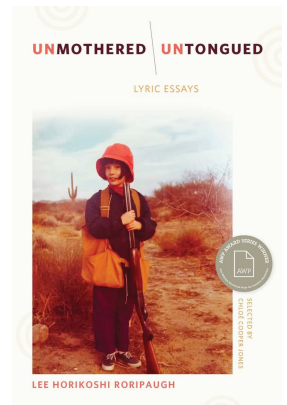
Told in what the author calls Jazz Triptych (a tercet followed by a "Bastard Villanelle," followed by a Rhyme Royal), Indigo Moor harnesses the anger within himself to perform an exorcism of the childhood that led him inching toward murder in the dizzying racism of his life. *Reconstructing Eden* is a stunning rendering of a Black child moving through life with anger being an unknown phoenix rising in him. Only through an incredibly violent act during Desert Storm does he realize the murderous intent in his heart. Through his lyrical poetic writing, he begins to cleanse himself.

Poet Laureate Emeritus of Sacramento, Indigo Moor has written four previous poetry collections. His first and third books, *Tap-Root* and *In the Room of Thirsts & Hungers*, were published as part of Main Street Rag's Editor's Select Poetry Series. His second, *Through the Stonecutter's Window*, won Northwestern University Press's Cave Canem prize. His fourth book, *Everybody's*

Jonesin' for Something, is a multigenre work consisting of poetry, short fiction, memoir, and stage plays that took second place in the University of Nebraska Press's Backwater Prize. Indigo has taught as visiting faculty in the MFA program at Dominican University of California.

***unMothered, unTongued*
Lyric Essays
Lee Horikoshi Roripaugh
Selected by Chloé Cooper Jones
Series: The Sue William Silverman Prize for Creative Nonfiction
University of Georgia, 2025**

unMothered, unTongued is a collection of lyric essays written from the liminal space of the in-between. These essays thread themselves around questions of language, landscape, and identity, weaving together intersectionalities and intertextualities. Author Lee Horikoshi Roripaugh, a biracial LGBTQIA+ Nisei who was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming, to a non-native-English-speaking Issei mother, considers not only the tensions in the rifts between intersectional identities (biracial Nisei, LGBTQIA+) but also the tensions between marginalized identities and the landscapes and cultures of the American West; the tensions between nonnative, second, erased, and/or forgotten languages; and the tensions between those who abuse and those who survive. These rifts, intersections, and fractures, while frequently a source of violence and immense grief, are also a source of illumination and clarity. The essays in this collection are written almost entirely in hybrid/lyric forms—oftentimes braided, oftentimes patchworked, oftentimes segmented—reflecting some of the fractured complexities and intersections of Horikoshi Roripaugh's own hybrid identities.



LITERARY EVENTS & SERIES IN THE COMMUNITY

All events are Pacific Standard Time unless otherwise noted.

EVENTS NEAR & (Not too) FAR

Listed by Venue/Organizer

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT:

OPEN MIC AT THE LADYBIRD TEA HOUSE IN FAIR OAKS THIRD WEDNESDAY, 6-8 P.M.:

Open Mic, Open hearts

"A microphone.

A teapot.

A room full of listening.

Come share a song, a poem, a story
or just come to sit, sip, and witness.

This is a tea house and a clubhouse.
Your voice is welcome here."



This description got our attention, and we reached out to the organizer of this recently launched series that is gaining traction in old Fair Oaks, and received this reply from Haris Mešić:

"I work at a school called Meristem in Fair Oaks. We are a school for neurodivergent young adults. Along my best friend Jana,

I am the garden teacher. I have been studying biodynamic land care and taking care of soil for about ten years. I started the open mic because the garden likes to speak through words sometimes, and in this day and age of a loneliness epidemic people coming together to share beautiful words and unite in community really will uplift your soul. Every month it's a different vibe and a love~ally surprise."

Check it out when you can. And being in the Village, there are always chickens and a short walk to the river. LadyBird Teahouse is located at 10120 Fair Oaks Blvd. and is more than a place to attend a reading.

Nestled in the heart of Fair Oaks, LadyBird Tea House is more than a tea house — it is a Village Clubhouse and gathering space. A refined venue for tea, private events, and creative retreats, LadyBird also offers a charming Airbnb stay surrounded by nature. Members enjoy daily access, self-service tea, and shared rituals that foster trust and belonging.

THE ACADEMY OF AMERICA POETS PRESENTS: POETRY & THE CREATIVE MIND REPLAY ON JUNE 3 ONE NIGHT ONLY — 4:30 - 9:30 P.M. PST

On Tuesday, April 28, The Academy of America Poets presented Poetry & The Creative Mind, its signature reading, fundraiser, and closing celebration of National Poetry Month.

On June 3, it will replay the phenomenal event! Tune in between 4:30 - 9:30 p.m. PST to watch.

The annual event features legendary actors, artists, dancers, musicians, chefs, and other notable public figures sharing poems with viewers from small towns and big cities throughout the United States and countries around the world. Featured readers include Louise Erdrich, Coco Fusco, Nick Offerman, John Rothman, Maria Shriver, Evan Wang and Chloé Zhao. The 2026 Leadership Award Honorees are U.S. Poet Laureate Arthur Sze, and the Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Foundation.

ALLEN GINSBERG AT 100! THE POETRY PROJECT PRESENTS AN ALLEN GINSBERG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN NYC ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 8 P.M. EST AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

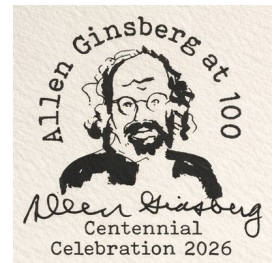
Live & Livestreamed

Doors open at 7:45pm

Tickets: \$10

(Allen Ginsberg – ink drawing by Alice Notley.)

