



**Deborah Pittman** is a classically trained clarinetist, ceramist, performance artist and writer. A native New Yorker, she is Professor Emeritus of clarinet and studies in American Music at CSUS Sacramento (where she taught from 1991 to 2013). She was a lecturer at UC Davis for ten years. Her educational background includes: BS and MA degrees in Music Performance from Brooklyn College Conservatory and Doctoral studies at the Manhattan School of Music.

She has been a solo and chamber performing artist on both coasts, with feature performances in Japan and South Korea. Her commissioned works for family concert series include: Peter in the Hood, Niam: Portrait of a Gnome, In the Land of Picklesnout Gouch, and Small Shoulders/Big Dreams. Her documentary films include: Convergence II (a film and concert series on Historic Oak Park), The Extraordinary Life of Joseph

Bologne Chevalier De Saint-Georges (a short film, award winning film, study guide and music videos from the film score, available free to educators) and The World According to Earl (created with a grant from the NEA). This work has received awards from 8 film festivals.

#### ABOUT POETRY OUT LOUD

Poetry Out Loud is a national youth literary arts competition. The renowned competition encourages and reinforces the mastery of life-long important skills, such as, instilling confidence, engaging in public speaking, literacy and reading comprehension, analytical thinking, cultural expression and language development. The use of visual and performing art is applied to generate unique, memorable, dramatic and theatrical performances with an impactful delivery.

#### STATEMENT OF GRATITUDE

The Arts Council of Placer County (ACPC) would like to THANK the California Arts Council, The National Endowment for The Arts, the Poetry Foundation and our volunteer POL Judges. We express our deep gratitude to our Sponsors who have supported the 2024 Season of Poetry Out Loud.

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



**Granite Bay High School  
Visual & Performing Arts Theater  
1 Grizzly Way, Granite Bay, CA 95746**

**February 10, 2024  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**



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Arts Council of Placer County P.O. Box 1267 Rocklin, CA 95677  
916.209-6778 | [admin@placerarts.org](mailto:admin@placerarts.org)



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# 2024 POETRY OUT LOUD Competition

## Schedule of Events

9:00 AM - 9:30 PM.....	Opening Reception Meet & Greet
9:30 AM - 9:35 PM.....	Host Welcome Julie Francesconi, GBHS
9:35 AM - 9:45 PM.....	Introduction of Judges & Schools Delgreta Brown, ACPC Board Poetry Out Loud Coordinator
9:45 AM - 9:55AM.....	Poetry Guest Performance Brian M. Hassett
10:00 AM - 10:10.....	Welcome Warm-Up Exercise Julie Francesconi, GBHS
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM.....	POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM.....	COMPETITION RESULTS
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM.....	Closing Reception (Optional)
Participating Placer County High Schools.....	Granite Bay High School
Participating Students.....	Eunsol Do Anushka Kalyan Gihan Liyanage Mehreen Mohammed Sarah Yee

## Poetry Out Loud Judges



**Velvet McKenzie** is a Wordslinger that does what many of the cool, nay introverted, folks do: write poetry and hug cats. Originally from Nevada City, CA, she moved to Sacramento to study English Literature and hug more cats. She began as a local trauma medical journalist, but soon detoured into poetry and fiction writing after taking her first creative writing college course in 2013. She worked as Editor-in-Chief for the *American River Review*, which later published four of her poems. Her closed-form poem won

the Gold Circle Crown Award from Columbia University Scholastic Press in 2014. She also worked as Co-Executive Editor for the *Calaveras Station Arts and Literary Journal* before becoming a private creative writing tutor to web-based students all over California. Two of her greatest passions are teaching creative writing to students whose voices need to be heard, as well as rescuing, fostering, and rehabilitating animals until proper homes can be found or wild-release can be accomplished.



**Nyeree Boyadjian** is a Lead Wordslinger at 916 Ink. She is an Armenian-American LGBTQ+ writer from Queens, New York. She has a BFA in creative writing which she received from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. In June 2023 she received an MFA in poetry from The University of California, Davis. With 916 Ink, she will be mentoring a teen cohort for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rancho Cordova Youth Poet Laureate competition this spring. She currently lives and teaches in Sacramento.



**Teresa Stirling Forsyth**, MFA (Dramatic Arts), MS (Mgmt & Leadership), member DG & SDC, is Board President and Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater. For Placer Rep, she performs administrative duties as well as the duties of a producer, resident playwright and director. She has also been known to design costumes, props, furnishings, sets, lights and sound, to relish scenic painting opportunities and reluctantly perform.