

CALPOETS' STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM 2024 SCHEDULE

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Registration Window/Check-in: Upper Conference Room
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Networking/Happy Hour: Just Outside of Dining Room
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Dinner: Dining Room
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Flor y Canto/Manuel Rocha Jr.: Upper Conference Room

SATURDAY, JULY 6th

8:00am-8:50am: Breakfast: Dining Room
8:50am-9:00am: Symposium Opening: Upper Conference Room
9:00 am-10:30am: Trauma-Informed Expressive Arts and Poetry in Education/Suraya Keating: Upper Conference Room
10:30-10:45am: Break
10:45am-12:00 pm: Breakout Sessions/Led by Active CalPoets' Poet-Teachers & Staff/Choose One:
1) Collage Creatives, Creating Poetry in Zines /Tauri Alonso: Upper Conference Room
2) Time (60 Seconds)/Fernando Salinas - Breakout room location TBD
12:00 pm-1:00 pm: Lunch: Dining Room
1:00 pm-2:30 pm: Craft Talk: The Second Music/Danusha Laméris: Upper Conference Room
2:30 pm-2:45 pm: Break
2:45-3:45pm: Poetry reading, Q&A, book sales/Danusha Laméris: Upper Conference Room
3:45pm-4:00pm: Break
4:00pm-5:30pm: Breakout Sessions/Led by Active CalPoets' Poet-Teachers & Staff/Choose One:
1) Creating Concrete Images and Metaphors that Spark Imagination / Tobey Kaplan & Claire Blotter :
Upper Conference Room
2) Do You Remember? Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl: Breakout room location TBD
5:30pm-6:15 pm: Happy Hour: Just Outside of Dining Room
6:00 pm-7:00 pm: Dinner: Dining Room
7:30 pm-9:00 pm: Open Mic: Upper Conference Room

SUNDAY, JULY 7th

8:00am-9:00am: Breakfast: Dining Room
9:00am-9:30 am: Check out of rooms (Everyone must be out of rooms by 10am latest)
9:30am-10:50am: Breakout Sessions/Led by Active CalPoets' Poet-Teachers/Choose One:
1) An Exploration of Gratitude/Michele Rivers: Upper Conference Room
2) The Masks of Identity/ Michael Jasso: Breakout room location TBD
10:50-11:00am: Break
11:00am-12:15pm: Symposium Closing: Upper Conference Room
12:15pm-1:00 pm: Lunch
1:00pm-2:00pm: Depart



DANUSHA LAMÉRIS



MANUEL ROCHA JR.



SURAYA KEATING

1964-2024

CALIFORNIA POETS IN THE SCHOOLS' 60TH ANNIVERSARY
STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM

FLOURISHING!

ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, JULY 5-6-7, 2024



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 5th:

Everyone: 7:00pm-8:30pm:



Manuel Rocha Jr. Flor y Canto

We will be exploring the traditional ancient Meso-American poetic form known as "Flor y Canto" or "Flower Songs," and how these poems were traditionally used for ceremonies, meditation and prayer in daily life.

SATURDAY, JULY 6th:

Everyone: 9:00am-10:30:



Suraya Keating

Trauma-Informed Expressive Arts & Poetry in Education

Using a trauma-informed lens, this workshop highlights the following three elements as keys to effectively working with social and emotional challenges amongst youth in the classroom: 1) connection 2) choice 3) resourcing

Breakout Session: 10:45 AM - 12 PM (choose one):



Tauri Alonso Collage Creatives, Creating Poetry in Zines

Learn about the history of zines and then create your own zine with magazine scraps, paper, and recycled materials, writing poetry as you go.



Fernando Salinas Time: 60 Seconds

As a society, we have agreed to measure time in seconds, minutes, hours, and days. In this generative workshop, we'll measure time in new ways. We'll be writing, but also learning this content as a lesson plan that can be taught to youth.

