

## **THE BETSY – SOUTH BEACH ANNOUNCES 2016 PROGRAMS FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH**

20 Artists in Residence, Portraits of Poets, Community Readings and more

### **For more information**

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**The Betsy - South Beach** ([thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com)) has a full slate of events on tap for National Poetry Month 2016, including 20 visiting poets/writers/artists, a new exhibition featuring 5 visual artists, release of a bi-lingual poetry chapbook, and poetry programming for audiences of all ages. As official host hotel for O, Miami (since 2009), The Betsy is also sponsor for many events, both off-site and on-property – at 1440 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach.

*“National Poetry Month programs and our ongoing partnership with Scott Cunningham’s O, Miami Festival, are among the most important of our PACE outreach efforts all year long and cut to the heart of who we are”,* said Betsy owner, Jonathan Plutzik, whose father, Hyam Plutzik, was a three-time Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry. PACE is The Betsy’s community-based programming (Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education) that has gained the property recognition as one of the world’s great literary hotels.

### **Schedule of Events**

**April 1 – Poet, Robert Pinsky in Residence –Former US Poet Laureate, hosted by The Betsy – @ the FIU Wolfsonian**  
Former US-Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky will be an Artist in Residence in The Betsy Writers Room (April 1-3) and will do an O, Miami public reading as part of the Favorite Poem Project at the **FIU Wolfsonian April 2 at 7 PM. The event is free and open to the public. No RSVP required. For more information, visit [omiami.org](http://omiami.org).**

**April 2 – Le Petite Poets – Performance by Youth Poets in the MDCPS with the City of Sunrise – at The Betsy**  
Le Petite Poets is presented with City of Sunrise Word Up! Poetry Initiative, Orchard Elementary School, in partnership with O, Miami. The showcase places emphasis on writing, reading, and performing original works. Ed Ponder, Director of Guest Services at The Betsy Hotel and community activist will host. **The event will be held on Saturday morning, April 2, from 11 AM to 1 PM in B Bar at The Betsy-South Beach. This event is free, suitable for children and will include lunch, but space is limited to 100 attendees. RSVP to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

**April 8- Juan Felipe Herrera – Wall cast of US Poet Laureate’s visit to Miami Beach – at New World Symphony Park**  
The Betsy was proud to host a residency by US Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera in March 2016, that included a poetry reading at the New World Center for a limited audience of 100 attendees. **Video proceedings from that evening (that also included readings by local emerging poets) will be projected onto the big screen in Symphony Park in O, Miami’s annual Poetry Wallcast. For more information on this family-friendly event, visit [Omami.org](http://Omami.org)**

**April 9- Under the Influence – A reading by Campbell McGrath – at Miami Design Preservation League & The Betsy**  
Under the Influence, an annual collaborative reading presented by The Betsy – South Beach with O, Miami, features FIU Poetry Professor Campbell McGrath with Visiting Poet Kevin Young and regional artist Melanie Almeder. Under the Influence invites presenters to read their own poetry and the poetry of an ‘influencer’ – *in other words, to read the poems that inspired them to write poems.* **The reading will be at Miami Design Preservation League Visitor’s Center on April 9 from 7 to 9:30 PM, with a reception immediately following on the Roof-deck at The Betsy-South Beach. Both events are free and open to the public. RSVP to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

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### **April 12- The Poetry of Art Songs – Performance by Miami Music Festival – at The Betsy – South Beach**

The Poetry of Art Songs is presented at Betsy and features alumni of the Miami Music Festival performing German Lieder, French Chanson, Italian Neapolitan classics, and English Arts Songs. This performance in the Salon invites the audience to experience art songs the way they were originally heard where audience and performer communicate directly. During the performance there will be an opportunity to reflect on the words that contributed to the musical experience. **The event is on April 12 at 7PM and is free and open to the public as part of The Betsy's ongoing partnership with the Miami Music Festival ([miamimusicfestival.org](http://miamimusicfestival.org))** RSVP to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)

