

WEST END
POETRY FESTIVAL



Friday, October 17, 2014 | Flyleaf Books | 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Opening Celebration with Readings and Reception | 6:30 to 8:30 pm | facilitated by Celisa Steele

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine and time to socialize before and after readings by five poets. Buy books to have the poets sign.

Poets:

- David Roderick
- Sarah Rose Nordgren
- Ross White
- Charmaine Cadeau
- James Applewhite

Saturday, October 18, 2014 | Century Hall at the Century Center | noon to 8:30 pm

Workshop: Writing with the Net Up | noon to 1:15 pm | led by Cathy Smith Bowers

“Writing free verse is like playing tennis with the net down.”
—Robert Frost

Many poets who are traditionally free-verse poets find themselves at times turning to both ancient and contemporary uses of fixed forms. In this workshop led by Cathy Smith Bowers, we explore the many reasons a poet might turn to form. We also take a close look at both familiar and not-so-familiar forms and discuss techniques to help make those forms best serve the subject matter, theme, and tone of a poem. All are welcome to attend this open workshop.

Cathy Smith Bowers, a talented poet and teacher, served as North Carolina poet laureate from 2010 to 2012. The Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) named her most recent book, *The Collected Poems of Cathy Smith Bowers*, winner in poetry for 2014.

Perspectives on Poetry and Place | 1:30 to 2:45 pm | facilitated by Gary Phillips

The West End Poetry Festival is a local event, so where better to examine the role of place in poetry? Six poets will bring a variety of perspectives to this panel. Poets might think of themselves as national or regional poets—or they might rebel against geographic labels. They might find themselves the complicated product of multiple places, born in one and now living in another. Maybe a particular setting, real or invented, recurs in their poems. Maybe physical setting and place are integral to their poems. Maybe place underpins their work without showing itself obviously. In this session, we'll hear the poets read their own work and share their thoughts on the role of place in poetry.

Poets:

- Laurence Avery
- Pam Baggett
- Tyree Daye
- Ann Deagon
- Kamaya Truitt-Martin
- Chris Tonelli

More Views on Poetry and Place | 3:00 to 4:15 pm | facilitated by Susan Spalt

Six more poets share their perspective on place and poetry, drawing on examples from their own work.

Poets:

- Steve Cushman
- Terri Kirby Erickson
- Dave Manning
- Joseph Mills
- Alana Sherrill
- Sharon Nyree Williams

Youth Poetry Workshop | 3:00 to 4:15 pm | led by the Sacrificial Poets

Middle-school-age and high-school-age poets are welcome to attend this experiential workshop, designed and led by the Sacrificial Poets, an award-winning poetry arts education organization. Poets who participate in the youth workshop are also encouraged to come to the open mic at 4:30.

Note: This workshop takes place in room 2/3 downstairs in the Century Center, not in Century Hall, where the other Saturday festival events are held.

Open Mic | 4:30 to 5:45 pm

Poets who would like a chance to read at open mic can sign up at the festival Saturday between noon and 4:30 pm by writing their name on a slip of paper and putting it in the designated receptacle. Names will be drawn at random.

Note: So we can accommodate as many poets as possible, each poet is limited to reading a single poem, no more than three minutes in length.

Reception | 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Eat, drink, and visit with poets.

Grand Finale | 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Carrboro poet laureate Celisa Steele will read briefly before Cathy Smith Bowers, a former North Carolina poet laureate, closes the festival, reading from her own work and leaving time for questions from the audience and signing books.