

Massachusetts Poetry Festival Schedule

This schedule includes all Festival events by day and time. Most Festival events take place in the Peabody Essex Museum. If you need an accommodation or assistance accessing any events, please contact Ruby@masspoetry.org. This schedule is mostly complete but some events are still being added and may be changed. We will update this document periodically to reflect any such changes.

Please note: Capacity for some events, especially workshops is limited. We recommend arriving as early as possible. In the case a workshop is filled to capacity, please check out some of our other great Festival programming.

MAY 5 • FRIDAY

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Event Name: The Bright Field: Exploring Devotional Poetry

Type: Performance

Location: Peabody Essex Museum Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Nate Klug, Regina Walton, Yehoshua November

Description: A priest, a minister, and a Hasidic Jew walk into a poetry festival . . . and have a conversation about their favorite spiritually-engaged poems and poets, what “devotional poetry” means in the 21st century, the relationship between poetry and sacred texts, and the role of faith and doubt in poetic practice. There will be no proselytizing in this session, except about poetry!

Event Name: Of Birds and Being: Five Poets from The Word Works

Type: Reading

Location: Peabody Essex Museum Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Nadia Colburn, Carrie Bennett, Jennifer Barber, Kevin McLellan, Meg Kearney

Description: Five poets whose collections have been published by the Washington, D.C.-based Word Works will read poems that explore the physical and metaphysical presence of birds. Their poems observe and describe different species, with their various behaviors, and consider birds as harbingers, emissaries, and omens, as figures of hope, grief, and eros. Poets include Jennifer Barber, Carrie Bennett, Nadia Colburn, Kevin McLellan, and Meg Kearney. Their diverse aesthetic outlooks, ranging from experimental methods to traditional lyric forms and blended narrative-lyrics, encompass the many ways in which the presence of birds informs our existence.

Event Name: I Can Smell It and Taste It: Writing Poems That Engage the Senses

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Sara Letourneau

Description: How often do we write poems that engage the senses of taste and smell? Most likely not as often as we write poems that focus on what we see, hear, or touch. And yet such poetry can be deliciously indelible and vividly evocative, allowing the reader to experience what the speaker is smelling or tasting and embark on a sensory journey through their memories—fond, ugly, or enlightening—of food, nature, and life. In this workshop, we'll "follow our noses and tastebuds" as we write new poems. We'll look at how contemporary poets like Khalisa Rae, Fran Abrams, and Moira Egan draw upon the olfactory and the gustatory to write poems about or inspired by food, the natural world, and man-made objects. We'll also do a quick brainstorming exercise to generate lists of fragrances, aromas, and flavors that can spark new poem ideas for you. When this workshop is done, you'll come away with new poems

Event Name: Reading Your Own Work Aloud

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Lloyd Schwartz

Description: In today's literary world, writers often reach a wider audience through readings and live performances than through publication. Yet most writers are not trained to read their work aloud. Even well-known writers may read mechanically, monotonously, with too little—or too much—expression.

In this master-class/workshop, participants will discuss what makes a good reading and explore the wide range of successful reading styles. Volunteers will then choose one of their own poems or a passage of prose to read aloud as if they were giving a public presentation, then get feedback from the group under the guidance of the instructor (an experienced actor, director, and radio commentator as well as an award-winning poet and Pulitzer Prize-winning critic). In an unthreatening and helpful atmosphere, the readers "work through" to a livelier, more effective presentation as they deepen their understanding of their own work.

Event Name: The "House of Hope" Poetry Quilt

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Atrium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: L'Merchie Frazier

Description: The "House of Hope" Poetry Quilt
for Sekou Sundia and Lucille Clifton

Mass Poetry is pleased to present "House of Hope," a quilt made by multimedia visual artist, activist, and poet L'Merchie Frazier. Made of nylon, organza, and silk, the quilt excerpts lines from 200 poems published by Mass Poetry during the pandemic as part of "The Hard Work of Hope" poetry series during the pandemic. The series asked poets to pay witness to what was happening in their world in an unprecedented time in America—the horrible and the beautiful, the quiet and the revolutionary—and featured poems by BIPOC, disabled, and Queer poets. The quilt will be on view Friday, May 5th to Sunday, May 7th at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts as part of the Massachusetts Poetry Festival.

You can meet the artist on Friday, May 5, 7:30 PM at the headline reading, or be part of her “Hope Story Scrolls” Workshop on Sunday, May 7, 2-3 PM. (This event will be capped at 20, and the first 20 to arrive will be admitted)

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

Event Name: Ray J, Whittier, Poet at 90

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Thomas McDonald; David Somerset; Javy Awan; Ray Whittier

Description:At this celebration, friends of Ray J. Whittier will share memories, poems, and reflection on the poet's work and influence. Ray J Whittier is an active 90-year-old poet, past Poet Laureate of Lynn, Massachusetts, veteran of readings, open mics, writing groups, workshops, classroom visits, and author of several volumes of self-published poems. A former sign painter, his work is still visible in the North Shore, including such clients as the Hawthorne Hotel, the Salem Witch Museum, and area churches. As a member of the U.S. Army, Ray witnessed first-hand the atomic bomb tests in Nevada in the 1950s, assigned to record the event in drawings now in the national archive; he has written poems about the experience also. Ray J. Whittier is a tremendous living resource for Massachusetts poets.

Event Name: Memory & Desire: Poetry of Mid-life

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Groups Hub

Speakers: Gail Thomas; Rebecca Hart Olander; Jennifer Martelli

Description: Mid-life is the time, as Brene Brown says, “when the universe gently places her hands upon your shoulders, pulls you close, and whispers in your ear: I’m not screwing around. It’s time.” Gail Thomas, Rebecca Hart Olander, and Jennifer Martelli write about navigating loss, regret, reclamation and joy that mark this time in life. Their work demonstrates how to use craft to produce clear-eyed poems that leave readers and listeners moved without slipping into sentimentality.

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Event Name: Turning History into Poetry: Giving Voice to Historic Essex County Women

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Ginny Lowe Connors, Carl Carlsen, James R. Scrimgeour

Description: Writers Carl Carlsen, Ginny Connors, and James Scrimgeour create poetry from historical sources. The rich history of Essex County MA, as well as its three largest cities (Lynn, Salem, and Gloucester) are represented in their work. This panel will focus on the voices of women who embody the spirit of a particular period in each of these cities' histories. The panel will address the questions: How do you craft a poem in a voice rooted in history? How do you render that voice poetically? How do you turn history into poetry?

Panelists will describe the principles and processes they use in their work and will illustrate their remarks by reading from their work.

Event Name: It's Not About You—Writing the Persona Poem

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Colleen Michaels, Dawn Paul

Description: Sometimes a poem calls for a different voice—one that's not your own. Writing using a persona can free you to write about difficult subjects or experiences. It can help a poet avoid sentimentality or self-indulgence. It allows more control over the distance between poet and audience, and can give an audience room to breathe. A persona releases you from the constraints of time and space—you can speak as a Civil War nurse, a Neanderthal, or Queen Nefertiti. You can be a space alien or your goldfish. A persona can give you a more immediate kind of authority with being preachy. Or it can just be fun. But how does a poet create an authentic voice, one true in tone, diction and knowledge? In this workshop we will examine personae and how poets successfully create them. We will look at the work of a small, but diverse group of poets. Then we will put on the mask, and write a persona poem of our own. For whom will you speak? How will you answer the call of your poem?

Event Name: Reveling in Uncertainty: Embodying Negative Capability

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA)

Speakers: Joyce Hayden, Beverly Army Williams

Description: The influence of John Keats on Emily Dickinson is well remarked on. One of the more interesting influences is through the concept of negative capability, which he identified as "...when a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason." A complex, slippery concept, negative capability opens up creative thinking in a productive way for writers of all levels, whether by helping writers to trust the mysterious in their writing, to find surprising connections, or to live comfortably in the "gray" areas of life.

This workshop will navigate the concept of negative capability by looking at examples from Keats, Blake, Dickinson, Nick Cave, GennaRose Nethercott, Diana Koi Ngyuen, Tracy Smith, Jane Hirshfield, and others. Workshop leaders will provide writing prompts designed to enable participants to explore negative capability in their own work and lives, exercises to help cultivate it, and the opportunity to write an early draft of a poem that embodies the concept.

Both Joyce and Beverly have integrated negative capability into their own writing as well as into their teaching. Although the concept is complex, it provides a fruitful approach to any artistic endeavor and way of life, aiding writers in allowing for other possibilities. As practitioners of mindfulness and meditation, both facilitators are experienced in guiding students to be open to noticing, letting go of expectations, gathering in all ideas before judging them, and trusting that writing impasses may be resolved by resisting a forced or fixed solution.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Event Name: Poetry & Pets

Type: Open Mic

Location: Charlotte Forten Park (289 Derby St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Crystal Valentine

Description: A special themed open mic event featuring visiting animals from the Pets & People Foundation. Please bring your poems about animals to share. For the safety of the animals who are visiting and all involved, we have to ask you to leave your furry family members at home, but we hope you will bring pictures to share!

