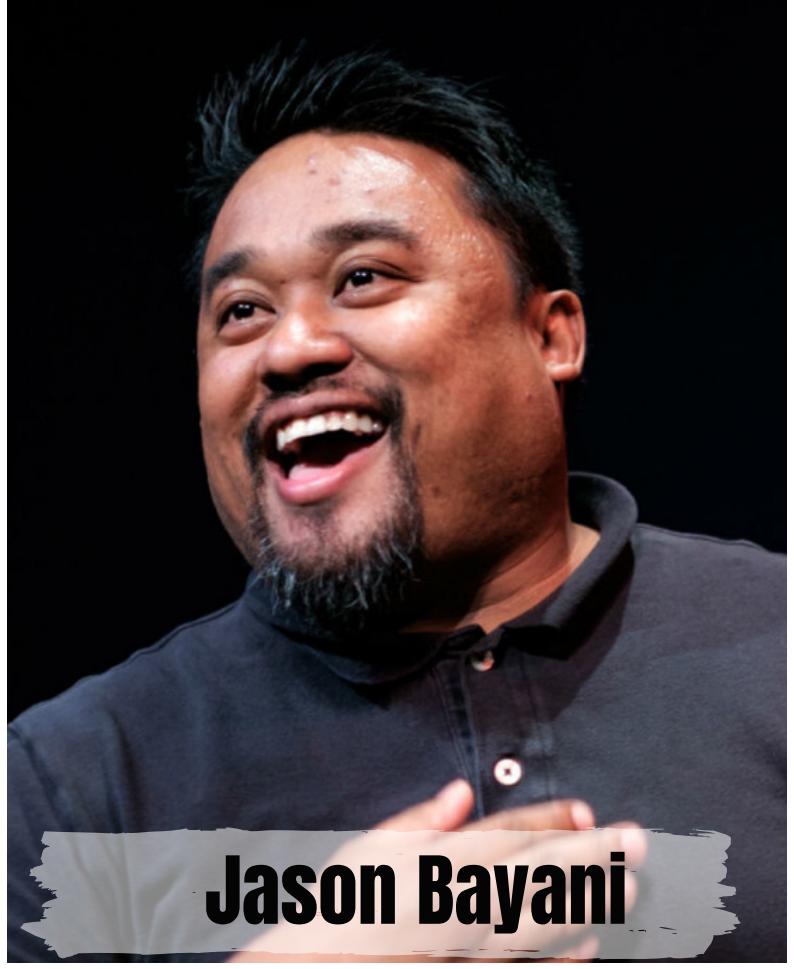
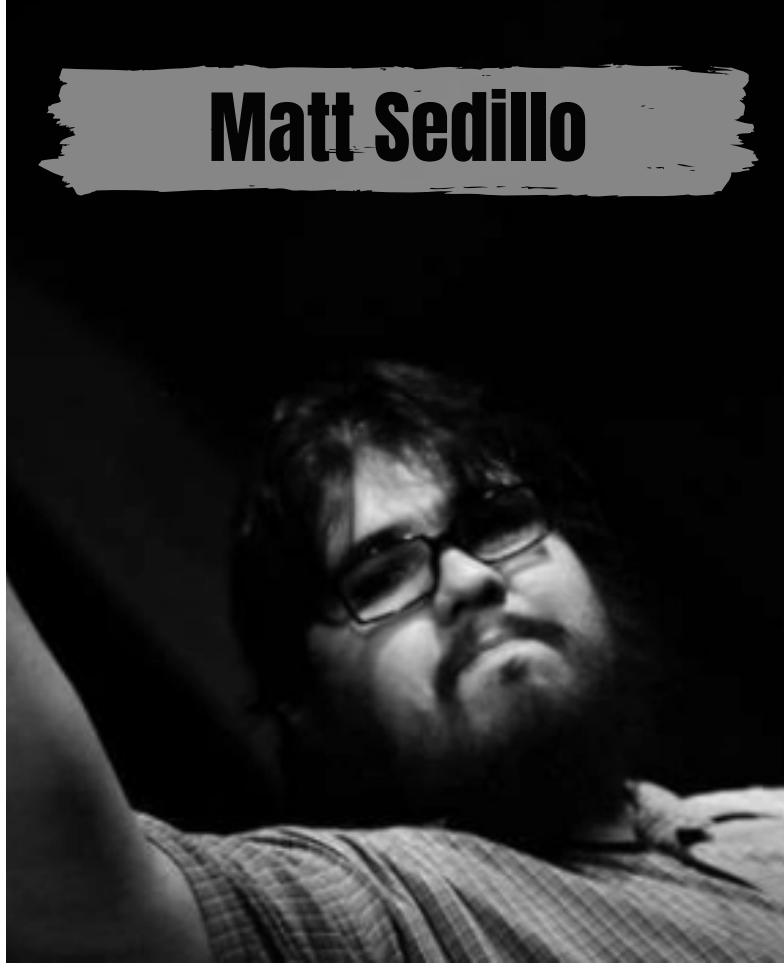




