



*A sacred place to be, and to become people of hope, compassion, justice, and service.*



## **Bread for the Journey: A Celebration of Poetry and the Human Spirit**

**Mark Nepo, Rick Benjamin, Judy Brown, Kenneth Carroll, Kathleen Glaser, Michael Glaser, Kurt Lamkin, and Deanna Nikaido**

**October 4, 2017 to October 7, 2017**

Bread for the Journey 2017: A Celebration of Poetry and the Human Spirit engages participants with poetry as a dynamic way to reclaim the fertile ground of metaphor and image. It offers time to deeply listen and to ask open and honest questions of ourselves and one another in order to better understand our lives and renew our spirits. Together, we create a safe and welcoming space in which to experience and explore the beauty of living in the presence of wonder and awe. These four days will serve as a reminder that poetry, by harnessing the power of the imagination, can make ideas felt, serve as a means of better understanding both ourselves and others, and point us toward a vision of a better world.

Poetry serves us as a vessel for exploration, reflection and conversation. It nurtures us, as Lucille Clifton claimed, toward greater compassion and justice by asking the question, “What is the human here?”

Our time together will encourage us to engage with poetry as a means of helping us more fully understand how our lives and our choices might better embrace both what is most meaningful to us, as well as the mysteries that surround us. By inviting participants into a safe space for clarity and courage, we will engage with the richness of language as a means of deepening our capacity to hear, write and appreciate the value of poetry for our lives. We will also explore ways in which we can more effectively carry poetry out into the world.

Bread for the Journey, 2017 will begin at 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, October 4 and end with lunch on Saturday October 7, 2017. Faculty/facilitators include: the Keynoter, Mark Nepo along with Kurtis Lamkin, and Rick Benjamin, Judy Brown, Kenneth Carroll, Kathleen Glaser, Michael S. Glaser and Deanna Nikaido. Registration is limited. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the program director Michael S. Glaser, at [mzglaser@smcm.edu](mailto:mzglaser@smcm.edu)

Short Bio Notes of the faculty/facilitators:

Mark Nepo is a poet and philosopher who has taught in the fields of poetry, health, and spirituality for forty years. A New York Times #1 bestselling author, he has published fourteen

books and recorded eight audio projects. Mark has appeared with Oprah Winfrey on her Super Soul Sunday program and his work has been translated into more than twenty languages. His most recent book is a collection of new and selected poems, published by Sounds True, *The Way Under The Way: The Place of True Meeting*. Forthcoming is: *The One Life We're Given: Finding the Wisdom That Waits in Your Heart*. more at <http://marknepo.com/>

Rick Benjamin has taught students from ages 4 to 98 at institutions as diverse as Brown University, the Rhode Island School of Design, New Urban Arts, and Epoch Assisted Living Center. A former poet laureate of Rhode Island, he now lives in Santa Barbara where he continues his commitment to building community through creative expression. He holds to the notion that poetry is both a wisdom medium and has the capacity to transform its practitioners at any stage of their life-cycle. More at: <http://rickbenjamin.org/>

Judy Brown is an educator, speaker, facilitator, poet and writer, whose work in organizations revolves around themes of renewal, change, learning, creativity and, dialogue. Her books include *A Leader's Guide to Reflective Practice*, two collections of her poetry (*The Sea Accepts All Rivers and Simple Gifts*), and most recently *The Art and Spirit of Leadership*. More at [www.judysorumbrown.com](http://www.judysorumbrown.com)

Based in Washington, DC, Kenneth Carroll is the author of *So What! For the White Dude Who Said This Ain't Poetry* (1997). Widely published, he has received the Washington, D.C. Mayor's Arts Award for Service to the Arts, and the Literary Friends of Washington Award, among other recognitions. Active as a teacher, Carroll has been director of the DC WritersCorps and a past president of the African-American Writers Guild. He is married to playwright Joy Carroll and the proud father of three. More at: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org//kenneth-carroll>

Kathleen W. Glaser is a Center for Courage and Renewal facilitator who values using poetry to help facilitate reflection. A recipient of the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award, she is a co-founder of the Chesapeake Public Charter School in southern Maryland. Her passion is creating trustworthy spaces for learning and community. More at: [www.couragerenewal.org/](http://www.couragerenewal.org/)

Michael S. Glaser is a Professor Emeritus at St. Mary's College of Maryland where he received the Dodge Endowed Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has edited three anthologies of poetry, published several volumes of his own work and served as Poet Laureate of Maryland from 2004 through 2009. Most recently, he co-edited with Kevin Young the *Complete Poems of Lucille Clifton*. More at [www.michaelsglaser.com](http://www.michaelsglaser.com)

Kurtis Lamkin is a poet and story teller who plays the Kora, a beautiful, 17 stringed West African instrument. He has produced several cds, including *Kora Poems*, as well as a book of poems entitled *Golden Season*. Recently he was selected as a Poetry Fellow by the Jubilation Foundation; and is a 2014 grantee of the New Music Foundation for the project, "Big Fun.": He lives in Charleston, South Carolina. More at <http://jubilationfoundation.org/kurt.html>

Deanna Nikaido is the author of two collections of poetry, *Voice Like Water* and *Vibrating With Silence*. She has served as coach and design specialist for Book-in-a-Day and Kwame Alexander's Page-to-Stage Writing Workshop for youth and as a regional coordinator for Poetry Out Loud. Her first children's book, *Animal Ark*, is a collaborative book of poetry and prose with writers Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Hess and photographer Joel Sartore.

Registration is limited

The cost for Bread for the Journey 2017 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition. If you prefer to send a deposit to reserve your space please contact Janet Lewis, the Registrar, ([janetl@kirkridge.org](mailto:janetl@kirkridge.org) or call her at 610-588-1793) to make arrangements.

Cost:

\$850.00

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