



CT Lit Fest | October 14, 2023
Free Admission | Real Art Ways
56 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106

RAW Café

The café will host presentations by writers and musicians throughout the day in a coffeehouse-style setting.

Authors will sign books following the readings.
Books available for purchase from River Bend Bookshop.

MUSIC: 10:00 - 11:00 Sofia DiNatale, Bach Cello Suites

READING: 11:30 - 12:00 [Catina Bacote](#)
..... [Steve Ostrowski](#)

READING: 12:30 - 1:00 [Hirsh Sawhney](#)
..... [Sonya Huber](#)

READING: 1:30 - 2:00 [José B. González](#)
..... [Victoria Buitron](#)

READING: 2:30 - 3:00 [Margaret Gibson](#)
..... [Sean Frederick Forbes](#)

MUSIC: 3:00 - 4:00 Stratford High Jazz Ensemble

READING: 4:30 - 5:00 [Frederick-Douglass Knowles II](#)
..... [Julien Strong](#)

Theater Talks

Engage in reading and conversation followed by Q&A and book signing.
Books available for purchase from River Bend Bookshop.

Authors will sign books following the talks.

CT LITERARY ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH READING | 12:00

HOSTED BY EDITOR VICTORIA BUITRON

Featuring Contributors: Michelle Hernandez, Rowan Marci, Gina Barreca, Lionel M. Crawford, Summer Tate, Benjamin S. Grossberg, Anthony D'Aries.

[ANTOINETTE BRIM-BELL](#) | 1:00

READING AND CONVERSATION WITH [PEGI DEITZ SHEA](#)

CT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD | 2:00

PRESENTATION OF AWARD HOSTED BY [SUZANNE STAUBACH](#)

[WALLY LAMB](#) | 3:00

READING AND CONVERSATION WITH WILL K. WILKINS

Typewriter Gallery

In 1917, the Underwood Typewriter Company built a factory at 56 Arbor Street that would go on to produce “the world’s first modern typewriter.” The factory shut its doors in 1969; Real Art Ways moved in twenty years later. The legacy of Underwood as a pioneer in creative and literary enterprises hasn’t been forgotten.

At the CT Lit Fest, we’re continuing this tradition through our Typewriter Gallery, creating a link between the past and the present in an interactive installation. This is your chance to pick a table and write—poetry, prose, grocery lists. When you’re done, hang it on the wall. If you’re stuck, the “Prompt Pond” is available with ideas to get you started.

Panel Gallery

A forum for writers to discuss writing and the arts in our culture. Authors will sign books following the panels. Books available for purchase from River Bend Bookshop.

12:00 – 1:00

UNCOMMON GENRES, EXTRAORDINARY VOICES

MODERATOR: JULIEN STRONG

PANELISTS: [KC COUNCILOR](#), SEAN FREDERICK FORBES, [JACOB ROMM](#)

A conversation among writers, artists, and academics whose creative practice upends received notions of genre. We'll discuss the ways in which formal choices encourage certain kinds of narratives while muting the possibility of others; the relationship between personal identity and artistic choices; and the benefits and challenges of queering conventions of genre and form. Panelists' diverse projects include the academic essay as a comic; a book of poems written as "novel in many verses"; new letterpress editions of LGBTQ voices from the past uncovered through archival research; and other work.

1:00 – 2:00

BOOK BANNING IN CT AND TOOLS TO FIGHT IT

MODERATOR: [SARAH DARER LITTMAN](#)

PANELISTS: JANA E MARKS, JENNY LUSSIER, SUSAN CAMPBELL

According to PEN USA, book bannings increased by 28 percent in the first half of the 2022-23 school year compared to the previous six months. This panel will look at the forces behind these bans, and discuss what we can do to protect the freedom to read.

2:00 – 3:00

WRITER MOTHER MONSTER PODCAST

MODERATOR: LARA EHRLICH

Description coming soon.

4:00 – 5:00

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF IDENTITY AND PLACE IN POETIC PRACTICE

MODERATOR: ANTOINETTE BRIM-BELL

PANELISTS: [NATASHA GAMBRELL](#), [BESSY REYNA](#), [RYAN PARKER](#)

This discussion delves into how poets incorporate physical landscapes, personal experiences, and cultural context into their poetic practice. Panelists will consider the role of heritage, ethnicity, race, gender, and other dimensions of identity as they interact with societal conventions. The poets will consider how writers navigate between universality and individuality, addressing shared human experience without compromising personal narrative, thus bridging the gaps between diverse cultures and communities.

Book Fair

Network, Shop, Browse, Make Connections. Publishers, magazines, and literary organizations selling books and offering lit opportunities for writers and readers.

1. Woodhall Press
2. Western Connecticut State University
3. Long River Review (UCONN)
4. Grayson Books
5. CT Poetry Society
6. Mark Twain House
7. Thought Fox Writing Center
8. Southern Connecticut State University
9. CT Council of Poet Laureates
10. The Helix
11. Yale Writers' Workshop

MORE TO COME

Tiny Reading Gallery

A five-minute showcase of writers reading their original work. The room is tiny, but the stories are big. Thank you to the organizations who have sponsored some of our readers.

11:00 to 12:00: CT Poet Laureate Showcase. Featuring: Rick Magee, Barb Jennes, Michael "Chief" Peterson, Joan Hofman, Rob Piazza, Ryan Parker

12:10: Makenzie Ozycz
 12:15: Adrienne Rozells
 12:20: Samantha Cross
 12:25: Katherine Jiminez
 12:30: Timothy Hill
 12:35: Rylee Thomas
 12:40: TBD
 12:45: TBD
 12:50: TBD
 12:55: TBD

CT High School Students

1:10: Athena Lavigne
 1:15: Kimberly Yankson
 1:20: Grace Dehnel
 1:25: Lauren Tedford
 1:30: Natalie Crowley
 1:35: Alex O'Loughlin
 1:40: Sam Delbene
 1:45: Samira Chambers
 1:50: Arianna Jackson
 1:55: Nyasha Benford

2:00 Breanna Brantley

2:10 to 3:00: Past CT Anthology Writers Showcase, Featuring: Christine Kalafus, Melissa McEwen, Elizabeth Gibbs, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, Crystal Mayo, Kara Russell, Benjamin S. Grossberg

4:00: Jim Finnegan
 4:05: Jennifer Glick
 4:10: Carol Lee Dowd
 4:15: Obed Fonder
 4:20: Charu Gupta
 4:25: Sullivan Summer
 4:30: TBD
 4:35: TBD
 4:40: Deneja Atkins
 4:45: Nicholas Chhoeun
 4:50: TBD
 4:55: TBD

5:00: Open Mic