

POETRY & SPOKEN WORD

25th
ANNIVERSARY

UTAH HUMANITIES BOOK FESTIVAL

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SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER

STATEWIDE VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON EVENTS

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Alternate Reality Game: *On My Way Home*
All over Salt Lake County
[Link will go live September 1st](#)

Meet Xristy, one of the dozens of unaccompanied young adults experiencing homelessness in Utah. *On My Way Home* is the fictional story of one trans Latina's journey to coming to terms with her identity and home state. Along the way, she makes friends with the ghosts of some of Utah's greatest LGBTQ+ literary figures and learns the hidden history of queer survival and thriving in Utah. *On My Way Home* by Willy Palomo, Nan Seymour, Enan Whitby, RJ Walker and illustrated by Cassandra Webb.

Teen Poetry Workshop: *Kids at Play* with C. Valenta
Library, West Jordan High School, West Jordan
September 7th at 4pm
[Facebook Event](#)

C. Valenta is a powerful rapper whose EP *Kids at Play* describes his journey to overcome the homelessness and violence of his youth.

***Whale Fall* with David Baker**
King's English Bookshop, Salt Lake City
September 8th at 5:30pm
[Facebook Event](#)
[King's English Link](#)

Acclaimed as an essential voice of the American Midwest, David Baker expands both his environment and his form in his eleventh collection. *Whale Fall* is about time, measured in the wingbeats of a hummingbird or the epochs of geological change, and about place, whether a backyard in Ohio or the slopes of a melting glacier.

Poetry in the Garden with Danielle Dubrasky and Shanán Ballam
The Lavender House, Bear River
September 9th at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

The Lavender House welcomes the community to join us in a reading and gathering featuring poets, Danielle Dubrasky and Shanán Ballam and songwriter Jake Rogers. Featuring *Inside the Animal* by Shanán Ballam and *Drift Migration* by Danielle Dubrasky.

Humanities in the Wild: Bees!
Stokes Nature Center, Logan
September 10th at 11:30am
[Facebook Event](#)

Join us at the Stokes Nature Center for a short trek led by poet Katharine Coles and a local beekeeper about the magic of bees! Featuring *The Golden Years of the Fourth Dimension* by Katharine Coles.

Humanities in the Wild: *Irreplaceable* with Nan Seymour
Helper River Pavilion, Helper
September 10th at 2pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Former poet-in-residence at Antelope Island Nan Seymour will lead a short trek and lead river writing sessions with the community. Bring walking shoes, a bottle of water, a writing utensil, and some shade. Featuring *Irreplaceable* by Nan Seymour.



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Steamboat Mountain Reading Series with Nan Seymour
K2 Gallery, Helper
September 10th at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Nan Seymour will read from *Irreplaceable*, a book-length collective poem and ode to the Great Salt Lake and discuss her experiences as poet-in-residence at Antelope Island.

CoraZones with Mauricio Novoa
The Box Too, Salt Lake City
September 10th at 2pm
[Facebook Event](#)

CoraZones is a reading and writing cipher for the Utah Poetry Slam community. Mauricio Novoa is a poet and author of *Memorias From the Beltway*.

PoetFlow with Mauricio Novoa
Roosters B Street Brewery, Ogden
September 10th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join PoetFlow for an open mic with Mauricio Novoa, author of *Memorias from the Beltway*. The poems span subjects such as ethnic identity, the economy, migration, hip hop and familial love.

Coyote Tales
Ivins City Park, Ivins
September 10th at 7pm
[Coyote Tales Link](#)

Join us at the City Park for an evening of stories by professionals and community members like you. Our theme for the evening's stories will be "TRADITION."

Youth Poetry Workshop with Cynthia Guardado
Kearns High School Library, Kearns
September 14th at 4pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Utah High School Poetry Slam Initiative welcomes teens for an afternoon of poetry with Cynthia Guardado, author of *Cenizas*.

Book and Bite with Cynthia Guardado
SLCC Dream Center (3460 S. 5600 W.), West Valley City
September 14th at 6:00 pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join us for our first Book and Bite at the SLCC Dream Center. We will share food and recipes from *Decolonize Your Diet* and poetry by Cynthia Guardado, author of *Cenizas*.

