

Literary Newsletter

NORTH
ATTLEBORO, MA

14 February 2026



POET LAUREATE- KAYLA ROY

Keeping the Soul Warm: Reading and Writing In Winter

Growing up in New England, I'm no stranger to snowstorms. There was always a certain magic in the air with an impending blizzard on the horizon. Now an adult, I suspect that innocent whimsy was in part due to not having to go out and shovel.

Who wouldn't want a day to stay inside and read a good book or play a game with loved ones? School is cancelled, you have to stay off the roads- it's Mother Nature permitting you to rest. Light a fire, drink some tea, and take a much-deserved break.

As I sit writing this newsletter in the first real snowstorm of the new year, I'm grateful for the signal to take it slow. Less than a month after finishing my Master's degree, returning to my favorite hobbies like reading and writing has reminded me just how much words can keep the soul warm in winter.

Soon Spring will return and with it, sun-stretched evenings and fresh blooms. While the winter months can be dark and somewhat dreary, it simultaneously makes us slow down. Slow down, rest, reset.

While winter fades to spring, find a book whose story keeps you safe, find a poem that makes you pause, or write the words that have been whispering in your heart in the dark of winter.

So many times, I hear people counting down the days of winter, wondering when the days will finally be longer again. When really, there's something to be said of staying in, slowing down, and keeping the soul warm.

Kayla Roy

In this newsletter you can expect:

Local Literary Events - February / March

New Poetry Releases

Poems to Ponder

Poetry Prompts

Get in touch!



Local Literary Events

- **Open Mic Night - An Unlikely Story**
 - 2/18/26 6:00-8:00pm
- **Brookline Poetry Series Reading**
 - 2/15/26 and 3/15/26 @ Brookline Public Library
- **Attleboro Public Library Writing Group**
 - 2/23/26 6:30-8:00 pm
- **2026 Individual Teen Preliminary Poetry Slam #1 & Workshop - Boston Public Library**
 - 2/28/26 @ 12pm



- **Book Swap @ PSB Boston**
 - 3/15/26 @ 2pm
- **ECHOES IN INK: Found Poetry In the Collection - Somerville Museum**
 - 3/20/26 @ 5:30 pm
- **Silent Book Club + Write Night - Trident Booksellers**
 - Every other Monday @ 7pm
- **Poetry Open Mic Nights - Trident Booksellers**
 - Sundays @ 7pm

POET LAUREATE EVENT:

Meet and Greet with the Poet Laureate!

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 6:30-7:30 pm

Location: Richard's Memorial Library

Join us at Richard's Memorial Library for an evening conversation with me, the Poet Laureate of North Attleborough! Hear some of my original work, participate in a Q & A, and share what kind of events you would like to see! I look forward to meeting you and chatting with you!

New Poetry Releases

The Book of Alice - Diamond Forde

When her grandmother died, poet Diamond Forde inherited a well-worn family Bible to remember her by. In *The Book of Alice*, she retells the story of her grandmother's life through the framework of the only poetry Alice knew: the King James Bible. A Black woman born in the Jim Crow South, Alice joined the tide of the Great Migration when she made her exodus to New York City. 1/20/26

Be Easy: New and Selected Poems - Adrian Matejka

Drawing from six previous collections, Matejka examines race and identity in America in dynamic poems whose settings range from Midwest parking lot carnivals to the boxing ring where Jack Johnson claimed his heavyweight title. 3/31/26

Horses: Poems - Jake Skeets

Navajo Nation Poet Laureate Jake Skeets's highly anticipated second collection patiently tracks the impacts of climate change on the land and its myriad inhabitants.

"For now, go out and dream of joy, we know the labor of feeling it."

3/24/26

LINES THAT LINGER

Winter Branches

Margaret Widdemer, 1921

When winter-time grows weary, I lift
my eyes on high
And see the black trees standing,
stripped clear against the sky;

They stand there very silent, with the
cold flushed sky behind,
The little twigs flare beautiful and
restful and kind;

Clear-cut and certain they rise, with
summer past,
For all that trees can ever learn they
know now, at last;

Slim and black and wonderful, with all
unrest gone by,
The stripped tree boughs comfort me,
drawn clear against the sky.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost, 1922

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

The Dipper

Kathleen Jamie, from *Selected Poems*
2018

It was winter, near freezing,
I'd walked through a forest of firs
when I saw issue out of the waterfall
a solitary bird.

It lit on a damp rock,
and, as water swept stupidly on,
wrung from its own throat
supple, undammable song.
It isn't mine to give.
I can't coax this bird to my hand
that knows the depth of the river
yet sings of it on land.



Want to get Involved? We'd love to have you!

The best part of the North Attleborough community is of course the people. We want to hear from **you!**

Do you have an original poem that you'd like to see featured in next month's newsletter? Send it to poetlaureate@nattleboro.com for the chance to be featured!

Have a poem you can't stop thinking about? Share it with the community alongside your thoughts to be featured in future newsletters! Send it to poetlaureate@nattleboro.com for the chance to be featured! Be sure to include an original source link and the original poet for crediting purposes.

Poetry Prompts

Looking to write something new, but aren't sure where to start? Here are some prompts to get you started!

See below to share your work for the chance to be featured in next month's newsletter!

- Write a poem about warmth- literal, emotional, or both!
- It's the season of love! Write a proper Shakespearean love sonnet.
- Write a poem about the moment just before everything changes.
- Explore a sound of fall in a poem.
- Write a poem to someone you never quite said goodbye to.
- Write about the turn of the seasons from the perspective of a tree.

Thank you for reading!

TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH	<u>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE</u>
poetlaureate@nattleboro.com	 @poetlaureatena