

LIFT EVERY VOICE:

WHY AFRICAN AMERICAN POETRY MATTERS

This October, the UW Libraries is partnering with the Albany County Public Library to offer a series of programs to foster an appreciation of African American poetry. UW Libraries received two grants to celebrate African American poetry and culture from the Library of America's Lift Every Voice project and a Wyoming Humanities Council Spark grant. The events provided by the UW Libraries will all be virtual, free, and available to residents throughout Wyoming and the region.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 2 P.M. THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FAMOUS SONG: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Dr. Timothy Askew will discuss the song by James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson. African American educational, political, and cultural leaders have contributed to the reception of this song. He will explore the issue of how the song offers a window in understanding the political and social consciousness of African Americans in each decade of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries — historically and culturally.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 7 P.M. FIND YOUR VOICE: YOUTH POETRY SLAM

Presented by the UW Black Studies Center. Come tell your story in verse! Enjoy an evening of poetry written by students. Prizes will be available for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place -- 1st prize of \$25 Amazon gift card, 2nd prize of \$15 Amazon gift card, and 3rd prize of \$10 Amazon gift card. Sign-ups limited to youth: middle school, high school and college students. To sign up to participate, please visit bit.ly/UWyoLEV or scan the QR code. A recording of this event will be available on UW Libraries Facebook Page (@uwyoibraries) following the program date.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 LIFT EVERY VOICE CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

Albany County Public Library (ACPL) will host additional programs in line with our Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters programs. ACPL will be hosting children's story-times featuring books and songs of African American verse and music. The teen book club will also be reading the graphic novel March by John Lewis. More information available at Albany County Public Library website: <http://events.acplwy.org/>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 2 P.M. CAFÉ OF POETRY READINGS

This is a family-friendly event that hearkens to the intellectual salons of the Harlem Renaissance as well as the musical soirées of the 1920s. There will be readings of African American poetry, the 1700s to contemporary, along with cultural and historical contextualizing of the poems. Musical performance by the Laramie High School Jazz Choir will accompany us throughout the event that will be hosted by Dr. Frederick Douglass Dixon. A recording of this event will be available on UW Libraries Facebook Page (@uwyoibraries) following the program date.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 4:30 P.M. POETRY SUCKS PANEL DISCUSSION

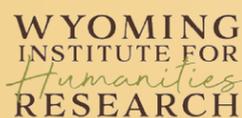
Dr. Frederick Douglass Dixon, Dr. Caskey Russell, and graduate student Nicole Foss will serve as panel members with moderator Dr. Scott Henkel. This panel will provide a fun, yet educational response to those who believe poetry is hard to read and hard to understand. Panelists will share their experiences and show audiences who already love poetry an opportunity to share their experiences as well. This event will contextualize the history of African American poetry and foster a better understanding of this genre.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 AT 6:30 P.M. CAMILLE T. DUNGY POETRY READING

Award-winning poet, Camille T. Dungy will share her work in a reading. Dungy, who edited the first anthology of nature poetry by well-known African American poets, is noted for her own breath-taking poetry that explores nature, love, and African American survival and is an African American poet in the Rocky Mountain region. Photo credit: Rachel Eliza Griffiths



Scan QR code or visit site to access all virtual programs
bit.ly/UWyoLEV



Libraries

