

Adventures in Ink



Hello, Friends, and Happy National Poetry Month!

April is a busy and joyful month—just ask the bluebirds who are tending a nest in our backyard. Early spring brings all kinds of magic. Real-life poems are everywhere you look! Poets and word-lovers are singing...and I want to hear them! So I will make this quick.

Many sunrises ago (2007!), Paul gave me a gift to commemorate the release of my very first book of poems. It's a small sign that reads "Live Your Poem." I instantly fell in love with those words and adopted them as my lifestyle, mantra, religion.

To Live Your Poem is to do the things that bring you joy; to do the things that make you feel connected; to take time and give time; to love the world, to let go...let go... let go.



Community Poetry at Oneonta Public Library

10 Ways to Live Your Poem this Month (or Anytime!)

Call a poem a poem. Birds, flowers, clouds, children, your morning cup of java...all poems! What poem is in front of you this very moment?

Listen to Cilian Murphy reading "When You Are Old" by W.B. Yeatts. (I've had this on repeat for two weeks now!)

Do something kind...FOR YOURSELF. Sleep in. Skip the meeting. Eat the cake.

Try something new...like writing a Haiku! Here's a [Haiku handout](#) to make it super easy. (I have LOVED teaching Haiku workshops here in Blount County for [Friends of the Locust Fork River](#). THANK YOU for your beautiful poems!) My website also features many other [FREEBIE poetry activities](#)...please use them; that's what they are there for!

Put a poem in your pocket. 2024 Poem in Your Pocket Day is April 18. But you can put a poem in your pocket ANY day! It can be a quote or affirmation or any words that make you feel seen, valued, loved, joyful, connected. Check out this bulletin board (pictured above!) I created for Oneonta Public Library. It includes poems from more than 25 poets coming from at least 11 states...and Australia and Canada, too **So many thanks to these fabulous poets!**

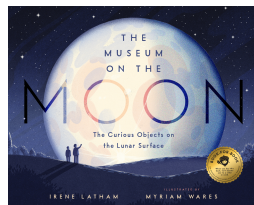
Share with someone else a favorite poem written by yourself or a favorite poet. Or simply send a "Thinking of you" text.

Read my guest column for David Harrison's Poetry from Daily Life about [poetry, stitching, and how to make the world a better place.](#)

Go outside.

Let go of the need to be right. (Do you want to be right, or do you want to be happy?)

Look up. No matter what's going on in the world, the sky (a poem!) opens itself to you. All you have to do is get out of your head and dive into your life!



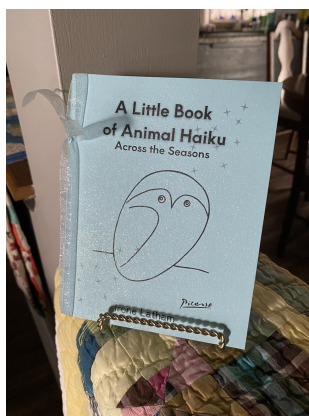
Poetry News!

My 2023 book of poems THE MUSEUM ON THE MOON was named a [Lee Bennett](#)

[Hopkins Poetry Award Honor Book!](#) What an honor!! Check out the other (funny!) Honor title *My Head Has a Bellyache* by Chris Harris and the (gorgeous!) Winner *Welcome to the Wonder House* by Rebecca Kai Dotlich & Georgia Heard.

Charles Waters and I have finalized a deal with the good folks at Lerner for our THIRD poetry anthology for children! (*The Mistakes That Made Us: Confessions from Twenty Poets* comes from Lerner Oct. 1, 2024 and *If I Could Choose a Best Day: Poems of Possibility* releases from Candlewick March 25, 2025.) Curating collections and working with poets is one of my new favorite things.

We'll also be hosting a [Working Retreat for Poets](#) at Highlights this summer, June 23-26. There's still room, and we'd love for you to join us!



Special Giveaway for Newsletter Subscribers!

I have a sparkly new chapbook of poems called *A Little Book of Animal Haiku: Across the Seasons*. It features 24 haiku poems—6 for each season—and the 24 Picasso line drawings that inspired them! (You can read some of these poems on my [2022 ArtSpeak: Animals](#) padlet.)

It doesn't show up well in the photo, but the cover has GLITTER, which I love! And here is the haiku for the front cover-owl (which appears both inside the book and on the back cover):

*the mystery is
how owl so round and ruffled
learned to drink starlight*

Our cat Maggie will be randomly selecting three winners 2pm cst April 14, 2024.

To enter simply forward this newsletter to someone you think will enjoy it...and reply to this email to let me know you have done so. Thank you, and good luck!

*If you want to purchase a copy, please reply to this email, and I will send you a payment link. (This is a micro-press, hand-printed and assembled limited-edition

offering...\$10 per copy, free shipping, while supplies last.)

New readers: welcome! I'm so glad you're here. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

Love,
Irene

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