Second Annual 100 Thousand Poets for Change

by Molly on JUNE 19, 2012 in NEWS

“This is a celebration of Poetry and the Arts as a vital and essential part of our global, cultural heritage and vibrancy,” R. Jeffreys “Jeff” says of **100 Thousand Poets for Change**.

Mr. Jeffreys’ blog, *The Write Step* is rated as one of the “Top Ten Blogs for Writing Advice” by www.NetworkedBlogs.com. As the host of the most popular radio show, *The Write Step with R Jeffreys* on the Red Rivers Writers network, Mr. Jeffreys is more than up to the challenge of hosting this year’s 100 Thousand Poets event in Boston. You can find out more information about this historic event at the [MA chapter website](http://masspoetry.org/), which Mr. Jeffreys has designed for the MA chapter.

How it all began

September 24, 2011 marked the very first 100 Thousand Poets for Change. The program advocates worldwide change through the arts. Founded by Michael Rothenberg, the program engages global and local communities in a simultaneous discourse that is both proactive and creative. Poets around the world participated in 650 events that took place in 550 cities in 95 countries in 2011. As of now the September 29, 2012 program has 550 events taking place in over 500 cities in 100 countries! With the day still three months away, this year is promising to be an exciting affair.

POEM OF THE MOMENT:

*If See No End In Is*

by Frank Bidart

What none knows is when, not if. Now that your life nears its end when you turn back what you see is ruin. You think, It is a prison. No, it is a vast resonating chamber in which each thing you say or do is new, but the same. What none knows is...

Read the complete poem here.

Or hear Frank Bidart read Saturday afternoon at the festival in Salem.

Or study this poem as part of Common Threads—a National Poetry month celebration.

MORE ON THE MASS POETRY FESTIVAL

- Festival Announcements
- New Addition to Saturday Headliners
- The MPF Schedule of Events Is Now Online!
- The Festival Needs Your Help — Volunteer!
- Bidart, Collins and Dunn Headline Sunday Afternoon at MPF
- Small press fair: a place to discover and share
- Friday night headliners for MPF: Pinsky, Jackson and Dietz
- 2012 Massachusetts Poetry Festival—April 20-22

Local Poetry Events

*No events to show*

RECENT TWEETS

Watch this video of the 2012 Massachusetts Poetry Festival,
The Boston event

Last year’s event in Boston was organized by Chad Parenteau. The video below is from one of the readings at Parenteau’s event in the Out of the Blue Art Gallery.

On September 29, 2012 the “100 Thousand Poets for Change” project will be the largest, single poetry reading in the history of the world. This event will also be archived, recorded and stored at Stanford University in California and simulcast throughout the globe on that day.

Jeff will host this year’s event at the Boston Public Library where attendees will hear poets, Charles Coe (Boston co-chair of the National Writers Union), Mass Poetry’s own Executive Director, January G. O’Neil and Philip Robinson (Co-founder of the Writers of Color Workshop.) "Our goal for this event is to expand the concept of the 100 TPfC as paying it forward with the Arts and poetry, as its pure art form for global change in social consciousness,” says Mr. Jeffrey's.

This historical event at the Boston Public Library will be held in the Mezzanine Conference Room and begins at 1:00 pm with a short reception and will be followed by poetry readings. The event concludes at 3:00 pm and is free and open to the public. With seating for 100 people, the reading is sure to please all.

If you’re curious about hosting your own event in MA you have plenty of time to start planning. To sign up to host your own MA event, follow this link to the MA chapter website. You can also sign up for another event for 100 Thousand Poets or Musicians for Change at the global, official signup page.
POETRY PARTNERS

- Bagel Bards
- Barry Hellman's Cape Cod Poetry Website
- Blacksmith House Poetry Series
- Bootstrap Press
- Boston Book Festival
- Calliope Poetry Series
- Cape Cod Writers Center
- Cave Canem
- Chelmsford Public Library
- Citizens Bank
- Concord Poetry Center
- Courage & Renewal Northeast
- Cultural Organization of Lowell
- EchoDitto
- Emerson College Department of Writing
- Favorite Poem Project
- Fireside Reading Series
- Ford Hall Forum
- Frost Foundation
- Greater Brockton Society for Poetry and the Arts
- Grolier Bookstore
- Grub Street, Inc.
- Ibbetson St. Press
- Island Voices
- Jeff Robinson Trio/Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam
- Lesley University MFA Program in Creative Writing
- Lowell Celebrates Kerouac!
- Lowell Poetry Network
- Massachusetts Center for the Book
- Moses Greeley Parker Lectures
- New England Poetry Club
- PEN New England
- Pine Manor MFA Program
- PoemWorks
- Poetribe
- Poetry Oasis
- Pollard Memorial Library
- Powow River Poets
- Robert Creeley Foundation
- Robert Frost Foundation
- Salem State University English Department
- Smith Poetry Center, Smith College
- Suffolk Poetry Center
- Tapestry of Voices
- Theodore Edson Parker Foundation
- Tsongas Industrial History Center
- Umass Boston MFA Program
- Umass Lowell

SPONSORS

- Salem State University
- PEM
- Montserrat College of Art
- The House of Seven Gables
- Salem Trolley
- MBCR
- Boston Review
- Wild Apples
- Woodberry Poetry Room, Harvard
- Worcester County Poetry Association
- Zephyr Press