

West End Poets News Letter

www.westendpoetsweekend.com



November / December 2010

Created and Issued by:
Carrboro Recreation and Parks
Department

Issue No. 26 (since June 2006)



West End Poetry Festival 2010



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the poets and members of the community for supporting the 2010 West End Poetry Festival with their time, talents, generosity, and encouragement. The precise objective for the festival, "To Support NC writers in the Art of Poetry" was achieved by the vast number of applicants and the day-long participation of 250 poets and audience members.

This year's event held true to the theme of diversity not only by the participation it brought, but by hosting theatrical performances, a children's writing workshop, readings, and spoken word from poets of all ages.

I am delighted to watch many of those contributing to the festival, whether through the wordplay of an artist's skill or the attentive eyes of audience members, enjoying themselves taking in poignant and meaningful insight, or laughing to near tears.

I look forward to the festival's continued expansion and to the exposure, community and connections it helps to foster for the future.

Sincerely,

Kim Andrews, WEPF Coordinator



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DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1**Bakeless Literary Prize in Poetry**

http://www.middlebury.edu/blwc/bakeless_prize

Book publication and fellowship at Bread Loaf Writers Conference

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference of Middlebury College sponsors the Bakeless Literary Publication Prizes, an annual book series competition for new authors of literary works in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. The Bakeless Prizes, named for Middlebury College supporter Katharine Bakeless Nason, were established in order to support emerging writers. Winners of the Bakeless Prizes will have their book-length manuscripts published by Graywolf Press. In addition to the publication prize each winner will be awarded a fellowship to attend the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Initial screening of manuscripts is done by qualified published writers selected by the director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in consultation with the judge and by the editors of Graywolf Press. The final decision, however, rests solely with the judge. Additionally, the judge reserves the right not to choose a winner in a given year if he or she feels there is not a manuscript ready for publication.

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1**Chautauqua Literary Journal Annual Poetry Contest**

<http://writers.ciweb.org/contest-information/>

Send your submission between August 1 and November 1, 2010.

Prize: \$1,000 and publication in Chautauqua, the literary journal of the Chautauqua Institution. Winner and finalists receive a copy of the journal. All manuscripts considered for publication.

Essays should address the theme of nature and the natural world.

Submit nonfiction essays up to 7,000 words. Please include a word count at the top of the manuscript. Please include a cover sheet with your name, contact information (mailing address, phone number and email address), and title of the manuscript.

The manuscript should ONLY include the title. Please do not include your name.

Include a SASE for contest results.

Entry fee: \$20

Mail entries to: Jill Gerard/ University of North Carolina Wilmington/ Chautauqua: Contest Entry/ Dept. of Creative Writing/ 601 S. College Rd./ Wilmington, NC/ 28403

DEADLINE DECEMBER 1**Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize**

<http://waywiser-press.com/hechtprize2010.html>

The Waywiser Press is now accepting submissions of poetry manuscripts for the sixth annual Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize.

The postmark deadline for submissions is December 1st 2010.

\$25 Entry Fee

\$3000 prize!

Sacrificial Poets November 3rd from 6:30-8:30PM at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill,

The Sacrificial Poets will be having a Free poetry open mic featuring our executive director CJ Suitt and the amazingly talented local musician Lizz. This show is special for a couple reasons. CJ, the foundation of our organization, has been working in California for the past 6 weeks. He will be returning this weekend just in time for his birthday on Nov 2nd. He will be featured this month so we will be able to let him know how much we as a community appreciate his dedication to the cause of social justice through the spoken word. There will be one time only special secret performance by Sacrificial Poets, and a secret surprise birthday cake and celebration for him after his feature.



Grey Brown November 5th at noon

Duke Med Center Room 1993 Duke Clinics Trent Drive Durham, NC (919) 684-6223
Readings for her new collection of poetry, What It Takes. If you'd like to learn more about the book and read a few of the poems, please visit her website:

<http://www.greybrownpoetry.com/>

Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, Reading Event – The Sound of Poets Cooking Sunday, November 7th at 3:00 pm

Music by Classical guitar virtuoso Ed Stephenson, recipes samples from the book, and featured poets John Hoppenthaler (Gilbert Chappelle Award winner), Jaki Shelton Green, Valerie Nieman, Terri Kirby Erickson, Al Maggines, Debra Kaufman, Lenard Moore, Sara Clayter, Maureen Sherbondy, and Richard Krawiec. For more info call 919-810-2863

NC Writers Network Raleigh Region Open Mic Night at Calm And Sense Fri. November 12 from 7:30pm-9:30pm

Location: Calm And Sense, 2603-111 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 919-787-1799

Cost \$10 Donation. FREE to military families

RSVP here for the Open Mic: <http://www.meetup.com/Wellness-for-Warriors-Triangle/calendar/14543421/>

If you're interested in reading, email Alice at alice@aliceosborn.com for your five minutes of fame. At this Open Mic Night we'll be observing Veterans Day. The first fifteen people to sign up with Alice Osborn in advance will have five minutes each to read their poetry, short fiction, or memoirs, play a guitar and/or sing a song. Let's just sit back, listen, laugh, linger and love as we gather to share peace of mind. Any proceeds generated will benefit Yoga Warrior classes for combat veterans.

Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill, Reading Event – The Sound of Poets Cooking

Saturday, November 13th at 6:00 pm

Music, Food, and Poetry reading by Sarah Clayter, Lenard Moore, Debra Kaufman, Bruce Lader, Maureen Sherbondy, and Richard Krawiec. For more info call 919-810-2863

A Salon of Music, Dance and Poetry

Saturday, Nov. 27th at 7:30 pm

Common Ground Theater, Durham

Featuring Ed Stephenson and the Paco Band

Uptempo Nuevo flamenco and jazz fusion music

Plus: 3 Poets 3 Presses.

Readings by Debra Kaufman(Jacar Press), Alex Grant(Lorimer Press) and Joseph Mills(Press 53).

Tickets \$10, \$8 for poets, \$5 for seniors, military, students, the unemployed. To reserve seats email

jacarpres@gmail.com

Reoccurring Events:

Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department Presents Poet's Open Mic Night at Open Eye Café November 2 & December 7 from 7- 9 PM

Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department the first Tuesday of each month for this great event! This is a night where poets can engage with others and share the power and diversity of poetry. The event is staged to provide a venue for people to celebrate, to share, and to encourage the writing, reading and listening to poetry.

Friday Noon Poets

Fridays, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Amity United Methodist Church

Corner of Estes Dr. and Airport Blvd., **Chapel Hill, NC.**

Informal meetings every Friday. Read your poetry or poems of others.

Free parking, side entrance. All are welcome!

Call Dave Manning for details, 919-462-3695

Raleigh Reading Open Mic Night

First Thursday of Each Month 7:00-8:30pm

hosted by Maureen Sherbondy

Royal Bean Coffee House & Gathering Space (across from Meredith College)

3801 Hillsborough St., Raleigh, NC.

Al Magines will be the featured reader on November 4th

Co-sponsored by Main Street Rag Publishing Company. Come to read or just to listen, bring poems, short-short stories, or essays. If you plan on reading, please let Maureen know:

msherbondy@nc.rr.com. For more info, call Royal Bean at 919-834-BEAN.

Blogging 101 for Writers: How to Create a Compelling Blog with Alice Osborn and Eileen Batson

Location: Northgate Books, 1058 West Club Blvd, Durham 27701 inside Northgate Mall

Date: Wed. Nov 17th from 7-9pm

Cost: \$30

Free Wi-Fi, so bring your laptop!

Register online: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2zr6pbi5a6c1490>

Do you know you need to start a blog so you can build your platform? In this workshop you'll learn all about the blogging process and how to create compelling content that will attract visitors so you can build your writing following and of course, your platform!

Mikkos Josey

The Drift

**Steady and insistent
the waters drifting in
Amiss sea spray and foam
the waves crash upon the beach
Even though they retreat
they take a little piece
and wash it out to sea
The land won't fight back
over a few grains of sand
Maybe it will when it's too late
and there's no place to stand
Nothing left to build on
Nothing left to plan
Just cast all dreams on out to sea
To do as the sirens command
Every day less than before
while waiting for something more
For something to get washed ashore
To replace what was taken away
To taste what it means to enjoy today**

THOSE SHEPHERDS

Think about those shepherds
Who heard the angels sing
Ponder their leaving
Their flocks to find a King
Imagine their sense of wonder
Upon seeing that bright star's light
Their awe upon hearing the message
given to them that night
They hurried empty-handed
to find a manger bed
Returned to their flocks rejoicing
Their hearts had been strangely fed
Now they carried its meaning
Within their very souls -
Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace, goodwill toward men



Keeper (for Sarah Williamson)

Tucked between the podium and city manager,
you have witnessed the flight of words
tumble through a thousand public meetings,
succoring, sorrowful, steely, sifting, sage words
that stitch together our common cloth,
that protect our unalienable rights.

