



massachusettspoetryfestival

The Massachusetts Poetry Festival  
October 10–12, 2008  
Lowell, Massachusetts



Robert Pinsky  
Marjorie Agosin  
Andre Dubus III  
Rhina Espaillat  
Martin Espada  
Lucie Brock-Broido  
Regie Gibson  
Ed Sanders  
and many others

# An Epic Celebration

www.masspoetry.org/festival *Massachusetts*

## The 2008 Massachusetts Poetry Festival

The Massachusetts Poetry Festival is a three-day celebration of the poets, poetry, and literary heritage of a state whose contribution to American poetry is unsurpassed in the nation. Join us as we pay tribute to the poets and writers of the past while experiencing the creative energy of today's literary artists. This first-ever, state-wide event will include readings by renowned and emerging poets, teacher workshops, performance poetry, films & music, programs for children and young writers, literary heritage tours, a small press fair, poetry in the streets, and much more.

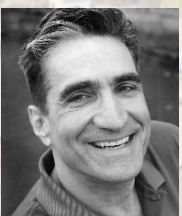
## Why Lowell and the Merrimack Valley?

For the past 30 years, Lowell has been in the forefront of the "creative economy" movement in Massachusetts. The city's cultural heritage and contemporary cultural resources are the foundation of a distinctive urban redevelopment strategy whose success is recognized worldwide. The Greater Merrimack Valley gave our country profoundly influential poets, including Anne Bradstreet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Greenleaf Whittier, Robert Frost, and Jack Kerouac. We invite you to visit the many literary places in the Greater Merrimack Valley throughout the year. [www.merrimackvalley.org](http://www.merrimackvalley.org).

The City of Lowell welcomes you, and is proud to host an event that will bring regional, national, and international attention to the poetry community in the Commonwealth.

"Why has no one thought of doing this in Massachusetts before?... The closest thing to it that I can think of is the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival..."

— David Mehegan,  
*Boston Globe*



Robert Pinsky



Marjorie Agosin



Andre Dubus III



Rhina Espaillat



Martin Espada



Lucie Brock-Broido



Regie Gibson



Ed Sanders

## Featured Readings

Advance tickets for Featured Readings are \$10/adults and \$5/students & seniors. Tickets purchased at the door are \$15/adults and \$5/students & seniors. All three readings plus a special reception with featured readers, \$50.00/25.00 students. Advance tickets and program information are available at [www.masspoetry.org/festival](http://www.masspoetry.org/festival).

### Friday, October 10

7 – 8:30 PM  
Lowell High School Auditorium  
50 Father Morissette Blvd.  
■ Andre Dubus III  
■ Rhina Espaillat  
■ Regie Gibson

### Saturday, October 11

1:30 – 2:30 PM  
Lowell HS Freshman Academy  
43 French Street  
■ Marjorie Agosin  
■ Ed Sanders

### Saturday, October 11

7 – 8:30 PM  
Lowell High School Auditorium  
50 Father Morissette Blvd.  
■ Lucie Brock-Broido  
■ Martin Espada  
■ Robert Pinsky

### SATURDAY EVENING RECEPTION

**Saturday, October 11**  
6 – 7 PM  
Come meet our Featured Readers and enjoy a wine and cheese reception. Tickets and information are available at [www.masspoetry.org/festival](http://www.masspoetry.org/festival).



# massachusettspoetryfestival

Friday, Oct. 10  
through  
Sunday, Oct. 12

## 2008 Massachusetts Poetry Festival Workshops, Readings & Events

Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 12  
For updated information on times, venues & program descriptions, please visit [www.masspoetry.org/festival](http://www.masspoetry.org/festival)

### FRIDAY \* OCTOBER 10

#### Intercollegiate Reading

Presented by UMass Lowell / 3 – 4 PM

#### Teacher Workshop: "Teaching With Fire"

Presented by Courage & Renewal Northeast  
4 – 5 PM

#### Film Screening: "Lowell Blues" / 4 – 5 PM

#### Teacher Workshop: "Using Poetry to Spark Essential Conversations"

Presented by Courage & Renewal Northeast  
5 – 6 PM

#### Featured Reading: 7pm (see front panel)

- Andre Dubus III ■ Rhina Espaillat
- Regie Gibson

#### Performance Poetry with Tim Gager / 9 – 11 PM

#### Music & Poetry After Hours / 9 PM – 12 AM

### SATURDAY \* OCTOBER 11

#### Kids Workshop: "Calling All Poetry Detectives"

Presented by Karen M. Kline  
9:30 – 10:30 AM & 1 – 2 PM

#### Group Reading: "Leading From Within"

Presented by Courage & Renewal Northeast  
10 – 11:30 AM

#### Teacher Workshop: "Nature, Machines and the Five Senses"

Presented by Sheila Kirschbaum/Tsongas Industrial History Center / 10 – 11:30 AM

#### Small Press Fair

Visit with regional publishers and journal editors  
Co-sponsored with Bootstrap Press  
10 AM – 5 PM

#### Workshop: "Young Poets Workshop & Café"

Presented by Joyce Peseroff/PEN New England Graduate Writers of Boston / 10 AM – 12 Noon

#### Group Reading: "Poetry from the Heart of the Commonwealth"

Presented by Poetry Oasis, Inc. & Eve Rifkah  
11 AM – 12 Noon

#### Workshop: "Creating Community with a Reading Series"

Presented by Ann Killough / 11 AM – 12 Noon

#### Small Press Panel

Coordinated by Bootstrap Press  
11 AM – 12 Noon

#### Poetry Exercise: "Poem Generator"

Presented by Grub Street, Inc.  
11 AM – 12 Noon & 5 – 6 PM

#### Workshop: "Make Your Own Poetry Books"

Presented by Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord  
12 – 3 PM

#### Poetry in the Streets

Stroll through Lucy Larcom Park and along downtown locations to see "Poetry in the Streets"—a public art project of the Lowell Poetry Network and The Revolving Museum.

