

Poetry GSO



Nikki Giovanni
and more...

teen events

children's events

reading by Pulitzer
Prize-winning poet

poetry workshops

poetry, jazz & java

spoken word poetry

poem in your pocket

Monday Night Poetry

April 2008

Nikki Giovanni will appear at the Carolina Theatre on April 27 at 3 pm and that's not all. To celebrate National Poetry Month, the Greensboro Public Library will feature events all month long!



Headliner - Nikki Giovanni

a poem is pure energy
horizontally contained
between the mind
of the poet and the ear of the reader
if it does not sing discard the ear
for poetry is song
if it does not delight discard
the heart for poetry is joy
if it does not inform then close
off the brain for it is dead
if it cannot heed the insistent message
that life is precious
-----"Poetry" by Nikki Giovanni



FREE!

Carolina Theatre

FREE!

April 27, 2008 at 3 pm

310 South Greene Street • Downtown Greensboro

Nikki Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. One of the most widely-read American poets, she prides herself on being "a Black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English." Giovanni remains as determined and committed as ever to the fight for civil rights and equality. Her focus is on the individual, specifically, on the power one has to make a difference in oneself, and thus, in the lives of others.

Nikki Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, grew up in a suburb of Cincinnati and graduated with honors from Fisk University in 1968. After graduating from Fisk, she attended the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. She published her first book of poetry, *Black Feeling Black Talk*, in 1968, and within the next year published a second book, thus launching her career as a writer.

The author of some 30 books for both adults and children, Nikki Giovanni is a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Over the course of more than three decades of publishing and lecturing she has come to be called both a "National Treasure" and, most recently, one of Oprah Winfrey's twenty-five "Living Legends."

April 27 at the Carolina Theatre • Doors open at 2 pm. Come early to get a good seat and hear spoken word poetry beginning at 2:15 pm. No tickets will be issued. First come, first seated.



Poetry GSO 2008

Can You Hear Me Now? Remembering James Ephraim McGirt, George Moses Horton, and Randall Jarrell

Sunday, March 30 • 2:30 pm at Central Library, 219 North Church St.

James Ephraim McGirt was a well-known literary figure at the turn of the 20th century. George Moses Horton, born a slave in the 1790s, protested his confinement in poetry. Randall Jarrell is considered one of the mid-20th century's most important American poets. Presenters will explore how these writers are part of Greensboro's literary and freedom legacy and how they transcended the boundaries others tried to impose on them.



Poetic Families and Friends Celebrate National Poetry Month

Thursday, April 3 • 6:30 pm at McGirt-Horton Branch, 2509 Phillips Ave. Are you a budding poet? Families and friends read and write poems together. Light refreshments will be served.

Local Voices - An Afternoon of Open-mic Readings

Sunday, April 6 from 3-5 pm at Vance Chavis Branch, 900 South Benbow Rd. Come and read an original piece or a favorite poem. For more information, call 373-5838.

International Poetry Night

Tuesday, April 8 • 7:30 pm at Glenwood Library, 1901 W. Florida St. Don't miss this celebration of poetry and music from around the globe. Bring a poem to share in any language that you choose. For more info, call 297-5003.

Bicentennial Heritage Festival • Cultural District, Downtown Greensboro

Friday, April 11, from 11 am - 6 pm and Saturday, April 12 from 1 - 6 pm. Stop by the "PoetryGSO Zone" in the "Many Cultures" area. Everyone is invited to come to our booth and write poems about Greensboro.

African-American Literature Club

Saturday, April 12 • 3 pm at Hemphill Branch Library, 2301 West Vandalia Rd. View a film about Nikki Giovanni, followed by readings and discussion of her works. For more information, call 373-2925.

Inspired Poetry

Monday, April 14 • 7 pm at Central Library, 219 North Church St. Hear Pamela Cruthis Holyfield, author of *By The Servant's Hand*. We will also have selected readings of Buddhist and Jewish poetry as well as readings from Rumi and the Koran. An open mic will follow.



Words Knitted Crocheted & Stitched Together For National Poetry Month Thursday, April 17 • 6:30 pm at McGirt-Horton Branch, 2509 Phillips Ave. Hear poems written by our McGirt-Horton Branch Knit and Crochet Group members, who have written and knitted poems in celebration of National Poetry Month. Families are invited.

Poetry and the Jazz Aesthetic

Friday, April 18 • 7 pm at Central Library, 219 North Church St. In addition to being National Poetry Month, April is also Jazz Appreciation Month. The Black Ink Writers Collective will celebrate both jazz and poetry. Enjoy poetry that explores themes such as spirituality, the blues and jazz. Hear readings by: Demetrius "D Noble" Noble, Anjail Rashida Ahmad, Teri Hairston, Diana Hayes and Tanya Owens. Live jazz will also be featured. This program is co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program, N.C. A&T State University.

