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July 2017 Volume 1 Issue 4

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Iambic

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Editor's Corner



Hello Readers and Welcome to the fourth issue of Iambic!

June was Surreal

June was a surreal month. I didn't celebrate much due to a cold I got from work. Oh, happy days. But, I am appreciating the love I am getting from crowded venues. Even I, myself, was also working the streets.

Speaking off the street, let's head over to Oak Park and view a different type of open mic show. Oak Parks Open Air Open Mic show is the first and only mobile open mic show in Sacramento. Plus, this month feature in Venue Profile.

This month's Meet the Host features: Wendy Williams. Wendy is one of the open mic shows host at Sacramento Poetry Center.

Exclusive

We have a new short story writer that you should check out. MARRS is a youth writer that has published several books and a prolific speaker on domestic violence. Check out his story excerpt from his latest book.

I would like to give an honorable mention to Jenny for winning June's Sacramento Slam. Read more about it in the Sac Slam Page on Iambic. We also been graced with a heartfelt poem from Izzy Lala. If you have poems, proses, or visual arts that you would like to see in Iambic, then email Iambiczine@gmail.com for guidelines.

Venue Profile



Oak Park Open Air Open Mic

Sundays 12P - 5P
Location changes

<https://www.facebook.com/TheDivineStyles/>

The Oak Park Open Air Open Mic

(Oak Park Love Market 33rd street and Boardway outside unless changed; every Sunday from 12 noon to 5 pm) Oak Park Open Air Open Mic Show is a mobile open mic show that has produced shows at several venue locations in the Oak Park district. Founded and hosted by Dante Pelayo of Divine Styles Booksellers. The show does not have a microphone on location, so be ready to project your poems or songs loudly. This is a new show that has been open for 2 months but has progressively land several locally known recording artists and Poets to perform at the show. Plus, if you bring your children to the show, Divine Style bookseller will let your child take a book home from their selection.

Meet the Hosts

Wendy Williams is an artist, published poet, creative writing instructor, open mic host, life coach, and speaker. She is a member of Red Fox Poets Underground and a board member at Sacramento Poetry Center.



She has several paintings and other artwork that has been presented at Sacramento Poetry Center gallery. Her poetry and short stories have been published by literary magazines around the world. She has two poetry chapbooks, Some New Forgetting (Rattlesnake Press) and Bayley House Bard (Friends of Bayley House).

She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Mills College and has taught composition, critical thinking, literature, and creative writing at the College of Alameda in California for almost 20 years. She currently teaches English Composition at Folsom Lake College.

She has been an open mic host for several years at Sacramento Poetry Center. As a board member, she champions poetry therapy and drawing to boost people's artistic abilities and confidence.

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Wind

Wendy Williams

I was walking late night, wind lifting my hair, lifting my hair from my forehead. I was walking late night, the breeze lifting a weight from my shoulders. A weight was carried for me. I was care about by the wind, talking in the trees, the trees, tall black silhouettes, held air and shook it into words, the word sailed across currents - hedonia, hedonia- pleasure. The pleasure of hair swirling around my head, hair lifting off my back. My hair - I couldn't control it- the wind lifting it from my back.

Hourglass

Izzy Lala

I stared at the glass as sand trickled down, slowly but surely

I saw my reflection in that glass, but I knew it was still early.

My face still youthful, my eyes still wide
Like a child, I stared, with little to no care.

For that reflection was still beautiful,
Even as that sand was irremovable

I couldn't help but look into the eyes
of that reflective glass –

They showed me the future,
they showed me my past

The future still waiting,

The past still
unchanging,

The sand still

trickling
down, slow

as

leave

s

t
hat
fall to
the ground

Seasons passing

– like those grains of
sand passing through –

Still I stayed and stared –
with no way of knowing what to
do.

As that reflection was becoming clearer

I saw those eyes in full terror.

As that glass was half empty –

I saw youth had faded like the past, and the future
that waited.

And that sand that once trickled, now sat still

And that care - now I could feel.

A child no more, for my hour had passed here.

8 Rules Every Poet Should Follow

Rebecca Blanton

Some people are excellent poets. Some people are excellent business people. Rarely is one person both.

Open mics and poetry shows may seem casual and lacking set rules for behaviors but the reality is, the hosts and venues are in the business of putting on shows and making money. There are behaviors that will annoy most hosts and venues, although they may not call you out for specifically violating these rules. Here is how to be a good guest (and yes, even when you go to the same venue every week, you are still a guest).

