

POETRY GSO

APRIL 2006

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FREE
Magazine

Photo: Donna DeCesare

Featuring
Luis Rodriguez



APRIL
2006



Poetry GSO 2006
Proud Sponsor



Coleman Barks
UNCG, April 2



Glenis Redmond
GTCC, April 6



Ana Istarú,
UNCG, April 11



Ekiwah Adler Beléndez
Central Library, April 29

POETRY GSO



Coleman Barks Presents “The Soul of Rumi” An Evening of Poetry & Music

April 2 • 8:00 pm • Elliot University Center Auditorium • UNCG

Rumi is the 13th century mystic poet whose timeless verse outsells any other poet, living or dead. Coleman Barks is widely regarded as the premier English translator of Rumi and is the author of the best-selling books, *The Essential Rumi* and *The Illuminated Rumi*.

Coleman Barks was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and was educated at the University of North Carolina and the University of California at Berkeley. He taught poetry and creative writing at the University of Georgia for thirty years. He is the author of numerous Rumi translations and has been a student of Sufism since 1977.

Barks, along with musicians Barry Phillips (cello) and Shelley Phillips (oboe, English horn and Celtic harp), will present a reading and performance that sets Rumi’s sometimes haunting words to music. Enjoy refreshments and meet the poet at a reception after the reading. Free to all, this is sure to be an unforgettable evening.

Free parking will be available in the Walker Avenue Parking Deck.

Glenis Redmond

GTCC - Jamestown Campus • April 6 • 10:30 am
GTCC - East Wendover Campus • April 6 • 12 noon

An Asheville poet and dynamic performance artist, Redmond tells stories with her poems. She teaches her audiences to claim their place in the world and respect their own stories. She is a full-time poet whose words have carried her to performance venues and classrooms all over the world. Her work has been included in numerous literary journals and publications. Glenis has also published a full-length work of poetry entitled *Backbone*.

GTCC is sponsoring a “One Campus, One Poem” project, using one of Redmond’s poems. Students will have an opportunity to discuss this poem with the poet and hear her read and perform other poems.

At the new East Wendover campus, she will headline a “Poetry Family Reunion,” featuring fun and food for all ages. The public is invited to both of the GTCC events.



Ekiwah Adler Beléndez

Central Library • April 29 • 3:30 pm

Ekiwah Adler Beléndez, born in Amatlan, Mexico, was called a child prodigy at age 12 when he published his first book of poetry, *Soy (I Am)*. Ekiwah, now aged 18, has since published two more volumes of poetry *Palabras Inagotables (Neverending Words)* and *Weaver*, each of which has been widely acclaimed by critics. Born with cerebral palsy, Ekiwah has said that “I cannot walk by myself, yet in my poems I not only walk, but give myself license to have eight legs and experience movement. Ekiwah’s story was recently featured on *Dateline* with Stone Phillips. Last year, poet Mary Oliver became so impressed with his work that she invited him to come to the United States for a shared reading with her. Don’t miss this chance to hear this unique and inspiring poet.

Luis Rodriguez Headlines Poetry GSO

The Carolina Theatre • 310 South Greene Street
Sunday, April 9, 2006 • 3:00 pm



Photo: Greg Bojorquez

Luis Rodriguez, for whom poetry provided an escape from years of violence and desperation, will bring his award-winning poems and his own story of redemption to highlight Poetry GSO and the Latino Poetry Project, co-sponsored by El Centro de Acción Latino.

Rodriguez spent years as an active gang member in East Los Angeles, and served time in prison. He credits poetry, education and the power of words with helping him break free and achieve success as a poet. He has published several poetry collections including *Poems Across the Pavement*, *The Concrete River*, and *Trochemoche*.

He also is an activist and author of the vivid, bestselling memoir, *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* His awards include a Poetry Center BookAward, a PEN/Josephine Miles Literary Award, and ForeWord magazine's Silver Book Award.

Rodriguez addresses complex yet vital issues such as race, class, gender and personal rage. He is a frequent speaker in juvenile detention facilities, migrant camps, schools and universities. Adults and youth are encouraged to attend this free public reading.

**FREE
EVENT**

Free Parking
Doors Open At 2 pm
For Music & Dance

"Art is about creativity, new breath, new birth.
The only empowering course that echoes, that ripples,
that takes on new shapes as it goes outward.

Not down — lateral to the rest of us.

It took me a while, but I learned to fall sideways."

