

West End Poets News Letter



www.westendpoetsweekend.com



March/April 2010

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CARRBORO RECREATION AND
PARKS DEPARTMENT

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Celebrate National Poetry Month with Poetry on Your Plate!

New Format

Co-sponsored by the Carrboro Cybrary

Celebrate National Poetry Month with a menu of local poets reading from their works. This special night of readings will be followed by a question and answer session. Bring your dinner from one of the many local restaurants, enjoy Open Eye coffee and desserts provided by Carrboro Recreation and Parks.

Join us and feast on poetry!

Poetry on Your Plate

Featured Poets include:

One Night Only

Jeffery Beam,

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Kim Holzer

6:30pm-8:30pm

& Dasan Ahanu

Century Center

(Turn to page 5 for a preview poem and bio. of Dasan Ahanu.)

In this Issue

Accepting Submissions

National Poem in Your Pocket Day

Join us in celebrating the third annual National Poem in Your Pocket Day. Stop by the Cybrary on **Thursday, April 29th** and get a free poem for your pocket to share with friends, family, and co-workers.

Local poets are encouraged to submit their pocket-sized poems for distribution. **Submissions due by Tuesday, April 27th.**

Carrboro Cybrary, 100 N. Greensboro St., 919-918-7387, cybrary@co.orange.nc.us.

Where Poetry and Music Intertwine
(below, page 8)



Meet one of our Poetry on Your Plate featured poets: Dasan Ahanu (page 5)

THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL
in collaboration with
 THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
 THE POETRY FOUNDATION
presents



2010 North Carolina Semifinals and Finals

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Semifinal One: 9 AM

Semifinal Two: 12:30 PM

Semifinal Three: 3 PM

Final Competition: 7 PM

Reception following Final Competition

North Carolina Museum of History Auditorium

5 East Edenton Street

Raleigh, N.C. 27601

(919) 807-7900

Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in partnership with the N. C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, a state agency. Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary



Excerpts from an address given by Mimi Herman at the West End Poets Festival, October 2009.

In the old days, say Greece around the time of the invention of the Olympics, poetry used to be, well, an Olympic sport. You know, the footraces, the discus throwing, the figure skating, the poetry—okay, maybe not the figure skating. But definitely, the poetry.

A little closer to our own times, perhaps within the lifetimes of some of you, we weren't allowed to graduate school without having committed at least one poem to memory. "The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck," or "Oh Captain, my Captain." It was, of course, a little while ago, when we had to do our homework on stone tablets, which made our backpacks awfully heavy. Here's one of my personal favorites, which has lasted from well before my day through the current time:

The Lake Isle of Innisfree, by William Butler Yeats

And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
 Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee;
 And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
 Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
 There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
 And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
 I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
 While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
 I hear it in the deep heart's core.



(left to right) Mimi Herman stands alongside teachers Amy Kostrewa and Michelle Reed at the 2009 West End Poetry Festival. Amy and Michelle spoke on their participation with students as well as their involvement in the Orange County District Competition.



**Mimi Herman,
poet and educator**

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, in collaboration with state arts agencies across the nation, have brought this tradition back through Poetry Out Loud, a National Poetry Recitation competition for high school students. It starts at the classroom level, moves up through the schools, eventually producing one champion for each state and finally a national champion who walks away with a \$20,000 college scholarship and the admiration of Garrison Keillor, a strong supporter and perennial judge of the national competition. At the state level, not only do students win first and second place with cash prizes (okay, a little smaller than the \$20,000 grand prize), but their schools also benefit, by receiving money to buy poetry books for their media centers.

It's a competition that has a lot of winners, not just the one who represents the nation, but every student and teacher who participates in the program. As North Carolina Poetry Out Loud Coordinator, I get to see backstage in the lives of the students, who say this program has changed their lives.

- 📖 "I have learned how to get over my shyness on a stage in front of a large crowd of people," says one.
- 📖 "It has exposed me to a whole new art that I will continue to appreciate and explore for the rest of my life. It has also given me more confidence in my performing abilities and abilities to communicate emotions to a large group of people," says another.
- 📖 One tells us, "I learned that by memorizing a poem it takes a place within the heart," while another has learned "from Poetry Out Loud that "if you set your mind to it anything is possible."

The poems vary widely from Shakespeare to Countee Cullen to Li Young Li. They include former United States Poet Laureate, Billy Collins.

Continued . . .

As North Carolina Coordinator for the competition since it first went national in 2005, I've discovered poems and poets completely unknown to me, as well as being reunited with old friends. I've discovered that there are as many ways to recite a poem as there are reciters willing to speak the poet's words.