Support the venue. The venues host poetry events to make money. This means, BUY STUFF. Some venues charge a cover, some have a one or two item minimum, some allow folks in but there is an unwritten expectation you will buy something for the right to be in the space. Rents in midtown have skyrocketed and parking regulations are sucking the life out of small businesses. If you are benefiting from seeking a mic or show, do your part and buy a drink or something to eat.

TIP!!! I don't care if you have a personal stand against tipping or are a struggling artist, tip the staff. Whether it's a tip jar or a tip on your check, the tip is the biggest part of the staff's salary for the night. If you are broke still tip. Either leave enough room in your order to add a tip or just drop a dollar in the tip jar and call it a night. Don't starve another artist because you feel cheap.

Ask the hosts: If you want to break the format of the night or sell your stuff, run it by the host first. The host works with the venue to make sure certain rules and preferences are observed. Venues are licensed by the city for various events. Violating the rules or changing up their format can actually put a venue at risk for remaining licensed. So ask before you change up stuff. If you want to pitch a chapbook you are hawking, let the host know when you sign up for the list. If you want to promote your business, let them know and offer to cross promote. If they are allowing you to sell your book or swag every week, offer them free advertising, or buy a big meal. Do something to show your appreciation.

8 Rules, con't.

Respect the rules: You will not always get your way. If a host tells you something is inappropriate or asks you to stop something, respect that. Not every venue is right for every piece you have written. If there are a bunch of kids, don't read your work about getting laid last weekend or swear a lot. If your host says, "Don't pitch your show at a competing venue," then don't do that. This is pretty simple. You are in their house, on their turf. Follow their rules.

Time Limits: Respect the time limits! Please, for the love of all that is good, get off the stage when your time is up. Most mics run long- very, very, long. If you have five minutes, make sure your piece is under five minutes. If you give us a three minute intro to the history of your piece, the poem better be under two minutes long. If you took four minutes to get your guitar plugged in and tuned, you have one minute to play. We did not pay to see you play all night. Show up, perform, get the heck off stage.

Tokin': Yes, marijuana is legal in CA. I have a card along with a lot of us. And yes, a lot of creative folks smoke. Be discrete about your indulgence. If you are going to consume, don't do it directly in front of the venue (unless, of course it is a show celebrating 420). If a host or staff at the venue ask you to take it elsewhere, do so. Yes, you have a legal right to your weed. You don't have a right to be a dick about it.

Be aware of your surroundings: While many venues are in commercial zones, several are in mixed zoning areas. If there are living spaces near the venue (e.g., apartments, homes) be quite outside. Respect their neighbors.

Respect the features. A large number of shows don't pay their features. Instead, the feature sells merch to pay for the gas and food they used for the night. If a feature is selling merch, don't try and piggyback on them and hawk your stuff. As someone is buying a book or merch from a feature, this is the wrong time to step in and say, "Hey, I have stuff too!"

Summer Reading Lists

Welcome to July! Summer is the perfect time to amp up your reading! Kids are out of school, days are longer, and hopefully you have a few vacation days. It's not just kids who need summer reading lists. We all benefit by reading a diversity of poets. Below are a few suggestions to read together as a family and for yourself. (Very subjective list, of course.)

Family Reading

William Blake "The Tyger"

Lewis Carroll "The Jabberwocky"

Edward Lear "The Owl and the Pussycat"

Elise Paschen, editor. Poetry Speaks to Children. (edited anthology)

Christina Rossetti "Hurt No Living Thing"

Shel Silverstein (1974). Where the Sidewalk Ends. New York: Harper Collins.

Add to your shelf this summer

Miguel Algarin and Bob Holman (editors), (1994) Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorkican's Poet Café. New York: Holt Paperback.

Junot Diaz (2008). The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao. Riverhead Books.

June Jordan (2003). Some of Us Did Not Die: New and Selected Essays. Civitas Books.

Continued Next Page

Summer Reading List, con't.

Langston Hughes (1926). *The Panther and the Lash*. New York: Vintage Books.

Tania Runyan (2015). *How to Write a Poem: Based on the Billy Collins' poem "Introduction to Poetry."* T.S. Poetry Press.

Mark Kelly Smith and Jo Kraynak (2009). *Take the Mic: the art of Performance Poetry, Slam, and Spoken Word (A Poetry Speaks Experience)*. Sourcebook Media Fusion.

Meet the Hosts, con't.

Her latest passion is a program called “ReStorying Your Life – Freedom after Trauma.” It covers topics including PTSD, preverbal trauma, healing from trauma, writing as a healing art, and the resilience of the human spirit. A life threatening condition requiring surgery left emotional trauma and continued physical health issues. From 20 years of healing, she has found ways to recover from her ordeal that even her therapist could not help her with. She is now a speaker and a life coach that helps others with pains of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

Find out more about Wendy's current project at RestoryYourLife.com.



