

WEST END POETRY FESTIVAL

Participating Poets and Facilitators



James Applewhite is the author of a dozen books of poetry, most recently, *Cosmos* (LSU, 2014), and his poems have appeared in American and English journals including, *Poetry*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *American Poetry Review*, and *The Atlantic Monthly* and many anthologies, including volumes edited by Harold Bloom and Czeslaw Milosz. Applewhite was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in 2008 and is emeritus professor of English at Duke University. He has received numerous awards, including the Jean Stein Award in Poetry from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters,

the Associated Writing Programs Contemporary Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry, and the North Carolina Award in Literature.

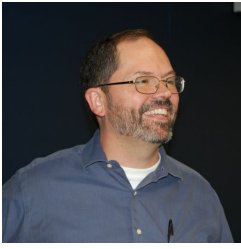
Over his career at UNC-CH, **Laurence Avery** concentrated on scholarly work, with much teaching and many administrative duties as well. His teaching always included British and American poetry, and in the 1990s he began publishing his own poems in magazines around the country. Now in retirement, he discovers that he spends much of his productive time working on poems. His first book of poems, *Mountain Gravity*, was published in the spring of 2014.



Pam Baggett's poems appear in *The Atlanta Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *The Sow's Ear*, and the Barefoot Muse Press anthology *Forgetting Home: Poems About Alzheimers*. Work is forthcoming in *Kakalak*, *The Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume VII: North Carolina*, and an anthology about home from *Main Street Rag* tentatively titled *Creatures of Habitat*. Pam is a freelance writer and the author/photographer of the garden book *Tropicalismo!* (Timber Press). She has taught writing classes at the Ackland Art Museum at UNC, Duke University's Continuing Studies program, and numerous botanical gardens and arboreta.

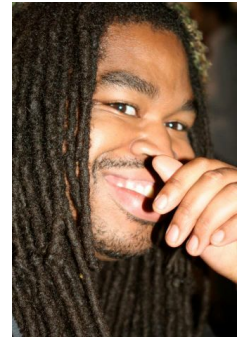
Charmaine Cadeau is the author of two books of poetry, *What You Used to Wear* (Goose Lane Editions) and *Placeholder* (Brick Books). She is this year's recipient of the Brockman-Campbell book award for her most recent collection. Her poems have been published widely, most recently in *eleven-eleven*, *Prairie Fire*, and *Grain*. She works as an assistant professor of English at High Point University, where she edits *Apogee Magazine* and codirects the Community Writing Center.





Steve Cushman earned an MA in creative writing from Hollins University and an MFA from UNC-Greensboro. Along with two novels, *Portisville* and *Heart with Joy*, he has published a short story collection, *Fracture City*. His latest book, *Hospital Work*, is a poetry chapbook that details his twenty years of work as an X-ray tech. Currently, he works at Cone Health, in Greensboro, as a trainer in the IT department.

Tyree Daye was raised in Youngsville, North Carolina, a small town with two main roads leading in and out. He is a student majoring in creative writing at North Carolina State University. He will graduate in December of 2014 and plans on continuing studies in a MFA program. His favorite poets are Etheridge Knight, Larry Levis, and Lucille Clifton, and he has been influenced by many more. He believes that poetry has allowed him to honest with himself and the world. It allows us to turn chaos into beauty.



Ann Deagon took her doctorate in Classics at UNC-Chapel Hill and served as Professor of Humanities and Writer in Residence at Guilford College until her retirement in 1992. She edited *The Guilford Review*, directed Poetry Center Southeast, and helped establish the North Carolina Writers' Network. In addition to her poetry and fiction, Her plays have received reader's theatre production at various colleges and theatre conferences. Her awards include a creative writing fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since retirement Ann has acted in theater and film and performed her poems and original songs at various universities, arts centers, and retirement homes as well as the International Civil Rights Museum. She continues to present readings and workshops in creative writing, and does critiques for NCWN. In 2011 she was the honoree of the

North Carolina Writers Conference Asheville meeting and was named Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poet for 2012 and 2013.