#### LUNCHTIME READINGS

Enjoy lunchtime poetry readings at Lowell restaurants and cafes / 12 – 1:30 PM

**Film Screening:** *Lowell Blues* with guest filmmaker Henry Ferrini / 1 – 2 PM

#### Featured Reading: 1:30pm (see front panel)

- Marjorie Agosin ■ Ed Sanders

**Film Screening:** *Polis Is This: Charles Olson & the Persistence of Place* with guest filmmaker Henry Ferrini / 2 – 3:30 PM

**Group Reading:** "Cambodian Refugee Poetry"  
Presented by Samkhann Khoeun & Guests  
2:30 – 3:30 PM

**Poetry & Discussion:** "Poetry and Our Times"  
Presented by Martin Espada, Ann Killough & Richard Hoffman / 3 – 4 PM

**Workshop:** "Awakening the Now: Poetry and the Practice of Mindfulness"  
Presented by Patti Russo & Steven Durost  
3 – 4:30 PM

**Discussion:** "The Fulcrum Debate on Poetry"  
Presented by Philip Nikolayev, Katia Kapovich & Mark Schorr / 3 – 4 PM

**Poetry & Music:** "Confluence: Where Words & Music Meet"  
Presented by JD Scrimgeour & Philip Swanson  
3 – 4 PM

**Group Reading:** "Cape Cod Voices: Poetry of People & Place"  
Presented by Cape Cod Writers' Center / 3 – 4:30 PM

**Group Reading:** X.J. Kennedy & The Light Brigade  
Presented by Concord Poetry Center / 4 – 5 PM

**Group Reading:** "South Coast Poets"  
Led by Everett Hoagland, former poet laureate of New Bedford, MA / 4 – 5 PM

**Poetry Exploration:** Free Writing Exercise  
Presented by Barbara Helfgott Hyett & PoemWorks / 4 – 5 PM

**Poetry & Music** featuring Eileen Myles, Joe Torra & Frank Morey  
Presented by Urban Village Art Series  
4 – 5:30 PM

**Reading:** "Celebrating Elizabeth Bishop"  
Presented by Lloyd Schwartz & Guests / 5 – 6 PM

#### Featured Reading: 7pm (see front panel)

- Lucie Brock-Broido ■ Martin Espada
- Robert Pinsky

#### Music & Poetry After Hours

Featuring Charles Coe, Regie Gibson, Robert Pinsky & Jeff Robinson / 9 PM – 12:30 AM



Greater Merrimack Valley  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Massachusetts

Funded in part by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Department of Business and Technology/Massachusetts  
Office of Travel and Tourism.

### SUNDAY \* OCTOBER 12

**Group Reading:** "The Cultural Lines of Poetry"  
Presented by The Hellenic Culture Society of Lowell

#### POETRY AND PLACE: THE LITERARY HERITAGE OF MASSACHUSETTS

End your festival weekend by exploring the region's literary history through guided & self-guided tours of the following historic locations. Visit [www.masspoetry.org/festival](http://www.masspoetry.org/festival) for visitor info.

Kerouac Commemorative Park (Lowell)

Lucy Larcom Park (Lowell)

Robert Frost Foundation (Lawrence)

Whittier House (Haverhill)

Whittier Homestead (Amesbury)

Ralph Waldo Emerson House (Concord)

Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House (Concord)

Walden Pond State Reservation (Concord)

The Old Manse (Concord)

Stevens-Coolidge Place (N. Andover)

#### From the Merrimack To Desolation Peak: The 21st Annual Lowell Celebrates Kerouac!

October 2-5, 2008

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the publication of *The Dharma Bums* 1958-2008  
[www.lowellcelebrateskerouac.org](http://www.lowellcelebrateskerouac.org)

#### SUPPORT THE 2008 MASSACHUSETTS POETRY FESTIVAL!

Whether a Bard or Muse, Poet Laureate or Troubadour, your support is welcomed at any level. Thank you for your contribution!

\$500 Muse

\$100 Laureate

\$50 Bard

\$25 Troubadour

Your gift will help make the first-ever statewide poetry festival an epic celebration!

Visit [www.masspoetry.org/festival](http://www.masspoetry.org/festival) or send your check to Cultural Organization of Lowell, Office of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, 375 Merrimack Street, Lowell MA 01852.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR KEY POETRY PARTNERS

Bootstrap Press, Concord Poetry Center, Courage & Renewal Northeast, Grub Street, Inc., Haverhill Poets, The Hellenic Culture Society of Lowell, Lowell Celebrates Kerouac!, Lowell Poetry Network, PoemWorks, Powow River Poets, Robert Frost Foundation, Tsongas Industrial History Center

#### The 2008 Massachusetts Poetry Festival thanks the following sponsors for their contributions:

Citizens Bank  
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Lowell Poetry Network  
Lowell Sun Charities  
Massachusetts Poetry Outreach Project  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities  
Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council  
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