I've also discovered that teachers, some of the most overworked and underappreciated people I know, are willing to take on one more thing, this program, to benefit their students. In fact, North Carolina teachers and students rose to the occasion so beautifully that last year, our state ranked in the top five states in the nation, in participation in Poetry Out Loud. Let me repeat that: in the nation. I'm pretty proud of that fact. And like those ancient Olympians—okay they weren't so ancient at the time—I don't want us to rest on our laurels. Each year, more students and teachers throughout North Carolina fall in love with poetry and their ability to own a poem through this wonderful program, and each year we're able to make this experience richer and deeper.

Because what we really want is to make our students famous, in this way:

Famous, by Naomi Shihab Nye

The river is famous to the fish.

The loud voice is famous to silence,
which knew it would inherit the earth
before anybody said so.

The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds
watching him from the birdhouse.

The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.

The idea you carry close to your bosom
is famous to your bosom.

The boot is famous to the earth,
more famous than the dress shoe,
which is famous only to floors.

The bent photograph is famous to the one who carries it
and not at all famous to the one who is pictured.

I want to be famous to shuffling men
who smile while crossing streets,
sticky children in grocery lines,
famous as the one who smiled back.

I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,
or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,
but because it never forgot what it could do.

Dasan Ahanu is a public speaker, organizer, workshop facilitator, poet, spoken word performer, songwriter, writer, emcee, and loyal Hip Hop head born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to performing, Dasan has hosted many poetry, jazz, Hip Hop, and cultural arts events across the state. As an actor, Dasan has been a cast member of the hip-opera, "Right is Right" and a Harlem Renaissance production, "Images", which was produced by National Ensemble Theater and featured at the National Black Theatre Festival. He is one of the founders of Black Poetry Theatre (BPT) and has been a cast member in four productions. Two of BPT's productions, "Herstory of Love" and "Definition of a Hero", Dasan wrote and co-directed. Also an active participant in poetry slam, Dasan has competed regionally and nationally for five years as a founding member of Durham, NC's own Bull City Slam Team.

Believing that "with great talent comes great responsibility", Dasan has also used his skill and resources to aid in developing the community and further social change. He has worked as an organizer on such issues as war, social injustice, workers rights, domestic violence and sexual assault; planned and facilitated community programs for Duke university's Center for Documentary Studies; conducted creative writing and performance workshops at middle schools, high schools, and colleges throughout North Carolina; and spent time working with at risk/ court-involved youth. He is currently a teacher at Duke University's Young Writer's Camp, creative consultant and resident artist at the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, NC and an artist-in-residence at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC.

Bad Day

The sunlight is mad at me for sleeping at night
Saying son, yo, that just ain't right
So of course I got to wake up now
My bank account and my money
Bout to break up now
I wish they'd just make up now
But ok, the situation must be shaken up now
I just gotta think up how
I run the water
But even that don't like me
Even the shower gel wants to fight me
I grab my bath sponge and ask politely
Is it ok if you just wipe me?

Continued . . .

So now the temperature changes constantly
Because the hot and cold water enjoys mocking me
I'm like could y'all quit playing possibly
So that I can lather and bathe properly
Obviously, it seems a mockery
That I'm arguing with inanimate property
But today is just one of those days
So now I must brush my teeth
But my toothbrush done hid
The toothpaste is fussing
Saying I lost her lid
So now she's all dried out
Sobbed and sighed all out
Saying "You don't love me, you wanna squeeze my insides out!"
My brush is conspiring
It's really getting tiring
Because my edgers he's contemplating hiring
A little mishap when I'm trying to line and
Make a close fade an option worth vying with
Lazy sun of a gun, what them bristles is for
Didn't like the question hated me even more
So he hollered at my razor, said "Get him extra clean"
So the aftershave will give me a little extra sting
I'm a victim in my own house and I see impending doom
And the funny thing is... I ain't even left my room
Ready to depart, got my clothes to play their part
But couldn't get my breakfast to provide any spark
Fridge like "who goes there?" without the ark
I'm like it's me yo and he said "I don't know no me yo"
The freezer was like "It ain't nobody that we know"



Continued . . .

Allright that's cool, go head front on me yo
I'm bout to leave, because this is what I don't need yo
Out the front door, attitude kinda stank
My Honda took offense, man it wouldn't even crank
Baby baby, not this morning work with me
Took a whole lot of persuasion and coercion
Told her I'd park her beside a Suburban or Excursion
I got to my job, and nobody would speak to me
Even the elevator doors closed kinda weak to me
Got to my cubicle and my chair had a real stank squeak to me
My radio on my desk wouldn't get the right frequency
My keyboard keys felt like they didn't love me
Even my monitor looked a little fuzzy
My boss never came by, my coworkers had no convo
The mail guy just sailed by
Like "I'll bring you some mail tomorrow!"
My phone never rang, voicemail light never lit
My administrative assistant called this morning and quit
My insurance agent called, automotive and medical
Trying to recall the dialogue still in a daze
I swear he said the monthly fee on the policies got raised
The doctor called to tell what my x-ray had shown
Couldn't believe it, the x-ray said I had no bones
I said how is that possible on an x-ray of the chest?
Even that machine didn't like me, staged a protest
So now I gotta go again, he said "Tomorrow at 10"
I said ok doc, he said "Ok son I'll see you then"
And with enemies like these I don't really need friends
All I know is that I wish that this whole day would end