Terri Kirby Erickson is the author of four collections of poetry, including *In the Palms of Angels* (Press 53, 2011) and *A Lake of Light and Clouds* (Press 53, 2014). Her work has appeared in Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*, Ted Kooser's *American Life in Poetry*, 2013 *Poet's Market*, *Verse Daily*, *North Carolina Literary Review*, *storySouth*, and many other publications and has won numerous awards including a Nautilus Silver Book Award and the *Poetry for Their Freedom* Award, sponsored by the A21 Campaign to stop human trafficking. For more information about her work, please visit www.terrikirbyerickson.com.



David Treadway Manning is a Pushcart nominee and three-time winner of the North Carolina Poetry Society's Poet Laureate Award. His poems have appeared in *Tar River Poetry*, *Main Street Rag*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *32 Poems Magazine*, *Rattle*, *Slipstream*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and other journals. His work is included in *Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina, a Guidebook* (Georgann Eubanks). He is a previous winner of the Longleaf Chapbook competition and *Crucible* magazine's Sam Ragan Award. He has nine chapbooks, most recently *The Girl Who Came Out with the Stars* (Old Mountain Press, 2012) and *Genes* (Finishing Line, 2013). He has two full-length collections, *The Flower Sermon* (Main Street Rag, 2007) and the unserious *Yodeling Fungus* (Old Mountain Press, 2010). A new collection, *Soledad*, is

expected in mid October 2014. As the convener of the Friday Noon Poets of Chapel Hill he was coeditor of *Always on Friday*, a collection of that group's poems. Dave and his wife, Doris, live in Cary, North Carolina.

Joseph Mills teaches at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, where he holds an endowed chair, the Susan Burrell Wall Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities. He has published five books of poetry with Press 53, most recently *This Miraculous Turning*. More information can be found at www.josephrobertmills.com. He also blogs semi-regularly at josephrobertmills.blogspot.com.



Sarah Rose Nordgren is the author of *Best Bones* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014), winner of the Starrett Prize for Poetry. Her poems have appeared in *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *The Iowa Review*, *Pleiades*, *The Harvard Review*, and the *Best New Poets* anthology. A recipient of two fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and a 2014 Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council, Sarah Rose holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she held the Fred Chappell Fellowship. Sarah Rose grew up in Durham, North Carolina, and currently lives in Cincinnati.

Gary Phillips is a writer, naturalist, and entrepreneur. He has a special interest and expertise in conservation easements and other land-protective strategies. Gary co-founded Weaver Street Realty in Carrboro over a quarter of a century ago. He lives in a rammed-earth house with his wife, Ilana Dubester. Gary writes poetry, reads anthropological science fiction, studies amphibian activities on full-moon nights, and was once chair of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Gary is a member of the Carrboro Poets Council.



David Roderick's first book of poems, *Blue Colonial*, won the APR/Honickman Prize. The Pitt Poetry Series published *The Americans*, his second book, in the fall of 2014. Recent poems have appeared in *Cave Wall*, *Poetry*, *Radar*, *Shenandoah*, and the *Southern Review*. David teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and hosts an interview series on *The Rumpus* called *The Late Nite Poetry Show*.

Sacrificial Poets is an award-winning spoken word poetry organization that serves middle, high school, and college-aged youth in the Triangle Area of North Carolina. The organization facilitates writing and performance workshops throughout the state and hosts regular youth poetry events. In addition, Sacrificial Poets selects a team of six youth every year to take to the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival. Sacrificial Poets utilizes their own innovative arts education curriculum, known as YouTh ink. Workshops are based on a culturally responsive pedagogy that celebrates learning differences and is designed to benefit participants in five specific ways: enhance emotional literacy, facilitate identity exploration, refine writing and analytical skills, develop performance and public speaking competency, and build self-confidence. Sacrificial Poets does not empower youth but seeks to create diverse, welcoming, and transformative environments where youth can empower themselves.





Alana Sherrill is a poet, artist, and scholar from North Carolina. She is currently revising her dissertation entitled “Holding Back the Mountain: Sustaining Place in the Appalachian Poetry of Robert Morgan, Kathryn Stripling Byer, and Ron Rash.” Sherrill teaches literature, criticism, and composition at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, and her poems have recently appeared in *Main Street Rag* and *Emrys Journal*.