This event does not have a rain location and may be canceled in the case of inclement weather.

Pets & People offers pet-assisted therapy visits to people who could use some healing joy in their days. Our carefully tested and certified therapy teams can be found at nursing homes, assisted living homes, special needs facilities, schools, libraries and hospitals and many other places.

Pets & People Foundation was the “heartchild” of the late Stanley Wald, of Newton. Stanley believed deeply in “People Therapy through Pets.” Once he got the ball rolling in 1985, Sally Jean Alexander took the baton and mobilized a volunteer force to bring to others the kind of joy that a sweet, calm pet can engender. Her efforts in this regard are honored to this day. Pets & People is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer organization. Our members share a belief that a visit with a four-footed friend can make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Pets & People therapy teams work mainly in eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and southern New Hampshire.

Event Name: Celebrating 25 years of Autumn House Press: Writing the Tough Stuff

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Charles Kell, Michael Walsh, Shayla Lawz, Sheryl St.Germain

Description: A reading by four poets celebrating 25 years of distinguished publishing by Autumn House Press. All four poets have found innovative ways to craft poetry from pain: the poems in this reading move from those that explore family violence and loss, queerness in the female Black body and the white male body, mental illness, incarceration, addiction and death. In addition to a dynamic reading, the poets will offer comments on how to write the tough stuff.

Event Name: Lily Poetry Review Presents Spring 2023 Collections

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Deborah Leipziger, Frances Donovan, Richard Hoffman, Mary Buchinger, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Kelly DuMar

Description: Lily Poetry Review Books is pleased to share a sampling of some of its 2023 poets reading from their new books. Featuring Kelly DuMar, Richard Hoffman, Deborah Leipziger, Josette Akresh-Gonzales and Gloria Monaghan

Event Name: Found Forms: Constructing Hermit Crab Poems

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Joyce Hayden, Beverly Army Williams

Description: Hermit crabs are not suited to one shell for life. They constantly seek their optimal environment, one that allows them to grow as they need to. Such is the way with a Hermit Crab Poem, an inventive structured writing that Brenda Miller's book, *Tell it Slant*, introduced to many people. Sometimes, in order to tell a difficult or vulnerable story, a unique "form" or structure must be found to contain the specific content.

In this participatory workshop, attendees and facilitators will together create a series of possible found forms for the poem they'd like to write, such as a field guide, a course syllabus, a marriage certificate or a resume. Hermit crab writing examples will be shared. A focus on consciously combining specific form and content will allow participants a deeper connection to the themes they choose to explore. Participants will be provided with sample hermit crab poems for guidance, time to write, and an opportunity to share their new poem and discuss their writing experience.

Both workshop facilitators have written and taught the Hermit Crab form. It is one of the most exciting structures to teach, because writers are often new to the process and very engaged and enthused to practice found forms!

Event Name: SEL, Free Expression, and Creative Writing Making a Difference in a Public School Classroom

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Lisa Forte-Doyle

Description: Lisa Forte-Doyle has taught Creative Writing and advised a creative writing club for over 25 years. Several of Lisa's students have become professional, published writers and/or teachers of English. This presentation will center on student work (students will read example poems in person) and strategies for bringing poetry into the school and regional community. This program is focused on teachers and those interested in incorporating poetry into the wider community (senior centers, etc.)

4:45 pm – 5:45 pm

Event Name: New England Poetry Club: An Introduction

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Doug Holder, Denise Provost,

Description: The New England Poetry Club was founded in 1915 by Robert Frost, Conrad Aiken, and Amy Lowell. Now in 2022, the club offers grants for diverse populations, contests, writing seminars with accomplished poets, and readings. This panel will discuss the history of the organization, the grants it offers to diverse populations, the contest offerings, its prestigious Golden Rose Award, the new Sam Cornish Award and others. Over the years many people have found their voice here, and have had the chance to meet major poets from around the world.

Event Name: Poetry & Music with Charles Coe

Type: Performance

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Charles Coe

Description: Poet and Vocalist Charles Coe will offer a presentation combining music and spoken word. He will read samples of his poetry, including work from "Purgatory Road," his fourth collection. He will also perform a number of a cappella vocal pieces, including his own compositions.

Event Name: Bringing Joy Back to Poetry

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Crystal Condakes

Description: Poetry doesn't always have to be broody and dark! We'll read some poems by poets who are bringing the joy back to poetry, including: Ross Gay, Aimee Nezhukumathil, Sandra Beasley, and Terrance Hayes and try to learn from them. We'll complete 2 short writing exercises and attendees will leave with a handful of prompts to try at home.

Event Name: Poems, Pac-Man, and Pinball

Type: Workshop

Location: Bit Bar (278 Derby St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Colleen Michaels

Description: Join poet Colleen Michaels (Montserrat College of Art) along with the makers of ANOMIA as they RISK it all with you to SCRABBLE together the categories for a poetry version of the award-winning Anomia card game. Will the Massachusetts Poetry Festival have a MONOPOLY on this winning version? You bet your LIFE!

Want to play? Here's a CLUE: Head to the Pinball Machines, grab a drink or snack, and join us for the fun. You won't be SORRY.

Event Name: Drinking It All In: The Get-Lit Poetry Tavern

Type: Workshop

Location: Gulu-Gulu Café (247 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Kurt Klopmeier

Description: In this drink-themed workshop, we will pair selections of local brews with boozy poems, from bawdy to sodden, paying tribute to some of our favorite barroom bards. From these examples and a little liquid inspiration, we will set about starting our own rough drafts (get it?), taking time to share our starts and regale our fellow patrons. 21 and over only. BuyYOB.

Event Name: Your Pictures as Poetry: Writing From Your Photo Stream

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Kelly DuMar

Description: Our photo streams show what we care about and hope to preserve, what moves and mystifies us, the people, places and experiences that bring meaning into our lives. Writing poetry and prose from photos allows us to express the truth of what we feel - and know - and haven't said, as we capture the beauty and deeper meaning of an image in words. Writing from photos allows us to approach our pictures with an awareness of powerful hidden meanings and revelations worthy of development. Whether you're writing poetry or prose, memoir or a blog, family history or a monologue, your personal photos will be an excellent prompt to compelling writing. Please bring 1-3 personal photos to write from.

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Event Name: Headline Reading w/January Gill O'Neil & Andrea Cohen featuring the Boston Typewriter Orchestra and the Winner of the First Poem Contest

Type: Headline Event

Location: PEM Atrium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: January Gill O'Neil, The Boston Typewriter Orchestra

Description: Please join us for the opening headline event of the Festival! This reading will feature poets Andrea Cohen and January Gill O'Neil. The event will open with a special performance by The Boston Typewriter Orchestra and a reading by the winner of Mass Poetry's First Poem Contest.

Andrea Cohen's poems and stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *Glimmer Train*, *The Hudson Review*, etc.

A new book of poems, *The Sorrow Apartments*, is forthcoming from Four Way Books. Other collections include *Everything* (Four Way, 2021), *Nightshade* (Four Way, 2019), *Unfathoming* (Four Way, 2017), *Furs Not Mine* (Four Way, 2015), *Kentucky Derby* (Salmon Poetry, 2011), *Long Division* (Salmon Poetry, 2009), and *The Cartographer's Vacation* (Owl Creek Press, 1999).

Awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, *Glimmer Train's* Short Fiction Award, and several fellowships at MacDowell. Over the years, she has taught at The University of Iowa, Emerson College, UMASS-Boston, Boston University, The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and Merrimack College, where she was the founding director of the Writers' House. She directs the Blacksmith House Poetry Series in Cambridge, MA.

January Gill O'Neil is an associate professor at Salem State University, and the author of *Glitter Road* (forthcoming, 2024), *Rewilding* (2018), *Misery Islands* (2014), and *Underlife* (2009), all published by CavanKerry Press. From 2012-2018, she served as the executive director of the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, and currently serves as the 2022-2023 board chair of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). Her poems and articles have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *the Academy of American Poets' Poem-A-Day series*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, and *Sierra* magazine, among others. Her poem, "At the Rededication of the Emmett Till Memorial," was a co-winner of the 2022 Allen Ginsberg Poetry award from the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College. The recipient of fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Cave Canem, and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, O'Neil was the 2019-2020 John and Renée Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi, Oxford. She lives with her two children in Beverly, Massachusetts.

The Boston Typewriter Orchestra is a collective percussive ensemble for typewriter and voice based in the Boston area. Creative. Eclectic. Nostalgic. The BTO entertains with collaborative rhythmic, comedic, and satiric performances. Beyond the show itself, the BTO seeks to educate and evangelize the archaic machines they use, allowing folks an opportunity to connect with history and industrial technology, sometimes for the first time.