The Poetry Project presents a celebration of Allen Ginsberg's centennial in NYC on June 3 (his actual birthday), at St. Mark's Church (2nd Ave and 10th St.); doors open 7:30, event starts at 8pm. \$10. The Poetry Project will stream this event. As of this writing, we couldn't find a link to the livestream!



Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/allen-ginsberg-centennial-tickets-1982372830500?aff=oddtcreator>

The event will feature poets and musicians who worked with Allen, as well as younger poets and musicians who have been influenced by Allen's work. Speakers will include David Amram, Ed Sanders, Anne Waldman, Mosab Abu Toha, Anselm Berrigan, Zoe Breszny, Lee Anne Brown, Sol Cabrini, Eliot Katz, Simon Pettet, Oliver

Ray, Danny Shot, Shannon Sky, and Pamela Sneed, among others, and Allen Ginsberg on video.

Organizers: Peter Hale, Eliot Katz. Emcees: Bob Rosenthal, Eliot Katz.

The celebrations continue worldwide, including Allen Ginsberg at 100 at Southbank, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, Sunday, July 12, 7:30 p.m. "Rejoice in the American bard and 20th Century icon, Allen Ginsberg, with an eclectic mix of guests spanning generations and disciplines." (Part of a wider Poetry International Festival.) The performances will take place at the Southbank at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Participants include Thurston Moore, Scanner, Youth, James Lavelle, Stew (playwright from *Passing Strange*), Gina Birch, Anne Waldman, Steven Taylor and others.

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.aseatatthetablebooks.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.

AMATORIA FINE ART BOOKS

<https://amatoriafineartbooks.shop/>
1831 F Street, Sacramento

Amatoria + Abridged by KVIE PBS present
Ana Tri on Friday, June 12 at 6 p.m.

A concert + conversation around music, books, and the art scene in Sacramento.

Sacramento, Amatoria Fine Art Books and Abridged by KVIE PBS invites you to an evening with local folk duo Ana Tri featuring a concert and a conversation around music, books, and the art scene in Sacramento.

Kat & Kris Burce are sisters and collaborators, born and raised on the island of Guam and rooted in the Philippines. They blend contemporary California folk with



rich, ethereal harmonies drawn from the deep well of their unique background. Ana Tri's songs are a meditation on the natural world and a call to action to defend it, summoning their ancestors and present-day warriors with a sound that is entirely their own. They will discuss their winding musical journey and their latest release, "Apothecary", a themed album where plants are metaphor and medicine to understand and heal our world. Amatoria is honored to have their voices, their compositions, and their perspective grace the bookstore.

Get tickets here: <https://www.anatrimusic.com/>

This event will be filmed and featured on Abridged by KVIE. By purchasing tickets, you are agreeing to appear in the video.

On Sunday, June 28, at 7 p.m., Amatoria welcomes Scrambler Books presenting a poetry reading by author Elena Medel and translator Lizzie Davis.

Scrambler, a Davis independent book store and small press, is collaborating with Amatoria for a live reading of Madrid based writer, Elena Medel's debut poetry collection entitled *My First Bikini*, translated by Lizzie Davis. Originally published in Spain as *Mi Primer Bikini*, currently out of print in the United States, this will be a new revised bilingual edition. The reading will feature both Elena Medel and translator Lizzie Davis.

This event will be free with purchase of one book. Snacks and beverages will be provided while you browse the stacks and chat with the artists!

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.

BROWN SUGAR: A SENSUAL POETIC EXPERIENCE SATURDAY, JUNE 27 6-10 P.M.

Dive into Brown Sugar, where poetry, art, and sensual vibes blend for a night you won't forget. Presented by Malikspeaks,

Get ready to dive into an evening of passion and creativity! Brown Sugar brings you an intimate, in-person gathering filled with soulful poetry, captivating art, and vibes that'll awaken your senses. Whether you're a fan of sultry words or expressive visuals, this experience promises to stir your emotions and inspire your imagination. Come as you are and let the sensual energy flow!

Tickets & info: <https://tinyurl.com/yyvr4mdt>

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/>

CAMINOS MUNDIALES / GLOBAL ROADS: ARTWORK REVEALED IN THE SEARCH FOR THE COLOR BLUE / STAN PADILLA AT THE LATINO CENTER OF ART & CULTURE — OPENS JUNE 12

Since early childhood, Maestro Stan Padilla has been enamored of the color blue. He has been on a global quest for the meaning and sources of the plant and mineral sources of this elusive color. His journey includes Buddhist monasteries along the Silk Road, ancient temples of Egypt, Renaissance churches in Florence, Toltec temple murals in central Mexico, and the jungles of Southern Yucatan in search of Mayan Blue. He brings

these experiences to Sacramento through this exhibit at the LCAC.

Join LCAC for this powerful new exhibition and activations featuring drawings, paintings, photographs, prints, and videos by Maestro Stan Padilla.



LCAC is located at 2700 Front St, Sacramento, CA.

June 12, 6 p.m.
Opening Reception

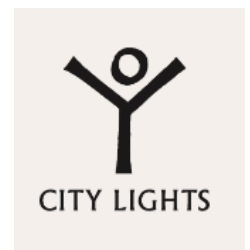
June 27, 10 a.m.
Artist Talk

July 11, 5 p.m.
Blue Night Market
Prints, Jewelry, Drinks & Music

July 25, 10 a.m.
Artist Workshop: Finding the Mayan Blue
Adventures in the Yucatán Selva

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, some are offsite. 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.



Not much happening in June, but here are a few events in July and August:

Sunday, July 26, 12 p.m.

Maxine Chernoff with Paul Hoover, Claudia Keelan, Roxi Power Hamilton, and Cole Swenson. City Lights celebrates the publication of *DIARY:POEMS* by Maxine Chernoff, published by Quale Press. This event will be held in Kerouac Alley, between City Lights and Vesuvio Cafe, between Grant Avenue and Columbus Avenue.

