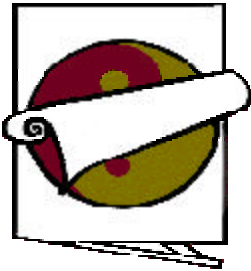


Poetry MAAdness (Music and Art)

Pearl's Book 'em Publisher



Changing Faces—www.bookpearl.com, Gets a Face Lift!

What's New With Pearl's Book 'em Publisher?

- New Face Lift for Web site!
- Upcoming Pearl's Book 'em Publisher Poet: Kenneth Pobo
- Down to Earth with New Spoken Word Artist Earth
- Poetry by Woman's World Founder
- Spotlight On Poetry Hotspots in the ATL
- Harlem Renaissance Revisited

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Over the past few months, the official web site for Pearl's Book 'em Publisher has undergone a major face lift. In keeping with our mission statement "to bring poetry to the forefront of the performing arts so that the average reader of poetry can see poetry as touching, moving and alive," we've revamped our web site to appeal to all readers. This site not only appeals to the diversity of art lovers, but it also provides stimulation for each art lover's sensual faculties. Pearl's Book 'em Publisher encourages art lovers to explore the many levels of lyrical magic through their eyes as they journey through the various artists' spotlights on the web site. Pearl's Book 'em Publisher encourages art lovers to inhale

the aromatic fragrances of the rhymes and rhythms that each poet exposes. Pearl's Book 'em Publisher guides art lovers towards the sensual and inviting touch that can be felt in each artist's work. Pearl's Book 'em Publisher places the fruits and labor of each artist before art lovers for a taste that's sure to make the receivers addictive to the hypnotic vibes.

So welcome to a new year, and a new opportunity to see, smell, feel and taste the roots and rhythm of Pearl's Book 'em Publisher...you won't be disappointed. Don't forget to check out our new features: Message Board and Opinion Polls.

The Founder, Pearlie Harris believes that poetry can and has

been expressed visually and verbally through many different genres of art. There are plays, illustrations, songs, etc., that have been admired by different groups through different periods of time. However, many invisible boundaries have been set as to what poets can accomplish and how poetry can reach and effect people.

We at Pearl's Book 'em Publisher plan to explore all options for each poet and utilize the ones that best fit their work.

New Pearl's Book 'em Publisher Poet: Kenneth Pobo

Kenneth Pobo is a poet born and raised in Villa Park, Illinois. He began writing poetry in the seventies while studying for an English degree at Wheaton College. After obtaining a Bachelors of Arts Degree in English, Kenneth continued his education and obtained a PhD in Eng-

lish from the University of Wisconsin. He is presently an Associate Professor at Widener University.

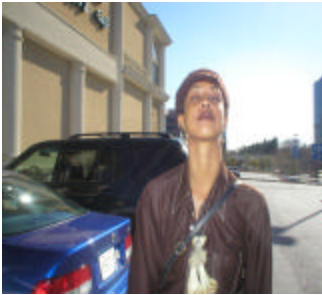
During his educational pursuits, Kenneth also developed an impressive writing career. Some of his accomplishments include,

but are not limited to appearing on the TV show *Poet to Poet* in 2000, and publishing several books in print.

Kenneth also has numerous chapbook publications and essays. His poems appear in over
Continued on next page.

New Pearl's Book 'em Publisher Poet: Kenneth Pobo, Continued

"That publishing is an art, perhaps one of the most important invented by humans, has not been fully appreciated, even by publishers, who consider it primarily a business. How vulgar and banal publishing has become by allowing the marketing of books to dictate their publication. So the first principle of publishing by those who publish is to love books, and appreciate their key role in civilization; and to be dedicated to the art of publishing!"
- Paul Kurtz, publisher, Prometheus Books



Markita, Earth, one in the same and still for real.

two hundred journals online as well as in print. He has performed at poetry readings at the Sedgewick Cultural Arts Center, Philadelphia Free Library, the Mad Poets Review, and many more. Kenneth is the winner of the 1998 Palanquin Press Poetry Chapbook contest, and is a recipient of the Mae E.

Gales Creative Writing Award.

Kenneth's new book will be released by Pearl's Book 'em Publisher this year. To find out more information go to: <http://www.bookpearl.com/contactus2.htm>

To find out more about Kenneth

Pobo's and his creative talents, you can see him in Havertown, PA at Tyme Gallery, 17 West Eagle at 7:30PM on Wednesday, February 19, 2003. Admission is FREE. He will also have another reading on April 30th. Stay tuned for further notice.

Down to Earth with New Spoken Word Artist Earth, Continued

New Spoken Word artist, Earth is exactly like her name sake, down to earth and real. However, her onstage performance is quite different than her persona when removed from the spotlight. Onstage, she is this vibrant, magical beam of energy that sweeps you up into her lyrical rhymes, and inspires you to think about life, love and happiness. When the spotlight is gone and the crowd has died down, Earth is a shy, little girl who enchants you with her charming smile and school girl giggles. Born Markita Latice White, Earth decided to change her name when searching for the appropriate body tattoo. A friend suggested that she choose the symbol for Earth to represent her naturally friendly

and honest personality. Markita liked the suggestion and decided it would not only be a representation etched on her body, but also her soul and in the hearts and minds of current and future fans of her artistry.

