

Proclamation

POETRY MONTH

WHEREAS,

Fury & Faith
by Amanda Gorman

You will be told this is not a problem,
Not your problem.
You will be told now is not the time
For change to begin,
Told that we cannot win.

But the point of protest isn't winning;
It's holding fast to the promise of
freedom,
Even when fast victory is not promised.

Meaning, we cannot stand up to police
If we cannot cease policing our
imagination,
Convincing our communities that this
won't work,
When the work hasn't even begun,
That this can wait,
When we've already waited out a
thousand suns.
By now, we understand
That white supremacy
& the despair it demands
Are as destructive as any disease.

So when you're told that your rage is
reactionary,
Remind yourself that rage is our right.
It teaches us it is time to fight.
In the face of injustice,
Not only is anger natural, but
necessary,
Because it helps carry us to our
destination.

Our goal is never revenge, just

restoration.
Not dominance, just dignity.
Not fear, just freedom.
Just justice.

Whether we prevail is not determined
By all the challenges that are present,
But by all the change that is possible.

& though we are unstoppable,
If we ever feel we might fail,
If we be fatigued & frail,
When our fire can no longer be fueled
by fury,
We will always be fortified by this faith,
Found in the anthem, the vow:

Black lives matter,
No matter what.
Black lives are worth living,
Worth defending,
Worth every struggle.
We owe it to the fallen to fight,
But we owe it to ourselves to never stay
kneeling
When the day calls us to stand.

Together, we envision a land that is
liberated, not lawless.
We create a future that is free, not
flawless.
Again & again, over & over,
We will stride up every mountainside,
Magnanimous & modest.
We will be protected & served
By a force that is honored & honest.
This is more than protest
It's a promise.

Proclamation

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:

- a 'Writing Together' workshop on Monday April 7th with Carrboro Poet Laureate Liza Wolff-Francis; and
- the monthly Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources' Poets' Open Mic Night via Zoom on April 2; and
- the Lanza's Café bi-monthly "Chime In" Poetry Open Mic Night on Fridays April 11 and April 25; and
- an Earth Day seedling giveaway at the Carrboro Farmers' Market on April 19, where young people can contribute a line to this year's community poems; and
- a free generative poetry workshop with renowned visiting poet Steven Leyva on April 12; and
- "Set Free" poetry feature and open mic at 4:00 p.m. at Bow Bar on Sunday April 27th
- a Poetry, Popcorn, & Pie event at the Century Center on Monday April 28, featuring local poets, including Poet Laureate Liza Wolff-Francis and an open mic.

WHEREAS, the Town's signature poetry event, the annual West End Poetry Festival, will be held in October to bring together poets of diverse styles, backgrounds, and stages of development to share poems and their love of poetry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2025 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.

This the 1st day of April, 2025.


Barbara M. Foushee