Free to the public. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sunday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.

VELVET UNDERGROUND UNBOUND: An Evening of Discussion and Music:

City Lights, The Make Out Room, and The Rock n' Roll Book Club of SF present Richie Unterberger in conversation with Peter Maravelis (City Lights). Music by DJ Michael Gabriel. Launch Party for the publication *Do What You Fear Most: The History of the Velvet Underground* by Richie Unterberger (Introduction by Dean Wareham). Published by Omnibus Press. This event will take place at The Make Out Room, 3225 22nd St, San Francisco, CA 94110. Admission \$10.00 (Advance Tickets through The Make Out Room, TBA)

Monday, July 27, 6 p.m.

Jeanne Carstensen in conversation with Saumya Roy
City Lights celebrates the paperback release of *A Greek Tragedy: One Day, a Deadly Shipwreck, and the Human Cost of the Refugee Crisis* by Jeanne Carstensen, published by Atria/One Signal Publishers.

Tuesday, July 28, 6 p.m.

Wesleyan University Press Showcase
City Lights and Wesleyan University Press celebrate new seasonal work with Carol Ann Davis, Edgar Garcia, Cindy Juyoung Ok, and Sandra Simonds.

Monday, August 3, 2026, 6 p.m.

City Lights and Pluto Press present Rayelle Davis in conversation with Jolene McIlwain discussing the new book *Money in the Mountains: The Cultural Trauma of Appalachia*, by Rayelle Davis, published by Pluto Press.

Tuesday, August 11, 6 p.m.

City Lights celebrates the publication of *How We See It: The World Looks at America in the Age of Trump*, edited by The Dial, published by New Press. Managing editor of The Dial, Mara Wilson in discussion with contributor Saumya Roy.

Sunday, August 23, 12 p.m.

Beyond Baroque @ City Lights

An afternoon of poetry in Kerouac Alley! Featuring readings by Beyond Baroque's very own Rhiannon Cielos Chavez, Genesis Perez, Iván Salinas, & jimmy vega. Admission is Free, Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**CLASSY HIPPIE OPEN MIC, 1ST FRIDAYS
IFAMODUPE JUNE 5**

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, June 5, 7-9 p.m., Classy Hippie welcomes singer, poet, and activist Ifamodupe to the room. Admission is \$10.

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

**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.

**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 — TWOSENSE!

MalikSpeaks presents the Mahogany Urban Poetry 2nd Saturday Series, 7 p.m. at All City Homes, 3401 34th Street. Hosted by JRowe. The feature on June 13 is local phenom Twosense.

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

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/](https://www.mahoganyandrose.com/).

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 Thursday. June 18 reading features Robin Becker and Danielle Lemay.

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, lcmedley016@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, lcmedley016@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, SJ.) Free (donations welcomed).

POETRY OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS SERIES AT CHATEAU DAVELL, THIRD SUNDAYS JUNE 28: CHRIS OLANDER

Poetry of the Sierra Foothills at the Chateau Davell Boutique Winery series occurs on the third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. On June 28, Davell welcomes Chris Olander celebrating his new collection *Who We Are*.

The Chateau Davell Boutique Winery is located at 3020 Vista Tierra Drive, Camino, CA, right off Highway 50, Four miles from Placerville. Details: larag@aol.com. Phone: 530-644-2016.

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 Geneva 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.

SELF DESIGNS: VINCENT KOBELT HOSTS, 2ND FRIDAYS

Vincent Kobelt hosts this series at Self Designs Art Gallery, 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/>

SONORA POETRY AND PROSE CRAWL FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 6-8 P.M.

Download the flyer here!

The Sonora Writers Group invites the community to an evening of creativity, storytelling, and connection at the Poetry & Prose Crawl on Friday, June 5, 6-8 p.m., in downtown Sonora.

This engaging, multi-venue literary event will unfold across four unique locations, featuring live performances, open mic opportunities, and engaging poetry and prose for all ages. Attendees are invited to bring their own original work to share during open mic sessions throughout the evening.

Stroll from venue to venue and experience a rich variety of styles—from cowboy poetry and spoken word to youth

competitions and children's readings. Whether you're a writer ready to share your work, a poetry enthusiast eager to listen, or simply curious, there's something here for everyone, including poetry, spoken word, a youth slam cowboy poetry (!), flash prose and kid's poetry events.

For details, please visit: <https://sonorawriters.com/events/2026-poetry-prose/>

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.

TEA AND POETRY AT MOTHER NATIVES JUNE 20, 6:30 p.m.

The Tea & Poetry Summer Series offers free tea, poetry, music, food & vendors. Sip on your favorite tea from JAH Herbs N Roots and enjoy some heartfelt poetry. It's an outdoor event — you can bring your own chair.

Tea & Poetry happens June 20 at 6:30 p.m. Listen or share your own poetry, relax and connect with fellow poetry lovers. Doors open at 6. Open Mic List opens at 6:30 and closes at 7:30pm. Admission: \$15 online, \$20 at the door — find tickets at herbsnroots.org Mother Natives is located at 4421 24th Street, Sacramento.

T-MO & LOCK & KEY PRESENT GOOD VIBES, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 7-9 P.M.

Host Terry Moore invites you to come ready to be inspired, entertained, and uplifted as performers share their unique voices and spread good energy throughout the night.

Featured performers: Poets Straight Out Scribes, and Samantha Gaines, Comedian Jordan Kirchner, Music by The Public I.

Admission is \$10. Tickets & Info: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8s5mbj>.

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.

Tuesday, June 16 features are Pandora Poets: Arlene Downing Yaconelli, Susan Dlugach, Lesley Cummings, Sandra Tanhauser, and Rick Rayburn.

