



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 4, 2024
Contact: Jaiden Dokken, Clallam County Poet Laureate
poetlaureate@nols.org
Re: Celebrate National Poetry Month with Clallam County Poet Laureate
Attached: *PoetryWalks_JaidenDokken.jpg; PoetryMural_JaidenDokken.jpg*

Celebrate National Poetry Month in April with **Clallam County Poet Laureate Jaiden Dokken**. Here are several upcoming opportunities to experience poetry and share your own poems on the Olympic Peninsula. For more information, visit nols.org/poet.

Poetry Events

Cozy Poetry Open Mic on Zoom

Monday, April 8, 5-6:30pm

Put on your PJs, steep some tea, and snuggle in for an evening of poetry hosted by Dokken and S. Drew Bloyer. The hosts will share poems by Palestinian poets, their own work, and then open the mic for attendees' poems. Have a pen and paper ready to participate in short writing prompts.

Poetry Panel Reading

Thursday, April 11, 6-8pm at Locally Known Cowork, 112 W. Washington St., Sequim

Join hosts S. Salazar and Dokken for recitations by a panel of local poets, a Q&A, and an opportunity to mingle and purchase their work. Bring your own snacks and beverages to enjoy during the event; masking is highly encouraged by the event organizers.

Spring Poetry Night

Friday, April 26, 6-8pm, Mezzanine at Aldrich's Market, 940 Lawrence St., Port Townsend
Enjoy live music and poetry during this free, all-ages event hosted by Port Townsend Poet Laureate Conner Bouchard-Roberts of Winter texts. Featured poets include Dokken, Finn Wilcox, Quenton Baker, Christina Vega, Kat Murphy, Amber Huntsman, Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe, Lisbeth White, and Cass Curl, with music by Marit Olivia. Hot drinks are available from Conduit Coffee.

Haikus from Here

Clallam County community members are invited to submit their original poetry to the "Haikus from Here" project. Email your haiku poem (written in a 5-7-5 syllable count format), your name and city to poetlaureate@nols.org for an opportunity to be published in a zine created by Dokken.

Poetry Walks

Explore poetry in the landscape along three Olympic National Park trails – Hall of Mosses, Madison Falls, and Spruce Railroad – through May 31. Two of Dokken's poems are newly on display this year.

Take-a-Poem and Leave-a-Poem

Stop by Hurricane Coffee, 104 W. Washington St., Sequim, to read poetry written by community members on an interactive display created by Dokken. You can take a poem and use the writing supplies provided to leave a poem of your own in its place.

Community Poetry Opportunities

Email Dokken at poetlaureate@nols.org to request their participation at your community event and to collaborate on programs like poetry readings, workshops and interactive experiences. Events with the Poet Laureate should be free and open to the public, with the exception of school or corrections facility visits.

Appointed in April 2023, Dokken became Clallam County's first poet laureate. The North Olympic Library System (NOLS), in partnership with Clallam County, created the position as a way to promote poetry in the community. In their first year as poet laureate, Dokken has hosted nearly 30 events and programs across the county.



"Shored" is one of two poems by Jaiden Dokken featured in Poetry Walks along trails in Olympic National Park through May 31.



*Jaiden Dokken stands by their “Take-a-Poem and Leave-a-Poem” mural at Hurricane Coffee in Sequim.
Use the writing supplies provided to contribute a poem or select a poem to take.*

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