Poet state of mind
CharRon Smith

Thoughts become maps
A pencil a compass
sketch words in a path.
Dictionary become tour book
Get excited about the path I took.
Sounds sublime but press rewind
then understand a poet's state of mind.

Sacramento Slam Page

The Officials:

The Slam founders: Jennlyn and MC Sho Nuff

The Slam show host: (2014 Sac Slam team member) Ike Torres of the Sacramento crew, ZFG.

Co-host and show DJ: (2016 Sac Slam team member) CharRon Smith aka Resolution.

Our Timer and Scorer: Greg aka Sheets.

The Show:

The venue was packed, judges were picked, host was ready, DJ was plugged in, and participates have signed in and paid. We have 10 poets on the list that will be competing for \$40 grand prize. A guest performance poetry reading by AndYes (a local Sacramento spoken word artist) with his new book. Check him out at www.AndYes.com.

After an 2 hours of Spoken Word performances, judging, music interludes, and opera performance by Aja, we have a winner: Jenny Davison, Our Slam Master Extraordinaire in Sacramento Slam.

Congratulation, **Jenny!** You are June Sacramento Slam Champion. We hope she participates in July Sac Slam to defend her title but until then, keep writing and performing, Poet!

Honorable mentions to SCC Creative Alliance for presenting art during the Show.

The Sacramento Slam is performed at Luna's Café every third Friday of the month.



Young Poet Voices

Shamar is 13 years old. He is the child of a photographer and a survivor of domestic abuse. Inspired by his mother, he has written a book *IIIIII*, about grandparents' wisdom. He now speaks about surviving and thriving after child abuse. He loves writing and golf.

There is a platitude, "Education is the key to success." What does that mean to you?

Well, let me answer that for you. My grandpa always told me that quote I used to reflect on life's meanings. Well, now I know. The first school I attended was not a good school. I was, then, relocated to another elementary school they required a lot of work but I did it. Now, I am about to graduate 6th grade and going to an engineering middle school or another middle school or high school. Do you know of Stanford University? Well, this my dream college. My grandpa tells me that they are strict on grades, so he tells me to keep high grades to go to college. That leads back to my grandpa's quote you must keep your grades up and go to college and get a good education.

Shamar's book, *Shamar's Life*, can be found at Amazon.com and other retailers.

YOUTH VOICES ARE NEEDED!

IAMBIC wants more youth voices! Are you 25 years old or younger? Do you writer and perform poetry,

spoken word or prose? Do you have short-form work (under 500 words) that you would like to see published?

Submit your work to Iambic at Iambiczine@gmail.com. We will review all submissions for publication. You will be compensated with three copies of Iambic!



Shamar with his Grandfather, the inspiration for his first book.

Sacramento Poetry Calendar July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tu	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Saturday
					1	
2 12-5P OPOM (3)	3 7:30P Sac Poetry Center 9p Spotlight@ Blue Lamp \$5	4	5 8p Shout Out Sacramento (2) 10P Mahogany (4) \$5	6 7p Rhythm & Poetry (8) \$10 8 PM Luna's Open Mic	7	8 7p Poetry Cake (9) \$15
9 12-5P OPOM (3) 8P Plugged (7)	10 7:30P Sac Poetry Center 9p Spotlight@ Blue Lamp \$5	11	12 10P Mahogany (4) \$5	13 7p Rhythm & Poetry (8) \$10 8P Luna's Open Mic	14	15
16 12-5P OPOM (3) 6:30p Poetry Corner (9) 5p Coffee & Poet @ Naked	17 7P Hot Poetry in the Park @ Fremont Park: 16 th & Q St	18	19 8p Shout Out Sacramento (2) 10P-1A Mahogany (4) \$5	20 7p Rhythm & Poetry (8) \$10 8p Luna's Open Mic	21	22
23/30 12-5P OPOM (3)	24/31 7:30 Sac Poetry Center 9p Spotlight@ Blue Lamp \$5	25	26 10P-1A Mahogany (4) \$5	27 7p Rhythm & Poetry (8) \$10 8p Luna's Open Mic	28	29

(1)Luna's Cafe 1414 16th Street; (2) Shine Café 1400 E Street; (3) Oak Park Mic @33rd Street & Broadway outside; (4) Queen of Sheba 1714 Broadway; (5) Sac City College 2825 Freeport Blvd; (6) Sac Poetry Center 1719 25th Street; (7) Sol Collective, 2574 21st Street; (8) Stellar Studios 202 23rd Street; (9) Brickhouse Gallery 2837 36th Street; Blue Lamp 1400 Alhambra