The Spirit of Carl Sandburg
Park City Library, Park City
September 15th at 4pm and September 17 at 11am
[Facebook Event](#)

A one-man performance and dedication to Carl Sandburg - "the people's poet" - created from Sandburg's own words and poetry.

Plumas Colectiva featuring Lily Agar
Tracy Aviary - Jordan Nature Center, South Salt Lake
September 16th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join Plumas Colectiva for our second open mic & poetry slam! We created this space to center Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) in the slam poetry scene. Our inaugural event invites all artistic forms to the open mic: spoken word, dance, musicians, etc. Our third featured visual artist is the incredible Lily Agar, creator of A Hug Away.



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Humanities in the Wild: *Irreplaceable* with Nan Seymour
Escalante River Trailhead, Escalante
September 17th at 9am
[Facebook Event](#)

Former poet-in-residence at Antelope Island Nan Seymour will lead a short trek and lead river writing sessions with the community. Bring walking shoes, a bottle of water, a writing utensil, and some shade.

Qawwali Night with Shazia Manzoor
Libby Gardner Concert Hall
September 17th at 7:30pm
[Facebook Event](#)

The Pakistan Student Association (PSA) at the University of Utah presents renowned Pakistani Punjabi Folk singer and poet Shazia Manzoor! Connecting the South Asian community from all over campus and the valley, concert-goers will enjoy a cultural experience of Pakistan and South Asia.

***On My Way Home* Celebration**
Under the Umbrella, Salt Lake City
September 21st at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join the creative team of *On My Way Home* for a celebration of a new alternate reality game about Utah's queer literary figures. *On My Way Home* follows Xristy, a recently unsheltered trans Latina on her journey to reconcile herself with her home and identity.

Humanities in the Wild: Bird Qi Gong and Poetry
Tracy Aviary - Jordan River Nature Center, South Salt Lake
September 23 at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

For this Humanities in the Wild special, join Chinese martial arts master Shifu Jung and his disciples for an introduction to bird-inspired movements. Shifu Jung will be accompanied by Plumas Colectiva, a Latinx artist and writer group consisting of Melissa Salguero, Sarah May, Chelsea Guevara, Willy Palomo, Monica Ayala, and Lin Flores. This will be an evening of poetry and movement alongside the Jordan River and its many birds.

***Rusty Barbed Wire: Selected Poems* by David Lee**
King's English Bookshop, Salt Lake City
September 24th at 2pm
[Facebook Event](#)

David Lee is a major figure in American letters: the author of fifteen books of poetry, a celebrated teacher, a legendary reader in classrooms, bookstores, and taverns; and the first poet laureate of Utah. His work is full of the most various qualities: soul-crushing tragedy, lyrical celebration, high comedy, storytelling ebullience. *Rusty Barbed Wire: Selected Poems*, now with us at last, brings to the community of readers raw power and radical beauty.



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CoraZones featuring Masha Shukovich
Under the Umbrella, Salt Lake City
September 24th at 2pm
[Facebook Event](#)

CoraZones is a reading and writing cipher for the Utah Poetry Slam community. Dr. Masha Shukovich is a writer, poet, storyteller, folklorist, teacher, and intuitive chef with ancestry and indigenous roots in the Balkans; the Mediterranean; and West, Central, and Northeast Asia (Siberia). She is the mother of Maya and Leela, a demigirl (she/they), a neurodivergent person, and an immigrant from a country that no longer exists.

Romance Con: Love Song Workshop
Sorenson Legacy Room, Orem Public Library, Orem
September 24th at 12 noon
[Facebook Event](#)

Singer/Songwriter Mel Soul and rapper Zac Ivie will break down the basics of writing a great love song. Come ready to blush, write, and swoon. Featuring *Wishkid* by Zac Ivie and *We are the Storm* by Mel Soul.

Romance Con: Poemas de amor
Sorenson Legacy Room, Orem Public Library, Orem
September 24 at 1pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Escritores de Artes de Mexico en Utah van a compartir sus poemas de amor favoritos. Writers from Artes de Mexico en Utah will share their favorite love poems.

Romance Con: Romance Slam
Ashton Auditorium, Orem Public Library, Orem
September 24th at 4pm
[Facebook Event](#)

If you didn't write them a crown of sonnets, did you even really love them? Share your love poetry for a chance to win \$100. For rules and to sign up, email Willy at palomo@utahhumanities.org.

Queer Poetry Night
Under the Umbrella, Salt Lake City
September 25th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

River Writing Collective welcomes all our QT's to Under the Umbrella where we will serenade, ode, and get real with one another. Hosted by Karen.

Ken Brewer Festival of Writing with David Lee
Utah State University Nora Eccles Harrison Art Museum,
Logan
September 26th at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join us for a reading by Utah's first poet laureate David Lee, followed by an open mic with a jazz band.
Title: *The Porcine Legacy* by David Lee.

Utah Poetry Slam featuring Rachel Chidester
The Box, Salt Lake City
September 26th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join the Utah Poetry Slam for our monthly slam, featuring our representative at the Blackberry Peach National Poetry Slam: Rachel Chidester.

Ken Brewer Festival of Writing: Conversation with
David Lee
The Caine Room, USU Family Life Building, Logan
September 27th at 2pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join us for a conversation with Utah's first poet laureate David Lee, author of over two dozen books, including nominees for the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize.



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**Orem Reads: Happy Valley Comedy presents
Flowers from the Storm
Ashton Auditorium, Orem Public Library, Orem
September 27th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)**

Local comedians Dennis High, Jessica Rynn, and Cheyenne Jackson will explore the lighter side of romance with this all-ages stand-up comedy show.

***A Particular Kind of Black Man* with Tope Folarin
September 28th at 7pm
Weber County Library Main, Ogden
[Facebook Event](#)**

Join Weber Book Links for a reading and Q&A with one of Utah's foremost Black literary figures: Tope Folarin, author of *A Particular Kind of Black Man*. Folarin is a Nigerian-American writer based in Washington, DC. He won the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2013 and was shortlisted once again in 2016.

**Cliff Notes Writing Conference presents David Lee
September 29th at 7pm
Boulder Community Center, Boulder
[Facebook Event](#)**

Join the Cliff Notes Writing Conference at the Boulder Community Center for a special evening with acclaimed poet David Lee. Lee was named Utah's first Poet Laureate in 1997 serving in this capacity until 2002. His 1999 collection *News From Down to the Café* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

**Favorite Poem Project
September 29th at 7pm
SimpleLife School, Ogden
[Facebook Event](#)**

Join us at SimpleLife Preschool & Art Studio for an evening of poetry. Bring a poem you love or one you have written to share around the campfire or just come and enjoy listening. Poems have the power to change us whether we hear them or write them. We'd love to hear the words you love!

**Teen Poetry Slam
Library, West Jordan High School, West Jordan
September 30th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)**

Teens are welcome to participate in an individual open mic and poetry slam. Bring three poems and make sure they are each under 3 minutes. Tell your friends!

**Cliff Notes Writing Conference presents Eleanor Wilmer
October 1st at 7pm
Boulder Community Center, Boulder
[Facebook Event](#)**

Join the Cliff Notes Writing Conference at the Boulder Community Center for a special evening with acclaimed poet Eleanor Wilmer. Wilmer is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *Tourist in Hell*, *The Girl with Bees in Her Hair* and *Reversing the Spell: New and Selected Poems*.



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The Book that Changed Me
Weber County Library - Main, Ogden
October 4th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

For ages 12 and older. Books have a profound effect on the way we see the world and ourselves, especially those we discover in childhood. At a time when censorship is raging, it feels right to step back and appreciate the good in books. Various community members from around Weber County will briefly share the children's or YA book that changed them, that opened their minds and hearts, and taught them lifelong lessons.

