

# Celebrate National Poetry Month

Pull out your favorite Silverstein, Sandburg, or Brooks and revel in verse

Nowadays, every month takes on themes and causes. April is no exception. While most people now think of April as Earth Month, it shares space with a literary genre. Back in 1996, the Academy of American Poets jumped on the name-your-month bandwagon, and National Poetry Month was born. Since then, poets and poetry-lovers unite in April to celebrate verse in its various forms.

Lucky for us, we live in one of the country's most vibrant poetry centers. Carl Sandburg, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lisel Mueller, Shel Silverstein, Li-Young Lee: just a few names that many know. The poetry of Chicago is not aged and musty, but gritty and musical.

In any week of the year, poetry readings and open mics take place in every corner of the city and suburbs. Classes and workshops meet in schools, libraries and colleges for writers of all ages. Still, when April comes along, we find ourselves spoiled for choice thanks to the poetic riches here in Chicago. This month, indulge in poetry and make your month a little more lyrical.

## For Your Daily Dose

If you want daily poetry inspiration, sign up for one of these wonderful email lists that will bring poetry straight to your inbox.

Garrison Keillor's The Writer's Almanac, [writersalmanac.publicradio.org](http://writersalmanac.publicradio.org)  
The Academy of American Poets, [poets.org](http://poets.org)  
Poetry Foundation, [poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org)

## Support Local Journals

If you find yourself in need of something to read this month, pick up one of the many poetry journals published here in Chicago.

Another Chicago Magazine, [anotherchicagomagazine.net](http://anotherchicagomagazine.net)  
Chicago Review, [humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/review](http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/review)  
Columbia Poetry Review, [english.colum.edu/cpr](http://english.colum.edu/cpr)  
Court Green, [english.colum.edu/courtgreen](http://english.colum.edu/courtgreen)  
Fifth Wednesday, [fifthwednesdayjournal.com](http://fifthwednesdayjournal.com)  
Poetry, [poetrymagazine.org](http://poetrymagazine.org)  
Rhino, [rhinopoetry.org](http://rhinopoetry.org)

## Poem in Your Pocket Day

Participate in Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 29, 2010. Take your favorite poem, write it down and carry it in your pocket. Pull it out and share your poem with family, friends, colleagues and strangers at the bus stop. Email, text and post poems. [poets.org](http://poets.org)

## Key Poetry Events

(Free Admission Unless Indicated)

### 4.1, 6pm: Poetry Off the Shelf, Derek Walcott

Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago  
[poetryfoundation.org/programs/events](http://poetryfoundation.org/programs/events)

### 4.13, 6pm: Poetry Off the Shelf: Cave Canem Fellows

Jazz Showcase, Dearborn Station, 806 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago  
[poetryfoundation.org/programs/events](http://poetryfoundation.org/programs/events)

### 4.14, 5:30pm: Ed Roberson

Hokin Hall, Columbia College Chicago, 623 S. Wabash, Rm. 109, Chicago  
[colum.edu/Academics/English\\_Department/Events](http://colum.edu/Academics/English_Department/Events)

### 4.17, 8pm: An Evening of Poetry with Sam Hamill

Unity Temple, 875 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill  
\$9, purchase in advance. [poetryfoundation.org/programs/events](http://poetryfoundation.org/programs/events)

### 4.21, 7pm: Jerome Rothenberg

Myopic Books, 1564 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
[myopicbookstore.com/poetry](http://myopicbookstore.com/poetry)

### 4.24, 10:30am-4pm: Poetry Fest

Noon: Poetry Off the Shelf: Cornelius Eady  
Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., Chicago  
[chipublib.org](http://chipublib.org)

### 4.27, 5pm: Mary Jo Bang

Gage Gallery, Roosevelt University, 18 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago  
[roosevelt.edu](http://roosevelt.edu)

### 4.28, 6:30pm: The Big Read

Ballroom, School of the Art Institute, 112 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago  
[poetrycenter.org](http://poetrycenter.org)

### 4.29, 5:30pm: Columbia Poetry Review Reading & Release Party

Ferguson Hall, Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Ave., 1st Fl.  
[colum.edu/Academics/English\\_Department/Events](http://colum.edu/Academics/English_Department/Events)

To learn more about the history of National Poetry Month, visit [poets.org/npm](http://poets.org/npm).  
For more poetry events, visit [mindfulmetropolis.com/blog](http://mindfulmetropolis.com/blog).