



POET NEWS



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Dog Days Ahead: A 9th-century astronomical manuscript, including an illustration of the constellation *Canis Major*

SPC JULY/AUGUST EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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

A Reading Featuring Kyle Griffiths & Maris Juwono

Saturday, July 11, 6-9 p.m.

Living Bridges Project Reception & Reading

Monday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.

Talk to SPC: 47th Anniversary Open Mic

Monday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Samantha Gaines
& Jamie Batiste

Monday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Josiah Patterson
& Oswaldo Vargas

Friday, August 7, 7 p.m.

A Celebration of Bambi Lake

SPC EVENTS IN JULY & AUGUST

SPC BEGINS ITS 48TH YEAR!

On July 11, 1979, the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Poetry Center, then known by its legal name, The Poet Tree, Incorporated, signed the Articles of Incorporation of the fledgling organization, officially launching 47 years of service to the Sacramento area poetry community, and laying the foundation for the wider Sacramento poetry community to blossom as it has.

We have stayed true to our original mission for all these years:

The Sacramento Poetry Center's mission is to promote and advance the practice and application of poetry and the literary arts in our community, to enliven and extend the cultural boundaries of Sacramento's literary arena by creating and maintaining forums for local writers; to support and empower emerging and established poets, and to bring the best practitioners of the craft into the community.

To acknowledge the start of another year, the current SPC board will be on hand to have a dialogue with whomever would like to participate on Monday, July 13. Tell us what's on your mind! Details below.

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.

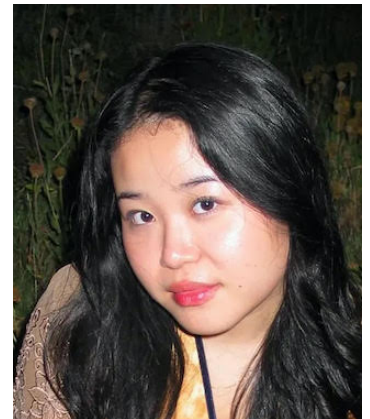
Monday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Kyle Griffiths & Maris Juwono



Please join us for this reading featuring two real contributors to the mission of SPC. Kyle Griffiths has been the facilitator for the (now discontinued) Wednesday night Polyphonics Workshop since June of 2025. He will be moving away from Sacramento sometime this summer. Maris Juwono serves as SPC's Secretary and Librarian. She will be heading off to continue her education at the University of Washington in the fall. Both will leave a difficult to fill void.

Kyle Griffiths is an accomplished poet and facilitator with a strong interdisciplinary background. Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, he received a Master of Arts from the New College of California's Experimental Performance Institute in 2007, and an MFA in Creative Inquiry from the California Institute of Integral Studies in 2008. He lives (for now) in the Sacramento area and was the facilitator of the Sacramento Poetry Center's weekly Polyphonics Poetry Workshop (2025–2026).

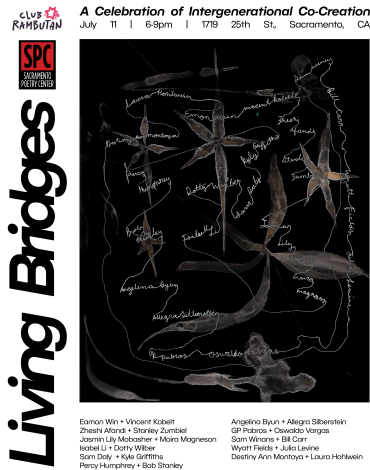


Maris Clea Juwono is a Chinese-Indonesian poet from Jakarta, Indonesia. She holds B.A.s in English and Psychology from UC Davis and is a prospective MFA candidate at the University of Washington, Seattle beginning this fall. Her poems can be seen on the CA Poet Laureate website, and in the SPC publications *Poet News* and *New Rivers*. She serves as Secretary for the Board of Directors for the SPC. During the day, she works as a youth advocate and crisis dispatcher for mental health crisis hotlines that support foster youth across California. She is also a newsletter writer for the creative collective, Club Rambutan, and the SPC coordinator for the upcoming collaborative exhibit with CR, Living Bridges, which is detailed below.

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

Saturday, July 11, 6-9 p.m.

Reception for the Collaborative Exhibit “Living Bridges”



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 have created pieces for the project, which will also be memorialized in a special edition of the SPC periodical, *New Rivers*. A reception will be held on Saturday, July 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. at SPC, and will include the participating poets (or their proxies) reading their poems, the artists talking about their work, and a bit of a dialogue about the process by the teams and the organizers. The exhibit will run through August 8.

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 Doty Wilber, Sam Daly and Kyle Griffiths, Percy Humphrey and Bob Stanley, Angelina Byun and Allegra Silberstein, Gianpaolo Pabros and Oswald 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/>

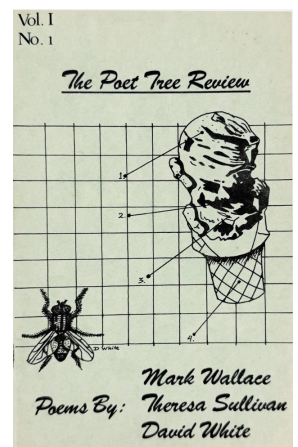
Please join us on July 11.

Monday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.

SPC Turns 47! Come Talk to Us!

On July 11, 1979, the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Poetry Center, signed the Articles of Incorporation of the fledgling organization, officially launching 47 years of service to the Sacramento area poetry community. To acknowledge the start of another year, the current SPC board will be on hand to have a dialogue with whoever would like to participate on Monday, July 13. Tell us what's on your mind! We'd love to hear your thoughts on our programs including the reading series and workshops, our publications, as well as your ideas for things you'd like to see added to the roster. An open mic will follow,

The image shows the first publication (October 1979) released by SPC. This particular copy is for sale at Capitol Hill Books in Washington, DC, and can be yours for \$83. This was the only edition of *The Poetry Tree Review*. It was replaced by *Quercus*.



Monday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Samantha Gaines & Jamie Batiste



Please join us in welcoming these two growing voices of Sacramento.

Samantha Gaines, also known as Thee Matriarq, is a poet and storyteller. A native of Modesto, California, she now lives in Sacramento, where she writes, performs, and shares stories rooted in healing, transformation, and self-discovery. She is the author of three books, *Milk & Cookies*, *Finding the Shade Tree*, and *Matriarchal Matrimony*, all available on Amazon. She is also the creator and featured performer of *Matriarchal Matrimony: The Album*, a spoken word project available through [Griot Soul Records](#). Her work, influenced by folklore and spirituality, explores womanhood, sovereignty, healing, ancestry, and personal transformation through poetry that is both intimate and empowering.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix, and has dedicated 19 years of service to the State of California. She is a devoted mother to her daughter, Sadie, an avid reader, and a firm believer in the power of stories to transform

lives.

Jamie Batiste, who also goes by the moniker J.didit is a multidisciplinary artist, poet, rapper, and mental health advocate, and the creator and host of the Thursday Therapies Podcast. Rooted in authenticity and community healing, Jaime uses storytelling, music, and honest conversation to break stigma around mental health and encourage self-awareness. Through Thursday Therapies, she amplifies real voices, explores emotional wellness, and creates a safe space where vulnerability becomes strength.