Everyone: 1:00-2:30 Workshop / 2:45-3:45 Reading:



Danusha Laméris

Craft Talk: The Second Music

Whenever one thing is happening, something else is happening underneath. this class we'll explore how to fold one layer over/under another in our writing, helping us to create more complex and nuanced narratives. Includes writing prompts. Bring a pen and paper! The workshop will be followed by a Poetry Reading, Q&A & book signing.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE CONT.

SATURDAY, JULY 6th:

Breakout Session: 4:00pm-5:30-PM (choose one):



Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl Do You Remember?

Learn how to take the simplest of memories and transform them into poetic masterpieces. Through the use of personal memory, song, and guided meditation, attendees will journey through their pasts using a variety of innovative lenses and perspectives in order to rediscover the old in new ways.



Tobey Kaplan & Claire Blotter Creating Concrete Images & Metaphors that Spark Imagination

In this workshop, participants will walk away with three surefire poetry lesson plans. These lessons will inspire students to write metaphors that surprise and delight them, as well as take the list poem to a new level, using descriptive language and imagery.

Everyone: 7:30pm-9:00pm:



COMMUNITY OPEN MIC

Bring a poem or two or three. We'll go in rounds. Each reader/performer will get three minutes per round. We'll keep going until the last folks want to quit.

SUNDAY, JULY 7th:

Breakout Session: 9:30am-10:50am (choose one):



Michele Rivers An Exploration of Gratitude

This workshop will include excerpts from the Say It Now program - which reaches over one million schools internationally. There will be classroom resources offered, a time for reflection and a writing time, as well as introduction to a gratitude practice.



Michael Jasso The Masks of Identity

We will explore the different parts that define us through a free-write exercise, a guided writing prompt, and an interactive crafting project. The different masks we wear will make us face ourselves and outlooks on others, and give instructors the chance to explore how to have these conversations with their students.

Everyone: 11am-12:15pm:



Symposium Closing

California Poets in the Schools' Staff and Board will lead a Community Meeting and a Symposium Closing. Come prepared to offer your insights, concerns and hopes for the future of the organization.

FULL WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & PRESENTER BIOS

Flor y Canto/ Manuel Rocha Jr.

We will be exploring the traditional ancient Meso-American poetic form known as “Flor y Canto” or “Flower Songs,” and how these poems were traditionally used for ceremonies, meditation and prayer in daily life. I will be discussing my journey in learning these forms and traditions and how I have made these poems universally accessible to contemporary readers.

***Maunel Rocha Jr.** has performed Aztec dance for 15 years and has been involved in the indigenous community with volunteering, sweat lodges and various ceremonies. He studied indigenous philosophy, history and music under Maestro Noé Yaocoatl Montoya. He has also been a performer and member of Luis Valdez’s El Teatro Campesino for 14 years, taking part in plays, music performances, community and school presentations.*

Trauma Informed Expressive Arts & Poetry in Education/ Suraya Keating

Using a trauma-informed lens, this workshop highlights the following three elements as keys to effectively working with social and emotional challenges amongst youth in the classroom: 1) connection 2) choice 3) resourcing. These three elements will be interwoven throughout this 90 minute workshop as participants are guided through a multi-modal arts journey that weaves together tools from creative movement, theater, visual art, journaling and poetry. The significance of connection, choice and resourcing in trauma-informed teaching will be discussed, as will the benefits of the arts to support each of these elements.

***Suraya Susana Keating** is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Registered Expressive Arts Therapist, Registered Drama Therapist, and EMDR Certified Therapist (EMDRRIA) who helps youth and adults to be wildly self-expressed, joyful, and connected to their deepest self through an embodied, heart-based approach to psychotherapy. During the past 18 years, Suraya has also worked extensively in the California Prison system, using theater as a tool for transformation with incarcerated men in the Marin Shakespeare Program at San Quentin State Prison, with men and women in Bay Area County Jails, and with teenagers in Juvenile Hall. Suraya supervises MFT Associates and trains psychotherapists, teachers and group facilitators in the use of the expressive arts (drama, movement, music, visual art and creative writing) and drama therapy.*

Collage Creatives, Creating Poetry in Zines/Tauri Alonso

In this workshop, we will have a brief talk about the history of zines and how poetry in zines can inspire and amplify voices of all poets, specifically poets that are visual learners, artists, and those who see the world through art and images. We will be creating our own zines in this class with magazine scraps, paper, and recycled materials. We will write poetry as we create collages in our very own zines.

