

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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## Erie County Poet Laureate and cast read Spoon River Anthology at Blasco Library

Erie, PA – Current Erie County Poet Laureate Chuck Joy will host a second event, “Spoon River Anthology: Selected Poems,” in collaboration with Erie County Public Library on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m. in the Hirt Auditorium of Blasco Library.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature a number of well-known community leaders reading their favorite passages from the endearing Edgar Lee Masters’ “Spoon River Anthology”:

- **Chuck Joy**, Erie County Poet Laureate
- **Kathy Dahlkemper**, Erie County Executive
- **Joe Schember**, City of Erie Mayor
- **Doug Smith**, Erie County government/poetry committee chair
- **Blane Dessy**, director, Erie County Public Library
- **John Burroughs**, Ohio Beat Poet Laureate
- **Angela McNair**, board member, Erie’s public schools
- **Greg Brown**, professor, Mercyhurst University
- **Mary Jane Kidd**, poet/publisher
- **Steve Sullivan**, professor, Edinboro University
- **Matt Borczon**, poet/author
- **Abdullah Washington**, poet/emcee/actor
- **Kim Noyes**, poet
- **Cee Williams**, former Erie County Poet Laureate 2014-2016, Poets’ Hall Press
- **Shawn Clerkin**, associate professor, Gannon University
- **Matt Darling**, assistant professor, Gannon University
- **Robin Dile Cuneo**, journalist
- **Dennis Borczon**, MD, Deerfield Behavioral Health
- **Mabel Howard**, co-owner, Café 710
- **Ron Hayes**, former Erie County Poet Laureate 2012-14; teacher, Erie’s public schools
- **Amanda Hurd**, actress, Erie Playhouse

– more –

A light reception will immediately follow.

The first event, "Spoon River Anthology Symposium," took place in November at Blasco Library. Both events explore the meaning and relevance of "Spoon River Anthology" to our contemporary times and in the Erie County region. The readings are part of the Poet Laureate's term project and will be followed by the Poet Laureate's annual reading on April 20, and a Poetry for Healthcare Workers workshop in May.

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