

THE  
**B E T S Y**  
SOUTH BEACH

**CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2015 AT THE BETSY-SOUTH BEACH**

*Partners include O, Miami, the Academy of American Poets, the Miami Dade County Public Schools, and more*

Media Contact

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**The Betsy South Beach** ([thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com)) has a full slate of events and interactive activities on tap for National Poetry Month 2015, in partnership with *O, Miami, the Academy of American Poets, the Miami Dade County Public Schools, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami Dade College, Florida International University, and other partners*. The Betsy will welcome visiting poets, present public readings and salons, and debut BLT Steak's 2015 Literary Cocktail called *The Poet's Palliative*. Also during April 2015, **The Writer's Room at The Betsy** ([betsywritersroom.com](http://betsywritersroom.com)) celebrates its third anniversary.

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 PM – Community Arts Program**

**Betsy's Soapbox Poetry** kicks off with a month of daily readings. Each weekday, two poets will gather on the veranda to read two poems: one of their own and one written by someone they admire. Soapbox Poetry celebrates London's Hyde Park Speaker's Corner, where since 1872 visitors have exercised creative oratory. **To apply, fill out this form.**

**Friday, April 4 at 8 PM – Poetry Reading**

**Betsy's 4th Annual 'Under the Influence' Reading, hosted by MacArthur Genius Award Winner and FIU Faculty Poet, Campbell McGrath** will take place in BBar. Also reading will be poets Daisy Fried and Julia Marie Wade. Festivities continue into the night on Roof Deck with free shots of 'The Poetic Palliative' and sushi provided by BLT-Steak. **RSVP to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

**From April 8 to 12 – Residency and Women's Salon**

**Kundiman Fellow and emerging poet Ansley Moon** is visiting writer in residence. As an Asian American adoptee, much of her work examines adoption, infanticide and women's rights in India. **To meet the artist in a women's salon, contact [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com).**

**April 11 – Kayaking and Poetry Workshop**

**The Betsy will charter a bevy of Kayaks** for guests staying at the hotel, as part of *O, Miami's Poetry on the Bay* workshop with Miami-based Poet, Michael Hettich. Participants will paddle, beach kayaks, write poems, and share

what's written. Contact [Pablo@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:Pablo@thebetsyhotel.com) to secure your Kayak, after booking your room on [thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com)

### **Sunday April 12 from 4 to 9 PM - O, Miami's Annual Poetry in the Park Wallcast**

**Betsy sponsors Two-time US Poet Laureate Kay Ryan, and Jamal May** (Beatrice Hawley Award Winner), in an outdoor poetry reading – on a 7,000 sq ft screen as part of **O, Miami's Annual Poetry in the Park Wallcast** at New World Symphony and Soundscape Park. **Free and open to the public. No rsvp required.**

### **Tuesday April 14 at 8:30 PM –Residency and Community Performance**

**Betsy Writer's Room Resident Artist Martine Syms presents an original piece commissioned by O, Miami and based on the history of Overtown** – a "one-night only" performance inspired by Sam Cooke's 1963 Miami-made album, *"Live at the Harlem Square Club"*, at Gramps Bar in Wynwood. **Free and open to the public. No rsvp required.**

### **April 19 at 3 PM – Veterans Poetry Showcase and Photography Exhibition**

**Betsy partners with MDC Live Arts Veterans' Lab Showcase to present a collective of local veterans sharing experiences in an original spoken word piece** - channeled and directed by local theater artist Teo Castellanos. A companion exhibition featuring images by **photographer Balazs Gardi** will be on exhibit until April 30, in Betsy's Lobby Salon and Underground Gallery. **Both programs are free and open to the public, no RSVP required.**

### **April 19 at 7 PM – Holocaust Commemoration Event with Music and Poetry**

**The Betsy with the Miami Jewish Federation presents its annual Holocaust Commemoration event, Who Will Dream You?**, titled after a poem of Jacob Glatstein and featuring performances by Shi Ami Musicians - Jason Calloway, Cello and Rachael Calloway, Soprano. Shir Ami is devoted to recovering the rich musical heritage crated by the Jewish People during the tumultuous 20<sup>th</sup> century, and gives voice to the people of the Jewish Diaspora whose art has been silenced, suppressed, and neglected as a result of their Jewish heritage. **RSVP to this free event at [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com).**

### **April 20 at 9:30 AM – Salon on Art and Healing**

**The Betsy welcomes Harvard University's Dr. Jeremy Nobel, founder and president of the Foundation for Art and Healing** for a salon that explores the relationship between health and creative expression. BLT breakfast is served. **RSVP to this free event at [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

### **April 22 at 11 AM – High School Poetry Reading**

**The Betsy features high school poets** from the Miami Dade County Public Schools, and poet/teacher Caridad Morro for a BBar celebration/release party for the 2015 Orange Island Review. Lunch will be served at this free event that honors one of the area's leading high school literary magazines. RSVP required to this free event at [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)

### **April 23 – Young People's Events**

**Children's Author/Poet, Lisa Papademtriu** brings her hilarious alter ego *Ivana Correctya*, a grammar-loving comedic diva, to audiences in the Miami Dade County Public Schools, Miami Dade Public Library-