As keeper of town records,
you have rewoven these expressions
into three and half decades of Minutes
that if bound together would be a scroll
protected by the mantle of your spirit.

In terra-cotta glazed by debate's heat
has emerged your profile, radiant and pure,
reflecting our humanity, our desire for good,
animating our public space with grace.
How you must have desired at times
with all that you know and believe
to share your own words of wisdom.

Instead, out of love and charity of neighbor,
and growing in holiness, the door to your heart
and your office was always open,
to staff, citizen or elected official, for your laughter
and settling responses to work their healing.

How can we honor your service?
Indented in town hall brick
like a Della Robbia roundel,
your image could be placed
to be seen by anyone who wanders by
in search or the thirst for hope.

Pausing before you,
they can be refreshed
and then begin again.

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVINGS

Americans think of Pilgrims, Indians, yams
And of turkey as Thanksgiving draws near.
Colorful paintings glamorize that first
Pilgrim corn harvest feast.

Salem Village, a Massachusetts reconstruction,
Showed me how those pilgrims fared in 1621.
I imagine their homesickness, hardships they endured.
Facing another bitter winter, survivors' hearts
were filled with gratitude and they recalled
their English harvest-home festivals.
Indians, the corn givers, loved fetes and came
with wild turkey and venison to share.

During the Revolution, New England colonies
observed eight special days of thanks.
President George Washington on November 26, 1789
issued a general thanksgiving proclamation.
By 1830 New York had an official Thanksgiving
and other northern state followed.
In 1855 Virginia became the first southern state
to proclaim a Thanksgiving Day.

Sarah Josepha Hale promoted the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day for thirty years.
President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation in 1863 for the last Thursday of November To be
"a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."

For seventy-five years the President formally
proclaimed Thanksgiving Day should be
Celebrated on the last Thursday of November,
as it now is.

But in 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed
it should be celebrated a week earlier.
Congress finally ruled that after 1941 Americans would observe the fourth Thursday of November.
Thanksgiving Day and it would be a legal holiday.

We follow the example of those first Plymouth
celebrants under Governor William Bradford,
In spite of threats and harsh realities, survivors,
We gather to give thanks and praise God.



How to Bring a Marriage Good Luck



1. At twilight, stop what you are doing and go outside. Balance on one foot twelve seconds. If a sweet gum branch doesn't fly through the roof, postpone lawn mowing, or another detestable task. You won't get into any quarrels for three days.
2. Listen to a woodpecker telegraph songs on a tree. If no cabinets collapse, then look at photos of you in the forest, splashing water, dancing, and the roof will be repaired.
3. Never throw underwear away and you will win all your arguments.
4. Remember to feed the cat or dog out of an old shoe and you will find a pot of gold.
5. Cancel seven business engagements.
6. Before bedtime, sip a steaming brew of asparagus root with damiana, light a candle; dab orange leaf, sandalwood, jasmine on pillowcases,

* * * *

(The rest is missing)

Repeat the above as needed.
Less than ten minutes
will turn your skeleton key
to serendipitous fortune.

**By Request:
Poetry Revealed Presents
Open Mic Nights!**

Poet's Open Mic Night at Open Eye Café

Join Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department the first Tuesday of each month for this great event! This is a night where poets can engage with others and share the power and diversity of poetry. The event is staged to provide a venue for people to celebrate, to share, and to encourage the writing, reading and listening to poetry.

Date Held:
November 2
December 7
Time: 7- 9 PM



Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
100 N Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC 27510
919-918-7364
www.townofcarrboro.org/RP

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For the newsletter, we welcome:

- Poetry News
- Upcoming Poetry Events
- Articles
- Contest Information
- Festival and Event Recaps
- ...and of course, Poetry

Please email your information to
Lisa Vaccarelli at
LVaccarelli@townofcarrboro.org



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

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www.westendpoetsweekend.com



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