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March 2023

Poet Laureati Mini-Conference Event Schedule

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg

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Recommended Citation

Mirriam-Goldberg, Caryn, "Poet Laureati Mini-Conference Event Schedule" (2023). *Poet Laureate Papers*. 23.

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SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 13:

- Meet in museum lobby by 1:30 p.m. to get familiar with things, settle in, and if you want, help us set up, Spencer Museum is on Univ. of Kansas campus, 1301 Mississippi St.
- Museum tours with a poet laureate sharing his/her responses at the Spencer Museum of Art — 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Silent auction: Open from 2 – 6 p.m. at the Spencer Museum to bid on having dinner on 3/14 with a poet laureate of your choice.
- Poet Laureati Reading Reading #1: auditorium of the Spencer Museum featuring up to 10 poets laureate and Ted Kooser, 4-5:30 p.m.: Ted Kooser, Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Marilyn L. Taylor, Walter Bargaen, Denise Low, Jonathan Holden, Mary Swander, Peggy Shumaker, David Romvedt, Marjory Wentworth: Plan on reading 9 minutes each: DO NOT GO OVER TIME, PLEASE!
- Dinner JUST for us poets, but your spouses are welcome (although they should plan on paying for their food -- yours will be covered, thanks to Free State Brewery): 7 p.m., Free State Brewery, 636 Mass. St.
- Home stays or Eldridge Hotel or wherever you're saying. People staying in homes will be transported by hosts, but only from home to poet laureati events.

Monday, March 14:

- Breakfast: People staying at homes will have breakfast there.....or go to town earlier to grab some breakfast.
- Registration, check-in: 8-8:30 a.m.: PLEASE be here by 8 a.m. -- 940 New Hampshire (one block east of Mass..., and two blocks south and one block east of Eldridge Hotel).
- Session #1: 8:30-10 a.m. (three concurrent sessions)
 - ***The Land We Love: Poetry and Sense of Place:*** Mary Crow, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Lisa Starr, Jonathan Holden, Walter Butts, Sue Brennan Walker, Norbert Krapf, Karla Morton: Each panelist should plan on giving introductory remarks for up to 5 minutes each, and then having overall discussion. *Framing questions: How can and does poetry bring us into relationship with place? How does poetry help us see the living earth and sky? What suggestions do you have for people as they read and write poetry to better connect with place? Why does connecting with place matter?*
 - ***I'm in Poetry for the Big Money: Making a Living and Being a Poet:*** Joyce Brinkman, David Romtvedt, Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Walter Bargaen, Marjory Wentworth. Each panelist should plan on giving introductory remarks for up to 5 minutes each, and then having overall discussion. *Framing questions: How do you make a living as a poet, and*

how has it evolved over the years? How do you keep writing, making whatever your livelihood is stay balanced enough with the time and space needed to write? How do you see the myth/reality of the starving artist/poet in relation to your experience and vision? What story should we be telling with our lives about how to be a poet and make a living?

- ***The Word Awakened: Poetry and Spirituality***: Walter Butts, Denise Low, Marilyn L. Taylor, Peggy Shumaker, Bruce Dethlefsen. Each panelist should plan on giving introductory remarks for up to 5 minutes each, and then having overall discussion. *Framing questions: How does and could writing and reading poetry serve as a spiritual practice? What does "spiritual practice" mean to you in relationship to poetry?*
- Break 10-10:15 a.m.
- Session #2: 10:15-11:45 a.m. (three concurrent sessions)
 - ***Poetic Medicine: The Healing Potential of Poetry***: Mary Swander, Lisa Starr, David Allen Evans, Marjory Wentworth, Peggy Shumaker, Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Karla Morton. Each panelist should plan on giving introductory remarks for up to 5 minutes each, and then having overall discussion. *Framing questions: What can the relationship of poetry be to healing and health? How have you experienced the healing potential of poetry through your own writing and through reading poems by others?*
 - ***Publishing Amazements, Insights, Horror Stories and Miracles: A Panel on Getting Our Poetry Out There***: Denise Low, David Romtvedt, Norbert Krapf, Sue Brannan Walker. Each panelist should plan on giving introductory remarks for up to 5 minutes each, and then having overall discussion. *Framing questions: Beyond going to bookstores and libraries to read up on directories of little magazines, how can a poet first get his/her poetry published? Also, how did you both get your poetry published in magazines and journals, and get collections of poems out there? Given the changes in the publishing industry/usual and unusual collapse of publishing as we thought it was, what do you suggest for writers ready to publish? What should people avoid, and gravitate toward?*
 - ***How We Write: A Discussion on the Process of Poetry***: Walter Bargaen, Joyce Brinkman, Mary Crow, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Marilyn Taylor, Jonathan Holden, Water Butts, Bruce Dethlefsen. Each panelist should plan on giving introductory remarks for up to 5 minutes each, and then having overall discussion. *Framing questions: How do you write poetry? Is it like composing music, feeling and rhythm and filling in the words, painting a picture, taking snapshots, following a trail, investigating a mystery or whatever other image springs to mind? How do you keep the process in motion?*
- Lunch on your own: 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Panel 1:30-3 p.m.: All the poets on poems written and read that changed our lives: Please plan on reading and saying a few words about one poem you wrote and/or love. Each poet has only 4 minutes each....so be brief. *Framing question: What is one poem that changed you in an important way when you discovered it (as a writer or reader)?*
- Reception and celebration of silent auction: 3-4 p.m. (silent auction results announced at 3:30 p.m.), and book release party for *An Endless Skyway: Poetry from the State Poets Laureate of America*.

- Poets Laureate Reading #2: 4-5:30 p.m. Reading of ten poets laureate: Mary Crow, David Evans, Norbert Krapf, Sue Walker, Lisa Starr, Karla Morton, Bruce Dethlefsen, Walter Butts, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Joyce Brinkman. PLEASE DO NOT GO OVER TIME!
- Silent auction Dinner Out Loud: winners of the auction go to dinner (bidding include meal at one of many downtown restaurants): 6-8 p.m.
- 8-10 p.m., Little party for just us chickens: the poets laureate and any spouses/friends/etc. in the lobby of the Eldridge Hotel. Just order something at the bar, and come join us. The lobby is full of comfortable couches and chairs, and hardly anyone uses it, so why not us?

Tuesday, March 15

- 9:30 a.m., breakfast at the Eldridge Hotel's restaurant, Ten (you pay for yourself)

SCHEDULE NOTES

Silent Auction: We're having a silent bid on meals at local restaurants with all of you -- the bidding includes your company and a meal (provided through donations from restaurants), and you simply go with who wins you and eat. If you bring your spouse/hot tamale, please pay for him/her....if your bidder brings someone, they're responsible for paying for extra people. This is a casual dinner. We will have sheets out where people can write down bids, seeing what the last bid is, and we'll have a minimal bid. When we announce the winners, we will not call out who drew what dollars and so on because that's like first grade who's on the team and who's last. We will just say, "So-and-so gets to dine at X with so-and-so" and "the whole auction raise \$this much." Hopefully, everyone will be bid on....and if, by wild chance, not, you get a free dinner somewhere. *Note: You need not spend hours with whoever takes you to dinner -- just order, eat and get out! Besides, you have a party attend. If you need transportation to the party, please check in with Denise, who can help coordinate you with someone else going, or make plans for another poet (with wheels) to take you.*

Spencer Museum Tours With a Poet Laureate (e.g. You!): The museum tours are simply a time when you wander around the museum, looking at whatever catches your eye with a group of people, talking casually. YOU MAY ELECT TO PAUSE HERE AND THERE AND READ A POEM OF YOURS (OR TWO OR THREE) that has some vague connection to what you're seeing or thinking, so tour with your poetry in hand. You can see the Spencer's info. at <http://www.spencerart.ku.edu/>, and you might even feel inspired to write a poem that fits something in the collection. On the other hand, it's also just fine to simply walk around and just hang out with people without reading your work or giving any pronouncements on any of the art (although you could share what you like). Here's a link to the Spencer's collections: <http://www.spencerart.ku.edu/collection/>

Panels: At each panel, you will be introduced, and then each person on the panel will speak for up to 5 minutes on the topic, and then the moderator will open it up for questions from the audience and from the poets for each other. The big panel in the afternoon with ALL of us means we only get 4 minutes each to say something about a poem we wrote -- if it's a long poem, just read a portion of it. See the

framing question for ideas.

Readings: At the reading, you have up to 9 minutes each. *We will ring a bell and politely interrupt you if you go over, and we will have someone signaling you when you just have one minute left.* Please be polite and in balance with all the other readers by sticking to the time limit. Also remember that reading for 9 minutes, for many of us, means only about 4-5 poems (if they're a page or less).

THE IMPORTANT STUFF: RESTAURANTS & COFFEE SHOPS

(really just Caryn & Denise's favorites)

La Prima Tassa: 638 Mass. Really great coffee, lots of baked goods (mostly from The Merc, our large natural foods co-op).

Java Break: 17 E. 7th (1/2 block east of Mass. St. at 7th) Underground and kind of grubby but also very cool -- cereal bar with continual Betty Boop cartoons, paninis and baked goods, coffee, across the street from the Raven bookstore.

Ten: Restaurant in the Eldridge, about \$7-15 for lunch and more for dinner, kind of elegant, some things very good (mac and cheese, killer chocolate cake, good breakfast).

Signs of Life: 722 Mass., wonderful atmosphere for coffee shop, good snacks (including Polish sweet bread swirly stuff) and great gallery upstairs with comfy places to sit, replenish and write. Connected to Christian bookstore, but hey, this is where Caryn hangs out most of the time to work (bringing diversity to the evangelicals). Very friendly place.

The Wa: 740 Mass., Really good Japanese food, and great lunch specials.

Tellers: 746 Mass., Very tasty Italian food, good pizzas and pastas and sandwiches, and great atmosphere (old bank as you can guess from the name)

Esquina: 801 Mass., great tacos of all varieties made by award-winning chef, and some other things too.

La Parilla: 814 Mass., very incredible Latin American food, reasonable, a little loud. We recommend the fish tacos and the rice bowls but everything is great.

Zen Zero: 811 Mass., owned by La Parilla folks, great Asian food drawing from Tibet, Thailand, Japan, India, etc.

Global Cafe: 820 Mass., really incredible Cuban food, including wonderful pressed sandwiches, salads, soups, breakfasts.

Z's Divine Espresso: 10 E. 9th (1/2 block east of Mass., and very close to Lawrence Arts Center) Probably the best coffee in town, and also some tasty baked goods from Great Harvest Bakery.

Wheatfields: 904 Vermont (1 block west of Mass) Hailed as one of the 10 best bakeries for bread in the country, so don't miss it -- really great stuff, and they also have good breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

Milton's: 920 Mass. THE quintessential breakfast and lunch place in Lawrence, and usually, pretty crowded. Great breakfasts (most likely the best in town -- French Toast is highly recommended), and great atmosphere.

Mad Greek: 907 Mass., tasty, hearty and pretty darn good -- especially satisfying on a cold day.

Genovese: 941 Mass., also owned by the Zen Zero & La Parilla guys (but hey, they can take over Mass. St. as far as we're concerned) delicious northern Italian food and some great booths and views.

Aladdin's: 1021 Mass., fantastic Middle Eastern food, and nice big booths.

Pachamamas: 800 New Hampshire (one block east of Mass), very elegant and delicious gourmet food in lovely atmosphere, some good lunch specials but dinner can get pricey.

The Merc: 901 Iowa St. About 1.5 miles from downtown, but large selection of local, organic and natural foods, great coffee and splendid baked goods, large deli with many choices, sushi bar, three soups a day, salad bar, grab-and-go foods, etc.

IF YOU'RE HERE SATURDAY NIGHT:

- Music & Dance performance: The musical group "Ras Mandala" accompanied with classical Indian dance by Patrick Suzeau. Ras Mandala is a Lawrence-based music group that evokes ancient chants from India, devotional Bahjans, children's songs, and passionate Gazals, mostly set to Raag music that blends with western harmony. The group will present their unique compositions set to the vibrant movement and original choreography of KU Professor of Dance, Patrick Suzeau. Patrick Suzeau explores a synthesis of South Asian and western dance forms. Be Moved Studio (above Raven Bookstore, next to Liberty Hall Theater), 7 p.m.
- Catch a movie at Liberty Hall (art and contemporary films): <http://libertyhall.net>.
- Wander downtown, a lively and artistic place filled with galleries, shops, coffeehouses, restaurants, etc.
- Contact other poet laureates who might be arriving early to self-organize to do something: karlakmorton@msn.com, norbertkrapf@att.net, bpdethlefsen@gmail.com, Carolyn <pforonda@oasonline.com>, "David W. Romtvedt" <Romtvedt@uwo.edu>, plodders@yahoo.com, Dave Evans <evanspl@sio.midco.net>, Marjory Wentworth <Marjwpub@bellsouth.net>, Lisa Starr <lisastarr1@mindspring.com>, Walter Butts <walter.butts@goddard.edu>, jonhold@ksu.edu, Joyce Brinkman <joycebrinkman@yahoo.com>, Mary Crow <mary.crow@colostate.edu>, PEGGY SHUMAKER <peggyzoe@gmail.com>, Sue Brannan Walker <suebrannanwalker@me.com> Bruce Dethlefsen <bpdethlefsen@gmail.com>