Drawing from lived experience, Jaime blends art and life coaching to help others process anxiety, anger, grief, and growth. Her work emphasizes real self-talk, accountability, and turning pain into purpose. Whether behind the mic, on stage, or in conversation, she leads with empathy, transparency, and intention. Driven by the belief that healing is a daily practice, Jaime continues to inspire listeners to check in with themselves, check their mental health, and show up as their most authentic selves. Her mission is to normalize healing, creativity, and honest dialogue across cultures and communities.

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

Monday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Josiah Patterson & Oswaldo Vargas



Please help us welcome Josiah Patterson and Oswaldo Vargas for what will be a thoughtful and entertaining event. Oswaldo is a stalwart at SPC; this will be Josiah's first featured reading.

Born and raised in Montana, Josiah Patterson has embraced many vocations, including bookstore manager, guardian ad litem, special education teacher, composition instructor, poet, and late night bus bouncer. He possesses BAs in English and Secondary Education from Montana State University and an MA in Creative Writing from California State University, Sacramento. Although, he might admit his proudest accomplishment is learning to make the perfect batch of koláčky while living in the Czech Republic. His writing has appeared in *Cathexis Northwest Press*, *Sixfold Journal*,



University of Kentucky Press, *Calaveras Station*, and *West Trade Review's* anthology, *Ecobloomspaces: Poetry at the Intersection of Social Identity and Nature*.

Oswaldo Vargas is a former farmworker and a 2021 recipient of the UndocuPoets Fellowship. He has been anthologized in *Nepantla: An Anthology Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color* (Nightboat Books, 2018) and *Here to Stay: Poetry & Prose from the Undocumented Diaspora* (HarperCollins, 2024). His work can also be found in *Huizache Magazine* and the American Academy of Poets' "Poem-A-Day" series (among others). A former SPC board member, he was also the editor for SPC's periodical *New Rivers As Seen In The Season Change*, a young poets edition, and a tribute to Al Cortez. He lives and dreams in Sacramento, CA.

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

COMING UP IN AUGUST

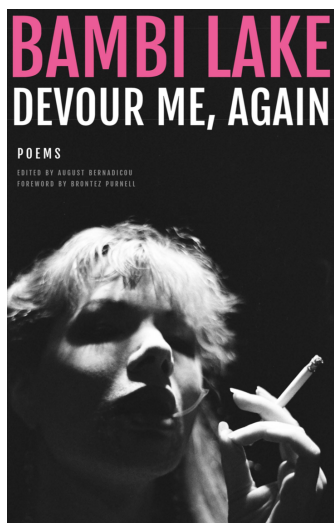
SPC will take a hiatus from the Monday Night Reading Series for the month of August. This break does not affect the weekly workshops. Check with your facilitator if you have any questions about their summer schedule.

There is one special event in August.

Friday, August 7, 6 p.m.

Devour Me, Again: A Celebration of Bambi Lake / Reading & Book Signing

In celebration of the release of *Devour Me, Again* by Bambi Lake (Nightboat Press, June 2026), SPC welcomes August Bernadidou, the editor of the collection, to discuss the publication, speak about the legendary Bambi Lake, and present a short film about the beloved (and bad-mouthed) icon of San Francisco's counterculture. He will be joined by Sacramento poets, Oswaldo Vargas, Kay Miller, Anthony Jackson, Michelle Acquisto, and Sadie Keller, who will read selections from the book. The collection includes a series of interviews by August Bernadidou, with a foreword by Brontez Purnell.



Bambi Lake (1950-2020) was a trans chanteuse performer, provocateur, and countercultural darling of the '70s, and subsequent decades. "The Glamorous Life follows me around," she wrote, and sang about in her ballad, "The Golden Age of Hustlers" (later popularized by Justin Vivian Bond). Her life in San Francisco — including being on the fringes of the Cockettes (a psychedelic, glitter-drenched acid drag, sexual anarchy, and chaotic musical theater that redefined gender norms), and a member of the adjacent Angels of Light — was "sort of legendary," sort of "sweet, sticky, nasty," and always precarious, lived in spite of addiction, homelessness, and the horrors that came from chasing and surviving her own desires.

Her poems, long out of print, are now collected — they, among other things, wear "burgundy velvet jezebel bras" to seduce "fatally hetero" men, and chronicle the cabaret of desire amidst social, cultural, and political change. "I am Beauty," she writes, "and the world dissolves." Her work spoke to her experience as a transgender woman. In addition to *Devour Me, Again*, she also published a memoir titled *The Unsinkable Bambi Lake* (1996).

"It's good to see that Bambi has put out books about her life because it has been one-of-a-kind and an inspiration for anyone who wants to stand up for themselves. I admire her guts and her sense of humor. Sometimes you might think that nothing gets to her but that's not true—something gets to all of us. It's how you ride it out that tells the world where you're at.

I believe she carries herself rather well. Long may she wave."

— Henry Rollins

"Bambi is a one of a kind story of talent, free spirit, and determined survival. And imagination! Half the stuff in her Jello poem is sure news to me. But stretching things never hurt Hunter Thompson . . ."

— Jello Biafra

August Bernadidou is the Executive Director of The LGBTQ History Project, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the lives and legacies of LGBTQ activists from the first wave of gay liberation. In 2020, he co-founded The LGBTQ History Project to archive and share his thousands of recorded interviews and conversations. August is the winner of the Troy Perry Media Activism Award (2020) and the Charles Shively Award in Gay Liberation by the William A. Percy Foundation (2023).

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 7, 7:30 p.m.
A Reading Featuring The Straight Out Scribes

Monday, September, 21, 7:30 p.m.
Gabrielle Myers & TBA

Monday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.
A Reading Featuring Lucille Lang Day & Karen Poppy

Monday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.
Patricia Wentzel & TBA

NEWS FROM SPC

Beloved poet, publisher, and mc extraordinaire Bill Gainer passed away last week. His close friend Evan MyQuest has a thing or two to say about it.

Godspeed, Bill.

TRUE STORIES ABOUT BILL GAINER — FROM THE CO-PILOT SEAT

For example, that damned infuriating voicemail.

"Hello. What do you need?"

"Bill, this is Mikey. Got a question..."

"Well, why didn't you say so?"

"I was wondering if we shouldn't meet up at our usual Denny's in Dixon and just take one car from there. That okay with you?"

"This is Bill, leave a message."

That was so Bill, ever since I met him over twenty years ago. Helluva funny guy, the dirty bastard. (Insert Bill's poetry audience echo in unison, "The dirty bastard!") It took me a while to figure out how his wife Karen could put up with that for sixty years of knowing him.

Then one day he told me, "She's tried to poison me four times." Karen countered, "Six. You're a resilient one, give you that."

She's as funny as he was, that's how they've lasted that long. Gives as good as she takes, alright. They both had pro comedy in their routines.

Karen never traveled with Bill when he would pick up and head to Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago, and even do video presentations for Canada. His poetry readings were legendary across the country. The world-famous poet from the Hamptons, George Wallace said to me, "Sacramento? Isn't that Bill Gainer territory?"