Jane Hirshfield



Jason Bayani



Matt Sedillo



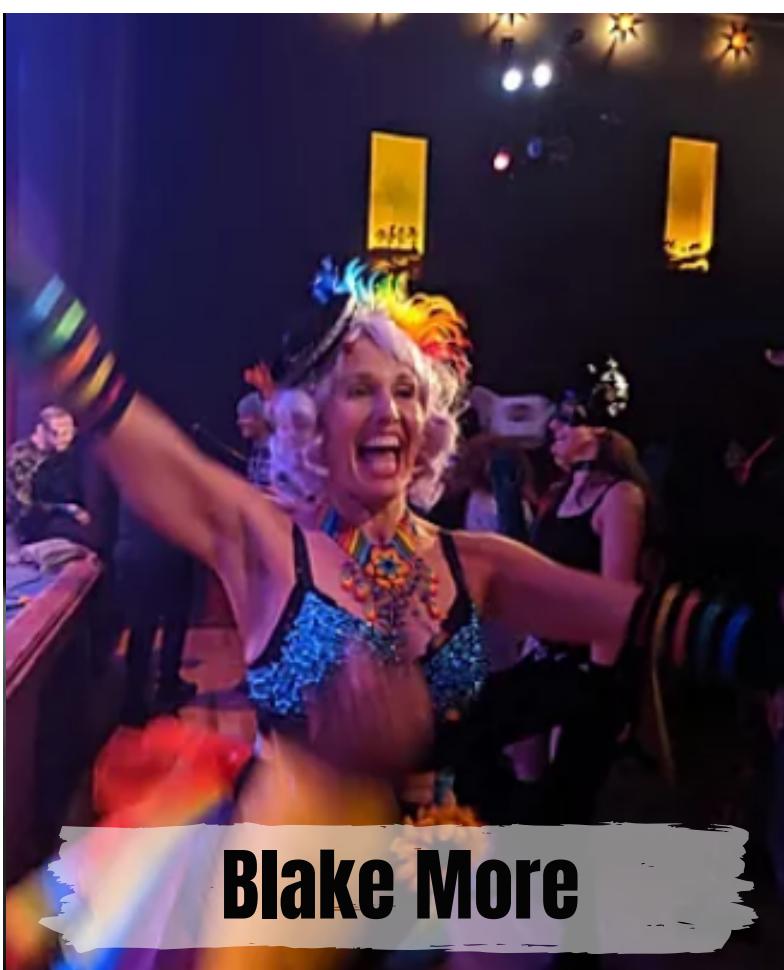
Karen Lewis



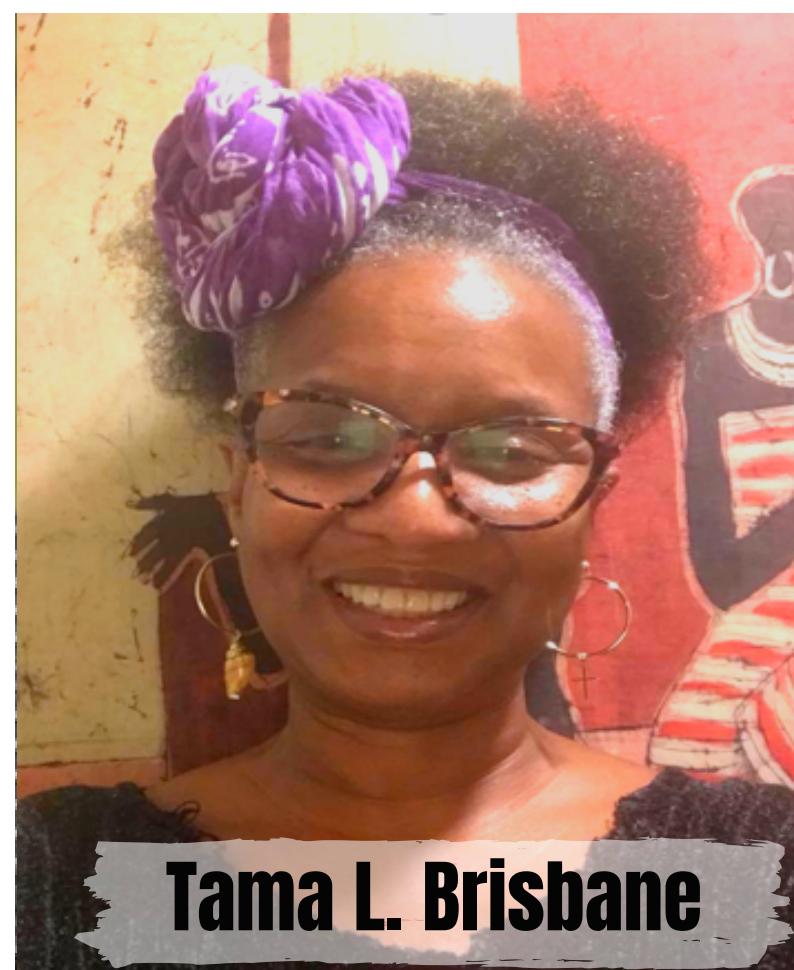
Jessica M. Wilson



Kaiden Wilde



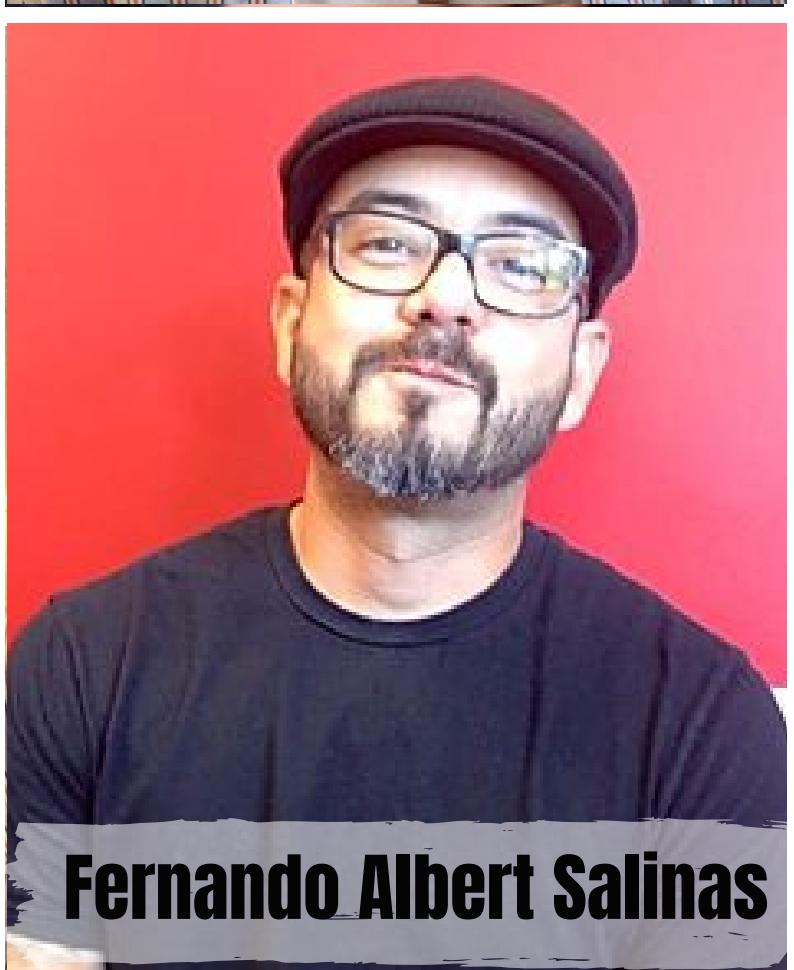
Blake More



Tama L. Brisbane



Dan Zev Levinson



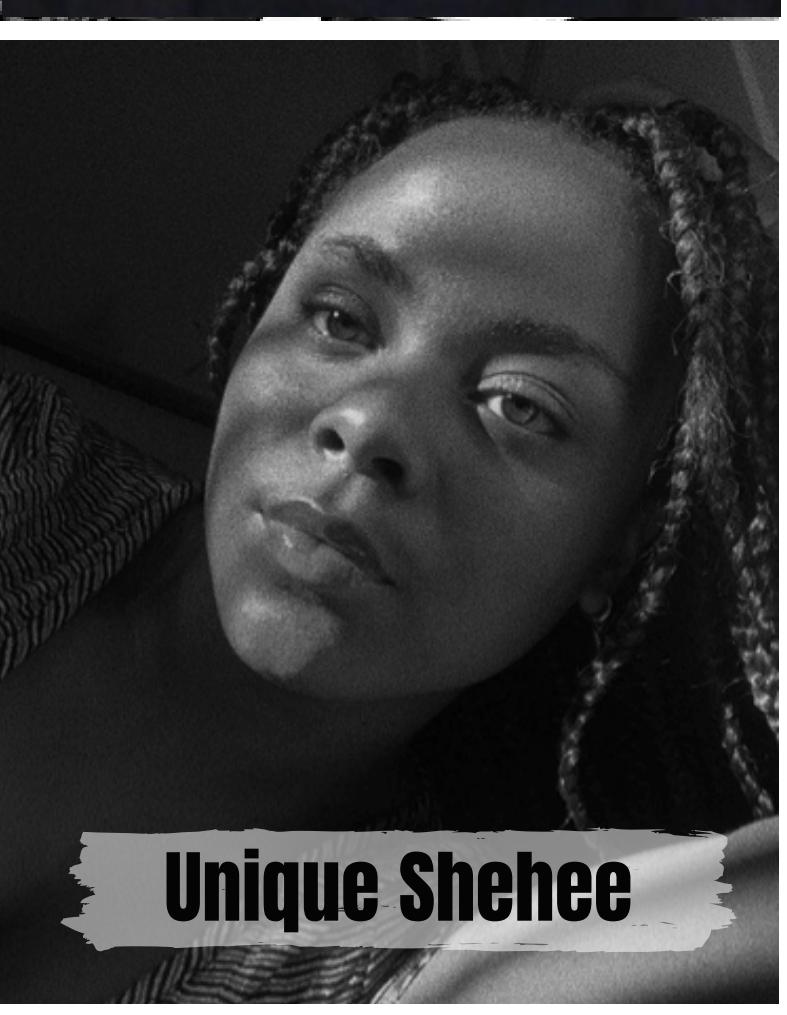
Fernando Albert Salinas



Claire Blotter



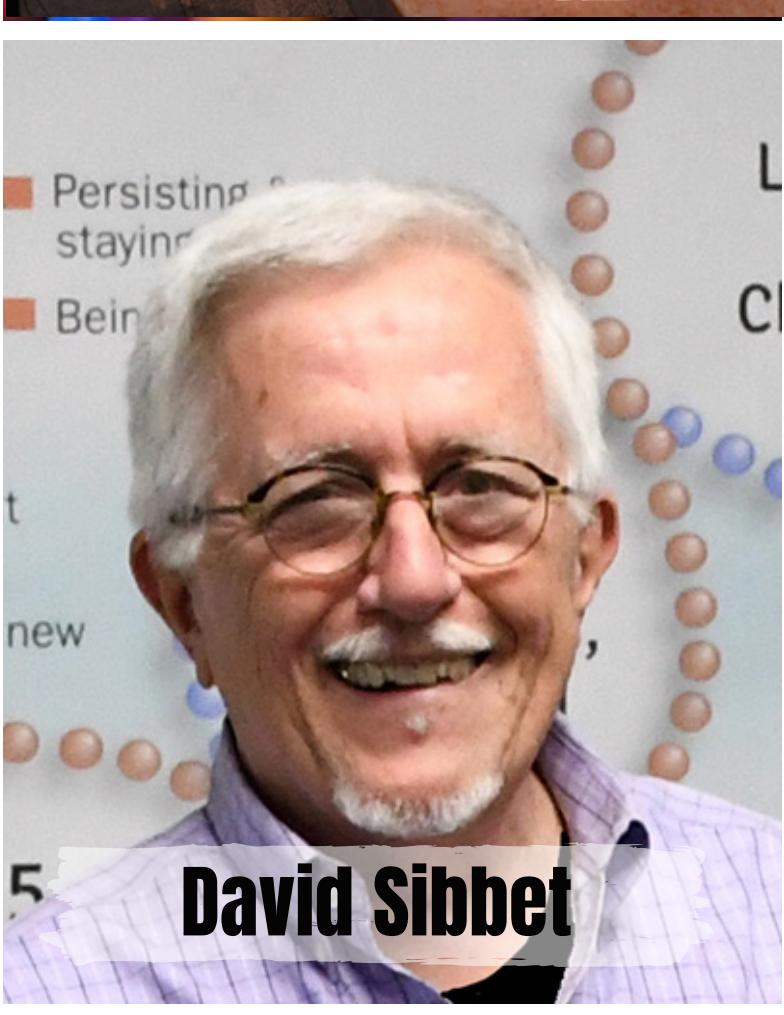
Zoya Ahmed



Unique Shehee



Genesis Perez



David Sibbet



California  
Poets

IN THE SCHOOLS



Poets & Writers



This event is supported in part by Creative Sonoma,  
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# California Poets in the Schools' Statewide Poetry Symposium

June 26, 27, 28 ~ virtual ~ free ~ donations encouraged ~ register at [www.cpts.org](http://www.cpts.org)

# Symposium Schedule

## Friday, June 26th

2:20pm-2:30pm **Introduction/Welcome**

2:30pm-3:45pm **Keeping the Pen Awake: Poetry Workshop** with Jane Hirshfield

3:45pm-4:00pm **Break**

4:00pm-4:30pm **Poetry Reading** with Jane Hirshfield

4:30pm-5:00pm **Q & A** with Jane Hirshfield

5:00pm-6:30pm **Break**

6:30pm-7:30pm **The Three Act Poem** with Matt Sedillo

7:30pm-8:00pm **Break**

8:00pm-9:00pm **Self-Expressions: Creating Accessibility Through Poetry** with Kaiden Wilde

