



February 2026 Poetry Missive



Lovely & Busy February, ASPS Poets!

There's much ado about poetry this month. Put events in your calendar! Follow your heart! 

I am sure there's more that I didn't catch, so there will be a mid-month (ish) update. There are some items that came to my attention right after I sent out the non-ASPS Missive, so they are included.

As a reminder, ASPS needs volunteers for the following:

- Tucson Festival of Books, March 14 & 15 – We need people to take shifts helping with the booth. Let me know your availability for that weekend.
- The Annual Conference taking place the weekend of October 24th will need volunteers for various tasks. The core committee has been working on the planning since November 2025, but you are welcome to join us in our ZOOM meetings this year.

2026 ASPS Annual Youth Contest! Submissions accepted starting 1/15/2026 through 3/31/26. Open to all Arizona students, grades 1-12 with no entry fee for the contest. (See attached contest flyer and contest announcement to send to teachers, parents, principals, and students in your circle of friends!) Poems can be on any topic with a limit of three submissions per person. Poems written in other than English must include an English translation. **Prize Awards:** Cash prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place winning poems in grade brackets:

Grades 1-4 /Grades 5-8 /Grades 9-12

Winning poems will appear in Sandcutters in the 2026 Sandcutters. For information & permission forms, email ME at christywhite.smp@azpoetry.net

ON HIATUS - Phoenix: PHX Poetry Slam by B-Jam @ The Lawrence Building, 515 E. Grant St., 7pm sign up, show 8-11pm, \$15 cover. DJ music & original art. A 3rd Friday of the month event.

FlagSlam has moved to biweekly (?), twice a month (I think). I could not find any information for February, so I'll be sending that info out in a Poetry Missive Update.

The next Sedona Slam will be March 7th, so no event in February.

This may be of interest to you - *Poem to Book: The Poet's Path to a Traditional Publisher*, free to download here: <https://authorspublish.com/books/poem-to-book-the-poets-path-to-a-traditional-publisher/>

Let me know of any Arizona & ASPS poetry event I may have missed, any kind of poetry, or an event with a relationship to poetry, and share on the Arizona State Poetry Society's Facebook page, or copy to me! And be sure to check out the AZPoet.com calendar. There's more poetry going on than I can capture here, there's always **more!**

Be  joyful, be  creative!

BE  GRATEFUL!

Metaphors be  with you!

Metaphors be with you!

CChristy White

MA Creative Writing/Poetry

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Arizona State Poetry Society on Facebook and <https://azpoetry.net/>



February



Arizona State Poetry Society Events, Workshops & Notices – azpoetry.net

2026 Annual Youth Contest! Submissions accepted starting 1/15/2026 through 3/31/26

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Grades 1-4 /Grades 5-8 /Grades 9-12

Winning poems will appear in *Sandcutters 2026*, Anthology of Arizona State Poetry Society. Winners will be notified in May 2026. We will send a complimentary copy of *Sandcutters* at the end of the year. For complete information & permission form, email **CChristy White** at christywhite.smp@azpoetry.net

ASPS Member ONLY Contest for March! Submit by mail by March 1st, or email no later than March 5th.

CATEGORIES:

Category I: Traditional (identify form)

Category II: Free Verse

Category III: The Monthly Subject (see below); any subject, any form

Category IV: Same Year Winners (any subject, any form)

March: Overseas

For guidelines and topics for 2026, visit <https://azpoetry.net/contests/#MemberContest> and click on the submissions guidelines!

Phoenix: PHX Poetry Slam ON HIATUS FOR FEBRUARY @ The Lawrence Building, 515 E. Grant St., 7pm sign up, show 8-11pm, \$15 cover. DJ music & original art.

Green Valley: Writing Group for Poets, Tuesday, February 3, Green Valley Library, 601 N. La Cañada Dr., 3-5pm. Critique circle and opportunity to exchange work & processes. For more information, email Eileen Flaxman: evflax@gmail.com A 1st Tuesday of the month event

ASPS WORKSHOP ON ZOOM, February 21; 1p-2p, \$20-ASPS members, \$25-Non-members. Valerie Szarek will lead the workshop using Mary Oliver's poetry to learn about her poetic devices & skills to bring into the participants own poetry. To learn more AND TO REGISTER, visit <https://azpoetry.net/a-upcoming-events/#Workshops>

Tempe: East Valley Poets @ Pyle Center, 9:30 am - 12 pm, February 21. Their theme is "No pressure, just poetry"! Join them in a discussion and mini-workshop to share poetry, community and maybe some snacks. This may be a hybrid in-person and zoom event, email evpoets@yahoo.com for Zoom instructions. A branch of ASPS. A 3rd Saturday event – email evpoets@yahoo.com for details

Tucson: Tucson Poetry Society @ ZOOM, 10 am, February 28. Share a poem you want critiqued so it can be a better poem! To receive details, send an email to iginspired@gmail.com A branch of ASPS. 4th Saturday of the month event.

Scottsdale: Mustang Poets @ Mustang Library, 10101 N. 90th St., 1 - 3 pm, February 28. Bring your poems or your favorite poet's poems. We discuss poetry, give gentle critiques and encouragement to write. Open to the public, this is a branch of the Arizona State Poetry Society and is co-sponsored by the Scottsdale

Public Library. For more information, email mustangpoets@gmail.com A branch of ASPS. A 4th Saturday of the month event.

Tucson: Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS) @ The Historic Y, 738 N. 5th Ave., Main Floor Conference Room, 3:30-5:30pm, donations accepted February 28. Features TBA. TAPS is sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society. Visit <https://azpoetry.net> for more information.

BLOGS ABOUT POETRY ON ASPS WEBSITE. This feature on the website is still NEW! Members and visiting writers talk about poetry. <https://azpoetry.net/blog/> Send your Blog to katiezale.pres@azpoetry.net if you would like to be considered for publication.

ASPS POETS FEEDBACK SERVICE – Are you wondering why your poem is not being accepted for publication or is not winning contests? Maybe you have a favorite poem that just doesn't cut it but it's still one of your favorites. For ASPS member only you can submit up to 2 poems per year to be reviewed. You will be paired with one of our qualified volunteers. Visit azpoetry.net/programs to learn more about our member service.

Here is the second video from ASPS member, **Michael Ballard**. Click on the link and watch poetry:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5izvm6ZS0aM>

From ASPS member, **Stuart Watkins**: Arizona Daily Star review (edited) - Prolific Tucson scribbler John Stuart Watkins — along with friends — has two recent publications we'll briefly note this month: One, an illustrated children's book; the other, a themed collaboration in photographs and poems. *When Dragonflies Breathed Fire* is a children's story, a coloring book and a study of dragonflies. Queen Anya, puzzled by the annual outbreaks of wildfires in her kingdom, directs her subject animals to solve their mystery. Its AI illustrations are Disney-worthy. Watkins's friends Anya King and Jon Sebba contributed line drawings for coloring and photographs. Along with a smattering of poems, *Our Wonderous Sky* contains a hundred pages of images of Western skies. Ranging from snapshots to studied photographs, they're scenes captured by two dozen Arizona residents of 'clouds, thunderstorms, lightning, sunsets, sunrises, snow, mist, and raindrops falling.' **When Dragonflies Breathed Fire**, 80 pp. \$12.95 and **'Our Wonderous Sky'** by John Stuart Watkins. Independently published. 102 pp. \$20.

There's more 

Always check to see that a listing has not changed

because, well, *things* change, venues cancel, etc., etc. 🤔🤔

Most times are Arizona times, **differences** will be noted.

Sundays:

Litchfield Park: Tap Savvy Open Mic @ Tap Savvy, 13000 W. Indian School Rd., Ste. A-6, 6:30 pm sign up, 7pm Show. Hosted by Eric Sparks. Enjoy a refreshing drink while the poetry flows!

Tuesdays:

Flagstaff: Poet Brews Writers Open Mic @ Flagstaff Brewing Company, 16 E. Route 66, 7pm. A writers' open mic, 21+, read anything up to 10 minutes. For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093122109417>

Wednesdays:

Flagstaff: Flagstaff Poetry Slam @ Firecreek Coffee, 22 E. Rt. 66, 6:30pm doors, 7pm show, PWYC \$0-\$5. Regular slam, regular rules. Sign up in advance at flagstaffpoetryslam@gmail.com, or at the door (if there is room, of course!). For more information, visit them on Facebook or Insta.

Phoenix: Meraki Moments Open Mic @ 1601 E. Bell Rd. #A3, 8-10pm, donations go to One Family Community Outreach. With host Kid Parrish. Poets, singers, hip-hop...all are welcome!

Phoenix: Margin & Mic @ Downside Up, 12820 N. 19th Ave., 7-11:30p. Connect with new writerly friends at a club for written and spoken word. Prompts provided, you write while sipping your mocktails. There will be time to share your new piece, rough stuff and all! Every Wednesday.

Thursdays:

Phoenix: Poetic Soul @ Club Downtwn, 702 N. Central Ave., 6-11pm, \$15. A 21+ open mic event for poets, singers, writers, musicians and more! A collaborative arts & culture experience every Thursday night. Advance tickets strongly recommended and you can get them here: <https://qosmicqadence.com/poeticsoul/>

Phoenix, Acoustic Open Stage @ Fiddler's Dream Coffeehouse, 1702 E. Glendale Ave., doors open 5:30 pm, show 6:30-9p, \$10. Music, poetry, spoken word, story and more! COVID-19 guidelines are in place here, so N95/KN95 masks are required attire while inside and are available at the venue. For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/fiddlersdream/events>

Tucson: Tucson Open Mic @ Solar Culture, 31 E. Toole Ave., 8 pm. Sing, speak or share! Open Mic every Thursday night at Solar Culture Gallery! Doors open at 8pm, don't come early! Need more poets and musicians! <https://solarculture.org/>

Mesa: Open Mic @ Jarrod's in Haus 109, 109 W. University Dr., 7-9pm. A welcoming, safe space for poetry, music, short fiction and more.

Saturdays:

Mesa: Open Mic @ Jarrod's in Haus 109, 109 W. University Dr., 3-5pm. A welcoming, safe space for poetry, music, short fiction and more.

There's more 

Wednesday, February 4:

Phoenix: Poetry Open Mic Night @ Meraki Kava @ 1601 E. Bell Rd., 8 pm. Hosted by Jessica Swarner, community editor of The Copper Courier. All poets welcome to share their poetry. A 1st Wednesday event.

Thursday, February 5:

Chandler: SoZo Poetry Open Mic @ SoZo Coffeehouse, 1982 N. Alma School Rd., 6:30-8:30pm. Open mic - family friendly! Have a great cuppa and listen/read poetry.

Phoenix: Fiddler's Dream Open Mic, 1702 E. Glendale Ave., 6:30-9:30 pm, Kn95 mask required, \$10 cover. An intimate, welcoming venue for poets, storytellers, musicians and more. Masks are available at the venue. Seriously strong brewed coffee, cocoa, soft drinks, teas, water for \$1!

Friday, February 6:

Tucson: First Friday Poetry @ Revolutionary Grounds Books & Coffee, 4675 E. Speedway Blvd., 5-7pm, get there early to sign up! Share your poetry at this bilingual poetry open mic! A 1st Friday event.

Tempe: First Friday Poetry @ Changing Hands-Tempe, 6428 S. McClintock Dr., 6p. All open reading tonight. Attendees are invited to read TWO pages (double spaced) of poetry.
<https://www.changinghands.com/event/February2026/first-friday-poetry>

Phoenix: Poetry.Hype First Friday Open Mic @ Chic Artistry Studio, 222 E. McDowell Rd, 7:30p. Poetry, music, art and good vibes with great connections!! Poets, singers, artists, and more!
<https://www.chicartistrystudio.com/events-1>

Phoenix: Open Mic Night @ Downside Up, 12820 N. 18th Ave., doors 7pm, open mic 8pm. Performances of poetry, music, comedy and more are live streamed. Come to shine your talent or support the artists. Every 2nd & 4th Thursday

Sunday, February 8:

Tucson: Spoke Open Mic @ HUSH Social Club, 2101 S. Alvernon Way, doors @ 5:30 pm, show 6-8 pm. Hosted by SameBrown & Swin, featuring DJ Roch. Come out and tell your story, your truth, your history, your poetry! A 2nd Sunday monthly event.

Wednesday, February 11:

Phoenix: Ghost Poetry Show Slam! @ The Rebel Lounge, 2303 E. Indian School Rd., 7:30p, \$10 advance, \$12 door. Classic slam with 15 poets, three rounds, 5 judges and an audience of many! For more info and tickets - <https://ghostpoetryshow.com/pages/events>

Ajo: Ajo's Poetry Circle @ Curley School Library, 201 W. Esperanza Ave., 2nd Floor, 6pm. They meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. For more information:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1295103098231702>

Thursday, February 12

Green Valley: Poet's Corner @ Joyner-Green Valley Library, 601 N. La Cañada Dr., 3-4:30pm. Come, read, listen, share and meet other poets. All are welcome! A 2nd Thursday of the month event.

Glendale: Stories, Poems & Performing Club @ Glendale Community Center, 5401 W. Ocotillo Rd., 3:45-4:30pm, for ages 6-14. WHAM in partnership with the City of Glendale brings a fun space to area youth to share creativity, explore voice and performance (if you choose). An every other Thursday event. For more information, visit <https://www.wham-art.org/off-site-classes>

Tucson: Distinguished Vistors in Creative Writing w/Rodrigo Restrepo Montoya & Fernando Flores @ UA Poetry Center & Livestreamed, 1508 E. Helen St., 7p. Join in person or online as the poets read from their work. To learn more about the poets & to access the livestream:
<https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/rodrigo-restrepo-montoya-fernando-flores>

Friday, February 13:

Flagstaff: Off the Rails Poetry Series @ Late For the Train, 19a E. Aspen Ave., 6-7:30 pm. Host Micaela Merryman brings an all ages poetry reading to town with musical accompaniment. Every 2nd Friday of the month.

Saturday, February 14:

Chandler: SoZo Open Mic @ SoZo Coffeehouse, 1982 N. Alma School Rd., 6-10pm. Open mic for poets, musicians, comedy... family friendly! 2nd Saturday event. 6-7 Love Line, 7-9 Open mic. There will food available from The Rez Urban Eatery. <https://palabrasbookstore.com/events/2026/02>

Miami: 2nd Saturday Open Mic @ Thee 23 Skidoo, 505 W. Sullivan St., 5:30p sign up, 6p show. Hosted by Lob Instagon, this is an all ages event with poetry, music, storytelling and more. A new location until repairs are completed. For more info, look for them on Facebook to confirm location!

Phoenix: Abolition is Love/Open Mic @ Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, 906 W. Roosevelt St. #2, 6-9p. Open mic to celebrate care, comrades, joy, pleasure, abundance and possible futures!

Tempe: Open Mic & Monthly Birthday Party @ American Legion Post 138, 107 E. Broadway Rd., 7:05 pm. Hosted by The McCarty Party Project & Christina McCarty. If you would like to play but you are not a member of the American Legion—I welcome you to come as my guest (Christina McCarty)! Play your music, tell your jokes, read your poetry! We would love to see you perform!

Tucson: 2026 Poetry Out Loud Southern Region Semifinals @ UA Poetry Center, 1508 E. Helen St., 1-4p. High school students from all over Southern Arizona will participate in this annual event. For more information: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/2026-poetry-out-loud-southern-region-semifinals>

Tucson: Poetry in the Park @ La Madera Park, 2700 E. La Madera Dr., 8:30-10:30am. Write poems, discuss writing styles, & be in fellowship with other poets hosted by D'erotik Poet. Bring a blanket or folding chair. Water and light snacks provided.

Sunday, February 15:

Mesa: Poetry @ Jarrod's Coffee, Tea & Gallery, 109 W. University Dr., Noon to 2pm. Hosted by Margot Berlin. Come read and listen to some poetry, sip some coffee, enjoy a little nosh every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month! Special features every 3rd Sunday. Jarrod's Coffee, Tea and Gallery | Local Events Mesa – Events (jarrodscoffeeteaandgallery.com)

Tucson: Arizona Authors Association Open Mic @ The Historic Y, Main Lobby, 738 N. 5th Ave., 2-4:30 pm. Hosted by Ken Weene, author & poet, all arts and artists are welcome for poetry, prose, music, dance, comedy, and performance. 5 minute slots unless arranged beforehand. If you have books (no more than two titles) or art for sale, please contact Ken at kweene1941@gmail.com for details. This is a 3rd Sunday ongoing event.

Prescott: Prescott Poetry Slam @ The Cove Café, 1446 W. Gurley St., sign up 6:30pm, show @ 7pm; \$ pay as you may. Special poet features and a regular slam. Email prescottpoetry@gmail.com to sign up sooner than at the doors.

Phoenix: Esso Open Mic @ Esso Coffeehouse, 4700 N. 12th St., #107, 5pm. This month's feature is TBD, hosted by Russ Kazmierczak. This is a 3rd Sunday of the month event.

Surprise: Authors Circle Meeting @ WHAM, 16560 N. Dysart Rd., 2-4pm. Any skill level and any genre welcome to share your work and receive gentle feedback. For more information and to sign up, visit <https://www.wham-art.org/writer-s-circle>

Tuesday, February 17:

Phoenix: Ghost Writing Prompt Night @ Changing Hands Bookstore, 300 W. Camelback, 6:30 pm. Using attended-submitted prompts, write for 7 minutes, then share if you wish. Any writing form is welcome!

Phoenix: Lacuna Open Mic @ Lacuna Phoenix, 914 N. 5th St., sign up 6:30pm, show 7pm. Hosted by Shire Song, every 3rd Tuesday.

Phoenix: Fiddler's Dream Open Mic, 1702 E. Glendale Ave., 6:30-9:30 pm, Kn95 mask required, \$10 cover. An intimate, welcoming venue for poets, storytellers, musicians and more. Masks are available at the venue. Seriously strong brewed coffee, cocoa, soft drinks, teas, water for \$1!

Thursday, February 19:

Glendale: Stories, Poems & Performing Club @ Glendale Community Center, 5401 W. Ocotillo Rd., 3:45-4:30pm, for ages 6-14. WHAM in partnership with the City of Glendale brings a fun space to area youth to share creativity, explore voice and performance (if you choose). An every other Thursday event. For more information, visit <https://www.wham-art.org/off-site-classes>

Sierra Vista: Write Out Loud Poetry Open Mic @ Chill Factor Hookah & Cigar Lounge, 833D E. Fry Blvd, 7-8:30pm. Share your poetry with welcoming poets! Hosted by Deja Reve. A 3rd Thursday of the month event.

Oro Valley: Poetry Circle/The Work of David Wagoner @ Oro Valley Public Library, 1305 W. Naranja Dr., 2-3:30p. UA Poetry Center docents will lead the discussion and poetry packets will be provided. For more information: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/oro-valley-poetry-circle-work-david-wagoner>

Phoenix: Open Mic Night @ Downside Up, 12820 N. 18th Ave., doors 7pm, open mic 8pm. Performances of poetry, music, comedy and more are live streamed. Come to shine your talent or support the artists. Every 2nd & 4th Thursday

Tucson: Annie Wenstrup & Lena Khalaf Tuffaha Reading @ UA Poetry Center, 1508 E. Helen St. & Livestreamed, 7p. Sponsored by Peggy Shumaker, the distinguished poets will read from their work. For more information and to register: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/annie-wenstrup-lena-khalaf-tuffaha>

Friday, February 20:

Phoenix: Erotic Poetry, Music, Stage Acts, & 43rd Exotic Art Show Festivus @ Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt St., 8ish to 10ish in the evening, \$15. For an entertaining and fun evening with Jetuan Whedon & Matt Micheletti on the Main Stage & Rosemarie Dombrowski, Phoenix's First Poet Laureate in the West Garden Chill Lounge, come celebrate February's quirkier side! To purchase tickets and learn more: <https://alwunhouse.org/>

Surprise: Open Mic Night @ WHAM Art Center, 16560 N. Dysart Rd., 6:30-8pm, \$5. Poetry, spoken word, story telling, music and more are welcome. MC – Maggie Gautier and music by Kenny Ingram. Part of the Literary Arts Program at WHAM. Beverages, snacks and *chocolate* will make an appearance! A 3rd Friday of the month event. <https://www.wham-art.org/poetry>

Yuma: Poetry Circle @ Foothills Library, 13226 E. South Frontage Rd., 1-2p. Share a poem you wrote or one you love. A welcoming environment for poets of all ages. Space is limited, so come early!

Saturday, February 21:

Tempe: East Valley Poets @ Pyle Center, 9:30 am - 12 pm. Their theme is "No pressure, just poetry"! Join them in a discussion and mini-workshop to share poetry, community and maybe some snacks. This may be a hybrid in-person and zoom event, email evpoets@yahoo.com for Zoom instructions. A branch of ASPS. A 3rd Saturday event – email evpoets@yahoo.com for details

Zoom: ASPS Workshop w/Valerie Szarek, \$20-ASPS members, \$25-Non-members. Mary Oliver's poetry is accessible with its exploration of the natural world. The workshop will learn about her poetic devices & skills to bring into the participants own poetry. To learn more AND TO REGISTER, visit <https://azpoetry.net/a-upcoming-events/#Workshops>

Phoenix: Phoenix Writers Club @ Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., 10am-12:30pm, \$10 members, \$15 guests. Always interesting and great to connect with area writers. Reserve your seat by emailing phoenixwriters1926@gmail.com

Online: Revisionary Arts Monthly Therapeutic Poetry/Writing Workshop, Zoom @ 1 pm AZ. This open-to-the-community online workshop involves the reading and discussion of poetry, as well as introspective writing and optional sharing. Themes, modalities, and facilitators rotate monthly. Please respect the vulnerability and humanity of participants, as well as the sanctuary of the space created. The link can be found on their website, Revisionary Arts – self-exploration through poetry or Workshops – Revisionary Arts. A 3rd Saturday event.

Prescott: Open Mic @ Peregrine Book Company w/Susan Lang, 219A N. Cortez St., 2-3:30p. A monthly community event featuring poetry and short prose. Susan, poet/novelist/memoirist, will be reading from her works. Open mic to follow. For more information: <https://peregrinebookcompany.com/event/2026-02-21/open-mic-ft-susan-lang>

Phoenix: Phonetic Spit Mic Check @ Parsons Place, 352 E. Camelback Rd., Workshop 3:30-4:30 pm, Featured Artist & Open Mic 4:45-6 pm. For teens and young adults, a place to express YOU! For more info, visit: www.facebook.com/phoneticspit. A 3rd Saturday event.

Tucson: Light the Mic Open Mic @ Catalyst Creative Collective, 4500 N. Oracle Rd. (Tucson Mall), Ste. 110, 6 pm. Poetry, dance, music, visual art & spoken word to set the summer on fire! Sign up in advance here: <https://forms.gle/DAR7kAL25Jpf6jUKA>

Sunday, February 22:

Tucson: Tucson Slam Poetry @ The Coalition Space, 311 E. 7th St., 6:30-9p, \$1-\$10 - \$\$what you can. The Coalition Space is supported by the 4th Avenue Association and the Made in Tucson Market. TKo learn more and to follow on IG: @tucsonslampoetry To sign up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9X_kZqZnT7KpAOfRuj_KAA_jOEAw-OqT_7ROPV-4vQb0ulw/viewform

Monday, February 23:

Phoenix: Ghost Poetry Show @ The Rebel Lounge, 2303 E. Indian School Rd., 7:30p, \$10 advance, \$12 door. Classic slam with 15 poets, three rounds, 5 judges and an audience of many! For more Ghost info and tickets - <https://ghostpoetryshow.com/pages/events>

Bisbee: Poetry Critique Society @ Copper Queen Library, 6 Main St., 5-6:45pm. The first 20 minutes will be a member-led writing prompt! Please bring multiple copies of a working poem to read and share with the group, and a notebook. Facilitated by Alison Williams. A last Monday of the month event.

Phoenix: City Lights & The Biography of a Bookstore w/Gioia Woods @ Changing Hands Bookstore, 300 W. Camelback Rd., 6:30 pm. Lawrence Ferlinghetti, poet & painter, opened City Lights Bookstore & Press in San Francisco in 1953. The location became the focus of the Beat Movement in literature & Poetry. RSVP @ <https://www.changinghands.com/event/february2026/gioia-woods>

Wednesday, February 25:

Buckeye: Open Mic Night (16+) @ Buckeye Library, Coyote Branch, 21699 W. Yuma Rd., #116, 6-7pm. Poet, singer, dancer, rapper, comedian or musician, come share your talent! This is usually a monthly event, but it moves around in the month. Phone: 623-349-6300

Tempe: Logan Phillips – Reckon @ Woods @ Changing Hands Bookstore, 6428 S. McClintock Dr., 7 pm. Logan, poet & artist, will discuss and sign his hybrid memoir set in his home town of Tombstone. RSVP @ <https://www.changinghands.com/event/february2026/logan-phillips>

Flagstaff: SUN October Open Mic @ NAU, Union Point, upstairs, 7-9pm. Poets, singers, musicians, comedy, magicians, dancers, any kind of performer is welcome. Takes place every last Wednesday of the month. Check on holidays and breaks!

Flagstaff: Flagslam @ Firecreek, 22 E. Route 66, sign up 7:30p, show 8p, \$5 suggested donation or PAYC. Traditional slam and there will be cash prizes! Please note, they are moving to a biweekly schedule. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1286146436882738&set=a.546773130820076>

Thursday, February 26:

Tucson: Morgan Lucas Schuldt Memorial Reading w/Andrew Grace & Susan Nguyen @ UA Poetry Center & Livestreamed, 1508 E. Helen St., 7p. The poets will be reading from their work. For more information and to access the livestream: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/andrew-grace-susan-nguyen>

Saturday, February 28:

Phoenix: Write About Now Poetry Live @ The Duce, 525 S. Central Ave., 2-5pm, \$33.15. Celebrating their 12th anniversary, sharing poetry and original artwork from some of the best poets, singers and more in the Phoenix area. To learn more and to purchase tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/write-about-now-poetry-live-in-phoenix-ft-kanei-hosted-by-k-love-the-poet-tickets-1965585449993?aff=oddtcreator>

Scottsdale: Mustang Poets @ Mustang Library, 10101 N. 90th St., 1 - 3 pm. Bring your poems or your favorite poet's poems. We discuss poetry, give gentle critiques and encouragement to write. Open to the public, this is a branch of the Arizona State Poetry Society and is co-sponsored by the Scottsdale Public Library. For more information, email mustangpoets@gmail.com A 4th Saturday of the month event.

Tucson: Poetry in the Park @ La Madera Park, 2700 E. La Madera Dr., 8:30-10:30am. Write poems, discuss writing styles, & be in fellowship with other poets hosted by D'erotik Poet. Bring a blanket or folding chair. Water and light snacks provided.

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There's more 

RESOURCES: CONTESTS & JOURNALS, WORKSHOPS, CRITIQUE GROUPS, PODCASTS, BLOGS

Arizona Matsuri 2026 Haiku Contest – DEADLINE February 7, 2026! Traditional Arizona-inspired haiku accepted through online submissions. Announcements of selected Haiku will be posted on the website, featured in the 2026 Haiku Expo on February 21& 22, and published in the 2026 anthology published on the website. For more information and submission guidelines, visit <https://azmatsuri.org/entertainment/haiku-expo>

Women Writing for (a) Change: Call for submissions for *We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident* Anthology through February 16th. Looking for poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, or personal essays relating to the title theme of the anthology (no previously published work accepted). To review submission requirements and to submit: <https://www.womenwriting.org/shareyourwriting/> They also sponsor writing classes and other opportunities for writers.

PopTab Press is now accepting submissions of poetry, fiction, and visual art for their Arizona-based literary magazine "**Hydration**" **Spring 2026 Edition until March 1st.** Link to their website with submission form and more details: www.PopTab.Press

American Poetry Journal – Call for submissions: Submissions closed for Spring 2026, but visit apjpoetry.org to see the journal at www.apjpoetry.org.

Winter in America(Still – Call for submissions: The editors of *Winter in America(Again* invite poets and artists to contribute to the sequel anthology. We seek reflective poetry, prose, and artwork exploring the consequences of the 2024 Presidential Election. All aesthetics, voices, and perspectives are welcome. For additional information and submission guidelines, visit: <https://www.winterinamerica.org/wia-still> **To learn more about the Winter in America(Again anthology and to purchase the book, visit:** <https://www.winterinamerica.org/winter-in-america-again>

Chax YouTube channel: A Reading by Stephen Ratcliffe & Will Alexander, from Tucson, presented by POG, at Wave Archive on October 17 2025.

AND

Alice Notley 80th Birthday Celebration/Tribute, from Tucson, presented by Chax Press & POG, on Nov 8 (Alice's birthday), 2025. Readings of Alice Notley's work by 23 poets, with a video of images of Alice and her works. <https://www.youtube.com/@CHAXpoetryfinepress/videos>

West Valley Teen Poet Competition: Sponsored by WHAM in Surprise, AZ; applications accepted starting Friday, November 15th. For more information, call 623.584.8311 or visit <https://www.wham-art.org/wvypl>

<https://www.meetup.com/redsands/events/> For in person and online reading/writing/critiquing groups in the Phoenix/Mesa/Scottsdale/Tempe and more areas.

RockPaperPoem: This online poetry only magazine was voted a top “Best Poetry Lit Mag of 2024”, and is always looking for submissions of sharp, stick with you no matter what, fine poetry. CONTEST WINNERS ISSUE 12 IS UP NOW! Learn more and read poetry they have accepted: <https://rockpaperpoem.com/>

Frontier Poetry: For more information and guidelines for submissions, visit <https://www.frontierpoetry.com>

This might still be happening and worth taking a trip to Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: <https://www.desertmuseum.org/poetry/> Woven Words is an exciting new collaboration that pairs two Tucson Cultural institutions! The project will feature 30 poetry installations throughout the Museum grounds!

CutThroat, A Journal of the Arts is reading for its 2025 Literary Awards, \$1200 first prize, \$300 second prize, honorable mention for poetry, nonfiction and short story. All winners will be published. This is a joint project with The Black Earth Institute. For more information, <http://www.cutthroatmag.com/>

Horizon Review, <https://www.horizonreview.org/> is an annually magazine based in Albuquerque, NM, and is in partnership with the University of New Mexico. They publish literature (poems, stories, essays), fine arts, and open media from writers and artists in the Southwest. They are accepting submissions now for the Spring 2026 issue.

Did you know? Some of the editors you send your works to will record you reading your poem and post it to their YouTube channel. Here's Alan Perry, ASPS member, reading his poem, *The Heart of It* on the *Third Wednesday* YouTube channel. <https://thirdwednesdaymagazine.org/2025/10/05/the-heart-of-it-alan-perry/>

Glossy Planet is an online mag for poets and prose writers. They issue a writing challenge every month. NOTE – Follow the guidelines and submit by the submission dates!

<https://www.glossyplanetmag.com/challenge/a-house-divided/>

Launched! *The 12 Caesars of Rome Art / Poetry Hybrid Book Project!* Each of the twelve Caesar portraits, created by Arizona-based artist Marek Danielewski, are created from mixed media, and a wide variety of Arizona poets contributed poems to accompany the artwork. Here is the link to the kickstarter page: [The 12 Caesars of Rome Art/Poetry Hybrid Book](#) Scroll down to see some names you probably know, like Margo Berlin, Natasha N. Deonarain, Alfred Fournier, Frank Iosue, Trevor Ruth and many more!

Running Wild Press is looking for edgy, imaginative, great writing that doesn't fit in anybody's box. Take a look:
https://runningwildpublishing.com/?fbclid=IwY2xjawODUd9leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETE5eXhiQ3M0M2xtSkwzT3ZEc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHq3ixy3EPbueWFlduwJlvKykTtVlHM8wsfiVgeUPYoxjh6eDv_mTZkC5QSZ1_aem_HnMc57XIOWrrtmvrP_SSRais

Poet Lore is America's oldest poetry journal, founded in January 1889, and is a biannual print journal of poetry of verse, voices, and visions. To learn more about this long-running journal and to subscribe or submit your poetry, visit <https://www.poetlore.com/about-us/>

Academy of American Poets has a great list of 2025 Featured Fall Books including Sharon Olds, Bobby Elliott, Samyak Shertok, Patricia Smith, Jonas Lamb, and more...if you are looking for a book of poems to read. Sample the poets on their website before buying the book! Sounds great for a quiet evening at home! Visit <https://poets.org/2025-featured-fall-books>

Persimmon Tree: An online magazine of the arts by women over sixty is accepting submissions of art, photography, short stories, prose, poetry. You might have to send a copy of your driver's license (just kidding), but there are a lot of women who don't even start to write until later in life. This is for YOU!
<https://persimmontree.org/>

Sequestrum Lit Mag is still looking for submissions. Visit them at Slipstream submission details are here <https://www.sequestrum.org/about> New reading/submission period is on. Get on their mailing list for the updates!

Sub Club is a writer's resource center for your writing career. View jobs, read interviews, learn more about being a better writer with their app. You can have free emails with interesting articles and lots of teasers, or you can subscribe for more! https://substack.com/app?utm_campaign=email-read-in-app&utm_source=email

Grid Books: Off the Grid Prize honors one poet over sixty with an award of \$1,000, publication of the winning collection in print and audiobook formats, and support in publicity and distribution. Go to <https://grid-books.submittable.com/submit> for rules/guidelines and to submit your entry.

Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity: (publishedtodeath.blogspot.com) A great blog to find contests for poetry and other genres especially if you are hot to be published!

National Federation of State Poetry Societies' website is a great place to learn about other state poetry societies, contests, and conferences. Here's the link to learn more: www.nfspd.com Read rules and guidelines carefully, some contests are members only!

Phoenix Oasis Press: Offers low and no-cost programs and service to help Arizona writers: Generate, Improve, Actionable, Network! They have in-person and virtual events, too! For more information and to connect with them, visit <https://www.phoenixoasispress.com>

Autumn Voices out of the UK has competitions and accepts poetry and other writing from older writers. To read more about this interesting opportunity and to read some of the pieces of older, talented writers, visit their website: <https://autumnvoices.co.uk/>

Submishmash Weekly a newsletter with humor, contests for writers of all genres, art opportunities and interesting reads. A weekly human-curated newsletter bringing news and opportunities in publishing and other creative industries to artists, filmmakers, and writers. To sign up, go to: <https://submittable.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=29faa4e2bc171e46123a4867e&id=3cc7ac8d8a>

A Room of Her Own Foundation is the sponsor of some interesting writing projects and contests. To learn more, go here: <http://aroomofherownfoundation.org/about/>

Beatlick Press for writers who have something to say and where poets and poetry hit the road!
<http://www.beatlick.com/>

“City of Literature” is a PBS program about the Iowa Writers Workshop and how it got started.
<https://www.iowapbs.org/shows/cityliterature/documentary/5260/city-literature>

UA Poetry Center has livestreamed & in person events through most of the year, except for summer breaks. Visit them on Facebook (20+) University of Arizona Poetry Center | Facebook for some interesting highlights, or their website to find out about current offerings: <http://poetry.arizona.edu/>

read poetry is an online community of poets that celebrate poetry from around the world. They highlight and feature new and not so new poets, hold events and blog about everything poetry. Currently based in Kansas City, MO, (and who knows where else they might go), they bring poetry to wherever they can. Visit their website and learn more: <https://www.readpoetry.com/>

Poetry Foundation has online workshops and discussions ALL month long! Visit their website to find to read more about what's on the menu: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/events> They also provide a place to listen to poetry read by the poet or an admirer, and there are interviews and conversations about poetry.
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/podcasts>

The Writer's Center is based in the DC Metro Area and holds workshops, readings, talks, and good conversation. To learn more and to register for any of their events, visit: <https://www.writer.org/>

"Poets On Poetry: 25 Quotes" - Memorable Quotes On The Art & Craft Of Poetry- A YouTube Video By Frank Iosue. A little something to watch and perhaps inspire!

Looking for an online workshop? Visit this website and see what is being offered, some of them are even free! <https://digitaldefynd.com/best-poetry-courses/> University courses from California to Pennsylvania are being offered for all levels of poets.

Poetry Prompts and other interesting things: <https://readingandwritingthroughlife.com>

The New Yorker Magazine has a podcast with poetry editor, Paul Muldoon. Featured are conversations with poets about their work, and poetry readings. <https://www.newyorker.com/podcast/poetry>

Phoenix Poetry Events Facebook Page...there are open mics, contests, slams, readings, and so much more!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/phoenixpoetryslam/>

Wilkes University has a really great, low residency MA/MFA creative writing program. You can talk to me about it, or look it up and see if it just might be a fit for you. They focus on producing WORKING writers and if that's something that interests you, take a look! <http://www.wilkes.edu> They are on the East Coast in Pennsylvania and this is my alma mater.

Phoenix College on East Thomas in Phoenix has a creative writing program and offers AA and AAFA degrees. If you are looking to refine your writing or to start writing, this might be the place. To learn more visit: <http://www.phoenixcollege.edu/>

Canyon Voices, the lit magazine published by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences-ASU is accepting submissions from undergraduates, graduates, faculty and the community to submit for the next publication. For more information and submission guidelines, visit <https://newcollege.asu.edu/canyonvoices>

Scottsdale Community College offers AA and AAFA degrees in creative writing. To learn more, visit <https://www.scottsdalecc.edu/degrees-certificates/culture-and-society/associate-arts-emphasis-english-creative-writing-8118-aa>

Paradise Valley Community College also has a creative writing program that offers AA and AAFA degrees. To learn more, visit <https://www.paradisevalley.edu/degrees-certificates/culture-and-society/associate-arts-emphasis-english-creative-writing-8118-aa>

Tupelo Press supports poets and poetry events. Writing conferences are coming up! Take a look at what they do here: <http://tupelopress.wordpress.com>

Words Dance Publishing has free stuff, poetry, art and they might even publish one of your poems. Check it out online.

Poetry Out Loud fosters the next gen poets and literati. For more information (teachers are you paying attention?), visit <http://www.azarts.gov/arts-learning/poetry-out-loud/>

Poets & Writers Magazine for great info about writing, interviews, contests, workshops and so very much more! <http://www.pw.org/magazine>

Remember to visit <https://www.newpages.com/independent-bookstores/arizona-bookstores> to find independent bookstores around Arizona. If you don't see your favorite bookstore listed, let them know! Support and buy locally.

Looking for more places to submit your poetry? Of course you are! Here's an interesting website from 2024: <https://www.everywritersresource.com/50-literary-magazines-accepting-poetry-submissions/> And another: <https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/poetry/submissions/> As always, always, always carefully read what the publication is requesting, then follow their rules! It's their party, er, uhm, publication and they get final say. You have a much better chance to see your poem published if you know what they are looking for, too, so read an issue or two if you can get it. Then submit, submit, submit!

David Whyte, poet/philosopher, has a number of inspiring options for anybody, not just writers. His poetry is an entry into a new way of thinking and being. If you are interested, visit his website: <https://davidwhyte.com/>

Visit POG: Poetry in Action! on Facebook, Tucson's premier presenter of avant & experimental poetry. Directed by Charles Alexander, POG is a collective of poets, literary critics, and other artist who offer public programming to promote active appreciation of avant-garde poetry and multi-disciplinary art.

A community college in your neck of the deserts (high and low) may offer creative writing courses or AA/AAFA degrees or certificates. Below are links to the many websites in Arizona:

Arizona Western

Central Arizona College

Cochise College

Coconino Community College Website

Eastern Arizona College

Maricopa Community Colleges

Mohave Community College

Northland Pioneer College

Pima Community College

Yavapai College

won't you celebrate with me

Lucille Clifton 1936 – 2010

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.

<https://poets.org/poet/lucille-clifton>