Poetry GSO 2008

Let There Be Words!

Saturday, April 19 • 2 pm at Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch, 1420 Price Park Rd. Join us for an afternoon of poetry, spoken word performance and music, featuring talented local wordsmiths from such explosive cats as The Collective & Introvert Creative Group. Also, an open-mic extravaganza woven in; feel free to come and read your own works, or those of a favorite poet. For more info, contact Jonah Meyer at 373-2159.

African American Book Discussion Group - Langston Hughes

Saturday, April 19 • 2 pm at Hemphill Branch Library, 2301 West Vandallia Rd. The group will discuss the works of Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes and listen to recordings of the author. For more information, call 373-2925.

Monday Night Poetry - Collegiate Open-mic Night

Monday, April 21 • 7 pm at Central Library, 219 North Church St. The Greensboro Public Library celebrates all area college poets and invites them to read and share their mentor's work as well as their own.

Authorship Debate - William Shakespeare

Wednesday, April 23 • 12 noon at Central Library, 219 North Church St. Was Shakespeare really the author of the works attributed to him? Join us for a discussion about the Bard with local scholars. The traditionalists (Stratfordian's) maintain that the famous Bard was indeed a poet, playwright and an actor. Critics known as "Oxfordian's" argue that a more likely contender may have been Edward De Vere, Christopher Marlowe, Sir Francis Bacon, William Stanley or perhaps even Queen Elizabeth herself! We can all agree, April 23 is William Shakespeare's Birthday so bring your lunch; drinks and dessert (birthday cake) will be provided.

An Evening of Tall Tales from Greensboro with Logie Meachum and Bruce Piephoff

Wednesday, April 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Green Hill Center, 200 North Davie Street. Award winning storyteller Logie Meachum and musician Bruce Piephoff have collected a series of fanciful stories to commemorate Greensboro's Bicentennial. In addition to Meachum and Piephoff's performance, the winners of the Youth Bicentennial Poetry Contest will be on hand to read their poems. They will be joined by the Black Achievers Youth Group from the YMCA who will also be reading their poems.

Stitches Beyond Words... Words Beyond Stitches

Thursday April 24 • 6:30 pm at McGirt-Horton Branch, 2509 Phillips Ave. Celebrate National Poetry Month with the Families and Friends Knit and Crochet Group. Discuss favorite poets, stitches and stitch a poem of your own.

Poetry Reading - A. Van Jordan & Natasha Trethewey

Friday, April 25 • 7 pm at the UNCG Elliot University Center Auditorium. Natasha Trethewey won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for poetry for *Native Guard*, her 2006 collection about black Union soldiers who guarded a fort off the coast of Mississippi during the U.S. Civil War. A. Van Jordan is the author of *Rise* and *MACNOLIA*. Among other awards, Jordan has received the Whiting Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award, and the Pushcart Prize. This program sponsored by UNCG Masters of Fine Arts and the UNCG Center for Creative Writing in the Arts.



NC Writers' Network Spring Conference

Saturday, April 26 • 3:30 pm at the Elliott Center Auditorium, UNCG. This year's conference will feature keynote speaker, renowned poet Linda Gregg; also short readings by Anjail Ahmad, Craig Nova, Lee Zacharias, Valerie Nieman, William Trotter, Steve Willis and Mark Smith-Soto. For more information, call 334-5241.

Monday Night Poetry • Two Views – Two Poets

Featuring Mark Smith Soto and Susan Meyers • April 28 • 7 pm at Central Library, 219 North Church St.



In her first full-length collection, *Keep and Give Away*, Susan Meyers examines everything from minutia to marriage, crumbs to crows. Nothing is too commonplace to escape her attention as she traverses terrains of childhood, loss, relationships, and death. This book was selected as the winner of the South Carolina Poetry Book Prize.

Costa Rican-American Mark Smith-Soto is professor of Romance Languages and Director of the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at UNCG, where he also edits *International Poetry Review*. A 2005 winner of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in creative writing, his poetry has appeared in a long list of literary magazines.



Poetry Workshops

Poetry and Healing Workshop

Sunday, April 13 • 2 - 6 pm and Tuesday, April 23 • 7 - 9 pm. Central Library, 219 North Church St. Discover the healing power that writing poetry can provide in this workshop led by Jacinta White.

