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## For Immediate Release

### April is Poetry Month at Hartford Public Library

Please join us for a celebration of poetry at Hartford Public Library in April and May. Listen and participate in great discussions or take a workshop.

**Ghanaian Poet Kwadwo Opoku-Agyemang: *Wise Eyes: The Venture Smith Poems*, Hartford History Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Thursday, April 7—5:30 pm.**

**Dr. Kwadwo Opoku-Agyemang** (Ph.D., York University, Canada), Emeritus Professor of Literature in the Department of English and Director of Graduate Studies, University of Cape Coast, will discuss a history of the slave trade in Ghana and the port of Anomabo. He will read works from his forthcoming poetry collection, *Wise Eyes: The Venture Smith Poems*.

### **The Author's Table at Hartford Public Library celebrates National Poetry Month**

Hartford Public Library features three local poets who will appear at The Author's Table.

**Kim McSpadden, (writing as/a.k.a Francee Bouvenir)** appears on Sunday, April 3 from 2 to 5 pm. Author of seven works, she previously published *The Journey and the Memoirs: Poems/Poetry That Challenge the Consequences*, and will be promoting her 2012 poetry book "Child's Dark Soul: Challenges, Choices and Consequences".

**Lisa C. Taylor** appears on Sunday, April 17, from 2 to 5 pm and will promote her 2015 book "Growing a New Tail", a collection of fictional short stories. Taylor's poetry books include *Necessary Silence* (2013), *The Other Side of Longing* (2011) (with Irish writer, Geraldine Mills--this book was taught at UConn and both chosen for the Elizabeth Shanley Gerson Lecture of Irish Literature in 2011), *Insufficient Thanks* (2012), and *Talking to Trees* (2007).

**Katrease Rogers** appears on Saturday, April 23 from noon to 3pm, and is promoting her self-published collection of poetry, "Letting it Loose Poetry!"

### **Connecticut Poets Society: Poets on Poetry**

**Saturday, April 23, 10:15 am, Hartford Public Library, Hartford History Center, 500 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.**

The monthly **Poets on Poetry** series features selected poems of **Agha Shahid Ali**, from the book **Call Me Ishmael Tonight: A Book of Ghazals**. Moderated by **Antoinette Brim**. Free and open to poetry enthusiasts. Copies of the works will be available at the discussion.

Poet **Agha Shahid Ali** was born in New Delhi, India in 1949 and taught at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Princeton College and in the MFA program at Warren Wilson College. Ali's poetry reflects his Hindu, Muslim, and Western heritages. He was known for ghazals, a Persian form that uses repetition, rhyme and couplets. His books include *Call Me Ishmael Tonight*, *The Veiled Suite*, and *The Country Without a Post Office*. Moderator Antoinette Brim, is the author of two collections of poetry, *Icarus in Love* and *Psalm of the Sunflower*. Brim 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 "Tidal Basin Review," "95Notes" and "Southern Women's Review." Brim teaches at Capitol Community College in Hartford.

For more information on the Connecticut Poetry Society, visit [www.ctpoetry.net](http://www.ctpoetry.net).

## **Cesar Vallejo, Peruvian Poet**

**Tuesday, April 26, 5:30 to 7 pm, Hartford History Center**

### **Cesar Vallejo y la Poesía Universal**

This iconic poet wrote about life in a small provincial town of Peru, a convulsed Europe in the 1930s, the artistic avant-garde in Paris, and the Spanish Civil War. His creative and innovative language transcends social conventions and urges us to overcome human suffering through solidarity and brotherhood. Presented with the Peruvian Consulate in Hartford. Moderator TBA.

### ***César Vallejo y la Poesía Universal***

*En el mes de la Poesía recordamos al icónico poeta, que con profunda sensibilidad nos lleva de la vida en una pequeña ciudad provinciana del Perú a la convulsionada Europa de los años '30, de la vanguardia artística en París a la Guerra Civil Española. Su lenguaje creativo e innovador trascienden las convenciones sociales y nos instan a superar el dolor humano mediante la solidaridad y la fraternidad entre todos los hombres.*

*Acompáñenos al explorar las obras del inmortal César Vallejo.*

## **Poetry Writing Workshops at Hartford Public Library, Hartford**

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Hartford Public Library and Hill-Stead Museum are partners in presenting poetry writing workshops on Saturday, April 30; Saturday, May 14; and Saturday, June 4. Hill-Stead runs the annual Sunken Garden Poetry festival on its grounds in Farmington, June 22 through Aug. 17. Information: <http://bit.ly/1Snomvz>

Classes are free. Class size is 15.

