

The Fall Poetry Extravaganza presented by West Haven's poet laureate, Tony Fusco, will take place from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2-3, at the Yale West Campus, 100 West Campus Drive, Orange. The program is free with free parking and is open to the public. At 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, Tony Fusco will read from his newest book, *Don't Make Me Laugh*.

The program will feature 22 of the best poets in Connecticut reading their works over two days and 20-minute intervals. The reading is in conjunction with the Art Space Open Studios program that runs throughout October and ends at the Yale West Campus with a large art exhibit on four floors of the facility. More details about the Open Studios can be found at: <https://artspacenehaven.org/cwos-home/about-cwos/>

The poets and their reading times on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 2, are:

1-1:20, Vivian Shipley; 1:20-1:40, Fredrick-Douglass Knowles II; 1:40-2, Gemma Mathewson; 2-2:20, Patricia Mottola; 2:20-2:40, Laurel Peterson; 2:40-3, Dr. Van Hartmann; 3-3:20, Mick Theebes; 3:20-3:40, Laura Altshul; 3:40-4, Victor Altshul; 4-4:20, Antoinette Brim; and 4:20-4:40, Diane Lowman.

The poets and their reading times on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 3, are:

1-1:20, Tony Fusco; 1:20-1:40, Katie Eber; 1:40-2, Marita Gargiulo; 2-2:20, Peter Ulisse; 2:20-2:40, Gordy Whiteman; 2:40-3, Gwen Gunn; 3-3:20, Kevin Carey; 3:20-3:40, Victoria Nordlund; 3:40-4, Pit Pinegar; 4-4:20, Barbara Greenbaum; 4:20-4:40, Julie Choffel; and 4:40-5, Christine Beck.

Updated GPS devices use the address of the West Campus Welcome Center, 100 West Campus Drive, Orange, which is off Interstate 95's Exit 41, Marsh Hill Road.

#### Fall Poetry Extravaganza

Saturday Afternoon, Nov. 2, Yale West Campus



Appointed Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor in 1998, Vivian Shipley has taught full time at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT since 1969. She was named SCSU Faculty Scholar in 2000, 2005 and 2008. Her twelfth book of poems, *Archaeology of Days* was published in 2019 by Negative Capability Press and nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. *All of Your Messages Have Been Erased* (Louisiana Literature Press, SLU, 2010) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and won the Sheila Motton Book Prize from the New England Poetry Club. She has received the Library of Congress's Connecticut Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to the Literary Community and a Connecticut Book Award for Poetry two times. Most recently, she won the 2017-18 Steve Kowit Prize for Poetry for "Cargo" from San Diego Arts & Entertainment Guild. She won the Hackney Literary Award for Poetry for "Foxfire." Raised in Kentucky, a member of the University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the highest award the university can bestow on an alumnus, she has a PhD from Vanderbilt University.



Frederick-Douglass Knowles II is a poet, educator and activist involved in community education. He is the inaugural Poet Laureate for the City of Hartford. His collection of poetry, *Black Rose City* was featured at the 2018 Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP). His works have been featured in the *Connecticut River Review*; *Sinkhole Magazine*; *Poems on the Road to Peace: A Collective Tribute to Dr. King Volume 2* by Yale University Press; *Lefoko* magazine, and *Fingernails Across the Chalkboard: Poetry and Prose on HIV/AIDS from the Black Diaspora* by Third World Press. Frederick-Douglass is an Associate Professor of English

at Three Rivers Community College.



Gemma Mathewson is the co-chair of the *Poetry Institute*, the monthly poetry featured reader and open mic event at the Institute Library in New Haven. She is also a co-producer of the Valley Shore Community Television show, "Poetry of Immigrants." Her poetry blog is called Museum of Rain at <https://gemop.wordpress.com/> Her work has been published in regional, national and international collections.



