



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant PR Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Fax (513) 369-4565
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes
Press Officer
Phone (513) 369-6959
Fax (513) 369-4565
Rick.Helmes@CincinnatiLibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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Poets on Poetry: Celebrate National Poetry Month in April

Rhyme and rhythm are two keys to writing poetry. Powerful poems and shared readings are two keys to celebrating *National Poetry Month*. Established by the Academy of American Poets as a month-long, national celebration of poetry, April brings out the best poetry has to offer. While talented poets across the nation are being featured at various venues, Cincinnati is fortunate to have a great wealth of poets and literary locals willing to help the Library celebrate by sharing their expressive works.

For Adults

The popular *Poetry in the Garden* series returns this year on Wednesdays in April at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library's Reading Garden, 800 Vine Street. To commemorate *National Poetry Month*, two talented poets from the Tristate area will read from their work and share their experiences each week during the month. For more details on their impressive literary backgrounds, pick up a *Poetry in the Garden* brochure at any of the Library's 42 locations. Meet the following poets on:

- o **April 4** – Leslie Jenike & Matt Hart
- o **April 11** – David Shumate & Joanie Mackowski
- o **April 18** – Jillian Weise & Rhonda Pettit
- o **April 25** – Lisa Williams & Jamey Dunham

For Teens

During the third week of April, the Children's Book Council, in collaboration with the American Academy of Poets (sponsor of National Poetry Month) and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, sponsors *Young People's Poetry Week*. At the Public Library, teens can commit random acts of poetry by entering a contest to showcase their poetry. Write a poem and enter to win a prize:

- o **What:** A poem. You can type or handwrite your poem, but no electronic submissions will be accepted. Entry forms are available at all Library locations and at <http://teenspace.cincinnati.org/>. Limit four entries per person.
- o **When:** April 1–30.
- o **Where:** Any Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County location.
- o **Prizes:** Members of the Library's Official Teen Advisory Board will select the winners. A first place prizewinner will be selected from entries submitted by ages 12–14 and also from entries submitted by ages 15–18, with honorable mentions also awarded.

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

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

Poetry in the Garden Bios

April 4: Leslie Jenike & Matt Hart

Leslie Jenike is a local poet and playwright pursuing her doctorate at the University of Cincinnati. Her poems have appeared in *Verse*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Hotel Amerika*, and others.

Matt Hart is the author of the poetry collection *Who's Who Vivid* and chapbooks *Revelated* and *Sonnet*. He teaches at the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

April 11: David Shumate & Joanie Mackowski

Joanie Mackowski was awarded the *Associated Writing Programs 2000 Award Series in Poetry* and the *Kate Tufts Discovery Prize*, recognizing a best "first book" of poetry. Mackowski is an assistant professor with U.C.'s Department of English and Creative Writing Program.

David Shumate's book of prose poems, *High Water Mar* was awarded the 2003 *Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize* for first books. Shumate lives in Zionsville, Indiana.

April 18: Jillian Weise & Rhonda Pettit

Jillian Weise's first book was *The Amputee's Guide to Sex*. Her poems appear in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Chelsea*, *Tin House*, and others. Before coming to Cincinnati, she was a writing fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Rhonda Pettit is an associate professor of English & Women's Studies at U.C.'s Raymond Walters College, and author/editor of two books of literary criticism about Dorothy Parker's poetry and fiction, *A Gendered Collision* and *The Critical Waltz*.

April 25 Lisa Williams & Jamey Dunham

Originally from Nashville, **Lisa Williams** received her M.F.A. in creative writing/poetry from the University of Virginia, her M.A. from U.C., and her B.A. from Belmont University. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *The Southern Review*, *Poetry*, and *The New Republic*, as well as in the anthology *American Poetry: Next Generation*.

An Associate Professor of English at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio,

Jamey Dunham has published prose poems in *Boston Review*, *Boulevard*, *The Cincinnati Review*, and *Fence*, as well as in the anthologies *Great American Prose Poems* and *The Best American Poetry 2005*. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife and two children.