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.**

Poets join Local Sounds at Two Rivers Cider from 6-9 p.m. on First Fridays from here on out. Featured on Friday, June 5 will be Melinda Rivasplata, Shay Ingram, Terry Rivasplata & Dwight Jackson (aka The Nomad). 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.

**WASHINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
REOPENING! SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.**



Please join in celebrating the Reopening of The Washington Neighborhood Center on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Center is located at 400 16th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

WNS has long been Sacramento's home of Chicano art, culture, & community.

The Rehabilitation Project transformed and restored the culturally significant building and center, which will now launch expanded programming and facilities for Chicano, Indigenous, BQTPOC youth, and working-class artists and community in Sacramento.

Expansion plans include:

Indigenous Ethnic Studies Library
S.T.E.A.M. Computer Lab
Art Studios & Art Store
Screen Printing Workshop
Wellness Gym
Homework & Co-working Cafe
Outdoor Garden & Art Classroom

Come and see the renovated space and imagine the possibilities for the next 7 generations! The day will also include refreshments, and free children's activities.

WRITE CLUB: 1ST MONDAYS, 2ND SATURDAYS, 3RD THURSDAYS

Write Club, a 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.

**IN A NUTSHELL, JUNE 26
SPICY STORIES FOR ADULTS — NSFW**

If you've ever sat with thoughts and feelings about your own body or your own longing and thought, *I could never*

say *that out loud*, this night is for you. Come watch four people say it out loud. Beautifully. Bravely. Hilariously.

You can hear these stories on Saturday, June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

There's a reason this kind of show exists. And there's a reason people leave them feeling cracked open in the best possible way. Because the stories we're most afraid to tell are almost always the ones other people need to hear most. And maybe the stories we're afraid to hear are the ones we hope one day we'll be okay with ourselves enough to tell.

That's what bawdy storytelling actually is: people standing up and telling the truth about the most vulnerable, confusing, exhilarating, occasionally disastrous parts of being *a being*, a being burdened with a body and a brain that have wants and desires (often counterintuitive to each other!). These "truths" told through spicy stories can be explicit and hilarious, heartbreaking and cathartic; they can be predictable or inevitable or so confoundingly *particular*, but whatever they expose, confess, or declare, sooner or later you'll probably catch yourself nodding along, thinking, *yes, oh god, yes, that*, and then look around and realize everyone else in the room is nodding, too. And maybe you'll be a little flushed in the face; maybe not. But you will be tuned in.

Featured speakers at this events are Dixie De La Tour, Addy Sakler, Amber Elektra, Alex Paez.

In a Nutshell Storytelling is a small, artist-run live storytelling show based in Sacramento where, once a month, they fill the beautiful Sofia Theatre with humans listening to other humans tell true, personal stories.

Tickets: https://bstreettheatre.org/other/in-a-nutshell-storytelling-series/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

THEATER

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: TAMING OF THE SHREW PRESENTED BY TAKE NOTE TROUPE THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 7:30 -10 P.M.

Take Note Troupe's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* is a lively, laugh-filled comedy the whole family can enjoy. This performance will be held at Village Park, 7997 California Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

The play's story follows the strong-willed Katherina and the confident, quick-talking Petruchio as their playful battle of words turns into one of Shakespeare's most

outrageous romances. Along the way, silly disguises, mistaken identities, and over-the-top suitors create plenty of comic chaos as Katherina's sister Bianca finds herself at the center of the fun. Presented as a colorful Bollywood-style outdoor production, this high-energy performance features vibrant characters, joyful movement, and big laughs—perfect for families, picnics in the park, and a fun evening together at your local park.

Bring low-backed chairs that sit close to the ground or picnic blankets and a light jacket for after dark. We recommend picking up dinner at a local eatery to enjoy during the show. Please plan to arrive between 6:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. for seating. The show will begin at 7:30 pm.

Free. Donations accepted. Tickets not required.

For inquiries please email tntshows@gmail.com.

More information: <https://takenotetroupe.org/shakespeare-in-the-park/>

CELEBRATION ARTS PRESENTS

DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR Written by Douglas Lyons Directed by Danielle Moné Truitt

June 12 – June 28, 2026

Roommates and besties Jade and Eemani take a modern workplace dilemma into their own hands, and magically, into the past. This is the hilarious second offering in the *The Deep Breath Trilogy: New Plays for Black Women* by Douglas Lyons, the playwright who gave us last year's smash hit, *Chicken and Biscuits*. DTMH will leave audiences with much to think about in the subtle and not-so-subtle ways race, power, and identity collide in the present — and the past. This Northern California premiere will be directed by our local gem, Danielle Moné Truitt (who you may know as Sergeant Ayanna Bell on *Law and Order: Organized Crime*).



Opens on June 12, and opening night will be attended by the author. And Celebration Arts is indeed celebrating — its 40th year!

Tickets & more info at: <https://www.celebrationarts.net/>



COMMUNITY CULTURAL EVENTS

PRIDE MONTH CELEBRATIONS IN SACRAMENTO

Pride events in Sacramento are widespread and a lot of fun! Here are a few. Check your favorite listing source for more.

Saturday, June 13, 1-7 p.m. & Sunday, June 14, 12-5 p.m.:

Pride March & Festival. Located at Capitol Mall (3rd-7th St.), featuring 20,000+ attendees, live entertainment, and exhibitors.

Presented by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, Sac Pride features incredible entertainment, activations, vendors, food, drinks & more!

For more information, visit SacramentoPride.org/

Other events:

June 11

7 Deadly Sins Burlesque: Pride Edition (June 11, 2026): A performance at The Flamingo House.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7-deadly-sins-burlesque-pride-edition-tickets-1988796834870>

June 19-21

SGMC's Pride Show: Rhinestone Cowboy (June 19- 21): Performance by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus at The Sofia.

