

CELEBRATE NATIONAL
POETRY

MONTH *with* KEARNEY PUBLIC LIBRARY!



MARIA NAZOS



TYLER MICHAEL JACOBS



JAKE RILEY



R.P. SMITH



BRUCE WHITACRE



BECKY FABER

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

12pm

Poetry reading with Maria Nazos and Tyler Michael Jacobs

1pm

Writing Workshop with Maria Nazos and Tyler Michael Jacobs

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7pm

Cowboy poetry with Jake Riley and R.P. Smith

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

12pm

Interactive Workshop with Bruce Whitacre
Sign, Save, Send: Strategies for Publishing Your Poems in Journals

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

12pm

Writing Workshop with Becky Faber

7pm

Poetry reading with Becky Faber



MARIA NAZOS

Maria Nazos grew up in Athens, Greece, and Joliet, Illinois. Her work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *TriQuarterly*, *World Literature Today*, and elsewhere. She's the author of the poetry collection *PULSE* (Omnidawn, 2026). Maria has worked almost every job, including as a whale watch boat attendant, table dancer, teacher, barista, sunglasses salesperson, bartender, and probably the worst waitress in the entire history of the Eastern seaboard.

TYLER MICHAEL JACOBS

Tyler Michael Jacobs is the author of *The Weight of Drought* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2025) and *Building Brownville* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2022). His words have appeared or are forthcoming in *Phoebe*, *Passages North*, *Variant Literature*, *Plainsongs*, *Sierra Nevada Review*, and elsewhere. His poems have also been featured on Nebraska Public Media's *Friday LIVE*. He received his MFA from Bowling Green State University.

JAKE RILEY

Jake grew up, for the most part, in the upper Arkansas Valley of the Colorado mountains. He began roping and rodeoing as a kid, which led to helping out on some local ranches, feeding his love of cowboy culture. He has always enjoyed the magic of poetry. Jake first shared his work at his church, and then at the Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Valentine, Nebraska in 2016. Since then, he has performed at events from Minnesota to Nevada, including 5 times at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. Jake's work leans toward the more contemporary, which draws old and young alike. He also enjoys reciting the classics, and considers himself extremely blessed to take part in carrying the tradition forward. Jake, along with his family, now call central Nebraska home.

R. P. SMITH

R.P. Smith has been supporting his ranching habit by entertaining folks throughout the country. During his performances he shares his brand of cowboy poetry and country commentary, something that he considers a by-product of the beef industry, which has been processed by reciting for ruminates, relatives, and ranchers.

In his travels to fourteen states and Canada R.P. has had the opportunity to work with some of the top names in the world of western entertainment, he has been as a featured entertainer at some of the largest cowboy poetry gatherings in the country. R.P. has been amazed by the talented folks who are out there and that is why he is so excited about Home Grown. "Home Grown gives me a chance to run by some of my newest efforts and an opportunity to share the poetic and musical talents of some of the folks I have worked with. It is great stuff, and not something you will hear anywhere else.

BRUCE WHITACRE

Kearney native Bruce E Whitacre graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He holds an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2022 he shared his debut poetry collection, *The Elk in the Glade: The World of Pioneer and Painter Jennie Hicks*, a poetry collection celebrating his great-grandmother, a pioneer girl who went on to become an accomplished landscape painter in 20th century rural Nebraska. He currently lives in New York.

BECKY FABER

She has been active with the Nebraska Warrior Writer's Project, the Nebraska Center for the Book, and much more. Her poetry has been published in literary journals and anthologies in Nebraska and beyond. Her book *One Small Photo* is a collection that explores military service and its after-effects. She is a creative writing teacher and an assistant editor for the journal *Plainsongs*.

For over twenty-five years, Becky has been an associate editor/manuscript reader for *Plainsongs* (Hastings, NE). She has also served as a poetry evaluator for the Nebraska Writers Guild and presented at its annual conference. She is a board member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association. Becky is a Fellow for the Center for Great Plains Studies at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English Education and a PhD in English.