OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Year of Engagement Center for Creativity

Guest Writer Sessions

Lesbian Fashion Struggles: A Reading & Conversation with Caroline Earleywine

Thursday, February 25 - 7-8pm

Caroline Earleywine teaches high school English in Central Arkansas where she tries to convince teenagers that poetry is actually cool. She was a semifinalist for Nimrod's 2018 Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry and for the 2019 Vinyl 45s Chapbook Contest. She was also a finalist for the 2019 Write Bloody Publishing Contest.

Her work can be found in Glass: A Journal of Poetry, Barrelhouse, NAILED Magazine, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA from Queens University in Charlotte and lives in Little Rock with her wife and two dogs. Her chapbook, Lesbian Fashion Struggles, is out now with Sibling Rivalry Press.

Register online

Original Kink: A Reading & Conversation with Jubi Arriola-Headley

Thursday, March 4 - 7-8pm

Jubi Arriola-Headley (he/him or they/them) is a Black queer poet, storyteller, and first-generation United Statesian who lives with his husband in South Florida and whose work explores themes of manhood, vulnerability, rage, tenderness and joy.

He's a 2018 PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow, holds an MFA from the University of Miami, and his poems have been published with Ambit, Beloit Poetry Journal, Literary Hub, Nimrod, Southern Humanities Review, The Nervous Breakdown, and elsewhere.

Jubi's debut collection of poems, original kink, is available now from Sibling Rivalry Press.

Register online

Almost Too Tight to Love: A Reading & Conversation with Savannah Sipple

Thursday, March 11 - 7-8pm

Savannah Sipple is the author of WWJD & Other Poems (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2019), which was included on the American Library Association's Over the Rainbow Recommended LGBTQ Reading List. It explores what it is to be a queer woman in Appalachia and is rooted in its culture and in her body.

A writer from east Kentucky, her writing has recently been published in Go Magazine, Southern Cultures, Split This Rock, Salon, Appalachian Heritage, Waxwing, and other places. She is also the recipient of grants from the Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. A professor, editor, and writing mentor, Savannah resides in Lexington with her wife.

Register online

Our Own Write: A Reading & Conversation with Liz Ahl & Jeff Oaks

Thursday, March 25 - 7-8pm

Join us for a reading and Q&A with poets Liz Ahl and Jeff Oaks.

Liz Ahl is the author of Beating the Bounds (Hobblebush Books, 2017), as well as several chapbooks of poetry, including Home Economics and Talking About the Weather (Seven Kitchens Press, 2016 and 2014), Luck (Pecan Grove Press, 2010), and A Thirst That's Partly Mine, which won the 2008 Slapering Hol Press chapbook contest.

An itinerant Navy brat growing up, she settled in rural New Hampshire in 2001, where she is on the faculty of the English Department at Plymouth State University. In addition to poetry, she is quite interested in (and written poems about!) the Apollo space program, poker, antique typewriters, and road trips.

Jeff Oaks' debut book of poetry, Little What, was published by Lily Poetry Review Books in 2019. HIs forthcoming book, The Things, will come out in late 2021. A recipient of three Pennsylvania Council of the Arts fellowships, Oaks has published poems in a number of literary magazines, most recently in Best New Poets, Field, Georgia Review, Missouri Review, Superstition Review, and Tupelo Quarterly.

His prose has appeared in At Length, Creative Nonfiction, Fourth Genre, Kenyon Review Online, and Water~Stone Review. Both his poems and prose have appeared in the anthologies Brief Encounters: A Collection of Contemporary Nonfiction, and My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them. He teaches writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

Register online

My Whole Life Becoming: A Reading & Conversation with Aaron Smith

Thursday, April 8 - 7-8pm

Join us for a reading and Q&A with poet Aaron Smith

Aaron Smith is the author of four books of poetry published by the Pitt Poetry Series. His collections include Blue on Blue Ground (2005), winner of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize; Appetite (2012), an NPR Great Read and finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize; Prime (2016), a Poetry Must Read for the Massachusetts Center for the Book; and The Book of Daniel (2019). His chapbooks include Men in Groups and What's Required, winner of the Frank O'Hara Award.

A three-time finalist for the Lambda Literary Award, he is the recipient of fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Mass Cultural Council, and his work has appeared in such publications as Court Green, Ploughshares, and The Best American Poetry 2013. He has taught at West Virginia Wesleyan and is currently Associate Professor in Creative Writing at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA.

Register online



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Celebrating Women's History Month

Women's History Month is celebrated annually during the month of March to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of women to our nation's past, present, and future. It coincides with International Women's Day on March 8th.



List of Events

Share your kindness!

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) has partnered with Philadelphia poet laureate Trapeta B. Mayson on a mission to help spread kindness throughout the state. The PA Kindness Poem Project is a year-long initiative and invites everyone to share messages on social media that promote generosity, healing, reconciliation, and peace.

Mayson will use these messages as inspiration for an original poem to be released on World Kindness Day on November 13th. To be included in the project, posts must use the hashtag #PAKindnessPoem and mention the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. For more information, please go to https://pahumanities.org/kindness

Women's Herstory Month Open Mic Night

March 18, 2021 9pm

C4C Open Mic Nights provide an open platform for artistic expression and to help build a diverse creative community that supports other artists. Open Mic takes the Pitt Promise - and specifically its commitment to a civil community, personal integrity, and a culture of diversity where freedom of thought and expression are valued - as its foundation.

Get your tickets here.



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