

PLACER COUNTY

2 0 2 5

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT**



FEB 8 | 2025

Northern California Dance Conservatory
920 Reserve Dr, Ste 110 | Roseville, CA 95678



PROGRAM

- 9:00 - 9:15AM | Opening Reception Meet & Greet
- 9:15 - 9:30AM | Host Welcome & Opening Remarks
Jenny Darlington-Person,
ACPC Interim Executive Director
Twiana Armstrong, ACPC Board Chair
- 9:30 - 9:45AM | Introduction of Judges & Schools
Delgreta Brown, ACPC Board Member
Poetry Out Loud Coordinator
- 9:45 - 9:55AM | Poetry Guest Performance
Yvette Kdoji
- 10:00 - 10:10AM | Poetry Guest Performance
Nancy Gonzalez St. Clair,
Poet Laureate of the City of Lodi
- 10:15 - 10:45AM | **POETRY OUT LOUD
COMPETITION**
Participating Placer County Schools
John Adams Academy
Cooley Middle School
Woodcreek High School
Granite Bay High School
- 10:55 - 11:00AM | **COMPETITION RESULTS**
Awards & Recognition
- 11:15 - 11:30AM | Closing Reception



STUDENTS · Poems

Mark Bixle · 12th Grade

Fable

Emily Botwink · 11th Grade

"My partner wants me to write them a poem about Sheryl Crow"

Quinn Campbell · 11th Grade

Ozymandias

Ava Eryomenko · 11th Grade

In Flanders Fields

Elizabeth Polishchuk · 11th Grade

Abandoned Farmhouse

Nasreen Rallhan · 8th Grade

Caged Bird

Priscilla Shariffe · 8th Grade

"The World is About to End and My Grandparents Are in Love"

Victoria Smith · 12th Grade

The Affliction of Richard

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, the Teachers of participating schools in Placer County and our volunteer Poetry Out Loud Judges today!

We are most grateful for the students of Placer County who excitedly participate in, and look forward to this literary arts competition each year. We are extremely delighted to see an increase in participating schools in 2025, and appreciate the teachers for this!

Poetry Out Loud **JUDGES**

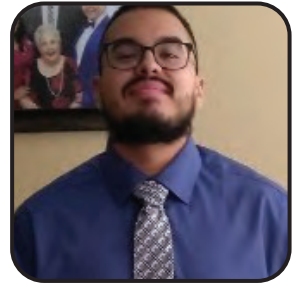
David Anderson was raised in the Loomis Basin, the original fruit bowl of California. He attended UC Berkeley and obtained bachelor's degrees in Liberal Arts and Librarianship. When he retired as a Librarian Emeritus from the UC Davis Loren D. Carlson Health Sciences Library in 1991 and again from the University of California Center for Animal Alternatives in 1998, he had been self-publishing *Humans & Other Species*, a bibliographic journal compiled for scholars and practitioners of human-animal interactions. After he sold that journal and moved from his and his children's rural childhood home, he began writing poetry in earnest.



His poems have appeared in *The Adirondack Review*, *Brevities*, *California Quarterly*, *Chaparral Updrafts*, *Christianity & Literature*, *Crux*, *DADs Desk*, *Epiphany*, *Little Town USA*, *Liturgy*, *Manzanita*, *Medusa's Kitchen*, *Monterey Poetry Review*, *Ophidian: Poetry & Art Anthology*, *Private Poetry Line*, *Radix*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *Song of the San Joaquin*, *Symphony*, *Time of Singing*, and *The Windhover*. *California Quarterly* nominated one poem for the *Pushcart Prize* anthology. He owes much to his mentors, Sue Janet Clark, Jim Moore, and Nicholas Samaras.

David Anderson's Poetry Letter emails one of his poems a month to family and friends. His self-published chapbook, *Not Made by Hand: Selected Poems, 2002-2004* is out of print. A paraphrase of selections from the *Odes of Solomon*, a first-century Jewish/Christian songbook, *The Odes: From Solomon's Songbook* (Dark Horse Press, 1980) is available from him. His debut published book of poems *What Was Within: Poems* (Christian Faith Publishing, c2022) is available from Amazon.com and Barnes&Noble.com. He is a member of the Poets Club of Lincoln.

Nathan Garcia serves as Librarian II for the City of Roseville, who primarily focuses on programming for youth. He has worked in libraries for over 4 years and has provided programming, outreach, and services to Los Angeles, Shasta, and Placer counties. He has led TAB groups for approximately 3 years, but this is his first year at this library location and with this current TAB group. Currently, he assists with leading TAB in creating programs for the Roseville Libraries. Some program ideas that TAB is exploring during 2025r are hosting a book drive for the library's summer reading program, hosting a career fair with leaders from various career fields, and teen art contests.



STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION

We express our deep gratitude to our Donors for the provision of unique resources to foster opportunities in arts education, creative expression, fellowship in the arts and encourage the celebration of multicultural communities.

We appreciate our 2025 Donors: Poets Club of Lincoln, the Haiku Poets of Northern California, 916Ink, Auburn Symphony, Latino Center For Arts & Culture and the Northern California Dance Conservatory (NCDC), who have collectively supported the 2025 Season of Poetry Out Loud in Placer County.

Caitlin Lek is a junior student in the 11th grade at Woodcreek High School and the secretary of the Roseville Teen Advisory Board. She is very excited to be judging this POL contest! She has been a part of my school's speech and debate team for the past 2 years now. She is not a stranger to public speaking and poetry and has seen many competitors' original prose and poems. Additionally, she has performed poetry onstage. She is ecstatic to see how competitors interpret their pieces and look forward to seeing their performances!



TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is an assembly of teens who are dedicated to participating in community events and have a huge interest in libraries. Roseville Library currently has two TAB groups, Maidu TAB and Riley TAB. Maidu has 27 teens signed up and Riley has 28 teens for a grand total of 55 teens!! TAB offers teens an opportunity to give teens a voice in our libraries. We work with our TAB to get their opinion on programs, space, collection, etc. In addition to getting their feedback to improve libraries, we also have TAB focus on community services and leadership skills such as creating a program for the library

916INK is Sacramento's arts-based creative writing and literacy nonprofit that provides workshops and tutoring to transform Sacramento youth into strong readers, confident communicators, and published authors. Our programs increase literacy skills, improve vocabulary, teach empathy, positively impact social and emotional learning, and expand communication skills. We envision a Sacramento region where every child and teen is given access to a culturally relevant creative writing program that leads them to believe in themselves and to understand the power of the written word. www.916ink.org



Brooke Noble (she/her) has taught poetry and other forms of writing through creative writing workshops since 2019 at 916ink in Sacramento, California. She works with at-promise youth to publish them in anthologies, encouraging them to use their authentic voice, and to feel empowered. She is extremely passionate about working with youth inside the Youth Detention Facility in Sacramento as well as youth in foster care. Brooke has a BA in Social Work, is the current Committee Chair for 916ink's DEIA committee, has been published in over 20 anthologies, and has organized a multitude of poetry and writing-related events in the Sacramento and surrounding communities."Brooke serves as the At-Promise Youth Programs Coordinator for 916Ink.



Yvette Nicole Kolodji | Haiku Poets of Northern California.

Nicole is a haiku poet and artist. She is the Southern California Haiku Study Group Moderator and the Haiku Poets of Northern California Membership Secretary. Her poetry has been published in many haiku journals since 2014 and has been recognized as a winner of the 2023 Santa Clarita Sidewalk Poetry Contest, an honorable mention from the 2022 Haiku Society of America Rengay Award, runner-up for the 2022 and 2021 Golden Triangle Contests, honorable mention for the 2021 Haiku Poets of Northern California Rengay Award, and the 2014 Touchstone Short List for The Haiku Foundation. She was a guest editor in 2023 for The Haiku Foundation's Haiku of the Day blog for July and she will be a judge for the 2025 Rangay Award for the Haiku Poets of Northern California. She has also given haiku presentations and readings for poetry meetings or conferences.



Raquel Mejia is a woman of many talents. She is the creator, Executive Producer, and visionary of Dinorah Desde, which is now airing on PBS! Raquela is a Sacramento native that found her way to Los Angeles. Her passion for music and art led her to the City of Angels, where she spent time working in music industry. She loved living there but wanted to be back home in Sacramento, so she began bridging her time between the two cities. She has had the privilege of working in record promotion and artist relations for WEA Latina Records. In addition, she co-owns Maxima Records with Pierre Garreud and Gustavo Farias. In 2016, she released the single "Mantra For Good People," which pays homage to the love and unity of people worldwide and brings together many talented singers from around the world in this gospel-pop song. Raquela is also composer/producer for the upcoming release of teen Alana Nikole's new CD titled "Precious Moments."