**Miami Beach, and Florida International University Department of English**, courtesy of The Betsy's Writers for Young Readers initiative. **For scheduling information: [Pablo@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:Pablo@thebetsyhotel.com)**

**April 25 at 10 AM – Residency and Community Event**

**Writer's Room guest, Nathan Deuel (author, professor, journalist) leads 'Write about Walking: A Workshop on a Walk Around Miami Beach'.** This O, Miami sponsored workshop requires three hours of walking and requires physical exertion. **To apply for this free workshop**

**Thursday, April 20 to 27 – Interdisciplinary Arts**

**The Betsy welcomes Chicago's Manual Cinema Team in residence to complete O, Miami's commissioned piece: *My Soul's Shadow*, which will debut on April 23, 24, and 25, in Little River // Miami.** Using hundreds of paper shadow puppets, and an original score performed live by the chamber ensemble Nu Deco, Manual Cinema will transform a warehouse dock into a fantastic landscape inspired by Lorca's surreal imagination. **Purchase \$30 tickets through O, Miami (tickets include pizza!)**

**April 28, at 8 PM –Poetry Paella**

**Betsy features iconic award-winning wordsmith Gerald Stern** in collaboration with the Academy of American Poets. Anne Marie Macari will also read from her new collection, *Red Deer* (Persea Books, 2015), to be followed by Major Jackson, a regional South Florida poet. A community reception follows with paella, literary libations and birthday cake to commemorate the third anniversary of The Writer's Room at The Betsy Hotel. **RSVP to this free event at [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)**

**NATIONAL POETRY MONTH AT THE BETSY – OVERVIEW**

**Visiting Poets**

Campbell McGrath  
Daisy Fried  
Julie Marie Wade  
Ansley Moon  
Kay Ryan  
Jamal May  
Caridad Morro  
Lisa Papademetriou  
Nathan Deuel  
Gerald Stern  
Anne Marie Marcari  
Major Jackson

**Visiting Artists (other disciplines)**

Teo Castellanos (actor and director)  
Martine Syms (performer)  
Vincenzo Maltempo (pianist)  
Paul Holdengraber (arts program visionary)  
Jason Calloway and Rachael Calloway (Cello/Voice)  
Dr. Jeremy Nobel (Art and Healing Leader)  
Chicago Manuel Cinema Team – 9 members (Interdisciplinary)

### Events at Betsy

Soapbox Poetry, five days a week @ 5 PM – 44 readers  
Annual ‘Under the Influence Reading’ Hosted by Campbell McGrath  
Classical Underground Piano Concert with pre-concert poetry reading  
Women’s Salon with Kundimen Fellow, Ansley Moon  
Veteran’s Poetry Slam with Teo Castellanos  
Salon on Arts and Healing with Dr. Jeremy Nobel  
High School Poetry Reading with Caridad Morro – with 18 young poets  
Partnership Reading with Academy of American Poets featuring Gerald Stern  
Third Birthday Party for The Writers Room – *Let them eat cake!*

### Events in the Community

Kayaking Poetry Workshop – *special offer for Betsy guests*  
New World Center Poetry Wallcast with Jamal May and Kay Ryan – *Betsy Sponsorship*  
Young People’s Author Lisa Papademtriou Does Three Readings – *Writers Room Initiative*

### Literary Cocktail – for 2015

#### **The Poetry Palliative**

created by David Weiss, GM of BLT-Steak @ The Betsy

Whether channeling your inner Henry Chinanski (yes, he was a laureate of the low in that lauded film), feeling a kinship with Lowell's drunken fisherman, or simply searching for a taste of that liquor never brewed, BLT Steak at The Betsy Hotel offers another poetry month offering to inspire the wordsmith in us all. Guaranteed to beckon to your inner bard to assist in trumpeting the joys of life's riches with sonorous sounds, or to comfort the troubled troubadour with a penchant for exposing life's seamy underbelly with dolorous dronings, this drink will allow you to find the best words and place them in the best order. You make it sound so easy, Mr. Coleridge. Management at BLT simply asks that you refrain from the Haiku, as Basho was not a drinker and other than Kerouac's Book of Haikus, a proper poem in this form has not been written since 1819 by the venerable Kobayashi Issa. But alas I digress ... the recipe please...

1 oz fresh squeezed orange juice

1 oz fresh squeezed grapefruit juice

1/2 oz Silver Tree American Small Batch vodka

1/2 oz Giffard apricot brandy

1/2 oz Sailor Jerry spiced rum

1 oz Alipus San Juan del Rio mezcal

Shake over ice and flame an orange peel simply because it is great fun. Toss

### **About The Betsy**

The Betsy-South Beach ([betsyhotel.com](http://betsyhotel.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 books, and a poetry bookmark is placed on each guest's pillow every night. Over the past few years, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and charity, working with hundreds of nonprofit partners. The Betsy is a 2012 Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grant recipient for its Writers Room project ([betsywritersroom.com](http://betsywritersroom.com)). The Betsy is located at **1440 Ocean Drive**, Miami Beach. Telephone: [305-760-6902](tel:305-760-6902).

**Expect no more. This is happiness.**

Hyam Plutzik, American Poet