Labeled one of the nation's 100 most censored books by the American Libraries Association, his work *Always Running* earned a Carl Sandburg Literary Award and was designated a *New York Times* Notable Book. Luis Rodriguez is also author of *Hearts and Hands: Creating Community in Violent Times* and a short story collection, *The Republic of East LA: Stories*. His first novel, *Music of the Mill*, was published in May 2005. Luis Rodriguez was one of 50 leaders worldwide selected as "Unsung Heroes of Compassion," presented by the Dalai Lama.

"Never sentimentalizing or sensationalizing his material, Rodriguez writes honestly and incisively from experience, knowledge and compassion." — *Publishers Weekly*

www.poetrygso.org



Latino Poetry Project

Join The Celebration & Learn About Latino Culture!!!

Poetry GSO is collaborating with El Centro de Acción Latino to sponsor the city's first Latino Poetry Project. Featured performers include Latino poets Luis Rodriguez, Ekiwah Adler-Beléndez and Ana Istarú. According to Poetry GSO project director Steve Sumerford, the Latino Poetry Project provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn more about Latino culture. Most of the poetry readings will be in English, although the library is also offering several bilingual readings, as well as readings in Spanish.



Ana Istarú is a poet, playwright and actor from Costa Rica. One of Central America's most highly regarded writers, Istarú first attracted international attention when her poetry collection *Fever Season* won the prestigious EDUCA prize for poetry in 1984. In addition, her acting talent has earned her the Costa Rican equivalent of an Oscar. As a playwright, two of her works, *Baby Boom in Paradise* and *Men in Marinade*, have won prizes in international competitions.

Istarú will present a bilingual poetry reading and dramatic presentation with a reception following. Actor and fiction writer Marisa Estelrich will read the English versions. Ana Istarú's visit is sponsored by the UNCG Center for Creative Writing in the Arts. **Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 pm in the Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House at UNCG.** Free parking is available in the Walker Avenue Parking Deck.



Ekiwah Adler Beléndez will be reading at Central Library, Saturday, April 29 at 3:30 pm. About writing poetry he says, "The act of writing poetry is a solitary act and there is a price I pay for being so immersed in that world. When teenagers go to my presentations they look up to me but don't really include me as one of them. On the other hand I'm very grateful when I hear others tell me that one of my poems touched them deeply or had a transformational influence. At the same time I have extraordinarily deep relationships/friendships with adults with whom we share not only literature, but also life – and I met most of them through my poetry. In any case, the whole process that takes place before and while I write a poem is still a mystery to me. When I read a poem I like and it has an impact on me, I feel its author is inviting me to travel through his words, his images and his silences. I identify with his ideas and establish with them an intimate relationship."



Self-Portrait by Ekiwah

The Latino Poetry Project is co-sponsored with El Centro de Acción Latino. Dr. Mark Smith-Soto, director of the UNCG Center for Creative Writing in the Arts, is the project consultant. The Latino Poetry Project would not be possible without the generous funding provided by the NC Arts Council.



El Centro de Acción Latino es una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a la facilitación de la educación y al empoderamiento de la comunidad Latina en Greensboro. CAL está basada en una visión de integración el cual preserva y promueve sus tradiciones multiculturales y desarrolla su liderazgo Latino.

El Centro de Acción Latino is a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating the education and empowerment of the Latino community in Greensboro. CAL is based on a vision of integration that preserves and promotes our multicultural traditions and develops our Latino leadership.

"Yo quería remover las capas de apariencia artificial, la manera en que Tía Chucha contemplaba el mundo, con sus ojos infantiles, como un bebé que puede apreciar el elixir en la leche. Deseaba ser uno de los premios que ella atesoraba en su bolsa arrugada."
-Luis Rodriguez



Check Out The Free Poetry Events

Photo Exhibit of NC Poets

Come to Central Library for a Special Photo Exhibit of North Carolina Poets. The exhibit will include black and white photographs by Jan Hensley featuring more than 90 contemporary poets. Jan Hensley just won the Sam Ragan Award for the Fine Arts at St. Andrews College. Look for these photos as well as the permanent display of new poetry books available at the Central Library.

"Hark! Hark! The dogs go bark..."

Celebrate our faithful four-legged friends in an outdoor poetry event at Greensboro's Country Park!

Come ready to read your favorite dog poem or share some doggy ditties and doggerel, even canine cantos and clerihevs of your own creation. There will be a prize for the poem judged "Best of Show!" Bring your dogs (leash required) and your kids, as there will be a dog storytime and craft. Come to Shelter 7 in Greensboro's Country Park. **April 23 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.**



Women of the Spoken Word

Bennett College will host poetry performances by poet Sherille Lamb (pictured) and spoken word artist Amaris Howard.

Poet, singer and spoken word artist Sherrille Lamb has shared the stage with artists such as Jill Scott, and has appeared on HBO's Chicago Def Poetry

Showcase. A native of Greensboro, she began her career in the churches of the East Coast with her mother, a teacher and musician. Taking inspiration from Gil-Scott Heron, she was shaped into a seasoned performer by the streets of Chicago, giving her an urban vitality with a Southern soulfulness.

This program will also feature Greensboro activist, teacher and poet Amaris Howard, as well as student poet members of the Bennett Players. Sherille Lamb will also have a reading Thursday, April 13 at The Hemphill Branch.

Monday, April 10 at 6:30 pm
Little Theater • Bennett College
900 E. Washington St.

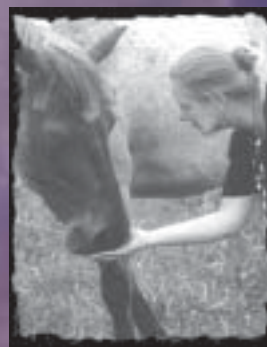
Greensboro Poetry Sampler A Celebration Of Greensboro's African-American Women Poets

One of our most popular programs last year was our poetry sampler. So we decided to make it an annual tradition. Don't miss this chance to hear 7 poets in 70 minutes. This year's sampler features seven African-American women poets. They are **Anjail Rashida Ahmad**, director of Creative Writing at N.C. A&T State University; **Linda Brown**, author and Bennett College for Women administrator and faculty member; **Amaris Howard**, a poet, teacher and activist; **Donalja James**, local host of spoken word events also known as "The Voiceness;" **Carole Boston Weatherford**, author of numerous children's books and poetry collections including *The Tan Chanteuse*; **Jacinta White**, founder and artistic director of the WORD project, which uses poetry for healing; **Carolyn Beard Whitlow**, Dana Professor of English at Guilford College, whose works have been published in numerous journals and featured on NPR.



A Free Event

Greensboro Historical Museum
Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 pm



A Reading With Linda Hogan
Hege Library • Guilford College
March 31, 2006 at 7:30 pm

A Chickasaw writer and college English professor, Linda Hogan has played a prominent role in the development of Native American poetry, particularly in regards to environmental and anti-nuclear issues. In addition to a poetry reading, Linda will also host a hands-on Poetry Writing Workshop Saturday April 1, 9:30 am. New Garden Friends Meeting at 801 New Garden Road.

www.poetrygso.org 5

Calendar of Free Poetry Events

March 31

4:30 pm Poetry GSO Kickoff Celebration at The Depot, 300 W. Washington St. Poetry, prizes, music and more!

7:30 pm Linda Hogan at the Hege Library, Guilford College.

April 1

10:00 am Teen Book Club. Bring a favorite poem. Hemphill Branch.

7:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java at The Green Bean, 341 South Elm.

April 1-30 Great Wall of Poetry at the Hemphill Branch.

April 2

8:00 pm Coleman Barks presents "The Soul of Rumi" An Evening of Poetry and Music. Elliott Center Auditorium, UNCG.

April 3

7:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java at Starbucks, 2969 Battleground Ave.

7:00 pm Eastside Civitan Club celebrates their anniversary with poetry. McGirt Horton Branch.

April 4

3:30 pm Enter the Magical World of Shel Silverstein! Hemphill Branch.

7:00 - 9:00 pm International Poetry Night, Glenwood Branch.

April 5

3:30 pm Poetrypalooza. Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch.

April 6

10:30 am Glenis Redmon GTCC, Jamestown Campus.

12 noon Poetry Family Reunion featuring Glenis Redmon. GTCC, East Wendover Campus.

3:30 pm Change Your World @ Your Library Through Poetry – reading by Dr. Anjail Ahmad. Bluford Library, NCA&T.

3:30 pm Kids Poetry Workshop. Glenwood Branch.

6:30 pm Kids Poetry Workshop. McGirt-Horton Branch.

April 7

April 7 - 9, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm Poetry GSO Book Fair at Barnes & Noble.

7:00 pm Teen Rap Contest, for ages 14-18. Central Library.

April 8

11:00 am - 5:00 pm 2nd Saturday Art Discovery: Make Your Own Magnetic Poetry, Hemphill Branch.

2:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java Barnes & Noble at Friendly Center.

3:00 pm 3rd Annual Chavis Café for Teens. Vance Chavis Branch.

3:00 pm HB African American Literature Club. Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance. Hemphill Branch.

April 9

3:00 pm Luis Rodriguez Doors open at 2:00 pm for music and dancing. Carolina Theatre.

April 10

7:00 pm Monday Night Poetry at Central Library.

6:30 pm Women of the Spoken Word featuring Sherrille Lamb. Little Theater, Bennett College.

April 11

6:00 pm 'say , can you spare a poem?' Open Mic Featuring The Collective and Introvert Creative Group. Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch.

7:30 pm Ana Istarú. Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House at UNCG.

April 12

2:00 pm Poetry, What About Kids? Learn about different forms of poetry. McGirt-Horton Branch.

April 13

3:30 pm Kids Poetry Workshop Glenwood Branch.

6:30 pm Kids Poetry Workshop McGirt-Horton Branch.

6:30 pm Workshop - Poetry Publishing Opportunities for Teens. Benjamin Branch.

6:30 pm Sherrille Lamb at the Hemphill Branch.

7:00 pm Poets Speak Out For Peace. NC A&T New Classroom Building Auditorium, A-218.

April 14

7:00 pm Spoken Word Open Mic & Poetry Showcase. For young adults 13 - 25. Central Library.

April 15

1:30 pm Kids Poetry Workshop McGirt-Horton Branch.

April 17

7:00 pm Monday Night Poetry. Central Library.

April 18

7:00 pm The Poems Inside of Us (and how to get them out) – a writing workshop with Caren Masem at the Benjamin Branch.

April 19

7:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java. Starbucks, 2204 Golden Gate Drive.

April 20

3:30 pm Kid's Poetry Workshop Hear about Issa, a famous Japanese poet. Glenwood Branch.

6:30 pm Kids Poetry Workshop. McGirt Horton Branch.

April 21

7:00 pm Rhyme & Rhythm: Teen Open Mic, for ages 14-18. Share your poetry with others. Glenwood Branch.

April 22

10:00 am - 12:30 pm The Poetry of Mary Oliver. Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch.

2:00 pm Poetry, Truth & Reconciliation. Central Library.

7:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java. Tate Street Coffee House, 334 Tate St.

Programs In Yellow Are Intended For School-Age Children



Opening Celebration

Kick-Off Poetry GSO 2006.
Enjoy poetry readings, music, prizes and more.
Co-sponsored by the Greensboro Transit Authority.

March 31, 4:30 to 6:00 pm
Downtown • The Depot
300 W. Washington St.



April 23

3:00 pm Poetry Sampler: Celebrate Greensboro's African-American Women Poets. Historical Museum.

2:00 - 4:00 pm "Hark! Hark! The dogs do bark..." Shelter 7, near the Bark Park in Country Park.

3:30 - 5:30 pm Local Voices: Open mic for poetry, rap, spoken word and favorite poems. Vance Chavis Branch.

April 24

6:30 pm Poetry Workshop for Families with Julia Ebel. Hemphill Branch.

7:00 pm Monday Night Poetry at Central Library.

April 25

7:00 pm Poetry and the Pulpit, a reading with Rev. Mazie Ferguson. Central Library.

April 27

3:30 pm Share poems with a special guest poet. Glenwood Branch.

7:30 pm Music and Poetry for Teens with Lalenja Harrington and Rhiannon Giddens of the Carolina Chocolate Drops. Central Library.

6:30 pm **Movie - *Dead Poets Society*.** Hemphill Branch.

6:30 pm Share poems with a special guest poet. McGirt Horton Branch.

April 29

1:00 - 3:00 pm 'say, can you spare a poem?' Open Mic featuring The Collective and Introvert Creative Group. Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch.

2:00 - 5:00 pm El Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros bilingual celebration of children, poetry and literature. Glenwood.

2:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java Carolina Coffee & Tea, 400 State St.

3:30 pm Ekiwah Adler Beléndez. Central Library.

April 30

1:00 pm Poetry, Jazz & Java. Lindley Park Coffee Shop, 2201 Walker Ave.

3:00 pm Readings by Guilford County's High School Poet Laureates. Also featuring Ekiwah Adler-Belendez. Greensboro Historical Museum.

Workshops

Kids Poetry Workshops Children have numerous opportunities throughout the month to hear and learn about poetry. Workshops will also help children to write their own poetry.



Poetry Writing Workshop With Linda Hogan Chickasaw writer and college English professor, Linda Hogan has played a prominent role in the development of Native American poetry. Saturday April 1, at 9:30 am. New Garden Friends Meeting at 801 New Garden Road.

Girls Night Out – Poetry Writing With Anjail Rashida Ahmad An evening of poetry writing and spoken word performances for girls ages 13 and up. Co-sponsored by **Girls, Inc.** April 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Central Library.

The Poems Inside Us (and how to get them out!) Led by local poet Caren Masem, this workshop examines how to put feelings into words and awaken the poet within us all. Everyone will have an opportunity to write a poem and rediscover their creativity. Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 pm. Benjamin Branch.

Poetry, Truth and Reconciliation Co-sponsored by the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission, this workshop features Jacinta White. Learn techniques for using poetry as a means of community healing. Saturday, April 22 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Central Library.



Poetry Workshop for Families Led by award-winning poet Julia Ebel, a local author whose works have appeared in anthologies and magazines such as *Cricket*. This is a fun-filled workshop on reading and writing poetry. Monday, April 24, 6:30 pm. Hemphill Branch.

Mark Smith-Soto Poetry Writing Workshop Poet Mark Smith-Soto will lead a workshop in the Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art. Participants will use art in the gallery as an inspiration for their poems. April 29 at 2:00 PM.

Poetry Informed by Faith Poet and workshop leader Jacinta White will offer participants the opportunity to write in response to questions such as "what is faith," "what do I believe," and "what is sacred to me?" Participants will write poems of prayer, praise, adoration, faith and doubt. April 19 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Central Library.

www.poetrygso.org

What is Poetry GSO?

Poetry GSO was originally inspired by the legacy of famous Greensboro poet Randall Jarrell. Going into our third year, it is safe to say that Poetry GSO is changing the literary landscape in Greensboro. It has become an event that people eagerly await each year. When we first launched the program we heard people say things like "I don't like poetry" or "I just don't get poetry." However, thanks to the hard work of library staff and dozens of community volunteers, Poetry GSO has tapped into a love of poetry that flows, like an underground stream, through our culture. Evidence of this new appreciation of poetry is the thousands of people who have attended poetry events and participated in workshops during our celebrations.



Poetry GSO received a big boost this year when the North Carolina Arts Council made two grants in support of the program. First was a grant to El Centro de Acción Latino for sponsorship of the Latino Poetry Project. Second was a "Growing Audiences" grant which gave us the resources to analyze community interest. Both grants are likely to have a positive, long-lasting impact.

We have far too many partners in this project to list them all here. Special appreciation goes to the Greensboro Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library for annual financial support.

Next year, we will sponsor a seminar on the poet whose legacy inspired Poetry GSO, Randall Jarrell. Our plans also include readings and workshops that focus on poetry and healing. And we are planning a celebration of local and NC poets including Greensboro's own Fred Chappell, former North Carolina Poet Laureate.

Steve Sumerford

About The Poetry GSO Logo

The logo for PoetryGSO is an image of Randall Jarrell, who was one of the most well-known poets in the United States when he lived in Greensboro, 1947-1965. Helping to provide an identity for our project, the Poetry GSO logo was originally designed by King's English.



*I am so small I can barely be seen.
How can this great love be inside me?
Look at your eyes. They are small,
but they see enormous things.*

- Rumi

Sponsored by the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library. Major funding is provided by the Greensboro Public Library Foundation and the NC Arts Council. Support also comes from the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, El Centro de Acción Latino, NC Humanities Council and UNCG.



Monday Night Poetry

Well-known North Carolina poets read some of their favorite works. Afterward, local poets and anyone from the audience can share their poems or read a favorite poem. See calendar for dates and times.



International Poetry Night

Greensboro's diverse international community will share the poems and music that they love from their home countries at the Glenwood Branch. Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 pm.



Poetry In Public Places

As we spread the word about National Poetry Month, look for poems in stores, restaurants, workplace breakrooms, city buses, places of worship and all over Greensboro during the month of April.



Poetry, Jazz & Java

Last year, Poetry, Jazz & Java events were so popular, that many coffee houses were standing-room-only. The combination of poetry readings and great jazz entertain and enlighten audiences. Sponsored by the Writer's Group of The Triad, these events attract many who would not normally attend a poetry reading.



Library Branches **gpl**

Virtual Branch: www.greensborolibrary.org	
Central Library, 219 N. Church Street	373-2471
Children's Room	373-2046
Information Services	335-5430
Booklover's Shop, Central Library	373-3777
Benjamin, 1530 Benjamin Parkway	373-7540
Glenwood, 1901 W. Florida Street	297-5000
Kathleen Clay Edwards Family, 1420 Price Park Rd	373-2923
McGirt-Horton, 2509 Phillips Avenue	373-5810
Vance Chavis, 900 S. Benbow Road	373-5838
Hemphill, 2301 W. Vandalia Road	373-2925

Credits:

Poetry GSO Director: Steve Sumerford
Magazine design: Laura Thomas & David Theall