Speed Date with a Book
Brigham City Library, Brigham City
October 4th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Find out about several authors, their books, and writing life in a super fast "Speed Date with a Book" format. Many Authors. Many Books: Brandon Greer, Elizabeth Drysdale, Mike Nelson, Britney M. Mills, Misty Black, Jennifer Decker, Sarah Fitzgerald, Johnny Worthen, Jen Spencer, Marie Higgins, K.R. Bailey, Stacey Haynes, Kathryn Elizabeth Jones, Arthur L. Hunsaker, Elizabeth Suggs, and Bennion Ellsworth!

Descendiendo de Mujeres Fuertes con
Gloria Arredondo
AAB 135, SLCC Taylorsville campus (4600 South Redwood
Road), Taylorsville
October 5th at 12pm
[Utah Humanities Calendar](#)

SLCC Student Writing and Reading Center is excited to host poet Gloria Arredondo as their Latinx Heritage Celebration speaker.

Joy Harjo, *I Pray For My Enemies*
Location TBA
October 6th
[Facebook Event](#)

Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She served three terms as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019-2022.

Railroad Readings with Juan Morales, Melissa Salguero,
and Lin Flores
Dumke Arts Plaza, Ogden
In case of inclement weather, find us at the
Weber County Main Library
October 7th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

It's Latinx Poetry Night at Railtown Readings with locals Melissa Salguero (*Cannibal*) and Lin Flores (*Reflections While in Utah*) and Colorado poet Juan Morales (*The Siren World*) sharing their poemas y más.

***All the Flowers Kneeling*: Teen Poetry Workshop with Paul**
Tran
Venue TBA
October 10th at 4pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Visceral and astonishing, Paul Tran's debut poetry collection *All the Flowers Kneeling* investigates intergenerational trauma, sexual violence, and U.S. imperialism in order to radically alter our understanding of freedom, power, and control.



POETRY & SPOKEN WORD

Book and Bite with Paul Tran
SLCC Food Pantry, West Valley
October 10th at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Visceral and astonishing, Paul Tran's debut poetry collection *All the Flowers Kneeling* investigates intergenerational trauma, sexual violence, and U.S. imperialism in order to radically alter our understanding of freedom, power, and control.

Humanities in the Wild: Juliana Spahr
Green Pond Loop Trail, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National
Forest, Weber County
October 13th at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join Weber Book Links at the Ogden Nature Center for a special Humanities in the Wild with Juliana Spahr, author of *Response*, winner of the National Poetry Series. Concerned with politics without being overtly political, Spahr's work crosses a variety of American landscapes, from the disappearing beaches of Hawaii to the small town of her Appalachian childhood.

Messages to Our Muertxs with Plumas Colectiva
Utah Cultural Celebration Center, West Valley City
October 17th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join Plumas Colectiva for a poetry and art workshop dedicated to our antepasados. Plumas Colectiva will lead a workshop on writing elegies for our loved ones.

Sor Juana Awards 2022
The Leonardo, Salt Lake City
October 18th at 6pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Artes de Mexico en Utah invites you to our 2022 Sor Juana Awards. We will be giving awards for Latinx visual art, as well as Spanish-language prose and poetry.

Plumas Colectiva featuring Chelsea Guevara
Venue TBA
October 21st at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Join Plumas Colectiva for our fourth open mic & poetry slam! We created this space to center Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) in the slam poetry scene. Our inaugural event invites all artistic forms to the open mic: spoken word, dance, musicians, etc. Our fourth featured literary artist is our very own Chelsea Guevara.

Utah Poetry Slam featuring Angelika Brewer
The Box, Salt Lake City
October 24th at 7pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Utah Poetry Slam welcomes Ogden Poet Laureate Angelika Brewer to our open mic and monthly poetry slam. Featuring *Brown Couch and a Scenic Painting* by Angelika Brewer.

Teen Poetry Slam
Library, Kearns High School, Kearns
October 28th at 7pm

Teens are welcome to participate in an individual open mic and poetry slam. Bring three poems and make sure they are each under 3 minutes. Tell your friends!

CoraZones with Willy Palomo
Under the Umbrella Bookstore, Salt Lake City
October 29th at 2pm
[Facebook Event](#)

Willy Palomo of Utah Humanities will lead a workshop focused on poetry about fathers.