8:45 pm – 10:30 pm

Event Name: Poetry Slam

Type: Night Owl Event

Location: Die With Your Boots On (9 Church St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Crystal Valentine

Description: A poetry slam open to any teams.

MAY 6 • SATURDAY

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Event Name: Poetry & Yoga

Type: Early Bird Event

Location: Salem Common (N Washington Square, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Kirsty Yetter

Description: How often does a poem turn into a meditation? How often does a meditation turn into a poem? Could this happen more often?

In this workshop we will explore how breath, yoga, and meditation can help create the soft space from where a poem emerges. Or maybe a simple word or meditation creates the soft space from where meditation and yoga emerges. Come experience this beautiful interplay of word and breath with nothing but a yoga mat and open heart.

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Event Name: Cool Down Room

Type: Teen Track

Location: Nagly (Inside the Witch City Mall, 2 East India Sq, Ste 121, Salem, MA 01970)

Description: This space is for any and all teens that need a minute. Hear a poem that gave you some feelings? Need a minute to rest? Want some quiet time to work on your own poem, or do some low-key activities like magnetic poetry? We got you. Drop in any time, and stay as long as you like.

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Event Name: The Add-Some-Art Mural

Type: Teen Track

Location: Nagly (Inside the Witch City Mall, 2 East India Sq, Ste 121, Salem, MA 01970)

Description: Are you a teen who loves drawing, doodling, designing, sketching, scribbling? Do we have the wall for you! Drop in to add some art, or a couple lines of poetry, to our mural anytime from 10-5 on Saturday. Be in conversation with other teen artists, and create something cool and collaborative together.

10:15 am –11:15 am

Event Name: Witches All the Way Down': Persona, Archive, Incantation

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Cindy Veach, Carolyn Oliver, Elizabeth Sylvia, Mandy Gutmann-Gonzalez, Therese Gleason

Description: In this interactive panel, five poets whose projects have engaged with—and challenged—representations of women as one-dimensional archetypes (sinner, saint, virgin, mother, witch) that appear in many historical, religious, and literary texts will share their poetry and brief comments on their creative process; ample time will be allotted for questions and discussion with the audience. Therese Gleason, a descendant of a judge at Salem and the 11th great-granddaughter of Alice Lake, who was executed for witchcraft on Boston Common c. 1650, will read from her chapbook, *Matrilineal*, which includes poems about her ancestor, Eve, Mary Magdalene, and St. Teresa of Ávila. Mandy Gutmann-González will share selections from their project, *Salem Songs*, which mines the 17th-century legal archive of the Salem trials, considering the court examination as poetic form, a hybrid of legal language and lyric utterance. Carolyn Oliver will read selections from an ongoing series of Eve persona poems (some of which appear in her chapbook *Mirror Factory* and her collection *Inside the Storm I Want to Touch the Tremble*) that explore violence, maternity, queerness, witchcraft, and sexuality—with a particular focus on the dialogue form. Cindy Veach will share selected works from her collection, *Her Kind*, an exploration of the Salem Witch Trials which braids archival accounts of the accused women displaying courage and integrity with contemporary examples of women resisting the traps of victimhood in a modern culture that often still remains inhospitable, if not hostile. Elizabeth Sylvia will read from her collection, *None But Witches*, in which she celebrates the intelligence and sharp wit with which Shakespeare's female characters wield language as a means to speak truth to power in a world in which they are viewed as "Witches. // Witches // all the way down."

Event Name: 25 Years of Shabdaguchha: A Multilingual Poetry Reading

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Hassanal Abdullah, Kristine Doll, Amir Or, Joan Digby, Naznin Seamon, Sultan Catto

Description: *Shabdaguchha*, an International Bilingual Poetry Magazine, will celebrate its 25 years of publication with poets from different parts of the world. This will be a multilingual presentation, headed by Hassanal Abdullah, poet and the editor of *Shabdaguchha*. Each of the six panelists will read their work previously published in *Shabdaguchha*. There will also be a flyer about the activities of the magazine which made a bridge between the poets of the east and the west. It is important to note that the magazine published poets from at least 60 different countries for the last 25 years and will publish a "World Poetry Anthology" to further celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Event Name: A Reading by the 'Sum Poets' of Bunker Hill Community College

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Group Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Deborah Schwartz, Alexis Ask, Maya Blanco, Lilo Roque

Description: The "Sum Poets" are some Women and Non-Binary Poets that belong to the Bunker Hill Community College community. We are both of and more than the sum total of our intersectional and unique identities that include

Black, Latinx, Muslim, Jewish, White, Lesbian, Bi, Cis, Women, Non-binary, Trans, Queer, and Straight. And we are some of many faculty, staff and student poets across our campus community.

Event Name: Aspanfut: Re-discovering Language through the Ukrainian Avant-Garde

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Jack Giaour

Description: Invented by Mykhaylo Semenko in 1914, kverofuturism (often translated into English as "panfuturism") was intended to be a thoroughly modern poetics for a modern age. In this workshop, we will learn about Semenko, the Ukrainian avant-garde, and the broader world of radical Soviet art that swept Europe and the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century. Participants will try two exercises popularized by Semenko's group of writers and artists, using avant-garde techniques to inspire their writing and their worldview.

Event Name: Recycled Words: Found Poetry

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Yetti Frenkel

Description: Recommended for ages 12 and up. Perfect for an intergenerational workshop. Participants use random words salvaged from various sources to create associations, then write a poem. The words on salvaged paper will be incorporated (recycled) into their art project, which is a five page, accordion fold-out book. All participants will take home a finished product. This is an engaging, challenging project which offers participants a chance to share their creativity and imagination

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Event Name: The Poetry & ... Showcase

Type: Teen Track

Location: Cinema Salem (Inside the Witch City Mall, 1 East India Sq Mall, Salem, MA 01970)

Description: This showcase of young poets pairs poetry with other art forms: poetry and music, theater, visual art, dance. Hear a variety of youth voices and see all the different ways poetry can take shape. (A few open mic sign-up spots will be available: if you're a teen who would like to perform, come a few minutes early)

11:00 am –4:00 pm

Event Name: Small Press Fair

Type: Small Press Fair

Location: Essex Street Pedestrian Mall (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers:

Description: This year's small press fair will be back on the Essex Street pedestrian mall outside the Peabody Essex Museum. Featuring small presses and organizations from across Massachusetts and beyond!

Questions about the Small Press Fair? Contact Cathy@MassPoetry.org

Current list of attending presses (scroll down for table events):

- **Adastra Press**
- **Barrow Street Press**
- **Broadsided Press**
- **CavanKerry**
- **Cervena Barva Press**
- **Curious Corvid Publishing**
- **Derby Wharf Light Box**
- **EmersonWRITES**
- **Game Over Books**
- **Grolier Poetry Bookshop**
- **Lily Poetry Review Books**
- **Molecule: a tiny lit mag**
- **New England Poetry Club**
- **Nixes Mate**
- **Perugia Press**
- **Slate Roof Press/Swamp Press**
- **Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program**
- **Soundings East**
- **This Works Press**
- **Three Mile Harbor Press**
- **Timothy Gager**
- **Zephyr Press**

Table Events:

Broadside Giveaway and Anthology Signing

Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Press: Broadsided Press

Feature Author & Book: Elizabeth Bradfield, "Broadsided Press: Fifteen Years of Poetic/Artistic Collaboration, 2005 - 2020"

Description: Broadsided Press has been publishing monthly, original collaborations since 2005. Join founder Elizabeth Bradfield, take a broadside, and take home a signed copy of the anthology that gathers 50 broadsides, conversations about art and writing, and photos of words and art on streets around the world.

Book Signing: *No Time for Death* by Harris Gardner

Time: 11:30AM - 12:00PM

Press: **Cervena Barva Press**

Description: "No Time for Death" offers an overarching theme: Take a breath, a revitalizing pause; as for Mortality, slow down; enjoy the most of each day-to-day. What's the rush? Death can wait, can't it?

Solstice MFA Alum, Staff & Faculty Book Signing

Time: 11:30AM - 12:00PM

Table: **Solstice MFA Program**

Featured Authors & Books: Kathleen Aguero (*World Happiness Index*), Rebecca Connors (*Split Map*), Quintin Collins (*Claim Tickets for Stolen People*), Meg Kearney (*All Morning the Crows*)

Brief description: Meet New England-based alums, staff, and faculty from the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program; buy signed copies of their poetry collections; and learn more about this hybrid graduate program!

