



May / June 2011

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Carrboro Recreation and Parks
Department

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Poetry at Carrboro Day

Continuing a tradition that began in 1995, the Carrboro Day celebration on Sunday, May 1st, will feature several distinguished local poets. The poetry readings will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room and last until about 4:00.

It is hoped that this year's poetry reading will include some of Carrboro's youngest notable poets, winners of the Carrboro Youth Poetry Contest. During the poetry session, the young poets will be invited to read. The winning poems will be published in an upcoming edition of The Carrboro Citizen and the West Ends Poets Newsletter.

Poets scheduled to read are:

Grey Brown is the author of *Staying In*, winner of the Harper Prints Poetry Chapbook award.

Jay Bryan, Carrboro's current poet laureate, is a lawyer who works with families and children.

Leah Dunham received her MFA from the University of California, Irvine and attended UNC-Chapel Hill, where she was a recipient of the Blanche Armfield Prize for Poetry.

Jean Earnhardt, a haiku writer, has sponsored a Haiku Weekend the last Saturday in April at her beloved farm for 32 years.

Ricky Garni is a graphic designer and father of two. His work has been published most recently in EVERYGREEN REVIEW, EVERYDAY GENIUS, ZOUCHE, THE LEVELER and DINOSAUR BEES, and he has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize on four occasions.

Maura High has lived in Carrboro for 20 years. Her work has been published in various print and online media, and, as a member of the Black Socks Poets.

Tyler Johnson is a writer, musician and engineer living in Carrboro. His work explores a future bristling with technology, but he has been unable to escape the earthy humours of the rural Southern Piedmont.

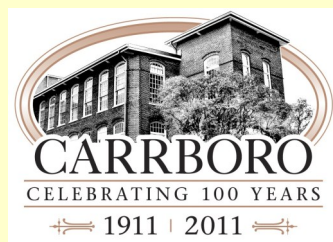
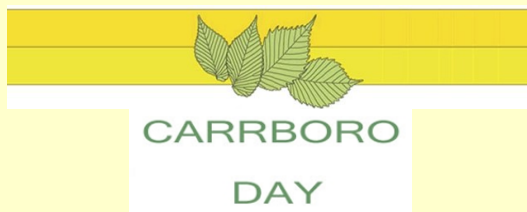
Susan Spalt's poem, *Carrboro Rocks*, has been made into a song by Billy Sugarfix which will be the song of Carrboro Day.

William Stott has resided in Carrboro for over eighteen years. His first volume of poetry, "Loomings," will be published in the spring by Horse & Buggy Press in Durham.

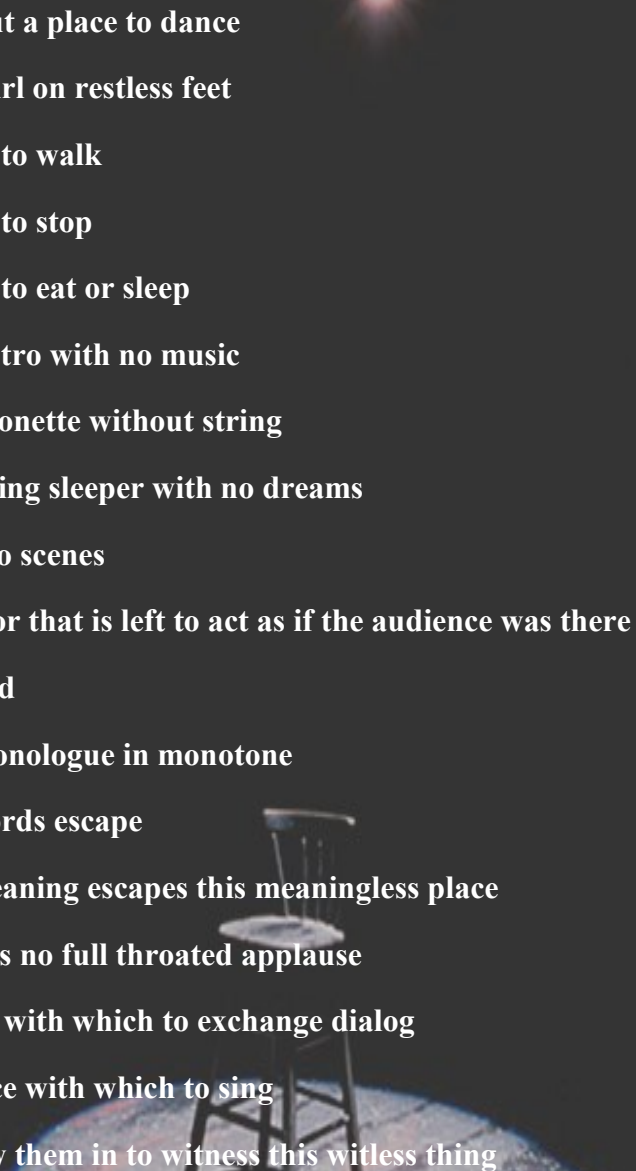


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Spotlight: age 27



Without a place to dance
you twirl on restless feet
Refuse to walk
Refuse to stop
Refuse to eat or sleep
A maestro with no music
A marionette without string
A walking sleeper with no dreams
With no scenes
An actor that is left to act as if the audience was there
or cared
You monologue in monotone
The words escape
The meaning escapes this meaningless place
There is no full throated applause
No one with which to exchange dialog
No voice with which to sing
to draw them in to witness this witless thing