If I mentioned a poet within the US, Bill would answer, "Sure, just spent an hour on the phone with them last week." That list would include Neeli Chervovski, Al Winans, and Paul Corman-Roberts's crowd from the Bay; SA Griffin and RD Armstrong from South Cal; Michele McDannold from Indiana; John Dorsey and JRyberg in Missouri — to name just a few out-of-towners. In his backyard, there was the Grass Valley second family of Todd Cirillo (more recently New Orleans and the famous parrot poem by Bill), Julie Valin, and Matt Amott. The Sacramento poetry clan offered his beloved Annie



Menebroker (thus their dachshund, Mrs. Menebroker), D.R. Wagner and all the Sacramento Poetry Center, the Luna's Thursday crowd, and of course those founding legends of same — see Pat Grizzell's photo album for faces to go with the names. If you needed a favor from Gary Snyder or Utah Phillips, Bill was “your guy.” Bill had “a guy” for everything.

I'm not delving into Bill's bio or publishing. There're lots of places to find that information. Bill would say a good bio is halfway between a resumé and an obituary. All of which points to the man being whip smart and a pleasure to share a lot of car rides with — unless you minded him saying he didn't need a lane departure warning — his passengers' screams were good enough, thank you.

I loved him, my wife loved him, hell, even my sister loved him, and he loved us — yes, free proofreaders are hard to come by. Not everyone has a friend who will call and say, “How about you send me a hundred poems?”

We, along with his beautiful family will certainly miss him — despite that phone voicemail message from hell.

As José Montoya once told Bill, “If they want to make a legend out of you — let 'em!”

~ Evan MyQuest
Rancho Murieta, CA
June 2026

Photos courtesy EM: EM & Bill at KSUF radio c 2010, & one of Bill's hats.

A Poem By & A Poem For Bill Gainer

Bill Gainer

The Someday Plan

I want my ashes
in a cocktail
shaker
silver plated
knocked around a little
vintage.
Just so the lid
stays on.

At the funeral
play the Stones'
“Sympathy for the Devil”
and maybe Solomon Burke's
“Can't Nobody Love You”
just so Kae St. Marie knows
I do ...
Otis's “I've Been Loving You
Too Long”
Because you gotta have
Otis.
Close it out
with the Isley Brothers

"Shout."
Join in
raise your arms up, shout — loud.
I like a noisy crowd.

A dear friend
out of New Orleans
says he'll hoist my final
toast
something legendary
make the old men
sit quiet, reflect
the ladies sip their bourbon
ask for another — smile, blush
and the lovers pull close
not caring who sees.

I'm hoping
he doesn't miss
the show.
There have been
a couple of
nasty incidents.
He likes to chase
crazy women.
Most of them
carry knives.

When it comes around
you're invited.
Stop by
have a cold drink.
It could be a potluck
would be nice
if you brought
a little something.

(from The Mysterious Book of Old Man Poems, Lummo Press, 2017)

Evan MyQuest

Riding with Mr. Gainer

(for Bill, from Mikey, 2012)

A true story
It is called escape velocity
that speed at which
objects overcome
the earth's gravity and float
in midair

Riding with Mr. Gainer
between Sacramento &
San Francisco to
see Neeli
we achieve it &
watch things in the
car float before
our eyes &
somehow
we arrive at Neeli's
before we left
When I ask how
we could do this
he says
Kid
it isn't rocket science
you just have to know
where the holes are

(from WTF #14, Summer 2012, frank andrick-editor, Rattlesnake Press)



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.

“My god looked out the window
of a lonely furnished room
and could not sleep for what he saw.”
—Julia Vinograd

PROJECTS WE SUPPORT

JULIA VINOGRAD: BETWEEN SPIRIT & STONE

A Film by Ken Paul Rosenthal



Photo: Julia at Caffe Med in Berkeley, CA

Coming Soon: Julia Vinograd Film Work-In-Progress Screening!

Film director Ken Paul Rosenthal announces a work-in-progress online screening of his feature documentary, **Julia Vinograd: Between Spirit and Stone**. This preview will be available for three full days: August 14 to August 16, 2026. More information about this special event—and a new 3-minute film preview clip—can be found in his **latest newsletter**.

This exclusive work-in-progress online preview is free. However, you must sign up on the film **mailing list** in order to receive a link to the event.

CALIFORNIA'S POET LAUREATE LEE HERRICK

Lee Herrick will feature on August 22 at the 2026 San José Poetry Festival with Solange Aguilar and Brandon Luu, Details: <https://www.pcsj.org/>.

He is 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.

And there's also this: Lee writes that he has the "surreal and wonderful honor" of having his poem "My California" buried in a time capsule on July 4 to mark the country's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It will be unsealed 250 years from now in 2276. Here are the other six items from California that will be in the time capsule (every state will be represented): a letter to the future from the Governor and First Partner; Claude's (AI) prediction of California's future 250 years from now; Qubit chip from University of California, Berkeley, a fusion conductor segment (clean energy development); California's American Innovation Coin featuring Steve Jobs; and a NASA photo of California from space.



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

“Write what should not be forgotten.”

— Isabel Allende

POETRY FROM SPC's JULY & AUGUST READERS

Two Poems by Kyle Griffiths

Three Fragments

Tell no one
it's loose;
cold, conquering love

Go halves perplexedly
my full hands
hold the lifeboat closed

Say done when my family
Sings like hounds
I write in the dark
The paper sounds like a kid's voice
Endless ways to spell words

Confession

Write a poem without me
seen, a man of dry sticks, grass & rope
hammer hits the powder and the bullet flies
but it isn't explosive/all or nothing
walking up to a mirror in the dark
learning to put one foot in front of the other
"if you want what the syllables want/just do your job"
I'll figure it out I wish I were less afraid of embarrassment
about lovers and couples who break up
and extroverts in the closet who
want to talk down on the rug,
rough, if I have anything goddammit to say

(Quote: Charles Wright, from an essay)

A Poem by Maris Juwono

(untitled)

I have begun to let my mind go
I have begun to let my mind
I have begun
Begin.
I have been given permission, which is a kind of support, in form. I am allowed
I am beginning. Only just. Only just to.
Don't you think we were made for more
than this? Will there be as many nurse doves, or egrets?
I am asking. Sister yells over the silver phone
so much to live for, at me, as if I don't know, with contempt
The verses are lacking pictures which means they lack idea
according to Williams, who I'd like to listen to,
though I lack pictures because my eyes, although open are never open
To receive life, hard as I try
my violent lashes fail me. They flutter off as if inconsequential,
as if I didn't take the pain of growing them
protein by protein, into its own hair
structure and entity. Functionally, it should protect,
which is to say, the body builds its own protective mechanisms
with tremendous effort
while being the same body
that can attack itself without restraint, like a child incapable of discernment
between self and safe, other and survival.
what an animal, sophisticated enough
to create a self and be self-destructive.
There is simplicity, somewhere, in the belly,
the kingfisher, the geese, the small hand of squirrel
and house cat, since everything travels back to the same
beginning desire. Pet me, feed me, keep me warm in the winter,
and alive, alive most of all. Where is the need for
philosophy in the hive when there is the queen,
in hibernation when there is the fixed pursuit of enduring
your hairy brown body persistent
until frost-melt and sunrise? And thus
contemplations route themselves back to question marks,
the most important question word
that marks out most decisively, most ignorantly, most presumptuously
after method and manner: reason, purpose, motive.
For what reason is there hardness? To make softness more tender,
they say. To dictate, to describe, there must be relativity
of an observable manner. It is the fundament of adjective,
my favorite, because I do not deceive myself to be a person of action,
only a person that wishes everything have its own explanation

for being the way it is.
and the word is so slippery we think the reason of a thing must lie
in what we can observe of it. So we observe,
We begin, we write silly stanza
And pay as much attention as we can,
That's all I'm doing.
It's what I've been assigned.
Can't you see.
I'm trying to find reason. I'm trying to find.
I'm trying to reason.
What ego to pretend to know,
human hamartia, to always pretend to be god
because the perception of an alternative can be painful enough to commit
acts of indecency, inhumanity.
What is a reason, and how do you find it? How does anyone pretend to know?
I don't know what mine are, that's why I've only begun. I've been beginning
from the beginning, chasing a neon ribbon like a cat on a carpet string
curling so cartoonishly as I chase it, it mocks me
as you do. Is there a way of not being that ever lasts, ever lasts,
Endlessly? There is no alternative for being,
Elizabeth says to Darcy, because we are doing our best to find fault in you,
then falls in love.

