

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POETRY MONTH – APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month is a special occasion that celebrates poets' integral role in our culture and in our lives; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month highlights the legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, celebrates the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry and calls attention to the important role poetry plays in literacy and education; and

WHEREAS, poetry takes many forms, from traditional rhymed stanzas to spoken word performances, from folk song lyrics to hip-hop verses and many other modes; and

WHEREAS, poetry has produced some of our nation's leading creative artists and has inspired other artists in fields such as music, theater, film, dance and the visual arts; and

WHEREAS, poetry is an essential part of arts and humanities education, literary and creative expression, community pride and development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park celebrates youth creative expression and recognizes the important role poetry plays in inspiring our youth and creating a vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, in April, the Menlo Park Library is hosting many poetry month events, including an April 7 Poetry Night event, hosted by local poet Charlotte Muse; and

WHEREAS, starting April 1, the Menlo Park Library and Menlo Park Library Foundation are accepting submissions for the Annual Youth Poetry Voices Exhibition, for which there will be a reception and City Council presentation on May 12; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Betsy Nash, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and celebrate April 2026 as National Poetry Month in Menlo Park.

Betsy Nash, Mayor
March 24, 2026