Earth started her poetic journey into this world, in El Paso, Texas, and was later raised in Louisville, Kentucky, and has matured in Atlanta, Georgia. Earth started writing poetry in middle school with her first poem dedicated to Ryan White on the day of his death. "Sudden tragedies, or miracles, things that happen around me, and in this world inspire my poetry," she explains. "A simple word could be the beginning of

a poem for me. I define my poetry as being something new, different and not to be placed in a category," Earth elaborates.

Earth's talents are definitely not to be categorized or pigeon hold into one area. In addition to being a poet, she is also the owner of her own barbershop, aspiring producer of other artists, and mother of an 11-year old daughter.

To find out more about Earth and her lyrical charms, you can see her in Atlanta on the following dates:

Tentative Schedule Date:
Feb. 15th at Bronner Brothers' Def Poet Jam



Barbara Washington and Betty Couvertier

African Woman by Betty Couvertier

Betty Couvertier is the founder and constant inspiration behind the networking and resource information web site Woman's World. She is also a long term club promoter and seasoned bartender. The following poem is yet another side of her creative talents.

African Woman

So straight you walk
so firm you step
proud of your blackness
proud of your beauty
I have lived with you..and I know your fears
I have loved you...and I know your fire...
skin soft...intoxicating
scent...chocolate flavors

from creamy to
dark....all exotic...delicacies
to handle with care...

To learn more about Betty Couvertier and Woman's World go to: <http://expage.com/WOMANWORLD>

ATLANTA POETRY HOTSPOTS: Rico's View

A small group of responsive and dedicated neighbors climb the stairs each night to hang out on the spacious patio for a bird's-eye view of the crime, drama and eclectic behavior that could only be found on the Ponce de Leon strip below. Cold beer and plastic patio furniture are just what Rico ordered.

—Marcus Li

Do you remember the music from the *Cheers* sitcom, "I want to go to place where people know your name,"? Well even if you don't, once you enter into the comfortable space of Rico's

View, you'll definitely "feel" those lyrics. Rico's View sits on the Ponce de Leon strip, and is one of Atlanta's local, colorful, alternative bars. But the friendly and lively clientele, courteous and humorous bartenders, and generous and attractive owner will make anyone feel welcome no matter what color, or sexual orientation. Rico's View has appeal no matter what the season or flavor!

In the winter and fall, the sounds of local entertainers, hearty buffets and warm spirits will protect anyone from the

winter chill or cool breezes. In the spring and summer, the scenic view from the patio, the cool drinks and energetic music from the live DJ will encourage the quietest soul to indulge into summer fest that's held under the roof of this small bar.

But not one to offer the mundane, Rico has filled his establishment with a variety of entertainment, which includes spoken word and musical entertainment from local artists. So if you're looking for a comfortable setting with good people and good drinks, as a backdrop

to the poetic vibes of some of the hottest Atlanta poets, then don't be a stranger to Rico's View. Come to the place where everybody will know your name, if they don't already.

Rico's View is located at:
736 Ponce De Leon Ave NE,
Suite M
Atlanta, GA 30306-4340
Phone: (404) 874-9934

HARLEM RENAISSANCE POETS by Linda Sue Grimes

This article was originally printed at Suite101.com.

The literary period known as the Harlem Renaissance saw a great outpouring of poetry by African Americans. Because February is Black History Month, a useful way of celebrating that history is to have a look at the great poets and the poetry they created so prolifically during that time.

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) was truly a renaissance man, writing poetry, novels, music and serving as ambassador to Venezuela. His song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," became known as the Negro National Anthem. He was a founding member of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Listen to Arna Bontemps read Johnson's wonderful poem, "The Creation."

Jean Toomer (1894-1967) was born in Washington D.C. His skin was light, and he passed as white during various periods of his life, but he remained aware of the great racial divide that plagued the country. He

became interested in yoga through the teachings of Gurdjieff; he sought transcendence of the race issues, which the unifying doctrines of yoga impart. Listen to Arna Bontemps read Toomer's poems, "Song of the Son."

Langston Hughes (1902-1967) is considered a leading figure of that great renaissance. His poetry is well-known and studied widely in schools and colleges across the country. Probably his most famous poem is "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," which he wrote when he was only eighteen. He went on to write much unforgettable prose as well, including the *Semple Stories*. Listen to Langston read his poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers."

Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000), who was born in Topeka, Kansas, authored more than twenty books of poetry. Annie Allen won the Pulitzer Prize in 1949. She published a novel, *Maud Martha* in 1953 and in 1972 her autobiography *Report from Part One*. In 1968 she was appointed state Poet Laureate

for Illinois. She served as U. S. Poet Laureate 1985-86, when the position was titled Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. She earned many awards for her writing. She made her home in Chicago, where she died December 3, 2000. Hear her read her much anthologized poem, "We Real Cool."

Other poets of this dynamic period include Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906), Angelina W. Grimke (1880-1958), Jessie Redmon Fauset (1882-1961), (1882-1976), Claude McKay (1891-1948), Esther Popel (1896-1958), Sterling A. Brown (1901-1989), Gwendolyn B. Bennett (1902-1981), Countee Cullen (1903-1946), Robert Hayden (1913-1980).

The Harlem Renaissance was a lively time in American History, an important period of growth for the African American community, and nowhere is that liveliness and growth more visible than in the wonderful, dynamic poetry of that literary era.

*"Success is
counted sweetest
By those who ne'er
succeed.
To comprehend a
nectar
Requires sorest
need."*

- Emily Dickinson