(Kyle Griffiths & Maris Juwono read at SPC on July 6.)

Two Poems By Samantha Gaines

Envious Green

I don't have an apology
For outgrowing the box you made for me

This time when the water got too high
I just could not hell my way through it

The forced pleasantries
Tell me to escape into isolation
Where I can resurrect the woman
Who doesn't offend you

There, I like to stand on
That box you made for me
Body bedazzled with sparkling gems

The emeralds seem to have
A bit more zest

Shimmering in everything
You wanted me to hide

For you
I can no longer surrender

Sincerely,

Your Insecurities

Formidable

He asked me for rain,

Not knowing oceans cascade from my belly.

Has he not tasted the nectar
Of a woman's surrender?
Her most formidable form of intimacy.

But he only wanted rain.

A mere party trick
From a chamber that has mastered alchemy.

In-to-me-see
Would never be.

He could not be trusted
With goddess energy.

I left him.

A Poem by Jaime Batiste

Check on your loved ones

Check on your loved ones
Don't hold hate in your heart
Put away your differences
Give it a fresh start

We all are fighting battles
Made to tear us apart
The enemy is a lie
He poisoned our minds
Right from the start
Hatred

Gluttony
Lust
Just a few
Spells created to put on you

To keep you trapped
Paranoid have you reach for your strap
Leaving massive gaps
Your mind entrapped

Get help
the devil is a lie
You don't have to do it alone
God is right by your side
Trapped in your own mind
With nowhere to hide
You are not alone
God is right by your side

We are all in this together
Check on your loved ones
Let them know how you feel
Being the bigger person
Is a big deal

Navigating this life system
Without a road map
Eager to find a way out
Of our own mental trap

Believing false stories
Made up by assumptions
That never were true
planted by the enemy
To keep families in feud

Put away your differences
We all just want to be loved
Spend time with your loved ones
Put down your pride

Put down the phone and unplug
TV
Social Media
Are the hardest drugs

Trying to kill the pain
Looking for someone to blame
Addicted to guilt and shame
All the enemy's plans
To keep us insane

The harsh reality is
We are the ones to blame
Haunted by glitz and glamour
Blinded by all the fame

Fantasy's so unrealistic
We forget what truly matters the most
Always in competition
Ego so big to boast

Don't forget to check on your loved ones
Tomorrow is not promised
How they respond is not your business
Do your best to let them know
You love them even if it doesn't show

(Samantha Gaines & Jaime Batiste will read at SPC on July 20.)

Two Poems by Oswaldo Vargas

Follow Me

The picture of Prince
Harry & I in
a carriage does more
for my workday than
my morning coffee – I
remember it's all fake
around five PM that
day but my palm's
so calloused it doesn't
care — it's September and
the harvest trucks park
at the farm overnight —
it's almost over, so
I wear the overalls
that have seen it
all, like when I
confessed the number of
meters my prince had
fallen and how many

acres of farmland softened
his fall — in between
shifts I pretend my
shovel is a flag,
a country for anyone
who salivates when the
period of a sentence
never comes

Scribing Hours

It was just another thing
trying to survive. If anyone
finds it, I apologize for
the handwriting; I only wrote
it for myself, readable even
when I stumbled upon home
at an ungodly hour, welcomed
by sounds that are either
the flood making a soup
of my floor or my
all mighty god, asking what
took so long for me
to come up for air.

Two Poems by Josiah Patterson

Mother Mulberry

Seven years of bearing fruit
the high leaves brush
across second story windows
by winds of turning seasons

beneath the dangled mulberries
the farm wife moves her body
her nakedness formed by moonlight
while in the house the family sleeps

the odor of sweet decomposition
rich in her soil-black hair
the tree bark exfoliates
lifts anger from her open lips

the farm children sprout and grow
and run around the sticky ground
calluses thick with every year
bottoms of their feet like matte oil

soon the mulberry trees are silent
outside in the empty breeze
firstborn leaf curls in the heat-
gift of brutal September

clusters of droughted berries
shrivel like the farmer husband
foreskin rolling back into folds
as he snores atop her buzzing arm

no more babies are born under bright
albedo of the harvest moon
the last tiny body breach and frank
and the cord of life a noose

seven years mother mulberry
lived fast and budding and bearing
until a severed limb turned to rot
after the hot sting of lightning's kiss

to a mother the body is an omen
older children an echo
of a life that could have been
meanwhile her sisters go on living
weeping black fruit on her shredded trunk

The Seedling

I ask the newborn question:
"Where do I go from here?"
"I am frightened and lonely,
buried in the ground—
what future have I now?"

Mother earth hushes me softly,
beckons for the sun and the rain;
she prays that I be nourished,
that I no longer be afraid.

"Am I ready for the world?" I ask.
It's been forever dark inside this shell,
a familiar comfort holding me tightly,
until comfort feels like a cage.

I ask the insects to spare my tenderness,
I ask the weeds for space to grow.
Soon I feel the time may be coming

when I will show myself unto the world.

It's beginning!

A small feeling inside that expands,
a growing warmth inside of me
shoots outward like a ray of light.

A green tendril breaks through the shell,
extending through soil up to the surface,
extending the tips of my being into the open air.
I push onward into a world I do not know.

The dark confines of where I was
and could have stayed so easily
finally break away.
My seedling eyes are open wide;
I greet the future unafraid.

(Oswaldo Vargas & Josiah Patterson will read at SPC on July 27.)

And A Poem by Bambi Lake

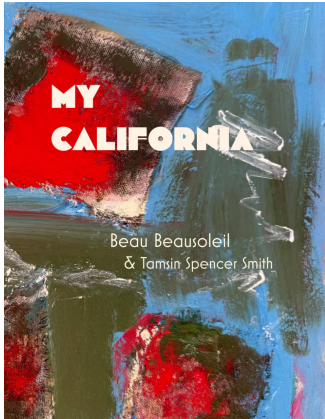
Wild Orchids

Wild boys and Wild girls
Walk the wild side
on Wild nights, shiny hot nights
Take Wild rides
'cause Wild kids don't die,
they just dye their hair.
Where the Wild things go,
go Wild!
Wild child, tender and mild,
holy infante terrible.
Wild horses
and Wild flowers,
Wild years of Wild fires.
Wild sex, Wild cherry.
Wild music, Wild parties were
Wildebeests roam the streets.
Kids in long black Cadillacs.
The Avengers on the
Wild remains of the Wild, Wild rest.

