



Los Alamos Study Group

Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability

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Poets, Writers To Address 60th Anniversary of “Trinity” Nuclear Test at Public Events in Santa Fe & Albuquerque

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SANTA FE AND ALBUQUERQUE, NM – On Friday, July 15 at 7 pm at the James A. Little Theater at 1060 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe, and again on Saturday, July 16 at 7 pm at the Lobo Theater at 3013 Central Avenue NE in Albuquerque, poets and playwrights will speak on the 60th anniversary of the first nuclear explosion on earth.

On Friday, Albuquerque poet Mary Oishi will be emceeding the event, which will feature anti-nuclear poets John Bradley and William Witherup; poet, author, educator, and Santa Fe resident Elaine Maria Upton; award-winning playwright, actor, producer, author, and educator Karen Jones Meadows; and Northern New Mexico poet Judyth Hill.

On Saturday, Bill Witherup, John Bradley, and Karen Jones Meadows will be performing again, this time joined by Mary Oishi and by poet, playwright, and educator Maisha Baton.

After an intermission, the second half of each show will be led by poets from our communities reading in a round-robin fashion from an open microphone. Citizen-poets are encouraged, one and all, to bring their poems to share with others!

There will be a silent auction at each event to raise money for the big August 6 commemoration and teach-in in Los Alamos (see <http://www.lasg.org/Hiroshima60.htm>). If you want to donate to the silent auction, call Claire at the Los Alamos Study Group at 265-1200.

Tickets are \$10 for both events. They are available at the door and online, at www.lasg.org, for both events. Tickets for Friday’s event are also available at Collected Works Bookstore and Nicholas Potter Books in Santa Fe. Tickets for Saturday’s event are available at Page One, Bookworks, and The Book Stop in Albuquerque.

Short biographies of the writers are included below.

We’re having these events because the nuclear story, in which all of us in New Mexico occupy center stage either as actors or scenery, has not been adequately or truthfully told. Factual truths as well as emotional truths, moral truths as well as spiritual truths, are still denied. The truths denied exceed prose in any case. The shadow of denial lengthens each year, making the job of communicating accurately and succinctly ever more difficult.

Milan Kundera famously said “The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.” On Friday and Saturday we will remember – remember and take stock, and inspire ourselves for the choices we must all make in the challenging years ahead.

About the Performers

William Witherup has published two books of poetry on nuclear themes, and was contributing editor for *Atomic Ghost, Poets Respond to the Nuclear Age* (Coffee House Press, 1995). His father worked for over thirty years at the Hanford Atomic Engineering Works and died of cancer. Witherup and John Bradley were profiled in *Poets & Writers* magazine (November/December 1997) as “citizen poets.”

John Bradley was editor of *Atomic Ghost: Poets Respond to the Nuclear Age* (Coffee House Press, 1995) and *Learning to Glow: A Nuclear Reader* (University of Arizona Press). Bradley was invited to

Hiroshima in 1995 to attend a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of that city, where he read poetry from *Atomic Ghost* and spoke on "Writing Ground Zero." His poetry has been published in numerous journals. He teaches writing at Northern Illinois University.

Elaine Maria Upton is a poet, writer, and teacher whose poetry has been published in various journals. She is the author of *Children of Apartness*, a book of poetry about the effects of apartheid after living for two years in South Africa. Dr. Upton has taught creative writing and literature at several universities including Dartmouth and the University of Maryland. She currently lives in Santa Fe and teaches at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She is working on a novel about the workers at the nuclear facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, her hometown.

Judyth Hill is a poet, performance artist, teacher of poetry, and environmental educator living in Northern New Mexico. Her six published books of poetry include *Presence of Angels*, *Men Need Space*, and poems of her land, *Black Hollyhock*, *First Light*, from La Alameda Press. She is the author of the internationally acclaimed poem, "Wage Peace." She is a New Mexico Endowment for the Arts Road Scholar, and recipient of many poetry grants & fellowships, including from the McCune Foundation, Witter Bynner Foundation, and the Western States Arts Federation. She has taught for the Museum of International Folk Art, Armand Hammer World College, Ghost Ranch, and the Writer in the Woods Program. She was described by the *St. Helena Examiner* as "Energy with skin," and by the *Denver Post* as "A tigress with a pen."

Karen Jones Meadows is an author, actor and producer whose numerous awards include The Drama League of New York Playwright Award; First Place International Short Film Award, Writer/Producer, Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame; Cornerstone Award, Penumbra Theatre; Distinguished McGee Professor of Writing Award, Davidson College; and many commissions and inclusions in publications such as *The National Black Drama Anthology: Eleven Plays from America's Leading African-American Theaters*. Her award winning plays are *Harriet's Return*, *Henrietta*, *Major Changes*, and *Tapman*, which have been performed in prestigious venues throughout the U.S.

Mary Oishi is best known in New Mexico for her work on KUNM. Oishi is also a poet, activist, and writer. Mary organized and produced *Peace Buzz*, a community ritual of art as protest (2003). In 2004 Mary released "Kiss the World Awake," a CD of performance poetry. Started the "Poetry Kiss," a non-competitive round-robin reading of poets following each of her poetry performances. Adjunct faculty, University of New Mexico, Valencia.

Maisha Baton is a poet, playwright and professor. She has written two plays, "Mitote" and "Kate's Sister," focusing on the experiences of African Americans in the history of the West. Dr. Baton has taught at the University of Pittsburgh, and is Adjunct Faculty at the University of New Mexico in the African American Studies Department. She has published several volumes of poetry, and was included in *In Company—An Anthology of New Mexico Poets After 1960*. For the past few years her research focus has been on Black History in New Mexico with an emphasis on the role of black women.

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