Nancy Gonzalez St. Clair is the inaugural Poet Laureate of Lodi, California, where she uses her passion for poetry to inspire and engage the community. Her work has been published in several literary journals, including *Huizache: The Magazine of Latino Literature*, *La Tolteca*, *Mujeres De Maiz Zine*, *Hinchas de Poesía*, and *Fifth Wednesday Journal*. Her poetry is also featured in anthologies such as *Poetry of Resistance: Voices for Social Justice*, *Sacramento Voices: Foam at the Mouth Anthology*, *Lowriting: Shots, Rides, and Stories from the Chicano Soul*, and *Puro Chicanx Writers of the 21st Century*.



Nancy has been an active voice in the poetry community for over a decade. She served on the board of the Sacramento Poetry Center for several years and has been a member of the writing collective "Los Escritores del Nuevo Sol" since 2011. Currently, she hosts the monthly poetry series *Mosaic of Voices* and facilitates poetry workshops at the Lodi Public Library, fostering creativity and connection among poets of all ages and backgrounds.

In addition to her literary contributions, Nancy is a dedicated public school educator with 23 years of experience, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to empowering young minds through education and the arts.

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. www.poetryoutloud.org

REGIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

HAIKU POETS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (HPNC)

HPNC was formed in 1989 to further the writing, study, and appreciation of English-language haiku and related genres such as senryu, renku, rengay, tanka, and haibun. We hold meetings, sponsor readings, and publish haiku books under our own imprint, Two Autumns Press. Though most of our members live in the San Francisco and Northern California area, membership is open to anyone with an interest in haiku.

Our members include both new and established writers, many of whom have had their work published in journals and anthologies throughout the world. HPNC publishes a quarterly newsletter, as well as Mariposa, a semi-annual members-only journal of haiku and related poetry, and also publishes occasional anthologies of haiku and senryu by members. We also hold annual contests for haiku, senryu, tanka, and rengay. The biggest event of the year for HPNC is the Two Autumns reading in late summer or early fall. This annual reading is the longest-running haiku reading series outside of Japan and features some of the best poets writing haiku in English today. All of our events are free and open to the public. Visit www.hpnc.org or www.hpnc.org/schedule to learn more about the literary arts organization and its programs.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DANCE CONSERVATORY (NCDC)

NCDC is a 9,500 square foot studio space divided into 5 large state of the art studios. A good training space is critical for the success of any dancer. The studios are equipped with large open spaces, full sized mirrors, premium sound systems and professional sprung raised floors; which is crucial for injury prevention. NCDC offers a homework area for students and a comfortable reception area for parents to wait for the younger dancers. NCDC is the home of Roseville's first black box theater that allows students the opportunities to perform in an intimate, professional setting. Visit ncdc.com for more information.

ABOUT | AUBURN SYMPHONY

Placer County's premier community orchestra is led by renowned Maestro Ryan Murray, and today boasts approximately 70 of the most accomplished musicians in the region. The Auburn Symphony is recognized as one of the best community orchestras in the country. The Auburn Symphony is widely recognized for its focus on educational outreach; performing special concerts designed for the over 6,000 elementary school students who delight in what is for many, their "first" musical performance experience. auburnsymphony.com

ABOUT | LATINO CENTER OF ART & CULTURE (LCAC)

The mission of the Latino Center of Art and Culture is to foster artistic, economic and cultural development of the Sacramento region's Latinx community by presenting, exhibiting, and providing excellent artistic programs and services to Latinx artists, organizations and families. In this way, we actively seek social justice for marginalized and underrepresented communities. The Center pays special attention to folk and traditional artists because they carry our cultural traditions and because they are predominantly newly arrived immigrants. We seek and encourage emerging visual and performing artists to grow and take chances as they explore their artistic potential. Our board and staff come from our community. Among our constituents are our neighbors, compadres, and family members. Visit www.thelatinocenter.org/ to learn more about our organization

ABOUT | CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

Culture is the strongest signifier of California's identity. As a state agency, the California Arts Council supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, programs, and services.

Our mission is strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. Our vision is a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts. arts.ca.gov

DONOR | THANK YOU:

SANTA BARBARA ZOO



Today's POL Champion will receive a **gift** from the Santa Barbara Zoo. The Santa Barbara Zoo is dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of the natural world and its living treasures through education, research, and recreation. Visit: sbzoo.org

ABOUT | ARTS COUNCIL OF PLACER COUNTY

The Arts Council of Placer County promotes and advocates for all arts across Placer County to enrich and help develop the artistic culture of our region of Northern California and beyond. Since 1983, the Arts Council of Placer County has been building community through arts and culture. We believe art should be a part of everyday living and that everyone in the community benefits when it is.

ACPC is committed to using the arts to drive racial equity and social justice.



**ARTS COUNCIL
of
PLACER COUNTY**

Connect!



placerrarts.org



@theACPC