Award-winning poet and Pushcart Prize nominee Patricia Mottola teaches Creative Writing at Southern Connecticut State University, where she earned both an M.S. in Art Education and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing. In addition to working with students at S.C.S.U., she is thrilled to teach both art and poetry to senior citizens throughout Connecticut. Her work has been published in journals across the country, including *War, Literature & the Arts*, *Connecticut Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Viet Now Magazine*, and *Paterson Literary Review*, among others. She has served as Keynote Speaker for the IMPAC-Young Writers Awards as well as judged Connecticut High

School Poetry Out Loud competitions. On a global scale, she has mentored Afghan women writers living in Afghanistan through the Afghan Women's Writing Project. <http://awwproject.org/> Pat served as editor of *Connecticut River Review* from 2012-2017 and is currently Co-President of the Connecticut Poetry Society. She is the author of two collections of poetry, *Under the Red Dress* (Five Oaks Press) and *After Hours* (Five Oaks Press).



Laurel S. Peterson is an English professor at Norwalk Community College and her poetry has been published in many literary journals. She has two poetry chapbooks, *That's the Way the Music Sounds* (Finishing Line Press) and *Talking to the Mirror* (Last Automat Press), and a full length collection, *Do You Expect Your Art to Answer?* (Futurecycle Press). She has also written a mystery novel, *Shadow Notes*. She is on the editorial board of the literary magazine *Inkwell*, and she served as the town of

Norwalk, Connecticut's, Poet Laureate from April 2016 – April 2019.



Van Hartmann is a Professor of English at Manhattanville College. He received an A.B. in History from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina. His poetry has appeared in numerous journals. He has published two books of poems, *Shiva Dancing* (2007) and *Riptide* (2016), and a chapbook, *Between Norwalk, Connecticut*, with his wife, fellow writer and English professor Laurel Peterson, and their dog, Calder.



Mick Theebs is currently serving as the city of Milford's Poet Laureate from 2016-2020. In addition to writing and performing poetry, Mick also writes prose and the occasional short film. Further reading of Mick's work can be found on his website <https://www.micktheebs.com/> and in his award-winning collection of poetry, titled *Somnambulist*.



A retired educator, Laura Altshul tutors and serves on non-profit boards focused on providing educational and arts experiences for New Haven's children whose families don't ordinarily have access to these opportunities. Her three books of poetry are *Searching for the Northern Lights*, *Bodies Passing* and *Looking Out*. Her poems have been published in *Connecticut River Review*, *Forgotten Women: A Tribute in Poetry*, *The Perch*, *Serving House Journal*, *The Circle*, and *Unlocking the Word: An Anthology of Found Poetry*. Her poems have won prizes from the Connecticut Poetry Society, the Hamden Arts Commission, the New York Poetry Society, and the Tennessee Poetry Society.



Victor Altshul is a psychiatrist in private practice affiliated with Yale Medical School. His four published poetry books are: *Stumblings*, *Singing with Starlings*, *Ode to My Autumn*, and the most recent *Strange Birds*. His poems have been published in numerous journals and he was the featured poet in the half-hour public television program "Speaking of Poetry: Episode 43." He and his wife Laura have given numerous readings in Connecticut and together they co-lead the New Haven Chapter of the Connecticut Poetry Society.



Antoinette Brim, author of *These Women You Gave Me*, *Icarus in Love* and *Psalm of the Sunflower*, is a Cave Canem Foundation fellow, a recipient of the Walker Foundation Scholarship to the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her poetry, memoir, and critical work has appeared in various journals and magazines, as well as in anthologies including *Villanelles*, *Stand Our Ground: Poems for Trayvon Martin and Marissa Alexander*, *Critical Insights: Alice Walker, 44 on 44: Forty-Four African American Writers on the 44th President of the United States*, *Not A Muse, Just Like A Girl: A Manifesta*, and *The Whiskey of Our Discontent: an anthology of essays commemorating Ms. Gwendolyn Brooks*.



Diane Lowman's essays have appeared in many publications, including *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Brain*, *Child*, *Brevity Blog*, and *When Women Waken*. She writes a weekly column called "My Life on the Post Road" for *Books, Ink's HamletHub* (<https://books.hamlethub.com/booksink/>)

In addition to essays, she has written a memoir called *Nothing but Blue*, which was published in the fall of 2018 by *She Writes Press*. She's explored other forms of literary expression in nearly one thousand haiku poems (<https://lotus922.wordpress.com/>), and many essays about all of Shakespeare's plays (<https://dilo922.wordpress.com/>). Diane teaches yoga, provides nutritional counseling, and tutors Spanish. She looks forward to writing the next chapter, now that she has earned an MA in Shakespeare Studies in Stratford-Upon-Avon at the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute. She is the Poet Laureate of Westport, CT.

Fall Poetry Extravaganza

Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 3, Yale West Campus



Tony Fusco is the first Poet Laureate of the City of West Haven. He also is Co-President of the Connecticut Poetry Society. He has a master's degree in Creative Writing from Southern Connecticut State University. He was the editor of *Caduceus*, the anthology of the Yale Medical Group Art Place and past editor of *The Connecticut River Review*, and *Long River Run*. He has published five books of poetry and three chap books, *Don't Make Me Laugh* (2019), *Extinction* (2018), *Java Scripture* (2014), *Droplines* (2010), and *Jessie's Garden* (2003). His poetry has won prizes in many contests including The Sunken Garden Poetry Prize. He is the owner operator of Flying Horse Press. Tony is a life-long resident of West Haven, Connecticut, his writing is infused with the local flavor of growing up a Catholic Italian, and with memories of the now defunct Savin Rock Amusement Park and working at the Yale School of Medicine.



Katie Eber is a graduate of Fairfield University's MFA program and Roanoke College. Her work has appeared in *Hobo Pancakes*, *MadHat Lit*, *Quail Bell Magazine*, *Spry Literary Journal*, *Sum Journal*, *DASH*, *White Stag*, and *Garbanzo Literary Journal*. Katie is the current poet laureate of Wallingford, and enjoys good beer, good music, and good sandwiches. You can catch her on various social media channels and at her website <https://www.somewhatwitty.com/>.



Marita Gargiulo grew up on the Connecticut shoreline. She plays piano and baroque keyboard, and loves to sing, especially the blues. She is a member of The Hamden Arts Commission, The Haiku Society of America, the Connecticut Poetry Society and Another Octave: Connecticut Women's Chorus. Marita began writing poetry in grade school and found haiku as a student at MIT where she was editor of a poetry magazine. She has organized poetry events and contests, haiku nights, and a collaborative performance between local poets and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra. Marita has been guest editor for the Haiku Foundation, and is the co-founder of a Connecticut haiku group. Her poems have appeared in several journals, including *Frogpond*, *bottle rockets*, *Modern Haiku*, *Cattails*, the *Wales Haiku Journal*, *Under the Basho*, *Akitsu Quarterly*, and *Presence*. In 2019 Marita won the First Prize for senryu in the Kaji Aso Studio International Haiku Contest, and Third Place in the Haiku Society of America's Annual Haibun Contest.



Peter Ulisse has been writing poetry for over 40 years and has published over a hundred poems in literary magazines, journals, and books throughout the country. He has read many of them in libraries, schools, and in the media, on both radio and public television. In addition, he has turned out several chapbooks and the Edwin Mellen Press, published hardcovers of *His Memory Is An Illusive State* and the very well reviewed *Vietnam Voices*. His latest book is *Apple Tree* in November. Peter is a former president of the Connecticut Poetry Society and editor of the Connecticut *River Review* as well as having reviewed poetry for *Small Pond of Literature*. A retired English professor at Housatonic Community College, he also chaired the Humanities Department there for 20 years, twice serving as Acting Academic Dean.



Gordy Whiteman was born in Guilford in 1929. His mother was a song writer and a poet. He is a member and past chairman of the Guilford Poets Guild. He currently teaches poetry, with other Guild members, at York Women's Prison in Niantic. His most recent book is *Hometown Guilford: New and Selected Poems*, published in 2011. He is also the author of *Whitfield Crossing* and has had his poetry published in various anthologies and periodicals. He and his wife, Andrea, live in Guilford surrounded by children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, his brother, and three sisters.



Gwen Gunn has had poems published in several journals and co-edited the poetry journal *Embers*. She has participated in many poetry readings in Connecticut and New York City and recently won two first place prizes in the Confederation of State Poetry Societies' contests, one of which was the national Winners Circle Award. Her latest book of poetry is *Tastes*.



Kevin Carey has taught Spanish in both private and public high schools in Connecticut, as well as at UCONN-Torrington and Sacred Heart University. He has been the editor of *Connecticut River Review*, *Long River Run*, *High Tide*, and *Twilight Endings*. He has been published in *Connecticut Review*, *Caduceus*, *Common Ground*, and *Connecticut River Review*. When he is not preparing original lessons for his students, or writing poetry, his hands are dirty with clay and glaze, acrylic, watercolor, or pen and ink. These days most of his time is spent caring for aging parents.



Victoria Nordlund is the English department chair at Rockville High School in Vernon, CT, an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut, and lead master teaching artist of the Write To The Point Greater Hartford Arts Council's Neighborhood Studios program at The Mark Twain House & Museum. Nordlund won the 2016 New England Association of Teachers of English Poet-of-the-Year Award. Her poetry collection, *Binge Watching Winter on Mute*, was published by Main Street Rag in June 2019. She is a 2018 Best of the Net and Pushcart Prize Nominee, whose work has appeared in *PANK Magazine*, *Rust+Moth*, *Gone Lawn*, *Maudlin House*, and other journals.

Pit Pinegar is the author of three books of poetry, *Nine Years between Two Poems*, *The Possibilities of Empty Space*, and *The Physics of Transmigration*. Until recently, she was a teaching artist at The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and creative writing department chair and teaching artist in fiction at the Center for Creative Youth, Wesleyan University. She directed the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival's Urban Outreach Program for eighteen years. Pinegar has received the Governor's Distinguished Advocate of the Arts Award and an artist's fellowship from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts (now the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism). In addition to writing and occasional teaching, she is a creative consultant to other artists engaged in project development.



Barbara P. Greenbaum has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Southern Maine where she studied with Michael White, Suzanne Strempek Shea, Brad Barkley, and Jack Driscoll. She taught creative writing at a public magnet arts high school in Willimantic, Connecticut for twelve years and served as an adjunct professor at Eastern CT State University. In 2011, she was awarded a Teaching Arts Fellowship from Surdna to develop a memoir.



Her fiction, poetry and essays have been published in: *The Alembic*, *American Writer's Review*, *The Binnacle*, *The Cape Rock*, *Crack The Spine*, *The Dos Passos Review*, *Eclectica*, *Fiction Fix*, *Forge*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Hog River Review*, *Inscape*, *The Louisville Review*, *Pearl*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *The MacGuffin*, *Marathon Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Noctua Review*, *Slab*, *The Penmen Review*, *Underwood Review*, *Verdad*, and *Willow Review*. She writes using the pen name B. P. Greenbaum.



Julie Choffel grew up in Austin, Texas, where she studied geography, ecology, and writing. She is a graduate of the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at UMass Amherst and now teaches creative writing at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Her poems have appeared in many journals including *Denver Quarterly*, *the tiny*, *Art New England*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, and *The Seattle Review*, and she is the author of *The Hello Delay*, which won the Poets Out Loud Prize, and *The Chicories*, a recent chapbook.



Christine Beck is a poet and teacher of literature and creative writing. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. A long-time officer of Connecticut Poetry Association, she directs a monthly interactive poetry discussion series at local libraries. Christine Beck is a former Poet Laureate of West Hartford, CT. Her books of poetry include *Blinding Light*, Grayson Press, *I'm Dating Myself* (Dancing Girl Press), *Stirred, Not Shaken* (Five Oaks Press) and *Beneath the Steps: a Writing Guide for 12-Step Recovery*, which details her recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous and Adult Children of Alcoholics in poetry and prose. Her website is [www.ChristineBeck.net](http://www.ChristineBeck.net).