Wild honey sex orchids, Wild gift
Wild men over the mountains of
Wild geese and Wild strawberries.

(from *Devour Me, Again*. A Bambi Lake tribute with a screening & reading takes place at SPC on Friday, August 7.)

RECOMMENDED READING



My California (The Divers Collection)

Beau Beausoleil (Author), Tamsin Smith (Illustrator), FMSWB Press, 2026

My California (The Divers Collection) is a creative dialogue between San Francisco poet and activist Beau Beausoleil and artist Tamsin Smith, in which the latter creates a series of paintings in response to a selection of Beausoleil's *My California* poems. This volume is Number 16 in The Divers Collection.

FMSWB press is an independent publishing house based in San Francisco, California. Co-founded and directed by writer, artist, and former San Francisco Supervisor Matt Gonzalez and creative strategist Tamsin Spencer Smith, the press primarily focuses on publishing poetry chapbooks and works by notable Northern California poets.

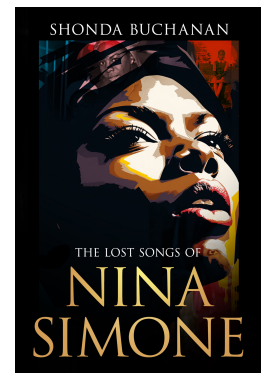
The Divers Collection is dedicated to the discovery and exploration of eclectic creative treasures.

The Lost Songs Of Nina Simone

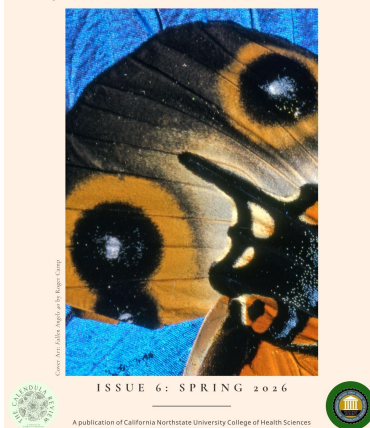
Shonda Buchanan, RIZE Press, an imprint of Running Wild Press, 2025

The Lost Songs Of Nina Simone is a powerful collection of poetry that captures Simone's Civil Rights work, her personal and professional struggles and sacrifices, as well as the world's adoration, condemnation, and worship. A touching love letter to all Black women in America on the life of one of the world's preeminent Black artists and activists, Buchanan presents an ode to strength, an ode to song, and an ode to revolution. Dr. Shonda Buchanan received her MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University. She is an Associate Professor of English, Creative Writing, and African American Literature at Western Michigan University.

The Lost Songs Of Nina Simone by Shonda Buchanan is the winner of Black Caucus of the American Library Association's Best Poetry Award.



THE CALENDULA REVIEW:
A JOURNAL OF NARRATIVE MEDICINE



The Calendula Review, Issue 6

ed. Liz Ryder Baxmeyer, 2026, CHS

<https://www.thecalendulareview.com/>

The Calendula Review is a creative journal of narrative medicine founded in 2022, and edited by Humanities faculty at California Northstate University College of Health Sciences in Rancho Cordova, CA. CHS is a health sciences-focused institution that emphasizes the arts and Humanities as an approach to teaching empathy, critical thinking, and helpful communication to a largely premed/pre dental/pre pharmacy/ nursing student population.

The Calendula Review aims to highlight diverse work that serves to enlighten and embody the healthcare narrative, directly and indirectly. We appreciate the voices of medical practitioners, patients, caregivers, and anyone affected by, or involved with, illness or medicine in all its myriad forms.

<https://www.thecalendulareview.com/>

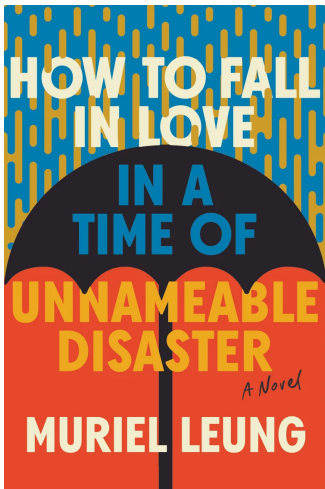
**“The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization
from destroying itself.”**

— Albert Camus

***Land of Forgotten Fish*
Wl Gertz, Atticus/White Rain Book House, 2026**

A bold collection of poems that captures the collisions of memory, history, and dream. From the turbulence of the 1970s to the dissonance of modern times, these verses move through war, solitude, fleeting love, and the strange beauty found in loss. With imagery that is at once haunting and surreal, the collection reflects on survival, disillusion, and the enduring power of art. By turns raw and tender, *Land of Forgotten Fish* invites readers to pause, reflect, and rediscover what remains when the world forgets. The book is a follow-up to *Broken Dreams*, with proceeds benefiting Teens of Color Abroad.

Gertz was the co-founder of DREAMS, a poetry and music magazine in NYC in the 1970s and early 1980s. Many of his poems appeared there first. He backpacked through Europe in 1973 and 1974 which inspired much of his writing.



***How to Fall in Love in a Time of Unnameable Disaster, A Novel*
Muriel Leung, Norton, 2026**

How to Fall in Love in a Time of Unnameable Disaster is dark and tender debut set against a writhing backdrop of post-apocalyptic New York City.

Acid rainstorms have transformed New York City into a toxic wasteland, cutting its remaining citizens off from one another. In one apartment building, an unlikely family of humans and ghosts survives. Mira reels from a devastating breakup with her partner, Mal, whose whereabouts are unknown, while her mother is plagued by furious dreams and her grandfather, Grandpa Why, stakes his claims as a rambunctious ghost. Across the hall, the cockroach Shin, also a ghost. As the world around them worsens, each character must learn to redefine what it means to live, die, and love at the end of the world. It is the winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Bisexual Fiction

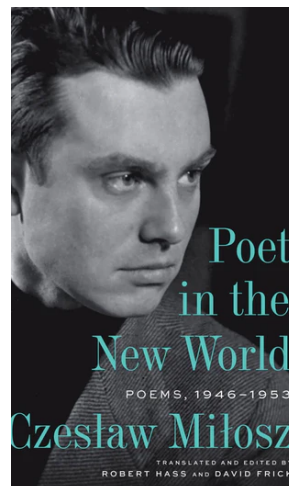
“Leung’s novel strikes a satisfying chord, harmonizing joy and optimism with despair and melancholia. Surreal imagery combines with poetic prose to illustrate what life and love look like when crisis becomes commonplace and everyone is grieving—even the ghosts. At once

absurd and profound.”
—Kirkus Review

***Poet in the New World — Poems, 1946–1953* (thanks, Tom Goff!)
Czeslaw Milosz, Translated by Robert Hass & David Frick, Harper Collins, 2025**

One of the most revered poets of the twentieth century, Czesław Miłosz famously bore witness to violence in his native Poland in the aftermath of World War II. Miłosz lived in exile in Europe and the United States and, immediately after the war, worked as a diplomatic official in Washington, D.C., leaving behind an old world stained by bloodshed and still in the throes of ideological conflict as he sought to find his bearings in a new one.