We respectfully request that you register for *only one writing workshop*. If you wish to attend more than one, we will put your name on a standby list and contact you within 24 hours of the start of your second choice. Please e-mail [lappel@hillstead.org](mailto:lappel@hillstead.org) after registering for your first choice.

**April 30—10:15 am, Hartford Public Library, Hartford History Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

## ***Being Alive Twice: Creating Powerful Images in Our Poems, Taught by Clare Rossini***

A colleague of Tu Fu told the Chinese poet that reading vivid images is a way of "being alive twice." How do we create such images in our work, ones that bring our readers into the vivid sensory realities of our experience, all the while avoiding vagueness and cliché? In this workshop, participants will examine a range of sample poems, then do exercises that begin to unlock our potential for creating images that are both original and memorable, the kind that readers will experience in a visceral fashion, and return to, again and again.

**Clare Rossini** is the author of three collections of poetry: *Lingo* (The University of Akron Press, 2006); *Winter Morning with Crow* (University of Akron Press 1997), chosen by Donald Justice for the Akron Poetry Prize and one of two finalists for PEN's first Joyce Osterweil Award; and *Selections from the Claudia Poems* (Minnesota Center for the Book Arts, 1996), an art book edition. Rossini will read her poetry July 20 at the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival.

**Saturday, May 14 –10:15 am , Hartford Public Library, Hartford History Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**Sharing Our Heritage or Other Multicultural Experiences through Poetry. Taught by Luisa Caycedo-Kimura.**

We can play an important role in advancing social change by writing about our ancestry or multicultural exposure in a way that promotes shared experience and equality. In this workshop, we will discuss how our heritage, travels, or other ethnically diverse experiences, can enter and inform our poetry, through the incorporation of other languages or the settings and themes we choose to explore. Exercises will help you share your heritage or multicultural experiences through your poetry.

**Luisa Caycedo-Kimura** has taught creative writing at Boston University and been a guest lecturer at Southern Connecticut State University. Born in Colombia and raised in New York City, Luisa left the legal profession to pursue writing. She has

an MFA in poetry from Boston University and has received numerous awards for her writing. Luisa was the 2014 John K. Walsh Residency Fellow at the Anderson Center at Tower View, the 2014 Adrienne Reiner Hochstadt Fellow at Ragdale, and a 2013 Robert Pinsky Global Fellow in Poetry. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in *Sunken Garden Poetry 1992-2011*, *Mid-American Review*, *Nashville Review*, *Jelly Bucket*, *PALABRA*, *FRIGG Magazine*, and *Pilgrimage*.

**Saturday, June 4—10:15 am, Hartford Public Library, Hartford History Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**Art on a Mission: Creating Poems for Social Change. Taught by Joyce Ashuntantang.**

Are you worried about climate change, domestic violence, environmental issues, racism, children's rights, homelessness or a problem in your life? Let your poems speak for you. In this workshop you will learn how to create beautiful poems that would help you to engage with your topic, challenge readers to think critically, encourage others to action.

**Joyce Ashuntantang** is a poet and an Associate Professor of English at the University of Hartford. Originally from Cameroon in Central Africa, her ancestors never created art for art sake. They sculpted, painted and created stories, legends, myths and songs for a human purpose. She subscribes to this view of art and enjoys creating poems that promote social and political change. She has appeared as a poet, keynote speaker, and scholar in poetry festivals and academic conferences in, England, Germany, Nicaragua, Greece, Costa Rica, Colombia, Nigeria, Morocco, Cameroon and the United States. Ash received a B.A in Modern English Studies with a minor in Theater Arts from the University of Yaoundé Cameroon, a Masters in Librarianship from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and a Ph.D. in English on African Literature from the City University of New York. She is the author of *A Basket of Flaming Ashes*, a poetry collection translated into Spanish, Greek, Hebrew and Turkish. Her poems are included on many anthologies.

**Hartford Public Library/500 Main St./Hartford CT 06103**