



West End Poetry Newsletter

December and January, 2006-07

This newsletter has been designed to inform the general public in the Orange County area and the rest of the state of North Carolina of all things poetry. We are hoping that this newsletter will find its way into the hands of those in this area that are interested in creating, reading, and enjoying poetry.

What's Going On?

- **Poets Open Mic:** Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department and Open Eye Cafe the first Tuesday of each month for Poets Open Mic Night. Carrboro Open Eye Café 7 - 9pm
<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/rp> **No Meeting in January 2007**
- **McIntyre's Book Store Open Mic:** This event is held every Thursday night of the month at 7:30pm at McIntyre's Book Store located at Fearington Village in Pittsboro NC. For more info call 919-542-3030. **No Meeting in January 2007.**
- **Shairi's Poetry Open Mic:** This event is held at the Marvell Event Center in Durham. It meets on the first Saturday of each month. Doors Open at 7pm show starts at 8:30pm.
http://www.monicadaye.com/wst_page4.html
- **Shairi's Open Mic Poetry on WXDU:** WXDU 88.7FM hosts a poetry open mic every Friday night, for more info contact www.wxdu.org.
- **The Blotter Open Mic Night:** This event is held on the third Tuesday of each month at The Cave in Chapel Hill. The event begins at 7:30pm.
<http://www.cavern tavern.com/>
- **Winston Salem Poetry Slam:** Meets the first Friday of each month at Elliott's Revue by Trade and Seventh, at 8pm. Admission is free! Contact Bob Moyer for more information at 336-577-6371
- **The Friday Noon Poets:** The Friday Noon Poets have been meeting at noon on Friday's for 28 years without interruption. All are welcome to attend. The group meets at Amity Methodist Church on the corner of Estes and Martin Luther King Jr. Rd.
- **Escape the Daily Grind:** This event is held every 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm in Salisbury, NC. Contact jemur@yahoo.com for more details.



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What's Going On? (cont.)

- **1st Friday Reading Series:** Open mic poetry on the 1st Friday of every month at 8pm at Border's Bookstore at Northlake Mall in Charlotte, NC. For more details call 704-595-9526, or e-mail to iodineopencut@aol.com.
- **West End Poets' Weekend:** October 13 & 14, 2007 in Carrboro NC. Please contact Kim Andrews at 919-918-7367 or e-mail at kimandrews@townofcarrboro.org. if you are interested in participating or submitting suggestions.

Spotlight On



Mikkos Josey

Mikkos Lavern Josey was born on September 1st, 1981 in High Point, NC. Mikkos first started writing at age 12 as a way to cope with a troubled home life, and quickly learned that he loved writing poetry.

After graduating from Thomas Wingate Andrews High School in 1999, Mikkos attended UNC-Chapel Hill for three semesters before dropping out and joining the military in 2001. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry at Fort Stewart Georgia for three years. His service included ten months in the Persian Gulf where he was part of the original invading force for the Gulf War. Along with his junior year in high school, Mikkos feels that his time in the gulf was some of the more productive times in his life.

After being unable to re-enlist due to back injuries, Mikkos returned home to High Point before eventually settling back in Chapel Hill. Mikkos currently works for Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department while taking courses online through Devry University.



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Curse of Arthur

By Mikkos Josey

Foundations swept away

When the rushing torrent comes raging in What good can come when all this falls?

From the burning wretched ruins

Comes ash to coat my lungs

To choke and douse the final spark of hope Left to walk this blasted wasteland Unsheltered Left
to be pulled apart Left to be rubbed ragged and raw My spirit scorned and scoured by scorching
winds Where I'm torn tossed and twisted And dashed against the ground Where have all you
gone?

Warm arms with bright laughter

Hopeful smiles to meet my hateful glare

Happy days broken

Taken

Tainted

Poisoned what I believe in

Made false my only hope

My only joy

The one thing left of light has died

Been dimmed

You choked it

Watered a garden with gasoline

Let my flowers burn

Taken a torch to my heart

Helped me to find more hatred

More than I could ever imagine

Images of the wilting and the fires

Of it all just crashing

The castle

The courtyard

The crumpling walls

Go run about questing, Lancelot

Go seek that cup of Christ

To staunch the wounds that never heal

Brother of my heart

Now the bane of my weary eyes

Fly from this wreckage and ruin you've wrought Flee because it pains your soul A glorious

kingdom brought to naught Let it consume and gnaw and haunt your heart The blazing death of

Camelot



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Wonder Where We Wonder

By Mikkos Josey

Nicknaks
Little trinkets
Solidifying memories
Concrete past life conceptions
Little dusty
A tad bit hazy and out of focus
Still all the same
Very precious and all too few
Are the ones that are truly priceless
So we collect and save them everyone
In hopes there's something valuable
Just sitting on the shelf
Postcards from loved ones
Bronzed baby shoes
A coffee cup from Nantucket
You hardly ever use
These little we use
To hold onto the brighter spots of life
The parts we like
The places where we're bathed in light
An opiate to numb hunger pangs
To ignore the empty barren dark
A fiction to help forget we fell
Skinned our knees
Won new scars
Lost that race
Finished last place
Cried when we couldn't catch a star
Wondering where the wonder went
And if we've wandered off to far
And if we'd ever get back home
Or is it where we are



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May This Christmas Be the First of Many

By Nicholas Gordon

May this Christmas be the first of many,
Each more joyous in our growing love,
Revealing more of happiness than any
Riches might provide or pain remove.
Years flow like an unrepentant river,
Carrying the soil of life away,
Holding far more than they can deliver,
Rushing past the certitudes that stay.
In love there is an instance of forever
So shy and lovely it eludes the eye,
The sense of being home when we're together,
More enduring than a reason why.
As love is born of passion, borne by will,
So may for many years we choose love still.



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Website Links

- **N.C. Poetry Society:** <http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/>
- **North Carolina Arts Council:** <http://www.ncarts.org/homepage.cfm>
- **Writers for Peace:** www.writersforpeace.org
- **Informed Revolution:** This webzine is a collection of visual reactions. Now accepting submissions. <http://www.informedrevolution.com/>
- **QuickMuse:** The Internet has done many things but it hasn't made the writing of verse more interesting. QuickMuse plans to change this. www.quickmuse.com
- **Contemporary Poetry Of NC:** www.blairpub.com
- **Cherokee NC Poetry:** www.cherokee-nc.com/poetry
- **NC Writers Network:** www.ncwriters.org
- **Tar River Poetry:** www.personal.ecu.edu
- **The Academy of American Poets– NC:** www.poets.org
- **Poetry Daily:** www.poems.com
- **Article on America's First Poet– Anne Broadstreet:** www.bellaonline.com

We are currently searching for poets to spotlight in our newsletter. If you or someone you know is interested in being featured, please contact Dennis Joines at djoines@townofcarrboro.org.

We would love to post some of your poetry. If you would like to submit a poem to the newsletter then please send your name, location, and your poem via email to djoines@townofcarrboro.org

We will post a new poem with each updated newsletter. Also, in the future, we will have a newsletter dedicated to all the poems that have been submitted.