



Open Mic: How Reading, Hosting, or Starting Your Own Literary Reading Series Can Boost Your Career

Join authors Ann Bracken, Linda Joy Burke, Faye McCray, and Laura Shovan for an overview of the open mic/literary reading scene. Learn how open mics help you grow as a writer and build your audience. Whether you are new to sharing your work in public, or you are interested in running your own reading series, the four co-hosts of Howard County's Wilde Readings will share insights into the process.

1. Why do you want to start a reading series or host a reading series? Is this resume building, community building, or both? [What's your why?]
2. What is your experience as a writer, teacher performer etc.?
3. 1-3 years 3 – 5, 10 -15, 30 and above?
4. When you go to readings, do you stay to listen to the open mic readers, as well as featured readers?
5. What experience do you have that will contribute to the comfort of both audience, and readers; in other words, have you been to enough readings to see what works and what doesn't work?
6. What kind of series do you want to start? Open mic only, featured readers only, mixed bag, music and literary?
7. Do you have a Genre Preference? Creative Non-Fiction Short Story, poetry, comic, horror, mystery, romance, gothic, flash fiction, memoir, plays, sci-fi...?
8. How will you invite choose your guests readers?
9. Do you have a venue in mind? Will it be a coffeehouse series, house concert, readings in the park, in conjunction with a library, art gallery, bookstore, tea house, pub or bar, community kitchen, barber shop, after school program? Are you interested in creating a series for your faith community? What about a series for children, middle or high school poetry/lit groups?
10. What is your aesthetic – how do you want the venue to look, feel, and sound? Who will help with audio support, set up and breakdown of seating if needed?
11. Is the venue near parking or mass transit, wheel-chair accessible?
12. How often will your series run?
13. Will you work with other hosts or solo?
14. What kind of rules or policies will you establish for your series?
15. Are you interested in engaging community partners?
16. Will you pay features, pass the hat, write grants, charge a ticket fee?
17. How will you advertise your series?

Reading Series

Maryland

Cafe Muse: Readings 1st Monday of the month, 7-8:30pm throughout the year at The Writer's Center in Bethesda, currently held online via Zoom

<https://sites.google.com/view/cafe-muse-events/home/calendar>

DiVerse Gaithersburg: Poetry Reading and Open Mic, 1st Sunday of the month, 1-3pm, hosted by Lucinda Marshall <https://diversepoetry.com/> (on hiatus due to Pandemic; check website for more information)

Eastern Shore Voices at <https://www.facebook.com/SalisburyPoetryWeek>

Eastern Shore Writer's Association also hosts periodic readings. Check website for information.

<https://www.easternshorewriters.org/Events>

"From A Poet's Point of View": 3rd Saturdays, 1-3pm, Host/Moderator, Sistah Joy, virtual monthly reading and discussion on Zoom and Facebook Live

Host/Moderator:/Contact: Sistahjoy at Poetsistahjoy@aol.com or Sistahjoy@pgahc.org.

Hyattstown Open Mic at the Mill: 4th Saturday of the month, 7:30pm via Zoom. Poets are asked to sign up prior to event. Contact: bd@hyattstownmill.org ; <https://www.facebook.com/hyattstownmill/>

Maryland Writers' Association First Fridays: 7-8:30pm, hosted by Patti Ross, currently on Zoom

https://marylandwriters.org/First_Fridays

Poetry Open Mic at New Deal Café: 3rd Saturdays, 1-3pm, Hosted by Rocky Jones, Greenbelt, MD, currently on Zoom

<http://www.rockydude.com/poetry-readings.html>

Red Emma's Mother Earth Poetry Vibe!: Host: Analysis. 1st Saturdays of February, may. August, and November, 6pm Location: Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse, Baltimore, MD, currently on Zoom until further notice. Theme: "Peace, Justice, Poetry!" Contact: analysisthepoet@gmail.com or @analysisthepoet on social media.

The Evil Grin Poetry Series: Readings: 1st Sundays, 3-5 pm, Hosted by Cliff Lynn and Rocky Jones, Annapolis, currently on Zoom <http://www.rockydude.com/poetry-readings.html>

Third Thursday Poetry Readings-Takoma Park: contact <http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities/> for information on when readings will resume.

Follow Wilde Readings on Facebook @wildereadingscolumbia or at www.hocopolitso.org

Wilde Readings: 2nd Tuesdays, September to June, 7-8:30 pm, Hosted on a rotating basis by Ann Bracken, Linda Joy Burke, Faye McRay, and Laura Shovan; Columbia Art Center, currently on Zoom
<https://www.facebook.com/wildereadingscolumbia>

Washington, DC and Northern Virginia

American Poetry Museum: 2nd Fridays, Mother Tongue multilingual open mic on Facebook Live. Host Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez, contact: info@americanpoetrymuseum.org;
<http://www.apoetmuseum.org/contact>

Busboys on Live: Open Mic and Poetry Slam, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8pm
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/busboysonlive> (DC and Northern Virginia Locations)

O. B. Hardison Poetry Series: Folger Library in Washington, DC, held on second Mondays or Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, currently on Zoom

<https://www.folger.edu/poetry>

Readings on the Pike 2nd Thursday of each month on Zoom until further notice. (originates in Arlington)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingsonthepike/>

Delaware

Open Mic at the Zoom Café, Lois Hoffman of The Happy Self-Publisher Facebook Page, first Wednesdays, 7pm for local writers, held on Zoom
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/422666038271817>