Poet in the New World gathers the poems written during these years—for the first time in English translation—and is contextualized by the poetry that came directly before and after, from poems written in Warsaw in 1945, shortly before he departed for the United States, to others written in Europe from 1951 to 1953, after his significant time away. Capturing Miłosz at his existential and stylistic best, this collection of post-war poetry is attuned to the necessity of imagination and the duty of language and is filled with wonder and skepticism. Miłosz grapples with realities of the strange postwar United States he has inhabited, as well as the extraordinary violence he had witnessed in Warsaw, all while pondering the enduring fate of his beloved Poland. In the poem “Warsaw,” the poet asks, “How can I live in this country/Where the foot knocks against/the unburied bones of kin?”





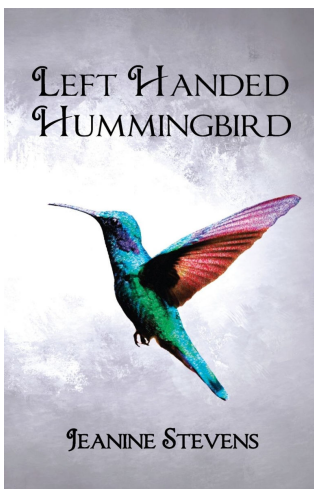
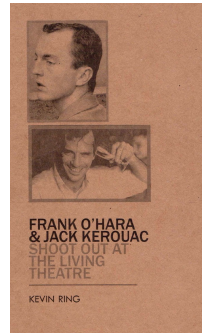
***Go Forth: Lose Yourself into Life*
Gabrielle Myers, Finishing Line Press, 2026**

Our speaker flees to a small town in the Sierra Nevada to heal after ending a turbulent relationship spiked with physical violence and verbal abuse. Immersing herself in wildlands re-emerging after a devastating fire, she reassembles her own fragmented identity. Through an ecopoetic lens, *Go Forth* calls on the contemporary woman's innate knowledge of how to craft a life apart from traditionally prescribed roles. The collection suggests how we each might etch new narratives to fit our awakening self-possession and determination.

Gabrielle will read from the new collection at SPC on September 21.

***Frank O'Hara & Jack Kerouac/Shoot Out at the Living Theatre*
Kevin Ring, Beat Scene Press, 2025**

Frank O'Hara & Jack Kerouac/Shoot Out at the Living Theatre is a limited edition 2025 chapbook from Beat Scene Press written by Kevin Ring, detailing a famous 1957 incident where a drunk Jack Kerouac heckled Frank O'Hara and Gregory Corso during a performance at The Living Theatre in New York. This limited edition publication consists of only 100 numbered copies. To order, write to kevbeatscene@gmail.com



***Left Handed Hummingbird*
Jeanine Stevens, Clare Songbirds Publishing House, 2025.**

In her latest poetry collection, Jeanine Stevens invites you into her house of memory beginning with her childhood rooms of play and make-believe, exhilarating firsts, a neighbor's murder, and where we learn the "Light is the moon and my mother's name." Wonders are hinted at and glimpsed in this edifice where "someone rearranged all the rooms."

We move with her into adulthood as "breezes blow webs across old glass" and she shows us "fragments and loose threads" of a poetic life of art, travel and film that "shimmer, float on small eddies, a gentle tide."

And always, there is a movement in these poems between life and death—remembering someone gone, imagining the future where we don't exist. As she so eloquently states, "ruins are never empty," and this is never more true than in this poet's beautiful mansion of memory.

— Rebecca Morrison, author of *Under the Rain* and *92 Berrichon Haiku*

LITERARY EVENTS & SERIES IN THE COMMUNITY

EVENTS NEAR & (Not too) FAR

Listed by Venue/Organizer

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

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

ASATT hosts many events weekly and throughout the month. Please see the full schedule at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/a-seat-at-the-table-books-33385319729>. Visit the store website at <https://www.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

Thursday, July 2, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

The Californios Plays the Stacks @ Amatoria Fine Art Books in collaboration with Abridged by KVIE

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

Amatoria welcomes local favorite, Mike Blanchard and The Californios. Don't miss this evening of good old-fashioned Americana music and a lively interview with Mike and KVIE reporter Chris Macias, followed by refreshments and book browsing.

Mike Blanchard is a singer-songwriter, former photographer for Thrasher, and publisher of car enthusiast magazine, Rust. He is joined by long-time collaborators Vincent Montoya on acoustic guitar and vocals, veteran bassist Rob Meyer, and guitarist Roger Kunkel of the much-admired alt-country outfit Thin White Rope.

Doors open at 6:00 but will close at 6:30pm! This is a filmed event and to ensure no disruption, we unfortunately cannot accommodate late entrance.

This is a filmed event that will be the property of KVIE and shared on the Abridged platform. The focus will be on the artists and the interviewer, but all concert guests may appear on film. By purchasing your ticket, you are giving permission for Abridged to use footage that may include you.

Tix & details: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-californios-play-amatoria-fine-art-books-abridged-by-kvie-tickets-1992659821166>

Saturday, July 25, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Jakhari Smith Plays the Stacks @ Amatoria Fine Art Books in collaboration with Abridged by KVIE



Jakhari Smith started his musical journey in July Of 2021 after losing his grandfather in April of 2020. He began journaling daily, turning that into a passion for poetry and song structure. Jakhari has been honing his craft and captivating audiences with his unique delivery and powerful lyrics.

Drawing inspiration from personal experiences and social issues, Jakhari's music is a captivating blend of raw emotions and thought-provoking storytelling. His ability to connect with listeners through his authentic and relatable content sets him apart in the competitive world of hip-hop.

Wednesday, August 12, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Anton Barbeau Plays the Stacks @ Amatoria Fine Art Books in collaboration with Abridged by KVIE

Anton Barbeau plays "pre-apocalyptic psychedelic pop." He's a Taurus, born in Sacramento and now living by a canal in Berlin. He's made something like 30 albums and has worked with members of XTC, The Soft Boys, the Bevis Frond, Cake, the Loud Family, Elf Power and the Corner Laughers. Julian Cope got him stoned in Croydon once.

Amatoria Fine Art Books is located at 1831 F Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

BEAT MUSEUM EVENTS

<https://www.kerouac.com/about/>

The Beat Museum is home to an extensive collection of Beat memorabilia, including original manuscripts, rare books, letters, personal effects, and cultural ephemera. Located in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood (540 Broadway, SF, across the street from City Lights Books), they occupy the same ground that was once the epicenter for Beat activity during the 1950s.

Wednesday, July 15, 7:30 p.m.

Please join in celebration as Bound Together Bookstore mark their 50th Anniversary. A panel of old and new collective members will show and tell the history of the bookstore and its relationship with the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. Plus, they'll explain how a completely volunteer bookstore is still around after half a century. All are welcome.

Sunday, August 9

Pat Thomas returns to the Counterculture Museum for a presentation on his exquisite compendium, *Evergreen Review: Dispatches from the Literary Underground: Covers & Essays 1957-1973*, published by Fantagraphics. Peter Richardson presents his latest book, *Brand New Beat: The Wild Rise of Rolling Stone Magazine*. Book signing to follow.

Saturday, August 15, 6 p.m.

Writer, musician, and visual artist, Lauren Napier spent her youth in underground venues and festival crowds,

ascending from fan to music journalist to band manager in the shaky early decade of the New Millennium.

