

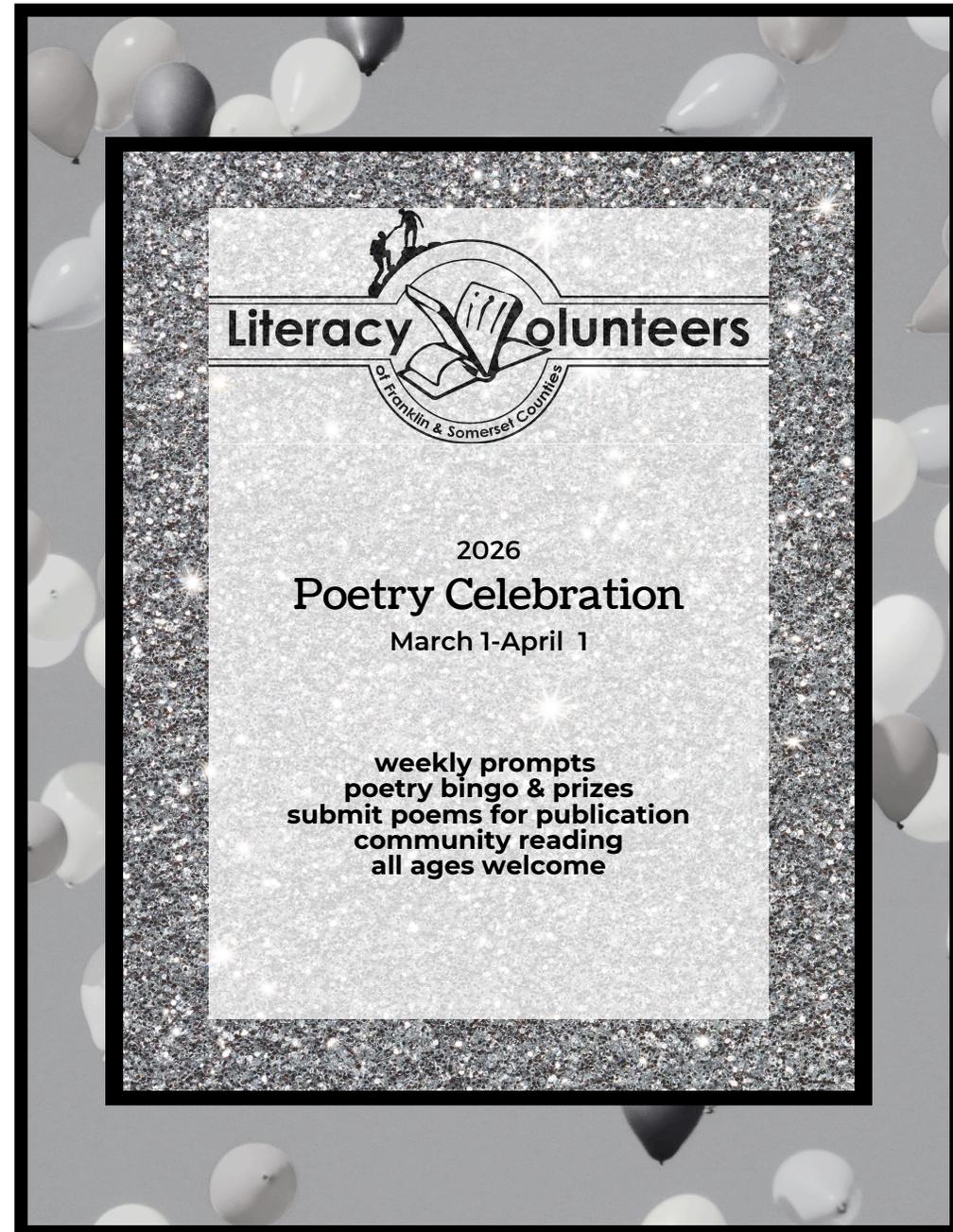


2026 Poetry Celebration Submission Guidelines

Please read the following information carefully before submitting a poem, and contact us if you have any questions. literacyvolunteersfs@gmail.com or 207-500-3131

- The Poetry Celebration is open to residents of Franklin and Somerset Counties, Livermore, and Livermore Falls
- One original poem per person can be submitted for publication
- Submissions will be accepted from March 1st to April 1st
- There are four submission categories:
 - Youth 11 and under
 - Youth 12-17
 - Adult 18+
 - Students of Literacy Volunteers
- Poems, including title and author, must be formatted to fit on one 8.5x11 sheet of paper with a minimum of .5 inch margins on all sides
- Poems can be submitted to literacyvolunteersfs@gmail.com
 - Write POEM in the subject line of the email
 - In the body of the email, include:
 - Your name
 - Email
 - Phone number
 - Mailing address
 - The category you are entering your poem in
 - The title of the poem, as you would like it to appear in publication
 - Your name as you would like it to appear in publication (or Anonymous/Name Withheld)
 - Optional- a brief author bio (max 50 words)
 - Attach your poem as a PDF
- All poets are invited to read their work at a Community Poetry Reading on May 6th
- All submitted poems meeting the guidelines will be published in an anthology, on the Literacy Volunteers website, and in the press. Published poets will receive a copy of the anthology.

All entrants retain intellectual rights to their poems. Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties (LVFSC) retains the right to publish (or not publish) any submitted poem in an anthology, on its website, on social media, and in the press, as well as the poet's full name, age, and town where they live.





2026 Poetry Celebration

During his tenure, the current Poet Laureate of the United States, Arthur Sze, plans to focus on “poetry in translation”.

“Translation builds bridges and makes connections... Great poetry ignites and reignites our shared humanity, and the transient worlds of poetry in translation play a vital role in bringing us together.”

For the month of March, our learning community will be using prompts inspired by “poetry in translation” for weekly writing workshops.

All are welcome to join us in celebrating poetry!

We hope you will submit a poem for publication in our 2026 anthology and join us for a community poetry reading on May 6th.

for more information:
westernmaineliteracy.org/poetry
call or text 207-500-3131
literacyvolunteersfs@gmail.com

scan here



2026 Poetry Celebration

Translate: express the sense of (words or text) in another language...convert something or be converted into (another form or medium).-Oxford languages

Weekly Prompts

Week 1: Translating The Wordless Into Words

We often translate wordless experiences into imagined communication. Think about an experience you have had involving communication other than words. Write a poem giving words to that communication.

Week 2: Translating Stories Into Poems

River 莹莹 Dandelion shares an exercise for translating oral histories into poetry as pantoums. Think of a family or community story that is important to you. Use the pantoum form to share the story.

Week 3: Translating Sensory Experience

Basho's famous haiku about a frog jumping into a pond communicates a unique sensory experience. What are other unique sensory experiences? Write a poem to communicate a unique sensory experience to others.

Week 4: Practice The Art Of Translation

Arthur Sze invites us to “practice the art of translation”. Translate a poem you love into your own words, or find a poem in a language that you don't know. Use a translation app to translate the poem into English, then work with the words to turn them back into a poem.