Electric Thunder Tumbling

Wednesday, April 30 • 6:30 pm at Central Library, 219 North Church St. This is a collaborative writing workshop and open mic with the Inner Groove Poets. Lalenja Harrington, local poet and facilitator will lead participants through a synergistic collaborative writing process that encourages creative input from all members. The workshop will include exercises and creative tips developed with poets from The Arc of High Point who “bring it on” every month at Barnes and Noble. The session concludes with an open mic designed to elicit the workings of the mind’s inner groove.

Poem In Your Pocket Day • April 17, 2008

The idea is simple: select a poem you love during National Poetry Month then carry it with you to share with co-workers, family, and friends on April 17. Join in the fun using ideas below, or let us know how you will celebrate Poem In Your Pocket Day by emailing steve.sumerford@greensboro-nc.gov

- Post pocket-sized verses in public places
- Handwrite some lines on the back of your business cards
- Add a poem to your email footer
- Post a poem on your blog or social networking page
- Text a poem to friends



Poetry, Jazz & Java

The Writers’ Group of the Triad and the Greensboro Public Library present the popular *Poetry, Jazz & Java* series, which features a variety of local poets and live music. Don’t miss your opportunity to hear from some of the area’s best writers. Call 373-3636 for more information.

Monday • March 31 • 7 pm

The Green Bean • 1341 South Elm St.

Monday • April 7 • 7 pm

Starbucks at Quaker Village
5607 W. Friendly Ave.

Friday • April 11 • 8 pm

Renaissance Jazz Cafe • 117 North
Greene St.

Saturday • April 19 • 7 pm

Tate Street Coffee House • 334 Tate St.



Poetry GSO 2008 - Children's Events

Poetry Fun!

Wednesday, April 2 • 4 pm in the Children's Room, Central Library, 219 North Church St. Share your favorite poem as we celebrate Poetry Month.

Nature Poetry Program for Children

Saturday, April 5 • 1 pm at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library, 1420 Price Park Rd. Come to Earth Day events and see the nature photography exhibit by teens and middle school students. Children can write a nature poem about a photo to include in a poetry collage at the event.

Ponder a Poem

Wednesday, April 9 • 4 pm at Vance Chavis Branch, 900 South Benbow Rd. Use your imagination to create your own poetry in this program for school-age children.

Share Themes, Offer Words to Create Poems

Thursday, April 10 • 6:30 pm at the McGirt-Horton Branch, 2509 Phillips Ave. Families are invited to share in the poetry fun.

Have Water - Have Poetry

Tuesday, April 15 • 10 am at the Benjamin Branch Library, 1530 Benjamin Parkway. Preschoolers are invited to hear some lighthearted and bubbly verse. Fun for everyone who enjoys bath-time or simply getting wet.

Going to the Dogs with Poetry

Wednesday April 16 • 11 am at the Benjamin Branch Library, 1530 Benjamin Parkway. Toddlers will enjoy these far-out poetry verses for "man's best friend."

Poets and Poetry Please!

Wednesday, April 16 • 3:30 pm at the McGirt-Horton Branch, 2509 Phillips Ave. School age children are invited to learn about famous poets and hear poems that make you laugh, poems that rhyme, and poems that tell a story.

Library Week Extravaganza

Wednesday, April 16 • 3:30 pm at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library, 1420 Price Park Rd. Children, grades K-5, are invited to celebrate National Library Week with poetry partying, terribly twisted tales, and your own crafty creation.

African American Poetry Group Celebrates National Poetry Month

Saturday, April 19 • 2 pm at the McGirt-Horton Branch, 2509 Phillips Ave. Families and friends will share their love of poetry and their poems. Light snacks will be served.

Mother Goose and Me

Tuesday, April 22 • 6:30 pm at the Glenwood Branch Library, 1901 W. Florida St. Enjoy poetry fun for the whole family as we listen to the rhymes of Mother Goose with games, crafts, food and a special guest...Mother Goose herself!

The Shape of Poetry

Tuesday, April 22 • 3:30 pm at the Hemphill Branch, 2301 West Vandalia Rd. Learn all about how to create concrete poems in this hands-on workshop designed for ages six and up.

Bold and Beautiful Beasts in Poetry and Art

Thursday, April 24 • 3:30 pm at the Glenwood Branch Library, 1901 W. Florida St. Enjoy adventure, alliteration, art and animals in this poetry program for school age children. Listen to poems, create your own and illustrate them.

Kids Poetry Day @ ArtQuest

Saturday, April 26 • 12:30-5:00 pm at the ArtQuest Studio • Green Hill Center For NC Art, 200 N. Davie St. Help make a poetry quilt. Free admission to ArtQuest

Spoken Word & Teen Events

Teen Events

How to Back Your Rhymes with Rhythms, Part I

Wednesday, April 16 • 7 pm at the Glenwood Branch Library, 1901 W. Florida St. Learn how to use "Reason," a music software program by Propellerhead, to mix music and lay down beats to take your rhymes to the next level. Call to register: 297-5000.