Sunday, August 16, 6 p.m.

When Lew Welch walked into the woods of the Sierra foothills never to be found, he left behind a legacy as one of the most influential poets on the San Francisco Beat scene. Join for an evening discussing Welch's life and work in honor of his hundredth year.

BIRD & BECKETT BOOKS & RECORDS (SF) EVENTS

<https://birdbeckett.com/>

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

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

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

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

THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB EVENTS

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

They have two meetings every month:

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

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

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

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

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

CAMINOS MUNDIALES: STAN PADILLA AT THE LATINO CENTER OF ART & CULTURE

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.

July 11, 5 p.m.

Blue Night Market

Prints, Jewelry, Drinks & Music

July 25, 10 a.m.

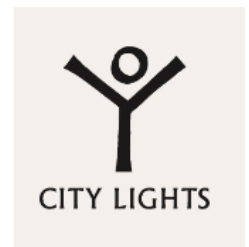
Artist Workshop: Finding the Mayan Blue
Adventures in the Yucatán Selva

CAPLIT FEATURES WORK BY JEN SOONG AND GINA MULLIGAN, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 7 P.M., AT CLARA.

CapLit, the successor to the long-running Stories on Stage Sacramento series, pairs prose selections with professional actors who read the pieces to a live audience. The July event will feature short stories by Davis author Jen Soong and Folsom author Gina Mulligan. Friday, July 24, 7pm at the Auditorium at CLARA, 1425 24th St. in Midtown Sacramento. Doors open at 6:30. \$10 donation requested; no one turned away for lack of funds. CapLit.org.

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.



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

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.

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.

**LADYBIRD TEA HOUSE OPEN MIC 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."

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.

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.

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

MAHOGANY URBAN POETRY 2ND SATURDAYS SERIES

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

The feature on July 11 will be David Loret de Mola!

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.

NAPA BOOKMINE PRESENTS SIXTEEN RIVERS POETS, JULY 2

Carolyn Miller, celebrating her new book, Random Universe, will be joined by Dane Cervine and Lenore Myers at Napa Bookmine on Thursday, July 2, 6 p.m. 1625 2nd Street, Napa, CA.

OUT THE WAY ON J SERIES

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

POETRY 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, July 2 reading features poets Dianna Henning and Lara Gulate.

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

POETRY CENTER SAN JOSE EVENTS

Check out PCSJ event details on their website, at <https://www.pcsj.org/>

San José Poetry Slam – Zoom Edition Sunday, August 2, 7 p.m.

Poetry Center San Jose presents The San Jose Poetry Slam Zoom Edition. Join from the comfort of your own home. Room opens at 6:30p.m. Sign up list will be open from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Slam starts at 7 p.m. This is a free

event. Your host and Emcee will be Scorpiana Xlent! Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

If you have never been to a Poetry Slam before, a poetry slam is a competition, imagine spoken word poetry as an olympic sport. This is a two-round slam, poets with the highest scores will move up to round two.

Details: <https://www.pcsj.org/events/zoomslam-080226>

The 12th Annual San José Poetry Festival August 16, and August 21-23

The 12th Annual San José Poetry Festival opens with bang—some spoken word competition and a headlining set from legendary performance poet TBA!

Check out the complete list of events that are part of the 2026 San José Poetry Festival! The festival pass will get you into all live events and online events.

Lee Herrick features on August 22.

Ongoing events at PCSJ:

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

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

July features Voices; August features Brad Buchanan and Gary Kruse.

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 Genea Brice, community members are invited to share poetry or just come and listen, every second Saturday. Vallejo's Co-Poets Laureate Jacalyn Eyvonne and Kathleen Herrmann host. Follow the new Vallejo Poets Laureate to stay updated on all their upcoming events! Vallejo Poet Laureate Jacalyn Eyvonne: <https://www.facebook.com/jacalyn.eyvonne.author>. Vallejo Poet Laureate Kathleen Herrmann. solanolibrary.libnet.info/events.

Art Beat Poetry Hour (Fourth Thursdays)

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

POETRY UNLEASHED AT PARLIAMENT WINE LOUNGE, 3RD SUNDAYS

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

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/>

**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

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

**Summer Vibes (Poetry, Music, and Comedy Show),
Saturday, July 11, 7-9 p.m.**

Whether you're a fan of heartfelt poetry, live music, or stand-up comedy, the Summer Vibes Show promises something for everyone. Featuring poets Camille Janae & BeeReal, comedian Granny Mack, and singer Kianna Marie. Hosted by Terry Moore.

Admission \$10 OR buy 1 ticket and get 1 free on this link: <https://summervibesshow.eventbrite.com>

**Hot August Vibes (Poetry, Music, and Comedy Show)
Saturday, August 8, 7-9 p.m.**

Featuring poets: Divine, Natascha Lanes, and Patrick Grizzell; singer Ladeea, and comedian Regina Givens. Hosted by Terry Moore.

Admission \$10 OR buy 1 ticket and get 1 free at this link: <https://hotaugustvibes.eventbrite.com>

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



**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. The features on July 21 will be four poets from Sixteen Rivers Press: Dane Cervine, Moira Magnuson, Lenore Myers, and Carolyn Miller.

August's schedule is not yet confirmed, but promises to be very special! Stay tuned!

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. 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. Closed in July. Returning in August. Stay tuned.

**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 / @grlphag.

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.

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.

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. 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/join/81754439193?pwd=HFFo6xbvVllaiKYGu8M4LOgg8sfvIL.1>

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

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF COMPILING POETRY COLLECTIONS WITH BETHANIE HUMPHREYS

You are cordially invited to participate in **The Nuts and Bolts of Compiling Poetry Collections** with Bethanie Humphreys. This 8-month workshop will run from July of 2026 to February of 2027, entirely on-line. Zoom meetings will be held once a month for three hours, to be scheduled according to participant and instructor availability. We will find dates and times that work for everyone.

The goal of this workshop is to assemble a cohesive collection of poetry and is designed to be useful regardless of individual poem publication readiness. However, you need to have written at least 30 poems prior to this workshop if you want to assemble a chapbook, or 45-60 poems for a full-length collection. This workshop will cover:

- 1) Organizing your poems
- 2) How to perform publication readiness assessments for individual poems
- 3) Identifying what your poems are about
- 4) How to group poems together
- 5) Ordering your collection
- 6) Editing individual poems toward a cohesive collection
- 7) Formatting a manuscript, front matter, and back matter
- 8) How to navigate the publication process for collections

Included in This Workshop:

All reading materials, exercises, and zoom sessions (no textbooks required)

Instructor's assessment of readiness for publication for all individual chosen poems

Feedback on your entire manuscript from all participants

Developmental feedback from instructor for your entire manuscript

Not Included in This Workshop:

Line editing from instructor for your entire manuscript (However, this can be discussed on an individual basis, if interested.)

Materials needed:

Computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone with Internet connection

Access to a printer and paper

Location: Entirely online

Registration fee: \$800 (monthly payments of \$100 are accepted if committed to the entire workshop)

Space is limited! To register for **The Nuts and Bolts of Compiling Poetry Collections**, please first confirm space is still available, then send registration fee (check, Venmo, Zelle, or Pay Pal).

I look forward to working with you!