Soundz Grand Opening Re-cap – “The Place Where Poetry and Music Intertwine”

The Soundz had a wonderful Opening Night of Spoken Word, Poetry and Light Jazz. Poets from the Wilson surrounding areas participated (see list below) along with featured poet, Felicia "The Inkstress" Albritton from Greenville NC. The evening was hosted by "Lady T" (Terry Beckwith-McGuire) and "Big Dawg", (Bobby McGuire) her husband. Light refreshments were served with musical entertainment from Mr. Marcus Artis, from Stantonburg NC, a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill. The Soundz team is thankful to all who took time out of their busy schedules to share the grand opening event. – Courtesy of Lady T

Catch the Soundz at their next event and meet the faces in these photos!
 Contact: thesoundz@ymail.com for more information and if interested in participating.



- Poets:
- Felicia "The Inkstress" Albritton - Greenville
 - Natalia Scott - Wilson
 - Jonathan Brunson - Raleigh
 - Jim York - Ahoskie
 - Tanehsa Lucas - Wilson
 - Marcus Artis - Durham
 - Toni Calemitto - Wilson



Classes and Workshops Offered by Local Poets

Single-Shot Poetry Night
Carrboro Home of Facilitator Maggi Grace
www.maggi-grace.com
 Tuesday, March 9
 6:30-8:30pm. \$15.
 Poets bring 10 copies of an original poem ready to have discussed in this one evening workshop. Space is limited. For information and to register contact : maggi.grace@gmail.com

Alice Osborn –

- ✎ **Correspondence Course for Poets**
 \$295 for 12 months of hand-written poetry critique (1 poem/month). This class is perfect for poets who want a one-on-one poetry session with Alice Osborn (<http://aliceosborn.com>) Register today with this link: <http://bit.ly/6nEezw>

- ✎ **Writing the Photograph: A Creative Writing Class**
 Wed., March 10th 7-9pm at Bruce Johnson Studion 727 N. Main St. Wake Forest \$20 Register at <http://aliceosborn.com/workshops/>
- ✎ **C Writers' Network Raleigh Writer's Morning Out**
 Thurs. March 11 9:30-11:00am Free event with free Wi-Fi, coffee & donuts. RSVP at alice@aliceosborn.com

- ✎ **Writing Boot Camp** with Alice Osborn & Dave Baldwin
 Sat. March 27th from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Arrive early at 8am for networking & continental breakfast. Cost: \$249 includes continental breakfast & gourmet pasta lunch. writingbootcamp.eventbrite.com/
- ✎ **Blogging for Business** w/Alice Osborn & Eileen Batson
 Wed. March 31 7-9:30pm. Cost: \$30 Call 919-787-1799.

Poetry Round About NC

**Poetry Revealed!
Poets Open Mic**
Open Eye Café,
Carrboro

1st Tuesday, **March 2**
1st Tuesday, **April 6**
1st Tuesday, **May 4**
7-9pm



**McIntyre's Books—
NC Poetry Society Series**
Fearrington Village,
Pittsboro, 919-542-3030

Monthly on 4th Sundays
at 2pm. Free.

**March 28—Marty
Silverthorne & Nancy
King**
**April 25—John Amen &
Lenard Moore**
**May 23—Margaret
Baddour and Tony
Abbott**

Open Mic
Royal Bean Coffee House
3801 Hillsborough St,
Raleigh, 27607

919-834-BEAN

First Thursday monthly.
7-8pm. Hosted by
Maureen Sherbondy and
co-sponsored by Main
Street Rag. Email
Maureen to sign up to
read:
msherbondy@nc.rr.com

Friday Noon Poets
Amity United Methodist
Church, Chapel Hill

On the corner of Estes
and Martin Luther King
Jr. Rd. (aka Airport Rd.).

Contact David Manning
for information at
919-462-3695, or visit
dbtm@mindspring.com

**Sacrificial Poets
Open Mic** New
Location!
Flyleaf Books,
752 Martin Luther King Jr.
Blvd., Chapel Hill

Every 1st and 3rd Wed.
6:30-8:30pm.

