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West End Poetry and Prose Reading Series Invites All to Experience Local Voices



Lockie Hunter (Photo by Leah Shapiro)

Hosted and curated by local writer Lockie Hunter, the West End Poetry and Prose Reading Series features readings by area emerging and established writers on a variety of themes across a range of genres. The readings are at West End Bakery, 757 Haywood Road in West Asheville.

Each reading takes place on the second Saturday, March-June and September-December. The next one is scheduled for April 11 at 7 P.M. Attendance is free and open to the public, and food, coffee, wine, and beer are available for purchase.

"Since we are a family-friendly series, the readings have an element of surprise and joy that are intrinsic in performing for a wide audience," says Lockie. "From poet Allan Wolf juggling fake hearts on stage to stories of first crushes as preteens, the series, by its nature, has a great vibrancy, a pulse."

This month's lineup of local writers includes Will Harlan, author of *Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America*, a Barnes & Noble Discover Award finalist, and on Amazon's "Top 100 Books of 2014." Joining Will is playwright/nonfiction writer Waylon Wood, and poets Brian Sneeden and Briar DeHaven. Since the series began last September, past readers have included Susan Reinhardt, Tom Chalmers, Matthew Olzmann, Alli Marshall, Melissa Crowe, and Leah Shapiro, among others.

Cathy Cleary and Krista Stearns, owners of West End Bakery, have been a part of the community for decades, providing an anchor for the vibrant neighborhood. Last fall, they decided to host evening hours on Saturdays, expanding the menu to include dessert flights, craft beers, and wines. They wanted to marry these new offerings with a literary evening. West Asheville had no evening literary events, yet

PHOTOS

many residents of this energetic walkable neighborhood are artists, writers, and poets. The series partnered with Lockie, and the response has been excellent, often boasting standing-room only events. The vibe is joyful and large, while still feeling intimate.

To learn more, visit "West End Poetry and Prose Reading Series" on Facebook, or westendbakery.com. If you're interested in participating in a future reading, contact Lockie at lockie@lockiehunter.com.



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