***Tauri Alonso** (they/them) is a poet from East LA. They grew up in the San Bernardino desert, close to Joshua Tree National Park. They are the chief editor of Acid Verse Literary Journal and a part of the Los Angeles Poet Society. They are studying botany and mycology in the Santa Cruz mountains and enjoy finding mushrooms and seeing wildflowers.*

FULL WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & PRESENTER BIOS

Time: 60 Seconds/Fernando Salinas

As a society, we have agreed to measure time in seconds, minutes, hours, and days. In this generative workshop, we'll measure time in new ways. We'll be writing, but also learning this content as a lesson plan that can be taught to youth.

Fernando Salinas has been associated with California Poets in the Schools as a member of the Board of Directors, a Ventura County Area Coordinator, and a Master Poet-Teacher for over 10 years. He is now the Statewide Program Manager for CalPoets. He is also a Professor of English at Ventura College, the poet in residence for the Oxnard Union High School District, and the Editor-In-Chief for Spit Shine Publishing. As Literary Arts Program Coordinator for the Ventura County Arts Council, he focused on enhancing the presence and appreciation of poetry, and the spoken word. His written poetry has appeared in several publications, including Askew, Solo, Miramar, and Lummo Press.

Craft Talk: The Second Music/Danusha Laméris

“Now I understand, there are two melodies playing, one below the other.”--from *‘The Second Music’* by Annie Lighthart. Whenever one thing is happening, something else is happening underneath. We’re in line at the grocery store, but can’t stop thinking about the person we kissed the night before. Eating dinner at a French bistro, we imagine what we just saw in the news. A person at a party says something that shocks us and we freeze, answer politely. We carry these layers throughout our day, one music over another. What’s underneath? And then, what’s underneath that? In this class we’ll explore how to fold one layer over/under another in our writing, helping us to create more complex and nuanced narratives. Includes writing prompts. Bring a pen and paper!

***Danusha Laméris** is a poet and essayist raised in Northern California and born to a Dutch father and Barbadian mother. Her first book, *The Moons of August* (Autumn House, 2014), was chosen by Naomi Shihab Nye as the winner of the Autumn House Press Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the Milt Kessler Poetry Book Award. She’s also the author of *Bonfire Opera*, (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020), which was a finalist for the 2021 Paterson Poetry Prize, and winner of the 2021 Northern California Book Award. Some of her work has been published in *The Best American Poetry*, *The Sun*, *The New York Times*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *POETRY Magazine*, *Ploughshares*, *The American Scholar*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, and *Orion*. Recipient of the 2020 Lucille Clifton Legacy Award, she is on the faculty of Pacific University’s Low-Residency MFA Program. Her third book, *Blade by Blade*, is forthcoming September 10th, 2024 from Copper Canyon Press.*

FULL WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & PRESENTER BIOS

Do You Remember? /Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl

Do you remember? If so, then you have an endless treasure trunk to pull from in order to produce new writing. In this workshop, participants will learn how to take the simplest of memories and transform them into poetic masterpieces. Through the use of personal memory, song, and guided meditation, attendees will journey through their pasts using a variety of innovative lenses and perspectives in order to rediscover the old in new ways.

***Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl, or Diosa X** for short, is a multilingual and multidimensional Xicana, Indigenous, MeXicana poetiza. She is a seasoned language arts educator with a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Cross-Cultural Education, as well as a Level 1 Kundalini Yoga Instructor and a student of Nahualismo. Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl is currently serving as a board member for Circulo de poetas and Writers at <https://circulowriters.com/>; works as a Poet-Teacher with California Poets in the Schools at <https://www.californiapoets.org/>; is a proud member of Women Who Submit at <https://womenwhosubmitlit.org/>; and the international women's poetry troupe, Tesoro at <https://firesingers.com/>.*

Creating Concrete Images and Metaphors that Spark Imagination /Claire Blotter & Tobey Kaplan

Magical Metaphors: Seeing with Poet's Eyes & Drawing Indescribable Feelings:

These two surefire lessons inspire students to write multiple metaphors that surprise and delight them. In the Magical Metaphor Lesson, scripted in "kids' language," first through fourth graders describe objects with "regular" eyes and then, with special poet's lenses that allow them to see the world in totally new and unusual ways. In the second art/writing lesson for second grade & up, students draw an indescribable feeling they've experienced. Then, they "name" their feeling and describe their drawing, unlocking feelings and hidden truths in wildly imaginative poems. We will also draw a difficult to express feeling and describe our pictures.

Image List: Making Abstractions Tangible with Concrete Language

I believe an image-list poem enables young writers to develop their associative and creative connections with language most easily and strengthens their understanding of imagery, juxtaposition, line and rhythm. The core of poetry offers concrete language of place to engage our imaginations with sensory details and specific description, focusing on nouns and verbs. In this workshop we will also write an image list poem; participants can brainstorm a variety of concepts or topics.

***Claire Blotter** has taught poetry writing as a CalPoet and a regular classroom teacher to 1st grade through college age students. She represented San Francisco in National Poetry Slams in Boston and Chicago and directs video, contemporized ritual and guerilla theater. She is performing poems from her full length collection EXPANDING.WATER.WAYS. along waterways this summer to bring attention to threatened US wetlands.*

***Tobey Kaplan**, a poet originally from New York City, with degrees from Syracuse and San Francisco State Universities, has been teaching in the San Francisco Bay Area for 40+ years. An active member of California Poets in the Schools and Associated Writing Programs, Ms. Kaplan has given readings, workshops and presentations throughout the country regarding creative process, literacy and social change.*

FULL WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & PRESENTER BIOS

An Exploration of Gratitude/Michele Rivers

Join Michele Rivers - CPITS Poet for over 20 years - for an exploration of GRATITUDE. The workshop will include excerpts from the Say It Now program - which reaches over one million schools internationally. There will be links for the full Say It Now educational program, that you can use in your classrooms, examples of student Gratitude poetry, a time for reflection and a writing time dedicated to focusing on our own gritudes. Michele will also share her own Gratitude practice.

***Michele Rivers** is a poet, artist and author of the bestselling book, *Tea and Conversations with Thirteen English Women*, published by Random House. Her poetry has been published in numerous anthologies. Michele has worked as a CPITS Poetry Teacher for over 20 years. She has also taught at UCSF, Juvenile Hall, and at The Stand Down - a program for homeless veterans. Her passion is to develop a child's writing skills, self-expression, creativity, public speaking skills, confidence, and social-emotional skills. Her lessons focus on subjects to build a deeper connection to our earth and to humanity. Her classes often conclude with a Poetry recital like A Poetry Cafe or a Holiday Poetry Presentation.*

The Masks of Identity/ Michael Jasso

In this workshop, our poets will explore the different parts that define them through a free-write exercise, a guided writing prompt, and an interactive crafting project. The different masks we wear will make us face ourselves and outlooks on others, and give our instructors the chance to explore how to have these conversations with their students.

***Michael Jasso** is a Spoken Word Artist from Visalia who has worn many hats within the community over the past 14+ years. He has traveled all across California and the country as either a Poet, Emcee, Volunteer, Workshop Facilitator, Slam Coach, or a combination of all the above. He has been Lead Organizer of Visalia's Loud Mouth Poetry Jam for the last 10 years bringing out the world's most talented poets, as well as showcasing the talent of the Valley's poetry community back to the world. He represented his home venue at the 2014 & 2015 National Poetry Slam in Oakland, competed in the 2018 Individual World Poetry Slam as a Storm Poet, and has offered coaching to every Loud Mouth representative.*