

Events

All events are open to the public and free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Sat 1

PoemCity Kick-Off Celebration!



1:30 pm | Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main Street

Join us for music by the Capitol Jazz Quartet, followed by the poetry of **Chard deNiord**, Vermont Poet Laureate, and teens from the Young Writers Project. Sponsored by PoemCity, PoemTown Randolph and Lost Nation Theater.

Sun 2

Poets Pulling Prints

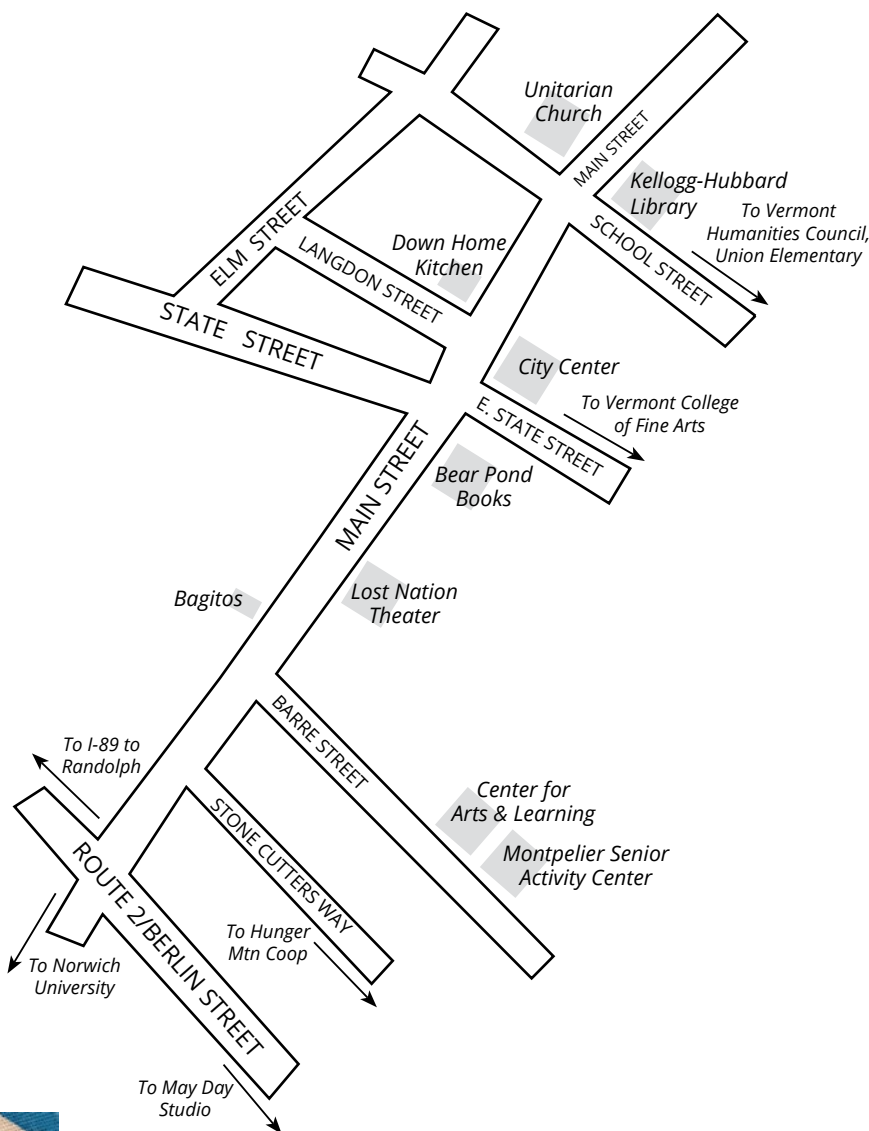
4-6 pm | May Day Studio, 190 River Street
Celebrating poetry aloud and in print! Come hear the fabulous **Cora Brooks** and **Elena Georgiou** read their verses, and stay to pull a print of poetry on one of May Day Studio's antique printing presses. The open-edition broadside is designed by Kelly McMahon and handset in metal type in advance. When you arrive, your broadside will be waiting for you: just turn the crank! The program is free; suggested donation of \$5 for the print.

Mon 3

Feeding the Soul: Poetry & Food

Supper begins at 6 pm, reading at 6:45 pm
Down Home Kitchen, 100 Main Street

Food for the soul, the mind, and the body! Enjoy a delicious light supper made with local ingredients while listening to local published poets **Mary Elder Jacobsen**, **Reuben Jackson**, **Darren Higgins** and **Julia Shipley**. Hearing these poets read their work will be a delicious treat. Supper includes homemade soup and bread, \$10 per person. Drinks and dessert are additional.