<https://bstreettheatre.org/music/sgmc-rhinestone-cowboy/>

June 20

Sacramento Pride Bar Crawl, an official, ticketed pub crawl, starting at KBAR.DOCO.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sacramento-pride-bar-crawl-tickets-1730520014949>

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS IN SACRAMENTO

There are a lot of events in Sacramento that celebrate Juneteenth. Many include poetry and spoken word performances.

Juneteenth has its foundation in June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and free the last enslaved Black Americans (not quite!). This came more than two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Here are a few. Check your favorite info sources for more.

The 23rd Annual Juneteenth Festival in Sacramento will be held on June 19–20, 2026, at William Land Regional Park, featuring a parade, live music, vendors, and arts. The celebration honors the end of slavery with a variety of community events, including the 2026 California State Capitol Juneteenth on the west steps.

<https://sacramentojuneteenthinc.org/>

Other highlights include

June 19

Art Walk: A parade and art tour starting at Celebration Arts in midtown.

B Street Theatre, Celebration Arts, BTU Arts and CapStage are thrilled to announce that they have (once again!) partnered together for an incredible Juneteenth event! On Friday, June 19th, members of all organizations and the public will gather at Celebration Arts (2727 B Street, Sacramento) and then begin an Art Walk led by BTU Arts' Second Line-Style Brass Band through midtown Sacramento to CapStage (2215 J Street), and The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre (2700 Capitol Ave, Sacramento). All are welcome to join this free event!

<https://bstreettheatre.org/other/juneteenth-art-walk/>

June 20

Run Juneteenth Day 5K/10K/13.1: June 20, 2026, begins at Sutter's Landing Regional Park.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Sacramento/RunJuneteenthDay5K10KSACRAMENTO>

June 20

Juneteenth Block Party.

St. HOPE is pleased to partner with Sutter Health and University of Pacific to present the fourth annual Juneteenth Block Party. The 40 Acres Art and Cultural

Center in Oak Park is a cultural cornerstone in Sacramento and perfect location to celebrate the nationally celebrated Juneteenth holiday. Come on out as we shut down the streets around 40 Acres for a neighborhood block party! 3408 3rd Ave, Sacramento, CA 95817

<https://sacramento365.com/event/st-hope-juneteenth-block-party/>

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.

THE SPC WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP: POLYPHONICS: A WORKSHOP OF POETS IN CONVERSATION IS BEING DISCONTINUED

Kyle Griffiths, the facilitator of the Polyphonics Workshop is moving away from Sacramento. The workshop is immediately suspended. Details on page [x](#). We thank Kyle for his dedicated efforts!

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>

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 info: www.nickleforce.com → Inside Out. Register Here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6161111111?pwd=opjkpnyQECaVbK0lY4hKCdl61uAT>

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

KOMOREBI WRITING WORKSHOPS, JUNE 2026

Dear Writers,

You are cordially invited to participate in **Komorebi Writing Workshops**, a series of one-day, online generative writing workshops via Zoom. No direct English translation for the Japanese, *komorebi*, scattered sunlight that filters through branches, but that's why we're here. Scattered in need of trees to filter light, soften sounds, lengthen the distance between inhale & ex-. We will write to explore what light comes filtering through, to honor, to witness, and to connect. Each session will begin with a reading and brief discussion of one poem, and we will then write in response to craft-driven prompts, or to whatever inspires us that day, no limitations on genre, form, or content. You will then have the opportunity to share your work for gentle feedback, if desired. This workshop is intended for writers at all levels of experience, and in all genres. You can sign up for one session, more than one, or all. The following session dates are available:

June 2, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
June 9, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
June 16, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
June 23, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
June 30, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The intention of these workshops is to generate new work, which means only gentle feedback will be given. In order to create a safe space for new work, we will follow some basic guidelines set forth by the Amherst Writer's and Artists Method. In order to participate, you will need to ensure the safety of yourself and your fellow workshop participants by agreeing to uphold **Amherst Writer's & Artists Method Safety Practices**:

- 1) Everyone's writing is treated with equal respect and value.

- 2) Writing is kept strictly confidential. What happens in workshop stays in workshop! If you would like to discuss writing with the author outside of workshop, please ask the author's permission first.
- 3) All work will be treated as fiction. The "I" or "narrator" of a piece is always referred to as the "speaker," or "narrator," and never assumed to be the writer.
- 4) Workshop discussions will be focused on, and limited to, the writing. In order to honor new work, please refrain from any tangents until outside of workshop.
- 5) Responses to just-written work reflect what is strong and what stays with you. Baby drafts needs to be treated with care.

Workshop Specifics

Registration fee: \$25 per session (If money is tight, please ask about scholarships.)

Materials needed: paper and pen, a device with Internet connection

Location: entirely on-line, via Zoom

Space is limited! To register, please let me know which session(s) you are interested in, and confirm space is still available by responding to this e-mail. I accept Venmo, Zelle, Pay Pal, cash, or check. If paying by cash or check, please email me for the mailing address. I look forward to writing with you!

To join, or for more information, please contact:
bethaniehu@hotmail.com

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.



**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 Gualarte facilitate the Veteran's Voices Writing Workshop sessions in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville respectively.

Lara Gualarte'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 Gualarte 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 Gualarte, is held at 5:30 p.m. at the El Dorado Hills Library, 7455 Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills.

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

**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*.

TWO SYLVIAS PRESS: POETRY SUMMER & FALL RETREATS: MARK DOTY IN JULY

Two Sylvias' popular Online Poetry Retreat, where you can choose a guest poet (Diane Seuss, Traci Brimhall, Lena Khalaf Tuffaha, Diannely Antigua, or Jennifer K. Sweeney) to give you feedback on one of your poems, returns. You'll receive inspiring exercises and prompts throughout the month.

