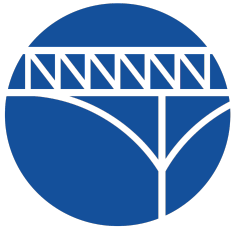




# nossrat yassini poetry festival



**APRIL 12-14, 2024 | UNH**



## The 2024 Nossrat Yassini Poetry Festival April 12-14, 2024

**Friday, April 12, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Atrium**

### *Opening Celebration*

Join us for an opening reception in the Atrium of Hamilton Smith Hall (95 Main Street, Durham, NH). We'll kick-off the Festival in good company, before heading to the headline reading. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served, as well as a few surprises.

**Friday, April 12, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM | Dimond Library, Courtyard Reading Room**

### *Headline Reading*

**The New Hampshire Teen Poetry Prize Winners:  
Leonardo Chung, Pearl-Hoekstra-Toste, Pranavi Vedula  
&  
Diannely Antigua, Mckendy Fils-Aimé, Nathan McClain**

**Leonardo Chung** is a writer from Illinois who has had his works published or is set to be featured in *Chautauqua Journal*, *Superstition Review*, *Full House Literary*, *Hyacinth Review*, *Sheepshead Review*, and many others. He takes inspiration from distinguished poets such as Langston Hughes, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Louise Glück.

**Pearl Hoekstra-Toste** is a junior at Portsmouth High School in Portsmouth, NH. She loves poetry, music, and theatre. After high school she wants to be an astrophysicist.

**Pranavi Vedula** hails from Brentwood, NH and is a junior at Phillips Exeter Academy. An aspiring linguist and novelist, she can be found exploring the beauty of language, jotting down poems, or watching French crime flicks.

**Diannely Antigua** is a Dominican American poet and educator, born and raised in Massachusetts. Her debut collection *Ugly Music* (YesYes Books, 2019) was the winner of a 2020 Whiting Award, and her second collection *Good Monster* is forthcoming in 2024 with Copper Canyon Press. She received her MFA at NYU and resides in Portsmouth, NH, where she is poet laureate. She is the Nossrat Yassini Visiting Poet in the UNH MFA Writing Program.

**Mckendy Fils-Aimé** is a Haitian-American poet and educator. He is a nine-time veteran and perennial semi-finalist of the National Poetry Slam, where he has represented venues from Boston, MA, Worcester, MA, and Manchester, NH. Mckendy is a former artist in residence for MassLEAP as well as the Art Alliance of Northern New Hampshire. He is a Callaloo Creative Writing Fellow whose work has appeared in *The Shore*, *Boxcar Poetry Review*, *The Journal*, *Callaloo*, *Acentos Review*, and elsewhere.

**Nathan McClain** (he/him) is the author of two collections of poetry: *Previously Owned* (Four Way Books, 2022), longlisted for the Massachusetts Book Award, and *Scale* (Four Way Books, 2017). He is a recipient of fellowships from The Frost Place, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and is a Cave Canem fellow. He earned an MFA from Warren Wilson College. His poems and prose have appeared in *The Hopkins Review*, *Plume Poetry 10*, *Guesthouse*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *Zócalo Public Square*, among others. He teaches at Hampshire College and serves as poetry editor of the *Massachusetts Review*.

**Friday, April 12, 9:00 PM-10:30 PM | MUB Theater 2**

*Late Night Event: Poetry Slam*

**Hosted by Slam Free or Die**

Experience a New England poetry throwdown between Cambridge's **Boston Poetry Slam**, Worcester's **The Dirty Gerunds**, Lowell's **Mill City Speaks**, and Manchester's **Slam Free or Die**. For the uninitiated, a slam is not your ordinary, soft-spoken sort of poetry reading—it's dynamic, engaging performance poetry, meant for the stage. Plus which, free pizza!

**Saturday, April 13, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Registration**



Sign in, get some coffee, and get settled before the full day of poetry fun begins.

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Front Lawn**

*Poetry Carnival*

Join us at the Poetry Carnival for a day filled with enchanting verses, live performances, endless inspiration, and plain old fun! Games and prizes galore! Special thanks to UNH alum **Journee LaFond** for making this poetry dream come true.

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall (Atrium)**

***Small Press Fair***

Meet representatives from *Broadsided*, *Black Lawrence Press*, *Game Over Books*, *June Road Press*, *Perugia Press*, UNH's own *Barnstorm Journal*, and more! At a time when small presses are being hit with more challenges than ever, come show some love to the folks who work so hard to get our words out in the world. Curated and cared for by UNH MFA alumna **Casey Roland**.

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00-5:00 | Hamilton Smith Hall, Atrium Amphitheater**

***Greg & Meg's MainStage Extravaganza***

Throughout the day, our MainStage hosts readings from fabulous New England poets: **Tom Snarksy, Quintin Collins, Gregory Glenn, Meghan Miraglia, Amanda Shea, Jill McDonough**, and you (open mic!). Come stake out your place on the grass and take in the verse!

(See the “**Meanwhile, on the MainStage**” sections below for times and poets’ bios)

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 205**

***Book Arts and the Poet***

A book of poems—an object, an invitation, a work of art containing art. This panel invites poets to consider the choices that will guide their book—the first thing a reader sees—to become a “theater” for their text. What opportunities can you exploit to produce a physical book that highlights your work? How does the selection of papers, colors, typeface, pagination, and artwork enhance the text within to make a book more than the sum of its parts?

Slate Roof Press master printer **Ed Rayher** presents a brief PowerPoint on book creation, including historical printing, book format, and how to incorporate artwork. Poets **Susan Glass, Janet MacFadyen, Richard Wollman** and **Anna M. Warrock** discuss the possibilities and restraints that come when poets, artists, and printers work collaboratively on a project. Poets aware of their choices can become fully involved in their book design, including cover choices, papers, typeface, artwork, and page die cuts, among other possibilities.

**Susan Glass's** chapbook, *The Wild Language of Deer*, won the Slate Roof Press Elyse Wolf Prize. Her poetry has appeared in *Snowy Egret*, *The Broad River Review*, *Birdland Journal*, *Fire and Rain: Eco-poetry of California*, *Honoring Nature: An Anthology of Authors and Artists Festival Writers*, and elsewhere. She held a residency at the Cummington Community of the Arts, Massachusetts, and received her MFA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She taught for many years at San Jose State University and West Valley Community College, and now co-edits *The Blind Californian* magazine for the California Council of the Blind. Susan is an avid birder.

**Janet MacFadyen's** third full-length collection, *State of Grass*, is forthcoming in February 2024 from Salmon Poetry. Her awards include a 2022 Massachusetts Cultural Council grant, a Fine Arts Work Center fellowship, and numerous residencies. Poems appear in *Scientific American*, *Persimmon Tree*, *The High Window*, *Wordpeace*, *Osiris*, and *White Stag*. With Candace R. Curran she performs a woven volta of interlocking poems. Her poetry is manifested as sculpture in vetted exhibitions, with current artwork in CALYX. She lives in rural Shutesbury, MA, and is managing editor of the grass-roots collaborative, Slate Roof Press.

**Ed Rayher** is a poet, letterpress printer, typefounder, and publisher of poetry books at Swamp Press. His books include *One DoZen Haiku Donuts*, which uses that circular form as art and a kind of palindrome, and *All We Can Do Is Wait*. Ed is a founding member of Slate Roof Press. He also works with The Center for Book Arts in New York City, Slapping Hol Press in the Hudson Valley, and elsewhere as designer and printer. Through a grant, Ed cast type for the Cherokee alphabet, the first time since the 1800s that type for the Cherokee language has existed.

**Anna M. Warrock's** publications include *From the Other Room*, Slate Roof Press chapbook award winner, and the chapbooks *Horizon* and *Smoke and Stone*. Her work appears in the anthology *Kiss Me Goodnight, Poems and Stories by Women Who Were Girls When Their Mothers Died*, Minnesota Book Award Finalist, and in literary magazines such as *Conduit*, *The Madison Review*, *Harvard Review*, *The Sun*, and *Poiesis*. Her poems have been set to music, performed at Boston's Hayden Planetarium, and permanently installed in a Boston-area subway station. She has held seminars on understanding grief and loss through poetry and lives Somerville, MA. [www.AnnamWarrock.com](http://www.AnnamWarrock.com)

**Richard Wollman**, a poet and sculptor, is the author of *Evidence of Things Seen* (Sheep Meadow) and two chapbooks, *Changeable Gods* (Slate Roof, winner of Elyse Wolf Prize) and *A Cemetery Affair* (Finishing Line). His awards include the Gulf Coast Prize and the Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award for Poems on the Jewish Experience. His poems have appeared in many journals including *New England Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Prairie Schooner*, *American Journal of Poetry*, *Poet Lore*, *MARGIE*, *Florida Review*, and *Notre Dame Review* and have been featured at *Poetry Daily* and *Verse Daily*. His poetry and artwork may be found at [richardwollman.com](http://richardwollman.com).

