

Programming Opportunities to Celebrate National Poetry Month

[Kentucky's current Poet Laureate](#), Kathleen Driskell, previous Poets Laureate, and the [Kentucky Arts Council](#) are pleased to provide public libraries with a programming opportunity in celebration of [National Poetry Month](#) and the Kentucky Writers' Day season (late March through early May). Kentucky public libraries may request an in-person or virtual poetry reading by Katherine Driskell, or a former Poet Laureate, for their events. Schedule a poetry reading with Kentucky's current Poet Laureate by contacting kdriskell@spalding.edu, or reach out to KDLA for contact information of former Poets Laureate.

Participating libraries are asked to engage local poets to serve as facilitators for a writing session following Ms. Driskell's reading. Host libraries are encouraged to provide writing and journaling materials for the attendees to use during the latter part of the session. The combination poetry reading and writing workshop will provide libraries with a platform to share the Poet Laureate's expertise and to amplify the poets within their communities.

Libraries can supplement their National Poetry Month celebrations with KDLA [book discussion kits reserved](#) through MyTurn. Seventeen discussion kits feature past Poets Laureate, such as Silas House, Crystal Wilkinson, George Ella Lyon, Frank X. Walker, Jesse Stuart, Richard Taylor, and Sena Jeter Naslund. Take advantage of these kits to encourage patron engagement with Kentucky writers!

If you have any questions about this program and its requirements, please contact Hilary Witt at hilary.writt@ky.gov.

Mental Health First Aid Training

KDLA is pleased to offer Mental Health First Aid Training in person at the Perry County Public Library from 1-4 ET on Monday, April 13. Dr. Kevin Scalf, Chair of the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Department at Frontier Nursing University, will lead attendees through topics including de-escalating patrons who are expressing strong emotions, supporting staff following a patron's loss, and recognizing normal developmental behaviors in children.

Those who wish to attend in person should [register by April 1](#). This event will be recorded and shared on KDLA's [Online Learning Portal](#) a few weeks after the session for those who are interested but unable to attend the session in person.

Did You Know?

The KDLA Continuing Education Section maintains a [calendar of continuing education events](#), including webinars and live trainings from many sources, for Kentucky public library staff. The calendar is updated often, so check back regularly to find new continuing education opportunities.



These services are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

300 COFFEE TREE ROAD • PO BOX 537 • FRANKFORT KY 40602
TEL: 502-564-8300 • FAX: 502-564-5773
KDLA.KY.GOV