Mark Doty will be joining TS' Weekly Muse Community in July for a live Zoom class! There is more information below on signing up for the retreat and joining us for Mark's event.

Two Sylvias Online Summer/Fall Poetry Retreat
Online Summer/Fall Poetry Retreat is open for sign-ups:
<https://twosylviaspress.com/online-poetry-retreat.html>

Sign up and participate in the Two Sylvias Press online poetry retreat! Have one of your poems critiqued by Diane Seuss, Traci Brimhall, Lena Khalaf Tuffaha (August Only), Diannely Antigua (July Only), or Jennifer K. Sweeney for the summer sessions. Fall session poems will be critiqued by the editors of Two Sylvias Press.

Daily poetry prompts, exercises, and example poems to inspire your writing are all sent via email.

Dates:

July 6 - August 2 (July Session)

August 3- August 30 (August Session)

October 5 - November 1 (October Session)

Choose the session that best fits your schedule and sign up! Space is limited! Please visit our website to register:
<https://twosylviaspress.com/online-poetry-retreat.html>

Please Note: The material for each retreat is the same--so please sign up for only one session.

Mark Doty Joins the Weekly Muse Community in July!

Become a paid subscriber of the Two Sylvias Weekly Muse so that you can sign up for their Zoom salon/conversation with Mark Doty on July 26.

Mark Doty is the author of nine books of poetry, including *Deep Lane*, *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems*, which won the National Book Award, and *My Alexandria*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the T.S. Eliot Prize in the UK. He is also the author of four memoirs: the New York Times bestselling *What Is the Grass*, *Dog Years*, *Firebird*, and *Heaven's Coast*, as well as a book about craft and criticism, *The Art of Description: World Into Word*. Doty has received two NEA fellowships, Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, a Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Award, and the Witter Byner Prize.

And, coming up in August and September—Kelli Russell Agodon and Kim Addonizio will join the Muse Community for Zoom Classes!

For more info about Two Sylvias, visit them at <https://twosylviaspress.com/index.html>.

OPPORTUNITIES

**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/

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

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 accepts 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>

**THE 2026 NATURE POETRY PRIZE
JUDGED BY KIMIKO HAHN
DEADLINE JUNE 14**

This prize offers \$3500 and publication to the winner.

For our second year of the Nature Poetry Prize, Palette ecstatic to have Kimiko Hahn serve as the judge. Please join in celebrating the natural world through poems contemplating our relationship to flora and fauna, on how words can bloom from soil, and about the melody you hear whispered in the winds. Whether your connection to nature is positive, antagonistic, or dependent—they look forward to reading it all!

For more inspiration on the subject, here is some advice from the guest judge:

“If you think about it, Nature writing can encompass any subject whether an object from the forest or sea or observing the wonders of the body; whether celebrating discovery, or mourning loss. I am interested in seeing how inventive a writer can be in finding Nature. Take out a magnifying glass and really look at a cocoon. What about a plastic bag caught in a tree? Make your language work hard to bring your images to light. And remember, the five kinds of images in poetry connect to our five senses and not just the visual. I want to read a poem that draws me into the experience of Nature.”

—Kimiko Hahn

Submissions are open from April 14, 2026 – June 14, 2026. Palette’s editors will choose the ten finalists and any honorable mentions that warrant extra attention. Our judge will then select the winner and two runners-up for publication. The winner will be awarded \$3,000, publication, and a brief interview in Palette Poetry. Second and third place will receive \$300 and \$200, respectively, as well as publication. Finalists may also be considered for publication in our Featured Poetry category.

Details: <https://www.palett poetry.com/the-2026-nature-poetry-prize/>

**SWAN SCYTHE PRESS 2026 CHAPBOOK CONTEST
DEADLINE: JUNE 15**

Swan Scythe Press announces its 2026 Chapbook Contest. Any poet writing in English is eligible to submit. We will accept manuscripts between March 1, 2026 and June 15, 2026.

The winning manuscript will be published in a 6" x 9" format, with full color cover. The contest winner will



receive 25 copies of her/his book, a prize of \$200, and the opportunity to buy copies of their book at 40% of retail price. Previous winners have then sold copies of their books at prices that assure profits for themselves, at readings and other public appearances. Swan Scythe Press will also provide free copies to book reviewers.

The winner of the 2025 Swan Scythe Press Chapbook Contest is Catherine Allen for her manuscript *We Return as Rain*.

Finalists include Melina Cohen-Bramwell for *Crushed*, Christopher Dungey for *No One Froze*, Emilio Gallegos for *Sending Kisses Into the Wind*, Robert Hamilton for *Aristotle's Skeleton*, Hayden Park for *Genesis//in the key of mirrors*, Tina Schumann for *Epistolarium* and Patricia Aya Williams for *Ichiban*.

Details: <https://www.swanscythepress.com/contest.html>

**THE MOTH SHORT STORY PRIZE 2026
DEADLINE: JUNE 15**

The Moth Short Story Prize is an international prize, open to anyone from anywhere in the world, as long as your story is original and previously unpublished. The winners are chosen by a single judge each year, who reads the stories anonymously.

This year’s judge is Wendy Erskine.

THE PRIZES

1st prize €3,000

2nd prize €1,000

3rd prize a week at The Moth Retreat

The winning story is printed as part of the summer fiction series in the Irish Times, while the 2nd and 3rd-prize-winning stories are published in the Irish Times online.

Wendy Erskine is the author of two prize-winning short story collections, *Sweet Home* and *Dance Move*. She edited the anthology *well I just kind of like it about art in the home*. She is a frequent broadcaster and interviewer, and works as a secondary school teacher in Belfast. Her debut novel, *The Benefactors*, was longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize, and shortlisted for best novel at the Irish Book Awards, and best audio novel at the British Audio Awards. It was awarded Waterstones Best Irish Book of 2025 and is longlisted for the Women's Prize 2026.

Details: <https://www.themothmagazine.com/directory/about-the-moth-short-story-prize>

**VOICES AT THE TABLE EKPHRASTIC POETRY
CONTEST, DEADLINE: JUNE 15**

This ekphrastic poetry contest invites poets to respond to selected works from a private art collection.

Selected artworks may be viewed online at:
<https://art.apoetofprose.com/>

Submission Period end June 15, 2026

Poets may select up to two artworks as inspiration and submit up to two poems inspired by those works.

Winning poems, along with selected submissions, will be read aloud as part of a live poetry and music celebration on Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 2-4:30 p.m., featuring a guest piano soloist.

Winners must be present and read their poems in order to receive awards. All participating poets will have an opportunity to read their work. RSVP is required to receive the address, as the event will be held in a private home.

Contest Guidelines: Blind Entry, No Names on Poems. A three-judge panel will determine winners — details may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yc4rjayv>

Awards

1st Prize: \$150

2nd Prize: \$100

3rd Prize: \$75

Honorable Mentions: \$25 (up to two awarded depending on number of entries)

Questions

For questions or additional information, contact: Valdez Hill, Host, Voices at the Table @ stng21@yahoo.com

**DELTA STORIES / VOICES OF THE DELTA CALL FOR
SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE: JUNE 19**

A note from Maryellen Burns:

I'm writing to let you know that we have extended the submission deadline for the next issue of Delta Stories by an additional month, and we very much hope you might consider contributing.

The theme for this issue is Voices of the Delta — stories centered on the people who have shaped the Delta and the many ways communities, occupations, traditions, and cultural experiences reflect the larger story of the region itself. We are especially interested in pieces that bring individual lives and lived experience into focus, whether through history, memory, labor, art, agriculture, business,

migration, music, foodways, wine, preservation, or community life.

We welcome a broad range of submissions, including:
Historical essays and research articles
Oral histories and interviews
Personal narratives and memoir pieces
Poetry and short fiction
Photo essays and visual storytelling
"How-to" or traditional knowledge articles
Previously published work (with permission from the original publisher if required)
Submission guidelines are attached.

If you already have a piece in mind, we would appreciate receiving it as soon as possible so our editorial team has adequate time for any copy editing, or layout considerations. If you have images, please submit them before the deadline, as well. Before publication, a final edited version will always be sent to you for review and approval.

Regrettably, we do not yet have a budget to compensate contributors for articles, at least for this issue. However, one of our long-term goals is to build a sustainable fund that will allow us to provide honorariums to writers, researchers, artists, and contributors in future editions.

As always, our goal with Delta Stories is to preserve and share the many voices, memories, and perspectives that together form the continuing story of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

We would be honored to include your work. If you know someone who might also be interested, please forward this note and our submission guidelines to them.

Warm regards,

Maryellen Burns
President, Sacramento River Delta Historical Society
Editor, Delta Stories

Send submissions & queries to
maryellen_burns@mac.com

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS KATHERINE ANNE
PORTER PRIZE IN SHORT FICTION
DEADLINE: JUNE 30**

The University of North Texas Press announces the 2027 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction. The winner of this annual award will receive \$1000 and publication by UNT Press. Entries will be judged by an eminent writer.

Manuscripts must be by end of day on June 30. The winning manuscript will be announced in January 2027.

They only accept electronic submissions through Submittable.

In order to ensure that all writers have access to publication, this contest will be open for fee-free submissions on Monday, June 1st from 12:00 am to 11:59 pm.

The \$25 entry fee can be paid online via credit card or PayPal.

Entries must be a collection of any combination of flash fiction, short stories, or novellas, from 100 to 200 book pages in length (word count between 27,500 and 50,000). Material should be previously unpublished in book form. Once a winner is declared and contracted for publication, UNT Press will hold the rights to the stories in the winning collection. They may no longer be under consideration for serial publication elsewhere and must be withdrawn by the author from consideration.

Details: <https://untpress.unt.edu/authors/porter-prize-submissions/>

AUTUMN HOUSE Poetry Prize DEADLINE: JUNE 30

For the 2026 prize, the Autumn House staff, as well as select outsider readers, serve as the preliminary readers, and the final judge is Felicia Zamora. The winner receives publication of their full-length manuscript and \$2,500. The submission period closes June 30. They will announce the finalists and the winner in October 2026.

The winner will receive book publication, a \$1,000 honorarium, and a \$1,500 travel/publicity grant to promote their book. All finalists will be considered for publication.

Poetry submissions should be approximately 50-80 pages. The reading fee is \$30,

The book must be previously unpublished as a whole. However, individual pieces may have been published in journals, magazines, or anthologies. Collections that combine new work with previously published material from the author's other books ("new and selected" collections) are not eligible. We only accept original manuscripts; AI-generated or AI-supported works are not accepted

Full details: <https://www.autumnhouse.org/submissions/poetry/>

Felicia Zamora is the author of eight books of poetry including, *Murmuration Archives*, *Akrilica Series*, Noemi Press (2026), *Interstitial Archaeology*, Wisconsin Poetry

Series (2025), *I Always Carry My Bones*, winner of the 2020 Iowa Poetry Prize (2021) and the 2022 Ohioana Book Award in Poetry, *Body of Render*, Benjamin Saltman Award winner (2020), and *Of Form & Gather*, Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize winner (2017). She is a poetry editor for *Colorado Review* and an associate professor of poetry at the University of Cincinnati, where she is a 2025-2026 Taft Research Center Fellow.

THE STORY PRIZE DEADLINE: JULY 1/NOVEMBER 16

The Story Prize is an annual book award honoring the author of an outstanding collection of short fiction with a \$20,000 cash award. Each of two runners-up will receive \$5,000. Eligible books must be written in English (by a living writer) and first published in the United States during a calendar year. The finalists and winner we announce each year are for books published the previous year. Translated works are not eligible.

