



West End Poetry Newsletter

June & July, 2007

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. To view previous newsletters-please visit our webpage www.townofcarrboro.org/rp/CarrboroCommunityEvents.htm

What's Going On?

- **West End Poets' Weekend:** October 13 & 14, 2007 in Carrboro NC. A two day annual event open to the public with an outstanding list of poets. At this year's event, the Carrboro's Poet Laureate will be introduced. Please contact Kim Andrews at 919-918-7367 or e-mail at kimandrews@townofcarrboro.org. if you are interested in participating or submitting suggestions.
- **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. Admission is free. Contact Carrboro Recreation & Parks at 919-918-7364 for more information, or go to <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/rp>
- **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 Ferrington Village in Pittsboro NC. For more info call 919-542-3030.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.



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What's Going On? (cont.)

- **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
- **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.
- **Writer's Ink Guild of Fayetteville:** Open Mic event that meets the 1st Friday of each month at 7:00pm at Barnes & Noble Book Store on Morganton St. across from Cross Creek Mall.
- **Writer's Stage, Hickory, NC:** Bimonthly event meets at Taste Full Beans Coffeehouse at 29 2nd St. NW Hickory, NC. Featuring an open mic and feature poet. For more information call 828-325-0108.
- To view past issues of the West End Poetry Newsletter go to www.ci.carrboro.nc.us and go to the Community Events section to see past issues.



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Upcoming Events

Poetry Contest

Carrboro Recreation & Parks is sponsoring a poetry contest to commemorate the upcoming West End Poet's Weekend in October. Poems must be about Carrboro. Winners could get to read their poems on WCHL, or be published in a local publication.

Please submit poems by August 15th, 2007 to:

Carrboro Recreation & Parks

Attn: Kim Andrews

100 N. Greensboro St.

Carrboro, NC 27510

West End Poet's Weekend

Carrboro Recreation & Parks is currently looking for poets to read at the West End Poet's Weekend on October 13 & 14, 2007. An application can be found at www.westendpoetsweekend.com

Please submit applications to:

Carrboro Recreation & Parks

Attn: Kim Andrews

100 N. Greensboro St.

Carrboro, NC 27510



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Spotlight On

Tammy Betts Smith

Tammy is a registered nurse, care manager, mother, wife, and inspiring poet who has been writing in a journal since she was 9 years old.

Locking her secrets and emotions in a diary even as an adult finally took shape during her battle with depression several years ago. As part of her own therapy, she found writing released the confusion and loneliness that comes with the condition. She comments, “God’s guidance and mercy is what saved me and the poetry gave me the vessel to express the battle and the triumph I experienced and didn’t know how to share. Now I do and my only wish is that my words comfort someone in need on any given day”.

Tammy lives in Durham, NC with her husband Dexter and her two children, Jordyn and Jonathyn. She works as a nurse care manager, which is another passion of hers. The desire to help others is what attracted her to the nursing field, and her deep sense for caring and loving others has inspired her written art.

Tammy can be reached at thesoulofone@yahoo.com



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Dance With Me..... By Tammy B. Smith

Dance with me in the wind...
Where our souls are liberated to explore....
And there is nothing between us
but the air and freedom to move....

Our hearts are able to touch for the first time
without skin and bone or flesh keeping them apart.
The eternal kiss that is soft as the cumulus clouds.....
Where words are not needed because they are spoken
with our eyes....

The dance of the inner child that has longed to be so
playful and anxious to perform...
No concern for precision, audience, space or time.....

Outfitted only in a breeze, unrestricted in movement
and limitless expression.
The birds echo our laughter and the angels harmonize
to our song....

At that moment, we are above this worldly structure.
Heaven has invited us to a dance..
And God has seen fit to place us gently back on earth.
As we begin our lives together....

Tammy B. Smith-7/30/06



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Spotlight On

First Love...

By Tammy Smith 11/10/06

First love never should be explained and you cannot apologize that it happened.

First love lingers on the lips like dew on the leaves.

First love has a mysterious power over all the evils of the world... Just believing that it exists, gives you the edge over others.

First love knows those first secrets that you were too embarrassed to share with another.

First love can be painful and yet fulfilling and never seems to fade.

First love is selfish because it's yours and you don't want to share.

First love can be dangerous, risky, and ignite every fiber of your being.

First love is everlasting and no one knows how deep it runs.

First love, first love no one can take the memories from your mind or alter the love in your heart.

You cannot live in the past but you can feel blessed that today it still breathes!



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Poet Searchlight

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, a brief bio of yourself, 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.

Carrboro Poet Laureate Search

The Carrboro Art Committee is currently searching for a new Poet Laureate for the Town of Carrboro. The Poet Laureate may be called upon throughout the year to create poetry for community celebrations such as the poetry reading at Carrboro Day, the West End Poetry Weekend, and other various dedications and events.

To apply for the position of Carrboro's fourth Poet Laureate, the applicant must be a resident of Carrboro, complete the application form, and send one signed and one unsigned copy of one poem to the Carrboro Art Committee. Each poem submission will be assigned a number for blind judging by Carrboro's current Poet Laureate, Todd Sandvik. One poem per applicant please.

Interested poets may either nominate themselves, or communicate their desire to be considered and their willingness to participate in the competition to another person who may nominate them. Carrboro's newly selected fourth Poet Laureate will be introduced and will read their selected poem at the West End Poetry Weekend in October 2007.

To access a copy of the application form go to:

<http://Carrboro.com/poetlaureateapplication.html>



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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 & Poetry Newsletter:** www.poems.com
- **Poetry Newsletter at Bellaonline:** www.bellaonline.com