Teen Time: Poetic Expressions

Saturday, April 19 • 3 pm at the Vance Chavis Branch, 900 South Benbow Rd. Express yourself through written or spoken word. Remember...raps and rhymes are poetry too!

How to Back Your Rhymes with Rhythms, Part II

Wednesday, April 23 • 7 pm at the Glenwood Branch Library, 1901 W. Florida St. Get feedback and have fun as you lay down your rhymes backed by beats and music. Call to register: 297-5000.

HB Teen Book Club

Saturday, April 26 • 3 pm at the Hemphill Branch, 2301 West Vandallia Rd.

Watch a screening of a film about Nikki Giovanni followed by readings and discussion of her works.

Spoken Word Events

Local spoken word poet, Clement Mallory, has organized three exciting poetry events featuring the best in local spoken word poetry.

Night of Words

Thursday, April 3 • 8 pm to 10 pm at Basket Doodle, 317 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

\$300 Poetry Slam

Thursday, April 5 • 8 pm to midnight at The Loft at Natty Greene's, 345 S. Elm St. There is a \$10 cover for food and drinks. Call 987-0526 to register.

Like I Said

Friday, April 4 • 8pm - 10pm at Art Monguerz, 610 South Elm Street.

Mind Over Matter

Friday, April 11 • 8 pm - 10 pm at Tate Street Coffee House, 334 Tate St.



The 5th Annual High School Poet Laureate Project

The 5th Annual High School Poet Laureate Project is underway. Through a partnership with the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library and the Guilford County School Media Specialists, poetry contests are held at each high school. Three semi-finalists are selected from each school. Their works are judged, and one finalist is awarded the title of Poet Laureate of his or her school. The judge for this year's laureates is Rhett Trull, editor of *Cave Wall Press*. The project is coordinated by media specialist Kate Cummings. **Please visit our website, www.poetrygso.org, for date, time and location for the Public Reading by the High School Poet Laureates.**

UNCG Poetry Readings

The poetry readings below are presented by the UNCG Masters of Fine Arts Writing Program, in partnership with several co-sponsors including Poetry GSO, the UNCG Center for Creative Writing in the Arts and *Cave Wall*. For more information on this series, go to: uncg.edu/eng/mfa

April 3, 5 pm	David Blair Alumni Poetry Reading.....	UNCG Faculty Center
April 10, 8 pm.....	Dean Young Poetry Reading	UNCG Faculty Center
April 17, 8 pm.....	Alan Shapiro.....	UNCG Faculty Center
April 23, 7 pm.....	Kelly Cherry & Leigh Anne Couch	UNCG Faculty Center
April 24, 7 pm.....	Michael Chitwood & Michael McFee.....	UNCG Faculty Center
April 25, 7 pm.....	A. Van Jordan & Natasha Trethewey	Elliot University Center Auditorium

LifeVerse - Celebrating Greensboro's Elders

LifeVerse is a new Poetry GSO initiative for older adults. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library, with funding provided by the NC Arts Council and the NC Humanities Council. If you know of groups of older adults who would like to have a presentation of a free poetry program, call or write Steve Sumerford at steve.sumerford@greensboro-nc.gov; 373-3636.

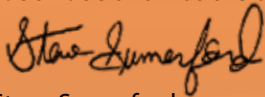
From The Poetry GSO Director

Dear Friends,

Poetry GSO, now in its fifth year, is one of North Carolina's largest commemorations of National Poetry Month. It began as a project of the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library in 2002, but now its sponsors include colleges, art galleries, nonprofits, writers' groups, businesses and schools. Greensboro NC is becoming a poetry-loving town.

As you can see from the logos below, Poetry GSO has numerous financial sponsors. I particularly want to thank the North Carolina Arts Council, which has generously funded us for the past four years, and the Greensboro Public Library Foundation, which provides ongoing support for all GPL public programs. The other sponsors also contribute significantly in ways too numerous to mention here.

A word about the Poetry GSO logo, which was designed by King's English, a local marketing and PR firm: The face in the logo is nationally-renowned poet Randall Jarrell, who lived in Greensboro from 1947 to 1965. He was the Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress (a title which was later changed to United States Poet Laureate) from 1956-1958 and was the original inspiration for this project. His widow, Mary Jarrell, passed away this past year and we will miss her.



Steve Sumerford
Poetry GSO Director