Publishers, authors, or agents may enter eligible works of short fiction. **The deadline for books published from January through June is July 1. For books published from July through December, the deadline is November 16.** The Story Prize reserves the right to decline any entry. Please contact us if the \$75 entry fee presents a hardship, and we will consider waiving it. Please keep in mind that The Story Prize is itself not a for-profit organization and has a limited budget.

<https://thestoryprize.org/>

BELLEVUE LITERARY REVIEW PRIZES IN PROSE AND POETRY, DEADLINE: JULY 1

BLR is thrilled to announce that this year's contest judges are Natalie Diaz, Daniel Mason, and Meghan O'Rourke.

Entries for the 2027 BLR Literary Prizes opened on March 1. Submit your best poetry, fiction, and nonfiction until July 1, 2026.

The BLR Prizes award outstanding writing related to themes of health, healing, illness, the mind, and the body. For each category, first prize is \$1,000 and honorable mention is \$300. Winners are published in the Spring 2027 issue of BLR.

Details: <https://blreview.org/news/recent-news/announcing-the-2027-blr-literary-prizes-judges/>

**FARRAR STRAUSS GIROUX
FSG WRITER'S FELLOWSHIP \$15,000
DEADLINE: JULY 3**

First launched in 2021, the FSG Writer's Fellowship is an annual program designed to give an emerging writer from an underrepresented community additional resources to build a life around writing—including \$15,000 in funding, editorial guidance, and support from the FSG community. The Fellowship celebrates the spirit of the FSG list and its commitment to invention, curiosity, and extending the limits of literature.

Additional resources of the award:

Mentorship with an FSG house author

Guidance from two in-house editors, who will offer line and structural feedback on the fellow's work throughout the year

Opportunities for meet-and-greets with representatives from other departments—including Publicity/Marketing, Art, Subsidiary Rights, and Managing Editorial—to discuss their areas of expertise, answer questions, and help build a broader understanding of the publishing business

Support with networking beyond FSG

Details: <https://fsgfellowship.com/apply/>

**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 entry fee 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.

2026 Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize



*Submission Deadline: July 31st
Final Judge: Lee Herrick
<https://redwheelbarrow.submittable.com/submit>*

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>

**THE WILLIAM FAULKNER LITERARY COMPETITION
MULTIPLE CATEGORIES AND DEADLINES
(POETRY DEADLINE: JULY 31)**

William Faulkner was born on September 25, 1897, on Jefferson Street in New Albany, Mississippi. Some of his notable awards were the 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature, the 1955 and 1963 Pulitzer Prizes for Fiction and the 1951 and 1955 National Book Awards. Recognizing the significance of being the birthplace of one of the most celebrated writers in American Literature generally and Southern Literature specifically, the WF Competition is proud to provide the William Faulkner Literary contest for aspiring writers.

The William Faulkner Literary Competition offers five categories for participants to enter: Novel, One Act Play, Poetry, Adult Short Story, Student Short Story.

Novel Deadline: July 15
Winner Prize: \$2000
Second Place: Honorable Mention Certificate
Entry Fee: \$50

Adult Short Story Deadline: July 31
First Prize \$600
Second Prize \$300
Third Prize \$200
Entry fee: \$20

One Act Play Deadline: July 31
First Prize \$600
Second Prize \$300
Third Prize \$200
Entry fee: \$20

Poetry Deadline: July 31
First Prize \$600
Second Prize \$300
Third Prize \$200
Entry fee: \$20

Student Short Story (MS High School Students)
Deadline: August 31
First Prize: \$250
Second Prize: \$150
Third Prize: \$100
Entry Fee: Free

Details: <https://williamfaulknerliterarycompetition.com/competition-details/>

The Short Story, One Act Play, Poetry, and Student Short Story entries will not be returned, so keep a copy for your records. The Novel entries will only be returned if an envelope, with proper postage affixed, is included with your entry.

Only winners will be notified and will be recognized during the Faulkner Literary Competition Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., September 25, 2026 in New Albany, MS

**APR HONICKMAN FIRST BOOK PRIZE
A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN POETRY REVIEW
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1**

The American Poetry Review is happy to announce that the 2027 APR/Honickman First Book Prize will be judged by Terrance Hayes.

Terrance Hayes's most recent collections are *So To Speak* (Penguin, 2023), a collection of essays, *Watch Your Language* (Penguin, 2023), and *American Sonnets for My Past And Future Assassin* (Penguin, 2018). Hayes is a Silver Professor of English at New York University.

The prize of \$3,000, with an introduction by the judge and distribution of the winning book by Copper Canyon Press through Consortium, will be awarded in 2027 with publication of the book in the same year. The author will receive a standard book publishing contract, with royalties paid in addition to the \$3,000 prize. This year's final judge is poet Terrance Hayes.

Terrance Hayes's newest books include a collection of poems, *So To Speak* (Penguin, 2023), a collection of essays, *Watch Your Language* (Penguin, 2023), *American Sonnets for My Past And Future Assassin* (Penguin, 2018) and *To Float In The Space Between: Drawings and Essays in Conversation with Etheridge Knight* (Wave, 2018). *To Float In The Space Between* was winner of the Poetry Foundation's 2019 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism; *American Sonnets for My Past And Future Assassin* won the Hurston/Wright 2019 Award for Poetry. Hayes is a Silver Professor of English at New York University.

The judge will select a manuscript in an anonymous review process.

Learn more & submit your work here:
americanpoetryreview.submittable.com/submit.

“Don’t tell me the moon is shining;
show me the glint of light on broken glass.”
— Anton Chekhov

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

SPC is supported in part by a grant from SAOC.



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!