Book Signing, *Check Points* by Michael Casey

Time: 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Press: **Adastra Press**

Description: Michael Casey, a native of Lowell, MA, is the author of ten poetry collections, including *Obscenities*, the 1972 Yale Younger Poets winner. *Check Points* continues his experiences during the Vietnam War. "This remarkable book of poems"—Boston Area Small Press and Poetry Scene. www.facebook.com/michael.casey

Book Signing: Gregory Wolos, *The Thing About Men*

Time: 1:00PM - 1:30PM

Press: **Cervena Barva Press**

Description: There are kindnesses and cruelties in these stories; there are successes and failures. But pull back the curtain on the central characters in *The Thing About Men*, and you will find that they are all men you know.

Book Signing: Michael C. Keith, *Quiet Geography*

Time: 1:30PM - 2:00PM

Press Name: **Cervena Barva Press**

Description: Often disquieting in theme and plot, the pieces within these covers invariably contain meaningful truths and lessons while managing to accomplish this in a witty and affecting manner.

Book signing, *Before We Were Birds* by Susan Edwards Richmond

Time: 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Press: Adastra Press

Description: Susan Edwards Richmond is the author of four poetry chapbooks and four children's books. *Before We Were Birds* is her first full-length poetry book, of which poet Fred Marchant said, "With stunning imagery and gentle, meditative music, Richmond conjures a sense of sacred wildness in all things." www.susanedrichmond.com

Book Signing: Vassiliki Rapti, *Bathed in Moonlight/Translation* Translated from the Greek by Peter Bottéas

Time: 2:00PM - 2:30PM

Press: **Cervena Barva Press**

Description: Vassiliki Rapti's poems are like delicate watercolors painted with a fine brush, in hues of the seasons, the sea, and the night illumined by the moon. They're diaphanous hues that give glimmers of an inner world: warm, deep, subterranean pools of feeling, reflecting yearning that might not otherwise see the light.

Book Signing, Elizabeth Lund, *Un-Silenced*

Time: 2:30PM - 3:00PM

Press: **Cervena Barva Press**

Description: These poems show the devastating effects of domestic violence and seek to restore one victim's voice, allowing her to speak to and through another generation of women.

Book Signing, Elizabeth Sylvia, *None But Witches: Poems on Shakespeare's Women*

Time: 3:00PM - 3:45PM

Press: **Three Mile Harbor Press**

Description: Elizabeth Sylvia's *None But Witches* won the Three Mile Harbor Poetry Prize in 2022. At the Festival, she will be participating in the panel *Witches All the Way Down* on May 6 at 10:15 and will be at the TMHP booth to continue the discussion and to sign copies of her prize-winning collection.

11:30 am –12:30 pm

Event Name: You Own the Mic: The Emergence of Online Poetry Readings

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Toni Bee, Timothy Gager, Chad Parenteau

Description: In early 2020, the pandemic struck with most of the world facing indefinite lockdown. Poets were just one of many groups taking to the internet with the hopes of forming or maintaining bonds during uncertain times. Then came the advent of Zoom, and the online open mic became popularized. Not since the introduction of slam poetry were spoken word venues changed so completely with no apparent road back to the simple days of pages and podiums. What were the positive effects? the negative? What does the future hold? This panel features a group of organizers whose poetry venues and events were transformed seemingly forever as online forums became the new normal.

Event Name: Korean American Women Breaking Silences

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Su Cho, Eugenia Leigh, Joan Kwon Glass, Marci Carabretta Cancio-Bello

Description: Join Su Cho, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, Joan Kwon Glass & Eugenia Leigh for a panel discussion & reading of the authors' work. They will share writing on themes that have historically been stigmatized, ignored or denied in the Korean American community, including mental illness, suicide & the complexities of identity. How does writing and speaking out on these topics serve as an act of resistance & solidarity? What risks & considerations are crucial to authentic dialogue, to moving forward in community with one another & within our own writing processes?

Event Name: Massachusetts Poets Laureate

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Lloyd Schwartz, Jennifer Barber, Steven Ratiner, Porsha Olayiwola, Ellie O'Leary

Description: Massachusetts, a state filled with poets and poetry, including a significant number of national poets laureate, to its shame, is one of the few states without a state poet laureate. But in Massachusetts, many towns and cities have their own poets laureate: Boston, Somerville, Springfield, Amesbury, Arlington, and Brookline, just to list a few. In the three years since the Academy of American

Poets has been offering major grants to American regional poet laureate, three recipients have come from Massachusetts. At this event, regional poets laureate Jennifer Barber, Ellie O'Leary, Porsha Olayiwola, Steven Ratiner, and Lloyd Schwartz will read their poems and talk about the significant work they have done in their communities.

Event Name: Now as Mother: In the Presence of Loved Ones with Alzheimer's

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Gail Thomas, Eileen Kennedy, Christine Jones, Eric Hyett

Description: According to the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's is a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills, and it's estimated that over six million Americans struggle with dementia as a result. To be in the presence of someone with Alzheimer's is a lesson in appreciating the very present moment because both the past and future are unattainable to those individuals inflicted. As caregivers, we try to hold this space. As poets, we turn to language to help understand and accept. In this group reading, followed by a Q&A, we'll read our poetry and discuss our own experiences caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease.

Event Name: Dreaming Your Way into a Poem: A Generative Workshop

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Mary Buchinger, Frances Donovan, Jennifer Badot

Description: There is a long tradition of poets writing about their dreams, including William Blake, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Lucille Clifton, Jean Valentine, and Alice Notley. Like the best poems, the dream juxtaposes odd elements, framing them in surprising ways and shedding light. In this workshop, we will explore dream vision and the art of drawing lyrical narratives from sensory chaos. We will read dream poems, discuss the possibilities of mining dream territory, and then we will write. Feel free to bring notes you might have jotted down about dreams, fragments of dream imagery, or ponderings about recurring dreams, dreams that have haunted you, dreams that have brought you joy.

12:30 pm –2:00 pm

Event Name: Headline Reading w/ Cameron Awkward-Rich & Franny Choi; Sponsored by The Shipman Agency

Type: Headline Event

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Franny Choi, Cameron Awkward-Rich

Description: Please join us for headliners Cameron Awkward Rich & Franny Choi.

Cameron Awkward-Rich's most recent book is *The Terrible We: Thinking with Trans Maladjustment* (Duke University Press, 2022). He is also the author of two collections of poetry: *Dispatch* (Persea Books, 2019), winner of the Lexi Rudnitsky Editor's Choice Award, and *Sympathetic Little Monster* (Ricochet Editions,

2016), finalist for a LAMBDA Literary Award. His work has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere, and he has received fellowships from Cave Canem, *The Watering Hole*, and the Lannan Foundation.

Also a scholar of trans theory and expressive culture in the U.S., Cameron earned his PhD from Stanford University's program in Modern Thought & Literature. His more critical writing can be found in *Signs*, *Trans Studies Quarterly*, *American Quarterly*, and elsewhere, and has been supported by fellowships from Duke University and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Asked in an interview if books can influence social change, Awkward-Rich responded: "I actually think it's quite weird to imagine that social change can happen without literature, since books of various kinds (and I'm counting oral traditions as "books" here) tend to be where ideas are stored and transmitted, where each generation learns all over again what the world is like, and has been like, and might be. How do you have collective action without collective imagination?"

Awkward-Rich was Postdoctoral Fellow in the Transgender Studies & Humanities Project with the Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke University. Presently, he is an assistant professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Franny Choi is a queer, Korean American writer of poems, essays, and more. Her most recent book is *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* (HarperCollins, 2022), an NPR 2022 Books We Love and Goodreads Readers Choice Award Semifinalist. Her other books are *Soft Science* (Alice James Books, 2019), a Rumpus and Paris Review staff pick that Lit Hub praised as "a profoundly intelligent work which makes you feel." It was a Nylon Best Book of 2019, was awarded the Elgin Award from the Science Fiction Poetry Association in 2020, and was a finalist for awards from Lambda Literary, Publishing Triangle, and the Massachusetts Center for the Book. Choi is also the author of the chapbook *Death By Sex Machine* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2017) and the debut collection *Floating, Brilliant, Gone* (Write Bloody Publishing, 2019). She was a 2019 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy

Sargent Rosenberg Fellow and has also received awards from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and Princeton University's Lewis Center. Her poems have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, and elsewhere. She co-hosts the poetry podcast VS with Danez Smith.

A Kundiman Fellow and graduate of the VONA Workshop, she founded the Brew & Forge Book Fair, a fundraising project that brings together readers and writers to build capacity in social justice community organizations. In 2019, she launched the Brew & Forge Lecture Series at Williams College, which puts poets and organizers in conversation with each other to discuss the intersections of activism and literary arts. As a curator, she has worked with organizations including Split This Rock and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, and she is particularly passionate about highlighting the voices of queer and trans poets of Asian/Pacific diasporas.

