POETRY ALERT

Poets to Stage Live Readings on Subway, at Union Station

• Schedule of events

(April 4, 2002) Metro Art and the Poetry Society of America will celebrate National Poetry Month, Friday, by staging the first of several live readings in the Metro Rail system.

The opening two-hour event will begin at 4 p.m., April 5, in the East Portal of Union Station. Poetry readings also are scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., April 9, 16 and 23 aboard subway and light-rail trains.

The readings are a collaborative effort of the Poetry Society of America and the MTA and are part of the current "Poetry in Motion L.A." literary arts program held on Metro Buses. Admission to each event is free.

The events feature readings by Elena Karina Bryne, noted poet and the regional director of the Poetry Society of America, as well as by LA-based poets Chris Abani, Briony Bax, George Chacon, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Amy Gerstler, Eloise Klein Healy, Larry Jaffe, John Kovatch, Gina Lain, Suzanne Lummis, Ellyn Maybe, Aleida Rodríguez, Antonieta Viallamil and Stephen Yenser.

Works by these and other poets appear throughout the year on placards installed in some 2,250 Metro Buses. Over the life of the 2001-2002 series, more than 26,000 bus cards will be inscribed with the works of 24 locally and internationally recognized poets and will bring poetry to more than one million bus riders a day.

The literary arts program is supplemented by the distribution of 120,000 bookmarks that replicate 11 of the poetry bus cards. The bookmarks are distributed on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains and are available at Los Angeles County libraries.

Schedule of events

Friday, April 5, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

UNION STATION (East Portal): Poets Eloise Klein Healy, Suzanne Lummis, Aleida Rodríguez, Antonietta Villamil and Stephen Yenser, read from their works included in the current Poetry in Motion® L.A. series.

Tuesday, April 9, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO RED LINE: Departing from Union Station at 4 p.m., poets Larry Jaffe, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, and Deborah Elder Brown will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Red Line to read selected poems from the Poetry in Motion® series until 6 p.m. Gateway Plaza East Portal, Vignes & Cesar Chavez streets, Downtown.

Tuesday, April 16, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO BLUE LINE: Departing from the 7th Street/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station at 4 p.m. Poets Elena Karina Byrne, John Kovatch, Gina Lain and Ellen Maybe will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Blue Line to read selected poems from the Poetry in Motion® series until 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO GREEN LINE: Departing from the Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks Station at 4 p.m. Poets Chris Abani, Briony Bax, Elena Karina Byrne and George Chacon will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Green Line to read selected poems from the Poetry in Motion® series until 6 p.m.

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