### **April 12 – Portraits of Poets – (NEW) Exhibition opening with artists present- at The Betsy**

The Betsy is proud to announce an art exhibition called *Portraits of Poets*. This collection of works will be placed in The Betsy's three major gallery spaces, the Lobby Salon Gallery (Raymond Elman), the Restaurant Gallery (Robert Zuckerman), and the Underground Gallery (Steven 'ESPO' Powers and Gesi Schilling). Also on exhibition in the hotel is Betsy's permanent collection of photographs of The Beatles and Rolling Stones, two bands whose poetry has stood the test of time. (*"Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in the church where a wedding has been/Lives in a dream/ Waits at the window, wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door"*) **Meet the artists at The Betsy, following a performance by the Miami Music Festival - April 12 at 8 PM. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

### **April 14 –EVENT - Honoring the 1st winner of the Derricotte/Eady Chapbook Prize – at The Betsy**

The Betsy Writers Room welcomes Poet Rio Cortez (April 10-15), as the inaugural winner of the Toi Derricotte & Cornelius Eady Chapbook Prize for her manuscript *"I Have Learned to Define a Field as a Space Between Mountains"*, that will be published by [jai-Alai Books](http://jai-alai-books.com) in Spring 2016. Rio Cortez is a Pushcart-nominated poet from Salt Lake City, who has received fellowships from Poets House and Canto Mundo Foundations. She was the recipient of the Sarah Lawrence College Lucy Grealy Prize and the 2012 Poets & Writers Amy Award. **Rio Cortez reads on April 14 at 7:30 in BBar at The Betsy. The event is free and open to the public.**

### **April 16-19 - Breakbeat Poet, Kevin Coval in Residence with O, Miami – in Wynwood at Mana**

The Betsy Writers Room welcomes **Kevin Coval**, author of the American Library Association Book-of-the-Year Finalist *Slingshots: A Hip-Hop Poetica* and most recently, *L-vis Lives! Racemusic Poems*, described as a "stunning, and very personal, piece of literary work that should be required reading in every high school in America" by *Impose* magazine. Coval founded "*Louder Than a Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival*," one of the country's largest youth gatherings, and recently the subject of an award-winning documentary of the same name.

**The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop (Haymarket, 2015)** is the first poetry anthology by and for the Hip-Hop generation, celebrating a break with the past while honoring of tradition(s) and creating an undeniable body expanding the canon for the fresher. Join **BreakBeat Poets Kevin Coval and Malcolm London** as they share their work shaping and remixing the next and now movement(s) in American letters on the page, from the stage, and in classroom spaces across the country. **The show will feature performers from the local organization Path to Hip-Hop, as well as Miami artist and activist Sekajipo. Sunday, April 17, 2016, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, The RC Cola Plant at MANA Wynwood 599 Northwest 23rd Street, Miami, FL, 33127- This is a family friendly event, free, and open to the public.**

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### **April 17 - The Betsy's Yiddish Speaker's Sunday Salon Series – at The Betsy**

The Betsy celebrates the legacy of Yiddish language and culture at a monthly community salon where Yiddish (and Y'English) and spoken. The program always welcomes a community artist or scholar to frame the conversation, with recent special guests including Dr. Asher Milbauer (Founder of the Exile Studies Program at FIU), Dr. Haim Shaked (Founder of the Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at University of Miami), Dr. Curt Leviant (Author of *The King of Yiddish*), Dr. Holli Levitsky (Author of *The Catskills, The Holocaust, and The Literary Imagination* and Director of the Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Association), and Dr. Annette Fromm, speaking on the Humor of the Rabbi of Chelm (Folklorist and Museum Educator). With April's special guest (to be named) slated to read and discuss Yiddish poets and poetry, Lox and Bagels will be served as a gift from Betsy Owners Jonathan Plutzik and Lesley Goldwasser – at 9:30 AM, April 24, in B bar. **This event is free and open to the public, but is limited to 50 people, max. RSVP to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

### **April 22-24 – Poetry Press Week - (Major Jackson, Elizabeth Scanlon, David Hassler, Major Jackson, Gabby Cavocoressi, & Saeed Jones)**

As Host Hotel for O, Miami, the Betsy will host poetry champions (from the worlds of publishing and literary media) during Miami's First Poetry Press Week. Poetry Press Week was established in Portland, Oregon in 2013 with the mission of transforming the way unpublished poetry is presented to the literary industry, the media, and the public-at-large. **By encouraging collaboration and bringing together the driving forces of literary production, Press Week hopes to revitalize the poetry publishing industry and revive popular interest in this art form. Events are listed at [Omiami.org](http://Omiami.org).**