In an interview with *The Paris Review*, she was asked about how she uses form in her work: “I think when we play with form what we’re engaging with is the technology of the poem. And so when I play with form, what I’m doing is saying that I’m a coauthor of this text along with the machine of poetry—the mechanics of the lyric—in order to produce this thing. The mechanics of the poem and I are collaborating in order to make something new with language that didn’t belong to either of us to begin with. I’m still in the process of figuring out what a cyborg poetics is, but that feels like a clue to me.” A seasoned performer, Choi is a two-time winner of the Rustbelt Poetry Slam and has performed her work in schools, conferences, theaters, and bars across the country. As a teaching artist, she has taught students of all ages and levels of experience, both in formal classroom settings and through organizations like Project VOICE and InsideOut Literary Arts Project. Choi is faculty in Literature at Bennington College.

About The Shipman Agency, Inc:

The Shipman Agency offers complete literary services to writers at all stages of their careers. While our primary focus is representing leading authors and thinkers for speaking engagements, we're pleased to offer the services of literary agent Annie DeWitt, independent book publicist Preeya Dave, and Mike Levine, editorial consultant.

We’ve also added The Work Room, online classes + seminars taught by our clients. Our mission remains the same: to provide clients, venues, emerging writers + students with the best possible experience, and to represent authors who are on the cutting edge of contemporary thinking about culture and the world.

12:45 pm –1:45 pm

Event Name: Words in Space: Four poets share their visions

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Martha Collins, Mary Buchinger, Danielle Legros Georges, Donna David

Description: In the open sea of the page, words carry meaning in relation to each other and to the space. Space is a kind of punctuation, directing the attention of the reader through the poem. The members of this panel, Danielle Legros Georges, David Donna, Martha Collins, and Mary Buchinger, will discuss their thoughts about space and the process of arranging their poetry into lines, isolated words, stranded phrases, etc. Drawing on examples from their own work, each poet will share their perspectives on connections between form and content in relation to the use of space.

Event Name: Poems from Ukraine: New Translations

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: John Hennessy, Ostap Kin

Description: Translators Ostap Kin and John Hennessy will read from A NEW ORTHOGRAPHY, their translations of Serhiy Zhadan, which was a finalist for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation and won the Derek Walcott Prize. They will also read from their forthcoming anthology BABYN YAR: Ukrainian Poets Respond (volume 4 in the Harvard Library of Ukrainian Literature) and their present project, selected poems by Yuri Andrukhovych, which have appeared in NYRB, TLS, and The New Statesman.

Event Name: Poetry and Blessing

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Deborah Leipziger, Eileen Cleary, Preeta Banerjee, Alexander Levering Kern, Usman Hameedi

Description: Blessing and prayer are rooms in the house of poetry. In this panel we explore poems as blessings. In what ways are poems blessings? Our panel draws on several religious faiths, including Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, and Catholic traditions, to explore the linkages between blessing and poetry. Each poet will share a favorite poem and/or blessing and then a poem and/or blessing of their own creation.

Event Name: Narratives of Transformative Love

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Prema Bangera

Description: A workshop focused on and intended for (QT)BIPOC community members. The incentive of Narratives of Transformative Love is to use art and writing to address past traumas, negative criticism, and societal expectations in order to heal and transform our identity to reflect our own strengths and develop authentic radical self-love. This workshop is focused around dismantling systemic oppression and empowering (QT)BIPOC community members and allies. Participants will utilize a series of exercises with art, writing, decolonized yogic practices, civic advocacy as catalyst for individual and community healing.

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Event Name: Poetry Comix Workshop: Sketch and Snack

Type: Teen Track

Location: Nagly (Inside the Witch City Mall, 2 East India Sq, Ste 121, Salem, MA 01970)

Description: Join Ryan Valentine, the artist behind Poetry Comix, for this teen-only workshop. Learn about visual storytelling, the history and basics of cartooning, and turn your own (or favorite!) poems into works of art. Materials will be provided. Come for the whole workshop, or drop in when you can. Lunch will be provided for teens courtesy of NAGLY.

2:00 pm –3:00 pm

Event Name: Can Serious Poems Be Funny? Can Funny Poems Be Serious?

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Lloyd Schwartz, Denise Provost, Gail Mazur, Robert Pinsky

Description: Some of the most serious literature also has surprisingly comic passages (think of the drunken porter in Macbeth). So do some of our best contemporary poems. Robert Pinsky, Gail Mazur, Denise Provost, Lloyd Schwartz will each read their own serio-comic poems, and serious poems with unexpected humor by such poets as Elizabeth Bishop, Andrea Cohen, and Jill McDonough.

Event Name: Love Poems in Time of Crisis

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Deborah Leipziger, Joey Gould, Robbie Gamble, Krysten Hill

Description: Poetry can hold seeds of love in the audacity of its truth-telling, especially if truth-telling is a vehicle for survival. Our current condition feels like a crisis on many fronts: the traumatic consequences of the COVID pandemic, wars, incivility and surging hatred in so many forms, the degradation of the planet. In response, some of us have found themes of love to be bubbling up in our work in surprising manifestations, not just romantic love (although that, too) but also but also love of self, or family, or a stranger, or a community, or an ecstatic relationship with the Divine, or the natural world we inhabit. None of this investigative “work” in poetry is easy, but love is also risking and persisting towards a better future for community and selfhood. In this reading, four poets will share a range of their recent work, borne out of crisis, to explore what happens when love poems dismantle societal expectations to show the beauty in spaces of resistance.

Event Name: Pangyrus: Where Poetry Lives

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Serina Gousby, Carrie Bennett, Cheryl Clark Vermeulen, Alexandria Peary, Cynthia Bargar, Jennifer Martelli, Danielle Legros Georges, Victor Hugo Mendevil

Description: Authors published in Pangyrus and editors of Pangyrus will present their work.

Event Name: Poems from Home: A Reading & Discussion with Massachusetts Poets, Sponsored by The Massachusetts Center for the Book

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Jill McDonough, Nathan McClain, Sara Deniz Akant, Moderator: Karolina Zapal

Description: Massachusetts poets Jill McDonough, Nathan McClain, and Sara Deniz Akant will read from their new poetry collections published in 2022 and talk about their experiences as Massachusetts writers engaging with the Commonwealth's vibrant literary community.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book is a nonprofit affiliate of the Library of Congress charged with developing, supporting, and promoting cultural programming that will advance the cause of books and reading throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Event Name: Last Poems, Last Words: What a Poet's Legacy Can Teach Us A Generative Writing Workshop

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Margaret Young, Elisabeth Weiss

Description: What do the last poems written by a poet disclose? How can we draw power from their final words? In this workshop, we'll look at some of the last poems of poets who have recently passed away like Mary Oliver, James Tate, Gerald Stern, Adam Zagajewski, and others to find prompts and signs on how to live with the time we have.

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Event Name: That's My Fam! Youth Poetry Slam

Type: Teen Track

Location: Cinema Salem (Inside the Witch City Mall, 1 East India Sq Mall, Salem, MA 01970)

Description: Five teams of youth poets will take the stage to practice the art of poetry slam. We will be moved to laughter, moved to tears, and moved to action by the stories shared after four rounds of poetry. Hope to see you there, ready to shout: "That's my Fam!"

This event co-sponsored by Mass Poetry, the Lowell Poetry Wheel, and Mass Cultural Council.

3:15pm – 4:15pm

Event Name: Poetry and Ice Cream

Type: Open Mic

Location: House of the Seven Gables (115 Derby St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Crystal Valentine

Description: Join us with your favorite sundae for this delicious Festival open mic! Bring your poems about ice cream, chocolate, jelly beans, or anything else sweet you'd like to share. Bring your sweet-tooth as well; ice cream will be provided!

Event Name: Double-Life Poets: Balancing Poetry with a Non-Literary Career

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: K. T. Landon, Pamela Taylor, Cynthia Manick, Robert Carr

Description: Every poet does something to make a living, but some of us dare to balance our poetic lives with careers that have nothing to do with writing, editing, publishing, or teaching. In the tradition of William Carlos Williams (poet-physician) and Wallace Stevens (poet-businessman/lawyer), four double-life poets will share their perspectives on when poetry and non-literary careers don't mix and when they do, and why our non-literary careers are not just another day job. Panelists include a data engineer, a certified Scrum Master, a higher education researcher, and an infectious disease program director. Two out of the four panelists are poets of color.

Event Name: In Praise of Legacy: Writers of Color and the Challenge of the Canon

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Michael Mercurio, Oliver De La Paz, Enzo Silon Surin, Nathan McClain

Description: The word "canon" in literary studies was intended to refer to humanity's greatest writings — the works containing the highest ideals and greatest beauty, with which all educated people should be familiar. Thanks to the work of critics and scholars of color, however, we are now able to recognize the exclusions, the silences, and the gaps that exist in the traditional concept of the canon. The three poets (who are also college professors) on this panel will read from their own work and discuss how they deconstruct and expand the literary canon in their work and in the classroom.