Tue 4

20th Annual Open Poetry Reading

7 pm | Bear Pond Books, 77 Main Street
Bear Pond Books hosts its 20th annual open poetry reading! Poets of all ages and ilk are welcome to come and read their original work. Five-minute time limit; sign-ups at the door. Readings will take place by lottery. Celebrate 20 years of our community coming together to read poems with a special cake and refreshments!

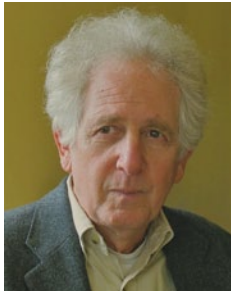
Wed 5

First Wednesdays: Forty Years of Poetry with Jay Parini

7 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Author and Middlebury professor **Jay Parini** reads from his recently published *New and Collected Poems, 1975–2015* and discusses why poetry matters in a world of prose. First Wednesdays is a Vermont Humanities Council program.

Thu 6

Writing Poems about People: A Generative Workshop



6:30–8 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Poet **Baron Wormser** will lead this workshop. Writing about someone's life in such a brief format as a poem presents a real challenge. We will look at several poems that accomplish this feat and use those poems as prompts to write our own poems. This workshop is open to anyone

interested in writing poems. Limit: 12 participants. Please register for this workshop by calling the library at 223-3338.

Fri 7

Celebrating the Poetry and Photography of George Lisi (1952–2014)

1:30 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Join us for a special poetry reading and slide presentation of photography. George Lisi's poetry celebrates beauty, depth and a connection with all of life, and his photography reflects his love and understanding of the nature kingdoms. George wrote and shared his poetry everyday. Bring your favorite Lisi poem to read. George's books will be available for sale.

Poetry of Popular Culture and Superheroes with George Longenecker

7–8 pm | T.W. Wood Gallery, Center for Arts & Learning, 46 Barre Street



How could Superman, the Edsel, Plastic Man, Eisenhower, cemeteries and the Fourth of July possibly make good poetry? Modern poetry draws from everyday imagery, real people and imaginary characters.

George Longenecker

will read poetry of superheroes and popular culture, including his own poems and those of others. Wine and cheese reception to follow. This venue is not accessible.

Sat 8

Nature Poems, Favorite Poems with Dede Cummings and Diana Whitney

2 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street



What poems have influenced and inspired you in your life? Join **Diana Whitney**, the poetry columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and author of the prizewinning poetry debut *Wanting It*, and **Dede Cummings**, publisher and editor at Green Writers Press, for a lively discussion of some of their favorite nature poetry. We'll read classics like Wordsworth, Yeats, and Frost, as well as contemporary poets like Jane Kenyon and Cleopatra Mathis, and then talk openly about why and how their voices speak to us. Bring a copy of your favorite poem if you wish.

Reading with Poets April Ossmann and Cynthia Huntington

6 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street



Join two professional poets for this reading and book signing. **April Ossmann** (pictured at left), author of *Event Boundaries* and *Anxious Music*, has published her poetry widely in journals and anthologies. Ossmann owns a poetry consulting business and is a faculty editor for the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Sierra Nevada College.

Cynthia Huntington's fifth book of poetry, *Terra Nova*, was published in January 2017 by the Crab Orchard Poetry Series, Southern Illinois University Press. Huntington's book, *Heavenly Bodies*, was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Award in Poetry. Presently a Guggenheim Fellow in Poetry, she teaches at VCFA in the MFA in Writing Program and at Dartmouth College, where she holds the Frederick Sessions Beebe Chair in Writing.

Mon 10

Los Lorcás Trio: Poetry in Concert

7 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
In the spirit of Federico Garcia Lorca—gifted musician, legendary poet and ebullient performer—poets **Partridge Boswell** and **Peter Money**, along with guitarist **Whit Van Meter**, fuse poetry and music in a dynamic interplay, blurring boundaries between spoken word and song while expanding audiences' experience of live poetry.

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Tue 11

Three Southern Vermont Poets: James Crews, Dede Cummings and Megan Buchanan

7 pm | Bear Pond Books, 77 Main Street



Join us for a poetry reading with three southern Vermont poets who will read from new work. Each poet has a new collection of poetry being published in 2017. **James Crews'** *Telling My Father* (Southeast Missouri State Univ Press, October 2017) is a collection of poetry that

interrogates the personal grief of losing his father to a prolonged illness and losing a lover at nearly the same time. **Dede Cummings'** *To Look Out From* (Homebound Pubs, April 2017) has been described as "breathrakingly vivid; deeply felt; pastoral... New England poems that transcend New England." **Megan Buchanan's** *Clothesline Religion* (Green Writers Press, April 2017) chronicles 20 years of adventures in the life of an artist as young single mother.

Wed 12

Vermont Youth Theater, Open Rehearsal (Goblin Academy, ages 5–8)

4–5:30 pm | Union Elementary Theater, 1 Park Avenue

Student actors are rehearsing a musical all-verse production of *The Princess and the Goblin*, based on the children's classic by George MacDonald. VYT's version features original verse, songs, handmade costumes and a central Vermont cast of 45 from various towns and schools.

A Walk Across Spain: A Slide Talk by Susan Abbott

7 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street

Join artist **Susan Abbott** for a slide talk about her 2016 walk on the historic Camino Frances. Susan hiked alone for two months across the top of Spain, starting in the French Pyrenees and ending over 500 miles later at Finisterre on the Atlantic coast of Spain. Susan will share stories and photographs of her solo hike and her visual art and poetry inspired by her trek. She'll also

tell us about the history and modern experience of this historic pilgrimage route, and explain the nuts and bolts of what she carried and how she prepared.

Thu 13

Poetry as You Like it

1 pm | Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 58 Barre Street

To celebrate the poetry of Montpelier Senior Activity Center's (MSAC) poets during National Poetry month, we will hang a wall display of poems during April, and offer a poetry reading at MSAC. The display and reading are named after the MSAC poetry class: Poetry as You Like it.

Shake Your Windows and Rattle Your Walls: The Protest Poetry of Bob Dylan

7 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street

Bob Dylan's 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature was somewhat controversial. In this workshop, **Amy Herrick** will discuss some of his protest songs, analyze his literary style, and look at some of the arguments for and against his status as Nobel Laureate. And, of course, we'll listen to a couple of his songs, since no day is really complete without a little Bob in it. Currently a school librarian, Amy Herrick taught high school English for many years, during which she used any excuse to use Dylan's poetry to enrich her curriculum.

Fri 14

Adventures in Poetry with Rick Agran from WDGR

noon–2 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street

Come read your poetry and have it recorded by **Rick Agran** for his radio show *Bon Mot*, a show of poetry, the spoken word, and all things word-inspired. If there is time there may also be a poetry writing session. Drop in.

Vermont Youth Theater, Open Rehearsals (Goblin Underworld, ages 9–13)

4–6 pm | Union Elementary Theater, 1 Park Avenue

Student actors are rehearsing a musical all-verse production of *The Princess and the Goblin*, based on the children's classic by George MacDonald. VYT's version features original verse, songs, handmade costumes and a central Vermont cast of 45 from various towns and schools.

Anything Goes Poetry Slam with Geof Hewitt

7 pm | Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main Street

An Anything Goes! slam features a five-minute time limit for writers and performers, with music encouraged, and covers okay if identified as such; even group performances are eligible for the fabulous prizes! Grand prize: Free admission for two to LNT's *Judevine*! Yes,



this is anything goes, though it's an all-ages event, so discretion is required. Can the single voice of an impassioned poet outscore a harp and guitar duet? Sponsored by PoemCity and Lost Nation Theater.

Sat 15

Irish Piper & A Poet



2 pm | Bagitos Bagel & Burrito Cafe, 28 Main Street
Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, enjoy award-winning poet **Angela Patten's** poetry together with the Irish Traditional Session hosted by **Sarah Blair, Hilari Farrington, Benedict Koehler, Rob Ryan** and regulars at Bagitos' Irish Saturdays! Angela Patten, author of

three poetry collections and a prose memoir, lives in Burlington where she teaches at the University of Vermont. This venue is not accessible.

Sun 16

Easter Eggs

Hunt for colorful Easter Eggs around town with a poetic surprise inside.

Tue 18

Reading and Discussion of *Brown Girl Dreaming: For Parents and Kids*

6 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Read *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson and come discuss the book with librarian **Nicole Westbom**. This beautiful memoir of the author's childhood is written in verse. It tells the story of a young person finding her voice, while examining the strength of family bonds. The library has many copies of this VT Reads book for you to check out. VT Reads is a Vermont Humanities Council program.

Wed 19

Carol Johnson Collins Reads (Reading/Writing/Sharing)



2 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Carol will read some of her own favorite poems. We'll throw in some music, just for fun, that will spark thoughts of your own. You'll be writing after Carol reads. Before the session ends, you'll share what you have written.

Thu 20

Introduction to Poetry Slams for Kids

2-5 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Ever wonder what a Poetry Slam is? Join KHL librarian **Nicole Westbom** to learn about slams and write your own slam poem! Then sign up for the Poetry Slam at the Center for Arts and Learning on April 29 at 5 pm. Drop in anytime.

You Come Too: The Poetry of Robert Frost with Peter Gilbert



5:30 pm | Vermont Humanities Council, 11 Loomis Street
Join **Peter Gilbert**, Vermont Humanities Council executive director and executor of the estate of Robert Frost, in reading and discussing three of Frost's most beloved and well-known — but not necessarily well-understood — poems, each related to spring in northern New

England: "Two Tramps in Mud-Time," "Nothing Gold Can Stay," and "Mending Wall." Light refreshments will be served.

Sat 22

Earth Day: Kids & Poetry

10 am-4 pm | Hunger Mountain Coop Earth Day Celebration, 623 Stone Cutters Way
Join Kellogg-Hubbard librarian **Nicole Westbom** to write poems, listen to great stories, and take part in other hands-on activities in the kids' tent. Write poems about nature!

The MaUPsh: Seasonal Variations



5-7 pm | Hunger Mountain Coop Earth Day Celebration, 623 Stone Cutters Way
This MaUPsh combines the music and lyrics of Calais singer/songwriter **Bob Hannan** with the poetry of his neighbor **Geof Hewitt**, Vermont's Reigning Poetry Slam Champion.

Capital City Concerts Presents: Poem Music

7:30 pm | Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main Street
This concert will mark the world premiere of a song cycle by **Evan Premo** set to poems by the beloved Vermont poet **David Budbill**, who died in 2016. Tickets are \$15 to \$25. capitalcityconcerts.org

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Mon 24

The Husbandry of Poetry with Julia Shipley

7 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
A rumination and discussion of some best practices for the care and feeding of poetry. Come with questions, qualms, curiosity. Leave with inspiration, tools and resources for making verse a vital, viable part of your crazy, over-full life.

Wed 26

Painting With Words with Reuben Jackson



6 pm | Montpelier Bridge office, Stone Science Building, 62 Ridge Street

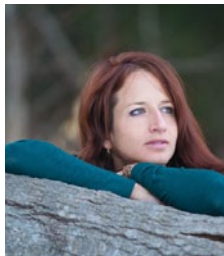
This workshop will utilize a few short but wildly disparate instrumentals as vehicles for self expression. My theory is that there are stories in these compositions — stories you, the writer — can draw a bead on and give voice to. The joy is

in the variations on a theme (themes) we will share with the group. Come on and join the band! Limit 15 participants. Pre-registration required by emailing carla@montpelierbridge.com.

Thu 27

Vermont Poets at VCFA

7 pm | VCFA, 36 College Street (room to be determined)



Come listen to some of Vermont's finest voices as they read their poetry. Spend the evening with **Didi Jackson, Major Jackson, Kerrin McCadden, Elizabeth Powell, Alison Prine, Karla Van Vliet** and **Diana Whitney** as they share their words, thoughts and emotions.

Fri 28

Writing About the Natural World with George Longenecker

1-4 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Vermont is rich with natural beauty. Learn how to turn environmental images into meaningful poems that accurately reflect the natural world. Each participant will leave the workshop with the first draft of a poem. Limit: 12 participants. Pre-registration required by calling the library at 223-3338.

Sat 29

Poetry Reading: 'The Catamount' by Sarah Van Arsdale

10:30 am | Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 135 Main Street
Come join Sarah as she reads her narrative poem about the Vermont catamount. This reading is perfect for children 8 and older and adults. You'll enjoy her watercolor illustrations. Copies of "The Catamount" was recently published by Nomadic Press and will be available for sale and signing.

Closing Reception of the ARA Art Exhibit

1-3 pm | City Center, 89 Main Street



Members of the Art Resource Association teamed up with local poets to present visual art and poetry. Come enjoy these creative expressions and speak with the artists and poets who collaborated to produce this exhibit.



Poetry Slam

5 pm | River Rock School, North Group classroom, Center for Arts & Learning, 46 Barre Street
Join Slam Master Geof Hewitt at the Center for Arts and Learning for an evening of poetry performed by participants age 8 and above, including adults. This is a traditional slam with original writing only and a three-minute time limit. Participants should be prepared with two pieces of writing. Look forward to a spirited, fun competition.