Awake in a Dreamscape: age 27

I awake in fits and starts
The vision is lost
Left with only memories
of how it all just fell apart
A cavalcade of razor blades
parade across my restless mind
Cuts so thin they won't let light in
Trapped between consciousness and dream
Struggling for relief
Fighting for some peace
Dying just to breathe
Clinging to release
I lie so low
that nobody knows
just how far down this rabbit hole goes
In this place
where the sun chases the day
into the night
I lie awake
or maybe lay
a drift on the seas
To far from the shores
where I might land
and find a home
The dark steals my breath
so I do not rise
The light is too bright
for me to close my eyes
I will never no rest
until my body dies

The Next Day: age 25

I don't remember where I was this morning late last night

Just the smell of hair

Juicy ripened artificial pomengranate

Janice, Jenny, Janine

So unclear

So unclear

Cat scratch back track

Tracks upon the treasure trail

Read rather well and tell the tale of sweat and vodka

Of hardness in the darkness

Maybe it was laced

or laced and frilly

I would ask my friend

but either way Willy wouldn't care

because his head never aches after

Only before



Before Willy gets what he is after

While in the aftermath I'm trying to do the math

Counting back glasses and lasses

Piecing together the previous day

Thread by thread

Which like my bed is more that a little scattered

My mind snags and catches

on a piercing that can't be placed

Is this even my place?

Have I been misplaced much like the yesterday?

Hmmm...

I would moan to myself

if the sound hadn't just come from somebody else

So many missing pieces left

and I hadn't even had my breakfast yet

Well at least she's a brunette

UNBROKEN

Joanna Catherine Scott

You are waiting at the window of the cell block
for my bright red little car to pull in through the prison gate.
You are high up, but I know you,
the shape of you, the way you stand,
the way you press up close against the bars,
arms wide, like a bright bird straining at its cage.

I say, *I had a bird once*. Although you cannot hear me.
It was in the Philippines. I bought him, bamboo cage
and all, from a poor man selling wild birds on the corner.
I took him home and set him on a marble table
out on the lanai, and gave him seed,
and water in a plastic dish, and hung a mirror
with a bell inside his cage for entertainment.
But he would not be entertained. He would not
eat or drink. Oh, he was wild! Not *broken*
in the way of birds who never lived outside a cage.
Not tamed, accustomed, all his senses dulled.
(I've heard a prison term for this. *Institutionalization*.)

My bird was wild. He was fierce and wild.
He stuck his head between the bars
and fought and fought and beat his wings
until I thought he'd rip his head off.
I pitied him and opened the cage door.
But he did not understand a door, as he did not
understand a cage. He went on struggling,
harder now, and frantic. So I took a small towel
from the kitchen, and folded it, and pressed it
on his head. But he would not retreat
and struggled still, and the open door was nothing.
So I reached inside and gently took him.

I could feel his heart, and feared that it
might burst. I acted quickly, bore him out
into the garden, opened wide my arms.
He was so wild, so wild and furious and soaring.
Once I had a bird, I say, *but I released him*.
And hear your heart beating at the bars.



McIntyre Readers for 2011..Poetry readings by members of the NC Poetry Society

(All readings are the fourth Sunday in each month at 2 p.m. except for those occasions noted.)

McIntyre's Fine Books is located in Fearington Village, half-way between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro on Highway 15-501 South.

May 22..... Lou Lipsitz, Diana Pinckney & Robert Abbate

June 26.....David Rigsbee, Larry Johnson & Sue Farlow

July 24.....Lynn Sadler, Liza Sisk, & Bill Griffin

Aug. 28.....Al Maginess, Joan McLean, & Jo Taylor

Sept. 25.....Scott Owens, Steve Roberts, & Jesse Carty

Oct. 23.....Julie Suk, Irene Honeycutt, & Debra Kaufman



NCPS Awards Day

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities

Southern Pines, NC

Registration will begin at 9:15 am with a brief business meeting at 10:00 am. The day will features readings by the winners of the North Carolina Poetry Society's annual student and adult contests. We plan to adjourn by 3:00 pm. Box lunches will be available for sale (\$10 in cash or checks payable to 195) until 10:15 am.

The Annual Poetry Council of North Carolina Contest

now open through May 31, 2011, for adult and student poets with a North Carolina connection. Rules for the 2011 competition are posted at <http://www.poetrycouncilofnc.wordpress.com/>.

Adult and student poets, as age appropriate, may enter the following categories:

- 1) Oscar Arnold Young Contest for a Book of Poetry;
- 2) Charles Shull Traditional Poetry;
- 3) James Larkin Pearson for Free Verse;
- 4) Ellen T. Johnson-Hale Light Verse;
- 5) Performance Poem to be judged during a live performance on Poetry Day, October 1st , at Catawba College;
- 6) Charlotte Young for Elementary School Students;
- 7) Carol Bessent Hayman for Middle School Students; and
- 8) Sam Ragan North Carolina Connection for High School Students; and Gladys Owings Hughes

Family Heritage Contest for Free Verse. Questions about the contest and PCNC may be e-mailed to edcockrell@hotmail.com, or call Ed Cockrell, president of PCNC, at 919.967.5834.

Reoccurring Events:

Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department Presents Poet's Open Mic Night at Open Eye Café First Tuesday of each month 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.

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.

Flyleaf Books - Second Thursday Poetry Reading Series 2011

hosted by Stan Absher and Debra Kaufman
Flyleaf Books (next to Flying Burrito and Foster's Market)
752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (Historic Airport Road), **Chapel Hill,**
For more information, contact Stan Absher
(stanabsher@hotmail.com).



Sac Po Presents: Touchstones Showcase First Wednesday of Each Month 6:30– 8:30pm

Flyleaf Books
725 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Chapel Hill
Community wide open mic night.
Check out www.sacrificialpoets.com

More Reoccurring Events:



Jambalaya Soul Slam

Poetry, Slam, and feature performance

Monthly

Locations Varies

8-11pm

Jambalaya is the home of the Bull City Slam Team (BCST) that competes regionally and nationally each summer. Sponsored by the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, the slam has been a mainstay in the Triangle for over 5 years. Each month poets gather to compete for a cash prize and a chance to make the Bull City Slam Team. The St. Joseph's Historic Foundation runs the Hayti Heritage Center, home of the BCST and Jambalaya Soul Slam.

\$10 general, \$5 for students and seniors

Participating poets free

Dasan Ahanu 919-295-0176 dasan67@live.com

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

www.hayti.org



St Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. at

The Hayti Heritage Center

804 Old Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27701 919-683-1709

Memoir Boot Camp with Alice Osborn

Location: Press 53 Center for Creative Writing, The Community Arts Café
411 W. Fourth St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Sat. May 14 1-5pm
Cost: \$49

Register: writingcenter@press53.com

Are you currently working on your memoirs and need a boost because your story's sails are flagging? Or do you write in another genre and want to try your hand at memoir? Then come join us in this four hour concentrated memoir workshop led by experienced author and memoirist Alice Osborn. Focused writing exercises delving into senses and Alice's gentle feedback will help you generate memorable prose and new writing directions so you can write in a voice your readers will savor. Alice will also discuss some do's and don'ts in memoir writing and memoir's inevitable privacy issues. All passionate writers welcome!

Prompt Writing Class with Nancy Peacock

Every Second Saturday 10 am to Noon

Flyleaf Books (next to Flying Burrito and Foster's Market)
752 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (Historic Airport Road), Chapel Hill, NC

<http://www.flyleafbooks.com/event/prompt-writing-class-nancy-peacock-2nd-saturdays>

Prompt Writing: Serious writing begins with playful writing. Please join this unique ongoing group of supportive adult writers and play your way into the possibilities of the written word. Based on the work of Natalie Goldberg (WRITING DOWN THE BONES, WILD MIND) we set a timer for fifteen minutes and write using prompts as our launch pads. This class is free and open to the public.



Jambalaya Slam Academy

With the assistance of the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, the Jambalaya Soul Slam has begun a new initiative. In addition to our monthly poetry slams we will be conducting writing and performance workshops at the Hayti Heritage Center. These workshops are part of a program called the Jambalaya Slam Academy. At the Slam Academy, experienced performance artists will help workshop participants bring their words from the page to the stage. The series of workshops will be facilitated by Dasan Ahanu. The workshops will take place monthly on Saturday mornings from 10am to noon. Each workshop may also feature a guest facilitator. Each guest facilitator will be an experienced touring performance artist or slam poet. In addition, voice coaches and improvisation coaches may be invited to help participants improve their performance abilities.

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

**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.

Dates Held:

**May 3
June 7
July 5
August 2**

Time: 7- 9 PM



The Open Eye Café

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

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Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

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
TJ Carr at
TCarr@townofcarrboro.org



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

www.townofcarrboro.org
www.westendpoetsweekend.com

CARRBORO
Recreation and Parks Department

West End Poets Festival Coordinator:
Kim Andrews
Phone: (919) 918-7367
kandrews@townofcarrboro.org
Fax: 919-918-4475