



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45202-2071

Contact
Phyllis Hegner
Phone•369•4571
or
Richard Helmes
Phone•369•6959

PRESS RELEASE

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Fax 513•369•4565

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Sixth Annual Poetry in the Garden Series on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Several years ago, National Poetry Month was established as a nationwide awareness campaign that highlights the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets. As part of National Poetry Month, the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, will host its sixth annual *Poetry in the Garden* series, kicking off with Ohio poets Nancy Kangas and Obalaye Macharia on April 7. Featured poets will appear in the Reading Garden Alcove every Wednesday at the Main Library at 7:00 p.m.

“Our series has had a regular following,” said Bob Hudzik, manager of the Films & Recordings Department and one of the founders of the annual series. “Each year we offer a diverse selection of poets and poetry. We’re proud to have had such nationally known poets as Billy Collins, the Poet in Residence for the Library of Congress, as well as award-winning poet Li-Young Lee. This year our focus is on local talent, including many Cincinnatians.” One of those Cincinnatians, Michelle Boisseau, got her start while writing poetry in high school, and contributed to [Seven Hills Review](#), the Library’s poetry magazine for middle and high school students. “Michelle will be hosting an informal discussion on Wednesday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m. for teens interested in writing poetry, refining their style, or who just want to hang out and listen to other poets,” continued Mr. Hudzik. “Obalaye Macharia, who starts the series on April 7, will also be hosting a program for teens at the Bond Hill Branch on April 19 and at Main Library on April 27. We also have several other programs going on during National Poetry Month at the branches for children and teens. We have something for everyone.”

One area that has taken off has been poetry for teens. “We’ve seen a real increase in interest among teens regarding poetry, particularly spoken word and performance aspects,” said Paula Brehm-Heeger, Teen Coordinator for the Library. “We have held several poetry slams in the past and have been pleasantly surprised not only by the number of teens interested in hearing poetry but in performing their own work.”

POETRY IN THE GARDEN
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Main Library, 800 Vine Street
Information: (513) 369-6924

April 7: Nancy Kangas & Obalaye Macharia

Columbus resident Nancy Kangas writes poems and “poetry-theater pieces” for adults and children and regularly contributes to *Muse*, *Smithsonian’s* magazine for kids.

Cincinnati Obalaye Macharia is a popular performance poet who has published *Book of Spoems*, and has recorded the poems on two CDs: *Spoems: Speak Hard* and *Spoems: Speak Easy*. He is also a radio personality for *The Word Sound Power Hour* on 1230AM, The Buzz.

April 14: Michelle Boisseau & Will Toedtman

Cincinnati native Michelle Boisseau was educated at Ohio University and the University of Houston. Her books of poetry include *Trembling Air*, *Understory*, (winner of the Morse Prize), and *No Private Life*. She is also co-author of the popular text *Writing Poems* (Longman), now in its sixth edition. Her work has received a National Endowment for the Arts poetry fellowship and two Poetry Society of America awards. She is Associate Professor of English at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Will Toedtman holds a B.A. in English from the University of Cincinnati. Kent State University Press published his first collection, *The Several World*, which won the 2001 Wick Poetry Chapbook Competition, in 2003.

April 21: Tim Riordan & Richard Taylor

Tim Riordan’s poems have appeared in *The North American Review*, *Envoi* (UK), *Newport Review*, *New Review*, and *Cincinnati Poetry Review*. His published works include chapbooks *Foreign Correspondence* (2002), *Portfolio Breeches* (1988), and *Dense Communion* (1985). His published collections are *In a Fluid State* (1998) and *Lesser Bird of Paradise* (1990), and he recently completed a collection of poems entitled *A Reckless Pleasure*, as well as a chapbook, *A Prague Trilogy*. He is a professor at Xavier University.

Richard Taylor is a professor of English at Kentucky State University. He published works include a novel, *Girty*, and four collections of poems, including *Stone Eye*. From 1999 to 2001 he served as Kentucky’s Poet Laureate. He and his wife Lizz own Poor Richard’s Bookstore in downtown Frankfort.

April 28: Sarah Perrier & Mark Halliday

Kent State University Press published Sarah Perrier’s chapbook, *Just One of Those Things*, in 2003. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Journal*, *Pleiades*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Cimarron Review*. She earned an M.F.A. from George Mason University and is currently completing a PhD at the University of Cincinnati.

Mark Halliday has taught at Ohio University since 1996. His four books of poems include *Little Star* (1987), *Tasker Street* (1992), *Selfwolf* (1999, Chicago), and *JAB* (2002, Chicago). Mr. Halliday won the Rome Prize of the American Academy of Arts & Letters for 2001-2002.

Poetry Programs for Kids & Teens

Bond Hill Branch, 1703 Dale Road, 369-4445

Thursday, April 1, 3:00 p.m.

After School Party! Kids (ages 5-11) and teens (ages 11-18) eat snacks and share poetry.

Main Library, 800 Vine Street, 369-6922

Saturday, April 10, 2:00 p.m.

Kids Write! Write and perform poetry with Sabina Barron during Super Saturday in the Children's Learning Center, ages 6-12. Call to register.

Delhi Township Branch Library, 5095 Foley Road, 369-6019

Saturday, April 10, 17 & 24; May 1, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Teen Poetry Writing Workshop with Allen Feibelman, ages 12-up. Call to register.

Cheviot Branch Library, 3711 Robb Avenue, 369-6015

Thursday, April 15, 4:00 p.m.

Afterschool Adventure! Put a Poem in Your Pocket and a Smile on Your Face! Learn how to make a pocket book for your favorite funny poems. Ages 5 & Up.

Bond Hill Branch, 1703 Dale Road, 369-4445

Monday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Poetry Slam with emcee Obalaye Macharia, ages 12-18

Hyde Park Branch, 2747 Erie Avenue, 369-4456

Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.

Richard Hague Live! Join this award-winning poet for a lively discussion of poetry and its role in contemporary society. Ages 14 & up.

Green Township Branch, 6525 Bridgetown Road, 369-6095

Thursday, April 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Poetry Café! Calling all poets to bring your original poetry for an open reading. Prizes given to the top three original works. Ages 12-18. Call to register.

Poetry programs sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library.

✓ Interpreter for the hearing impaired available upon request. Please call the ADA Coordinator at 369-4406 (TDD 369-4409) at least one week before program.

✓ Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.