



# Proclamation

## POETRY MONTH

### WHEREAS,

We are spendthrifts with words,  
We squander them,  
Toss them like pennies in the air—  
Arrogant words,  
Angry words,  
Cruel words,  
Comradely words,  
Shy words tiptoeing from mouth to ear.

But the slowly wrought words of love  
and the thunderous words of heartbreak—  
Those we hoard.

(Pauli Murray, [“Words,”](#) 1970); and

**WHEREAS**, the Academy of American Poets designated the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996 to celebrate the legacy and ongoing achievements of poets in the United States, introduce the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways, and make poetry an important part of children’s education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro established the position of poet laureate in 2002 to enhance the presence of poetry in the social and civic life of Carrboro; and

**WHEREAS**, several free, local poetry events are scheduled for this April, including:

- an online ecopoetry workshop on April 3 with Carrboro Poet Laureate Liza Wolff-Francis;
- Orange Literacy’s 2023 Writers for Readers event at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill on April 6, featuring Poet Laureate Liza Wolff-Francis and Chapel Hill Poet Laureate Cortland Gilliam in conversation with North Carolina Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green;
- a series of youth poetry workshops at Town Hall on April 8 with Poet Laureate Liza Wolff-Francis;
- a poetry slam at the Eno Arts Mill Gallery in Hillsborough on April 19, hosted by Piedmont Laureate Dasan Ahanu, commemorating the 60th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr’s “Letter From a Birmingham Jail,” and cosponsored by the Orange County Arts Commission and the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition;
- an Earth Day seedling giveaway at the Carrboro Farmers’ Market on April 22, where young people can contribute a line to this year’s community poem, and an Earth Day outdoor poetry workshop and reading at Martin Luther King Jr Park; and
- a Poetry on Your Plate dinnertime event at the Century Center on April 24, featuring several poets, including Poet Laureate Liza Wolff-Francis and local poet Maura High; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town’s signature poetry event, the annual West End Poetry Festival, will be held in



TOWN OF CARRBORO • NC

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October to bring together poets of diverse styles, backgrounds, and stages of development to share poems and their love of poetry;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2023 to be Poetry Month in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to celebrate poetry and poets by reading, listening to, and sharing poems and by attending Poetry Month events, which are listed on the Town's website at [carrboronc.gov](http://carrboronc.gov).

This the 1st day of April, 2023.

*Damon Seils*

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Damon Seils, Mayor

