

what's going on @ ORFOB, April 13



10:30-11:30. *Poetry Alive* will bring their dynamic and energetic approach to encourage people to participate in poetry to Hamlin Elementary School. Then, they will do it all again at Southside Elementary School from **1:00-2:00 pm**. These sessions are not open to the public, but have been coordinated to bring extra-curricular activity to local schools as part of the Ohio River Festival of Books.

11:00 am-2:00 pm. [Ashland Community & Technical College](#) will host a *Sidewalk Poetry Contest* on the sidewalks of its College Drive and Technology Drive campuses. The idea of using public space for art has a long and storied history. This is an extension of that practice and allows sidewalks to become something other than just pathways from A to B. Public spaces can be used to inspire and to engage people to see their daily surroundings in an entirely different light. Poetry sidewalk contests provide a wonderful opportunity to combine the hard surface of the tangible with the soft corners of our imagination. **If you are interested to sign up for this event's entry click here**

3:15-4:15 pm. continuing with the Tuesday theme of poetry, Jeff Worley, editor of *What Comes Down to Us: 25 Contemporary Kentucky Poets* will make an appearance at the [Ashland Community & Technical College](#) to discuss his involvement in this volume which celebrates contemporary Kentucky poetry. This will take place in the Teleconference Room at the College Drive Campus.

2:00-4:00 pm. [CCPL Main Library, Huntington](#)

Poetry Writing Demystified. Educators and poets, Mark Defoe and Laura Bentley, lead a panel discussion on the approaches that shape their poetry and how you can unleash your own muse. Continuing with the Tuesday theme of poetry, Laura Bentley and Mark Defoe will share their considerable experience and skill as poets. Anyone who seeks guidance for their craft, or inspiration to begin writing, would do well to attend. As well as being published poets widely acknowledged, and recognized with awards, throughout the region, Mark Defoe and Laura Bentley are both educators who have brought their passion and zeal for the written word to countless students. From middle school presentations to peer reviews in scholarly publications Bentley and Defoe have performed their work and shared their insights with a wide range of audiences. For anyone who is eager to learn from two highly acclaimed poets and educators, or for

anyone who wants to have some of the more intimidating aspects of creating verse explained, this is an important session.



6:00 pm. [Lisa Cook](#) a native of South Point, Ohio has recently released a second historical romance, *A Midwife Crisis*. She will have a program and book signing at Briggs Lawrence PL, Southern Branch, 317 Solida Road, South Point, Ohio



6:30-7:30 pm. Popular local journalist and author [Dave Lavender](#) will be at the Guyandotte Branch Library. Dave Lavender is a life-long resident of the tri-state area and writes entertainment, outdoors and travel news for the Huntington Herald-Dispatch. A journalist for over a decade, he was educated at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio and at the University of Kentucky. When not supporting and promoting Huntington's arts scene, Lavender, along with his family, is discovering the nooks, crannies and hidden delights in West Virginia and beyond. In 2008, Lavender published ***Dave Trippin: A Day Tripper's Guide to the Appalachian Galaxy of Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia***. This book was inspired by the author's adventures across Appalachia with his wife and their two sons. ***Dave Trippin*** takes readers on an always adventurous and usually humorous family journey to some of Appalachia's coolest towns, such as Berea, Kentucky, Athens, Ohio and Fayetteville, West Virginia. He also explores our region's bigger cities like Lexington, Columbus and Cincinnati. As Lavender says, "This is the good stuff and close stuff and it's all cooler than two popsicles stuck together!"

6:00-8:00 pm. @ [CCPL Main Library, Huntington](#)

Founded in 1984, *Poetry Alive* fields groups of two-person teams who travel to school districts worldwide. Not a canned, 'cookie-cutter' event, Poetry Alive's performance techniques are fresh and focused on connecting students to text. Using the rich heritage of the bardic tradition of long ago, they bring high-intensity poetry performances into the classroom. The Poetry Alive actors have memorized hundreds of poems, from the classics to the popular to the contemporary. Those poems, presented in engaging and memorable ways, become the connection to enhanced reading and writing skills. In short, they bring poetry to life, by engaging students to the learning process. Poetry Alive has become the reading, writing and performing connection. Because Poetry Alive utilizes kinesthetic learning, students of all ages and skill levels can self-actualize skills to improve literacy. Kids of any skill level or background can benefit. Poetry Alive stimulates literacy among all sorts of achievement and interest levels. Performance poetry techniques encourage struggling and emergent readers to break out of traditional methodologies and achieve improved literacy skills. Poetry Alive has become a performance connection to improved literacy.

6:00-8:00 pm @ [Milton Library](#)



[Dwight Harshbarger](#) is perhaps best known for his work in psychology, including a seven-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies. His first fiction work, *In the Heart in the Hills: A Novel in Stories*, earned positive review. His most recent novel, *Witness at Hawks Nest*, a work of historical fiction, describes the human tragedy that unfolded in the digging of the giant Hawks Nest tunnel in southern WV during the 1930s; America's largest, and perhaps least known, industrial tragedy. Harshbarger is a native of Milton, WV and attended West Virginia University. He later attended Harvard University in post-graduate study before returning to West Virginia to join the faculty of West Virginia University, eventually becoming a tenured professor of psychology. He later served as a corporate consultant and an executive at Sealy, Inc., and Reebok International. Currently he serves as an Adjunct Professor of Community Medicine at WVU, and as a Senior Fellow of the Cambridge Center. He is among the West Virginia authors honored by the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library at West Virginia Wesleyan College. He will provide an illustrated account of the Hawk's Nest Tunnel industrial disaster, perhaps the most under-reported industrial accident in American history, which is the theme of his latest novel.