

ALTADENA POETS LAUREATE
Present

Reading by Poetry Couples

Join Poets Laureate Peter J. Harris and Carla R. Sameth as they host a special reading by three "poetry couples" at the Altadena Main Library

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

6:00 – 8:00PM

MAIN LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

LIVESTREAMED AT WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/ALTADENALIBRARY

FEATURING

**Lory
Bedikian &
William
Archila**

**Cherene
Sherrard &
Amaud
Jamaul
Johnson**

**Yvonne M.
Estrada &
Terry
Wolverton**

Poetry Couples

Lory Bedikian & William Archila

In 1999, Poet/Professor Michael Datcher offered a poetry workshop called "The Poet as Activist and Healer." **Lory Bedikian** knew something was up. **William Archila** looked frantically for his satchel. This is where Bedikian and Archila met. In 2000 they headed to Oregon to study poetry and each other. They married in 2006, had twins in 2013 and are still in love with poetry, each other and (as William says) this sad and beautiful world.



Lory Bedikian (right) & William Archila

Cherene Sherrard & Amaud Jamaul Johnson

Originally from Los Angeles, **Cherene Sherrard** is a poet, scholar, and essayist. She is the author of two full-length poetry collections, "Vixen" (2017) and "Grimoire" (2020), both from Autumn House Press and a chapbook, "Mistress Reclining"—the winner of the new women's voices prize from Finishing Line press. Other works include "Dorothy West's Paradise: A Biography of Class and Color," and several publications on the Harlem Renaissance and Black visual culture. Her creative nonfiction and poetry have appeared in The Rumpus, Plume, The New York Times Magazine, The Journal, Terrain.org, Blackbird, Water-Stone Review, Prairie Schooner, and elsewhere. She is the E. Wilson Lyon Professor of the Humanities and Chair of English at Pomona College.

Born and raised in Compton, Calif., **Amaud Jamaul Johnson** is the author of three poetry collections, "Red Summer" (2006), "Darktown Follies" (2013), and "Imperial Liquor" (2020). A former Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford, MacDowell Fellow, and Cave Canem Fellow, his honors include the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the Dorset Prize, and a Pushcart Prize. His work has appeared in The Best American Poetry, American Poetry Review, The New York Times Magazine, Kenyon Review, Callaloo, Lit Hub, Narrative Magazine, Crazyhorse, Indiana Review, The Southern Review, Harvard Review and elsewhere. He served as the Halls Bascom Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Arthur M. and Fanny M. Dole Professor of English at Pomona College. Currently, he teaches at Stanford. His most recent collection, "Imperial Liquor," was a finalist for the 2021 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2021 UNT Rilke Prize.



Cherene Sherrard (right) & Amaud Jamaul Johnson

Yvonne M. Estrada & Terry Wolverton

Yvonne M. Estrada is the author of the chapbook, "My Name on Top of Yours," a crown of sonnets accompanied by original photographs. Her poems have appeared in Talking Writing, Lit For Life, Fourth & Main and in the anthologies, "The Coiled Serpent: Poets Arising from the Cultural Quakes and Shifts of Los Angeles," "Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond," and "EXTREME: an anthology for social and environmental justice."

Terry Wolverton is the author of eleven books of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, including "Embers, a novel in poems," and "Insurgent Muse: life and art at the Woman's Building, a memoir." She is the founder of Writers At Work, a creative writing studio in Los Angeles, and Affiliate Faculty in the MFA program at Antioch University.

They met in 1996 when Yvonne joined a poetry workshop Terry was teaching. It was fourteen years later they had their first date.



Yvonne M. Estrada & Terry Wolverton (right)

IG/Twitter @code3poet
IG @TerryWolverton9104
IG @writersatworkla
Twitter @TerryLWolverton
Twitter @writersatwork

Poets Laureate

Peter J. Harris is the Co-Poet Laureate for Altadena, California, 2022-2024. He is a 2018 Los Angeles COLA Fellow in literary arts, Fellow of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities at USC, and award-winning poet/essayist. He is also the author of "Bless the Ashes," poetry (Tia Chucha Press) winner of the 2015 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award, and "The Black Man of Happiness: In Pursuit of My 'Unalienable Right,'" a 2015 American Book Award winner. In 2022, Beyond Baroque Books will publish Harris' book of poetry "SongAgain" and FlowerSong Press will publish his "Safe Arms: 20 Love & Erotic Poems (w/an Ooh Baby Baby moan)." Harris is founder of the **Black Man of Happiness Project**, <https://blackmanofhappiness.com>.



Peter J. Harris
@blackmanofhappiness

Photo by Tiffany Judkins

Carla Rachel Sameth is Co-Poet Laureate for Altadena, Calif., for 2022-2024. Her chapbook, "What Is Left" was published December 2021 with dancing girl press. Her debut memoir, "One Day on the Gold Line," originally published in 2019, was reissued by Golden Foothills Press in 2022. Her writing on blended/unblended, queer, multiracial and single parent families appears in a variety of publications. Sameth's work has been selected three times as Notable Essays of the Year in "Best American Essays." Her story "Graduation Day at Addiction High," which originally appeared in Narratively, was also selected for Longread's "Five Stories on Addiction." A Best of the Net and Pushcart nominee, a Pasadena Rose Poet, a West Hollywood Pride Poet, and a former PEN Teaching Artist, she teaches creative writing to high school and university students and has taught incarcerated youth. carlasameth.com



Carla R. Sameth
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