



Proclamation



POETRY MONTH 2021

WHEREAS, as we enter the second year of the coronavirus pandemic, it continues to be ever so timely for a proclamation recognizing the value and essence of poetry to be issued; and

WHEREAS, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996, making this year a celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of this annual celebration; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets; 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 our children's education; and poetry enhances and enriches the lives of all Americans and, as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life, including education, the economy, and community pride and development; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month, under the leadership and direction of the Academy of American Poets, is the largest literary celebration in the world; and

WHEREAS, "Poem in Your Pocket Day" takes place this year on Thursday, April 29; on this specific date, people are urged to select a poem and carry it with them to share with others; this year on this date, people are urged to share their poems on social media using the hashtag *#pocketpoem*; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro established the position of Poet Laureate in 2002, the current Poet Laureate being Fred Joiner; the poet laureate coordinates the opening of every Carrboro Town Council meeting with the reading of a poem; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro will celebrate National Poetry Month with a menu of local poets reading from their works on Monday, April 26, 2021; e-mail Dana Hughes at the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Resources Department at dhughes@townofcarrboro.org to get a Zoom link to this event; and

WHEREAS, as Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate and Academy of American Poets Chancellor has said, "Without poetry, we lose our way."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 as "Poetry Month" in Carrboro. I urge everyone in the town to take time this month to read selections of poetry, and to share the gift of poetry with others.

This the 6th day of April 2021.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor