

The Poetry Society of South Carolina 2017-2018 Programs



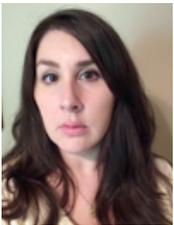
All regular monthly programs and seminars, except as noted, are held at the Charleston Library Society, 164 King St. Charleston, SC, at 7 PM. They are free and open to the public. A book signing and reception follows each reading. Seminars are from 10:00 am to noon; members \$10, College of Charleston students are free, all others \$15.



September 8: Chen Chen with Brandon Rushton

Chen Chen is the author of *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, winner of the A. Poulin, Jr., Poetry Prize. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Poetry*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Best American Poetry*, *Bettering American Poetry*, and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*. A Kundiman fellow, Chen is pursuing a Ph.D. in English and creative writing at Texas Tech University.

<NOTE: The September events were cancelled due to Tropical Storm Irma, and will be rescheduled.>



October 13: Emma Bolden with Miho Kinnas

Emma Bolden's appearance is funded in part by South Arts in partnership with the SC Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is the author of *medi(t)ations* (Noctuary Press, 2016) and *Maleficae* (GenPop Books, 2013). Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry* and *The Best Small Fictions*. She received a 2017 Creative Writing Fellowship from the NEA and serves as Senior Reviews Editor for *Tupelo Quarterly*.

October 14: Seminar with Emma Bolden: "Breaking the Block: How Playing By the Rules Can Get You Back in the Game" Writer's block: every writer faces it, no matter where they are in their career. Sometimes, it's the fear that overcomes you at the sight of that blank page; sometimes, it's the blank that happens when you try to perfect your piece. We'll explore ways to break through writer's block at every point in the process through language games that can help you play your way into a solution to even the most difficult puzzles of poetry.



November 10: Eugenia Leigh with Melissa Slayton

Eugenia Leigh is the author of *Blood, Sparrows and Sparrows* (Four Way Books), the winner of the 2015 Debut-litzer Prize in Poetry. The recipient of fellowships and awards from *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *Kundiman*, *The Frost Place*, *Rattle*, and *Asian American Literary Review*, Eugenia received her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

November 11: Seminar with Eugenia Leigh, "Telling the Truth, but Telling It Slant"

This seminar will excavate the power behind poems that draw from personal or collective experiences that are "true." In Emily Dickinson's poem with the famous first line, "Tell all the truth but tell it slant," Dickinson also insists "The Truth must dazzle gradually." How does a poem manage to tell its truths by not only dazzling but by also dazzling gradually? What craft elements can a poem employ to slant its truths? The study of contemporary poems by living, truth-telling poets who master the Art of the Gradual Dazzle will steer us to create our own Dickinson-approved poems.

December 8: Holiday Party & Reading for members and their guests. Members are invited to bring a finger food and compete for prizes for best limerick and best toast. The location will be announced in the monthly newsletter.



January 12: Annual Open Mic in memory of Susan Laughter Meyers

Susan Laughter Meyers's last release, *My Dear, Dear Stagger Grass*, won the inaugural Cider Press Review Editors Prize, and was a finalist for the National Poetry Series, the Prairie Schooner Book Prize, and the Robert Dana Anhinga Poetry Prize. A longtime PSSC officer, as well as co-coordinator of Litchfield Tea and Poetry and the Piccolo Spoleto Sundown Poetry Series, Meyers passed away suddenly last June. We will take this open mic to remember and read poems by and in memory of our dear friend.

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February 9: Marcus Wicker with Angela Pilson

Marcus Wicker is the recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, *The Missouri Review's* Miller Audio Prize, as well as fellowships from Cave Canem and the Fine Arts Work Center. His first collection *Maybe the Saddest Thing*, a National Poetry Series winner, was a finalist for an NAACP Image Award. His second book, *Silencer*, is forthcoming from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2017. Marcus teaches in the MFA program at the University of Memphis, and he is the poetry editor of *Southern Indiana Review*.

February 10: Seminar with Marcus Wicker, "The Invective"

In this workshop we will study the invective, as well as repetitive frameworks, in order to understand their inner-workings and employ them judiciously in our own poems. Together we will read samples from the likes of Catullus, Jenny Browne, Ocean Vuong, and Terrance Hayes, and then complete corresponding prompts designed to facilitate experiment and surprise. During our two hours together expect to pen, lively discuss, and share new poems.



March 9: Jonathan Brown with Ann Herlong-Bodman

Jonathan Brown holds a BA in Communication from the College of Charleston, an MA in Writing and Consciousness from New College of California, and an MFA from the University of New Orleans. In 2013, he earned the John Woods Scholarship to study in Prague. His poems have been published in the *Worcester Review*, *The Nashville Review*, and *Indiefeed*.

March 10: Seminar with Jonathan Brown, "The Poem's Speaker"

Is the speaker of your poem you? A little or a lot? Always or never? Can you ever really step outside of your own voice and inhabit someone else's perspective? And if so, what would be the purpose of doing so? In this workshop we'll discuss these questions and more. How (and maybe more importantly why) would a writer leave his or her own voice behind in favor of someone else's?



April 13: Bruce Weigl with Catherine McCullough

Bruce Weigl's appearance is funded in part by South Arts in partnership with the SC Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Dr. Weigl, distinguished professor at Lorain County Community College, has published over a dozen award-winning poetry collections, most recently the forthcoming Poulin award-winner from BOA Editions. He has received awards from the American Academy of Poets, Pushcart, Patterson Poetry, Yaddo Foundation, Bread Loaf, and the National Endowment for the Arts. *Song of Napalm* was a 1988 Pulitzer nominee. Many of his poems are inspired by his time in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

April 14: Seminar with Bruce Weigl, "How I Made a Twice-Lied Poem into Being"



May 11: Annual Forum with Len Lawson

Len Lawson is the author of the chapbook *Before the Night Wakes You* (Finishing Line Press) and editor of *Hand in Hand: Poets Respond to Race* (Muddy Ford Press). He is a Ph.D. student in English Literature and Criticism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He won the 2016 Jasper Magazine Artist of the Year Award in Literary Arts. He received a poetry fellowship from Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop and a poetry residency from Vermont Studio Center.

May 12: Seminar with Len Lawson, "Poet at Work: Shaping the 21st Century Poet"

With modern technology, knowledge of past literary periods, and the wealth of poets writing and influencing the world, the barriers to entering the craft of poetry remain few and nonthreatening. However, for anyone who calls themselves a poet or accepts the call to poetry, this workshop will sift and shake those calls to harness the poets' profession into a clear purpose. Strategies will include researching views of poets throughout history, investigating how poets view themselves, and exploring innovative poetry forms.