Event Name: The Power of the Visual in Poetry: Visual Poetry and Asemics

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Karla Van Vliet, Sue Scavo, Kylie Gellatly

Description: Poetry has always used visuality on the page to deepen and convey meaning: line breaks, stanzas and even poems written in traditional forms that are easily recognizable. Visual poetry and Asemic Writing broadens this experience by using a wide array of creative visual forms in the making of poems and a poetic experience: collage poetry, erasures, concrete poems, comics and Asemics. Asemics is a form of writing — a gesture of writing — without set, expected, meaning. Our panel will explore Visual Poetry that is both traditional and newly emerging. We will address questions like: Why use Visual Poetry as a process or a parallel with writing? When would we turn to Visual Poetry in our own writing? Where does poetry and the visual meet, intermingle, create alchemy? What new concepts are emerging in Visual Poetry now? The panelists will offer examples, their own experiences with Visual Poetry and invite conversation with the audience.

Event Name: Trust The Process

Type: Performance

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Tim Hall

Description: Tim Hall brings you Trust The Process — a live performance infusion of poetry, storytelling, and music about creative expression, self love, and artistic exploration. Hall's poetry draws inspiration from his lived experiences — charting the nuances of blackness, masculinity, and the beauties of life.

Event Name: From Fallen Angels to Fungi: Writing the Next Apocalypse

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Maria Pinto, Walter Smelt, Christopher Spaide

Description: As forest fires rage, mega-storms batter coastal cities, and famines flare into wars, what can we learn from apocalyptic writers who have gone before us? And how can we write about our own time of transitions, full as it is of endings but also beginnings? Session leaders will each briefly discuss a piece of apocalyptic writing (from ancient to modern times), then present a prompt for participants, who should leave the workshop with three potential starts to poems.

4:30 pm – 5:30pm

Event Name: Instagram Poetry: A Writer Shares Their Experience

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Emily Sun

Description: This workshop will focus on diving into and explaining how the world of Instagram poetry works, specifically by presenting the work of several successful Instagram poets, observing patterns and trends across various Instagram poets' posts and online brands (themes and topics, structure and formatting, visual elements, and general presentation), and offering potential tips and strategies for growing a following for those audience members interested in sharing their work via Instagram. The presenter will also discuss their personal experience sharing their poetry and other forms of creative expression on this social platform.

Event Name: State of Poetry Panel

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Jennifer Jean, Kimiko Hahn, Moderators: Cristela Guerra

Description: The State of Poetry Panel returns! Hosted by Cristela Guerra, a WBUR arts and culture reporter, featuring Kimiko Hahn, and Jennifer Jean. Keep an eye on our Mass Poetry's Newsletter for additional participant announcements coming soon.

Event Name: We Were Never Meant to Survive: Poetry of Witness to Womanhood

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Janine Joseph, Eugenia Leigh, Chase Berggrun, Maya Marshall

Description: In the silence-breaking spirit of Audre Lorde's "A Litany for Survival," four women poets with new and recent books will read poems that challenge the expectations of the feminine. Writing in witness of the Black woman, the Asian woman, the trans woman, the undocumented woman, the mother, the child-free, the trauma survivor, and the mental illness survivor, Eugenia Leigh, Maya

Marshall, Chase Berggrun, and Janine Joseph will share work that interrogates the ways these various identities are policed and threatened while celebrating the multifaceted, intersectional woman self and honoring the larger community of women poets.

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Event Name: Headline Reading w/ Kimiko Hahn & Matthew Olzmann, Sponsored by The Fine Arts Work

Type: Headline Event

Location: Tabernacle Congregation Church (50 Washington St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Kimiko Hahn, Matthew Olzmann

Description: Please join us to hear headliners Kimiko Hahn and Matthew Olzmann in this reading sponsored by the Fine Arts Work Center. This reading will feature a Q&A moderated by Jennifer Jean, Program Manager of 24PearlStreet, and a special performance by young poets from Mass Poetry's Teen Council.

Kimiko Hahn is the author of ten books of poems, including: *Foreign Bodies* (W. W. Norton, 2020); *Brain Fever* (WWN, 2014), and *Toxic Flora* (WWN, 2010), all collections prompted by science; *The Narrow Road to the Interior* (WWN, 2006), a collection that takes its title from Basho's famous poetic journal; *The Unbearable Heart* (Kaya, 1996), which received an American Book Award; *Earshot* (Hanging Loose Press, 1992), which was awarded the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize and an Association of Asian American Studies Literature Award.

About the process of writing her most recent book, *Foreign Bodies*, Hahn reflects in an interview with *The Rumpus*: "I think things are exotic because they are the Other. Japanese things are not exotic to me but there are other things that are exotic. The insect world, for example. I don't know anything about it, I'm not an entomologist so the language is exotic, and the information has an otherworldly feel. I think there will always be the Other. It's not always positive but it can be. In early childhood development, the mother is the other to the infant, the love object. There will always be the other and I think that's where the exotic resides. Regarding preservation, I'm very interested in it socially. In order to preserve some things we need to move backwards and clean things up. I am literally interested in preservation."

As part of Hahn's service to the CUNY community, she initiated a Chapbook Festival that became an annual event co-sponsored by major literary organizations. Since then, she has added chapbooks to her list of publications: *(Write it!)*: a collection of odes, *Brittle Process*, *Brood*, *Ragged Evidence*, *A Field Guide to the Intractable*, *Boxes with Respect*, *The Cryptic Chamber*, and *Resplendent Slug*. In 2017, she and Tamiko Beyer collaborated on the chapbook *Dovetail*.

She takes pleasure in the challenges of collaboration: writing text for film including: *Coal Fields*, the 1985 experimental documentary by Bill Brand; *Ain't Nuthin' but a She Thing* a 1995 HBO special; and *Everywhere at Once*, a 2008 film based on Peter Lindbergh's still photos and narrated by Jeanne Moreau).

Hahn's honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, PEN/Voelcker Award, Shelley Memorial Prize, a Lila Wallace- Reader's Digest Writers' Award as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the N.Y. Foundation for the Arts. She has taught in graduate programs at the University of Houston and New York University. Hahn has also taught for literary organizations such as the Fine Arts Work Center, Cave Canem, and Kundiman. From 2016-2019, Hahn was President of the Board of Governors, Poetry Society of America. In 2023, she was named a Chancellor for the Academy of American Poets.

She lives in New York where she is a distinguished professor in the MFA Program in Creative Writing & Literary Translation at Queens College, The City University of New York.

Matthew Olzmann is the author of Constellation Route as well as two previous collections of poetry: Mezzanines and Contradictions in the Design. A recipient of fellowships from Kundiman, MacDowell, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Olzmann's poems have appeared in the New York Times, Best American Poetry, The Pushcart Prizes, Kenyon Review, and elsewhere. He is an assistant professor at Dartmouth College and also teaches in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College.

8:45 pm – 10:30 pm

Event Name: The Poetry Brothel

Type: Night Owl Event

Location: Gulu-Gulu Café (247 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Madam Betty BOOM, Izzie Hexxam, Livia Dove, Shego, Holy Crow, Sirena, Lillian Queen, Priscilla Parsley, Kitty Levesque, Temptress of Light

Description: The Poetry Brothel is an immersive literary cabaret that fuses poetry, activism, vaudeville, burlesque, circus, live music, visual art, magic, mysticism, and private one-on-one readings. You really have to experience it for yourself, darling!

Note: Your Festival button gets you in free and grants you one token for a poetry reading. Additional tokens for readings and tarot can be purchased at the event, with all money going directly to the artists.

MAY 7 • SUNDAY

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Event Name: All Aboard The Poetry Trolley!

Type: Workshop

Location: Armory Park (136 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Danielle Jones

Description: Explore Salem in an on-the-go writing workshop hosted by Danielle Jones. Let's ride around and pay attention to the town: we'll make a map of smells and sounds, write odes for our favorite sites, and invent stories about passersby. 38 spots available: first come, first serve. All aboard!

10:15 am – 11:15 am

Event Name: Navigating the Italian Diaspora: Three Bordighera Press Poets Read and Discuss Their Work

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Julia Lisella, Carla Panciera, Jennifer Martelli

Description: Bordighera Press is dedicated to publishing creative works on the Italian diasporic experience. Julia Lisella, Jennifer Martelli, and Carla Panciera—three award-winning poets—will read from their books published by this press. Their poetry confronts stereotypes and misogyny within and without the Italian American community. The poets will also discuss the importance of finding community in the writing world and how that has supported and influenced their work. The reading will be followed by a robust question and answer period.

Event Name: Translation Today: an Interview with Danielle Legros Georges and Dzvina Orlowsky by Jennifer Jean

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Jennifer Jean, Danielle Legros Georges, Dzvina Orlowsky

Description: Can—and, should—anyone translate? How does engaging the process change the translator's own work? How does it change the world? Join poet and translator Jennifer Jean as she interviews former Boston Poet Laureate and translator Danielle Legros Georges, and Ukrainian American poet and translator Dzvina Orlowsky, in this dynamic and essential conversation about the act, field, and art of translation today.