Cathy Smith Bowers served as poet laureate of North Carolina from 2010 to 2012 and is currently on the faculty of the Haden Institute, MFA program in Creative Writing at Queens, and Wofford College. Smith Bowers is the author of six books: *The Love that Ended Yesterday in Texas* (inaugural winner of the Texas Tech University Press First Book Competition, 1992); *Traveling in Time of Danger* (Iris Press, 1999), *A Book of Minutes* (Iris Press, 2004), *The Candle I Hold Up to See You* (Iris Press, 2009), *Like Shining From Shook Foil* (Press 53, 2010), and *The Collected Poems of Cathy Smith Bowers* (Press 53, 2013), named the 2014 Poetry Winner by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA). Her poems about family and loss have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Georgia Review*, *Poetry*, *The Southern Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Kenyon Review*.



Susan Spalt's poems have appeared in *Carrboro's 100th Birthday Poetry Anthology*, *Pinesong* (North Carolina Poetry Society), *Bay Leaves* (Poetry Council of North Carolina), and *Mistletoe Madness* (Kind of a Hurricane Press). Susan is one of four poets published in *Carrboro Poetica* (Old Mountain Press, 2012). Her poem “Carrboro Rocks” was set to music by Billy Sugerfix to celebrate Carrboro’s 100th anniversary. She is a member of the Carrboro Poets Council.

Originally from Arkansas, **Celisa Steele** now lives in Carrboro, North Carolina, where she serves as the town’s poet laureate (2013 to 2015). Her poetry has appeared in *Anglican Theological Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, *The Comstock Review*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Broad River Review*, *The Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*, and other publications. In 2011, Emrys Press published her first chapbook, *How Language Is Lost*. She is a member of the Carrboro Poets Council. Read more about her poetry at www.celisasteele.com.



Chris Tonelli works in the Libraries at NC State and co-owns So & So Books in downtown Raleigh, where he lives with his wife, Allison, and their two kids, Miles and Vera. He is a founding editor of the independent poetry press, Birds, LLC, and he curates the So & So Series and edits *So & So Magazine*. His first full-length collection is *The Trees Around*, and his fifth chapbook, *Increment*, is now available from Rye House Press.

Kamaya Truitt-Martin is currently a sophomore at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She was first introduced to poetry in 7th grade but didn't start slam poetry until her junior year, through a program called Poetic Justice at Northern High School. Through this program she learned the basics of writing spoken word poetry, and she has since traveled to Chicago and Philadelphia for the Brave New Voices International poetry competition. She's also had the privilege of being part of a documentary entitled *Truth Underground*, a story that follows her and two other North Carolina spoken word poets and looks at how poetry has influenced their lives. Truitt-Martin uses poetry as a coping mechanism and as a way to give a voice to the voiceless.



Ross White is the author of *How We Came Upon the Colony* (Unicorn Press, 2014). His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*, *Best New Poets 2012*, *New England Review*, *Poetry Daily*, and *The Southern Review*, among others. With Matthew Olzmann, he edited *Another & Another: An Anthology from the Grind Daily Writing Series* (Bull City Press, 2012). He teaches creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

Sharon Nyree Williams, producer, playwright, filmmaker, performer, and poet is originally from Fayetteville, North Carolina, but she has been living in Seattle for the past thirteen years. In 2006, she founded the collaborative arts organization The Mahogany Project. She has written and performed several solo pieces: *The American Dream*, *Homelessness: Driven - Spirited - Broken*, *Plight: I am my brother's keeper* and *Circles of Life*. Sharon co-produced the short film *What About Us*, which has been seen in several festivals throughout the United States. For two years she was a teaching artist for Freehold Theatre's Engaged Theatre Program for the Washington Correctional Center for Women. Recently, Sharon celebrated her one-year anniversary as the Managing Director for the Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas. Sharon is really excited about her most recent project. *Humanity* an album of poetry and music the project was inspired and influenced by her work with the Annual Urban Poverty Forum and a 2011 immersion trip to Mexico sponsored by Seattle University.