### **April 23 – Poet Press Week Brunch - at The Betsy**

The Betsy will host 32 O, Miami poets for an (invitation only) brunch: to break bread, eat bagels, and share stories. Event specifics are known to invitees. **Media is welcome by contacting [dbriggs@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:dbriggs@thebetsyhotel.com) or [jean@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:jean@thebetsyhotel.com).**

### **April 24 – The Betsy's Yiddish Speaker's Sunday Salon Series – at The Betsy**

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### **April 26-27 - Poet, Frank Bidart – at Viscaya Gardens**

The Betsy is proud to welcome poet-in-residence, Frank Bidart who has gained critical attention and praise as a poet of uncompromising originality. Bidart's book *Desire* was nominated for the triple crown of awards—the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award—and received the 1998 Rebekka Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress for the best book of poetry published during the previous two years. Bidart's recent books include *Watching the Spring Festival* (2008), his first book of lyric poems; and *Metaphysical Dog* (2013), which won the National Books Critics Circle Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Frank Bidart will present a poetry reading with Peg Boyers, Executive Editor of *Salmagundi* magazine and author of *Hard Bread* and *Honey with Tobacco*. **The joint reading is on April 27 at 7 PM at Viscaya Gardens. No RSVP required. For more information, visit [Omiami.org](http://Omiami.org)**

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### **April 27-29 - Writer, Tim O'Brien – the Great American 'soldier' writer receives the Sanders Fiction Award @ FIU**

The Betsy – South Beach in partnership with Florida International University's Writers on the Bay Program hosts Tim O'Brien, author of the acclaimed novel, *The Things They Carried* (1990), a critically acclaimed collection of semi-autobiographical, interrelated short stories inspired by O'Brien's experiences in the *Vietnam War*. O'Brien is also known for his war novel, *Going After Cacciato* (1978), and written about Vietnam war. **O'Brien will receive the Lawrence Sanders Award for Fiction from Florida International University, with a public program on April 28 at 8 PM at FIU. FIU - Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center ballroom (WUC-244). The event is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.**

### **April 28 - Poetry Paella Party - The Betsy w/U of Miami the Asian American Writers Conference - at The Betsy**

The Betsy is proud to present a community showcase of Miami writers and poets, including Jaswinder Bolina, Adrian Castro, MJ Fievre, Mia Leonin, Geoffrey Philip, and Carlos Pintado—on the Roof Deck of the Betsy. **The night includes surprise readers from the talented pool of conference attendees, as well as a specially prepared paella dinner and drinks. Tickets can be purchased from [aastudies.org](http://aastudies.org) – with attendance on Betsy's Roof Deck limited to 100 people.**

### **April 1-30 – Soap Box Poetry – The Betsy's 5<sup>th</sup> annual "National Poetry Month" homage to Hyde Park – at The Betsy**

The Betsy Writers Room pays homage to London's Hyde Park Speaker's Corner through this annual arts outreach initiative. Community poets are invited to read two poems in any language: one they've written and one by an influencer. All attendees will be offered copies of a CHAPBOOK containing the poetry from the 2015 Soapbox Poetry program; this year's readers will be immortalized in a publication that will be given away next year. **To Read: Send your name and the title of the poems you'd like to present to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com). The Betsy's Soapbox Events for 2016 are at 1 PM on April 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29.**

### **About The Betsy**

The Betsy-South Beach ([thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com)) is a boutique hotel located on Ocean Drive that embraces *'things that matter'* under the auspices of a Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education Program - with a very special focus on poetry and literature. Each room at the hotel has a small library, and a poetry bookmark is placed on each guest's pillow every night. Since reopening in 2009, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and charity, working with hundreds of nonprofit partners. The Betsy is a 2012 and 2015 Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grant recipient for its literary programs ([thebetsywritersroom.com](http://thebetsywritersroom.com)). The Betsy is located at **1440 Ocean Drive**, Miami Beach. [305-760-6900](tel:305-760-6900)

### **For more information**

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THE BETSY HOTEL

Deborah Briggs, Vice President, PACE

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