



POETRY SLAM FOR PEACE
AN ANNUAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

THE ASSEMBLAGE – SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Produced by the Nuyorican Poets Cafe and The Assemblage

Sponsored by Global Family for Love and Peace, with Unity Earth and
the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

Poetry Slams empower youth through the mastery of literacy and language – “If you don’t learn to write your own life story, someone else will write it for you”. Poetry Slam is recognized among young people of diverse backgrounds as a democratizing force. Poetry Slams encompass all manner of individual and poetic voices, using allusions to contemporary popular culture to provide a medium for crafting communication, venting emotion, and creating art, in a constructive atmosphere of equality, sensitivity and progress to encourage discussion, creativity, empowerment and alliance.

The United Nations International Day of Peace, September 21st, is observed “... as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day.” The United Nations invites all “... to commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.” Recognizing the International Day of Peace each year with the Secretary General ringing the Peace Bell, the United Nations affirms that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace “... strengthens the ideals of peace and alleviates tensions and causes of conflict.” <https://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>. The 2018 Theme for the International Day of Peace is “The Right to Peace”.

The Assemblage believes in making a commitment to personal transformation, both individually and collectively, contributing our skills, experience and expertise to others as a way of finding our own purpose. Making a living is a function of positive impact on others and exploring the highest service that our lives can offer to the whole – doing well by doing good. <https://www.theassemblage.com/>.

Nuyorican Poets Cafe, a cultural icon on New York’s Lower East Side since 1973, presents groundbreaking works of literature, music, theater, performance art, poetry slam, hip-hop, visual art, and champions established as well as rising artists from every background and age group. <https://www.nuyorican.org/>.

Global Family for Love and Peace was founded by Dharma Master Hsin Tao, who was tricked into joining a Burmese guerrilla army at nine years old. At the age of 15 Master Hsin Tao heard the story of Bodhisattva Guanyin, the Goddess of Compassion. From that moment, Master Hsin Tao made a vow to spend his life following the spiritual example of Bodhisattva Guanyin, working for peace through dialogue, education and service. The long-term goal of GFLP is to sow the seed of peace to bring to life the United Nations Resolution on the Right of Peoples to Peace (A/RES/39/11): that “peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace” and that “the maintenance of a peaceful life for peoples is the sacred duty of each State”. <http://gflp.org/>.

Unity Earth brings people together through growing a Worldwide Spiritual Culture fostering reverence for the Sacred and respecting all forms of diversity, using music, events and media to proclaim the universal unity of all beings. <https://unity.earth/>.

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY monitors implementation of the commitments pertaining to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Committee works closely with relevant UN commissions and agencies and the United Nations NGO community. <http://ngocsd-ny.org/>.

Master of Ceremonies Erik "Advocate Of Wordz" Maldonado is a Jester, Philosopher and Poet who prides himself on teaching kids how to talk their way out of detention and sharing his own personal skewed perception of what is in front of us all. Raised in the Bronx and performing nationally, his words have evolved into an “incomparable” perverse eloquence.

Joel Francois is a Haitian born, Brooklyn raised, creative writing major at Brooklyn college and a slam poet. He has performed at the Bus Boys and poets, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Brooklyn College, as well as competed nationally. His writing inspires those who listen to embrace his truth as well as their own.

Kearah-Armonie (Kearmonie) is a Queens-born/Brooklyn-raised Poet, Spoken Word Artist, Blogger, Filmmaker, Teaching Artist and Mentor. Kearmonie recently completed her B.A. in Documentary Film Production at Brooklyn College, where she hosted and facilitated events as part of the school's poetry slam team and was their 2016 Grand Slam Champion. Kearmonie’s writing exhibits the condition of the Black American from a millennial lens, with personal accounts of love, family, oppression and womanism.

Roya Marsh is the poet/author of the chapbook “Not All of Me Shall Die”. Working as a preschool teacher and youth mentor, Roya brings a heartfelt intensity and deep beliefs to the stage, brandishing a saber of light to penetrate those dark pockets of prejudice, injustice, and hurt, that lay buried deep within each of us. Roya has recently been ranked second in the nation at the Woman of the World Poetry Slam and has been featured at many venues around the country

Elizabeth Velasquez is a writer of Puerto Rican descent, and a mother and feminist from Bushwick, Brooklyn. She began performing in 2009 under the stage name Ms. Sick Prose, a name she chose to escape an environment surrounded by mental illness. Her poetry explores feminism, body positivity, mental illness, and women's choices through an intersectional lens.

Rich Villar is a freelance writer and editor and is the author of the poetry collection “Comprehending Forever”. He has been quoted on Latino literature and culture by both the New York Times and the Daily News, and his poetry and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in Black Renaissance Noire, Hanging Loose, Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Amistad, Latino Poetry Review, and the acclaimed chapbook series Achote Seeds.



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