Event Name: Chaotic? Good: Harnessing the Power of the Happy Accident in Your Poetry

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Emily Franklin, Maria Pinto, Walter Smelt, Joan Kwon Glass

Description: In this generative workshop, we'll use techniques such as erasure, web-surfing, tarot decks, and against-form ideas and more to help attendees relinquish some control to outside forces (and the unconscious) during the idea, drafting, and revision stages of their processes. Come create new work that functions less by logic than by juxtaposition, association, the element of surprise--what Robert Bly called poetic "leaping." All levels.

Event Name: Mapping the Lit Mag Landscape: Advice on Publishing More in Less Time

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Elizabeth Sylvia, Shana Hill

Description: Intimidated by the complexity of the lit mag universe? In this session, poets Shana Hill and Elizabeth Sylvia will discuss strategies for streamlining and focusing submissions to literary magazines. Topics will cover how to find and vet magazines, defining your literary style, refining submission sets and cover letters, and organizing your data. As the founder of the literary submission service Poetica Pastor, Shana has shepherded over 1000 works to publication, leading many poets to establish a sustainable submissions practice. Elizabeth has published over fifty poems since she began submitting in 2019, and will offer additional insights from her work as a reader for SWWIM Every Day.

Event Name: Poetry Games

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Ryan Clinesmith

Description: Participants will engage stations and group activity that generate individual and group poems through the combination of game and writing. These may include scavenger hunts and renga, metaphor dice and paper airplanes, exquisite corpse and poetry generators.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Event Name: Adobo-Fish-Sauce, Sponsored by The Massachusetts Center for the Book

Type: Performance

Location: ChagallPAC (24 New Derby St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Anthony Febo, Ricky Orng

Description: A Puerto Rican and a Cambodian walk into a kitchen. The kitchen is your heart. The food is made with food. The food is sometimes poems. Either way you are fed.

Adobo-Fish-Sauce is an active choice to celebrate in the face of bitterness. It is responding to “Go back to where you come from!” by bringing where they are from right to you. The duo fuses spoken word, cooking, intentionality, vulnerability, and joy to create a one of a kind experience that can’t be found in any kitchen or open mic. Adobo- Fish-Sauce began as an artist project fusing live cooking and spoken word poetry performances as means to invite the audience into an enhanced storytelling experience.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book is a nonprofit affiliate of the Library of Congress charged with developing, supporting, and promoting cultural programming that will advance the cause of books and reading throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Chagall Performance Art Collaborative (Chagall PAC) is a community of artists committed to collaborating across disciplines and exploring the ways we experience art. We believe art is never the

same in any given moment, but rather evolving and continually being shaped by the imaginations of those who come into contact with it. We create performances that involve audience participation and expand to the newest reaches of contemporary performance art.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Event Name: Poetry in Motion

Type: Performance

Location: PEM East India Marine Hall (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Angelina Benitez, Lindsey McGovern, Theophile Victoria, Katie Pustizzi

Description: "Poetry in Motion" will feature the choreography and improvisations of local artists including Salem State Alumni* that combines the beauty of movement and poetry. Join us for an informal performance featuring work by Katie Pustizzi, Theophile Victoria, Angelina Benitez, Lindsey McGovern, and Kristin Wagner. Dive into the process with a talk-back that follows the performance.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Event Name: LOS LORCAS: Poetry in Concert

Type: Performance

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Partridge Boswell, Nat Williams, Peter Money

Description: Celebrating their new release Last Night in America, poets Partridge Boswell and Peter Money, along with guitarist Nat Williams, fuse poetry and music in a passionate and surprising mash-up. Los Lorcás blur boundaries between spoken word and song, weaving poetry with Andalusian ballads, blues, rock, folk, reggae, hip hop, Americana and jazz in pursuit of the cante jondo (deep song) Federico Garcia Lorca so ardently championed.

“... and then listened to Los Lorcás...WOW!!! the second time through I had tears on EVERY SINGLE Song...wow and double wow...and the third time through Innisfree became cherished for its sweetness—a whole sound....The rest is SO powerful and Quirky and intensely wonderful ”—Chuck Cole, Cape Cod Community Radio

Troubadouring widely in the US and abroad (Ireland, Canada and Slovenia), Los Lorcás have been featured on NPR and performed everywhere from farmhouse kitchens to pubs, coffeehouses, schools, theaters and 1,000+ book festival crowds, attesting to the broad appeal of their lyrical tapestries and innovative vision of how poetry and music are two sides of the same spinning coin and together can attain a mesmerizing symbiosis. “House band” for the Grolier Poetry Book Shop in Cambridge, Los Lorcás have recently been commissioned by the Poetry Cooperative of Galway and mental health organizations in Ireland to arrange and record the work of poet Patrick Kavanagh, in anticipation of performing benefit concerts for mental health charities later this year in New England and Ireland.

“Los Lorcas in unity is a marvel that would silence any creative individual to awe, inspiring the quietest observer to reach for each word as if they were Federico Lorca himself, meditating on song and poetry mid-stage, arms outstretched.”—Bianca Viñas

Event Name: Body States: A Poetry Reading & Conversation with Kevin McLellan, Enzo Silon Surin & Cheryl Clark Vermeulen

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Enzo Silon Surin, Kevin McLellan, Cheryl Clark Vermeulen

Description: Three longtime Massachusetts poets present poems concerning the human body and engage in a conversation about why and how the body enters into our work, asking questions of each other and fielding questions from the audience.

Event Name: Jewish Poets of Western Massachusetts

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Joy Ladin, Jena Schwartz, Richard Michelson

Description: A trans-woman, a queer woman, and a straight male have this in common-- their exploration, love, and quarrel with Judaism. Two National Jewish Book Awards and two Massachusetts Cultural Council Poetry Fellowships are among their many awards.

Event Name: Self-publishing via Zines, Chapbooks & Broadsides

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Catherine Fahey, Dawn Stahura

Description: In this workshop, participants will learn the basics of self publishing and making zines and chapbooks using paper and digital tools. How to layout for printing Free/low-cost online publishing tools, and public domain/copyright free resources (examples, Canva; The Noun Project). Participants will learn how to make basic booklets (folded, staple bound and sewn) Participants will have the opportunity to layout one of their own poems in an 8.5x11" broadside Physical materials will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own computers/tablets and specific ephemera (like photographs, images).

Event Name: Writing from Your Life without Being Self-Centered. The “I” poem.

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: K. T. Landon, Kevin Carey

Description: Is writing the “I” poem inherently narcissistic, as some in the poetry community contend? Two Massachusetts poets, Kevin Carey and K. T. Landon vehemently disagree! They will explore the value of the “I” poem—and of writing from your life generally—by looking at the work of such poets as Ellen Bass, Ross Gay, Mark Doty, Naomi Shihab Nye and others (and maybe a poem or two of their own) to illustrate and defend the first-person poem. They will examine the common pitfalls of writing from your

own life and strategies for avoiding them. This is also a generative workshop. Kevin and K. T. will guide the audience with prompts for writing at least two “I” poems. If time allows (and depending on the number of participants) poems can be shared with each other.

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

Event Name: Headliner Reading w/ Mosab Abu Toha

Type: Headline Event

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Robbie Gamble, Mosab Abu Toha

Description: Palestinian poet Mosab Abu Toha, founder of the Edward Said library in Gaza, will be interviewed by Massachusetts poet Robbie Gamble and speak about the perils of writing — and living! — in Gaza, a place under heavy siege and periodically under ferocious attack. He will read from his collection *Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear*, which was shortlisted for the National Book Critics Circle Award here and won the 2022 Palestine Book Award. A Q&A will follow.

Mosab Abu Toha is a Palestinian poet from Gaza. He is the founder of the Edward Said Library, Gaza’s first English-language library. *Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear* is his debut book of poems and was named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry. It also won a 2022 Palestine Book Award.

Abu Toha’s writings from Gaza have appeared in *The Nation* and *Literary Hub*. His poems have been published in *Poetry*, *The Nation*, the *Academy of American Poets’ Poem-a-Day*, *Poetry Daily*, the *New York Review of Books*, *Arrowsmith*, and *Solstice*, among others.

Event Name: You Attended a Fantastic Poetry Conference, Now What? On Creating and Sustaining a Writing Community

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Ann E. Wallace, Christina Kelly, Michael Foran, Thomas Edward Frank, Jennifer R. Edwards

Description: Have you ever participated in a writing workshop or festival that left you brimming with ideas for generating work and honing your craft, only to find that once you return home and are back at your desk or consumed by daily activities, you are longing to resuscitate the vibrant community you found at the conference? After two years of writing and working in near-isolation during the pandemic, a group of poets who met at the Colgate Writers Conference in summer 2022 recognized the value of the relationships they formed during their intensive week-long workshop and took deliberate steps to maintain their connection as writers. In this panel, they will share strategies to stay connected, support and promote each others’ work through social media and poetry events, form an ongoing writing group that meets regularly via Zoom, and strengthen the bonds that they formed at the conference.

Event Name: *Sex as Offering, Liberation, and Honey: a Poetry Reading*

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Chen Chen, Sam Herschel Wein

Description: A reading devoted to the joyous celebration and freedom of queer sex. We will share our own work and a myriad of community offerings—queer poems about sex that have nourished us, swayed our vibrant hips, made us laugh and cry and get a little excited. We will map out the queer sex landscape that has shaped us—the poems that have given us permission, that have been our guidance, our ancestors, that have led us to our own freedom. And we will be free, with our work. Sharing our sexy love magic. A Q&A will follow the reading.

Event Name: Family Constellations: How to Generate Speculative Poems about Our Ancestors

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: María Luisa Arroyo Cruzado

Description: In this inclusive community workshop, María Luisa warmly welcomes participants to contemplate family members, one, two or more generations ago, whose fragmented stories have been embraced, silenced or both. Participants should bring any artifacts such as passports, newspaper articles, photos, fragments of songs, even the names of specific scents, among others, to jump-start the generative process. As we speculate about the experiences of blood, adopted, and spiritual family members who came before us, we will generate drafts that may invite participants to code-switch into another language or English vernacular and/or into other culture(s) to better capture voice, tone, and even turns of phrase that do not easily translate into English.

Event Name: Weekly Poems: Using Poetry to Practice Analytical Writing

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Elizabeth Sylvia

Description: While students (and teachers) sometimes feel daunted by reading poetry, poems provide an exceptional equal-opportunity entry point to higher level analytical writing. In this session, we'll discuss how to implement a weekly poetry analytical writing practice for students while maintaining a manageable correcting pile! This session is geared towards junior high and high school teachers. Participants will receive easy to apply teaching strategies along with a student-tested packet of high interest poems.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Event Name: DENCITY Open Mic

Type: Workshop

Location: ChagallPAC (24 New Derby St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Michelle Richardson

Description: Come speak your mind at this family-friendly Open Mic as part of Mass Poetry Festival at ChagallPAC on Artists' Row!

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1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Event Name: You Are Here: Workshop & Open Mic

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Garden/Atrium

Speakers: Mass Poetry's Teen Council

Description: Take a journey throughout the region to celebrate the stories of where we call home. You're invited to a special writing workshop, collaborative visual arts exhibit, and an open mic, hosted by Mass Poetry's Teen Council. Open to all!

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Event Name: Heart, Hope, & Honesty: Addressing challenging topics in verse novels

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Forbes Gallery (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Kip Wilson, Padma Venkatraman, Rebecca Caprara, Rebekah Lowell

Description: Real life comes with real complexities, and poetry offers a safe place in which to explore them. By giving voice to difficult experiences, we illuminate our similarities, develop personal connections, and foster understanding and empathy. We also provide dimension to our protagonists by illustrating they are more than their struggles or their circumstances, and by extension, so are our readers. A panel of poets discusses how they approach writing novels in verse for teens and tweens about mental health, grief, abuse, and more, and why exploring challenging topics in literature helps us illuminate our similarities, develop connections, foster empathy, and discover the power of our own voices. Panelists will also offer a recommended reading list, and leave ample time for audience Q&A.

Event Name: Poets on Parenting

Type: Panel

Location: PEM Groups Hub (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Ben Berman, Regie Gibson, Allison Adair, Anna V. Q. Ross

Description: Raising children often returns us to our most imaginative and vulnerable selves. It forces us to confront who we are and what we value. In this session, four esteemed poets will explore how

parenting changes us as writers and how writing changes us as parents – from the absurd arguments that we have with our two-year-olds to the joys and fears of raising teenagers in today’s world. They will share poems about parenting and explore the strange overlaps between the creative life and procreative life.

Event Name: The Favorite Poem Project 25th Anniversary Reading

Type: Reading

Location: PEM Morse Auditorium (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Robert Pinsky, January Gill O'Neil, Ilya Kaminsky, Katie Farris, Moderator: Annette S. Frost

Description: The Favorite Poem Project is celebrating 25 years of documenting the role of poetry in Americans' lives. Please join us to hear 10 people from different walks of life share their favorite poems. Full speaker list coming soon, keep an eye on this event for more details.

The Favorite Poem Project was founded in 1998 by Robert Pinsky. At its inception, the Favorite Poem Project put out an open call for people across the country to share their favorite poems. Eighteen thousand Americans— from ages 5 to 97, from every state, representing a range of occupations, kinds of education, and backgrounds— wrote to the project. From those thousands of letters and emails, the Favorite Poem Project created a series of short documentaries and anthologies. The project continues to create short films and educational resources, and to host readings, in order to document and encourage the sharing of poetry across the world. All these resources can be found at <https://www.favoritepoem.org/>.

Event Name: Edible Poetry

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 2 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Louisa Clerici

Description: Food is foundational and universal. It elicits from us powerful memories and emotions. Ruth Reichel once said, “In a psychological and cellular way, we are what we eat, all the foods we’ve taken in.” In writing, food imagery can be compelling; can help us to reveal characters, setting and layers of truth. Food is ritual, Thanksgiving dinner with family, the birthday cake at a friend’s party. Food speaks to us, is really another language we can utilize, another way to highlight our cultures in our writing. Together we will look at some of the best poems that contain food imagery, by our favorite writers. As we explore our own work through interactive exercises, we will discover tasty new tools to expand our writing skills and create poems that are a gustatory delight. This class has been designed especially for poets. As important as food is, it’s often hidden in our writing and focusing on food often connects everything together and helps us to add taste and power to our writing. I am a poet, food writer and food photographer, author of several cookbooks. I have presented similar workshops for writers in connection with Foodie Federation and events for “Plymouth's First Restaurant Cookbook” on the South Shore of MA.

Event Name: Hope Story Scrolls

Type: Workshop

Location: PEM Create Space 1 (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: L'Merchie Frazier

Description: Centered in the language of hope, this workshop is designed for participants to experience the space of hope together, in an innovative space, and to share the self and group continuity of healing. We will utilize the art of collage to tell our stories of hope. Participants will engage in the art form of collage made simple with household materials and other available resources to fabricate the scrolls. This workshop is all about filling yourself up with new inspiration and ideas, having fun, and being creative.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Event Name: Surrealist Poetry Salon

Type: Workshop

Location: ChagallPAC (24 New Derby St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Diana Norma Szokolyai

Description: You are invited to a Surrealist Poetry Salon at ChagallPAC on Artists' Row, 24 New Derby St. Salem, MA 01970, between the hours of 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 6th, 2023. This is a welcoming space to create for writers of all experience. Come take a seat in the poetry circle for as long as you like. You will be invited to choose from several writing prompts meant to explore the bridges between dreams and reality, between the unconscious and conscious realms, and mysterious, uncanny, and fantastic elements. Optionally share a reflection about your process or an excerpt of your writing if you wish. This is your time to reflect, write, create, and share.

This salon will be led by poet & teacher Diana Norma Szokolyai, Co-Director of ChagallPAC and Artistic Director of Cambridge Writers' Workshop. She is author of the poetry collections *Parallel Sparrows* and *Roses in the Snow*, and editor of *CREDO: An Anthology of Manifestos & Sourcebook for Creative Writing*. She holds an M.F.A. in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts, an Ed.M in Arts in Education from Harvard, and an M.A. in French from University of Connecticut.

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm

Event Name: Headline Reading w/ Katie Farris & Ilya Kaminsky

Type: Headline Event

Location: PEM East India Marine Hall (161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970)

Speakers: Ilya Kaminsky, Katie Farris

Description: Please join us to hear headliners Ilya Kaminsky and Katie Farris at this closing event of the Festival.

Katie Farris's work appears in *American Poetry Review*, *Granta*, *The Nation*, and *Poetry*, and has been commissioned by MoMA. Her first book of poems, *Standing in the Forest of Being Alive*, is forthcoming from Alice James Books (US) and Liverpool University Press (UK) in 2023. She is also the author of the chapbook *A Net to Catch My Body in its Weaving*, which won the 2020 Chad Walsh Poetry Award from *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and *boysgirls*, a hybrid-form book, as well as co-translator of many books of poetry. Her work has been published in *Best New Poets*, and she has won several awards, including a Pushcart Prize. She teaches at Princeton University.

Ilya Kaminsky was born in Odessa, Ukraine. He is the author of *Deaf Republic* (Graywolf Press), which was *The New York Times*' Notable Book for 2019 and was a National Book Award finalist, and *Dancing In Odessa* (Tupelo Press), and is the co-editor and co-translator of many other books, including *Ecco Anthology of International Poetry* (Harper Collins). His work received *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize.