



AUGUST 2026

ASPS POETRY MISSIVE

Happy August, Poets!

The **ASPS 2026 Annual Contest** with **21** categories & \$\$ PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD is accepting poems -- **ENDS August 31st**. Judges are from all over the US – Christine Gelineau, Heather Gardner, Cathryn Cofell, David Norman, Stacy Boe Miller, Rebecca Meyers, Katie Brunero, Karla Hernandez Torrijos, James Hamilton, & Natalie Callum are just a few! Send your entries in NOW!! Flyer with all the details you need to submit your wonderful poems is attached to this email or visit <https://azpoetry.net/contests/#AnnualContest>

NEW! The next **ASPS Zoom poetry workshop** is Saturday, August 15th, 1pm with Liezel Graham – In Praise of the Hidden: an intuitive writing workshop. \$20 ASPS members, \$25 non-members. Register and learn more here: <https://azpoetry.net/a-upcoming-events/#Workshops>

The 38th Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering at Yavapai College in Prescott is August 6-8. Get tickets now because this is a big one. Poetry, stories, books, music and more to fill out the days.
<https://azcowboyapoets.org/>

UPDATE! Plans for the **ASPS 60th Annual Conference: Past, Present & Future of Poetry** at Mesa Community College on Dobson & Southern are going well! Open mic reading on Friday evening, 10/23. Laura Tohe will open the conference on Saturday, 10/24, followed by workshops and a panel discussion with Rosemarie Dombrowski, Paul Tunis and Penny Peyser. Another open mic reading the evening of 10/24, and a featured performance by Penny Peyser on Sunday afternoon, 10/26. Registration details are coming. AND volunteers are needed. Thanks to those who have already stepped up!

AND the National Federation of State Poetry Societies 2027 Convention will be held in Phoenix in July (I know, hot, but there is a pool at the hotel!)!!! We have already started organizing and planning. To make it a great success we will need your help!

Desert Nights Rising Stars Writers Conference on the ASU campus will be October 16 & 17. The theme this year is *Pushing the Envelope: Risk & Vulnerability*. Generative workshops for writers of all genres and fields will be offered. Get all the details and register here: <https://piper.asu.edu/conference>

A note about my sources....I search through Instagram, Facebook, my emails and more. BUT...**Let me know of any Arizona poetry event missed or changed**, 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! 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!

CChristy White

MA Creative Writing/Poetry

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



AUGUST



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

2026 Annual Contest – ENDS August 31 → 21 Categories! AMAZING JUDGES! Visit <https://azpoetry.net/contests/#AnnualContest> to learn more or download the flyer!

ZOOM: In Praise of the Hidden w/Liezel Graham, 1-3pm, \$20 members, \$25 non-members, Saturday, August 15. Liezel, poet & textile artist from Glasgow, Scotland, will guide participants to go beyond the initial words of poems to uncovering the deeper meanings. To learn more about the workshop and to register NOW, visit <https://azpoetry.net/a-upcoming-events/#Workshops>

ASPS Member ONLY Contest for 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)

Next contest: SEPTEMBER – Lost Mail – DEADLINE 8.31 EMAIL OR MAILED BY 8.31

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

NFSPS Convention & BlackBerry Peach Slam followup – Arizona poets made a great showing at the convention with Skyelyn Riggs-Davis winning the Underground Slam late Friday night. And Frankie Marchi came in 4th in the BBP Slam finals Saturday night, and Lydia Gates won 2nd place in the Form Slam Contest! Lydia also won 1st place in the BBP Spoken & Written Word Poetry Competition. Congratulations to all the Arizona poets who competed!

NEW! NFSPS Strophes for August can be read online at <https://nfsp.net/current-strophes>. In this issue the new NFSPS president, Steve Concert from Pennsylvania, introduces himself with a brief review of the convention. News from a number of the state poetry societies makes for interesting reading. Some sad news, Massachusetts Poetry Society will be holding its final meeting and final contest this month. Some better news, the 2027 Contest Brochure is almost complete and will be published on the website in September.

NEW! Coming September 12 – Meet the Authors – Stephen Chaffee (ASPS poet) & Linda Strader @ REI Tucson, 160 W. Wetmore Rd., 4pm. Stephen will be sharing from his poetry book, *Wild Ruminations*, and Linda will be sharing from her memoir, *Summers of Fire*. Come chat with them and purchase a couple of books!

Primary Poets UPDATE: The second group of The Primary Poets has been postponed until Fall 2026 due to a publishing delay. To learn more about Primary Poets, email ASPS member Karen Morales at thekrayonkids@gmail.com

Phoenix: PHX Poetry Slam by B-Jam @ Meraki Kava Bar, NEW LOCATION COMING – visit website for update! doors 6:30p, show 7:30p, Friday, August 21. Focus is on poetry, connection, elevated energy, expression, culture. Special guest music & live original art! Sign up by email phxpoetryslam@gmail.com. For location visit - <https://merakiaztogo.com/>

Every 3rd Friday of the month!

Green Valley: Writing Group for Poets, Tuesday, ON HAITUS FOR THE SUMMER, 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 – RESUMES IN THE FALL

Tempe: East Valley Poets @ Pyle Center, 9:30 am - 12 pm, August 15. 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, August 22. Share a poem you want critiqued so it can be a better poem! To receive details, send an email elainepowers.tps@azpoetry.net A branch of ASPS. 4th Saturday of the month event. They do have an additional Thursday evening depending on number of participants.

Scottsdale: Mustang Poets @ Mustang Library, 10101 N. 90th St., 1 - 3 pm, August 22. 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, ON HIATUS ... SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER! Visit <https://azpoetry.net> for more information.

UPDATE! ASPS 60th Annual Conference: *Past, Present & Future of Poetry* at Mesa Community College on Dobson & Southern! Open mic on Friday evening, 10/23. Laura Tohe will open the conference on Saturday, 10/24, followed by workshops and a panel discussion with Rosemarie Dombrowski, Paul Tunis and Penny Peyser. Another open mic reading in the evening, and a featured performance by Penny Peyser on Sunday afternoon, 10/26. Registration details coming.

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 christywhite.smp@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 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.

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.

WEEKLY (please let me know if there are changes)

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.

Flagstaff: Flagstaff Poetry Slam Writers' Circle @ Flagslam Community Member Homes 5:30-7p Bring writing you would like to workshop or create something new! This will be *every other Wednesday*. Contact to request location: <https://www.facebook.com/flagslam>

Phoenix: Meraki Moments Open Mic @ 1601 E. Bell Rd. #A3 (MOVING SOON, visit website for update: <https://merakiazto.com/>), 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 Dwntwn, 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>

Tempe: Open Mic Night @ The Lighthouse Kava Lounge, 1250 E. Apache Blvd., #105, 8p. Poets, musicians, comedians, storytellers and more are welcome! You got it, flaunt it!

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/>

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.

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>

There's more – by DATE

Sunday, August 2:

Mesa: Open Mic Poetry @ Jarrod's Coffee, Tea & Gallery, 109 W. University Dr., Noon to 2pm. Hosted by Her Awesomeness - Margot Berlin and/or His Awesomeness – Trevor Ruth! Come read and listen to some poetry, sip some coffee, enjoy a little nosh every first & third Sunday of the month! Jarrod's Coffee, Tea and Gallery | Local Events Mesa – Events (jarrodscoffeeteaandgallery.com)

Tucson: Poetry Center Summer Social w/ Jacinda Russell & Hannah Larrabee on Art, Poetry, and Language Erratics @ Hotel Congress, Century Room, 311 E. Congress St., 4-6pm. Join conceptual artist Jacinda Russell and poet Hannah Larrabee as they discuss their upcoming collaboration and exhibition.
<https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/offsite-summer-social-jacinda-russell-and-hannah-larrabee-art-poetry-and-language-erratics>

Monday, August 3:

Phoenix: BodySlam Poetry Pride Night @ Phoenix Quaker House, 1702 E. Glendale Ave., \$, doors 7p, show 7:30p. A night of poetic showdowns Phoenix vs Flagstaff SHOWDOWN! Winner takes home the belt! Monthly event hosted by Skyelyn Riggs-Davis, 2026 AZ BlackBerry Peach Winner.

Tuesday, August 4:

Flagstaff: Poet Brews @ Flagstaff Brewing Company, 16 Historic Rte 66, 7p. An open mic for all poets!

NEW! Cottonwood: Lost Verse: A Salon @ The Eureka Room After Dark, 1012 N. Main St., 6-8p. Just poetry, 21+, an open mic! A 1st Tuesday event.

Green Valley: Writing Group for Poets, 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 event **ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER!**

Phoenix: Poetry Open Mic @ Meraki Kava Bar, 1601 E. Bell Rd. #A3, 8-10pm. With host Jessica Swarner. Poets, singers, hip-hop...all are welcome! NOW MONTHLY, 1st Tuesday of the month. Meraki is moving soon, but just around the corner so I've been told!

Wednesday, August 5:

Superior: Regenerating Sonora's Open Mic @ Leo's Community Development Center, 52 N. Pinal Ave., 5:30p sign up, 6p show. This open mic will be every month on the first Wednesday for poets, singers, storytellers, and more. Monthly features! Food & libations will be available.

Phoenix: Ghost Poetry Show Slam! @ The Rebel Lounge, 2303 E. Indian School Rd., Doors 7p, Show 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>

Thursday, August 6:

Chandler: Poetry Open Mic @ Sozo Coffee House, 1982 N. Alma School Rd., 6:30-8:30p. All poets and all poetry all evening!

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, August 7:

Tempe: First Friday Poetry Open Mic w/Valerie Bandura @ Changing Hands-Tempe, 6428 S. McClintock Dr., 6p. Valerie Bandura is the feature! Attendees are invited to read up to **ONE** page (double spaced) of poetry. <https://changinghands.com/event/2026-08-07/first-friday-poetry-valerie-bandura>

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.

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: First Friday Open Mic Poetry Night @ House of Naajee Rasta Gear & Accessories, 4802 N. 7th Ave., 7pm. Reading to be held outside. Bring poetry that won't melt, but is real cool!
https://www.facebook.com/events/1683984896054908/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_search%22%7D%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D

Saturday, August 8:

Miami: 2nd Saturday Open Mic w/feature @ 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.

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.

Chandler: SoZo Open Mic @ SoZo Coffeehouse, 1982 N. Alma School Rd., 6-10pm. Open mic for poets, musicians, comedy... family friendly! 6-7 Love Line, 7-9 Open mic. A 2nd Saturday event.

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!

Sunday, August 9:

Tucson: Writing Workshop & Cypher @ The Coalition, 311 E. 7th St., 4-6p. Presented by Tucson's Poet Laureate: Logan Phillips - Making More Than Sense: Truth Beyond Narrative. Hosted by Tucson Slam Poetry. For more information: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DbYwo BvoIf/>

Tuesday, August 11:

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

Wednesday, August 12:

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>

Phoenix: Ghost Poetry Show Slam! @ The Rebel Lounge, 2303 E. Indian School Rd., Doors 7p, Show 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>

Thursday, August 13:

Tucson: Sealey Challenge Poetry Book Swap @ Bar Crisol, 196 W. Simpson St., 6-8p. Sponsored by the UA Poetry Center, help celebrate the halfway point in the Sealey Challenge in an informal poetry book swap. For more information: <https://poetry.arizona.edu/calendar/offsite-sealey-challenge-poetry-book-swap>

Zoom: Desert Owl Book Club, Sponsored by Virginia C. Piper Center for Creative Writing, 7p. Discussing the books *The Ghost Women* by Jennifer Murphy - A mysterious art academy in the woods, a deck of ancient tarot cards, a centuries-old secret. To read more about the book, visit:

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/234943661-the-ghost-women>

To access the Zoom link: <https://piper.asu.edu/upcomingevents>

Glendale: Open Mic Night @ Zero Proof Lounge, 5150 W. Olive Ave., 8-10p. Hosted by Frequency450 – music, comedy, poetry, and more. One drink minimum!

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. **ON SUMMER HAITUS!**

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

Sierra Vista: Open Mic Night @ The Onyx Grounds, 4711 S. Highway 92, 5-8p. A monthly community event for all the local talent – poets, singers, short stories and more hosted by Beth Orozco from Cochise College. 2nd Thursday night??

Phoenix: Poetry Open Mic @ Turquoise Wine Bar Roosevelt, 504 E. Roosevelt St., 6-8p. Hosted by Jessica Swarner, no early sign ups, beginners encouraged! Wine, poetry, and friends! What could be better!

Friday, August 14:

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.

Tucson: Poetry Open Mic Afternoon @ Ley Amber Collective, 4664 E. Speedway Blvd., 3-5p. Poetry, short stories, and more are welcome to share original work. Come be supportive of Tucson creative writers or be supported in a celebration of words. For more info and to RSVP:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/977080165378697/977080172045363/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_search%22%7D\]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/977080165378697/977080172045363/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_search%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D) A 2nd Friday of the month event

Saturday, August 15:

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 is a hybrid in-person and zoom event, email evpoets@yahoo.com for Zoom instructions. A branch of ASPS, 3rd Saturday.

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 w/Brooke Sahni @ Peregrine Book Co., 219A N. Cortez St., back stage, 2pm. Join the poet as she reads from her forthcoming book, *Letters, Dreams* and other works. Open mic to follow. For more info, visit: <https://peregrinebookcompany.com/event/2026-08-15/open-mic-brooke-sahni>

Sunday, August 16:

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. Every 3rd Sunday.

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.

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>

Monday, August 17:

Tucson: Write N Tell Poetry Open Mic @ Club Congress, 311 E. Congress St., sign up 6:30p, show 7p. A recurring community poetry night with poetry, storytelling, performance & creative expression with host Lourdes Leiner. All are welcome!

Tuesday, August 18:

Phoenix: Ghost Poetry Show Slam! @ The Rebel Lounge, 2303 E. Indian School Rd., Doors 7p, Show 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>

Thursday, August 20:

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

Friday, August 21:

Phoenix: PHX Poetry by B-Jam @ Meraki Kava Bar, **NEW LOCATION Coming soon! Doors 6:30p, show 7:30p.** Focus is on poetry, connection, elevated energy, expression, culture. Special guest music & live original art! Poets sign up by email phxpoetryslam@gmail.com. For location – <https://merakiaztogo.com/> A 3rd Friday of the month event.

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!

Wednesday, August 26:

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! Phone: 623-349-6300 Every 4th Wednesday. Please check!

Flagstaff: SUN 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!

Saturday, August 22:

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.

Sierra Vista: Authors Day @ Boot Hill Books, 1502 E. Fry Blvd., 10a-2p. Meet authors and maybe buy a book! <https://boothillbooks.com/upcoming-events>

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.

Tucson: Tucson Poetry Society @ ZOOM, 10 am. Share a poem you want critiqued! To receive details, send an email to iginspired@gmail.com A branch of ASPS. 4th Saturday of the month event. They also have a critique session on the 4th Thursday, but email to confirm and join.

Tucson: Tucson Arts Poetry Series (TAPS) @ The Historic Y, 738 N. 5th Ave., Main Floor Conference Room, 3:30-5:30pm, donations accepted. **ON SUMMER HIATUS...SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!** TAPS is sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society. Visit <https://azpoetry.net> for more information.

Chandler: Open Mic @ Sozo Coffee House, 1982 N. Alma School Rd., sign up 5p, show 6-10p. Poetry, music, comedy, and more ... all are welcome!

Sunday, August 23:

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. To learn more and to follow on IG: @tucsonslampoetry To sign up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9X_kZqZnT7KpAOfFrUj_KAA_jOEAw-OqT_7ROPV-4vQb0ulw/viewform

Sierra Vista: Poetry Church @ Boot Hill Books, 1502 E. Fry Blvd., 3-5p. Bring your poems, your vision and your voice! For more information: [https://www.facebook.com/events/957793637317986/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_search%22%7D%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/957793637317986/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_search%22%7D%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D)

Tucson: Resonate – A Community Youth Gathering & Open Mic @ Catalyst Creative Collective, 4500 N. Oracle Rd. (Tucson Mall), Ste. 110, 6-8p. For students 13-18. Poetry, dance, music, visual art & spoken word to set the summer on fire! Sign up in advance here: <https://forms.gle/DAr7kAL25JPf6jUKA>

Wednesday, August 26:

Flagstaff: Open Mic Night @ 1899 Bar & Grill Patio, 307 W. Dupont Ave., 6:30-8:30p. Music, poetry, comedy...it's the beginning of the semester! For more info and to sign up: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DbdsA15xNB7/>

Thursday, August 27:

Cottonwood: Pendemonium Monthly Poetry Reading Series @ Queen B. Vinyl Café, 102 E. Pima St., 6-9p, \$5. Hear some great poetry, share some great poetry. **Taking August Off...see you in September!**

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, August 30:

Phoenix: Playing with Poetry – A Creative Practice @ Kaya Holistic, 6522 N. 16th St., 9-10:30a, \$30.65. A low pressure workshop designed to help you explore your inner muse. Facilitated by Heather Lynn. For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/playing-with-poetry-a-creative-practice-tickets-1995041458708?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Monday, August 31:

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.

There's more 

RESOURCES: CONTESTS & JOURNALS, WORKSHOPS, CRITIQUE GROUPS, PODCASTS, BLOGS
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NEW! **Writing It Real in the Desert**, January 15-17, 2027, in Tucson at Lodge on the Desert with Meg Files, Sheila Bender, & Jack Heffron - \$550 (early birds before Sept. 1 - \$500). Email megfiles@earthlink.net for more information and to register.

NEW! **Tupelo Press 2026 Summer Open Reading Period closes August 31!** This is not a contest, it is a selection of manuscripts the editors love and want to publish. The reading fee is \$30. For more information, visit tupelopress.org/submit

NEW! **Two Sylvia's Press Online Poetry Retreat, August 3-30, or October 5-November 1** (material for each retreat is the same). Space is limited! Cost \$279. For more information and to register, visit https://twosylviaspress.com/online-poetry-retreat.html?utm_medium=paid&utm_source=fb&utm_id=120250180494890021&utm_content=120250180494920021&utm_term=120250180494930021&utm_campaign=120250180494890021&fbclid=IwY2xjawTYw3NwZG9mBWV4dG4DYWVtATAAYWRpZAGrNu2dfKIFc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4QDIwMDg5MgABHn4MmoFFWroUR7B2leaw99nVbcDiUyfgOgi-F221rdtv3ohrHn8jsDmR9-a_aem_HQn3Wkb6xD8MU-lo88d0Ag

NEW! **Writory Monthly Poetry Contest:** Open to poets worldwide, any language, any theme, no word limit.
Deadline: the 25th of every month (a new contest opens the 1st, so it is always open)
Entry: US\$5 per poem (\$8 for two, \$15 for five)
Prize: US\$12 cash plus free entry to the next month, and a participation certificate for every entrant

Results: the 30th, with each poem's judge score visible to the poet

Link: <https://writoryofficial.com>

Writory is listed on **Duotrope**, **Christopher Fielden's** competitions list, **Poetry Ireland** and **Writing Corner**

Palette Poetry To learn more and to submit up to 10 pages of poetry, visit

https://www.palettepoetry.com/the-2026-nature-poetry-prize/?fbclid=IwY2xjawROO6RleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETeZS2x0emFtNjE1WmNmNnVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHsiA-33Q7_yE6LgW1JvydRZIJfFvVO17T-2gHnFmU2JoduvgnLJhSkWNYHJ0_aem-zuaXtV3le6WfBW2AQa0Xw

Red Hen Press – Current Open for Submissions for Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award through 10.31.2026. An indie non-profit publisher out of LA, accepts submissions year-round.

<https://redhen.org/>

Gen Society, an emerging small press focuses on poetry and visual art. They sponsor a Quarterly Poet Residency & opportunity for poets to submit work. The interdisciplinary aspect of the project pairs poetry with contemporary artwork. To learn more or submit: <https://gensociety.com/submissions/>
Overview: <https://gensociety.com/about/>

PopTab Press is a small press that has begun to publish poetry BOOKS! 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>

Anthology is an Arizona non-profit organization that supports the writing arts. They have published poetry, fiction, non-fiction, fantasy and more. To learn more about them, visit <https://www.anthology.org/>

Chax YouTube channel: Includes recent readings as well as many previous readings, and podcasts!
<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 Poetry Prize is always looking for submissions. ISSUE 14 IS UP!
<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 accepts poetry, nonfiction and short story. **Submissions re-open in August.** 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.

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/>

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/>

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/>

Sequestum Lit Mag: Visit them at <https://www.sequestum.org/about> and join the mailing list for 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. <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.nfsps.com Read rules and guidelines carefully, some contests are members only. Their annual contest is coming up!

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 artists 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:

**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**

Haiku Nights

moon lantern blushes
behind small cloud trimmings
Mars remains hidden

day's heat upsurges
thin clouds veil full moon
morning will be hot

diamond bright stars sing
soprano chorus to Earth
she sounds deep response

*CChristy White
(not in perfect 5-7-5)*