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

COMMUNITY OF WRITERS SUMMER WORKSHOPS

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

Lara Gulate'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 Gulate 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 (7/30 & 8/27)**

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

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>.

**LITFIELD WRITERS PRESENTS: FIVE MONTH FIELD GUIDE MENTORSHIP WITH DANUSHA LAMÉRIS
Starting August 20, Thursdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Write the poems you need to write and deepen your craft.

Join Danusha in a five month Field Guide Mentorship for a select group of up to 8 writers. This is more than a series of workshops. It's an opportunity to develop to your next stage as a poet. You will learn how to lean into your strengths and stay connected to the Why of writing, while taking your work deeper.

We all want to write our strongest work in our own, truest voice

Through workshops, craft talks, generative writing, group mentorship and private consults with Danusha, you will find renewed inspiration and sharpen your knowledge of craft. If you've wanted to develop your poems more fully, receive consistent feedback from a trusted source, and possibly hone or assemble a manuscript, this is a great opportunity.

Space is limited to 8 poets. Cost: \$5000.

Details: <https://www.litfieldwriters.com/mentorship>

LITFIELD PRESENTS LIVING ROOM CRAFT TALK SERIES, SIX FRIDAYS, STARTING SEPTEMBER 18

If you want to learn more about the strategies you can employ to write poems that are vivid, engaging, meaningful and complex, then join Ellen Bass for the Living Room Craft Talks: The 7th Series. She'll be presenting practical teachings that you'll be able to put to use at whatever stage of development you're at—whether you're just beginning, somewhere in the great middle, or are an accomplished and published poet. The topics for this series are: the Short Lyric; Ars Poetica; Voice; Beginnings; the Prose Poem; and Eros.

Guest Poets include Li-Young Lee, Joy Harjo, Edgar Kunz, Edward Hirsch, Maya Popa, and Pádraig Ó Tuama

Live on Zoom and Recorded for Viewing through January 15, 2027

Cost: \$300

Details: <https://www.ellenbass.com/events/living-room-craft-talks-the-7th-series/>

If you want to learn more about the strategies you can employ to write poems that are vivid, engaging, meaningful and complex, then join Ellen Bass for the Living Room Craft Talks: The 7th Series. She'll be presenting practical teachings that you'll be able to put to use at whatever stage of development you're at—whether you're just beginning, somewhere in the great middle, or are an accomplished and published poet. The topics for this series are: the Short Lyric; Ars Poetica; Voice; Beginnings; the Prose Poem; and Eros.

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

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/>

**CONDUIT BOOKS & EPHEMERA:
MARYSTINA SANTISTEVAN FIRST BOOK PRIZE
& MINDS OF FIRE AWARD, DEADLINE: JULY 7**

A prize of \$1,500, publication by Conduit Books & Ephemera, and 15 author copies is given annually for a debut poetry collection. Bob Hicok will judge. Entry Fee: \$25

Details: <https://www.conduit.org/bookprizes>

**FRONTIER POETRY OPEN
DEADLINE: JULY 12**

The Frontier Poetry Open is Frontier Poetry's premier annual writing competition, accepting poetry with no thematic, aesthetic, or formal restrictions. The organizer is looking for the strongest contemporary verse — work that demonstrates impact, risk, experimentation, and craft excellence. Open internationally to any poet writing primarily in English. Nine finalists will also each receive \$100 and publication alongside the winner.

Entry fee: \$20

Top prize: \$5,000

Find out more: <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/2026-frontier-open/>

**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.



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

PROTOPIAN PRIZE FICTION CONTEST DEADLINE: JULY 31

The Protopian Prize is a new fiction contest in its inaugural year, inviting writers to imagine futures that are

neither utopian nor dystopian — workably better than today. The word “protopian” was coined by futurist Kevin Kelly, one of the contest’s judges, and describes an achievable, optimistic future built through incremental progress rather than revolutionary leaps. The contest is hosted by Metagov and the Public AI Network, and presents prizes in two categories: the Public AI Prize (stories exploring AI development built for public benefit) and the Democratic Futures Prize (stories imagining expanded public autonomy and collective decision-making). Previously unpublished short stories of 500–6,000 words are invited in each category. Open internationally.

Entry fee: Free

Top prize: \$5,000 per category and publication in anthology. Find out more: <https://protopianprize.com/>

THE GLORIA ANZALDÚA POETRY PRIZE, FLOWERSONG PRESS, DEADLINE: AUGUST 31

Originally founded by Newfound Inc. in 2014, the The Anzaldúa Poetry Prize proudly honors queer Chicana poet, writer, philosopher, theorist and cultural icon Gloria E. Anzaldúa. She is well known for her book of prose and poetry, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, a revolutionary and inspirational work that has influenced countless writers, activists, and others, which draws on her experience as a Chicana/Tejana/lesbian/feminist en la frontera.

The prize is awarded annually to a full-length collection that embodies or is in conversation with Anzaldúa's legacy. Submissions written in hybrid forms that exhibit multiple vectors of discovery are especially encouraged. The winner will receive a prize of \$1,000 plus 25 copies of the published manuscript, and will receive a royalties contract.

Maria, Maria, Maria by Angelica Maria Barraza Tran is the winner of the 2025 poetry prize and will be published in the Fall of 2026.

Judge: The Editors at FlowerSong Press.
All finalists will be announced in Winter 2026. Publication is expected in late 2027.

Details & Submission: <https://duotrope.com/duosuma/submit/the-anzaldua-poetry-prize-elf59>

TUPELO PRESS OPENS READING SEASON DEADLINE: AUGUST 31

Tupelo Press is pleased to announce that the 2026 Summer Open Reading Period is open. Every year, they

accept manuscript submissions of full-length and chapbook-length poetry collections and select multiple titles for publication.

Note: This is not a contest! They select and publish what they love — most of their catalog comes from the Summer Open Reading Period, and every year are amazed by the quality of work submitted.

Submissions will be held from July 1st through August 31st and it will not be extended. Please note that they are now using Subfolio as the submission platform, though they also accept mail-in submissions! For more information on how to submit, visit their website at: <https://tupelopress.org/>.

Selected manuscripts will receive publication by Tupelo Press, a \$1,000 advance, a book launch, and international distribution with energetic publicity and promotion. Please read the complete guidelines before submitting your manuscript!

Your support is indispensable — in a cultural and political climate that threatens to silence presses, it is your dedication to the arts which keeps it going.

Details: <https://tupelopress.org/the-summer-open-reading-period>.



**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.

**IMAGINE/IMAGINA: INTERNATIONAL BILINGUAL
POETRY ANTHOLOGY LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND
INTERNATIONAL POETS OF ALL AGES
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2026**

Be part of a new bilingual children's poetry anthology. Please poetry submissions in English, Spanish, bilingual, and Spanglish formats for this collaborative children's book. Open to published poets, unpublished poets, aspiring poets, students, educators, and first-time writers.

Submission is free.

The goal is to create an anthology that celebrates imagination, creativity, language, culture, and the joy of childhood. The anthology is intended to become part of home libraries, school collections, classroom libraries, public libraries, community libraries, museums, literacy programs, educational programs, and family reading initiatives.

The anthology is scheduled to launch at the 12th Annual El Quixote Festival's 5th International Children's Book Fair on May 29, 2027.

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
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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 continue our programs, and 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!