## Saturday, June 27th

9:05am-9:15am **Welcome**

9:15am-10:15am **Outside-Inside Poetry Adventures** with Karen Lewis

10:15am-10:30am **Break**

10:30am-11:30am **Cracking the Code with the Secret Language of Poetry** with Dan Zev Levinson

11:30am-11:45am **Break**

11:45am-12:45pm **Making the Most of the Loom App for Poetry Writing Lessons & "Flip" Teaching** Claire Blotter

12:45pm-1:00pm **Break**

1:00pm-2:00pm **I'm Ekphrastic! How are you?** with Jessica M. Wilson

2:00pm-2:15pm **Break**

2:15pm-3:45pm **Writing the Storm: Poetry in Upheaval** with Jason Bayani

3:45pm-4:00pm **Break**

4:00pm-4:30pm: **Poetry Reading** with Jason Bayani

4:30pm-5:00pm **Q&A** with Jason Bayani

5:00pm-6:45pm **Break**

6:45pm-9:00pm **Open Mic** hosted by Fernando Albert Salinas

## Sunday, June 28th

9:05am-9:15am **Welcome**

9:15am-10:15am **Online & On Fire - Creating a Virtual Open Mic Space** with Tama L. Brisbane

10:15am-10:30am **Break**

10:30am-11:30am **Video Poetry Using Adobe Spark** with Blake More

11:30am-12:00pm **Break**

12:00pm-1:00pm **Lunch with the Youth Poet Laureates of Sonoma & Ventura** with Zoya, Genesis & Unique

1:00pm-1:15pm **Break**

1:15pm-2:30pm **Symposium Closing - CalPoets' Community Session** with David Sibbet



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# Workshop Descriptions & Bios

## JANE HIRSHFIELD:

**Keeping the Pen Awake** - In this generative session, Jane will lead the group through one or more writing experiments (useful for poets, useful in the CPITS classroom) designed to invite new thoughts, music, images into our poems. There'll be a chance to hear some of the newly written poems, without comments. If time allows, the session may then also include some conversation about the experience of finding a poem's first generative energies and its revising into a more finished work.

A poetry reading will follow the writing workshop. Jane will read from her newly published book *Ledger* (NY: Knopf, March 2020), a book centered on the crises of the biosphere and social justice, containing more personal work as well. The reading will be followed by a 30 minute Q&A.

**Jane Hirshfield**, in poems described by The Washington Post as belonging "among the modern masters" and by The New York Times as "passionate and radiant," addresses the urgent immediacies of our time. Ranging from the political, ecological, and scientific to the metaphysical, personal, and passionate, Hirshfield praises the radiance of particularity and the consequence of the daily. Her poems and essays traverse the crises of the biosphere and social justice, abiding in the intersections of facts and imagination, desire and loss, impermanence and beauty—all the dimensions of our existence within what one poem calls "the pure democracy of being." Her nine poetry books include *The Beauty*, long-listed for the 2015 National Book Award; *Given Sugar, Given Salt*, a finalist for the 2001 National Book Critics Circle Award; and *After*, short-listed for England's T.S. Eliot Award and named a "best book of 2006" by The Washington Post, The San Francisco Chronicle, and England's Financial Times. Hirshfield has taught at Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Duke University, Bennington College, and elsewhere. Her work has been translated into over a dozen languages and set by numerous composers, including John Adams and Philip Glass; her TED-ED animated introduction to metaphor has received over 875,000 views. An intimate and profound master of her art, her frequent appearances at universities, writers' conferences and festivals in this country and abroad are highly acclaimed. Click to read more about Jane Hirshfield.

## MATT SEDILLO

**The Three Act Poem** The applications of The Three Act Poem model taught in the workshop extend far beyond the composition of poetry. It is a revolutionary advancement in organizing thoughts so that they may be better expressed. Deceptively simple it is a system that simultaneously takes into account the "what" and the "how." It address the separate but interconnected questions, "what am I going to write about?" and "how am I going to write it?" So often times when trying to address these questions at the same time our mind short circuits, not unlike a computer, and we are convinced we have a thing called "writer's block" or "fear of blank page." The Three Act Poem model is "writer's block" remover. It is "flow state" inducer. It moves the production of the particular genius in us all from our subconscious mind to our conscious mind. Using this methodology you will learn to summon your unique brilliance at will and turn what were fleeting moments of inspiration into craft and discipline.

**Matt Sedillo** Matt Sedillo has been described as the "best political poet in America" as well as "the poet laureate of struggle" by academics and journalists alike. Sedillo has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, CSPAN and the Canadian Broadcast Corporation. He is the current literary director of the dA Center for the Arts and author of *Mowing Leaves of Grass*.

## KAIDEN WILDE, Artist, Poet, Activist he/him/his or they/them/theirs

**Self-Expressions: Creating Accessibility Through Poetry** If you have a passion for poetry, then you likely know that it is a powerful vessel for self-expression. Led by autistic self-advocate and poet-teacher Kaiden Wilde, this workshop will explore how and why poetry can become a powerful tool for disabled writers and learners alike. Goals for this workshop include:

Defining disability, neurodivergence, accommodation, and accessibility

Connecting – Kaiden will share his own experience with poetry as a means of expression as a disabled person, and explain the topic's relevance to teaching any group of students

Discussing the inequity and marginalization that creates invisible barriers to learning, and how to confront those barriers.

Modeling examples of poems from disabled individuals

Planning – what does a lesson in accessible poetry look like?

Producing writing based on the model

**Kaiden Wilde** is an autistic trans person with a passion for artistic expression that gives voice to his experience with marginalized identity, poverty, homelessness, trauma, and resilience. As a community leader and advocate, his work is both a platform for activism and tool for healing. Based in Ventura, California, he has spoken and performed in venues across the county and in parts of LA county, and his poetry has been published in four poetry anthologies and he is currently preparing his first solo book of poetry for publishing.

## KAREN LEWIS

**Outside-Inside Poetry Adventures** Discover the wonder of artifact baskets to spark metaphor, imagery, and the creative process. While not always possible to bring students on a field trip, visiting poets can create a pop-up imagination experience. Learn how to integrate poetry with other curricula: Ocean & Watershed; Earth and Planetary Science; Visual Arts; or Ancient Civilizations (Sappho). Resources provided to scaffold your workshops for any age group including ELL and special needs. Includes time for brainstorming, quick-writes, Q & A.

**Karen Lewis** grew up in Los Angeles but now lives in rural Mendocino County. She's a recipient of many CAC Artist-in-Residence grants, holds an MFA from Antioch-Los Angeles and loves inspiring young writers to become "poetry detectives". Her new chapbook *Peace Maps* will be out from Finishing Line Press in September. <https://www.wordjourneys.org/>

## DAN ZEV LEVINSON

**Cracking the Code with the Secret Language of Poetry** People have always been fascinated with secret messages and decoding. Code and concrete poetry work best and immediately for many students: if they know they are allowed to write in these forms, you might have already won them over. In this workshop, Dan Zev Levinson will present lessons that have become staples of his curriculum, ideally for fifth grade and older.

**Dan Zev Levinson's** main work is teaching poetry to as many as a thousand students each year. He is area coordinator, for California Poets in the Schools, of Humboldt, Trinity, Siskiyou, and Del Norte counties and has taught at over one hundred sites with this organization since 1998, including court and community schools. While most of his residencies are in Humboldt, he has also taught poetry in Del Norte, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Santa Cruz counties, as well as in Australia. He has taught at Humboldt State University, College of the Redwoods, the Redwood Coast Writers' Center, and is a Redwood Writing Project teacher-consultant and teacher-leader. He is a founder of The Lost Coast Writers Retreat, which he attends each summer. Being a freelance editor and writing consultant, Dan has acted as a contributing editor to various publications. He is the author of *Song of Six Rivers*, an epic-length poem published by Humboldt State University Press. His poems and other writings have appeared in many journals and anthologies.



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# Workshop Descriptions & Bios

## CLAIRE BLOTER:

**Making the Most of the Loom App for Poetry Writing Lessons & "Flip" Teaching** Arguably, the most kid (and teacher) friendly video recording tool, LOOM lends itself to on-line poetry writing lessons with space for movable documents and its multi-sized teacher "spot." This workshop will explore interactive techniques for using LOOM technology to actively engage kids in the writing process. Links to LOOM and examples of 4th grade LOOM poetry writing lessons will be available during and after the workshop so we can focus on how to use LOOM most effectively in conjunction with ZOOM as well as through variation of activities, costuming, character development, physical gestures and making the most of seemingly unexpected dramatic interruptions. The best testaments to successful lessons are, of course, student poems but also the enthusiastic comments and emojis students eagerly use to give immediate feedback.

CalPoet, **Claire Bloter**, coaches high school students in the Poetry Out Loud Program and has taught performance poetry at San Francisco State University, College of Marin, Dominican University and John F. Kennedy University. She represented San Francisco at National Poetry Slams in Boston and Chicago. Her poetry videos were included in the Chicago Poetry Video Festival, and her video documentary, WAKE-UP CALL: SAVING THE SONGBIRDS, was screened in 11 film festivals from Mill Valley to Chicago. She has published 3 chapbooks, and her poems are widely published in journals and anthologies. She is a longtime Luddite bedazzled and converted to the educational potential of video through the LOOM app.

## JESSICA M. WILSON

**I'm Ekphrastic! How are you?** In this Ekphrastic poetry workshop, participants will explore the divine feminine and masculine mystique and their interpretation through Art History. The artwork examined will then transform into the subject of new Ekphrastic poems created by each participant. This workshop is a little bit art history, a little blend of precision, technique, empathic consciousness, and all poetry.

**Jessica M. Wilson** is a Poet from East Los Angeles, CA. She has an MFA in Writing from Otis College of Art and Design and a BA in Creative Writing and Art History from University of California, Riverside. She began the Los Angeles Poet Society as an answer to bring the LA literary 'scene' into light -- so there would be transparency between Poets and Poetry Venues, Publishers, Musicians and Artists and all creatives. To bring the community together, she is Founder and Host of the Literary Series: Writers' Row, Writer Wednesday, SoapBox Poets Open Mic, and the Salon @ NoHo. Jessica is a Poet Teacher with California Poets in the Schools, and believes in the power of the word! She is 100 Thousand Poets for Change and Revolutionary Poets Brigade in Los Angeles! She is a Beat Poet and dedicates her words to the freedom of Mohammad ibn Al Ajami and other humans being repressed and denied the right to speak their truth.

## JASON BAYANI

**Writing the Storm: Poetry in Upheaval** is an all-levels poetry workshop that engages poetics and poiesis through the processes of observation and discovery. This generative workshop will explore how we can access mindfulness in times of upheaval and disruption to fulfill our need to create, document, and unravel our experiences. The workshop will be followed by a poetry reading and a Q&A.

**Jason Bayani** is the author of Locus (Omnidawn Publishing 2019) and Amulet (Write Bloody Publishing 2013). He's an MFA graduate from Saint Mary's College, a Kundiman fellow, and works as the artistic director for Kearny Street Workshop, the oldest multi-disciplinary Asian Pacific American arts organization in the country. His publishing credits include World Literature Today, BOAAT Journal, Muzzle Magazine, Lantern Review, and other publications. Jason performs regularly around the country and debuted his solo theater show "Locus of Control" in 2016 with theatrical runs in San Francisco, New York, and Austin.

## FERNANDO ALBERT SALINAS

### Open Mic

I'm happy to welcome you to participate in our poetry open mic June 27th, Saturday from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Here is how things will work:

1. I will open up the zoom meeting room at 6:45 pm
2. We'll hear from every poet to make sure their connection is working appropriately.
3. I'll go first, welcoming the public, introducing the program.
4. Everyone's mic's will be muted at this point, except for mine and the poet presenting. We'll go through each poet. We'll cycle through all the poets one more time, or whatever time permits.

### A few ground rules:

- 3 minutes 30 seconds each time up
- Only original works
- No hate speech
- Poetry in all languages is welcome.

Here's to a great program full of beautiful self-expression.

**Fernando Salinas** is an Adjunct Professor of English at Ventura College. He is also the Ventura County Area Coordinator and a Master Poet-Teacher for California Poets in the Schools, a recitation coach for the California Arts Council's Poetry Out Loud program and the Editor-In-Chief for Spit Shine Publishing. In 2012, Salinas initiated the Groundswell Committee: a small collection of local poets, with the support of the Ventura County Arts Council, and created the County's poet laureate program. Most recently, he has implemented a youth poet laureate program for the county. His written poetry has appeared in several publications, including Askew Poetry Journal, Solo Poetry Journal, Miramar, and Lummox Press. He has performed his spoken word internationally. This year, he has been nominated for California Poet Laureate and City of Ventura's Mayor's Arts Award.

## TAMA L. BRISBANE

**Online & On Fire - Creating a Virtual Open Mic Space** A primer to assist CalPoets Teaching Artists in setting up a classroom open mic, or even a competitive poetry slam, via Instagram, Zoom and FB Live. Jump in, y'all. The water's fine! Bonus: Will also include resource list of virtual open mics -- state, national and global -- that students can attend as either audience members or participants.

**Tama L. Brisbane** is the City of Stockton's Poet Laureate. Now in her third term of service, she has presented over 125 times, including the inauguration of Michael Tubbs, the city's first Black Mayor. Her first project in 2015 was to help craft Stockton's successful return to All-American City status with a groundbreaking, 10-minute spoken word piece at the National Finals in Denver. At her 2017 appearance as Guest Poet at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Martin Luther King III told her, "Your words matter." She is the Executive Director of the nationally-recognized literary and performing arts nonprofit organization With Our Words; a 12-time youth slam coach; and the San Joaquin County Coordinator for California Poets in the Schools.

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# Workshop Descriptions & Bios

## BLAKE MORE

**Video Poetry Using Adobe Spark** Using Adobe's online program Adobe Spark, Blake More will show poet teachers an innovative, easy way to engage technology in their classrooms. Adobe Spark offers a multidisciplinary approach to writing, word processing, audio recording, spoken word, and visual illustration. This workshop shows teachers how to take original poems to the next level of participation, by turning these original pieces into video poems. Please come prepared with good internet connection, computer or tablet and a short poem to create a video from (preferably already typed or in a word processing program).

**Blake More** A UCLA graduate and resident of California's Mendocino Coast since the late 90s, Blake More is an artist with many creative voices and obsessions. Blurring the boundaries between disciplines, her work embraces visual art, poetry, video, performance, costume design, teaching, functional mixed media art/life pieces and hand-painted art cars. She is a CalPoets' Poet Teacher as well as CalPoets' Area Coordinator for Mendocino County. She also hosts an hour long public affairs program called Be More Now on KZYX&Z FM Mendocino. Author of five books of poetry, a humor book, two non-fiction health books and hundreds of magazine articles, Blake is widely published and working on her latest book now. To explore more of Blake's creative world and purchase copies of her past books, please visit [bmoreyou.net](http://bmoreyou.net)

## ZOYA AHMED

**Lunch with the Youth Poets Laureate** In this hour-long session, current and past Youth Poets Laureate of Sonoma and Ventura Counties will offer readings of their poetry and engage the public in a Q&A.

**Zoya Ahmed** is the current Youth Poet Laureate of Sonoma County. Zoya will be a senior this fall at Maria Carrillo High School in Sonoma County. Zoya embraces her diverse background as a first generation South Asian American, having both roots in Pakistan and India. This colorful heritage is her drive. Every day Zoya is empowered to work hard towards achieving her goals, humbled by the opportunities she is given, and inspired to give back to the community. Her biggest motivators are her parents and her family, who encourage her each and every day. They are her muse; they symbolize the meaning of sacrifice in her life. Their stories, especially those of the women in Zoya's family, are what give her writing a spark of creativity and perspective.

## GENESIS PEREZ

**Lunch with the Youth Poets Laureate** In this hour-long session, current and past Youth Poets Laureate of Sonoma and Ventura Counties will offer readings of their poetry and engage the public in a Q&A.

**Genesis Perez** is the current Youth Poet Laureate of Ventura County. She has been published in Scuffed Diamonds, a collection of Ventura County Poets and Through Me, You Will See, a collection of Oxnard High School Poetry slammers. She won the 2019 Oxnard High School Poetry Slam. Perez is a poet of social conscience, dealing with sexual harassment, sexuality, grief, and the struggles of immigrants. She was a featured reader in Mexican Schools at Beyond Baroque in Venice, Los Angeles, and the Elite Theatre Company in Oxnard. Her poetry is a close and profound examination of the human condition.

## UNIQUE SHEHEE

**Lunch with the Youth Poets Laureate** In this hour-long session, current and past Youth Poets Laureate of Sonoma and Ventura Counties will offer readings of their poetry and engage the public in a Q&A.

**Unique Shehee** was the first Youth Poet Laureate of Ventura County. She is a 16 year old student and writer from Ventura County. She started writing poetry as young as eight-years-old. She has been published in Scuffed Diamonds, a collection of Ventura County poets. She won the 2018 Oxnard High School Poetry Slam. Shehee is a poet of social conscience, who uses life experiences to craft poems that reflect the troubles youth is faced with. She was a featured reader at the Breaking the Silence charity concert and performed for the Black History Month assembly at Oxnard High School. Her poetry often speaks for those who have not yet found their voice, but need to be heard.

## DAVID SIBBET

**Symposium Closing - CalPoets Community Session** As finale to our conference we will meet on Zoom to explore ways we can keep our network vital and thriving during this time. We will invite input from Poet Teachers about their current situation and provide some time for envisioning where we would like to head as we move forward. David will be graphically facilitating the session and mapping our ideas with his tablet computer. Please come ready to imagine our way into a world where providing young people a voice is more important than ever.

**David Sibbet** is the president of the board at California Poets in the Schools. David is a master facilitator, process consultant, information designer, and pioneer of visual facilitation—the use of large-scale, interactive graphics to support group process in meetings, teams, and organizations. Sibbet is the founder of The Grove Consultants International, a San-Francisco based organization development firm that has pioneered visual methods for working with groups. The Grove's services and tools provide an integrated, creative way to engage people and organizations around a vision. In addition to his ongoing work with The Grove, he co-directs The Grove's Global Learning and Exchange Network (GLEN), a global learning community. Sibbet holds a master's degree in Journalism from Northwestern University and a B.A. in literature from Occidental College.

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