[www.flyleafbooks.com/
event/sacrificial-poets](http://www.flyleafbooks.com/event/sacrificial-poets)

Jambalaya Soul Slam
Red Mass Art Gallery
105 W Parrish St
Durham 27701

Sat., March 20 @ 8pm

Jambalaya Soul Slam is a
monthly poetry slam series
sponsored by the St. Joseph's
Historic Foundation and Best
Kept Spoken. It features a guest
performer each month. Partici-
pating poets get in for free and
the winner receives a cash
prize. \$5 cover. Featuring na-
tional touring poet C. B.
www.bulldcitypoetryslam.com

Poetrio w/Dave Manning
Malaprop's Bookstore
55 Haywood Street
Asheville 28801

Sunday, April 11 at 3pm.

www.malaprops.com
March's Featured pub-
lished members of the
NC Poetry Society are
Marty Silverthorne and
Nancy King. Link
[www.fearrington.com/
village/calendar](http://www.fearrington.com/village/calendar) to read
more. Free.

**Confessions of a Lounge
Singer**
Common Ground Theatre,
4815B Hillsborough Rd,
Durham 27705-2237

Sunday, April 11 @ 7pm
"Confessions..." is a new pro-
duction from Black Poetry
Theatre. It is a one man
show starring poet & perform-
ance artist Dasan Ahanu. It
is a poetic theatrical produc-
tion that parallels the life of a
lounge singer to modern day
spoken word artists.

Poetry Reading
FlyLeaf Books
Chapel Hill

Sunday, April 18 at 2pm

Bruce Lader, Richard
Krawiec and Sara Claytor
reading from prize-
winning poetry books.
Music and poetry may be
available with guitar and
keyboard.

Poetry Reading
Regulator Bookshop
720 9th St.,
Durham 27705

Tuesday, April 20 at 7pm

Bruce Lader ("Discovering
Mortality" & "Landscapes
of Longing" &
Dave Manning ("Light
Sweet Crude" and
"Continents of Light")
will read.
[www.regulatorbookshop.c
om/](http://www.regulatorbookshop.com/)

Jambalaya Slam Finals
Hayti Heritage Center
804 Old Fayetteville Rd
Durham 27701

Saturday, April 24

Poets have been competing
all season for a chance to be
invited to the Grand Slam
Finals. Come see poets com-
pete for a chance to be on the
2010 Bull City Slam Team.
The winner will be crowned
2010 Jambalaya Soul Grand
Slam Champion. Featuring
national touring poet Mekka.
\$5 cover.

Accepting Submissions & Save the Date!

BULL CITY PRESS
BOOKS INCH BLOG SWAG ABOUT



2010 Bull City Press First Book Prize Call for Manuscripts April 1, 2010 - August 1, 2010

The 2010 Bull City Press First Book Prize honors a book of individual poetry in English by a single author; translations and collaborative works are not eligible for this award. The winning poet will receive 25 copies of the published book. A list of the winner and finalists will be listed on the Bull City Press web site.

The 2010 Bull City Press First Book Prize will be judged by an editorial board consisting of executive director Ross White, managing editor Marielle Prince, and Matthew Olzmann.

The winning volume will be published in 2011 by Bull City Press, a Durham-based press devoted to publishing poetry and fiction. For more information, visit: <http://bullcitypress.com/contest.php>

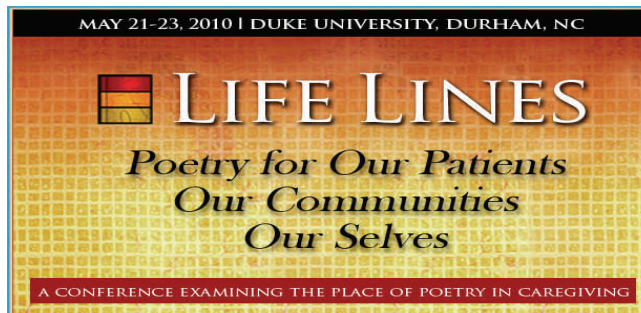
Poetry and Medicine Conference

Sponsored by:
Duke University

**Save the
Dates!**

May 21, 22 and 23, 2010.

Visit: <http://www.duke.edu/web/lifelines/> for the conference schedule, speaker information and a welcome letter from Dr. Frank Neelon.



Second Annual Nazim Hikmet Poetry Competition

Visit: www.nazimhikmetpoetryfestival.org for further information.

2010 Festival Date:
Sunday, April 18, 2010
Cary NC

Created and Issued by the
Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

CARRBORO
Recreation and Parks Department

For the newsletter, we welcome:

- Poetry News
- Upcoming Poetry Events
- Articles
- Contest Information
- Festival and Event Recaps

100 North Greensboro Street
Carrboro, NC 27514
919-918-7364

www.townofcarrboro.org
www.westendpoetsweekend.com

West End Poets Festival Coordinator:

Kim Andrews

Phone: (919) 918-7367

kandrews@townofcarrboro.org

Fax: 919-918-4475

Please email your information to
Allie Hansen at

programdivison@townofcarrboro.org.