

PROCLAMATION
“NATIONAL POETRY MONTH”

WHEREAS, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets; introduce the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry; bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways; make poetry an important part of our children's education; and

WHEREAS, as National Poetry Month, under the leadership and direction of the Academy of American Poets, is now the largest literary celebration in the world; and

WHEREAS, poetry enhances and enriches the lives of all Americans and as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life in America today, including education, the economy, and community pride and development; and

WHEREAS, poetry has produced some of the nation's leading creative artists and has inspired other artists in fields such as music, theatre, film, dance, and the visual arts; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Carrboro has had a Poet Laureate since 2002 and the current Poet Laureate is Celisa Steele; and

WHEREAS, the first Tuesday of each month, the Recreation and Parks Dept. hosts a “Poets Open Mic Night” at the Open Eye Cafe; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro’s monthly “West End Poetry Newsletter” highlights poetry readings, groups, workshops, websites, and events; and

Whereas, The 11th Annual West End Poetry Festival will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, October 15, 2016 and focus on the theme of healing and poetry.

WHEREAS, on Sunday, May 1, 2016 a the Carrboro Poets Council will host a Poetry “Reading in the Round” will take place in the Town Hall Boardroom from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. This is an open reading – all are welcome – come read your own work, come ready to share a poem you love by someone else, or come to listen only;

WHEREAS, to celebrate National Poetry Month, on Friday, April 22 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Carrboro will host “Poetry on Your Plate”; a reading by local poets Pamela Moffatt, Gary Phillips, and Pamela Baggett at the Century Center.

Whereas, The Board of Aldermen wishes to express their gratitude to Celisa Steele for serving as the Town’s Poet Laureate with a term ending in June 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim **the month of April 2016** as **“National Poetry Month”**. I invite public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of Carrboro to observe this month, celebrate the cultural riches our community has to offer, and to recognize the important role poetry plays in creating and sustaining this great nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

This the 5th day of April, 2016

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor