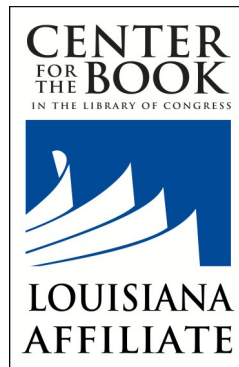


NATIONAL POETRY MONTH april 2020



Artwork by Samantha Akman. Line excerpted from the poem "Remember" by Jay Harp, from *She Had Some Hues* (W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1983). For more free poetry resources, visit Poets.org/national-poetry-month.



LouisianaTravel.com

The Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana presents as a virtual event the tenth annual

Just Listen to Yourself:

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets

Hosted by John Warner Smith

Participants: Liz Adair, Katie Bickham, Kelly Harris, David Havird, Brad Richard, and Donney Rose

Welcome by State Librarian/Assistant Secretary Rebecca Hamilton

The presentation will be recorded and available on YouTube and Facebook on Thursday, April 30, at 12:00 noon.

John Warner Smith is the state poet laureate of Louisiana. Smith has published four collections of poetry. His fifth collection will be released this year. Smith earned his MFA at the University of New Orleans and is a fellow of Cave Canem. He is the winner of the 2019 Linda Hodge Bromberg Poetry Award. Smith lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Liz Adair received her B.A. in English from the University of Alabama in 2016. Currently, she serves as the Managing Editor of *The McNeese Review* and organizes MSU's graduate reading series. She is the first place recipient of the 2019 Joy Scantlebury Poetry Prize, and her poems have been selected as finalists for *Jabberwock Review's* 2019 Nancy D. Hargrove Editors' Prize in Poetry and *F(r)iction's* Winter 2018 Poetry Contest, judged by Kwame Dawes. She currently lives in Lake Charles, LA, with her (very cute) dog, Rocky.

Katie Bickham's two books of poetry are *Mouths Open to Name Her* and *The Belle Mar*. Her poems have appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *Rattle*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. She is the winner of the *Rattle* Reader's Choice Award, *The Missouri Review* Editor's Prize, and the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Prize.

Kelly Harris received her MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University and has received fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center and Cave Canem. In 2017, she presented "Black Love: A Sustaining Force Post-Katrina" at the national symposium celebrating the 80th anniversary of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. In 2018, a portion of her research on Louisiana's first African-American poet laureate, Pinkie Gordon Lane, was published by The Louisiana Endowment for Humanities. She is the New Orleans Literary Coordinator for *Poets & Writers*. Kelly's first book, *Freedom Knows My Name*, is set for release in Spring 2020. More at kellyhd.com

David Havird is the author of two collections of poems, *Map Home* and *Penelope's Design*, a chapbook. His new

book, *Weathering*, published in 2020 by Mercer University Press, is a "chimeric omnibus" of poetry and memoir. He taught for 30 years at Centenary College of Louisiana. He lives in Shreveport.

Brad Richard is the author of four collections of poetry: *Habitations*, *Motion Studies*, *Butcher's Sugar*, and *Parasite Kingdom*, winner of the 2018 Tenth Gate Prize from The Word Works. He lives and writes in New Orleans, where he taught talented high school students for 28 years. More at bradrichard.org.

Donney Rose is a poet, teaching artist, essayist and community activist from Baton Rouge. He is the creator of *The American Audit*, a multimedia spoken word project detailing 400 years of Black American life using the extended metaphor of America as a business being audited. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge. He is a 2018-2019 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow. Donney's work as a performance poet/writer has been featured in a variety of publications. His work as a community activist has been highlighted on BBC and *Democracy Now!* and in *The New York Times*. Donney also works as a contributing writer for *The North Star*.

The Louisiana Center for the Book was established in the State Library of Louisiana in 1994 for the purpose of stimulating public interest in reading, books and libraries. It is affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Center works to accomplish its mission in three ways: by developing, sponsoring and coordinating statewide reading and writing enrichment programs for children; by identifying and nurturing the objectives of Louisiana's writers, publishers and others involved in the creation and promotion of books; and by encouraging Louisianans to read by presenting or sponsoring public presentations by accomplished authors, thus enabling the public to interact with living authors.