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 210**

***Fierce, Feminist, Fraught: Balancing the Dangers and Delights of a Violent World***

How does a feminist perspective inform the way we approach the world through poetry? Through persona, stark imagery, and unflinching social critique, **Liz Kay**, **Jennifer Martelli**, and **Angela Voras-Hills** address the pressures of motherhood, the shapeshifting nature of monsters, and the vigilance required to navigate the world in a female-identifying body. From the disembodied voice of mannequins and the ravenous mouth of Hansel and Gretel's witch in Voras-Hills and Kay's poems, to Martelli's exploration of the female-identifying body lying prone on the geo-political landscape, these poems grieve, rage, and laugh at a society that disregards or vilifies anything that can't be bought. The reading will be followed by a Q&A.

**Liz Kay** is a poet and novelist. She is the author of the poetry collection *THE WITCH TELLS THE STORY AND MAKES IT TRUE* (Quarter Press) and the novel *MONSTERS: A LOVE STORY* (Putnam). She teaches at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha where she coordinates the Creative Writing program.

**Jennifer Martelli** is the author of *The Queen of Queens*, winner of the Italian American Studies Association Book Award and named a “Must Read” by the Massachusetts Center for the Book and *My Tarantella*; it was also named a “Must Read” and awarded Finalist for the Housatonic Book Award. Martelli’s most recent chapbook is *All Things are Born to Change Their Shapes*. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, The Academy of American Poets’ *Poem-a-Day*, and elsewhere. Jennifer Martelli has twice received grants for poetry from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is co-poetry editor of *MER*.

**Angela Voras-Hills** was awarded the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Poetry Prize for her first book, *LOUDER BIRDS* (Pleiades 2020). Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Sun*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Best New Poets*, and *New Ohio Review*, among other journals and anthologies. She has received support from The Sustainable Arts Foundation, Key West Literary Seminar, and Writers' Room of Boston. She lives with her family in Milwaukee, where she is a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin.

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 201**

### *Revise, Revise!*

“Revise, Revise!”—Poets **Anthony Walton** and **Heather Treseler** will guide participants in a revision workshop, drawing from Ellen Bryant Voigt’s observation that a poem is “not the transcription but the transformation of experience.” They will lead participants in implementing concrete revision strategies from poets such as Frank Bidart, Elizabeth Bishop, Michael S. Harper, Robert Hass, Molly Peacock, and Mark Strand. The workshop leaders believe that revision is the key to poetic practice, a set of tools that can be learned and honed, and will provide specific rubrics, so that participants can crack open their poem drafts and locate what is not yet on the page.

**Heather Treseler** is the author of *Auguries & Divinations*, recipient of the May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize, and *Parturition*, recipient of the chapbook prize from the Munster Literature Centre in Ireland. Her poems appear in *Kenyon Review*, *Harvard Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The American Scholar*, and *Narrative*, and her essays appear in *LARB*, *Boston Review*, and eight books about contemporary poetry. She is a resident scholar at the Brandeis Women’s Studies Research Center and professor of English at Worcester State University.

**Anthony Walton** is the author of *Mississippi: An American Journey*, a work of non-fiction, and *Cricket Weather*, a collection of poems. He co-edited *The Vintage Book of African American Poetry* and *Every Shut Eye Ain’t Asleep: An Anthology of Poetry by African Americans since 1945* with Michael S. Harper, and his poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Black Scholar*, *Oxford American*, *Ecotone*, *32 Poems*, *Poetry Ireland*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Lily Poetry Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Kenyon Review* and *the Library of America: African American Poetry*. The recipient of a Whiting Award, he teaches at Bowdoin College.

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 240**

***Perspectives on Wilderness: Writing the Local***

In this workshop led by poets **Kali Lightfoot** and **Dawn Paul**, we will explore the concepts of wilderness and wild. What makes a wilderness? Who gets to define wild, and how can we as poets expand that definition? We will read and briefly discuss several poems written by poets who find wilderness in the local. Participants will then write their way into their own experience of wilderness—getting lost in a city park? a beach after a storm? finding a hawk’s nest in the neighborhood? Participants will have time to share their work if they wish. They will leave with a better appreciation of the wildness that can be found in their own locale and with the beginning of a poem or two.

**Kali Lightfoot**’s poems and reviews have appeared in journals and anthologies including *Lavender Review*, *Star 82 Review*, and *Gyroscope*. Her work has been nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize, and once for *Best of the Net*. Her collection, *Pelted by Flowers*, published by CavanKerry Press was chosen a Must Read by the Massachusetts Book Awards, and Best Dressed on the Wardrobe blog of Sundress Publications. Kali earned an MFA in Writing at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

**Dawn Paul** is the author of the novel *The Country of Loneliness* and *What We Still Don’t Know*, poems on the life and work of scientist Carl Linnaeus. She has also published poetry, fiction and science/nature articles in a variety of journals and magazines, including *Orion*, *Comstock Review* and *Stonecoast Review*. She has been awarded residencies at Shoals Marine Laboratory, Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers’ Conference and The Helen Riaboff Whiteley Center at Friday Harbor Marine Laboratories.

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**Meanwhile, on the MainStage:**

- ⇒ **10:00 AM-11:00 AM | Open Mic**
  - ⇒ **11:00 AM-11:45 AM | UNH MFA Poets**
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**Saturday, April 13, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 205**

***From Inspiration to Publication: Four Small-Press Poets on Their Book Journeys***

Three poets whose first or second books were published in the past two years by the same small press will come together for a conversation about their writing process, path to publication, and conception of what poetry can do. Each author will speak to the unique and universal ways that poetry has helped them process grief and loss, engage more deeply with life's junctures and joys, and connect with others across time and place. This open-ended discussion will include advice for poets who might be revising a manuscript and thinking about submitting to small presses, insights about the publishing process and experience, stories behind particular poems, and other topics, guided by audience questions, with the founder and editor of *June Road Press* on hand to offer a publisher's perspective. (And at the Small Press Fair, so you can talk to her before/after!)

*June Road Press* is a Pennsylvania-based micro press focused on quality, craft, and elevating the voices of new and emerging poets who identify as women, with an emphasis on work that engages with place, the natural world, and journeys of all kinds.

**Sara June Arnold** has nearly 20 years of wide-ranging editorial experience. She began her career in educational publishing in the Boston area and went on to manage university publications in Southern California. For the past decade she has operated as a versatile freelance copy and line editor, based primarily outside Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Williams College and has an M.A. from Middlebury's Bread Loaf School of English. She founded June Road Press in 2020 and runs it independently, finding great joy in every aspect of book making, from deep collaborative editing to cover design and beyond.

**Hila Ratzabi's** poetry, which often focuses on eco-justice, has been published in *Narrative*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Adroit Journal*, and elsewhere, as well as in several anthologies. Her first full-length collection, *There Are Still Woods*, published by June Road Press in 2022, won gold in the Nautilus Book Awards. She has an MFA from Sarah Lawrence and currently lives near Chicago.

**Diana Whitney** writes across genres with a focus on feminism, motherhood, and sexuality. She is the editor of the bestselling anthology *You Don't Have to Be Everything: Poems for Girls Becoming Themselves* (2021), and her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, the *Kenyon Review*, *Glamour*, and elsewhere. Her second poetry collection, *Dark Beds*, was published by June Road Press in October. Diana has received numerous writing grants and recently completed her MFA at New England College. She lives in Vermont and works as an editor and writing coach.

**Diane Lowell Wilder** has had a long career as a college administrator in advancement and alumni relations. A graduate of Swarthmore College and longtime resident of the Philadelphia area, she now lives in Rochester, New York. *Leap Thirty*, her first poetry collection, was published by June Road Press in 2021. In 2022, it was a First Horizons Award finalist, a National Indie Excellence Awards finalist, and First Runner-Up for the Eric Hoffer Award.



**Saturday, April 13, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 210**

### *How Can We Hope?*

In an age of genocide, climate change, and seemingly endless large-scale threats and sources of unrest, it is difficult to find space for optimism. Poems can serve dual purposes in the current moment by helping us both voice despair and express hope. During this reading, four award-winning poets (**Oliver de la Paz, Tim Liardet, Jennifer Militello, Marcus Wicker**) will come together to read poems of sadness and joy in an attempt to name the challenges that face us, offer solace, and actively declare that there remains a way to move forward through a volatile and unreliable era.

**Oliver de la Paz** is the author of several books. His most recent book *The Diaspora Sonnets*, was long listed for the National Book Award in poetry and a winner of the New England Book Award. A recipient of grants and awards from the NEA, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, he is the Worcester Poet Laureate and a founding member of Kundiman. He teaches at the College of the Holy Cross and in the Low Residency MFA Program at Pacific Lutheran University.

Twice shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, for *The World Before Snow* (Carcanet) and *The Blood Choir* (Seren), **Tim Liardet** has produced eleven collections of poetry. He has been longlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Prize, received several Poetry Book Society Recommendations, a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice, an Arts Council England Writer's Award, a Hawthornden fellowship, four Pushcart nominations, and various other awards. Arcimboldo's *Bulldog: New and Selected Poems* appeared from Carcanet in 2018. He has recently received an Authors' Foundation work-in-progress award from the Society of Authors for his twelfth collection, *Atlas, Tick, Hog and Gold*.

**Jennifer Militello** is the author of *The Pact* (Tupelo Press/Shearsman Books, 2021), the memoir *Knock Wood*, winner of the Dzanc Nonfiction Prize (Dzanc Books, 2019), and four previous collections of poetry. Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Best New Poets*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry*. She teaches in the MFA program at New England College and was just appointed as New Hampshire's Poet Laureate.

**Marcus Wicker** is the author of *Silencer* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)—winner of the Society of Midland Authors Award—and *Maybe the Saddest Thing* (Harper Perennial, 2012), selected by D.A. Powell for the National Poetry Series. His honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, the Poetry Society of America's Lyric Poetry Award, a Pushcart Prize, and Ruth Lilly Fellowship, fellowships from The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and Cave Canem. Wicker's poems have appeared in *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic*, *Oxford American*, and *Poetry*. He is a First Horizons Foundation Distinguished Associate Professor at the University of Memphis.

**Saturday, April 13, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 201**

***Outside the Line: The Prose Poem as Container for Unruly Content***

Our panel will focus on the prose poem's rebellious roots and how the form continues to push boundaries and reflect changes in the culture. We'll briefly discuss the history of the form, with special attention to the work of Charles Simic, former UNH poetry professor and a celebrated prose poem purveyor. Using published poems and student examples that contend with issues of gender, justice, and mental health, we'll investigate how and why the form might offer a home for voices that haven't always felt welcome in more structured formats.

**Felicia Blodgett-Duran** is currently a UNH undergraduate. She is graduating this spring with a BFA in Psychology and an English writing minor. She'll be pursuing graduate work in organizational psychology starting next fall.

**Shelley Girdner's** poems have been published in several journals, including *Nine Mile*, *Hunger Mountain*, *The Indiana Review*, *Mid-American Review* and *Narrative*. She's been featured on *PBS NewsHour Arts Beat*. Her collection, *You Were that White Bird*, was published by Bauhan Publishing in 2016. She teaches at the University of New Hampshire.

**Keri Stewart** is a UNH undergraduate. She serves as poetry editor for *Main Street* magazine, participates in area open mics, and has her first collection of poems coming out this spring.

**Saturday, April 13, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 240**

***Dreaming Your Way Into a Poem: A Generative Workshop***

There is a long tradition of poets writing about their dreams, including William Blake, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Lucille Clifton, Jean Valentine, Alice Notley. In this workshop led by **Frances Donovan, Jennifer Badot, and Mary Buchinger**, we will explore dream vision and the art of drawing lyrical narratives from sensory chaos. We will read dream poems and discuss the possibilities of mining dream territory and then we will write. Feel free to bring notes you might have jotted down about dreams, fragments of dream imagery, or ponderings about recurring dreams, dreams that have haunted you, dreams that have brought you joy. Dreaming is ultimately an act of revision and ripe for discovery.

**Jennifer Badot** is the author of *A Violet, A Jennifer* (Lily Poetry Review Books, 2022). A Pushcart Prize nominee, Badot's poems and reviews have appeared in *The Boston Globe*, the *Boston Phoenix Literary Supplement*, *Studia Mystica*, the *Lily Poetry Review*, the *Poetry is Bread* anthology (forthcoming) and elsewhere. She lives in Massachusetts.

**Frances Donovan's** book *Arboretum in a Jar* (Lily Poetry Review Books, 2023) was nominated for the Massachusetts Book Award. Her chapbook *Mad Quick Hand of the Seashore* was a finalist for a *Lambda Literary Award*. Donovan's poems have appeared in *Lily Poetry Review*, *Solstice*, *Heavy Feather Review*, *SWWIM*, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA in poetry from Lesley University. Donovan's work deals with themes of home, family, intergenerational trauma, and sexual and gender identity. She remembers fondly the summer of 1998, when she drove a bulldozer in a Pride parade while wearing a bustier.

**Mary Buchinger** is the author of seven collections of poetry; her most recent books are *Navigating the Reach* (Salmon Poetry, 2023) and *Virology* (Lily Poetry Review Books, 2022); *The Book of Shores* is forthcoming. Her work has appeared in *AGNI*, *Maine Review*, *Plume*, *Salamander*, *Salt Hill*, *Seneca Review*, and elsewhere. She teaches at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and serves on the board of the New England Poetry Club.

**Saturday, April 13, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 250 B**

***Just the Facts: Turning Information into Poetry***

We live in a world of scientific and technical information. How can we make use of that wealth of knowledge in our poetry practice? In this generative workshop led by poets **Carla Panciera** and **K.T. Landon**, we'll look at examples of work by Tony Hoagland, Curtis Lamkin, and other contemporary poets that leverage facts to humorous or moving poetic effect and we'll use these poems as springboards and inspiration for our own poetry. Bring your notebook and a pen or pencil and leave this workshop with the start of a couple of poems that take your own expertise and make it new.

**Carla Panciera's** latest book is *Barnflower: A Rhode Island Farm Memoir* (Loom Press). She has published two poetry collections: *One of the Cimalores* (Cider Press), and *No Day, No Dusk, No Love* (Bordighera). Her short story collection, *Bewildered*, received AWP's Grace Paley Prize and was published by the University of Massachusetts.

**K. T. Landon** received her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and is the author of *Orange, Dreaming* (Five Oaks Press). Her poems have been published in *The Sun*, *Southern Review*, and *Best New Poets*, among others, and her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net anthology. She teaches community education poetry workshops and is a reader for *Lily Poetry Review*.

**Saturday, April 13, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Dimond Library, Milne Room (by main entrance)\***

***Un/cover: A Blackout Poetry Workshop***

Erasure (commonly called blackout) poetry is about creating something new from an existing text. Often in conversation with the source material, erasure is a chance to enact conversation on the page, and have some fun doing it. In this workshop guided by poet and visual artist **M.P. Carver**, we'll look at examples and strategies for erasure, talk about some of the ethical and legal concerns surrounding this increasingly popular art, and then try it for ourselves. Basic materials will be provided, but feel free to bring any art supplies or specific texts you'd like to work with. **\*The Milne Room will be open throughout the day for Festival attendees to drop in and make blackout poetry pieces.**

**M.P. Carver** is a poet and visual artist from Salem, MA. She is Director of the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, miCrO-Founder of *Molecule: a tiny lit mag*, and teaches creative and digital writing at Salem State University. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *Rattle*, *Mantis*, *Jubilat*, and *Love's Executive Order*, among others. She has received funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Essex Community Foundation. In 2023 her poem "In Vitro" was named a finalist in the Connecticut River Review's Experimental Poetry Contest, and in 2022 her poem "You & God & I" was awarded the New England Poetry Club's E.E. Cummings Prize. Her chapbook, *Selachipmorpha*, was published by Incessant Pipe in 2015, and a chapbook with Lily Poetry Review Books, *Hard Up*, is forthcoming in 2024.

See M.P.'s latest blackout poetry [here](#).

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### **Meanwhile, on the MainStage:**

⇒ **12:00 PM-12:45 PM | Tom Snarsky**

**Tom Snarsky** is a math teacher who writes poems. He is a former Robert Noyce Teaching Fellow at Tufts University and a Senior Fellow at the Knowles Teacher Initiative. He is the author of two books forthcoming from Broken Sleep in 2022: *Speaking Roles*, a collection of poetry interviews, and *Complete Sentences*, a pamphlet of poems about teaching. He is also the author of the chapbook *Threshold*, published in 2018 by Another New Calligraphy. In addition to his work in print, several of Tom's chapbooks and pamphlets can be found online as free.pdfs: *Number Among* (Epigraph), *WEAKEN* (The Argotist Online), *21 small poems* (Binbag Press), *minimal sonnets* with Jo Ianni (Ghost City Press), the pamphlet *Two Songs* (Fathomsun Press), the self-published *Two Notebook Poems*, and *With Sorrow as My Window and Forgiveness as My Shield*, one of the winners of the Boston Uncommon Chapbook Contest at Boston Accent Lit. Along with Kristin Garth he is the co-organizer of *Performance Anxiety*, a monthly online poetry reading series. He teaches at Lightridge High School in Aldie, Virginia and lives in Bluemont with his wife Kristi.

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### **Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 201**

#### ***It's Time to Publish Your Poetry: a Discussion on Best Practices***

After working hard to write their best poems, poets often wonder: how can I publish my work in my favorite journals? how can I publish my work as a book? are there other venues for my work? Even published, prize-winning poets feel stymied when faced with a constantly updated poetry publishing scene! In this lively and practical discussion, **Jennifer Jean** and **Jennifer Martelli** will discuss best practices for poets seeking publication. Between them, they have: 12 books published, over 500 journal publications, multiple nominations, prizes, seven grants, and six residencies. They love poetry and look forward to discussing publishing with all who love it too!

**Jennifer Jean**'s poetry collections include *VOZ*, *Object Lesson*, and *The Fool*. Her resource book is *Object Lesson: a Guide to Writing Poetry*. She's co-written and co-translated *Where Do You Live? أين تعيش؟* (Arrowsmith Press, 2025) with Iraqi poet Hanaa Ahmed. Her work appears in *Poetry*, *Rattle*, *The Common*, *Los Angeles Review*, and *On the Seawall*. She's received honors, residencies, and fellowships from the *Kenyon Review* Writers Workshop, the Academy of American Poets, the Mass Cultural Council, DISQUIET, and the Women's Federation for World Peace. Jennifer is the senior program manager of 24PearlStreet, the Fine Arts Work Center's online writing program.

**Jennifer Martelli** is the author of *The Queen of Queens*, winner of the Italian American Studies Association Book Award and named a "Must Read" by the Massachusetts Center for the Book and *My Tarantella*; it was also named a "Must Read" and awarded Finalist for the Housatonic Book Award. Martelli's most recent chapbook is *All Things are Born to Change Their Shapes*. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, The Academy of American Poets' *Poem-a-Day*, and elsewhere. Jennifer Martelli has twice received grants for poetry from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is co-poetry editor of *MER*.

**Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 205**

***Slam Free or Die: The 2024 New Hampshire Poetry Slam Team***

Slam Free or Die is a weekly poetry open mic and slam meeting every Thursday evening at Stark Brewing Company in Manchester. Since 2007 the reading has showcased the best of performance poetry in the state, featured nationally touring and local performance poets, and hosted local and regional poetry slam competitions. The five members of the 2024 Slam Free or Die team qualified and won their spots in a series of poetry slams at the venue, in which performance, content, and originally are judged by members of the audience. The team will represent New Hampshire at a series of regional and national events this year. Today's performance is a sampling of some of the team's signature work.

**Christopher Clauss** is a poetry slam veteran, middle school science teacher, and organizer of the Slam Free or Die weekly poetry open mic and slam in Manchester. He has represented New Hampshire at the National Poetry Slam six times and featured at venues throughout New England and across the country. His 2022 release, *Photosynthesis and Respiration*, is available from Silver Bow Press.

**Mike Linehan** is a writer and educator from southern New Hampshire. For the past several years, he has performed poetry at local open mics and has since become a passionate member of the community. In December 2015, he released a self-published poetry collection under the title *What We Deserve*. In 2018, he was a part of the Mill City Slam team from Lowell, Massachusetts, and competed in the National Poetry Slam in Chicago. He released his latest poetry book, *The Porch Light*, in November 2023, and is honored to be a part of the current Slam Free or Die team.

**Mica L. Rich** is a New England poet and writer whose poetry explores themes of trauma and its effect on healing and identity, valuing the strength and bravery found in vulnerability. Their work aims to provide an outlet for people struggling to find their own voices in a world that would often rather keep them quiet. Mica's poetry has appeared in literary journals and collections such as *The Avocet*, *Inkwell*, and *Wingless Dreamer's Dark Poetry Collection*. Their first collection, *This Is How Wildflowers Grow*, was published in October of 2022 and can be found through Barnes & Noble. Mica is a staff member and slam team member at Slam Free or Die.

**Matthew Richards** is a poet and electrical engineer from Manchester, NH. As a member of the Slam Free or Die team, he has competed at the NorthBeast Regional Slam and the 2011 National Poetry Slam. His work has appeared in places such as *Star\*Line*, *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*, and the *Indiefed Performance Poetry Podcast*. He's been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and a Rhysling Award in short science fiction poetry.

**Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 210**

### *Poetry From Disappearing Places*

This unmissable panel brings together poetry, science, and art to celebrate ecosystems. **Elizabeth Bradfield** reads poems about Antarctica from her gorgeous, hybrid book, *Toward Antarctica*. **Rage Hezekiah** reads from her stunning collection *Yearn*, winner of the 2021 Diode Editions Book Contest, sharing poems about resilience. **Deborah Leipziger** shares poems about the Brazilian rainforest from her new collection, *Story & Bone*. **Mary Pinard** reads about the prairie from her award-winning book, *Ghost Heart*.

This panel will be moderated by **Dr. Fiona Wilson**, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer for the University of New Hampshire. A Q & A will follow the reading.

Writer/naturalist **Elizabeth Bradfield** is the author of *Toward Antarctica*, *Once Removed*, *Approaching Ice*, *Interpretive Work*, and *Theorem*, a collaboration with artist Antonia Contro. She has co-edited the anthologies *Broadsided Press: Fifteen Years of Poetic/Artistic Collaboration, 2005-2020* (with Alexandra Teague and Miller Oberman) and *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology and Poetry* (with CMarie Fuhrman and Derek Sheffield). Her poems and essays have appeared in *The Sun*, *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Poetry*, and *Orion*, and have been widely anthologized. Winner of the Audre Lorde Prize from the Publishing Triangle, finalist for a Lambda Literary Award and the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets, her honors also include a Stegner Fellowship and a Bread Loaf Scholarship. Founder and editor-in-chief of Broadsided, she lives on Cape Cod, teaches creative writing at Brandeis University, and balances her work as a writer with work as a naturalist/field assistant at home and afar.

**Rage Hezekiah** is a poet and educator, who earned her MFA from Emerson College. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem, MacDowell, and The Ragdale Foundation, and is the recipient of the Saint Botolph Foundation's Emerging Artists Award. Her poems have been anthologized, co-translated, and published internationally.

**Deborah Leipziger** has reshaped how we think about the role of corporations in promoting human rights and the environment. Through her books, lectures, consulting, and teaching, Deborah has given voice to the concept that companies have a responsibility to the communities in which they operate, and that global organizations can create social value alongside financial value. Ms. Leipziger is the author of several leading books in the fields of sustainability and corporate responsibility, including *The Corporate Responsibility Code Book* and co-author of *Creating Social Value: A Guide for Leaders and Change Makers*.

Prof. Leipziger has advised companies and organizations around the world on social and environmental issues. She has been a force for change in fields as diverse as food, fashion and energy. Deborah Leipziger is a Senior Fellow in Social Innovation at the Lewis Institute at Babson. She has taught at the Bard MBA in Sustainability, the Simmons School of Management, and the Hult MBA program. Born in Brazil, Deborah has a Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a BA from Manhattanville College in Economics and International Studies.

**Mary Pinard** is the author of two books of poetry, *Portal* (2014), and *Ghost Heart* (2022), which won the 2021 Ex Ophidia Press Prize for Poetry. Her play, *Heart/Roots: Wabaunsee County*, was published by Volland Press during the summer of 2022. Over the last 15 years, she has collaborated with several visual artists and musicians in the Boston area, where her poems have been variously incised in glass (“Fragment House,” Slocum River Reserve, Dartmouth, MA), shaped in wire (“Lineage,” Old Frog Pond Farm, Harvard, MA), adhered to an exhibit wall (“Breaking Prairie,” Hollister Gallery, Babson College), and set to music (“On the Wing: A Celebration of Birds in Words and Music,” performed at several New England venues). She teaches literature and poetry courses in the Arts & Humanities Division at Babson College, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1990. She was born and raised in Seattle.

**Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 240**

### *Writing for Special Occasions*

Oftentimes, we write poetry out of the desire for self-expression, but poems can also be a wonderful way to honor others—at weddings or funerals, for birthdays or graduations. In this workshop led by **Ben Berman**, we are going to think about how to write poems for special occasions, focusing in particular, on tone, musicality and word play. You should come with an idea for a special occasion in mind and be prepared to leave this session with a completed draft of a poem.

#### **Bio of participant:**

**Ben Berman** is the author of three books of poems and the new collection of essays, *Writing While Parenting*, a 2023 TLS Best Book of the Year. He has won the Peace Corps Award for the Best Book of Poetry, has been shortlisted twice for the Massachusetts Book Awards and has received awards from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, New England Poetry Club and Somerville Arts Council. He’s been teaching for twenty-five years and currently teaches creative writing classes at Brookline High School. He lives in the Boston area with his wife and two daughters.

**Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 250 B**

*All in the Cards*

In 1962, Phillip K. Dick used the I Ching to help him write *The Man in the High Castle*. Countless other writers throughout time have used elements of chance and divination to help them dig deeper into their writing, to spur revision, and to put an end to ruts, blocks, and stumps. Take a chance on your own writing this weekend by joining us for this session. We'll work through several kinds of card decks, including tarot, the cards from the game DIXIT and a deck you can make on your own.

I'll share a few different exercises I've offered using decks for writers of all ages, including UNH undergraduates. We'll explore how and why these simple prompts might help with writing and look over several examples of writing created in response to the exercises. Please come prepared to write with your notebook, your own tarot deck if you have one (not required), your curiosity and maybe even a few questions you're interested in asking the universe."

**Shelley Girdner's** poems have been published in several journals, including *Nine Mile, Hunger Mountain, The Indiana Review, Mid-American Review* and *Narrative*. She's been featured on *PBS NewsHour Arts Beat*. Her collection, *You Were that White Bird*, was published by Bauhan Publishing in 2016. She teaches at the University of New Hampshire.

**Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Dimond Library, Daggett Instruction Room (421)**

*The Ekphrastic Thing*

The idea is simple: you enter a space, view two radically different pieces of art, pick up the pen, and write poetry. Or is there a twist? This might be both easier and harder than you think. Have some fun, make some art.

**Clay Ventre** lives, writes, and makes art in New England. He was a finalist for the 2024 Nossrat Yassini Poetry Prize, selected by Camille Dungy.



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## Meanwhile, on the MainStage:

⇒ 1:00 PM-1:45 PM | Quintin Collins

Quintin Collins (he/him) is a writer, assistant director of the Solstice Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, and a poetry editor for Salamander. His work appears in many print and online publications, such as Sidereal Magazine, Superstition Review, Glass: A Journal of Poetry, Solstice Literary Magazine, and others. Winner of a Pushcart Prize and the 2019 Atlantis Award from the Poet's Billow, Quintin's publishing accolades include multiple Best of the Net Nominations, and he was a finalist for the 2020 Redivider Beacon Street Prize. Quintin's first full-length collection of poems, *The Dandelion Speaks of Survival*, which was a finalist for the 2020 Alice James Award and the 2021 Sheila Margaret Motton Book Prize, is available from Cherry Castle Publishing. His second collection of poems, *Claim Tickets for Stolen People*, selected by Marcus Jackson as winner of The Journal's 2020 Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize and Honor Book for the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's 2023 Best Poetry Literary Award, is available from Ohio State University Press/Mad Creek Books.

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## Saturday, April 13, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 205

### *Sustaining the Long Poem*

The end of a page, an artificial construction, doesn't consider ongoingness. Some editors and journals recommend that poets limit their poems to a single page which doesn't consider poets that need more space to explore substantial themes and/or poems that need to wander or rant or be excessively detailed—be expansive and resist being reductive. Three poets (**Nathan McClain**, **Kevin McLellan**, and **Jonathan Weinert**) will read from their long poems, and then provide some strategies for sustaining a long poem and what structures and scaffolding can be used to build them. A Q&A will follow.

**Nathan McClain** (he/him) is the author of two collections of poetry: *Previously Owned* (Four Way Books, 2022), longlisted for the Massachusetts Book Award, and *Scale* (Four Way Books, 2017). He is a recipient of fellowships from The Frost Place, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and is a Cave Canem fellow. He earned an MFA from Warren Wilson College. His poems and prose have appeared in *The Hopkins Review*, *Plume Poetry 10*, *Guesthouse*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *Zócalo Public Square*, among others. He teaches at Hampshire College and serves as poetry editor of the *Massachusetts Review*.

**Kevin McLellan** is the author of: *Sky. Pond. Mouth.* (2024 Granite State Poetry Prize winner selected by Alexandria Peary); *in other words you/* (2022 Hilary Tham Capital Collection winner selected by Timothy Liu); *Ornithology* (Massachusetts Book Awards recipient); *Tributary*; and *Round Trip*. Kevin's book objects, Hemispheres and [box], reside in special collections including the Blue Star Collection at Harvard University. Kevin's video *Dick* won Best Short Form Short at the LGBTQ+ Los Angeles Film Festival and also appeared at the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, Berlin Short Film Festival, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and others. <https://kevmclellan.com/>

**Jonathan Weinert** is the author of *A Slow Green Sleep*, winner of the Saturnalia Books Editors Prize, *In the Mode of Disappearance*, winner of the Nightboat Poetry Prize, and *Thirteen Small Apostrophes*, a chapbook. He is co-editor, with Kevin Prufer, of *Until Everything Is Continuous Again: American Poets on the Recent Work of W. S. Merwin*, a collection of essays. New poems and prose appear or will soon appear in *Harvard Review*, *Pangyrus*, *Blackbird*, *On the Seawall*, and elsewhere. Jonathan lives in Stow, Massachusetts.

**Saturday, April 13, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall , Room 210**

### *Creative Collaboration for Poets*

Of course, poets are oddballs and eccentrics, and nobody can make art without claiming independent space, time, and mind. But it is also true, that poets work with other poets and artists in a variety of ways and that poetry is in some ways an art that involves improvisation, the values and procedures of other arts, listening or reading and responding in friendship, and that the eccentricity and individuality of poetry and poets can be informed by a collaborative procedure.

Award-winning poets **Diannely Antigua**, **David Blair**, **Ewa Chrusciel**, and **Cate Marvin** will share ideas, discussing what collaboration has meant for them in their development as poets and the writing of individual poems, and they will give the audience some exercises to take away with them to promote the sorts of collaborative procedure that can help poets into poems and maybe even different ways of thinking of themselves as artists and individuals.

**Diannely Antigua** is a Dominican American poet and educator, born and raised in Massachusetts. Her debut collection *Ugly Music* (YesYes Books, 2019) was the winner of a 2020 Whiting Award, and her second collection *Good Monster* is forthcoming in 2024 with Copper Canyon Press. She received her MFA at NYU and resides in Portsmouth, NH, where she is poet laureate. She is the Nossrat Yassini Visiting Poet in the UNH MFA Writing Program.

**David Blair** teaches poetry in the MFA Writing Program at UNH and lives in Somerville, Massachusetts. He is the author of six books, including *Ascension Days* (winner of the Del Sol Poetry Prize), *Friends with Dogs* (a Must-Read Citation from the Massachusetts Book Prize), *Arsonville* (Green Rose Prize Series, New Issues), and his most recent books from MadHat Press, *Walk Around: Essays on Poetry and Place*, *Barbarian Seasons*, and *True Figures: Selected Shorter Poems and Prose Poems, 1998-2021*, as well as the forthcoming collaboration, *Country Music Frankenstein: Poems by David Blair; Collages by Donald Langosy*.

**Ewa Chrusciel** is a poet, translator, and educator. She has four books of poems in English: *Yours*, *Purple Gallinule* (Omnidawn 2022), *Of Annunciations* (Omnidawn 2017), *Contraband of Hoopoe* (Omnidawn 2014), *Strata* (Emergency Press 2009, reprinted by Omnidawn, April 2018), as well as three books in Polish: *Tobolek* (2016) *Sopilki* (2009), and *Furkot* (2003). Her book *Contraband of Hoopoe* was translated into Italian by Anna Aresi and came out in Italy with Edizioni Ensemble in May 2019.

**Cate Marvin** teaches poetry writing in the Stonecoast M.F.A. Program at the University of Southern Maine and is Professor of English at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. A recent Guggenheim Fellow, she lives in Scarborough, Maine. *Event Horizon*, her fourth collection, appeared from Copper Canyon Press in 2022.

**Saturday, April 13, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 201**

***On-the-Spot Poetry: A Showcase and Discussion***

Join poets **Allison Adair**, **Ben Berman**, and **Oliver de la Paz** as they discuss the challenges and rewards of writing on-the-spot poetry at large-scale public gatherings. After reading a few poems from their on-the-spot encounters and sharing the poems' origin stories, the poets will offer tips and tricks for getting started with this daunting—but addictive—practice. They will detail the logistics involved in this form of public art, reveal how it has impacted their personal writing processes, and share a blueprint for bringing the project to public events, schools, and festivals.

**Allison Adair**'s first collection, *The Clearing*, was selected by Henri Cole as winner of *Milkweed*'s Max Ritvo Poetry Prize. Her poems appear in *American Poetry Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *Best American Poetry*, *Kenyon Review Online*, and *ZYZZYVA*; and her work has been honored with the Pushcart Prize, the *Florida Review* Editors' Award, the Orlando Prize, a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant, and first place in the Finline Competition from *Mid-American Review*. Originally from central Pennsylvania, Allison teaches at Boston College and Grub Street.

**Ben Berman** is the author of three books of poems and the new collection of essays, *Writing While Parenting*, a 2023 TLS Best Book of the Year. He has won the Peace Corps Award for the Best Book of Poetry, has been shortlisted twice for the Massachusetts Book Awards and has received awards from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, New England Poetry Club and Somerville Arts Council. He's been teaching for twenty-five years and currently teaches creative writing classes at Brookline High School. He lives in the Boston area with his wife and two daughters.

**Oliver de la Paz** is the author of several books. His most recent book *The Diaspora Sonnets*, was long listed for the National Book Award in poetry and a winner of the New England Book Award. A recipient of grants and awards from the NEA, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, he is the Worcester Poet Laureate and a founding member of Kundiman. He teaches at the College of the Holy Cross and in the Low Residency MFA Program at Pacific Lutheran University.

**Saturday, April 13, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Room 240**

**\*This is a ticketed event capped at 25. The tickets are \$25 and are first come, first served.**  
[Register here.](#)

### *MasterClass with Bianca Stone*

#### **The Reality of the Poem: Discussion & Workshop**

“All poets lie,” Zarathustra said in Nietzsche’s famous philosophical chronicle. “Tell all the truth but tell it slant —” Emily Dickinson intoned. In this masterclass we will examine the power in poetry to get at truth by letting go of our preconceived ideas of fact and reality. Poetry is different from prose in that it allows for music, form, off-kilter grammar and strange logic to express itself. Like dreaming, poetry deals in layers of unconscious material, yet it is grounded in deliberate, precise focus. Balance is key to a successful poem. We will look at what it means for truth to “dazzle gradually;” where the reader fits into all this, and what a “speaker” in a poem allows for. These baffling yet elegant paradoxes will be examined as a group, via looking at poems that build a profound experience in narrative dreaming. This class is for inspiration and revitalization of our poems, hopefully prompting us to let go of tired ideas that are no longer serving us. The class will include ample time for writing and sharing our own work.

**Bianca Stone** is the author of the poetry collections *What is Otherwise Infinite* (Tin House, 2022) winner of the 2022 Vermont Book Award; *The Möbius Strip Club of Grief* (Tin House, 2018), *Someone Else’s Wedding Vows* (Octopus Books and Tin House, 2014) and collaborated with Anne Carson on the illuminated edition of *Antigonick*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. She teaches classes on poetry and poetic study at the Ruth Stone House, where she is host of *Ode & Psyche Podcast*, exploring poetry, mytho-poetics and consciousness.

Read more about Bianca Stone [here](#).

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#### **Meanwhile, on the MainStage:**

⇒ **2:00 PM-2:45 PM | Gregory Glenn and Meghan Miraglia**

**Gregory Glenn** is a writer and performer based in Massachusetts. His work can be found in Soundings East, Drunk Monkeys, Poetry Soup, Molecule Tiny Lit, Hard Work of Hope, and he is one of five poets featured in the anthology *9x5* (2022, Only Human Press). He has most recently featured on WGBH’s *Outspoken Saturdays*, Mass Poetry’s *U35*, *Night Light Poetry*, *Speak Up!*, and *Performance Anxiety*. He has been or will be a guest on the podcasts *Poems and Whiskey*, and *Wrestling with Poetry*. Hyperfixations include: Springtime, theme parks, pro wrestling, cats, consumerism, and world peace.

**Meghan Miraglia** is a poet, editor, essayist and educator. She's a Gen-Z Pisces Sun, a Libra Moon, and Sagittarius Rising (which probably explains why she's so dramatic). When she's not consuming entire cases of Diet Coke and rewatching *Little Women* (2019) for the billionth time, you can find her in the woods, feeding birds and looking for really crunchy leaves (and if she's not in the woods, check the nearest bookstore). Her poetry appears in *The Santa Clara Review*, *The Broadkill Review*, and others.

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**Saturday, April 13, 3:00 PM-3:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Front Lawn**

*Teen Voices in Poetry: Approaching Creative Writing with Experiences*

How can we encourage youth to participate in creative writing and poetry? How can our voices be expressed in everyday writing? Come listen to **the New Hampshire Teen Poets Laureate Team** present various styles of poetry on what it means to be the youth in today's changing world. Hailing from all parts of New Hampshire, the Team is dedicated to spreading poetry opportunities for high schoolers across the state.

**Shayla Gerkin** (she/her) is currently a junior at Exeter High School and a member of the New Hampshire Teen Poetry Laureate team. She is also a part of her school newspaper and Poetry Team. She is published in her local Creative Guts podcast and their poetry zine. When out of school, she works at her town library, hosts slam poetry events, and attends other poetry readings.

**Lauren Kim** is a senior at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH. She is a youth poet laureate of New Hampshire and has previously served as a team member for the New Hampshire Teen Poet Laureate Team. She has attended the Iowa Young Writers' Studio, Interlochen Arts Camp for Creative Writing and the Harvard Crimson's Summer Journalism Academy. Her work has been recognized by the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and multiple anthologies. In her freetime, she enjoys going on runs, baking macarons, and checking out local cafes.

**Emilia Kniestedt** is a senior at Phillips Exeter Academy. She is a youth poet laureate of New Hampshire and an editor-in-chief of Good Poetry Zine. She is an alumna of the Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program and has been recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

**Ava Spaulding** is a junior who attends Phillips Exeter Academy. She is a team member of the NH Teen Poets Laureate Team. Poetry has allowed her to express her creative spirit and love of nature since elementary school. When Ava is not writing (or creating another form of art), you can find her nose-deep in science journals, drinking tea, hiking with her chocolate lab (Charley), or daydreaming about her future.

**Pranavi Vedula** is a junior who attends Phillips Exeter Academy. She is a Team Member of the NH Teen Poet Laureate Team. Her writing has been published in various anthologies and magazines, and has been recognized by the Scholastic Writing Awards. Pranavi is also an alumna of the Kenyon Review Young Writer's Workshop. When not writing, she loves taking long walks.

**Sophie Yu** (she/her) is a sophomore at Phillips Exeter Academy and a member of the NH Teen Poet Laureate Team. She is a published author of two poetry collections titled “My Universe” and “Obsidian”, and most recently, her poem “Finding Home” was awarded The Lamont Younger Poets Prize at her academy. Her work has also been featured in various anthologies and recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. In her free time she loves to listen to music, travel with friends and family, and try new foods.

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### **Meanwhile, on the MainStage:**

⇒ **3:00 PM-3:45 PM | Amanda Shea**

**Amanda Shea** is a renowned spoken word and multidisciplinary artist, educator, performer, activist, publicist, and mother. She's hosted BAMS Fest and countless poetry events; she facilitates youth workshops for spoken word poetry, visual arts, and public speaking; she is a publicist for hip hop artist Brandie Blaze; she has managed and supported countless other artists in Boston. In 2021, she was named among WBUR *The ARTery's* 25 artists of color transforming the cultural landscape. Her work can be found in the Museum of Fine Arts, The Boston Globe, TEDX, TEDXRoxbury, Netflix, Prime Video, BBC News, and much more. Shea will be releasing her first EP, titled *GOD, Again* in November 2023. Shea will release her first book, *Pieces of Shea*, in the Winter of 2024. Amanda's work examines her personal life experiences, social justice issues, and healing through trauma utilizing art as the tool. For a full bio, visit Amanda Shea's [website](#).

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### **Saturday, April 13, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM | Dimond Library, Courtyard Reading Room**

#### ***A Tribute to American Journalist James Foley***

**Daniel Brock Johnson, Diane Foley, and Dr. Ebele Okpokwasili-Johnson**

Join us for this special, multimedia tribute to slain American journalist James Foley. There will be readings, videos, and songs to celebrate his life, followed by a conversation.

**Daniel Brock Johnson** is the author of *Shadow Act: an Elegy for Journalist James Foley*, out from McSweeney's in August 2023. Previously, Johnson published *How to Catch a Falling Knife* with Alice James Books. In 2019, the City of Boston commissioned Johnson to draft lines of poetry for the twin memorials commemorating the Boston Marathon bombings. Johnson's poetry has been featured in outlets such as National Public Radio, *PBS News Hour*, *The Washington Post*, and in a variety of publications including *Best American Poetry*, *Tin House*, and *I Have My Own Song for It: Modern Poems of Ohio*. Johnson has received awards from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Poetry Center of Chicago, Foreword Book Awards, and elsewhere. For nearly a decade, Johnson served as the founding executive director of 826 Boston. Currently, he works as the executive director of Mass Poetry. Learn more about his work at [danielbrockjohnson.com](http://danielbrockjohnson.com).

**Diane Foley** founded the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation to advocate for freedom for innocent Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad and for journalist safety. Foley has raised awareness about international hostage taking through her government advocacy, the documentary, *Jim: the James Foley Story*, and opinion pieces in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Dr. John W. Foley, and is the mother of four other children and seven grandchildren. Diane received her undergraduate and Masters in Nursing from UNH.

**Dr. Ebele Okpokwasili-Johnson**, a soprano for the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, is also a Child & Adolescent & Adult Psychiatrist and Medical Director of the Behavioral Health Department at Boston's South End Community Health Center. An alumna of the Freehold Regional Performing Arts Center in Howell High School, Ebele attended Columbia University for college where she appeared in a number of plays and wrote and directed an original play titled *The Quest*. Ebele later attended the University of Illinois, where she earned her Medical Degree and Master's of Public Health. Ebele currently studies voice with Robert Honeysucker and has performed for eight years with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus including a U.S. premiere of James MacMillan's "St. John Passion" with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She credits James Foley for introducing her to her husband Daniel and misses James dearly. Ebele lives in the Boston area with Daniel and their two children.

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### **Meanwhile, on the MainStage:**

⇒ **4:00 PM-4:45 PM | Jill McDonough**

**Jill McDonough's** books of poems include *Habeas Corpus* (Salt, 2008), *Where You Live* (Salt, 2012), *Reaper* (Alice James, 2017), and *Here All Night* (Alice James, 2019). The recipient of three Pushcart prizes and fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fine Arts Work Center, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and Stanford's Stegner program, she taught incarcerated college students through Boston University's Prison Education Program for thirteen years. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Slate*, *The Nation*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *Best American Poetry*. She teaches in the MFA program at UMass-Boston and offers College Reading and Writing in Boston jails. Her sixth poetry collection, *American Treasure*, is forthcoming from Alice James Books.

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**Saturday, April 13, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Atrium Amphitheater**

**Special Performance: Adobo-Fish-Sauce**

A Puerto Rican and a Cambodian walk into a kitchen. The kitchen is your heart. The food is made with food. The food is sometimes poems. Either way you are fed.

**Adobo-Fish-Sauce** is an active choice to celebrate in the face of bitterness. It is responding to “Go back to where you come from!” by bringing where they are from right to you. The superhero duo fuses spoken word, cooking, intentionality, vulnerability, and joy to create a one of a kind experience that can’t be found in any kitchen or open mic.

*Food will be provided by Boogalow BBQ’s making this a fully interactive sensory experience. Food restrictions or just not a fan of BBQ? Feel free to bring your own sandwich or pizza slice and join us at the MainStage for this extraordinary event!*

Find out more about [Adobo-Fish-Sauce](#) (and superhero poets **Febo** and **Ricky Orng**).

**Saturday, April 13, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM | Dimond Library, Courtyard Reading Room**

*Headline Reading*

**Kweku Abimbola (Nossrat Yassini Poetry Prize winner), Camille Dungy, Kevin McLellan (Granite State Poetry Prize winner), and Alexandria Peary**

Born in the Gambia, **Kweku Abimbola** earned his MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan’s Helen Zell Writers’ Program. He is of Gambian, Ghanaian, Sierra Leonean, and Nigerian descent. Abimbola’s first full-length poetry collection, *Saltwater Demands a Psalm*, was published by Graywolf Press in April of 2023. The debut collection received the First Book Award from the Academy of American Poets in 2022. Abimbola is a finalist for the 2021 Brunel International African Poetry Prize and the second-place winner of the Furious Flower 2020 poetry contest. He has work published and forthcoming in *Shade Literary Arts*, *20.35 Africa*, *The Common*, *Obsidian*, *SUNU Journal*, and elsewhere. Abimbola’s writing primarily investigates colonization, Black mourning, Black boyhood, gender politics, and the spiritual consequences of climate change in West Africa. He lives in Detroit and works as a teaching artist for the literary nonprofit Inside Out Literary Arts, where he holds workshops in poetry and creative writing for middle school students in Detroit Public Schools. He also lectures in English and Creative Writing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



**Camille T. Dungy** is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *Trophic Cascade* (Wesleyan UP, 2017), winner of the Colorado Book Award. She is also the author of the essay collections *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* (Simon & Schuster, 2023) and *Guidebook to Relative Strangers: Journeys into Race, Motherhood and History* (W.W. Norton, 2017), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Dungy has also edited anthologies including *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry* and *From the Fishhouse: An Anthology of Poems that Sing, Rhyme, Resound, Syncopate, Alliterate, and Just Plain Sound Great*. A 2019 Guggenheim Fellow, her honors include NEA Fellowships in poetry (2003) and prose (2018), an American Book Award, two NAACP Image Award nominations, and two Hurston/Wright Legacy Award nominations. Dungy's poems have been published in *Best American Poetry*, *The 100 Best African American Poems*, the *Pushcart Anthology*, *Best American Travel Writing*, and over thirty other anthologies. She is University Distinguished Professor at Colorado State University.

**Kevin McLellan** is the author of: *Sky. Pond. Mouth.* (2024 Granite State Poetry Prize winner selected by Alexandria Peary); *in other words you/* (2022 Hilary Tham Capital Collection winner selected by Timothy Liu); *Ornitheology* (Massachusetts Book Awards recipient); *Tributary*; and *Round Trip*. Kevin's book objects, Hemispheres and [box], reside in special collections including the Blue Star Collection at Harvard University. Kevin's video *Dick* won Best Short Form Short at the LGBTQ+ Los Angeles Film Festival and also appeared at the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, Berlin Short Film Festival, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival and others. <https://kevmclellan.com/>

**Alexandria Peary** was appointed by the Executive Council as New Hampshire Poet Laureate on October 23 2019, to serve until March 2024. The state's poet laureate serves as an ambassador for all poets in New Hampshire and works to heighten the visibility and value of poetry in the state. Alexandria holds an MFA in Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa, a second MFA in Poetry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a PhD in English/Composition from the University of New Hampshire. Alexandria is the author of nine books, including five books of poetry and two books on the teaching of writing: *Fall Foliage Called Bathers & Dancers* (2008); *Lid to the Shadow* (2011); *Control Bird Alt Delete* (2014); *Creative Writing Pedagogies for the Twenty-First Century*, with Tom C. Hunley (2015); *Prolific Moment: Theory and Practice of Mindfulness for Writing* (2018); *The Water Draft* (2019); *COVID Spring: Granite State Pandemic Poems* (2020); *COVID Spring: More Granite State Pandemic Poems* (2021); and *Battle of Silicon Valley at Daybreak* (2022). Her poetry has appeared in the *Yale Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *New American Writing*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Barrow Street*, *Denver Quarterly*, *New England Review*, *Bombay Gin*, and the *North American Review*.

**Saturday, April 13, 9:00 PM-11:00 AM | Freedom Café, Downtown Durham**

**\*This is a ticketed event with limited seats. The tickets are \$20 and are first come, first served. [Register here.](#)**

### ***Late Night Event: Synesthete's Secret Speakeasy***

Gussy up and buzz on over to Freedom Cafe for Synesthete's Secret Speakeasy! Say the secret password to gain entry to this interdisciplinary feast. This one-night-only late night event combines performances by award-winning poets, hot & smooth live jazz, drawings made on the spot, poetry for your tongue (wine and cheese pairings), and even an E.E. Cummings dance tribute. Come ready to play, snap, and jive. Featuring poets **Shari Caplan, Sarah Deckro, Gregory Glenn, Heather Hughes, and Jessica Reidy**; musical duo **Albeer Baseel and Aidan Scrimgeour**; dance duo **Rebecca Pelleri and Cecilia Whalen**; and live art by **Sonya Endrizzi**.

**Capacity is limited so get your ticket (and secret password) [today!](#)**

**Alber Baseel** is a Percussionist/Drummer from Bethlehem, Palestine. At 14, Alber began his conservatory music education at the Edward Said Conservatory in Bethlehem studying Classical Arabic tradition, where he learned what would become his principal instruments: Tableh (darbuka) and Riq. While both instruments remain at the center of his discipline, his style has expanded to include Latin and African percussion. In 2021 Alber completed his Bachelor degree in Music from Berklee College of Music in Boston where he deepened his musical knowledge by working with musicians from all over the world. He also studied with master Rumbero, Maximino Duquesne Martinez in La Habana, Cuba. Throughout his career as a musician Alber has enjoyed extensive travel performing in festivals and presenting musical events throughout Europe, Northern Africa, the United States and South America. He has shared a stage and studio with renowned musicians Simon Shaheen, Ahmad Al Khatib, Marco Markovic, among others. Currently based in Brooklyn, NY, Alber is an active full-time professional musician and musical collaborator, spending his time performing, teaching and recording.

**Shari Caplan** (she/her) is a poet, actor, and event producer with a passion for enlivening our collective imaginative potential. She's the author of *The Red Shoes; a Phantasmagoric Ballet on Paper* (Lambhouse Books, 2023), and *Advice from a Siren* (Dancing Girl Press, 2016). A wearer of many tophats, she has produced and performed in "The Poetry Circus," "The Fairy Tale Poetry Walking Tour," and other cross-pollinations, including the Boston chapter of The Poetry Brothel, an international immersive cabaret series (founded by The Poetry Society of New York). Shari's work has appeared in *Gulf Coast, Painted Bride Quarterly, Sinister Wisdom, Grimoire, Angime, Drunk Monkeys*, and others, and has earned her a scholarship to The Home School in Hudson, a fellowship to The Vermont Studio Center, as well as nominations for a Bettering American Poetry Award, a Pushcart Prize, and a Rhyllsing Award. She graduated with an MFA from Lesley University in 2014. Find her work, workshops, monthly love letter to creativity, and upcoming events at [ShariCaplan.com](http://ShariCaplan.com).

**Sarah Deckro** is a poet, mixed media artist and photographer with a passion for fairy tales and mythology. Sarah's poetry has been displayed at Boston City Hall as part of the City of Boston Mayor's Poetry Program. Her poetry and art have appeared in publications including *Fearsome Critters*, *Camas Magazine*, and the anthologies *An Outbreak of Peace*, *The Dreamers Anthology* and *Poets of Alexandria*. Sarah lives and creates in Boston, MA where she is proudly owned by a black cat named Odin.

**Gregory Glenn** is a writer and performer based in Massachusetts. His work can be found in *Soundings East*, *Drunk Monkeys*, *Poetry Soup*, *Molecule Tiny Lit*, *Hard Work of Hope*, and he is one of five poets published in the anthology *9X5* (2022, Only Human Press). He has been featured on WGBH's *Outspoken Saturdays*, *Night Light Poetry*, *Performance Anxiety*, and *Wrestling with Poetry*, with forthcoming appearances on *Poems & Whiskey*, and *Words // Friends*.

**heather hughes** has been described as a "magpie mixup machine." She brings the surrealism of South Florida swamps, a love of sci-fi and fantasy, and a hint of disaster to her fragmented, atmospheric poems. She also incorporates poetry into her letterpress prints. Find her online @birdmaddgirl.

**Rebecca Pelleri** is a freelance dancer based in New York City. She was born in Florence, Italy and received her initial dance training at Centro Studi Danza e Movimento. After graduating high school, she attended the Martha Graham School, completing certificates in performance as well as in teacher training. In addition to performing, Rebecca currently teaches dance to beginners and is working on her certification in Gyrotonics.

**Jessica Reidy** (they/she) is a New Hampshire based writer, editor, and educator. They are co-host of *Romanistan Podcast* with Paulina Verminski, a podcast about Romani culture. They are the winner of the Penelope Niven Award for creative nonfiction, and their work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and *Best of the Net*. Their poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have appeared in *Narrative Magazine* as Short Story of the Week, *Prairie Schooner* as a Glenna Luschei prize winner, *The Kenyon Review* online, *Luna Luna Magazine*, and other journals. They are mixed Romani (aka "Gypsy") and read tarot, tea leaves, and palms in their family tradition under the name Jezmina Von Thiele.

**Aidan Scrimgeour** is a musician, composer and educator from Salem, MA based in Brooklyn, NY. After spending a couple years in the Contemporary Improvisation Program at New England Conservatory studying piano performance with Ran Blake and Hankus Netsky, he graduated with a B.A. in Performance & Representation from Tufts University. In 2020, Aidan co-founded Brooklyn Porch Music, an educational and performance collective that emerged from daily ritualistic concerts throughout the early months of the pandemic. This program provides free music lessons, ensembles and writing workshops for teens in South Brooklyn communities. Aidan's musical projects and collaborations incorporate elements of jazz, country, and Irish traditional music, among others. He has performed throughout the country with a variety of groups, playing piano, organ and accordion.

**Cecilia Whalen** is an NYC-based dancer, choreographer, and writer. She is a graduate of the Martha Graham School and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Cecilia has performed professionally with the Martha Graham Center, the Merce Cunningham Trust, and Jonah Bokaer Choreography. Her choreography has been performed at numerous venues around New York City including Dixon Place, the Martha Graham Studio Theater, and the Spark Theatre Festival, as well as in North Carolina. Her work is inspired by a wide range of interests, including literature, history, visual art, and a diverse array of music. Her writing can be found in various publications, including Dance Magazine, Commonweal Magazine, and Fjord Review.

**Sunday, April 14, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | Hamilton Smith Hall, Atrium**

***Community Event: Poetry Brunch***

Let's come together for a little breakfast and community to celebrate the conclusion of the inaugural Nossrat Yassini Poetry Festival. We'll provide the brunch, you bring the poetry!

**Sunday, April 14, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM | Dimond Library's Courtyard Reading Room**

***Headline Reading***

**Bianca Stone, Myles Taylor, and the Wildcats Poetry Prize winners**

**Bianca Stone** is the author of the poetry collections *What is Otherwise Infinite* (Tin House, 2022) winner of the 2022 Vermont Book Award; *The Möbius Strip Club of Grief* (Tin House, 2018), *Someone Else's Wedding Vows* (Octopus Books and Tin House, 2014) and collaborated with Anne Carson on the illuminated edition of *Antigonick*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. She teaches classes on poetry and poetic study at the Ruth Stone House, where she is host of *Ode & Psyche Podcast*, exploring poetry, mytho-poetics and consciousness.

**Myles Taylor** is a transmasculine poet, organizer, award-winning poetry slam competitor, food service worker, Emerson College alum, Capricorn-Aquarius cusp, and glitter enthusiast. They are currently the producer of the Boston Poetry Slam at the Cantab Lounge. Their first full-length collection, *Masculinity Parable*, is now out with Game Over Books.

**Dan Harrison** loves books, mountains, and music. He writes poetry and fiction, and his work has been published in a handful of places.

**Caleb Jagoda** is a poet and journalist currently enrolled in UNH's MFA program. He was assistant editor at *New Hampshire Magazine*, has reported for America's Test Kitchen's *Proof* podcast, *Down East Magazine*, and *Beer & Weed Magazine*, and has published poetry in *Polaris Literary Magazine* and *Write on the DOT*. When he's not holding court at a dimly lit watering hole or embracing his youth, you can find him out on the town, digging the scene.

**Julia Roch** is in her final year of the MFA Poetry program at UNH. In her writing, Julia draws inspiration from the places she's lived, including New Hampshire, New York, and The Netherlands. Her work has appeared in *Cutthroat, a Journal of the Arts*; *Mantis*; *Oberon*; and others.

**Virginia Schoff** is a Portsmouth, New Hampshire native studying political science. She loves spending time with her dog, Culai Dubh, reading fantasy novels, and following the Premier League.

**Thank you for spending National Poetry Month with us, and for bringing your love of poetry to UNH Durham. We look forward to sharing words and wonder with you, rain or shine (or snow)!**

**If you have any questions, please visit our website ([www.unhpoetry.com](http://www.unhpoetry.com)), or email [nossratyassinipoetryfestival@gmail.com](mailto:nossratyassinipoetryfestival@gmail.com) 🌻**

**Register today:**

