

Thank you to all who attended Notable Works' "Songs and Poems for the Earth and the Season" on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 2 PM at the North Providence Union Free Library. This special event, which began with a wonderful "Land Acknowledgement" by one of the Featured Poets **Sharon E. Alexander**, opened with a premiere performance by **The Notable Works' Ensemble**, joined by special guest **Mary Zema** with a song entitled *Never Stop Believing* by Notable Works' Artist in Residence Noreen Inglesi and written for a recently completed musical entitled "**Sell Division**"- *Breaking the Chains of Perception: A Musical in Two Acts*. This newly created theatrical work, which includes 20 musical pieces in a wide variety of styles, was a collaborative project between four colleagues-Notable Works' co-founder and Director Bina Gehres, Noreen Inglesi, the insightful Marianne Quinn and Singer Songwriter Mary Zema. Auditions are currently being scheduled for cast members, singers and more for upcoming and soon to be announced Readings and future productions of "**Sell Division**." If interested and to learn more, please email: noreeninglesi@cox.net or call (401) 384-7274. Click the link below to view and listen to the synopsis and audio excerpts of the musical numbers on You Tube: https://youtu.be/oCIRK_jhHkg.

The Notable Works' Ensemble: (Photos left to right by **Jen Scungio**, Member of Notable Works' Board of Directors) Noreen Inglesi, Composer & Poet; Alison Shea, Pianist; Beth Schapira, Lead Vocalist; Teresa Gervais, Flutist & Maria Bilyeu, Cellist



Alicia Lehrer, (pictured left) Executive Director of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC), shared a very special, interesting and informative presentation about this vital organization's efforts "to create positive social and economic change by revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway and its communities." For more information, to view current events and learn more about the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, please visit: www.wrwc.org.

Under the Direction of North Providence Music Teacher, Greg Berger, Fifth Grade Students from Stephen Olney School began with *The Hello Song* sung in many different languages which included the use of solfeggio symbols and American Sign Language written by Greg Berger himself. After the students shared other songs of the season, Patti Lou Davis dynamically performed another song written by Greg called *Only at Christmas Time*.

Alicia Lehrer, Executive Director of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council



David Dragone

The Poetry Section of this event was led by **Notable Works' Resident Poet David Dragone**. David founded and is the Editor-in-chief of *Crosswinds Poetry Journal*, a Rhode Island-based international journal of poetry, now in its 9th year of publication. Dave's poetry has appeared in *Avocet*, *Bryant Literary Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Common Ground Review*, *Commonweal*, *Connecticut River Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *Orchard Street Press*, *The Providence Journal*, *Rhode Island Public Radio*, and *Trinity Repertory Theater*. David is the author of two collections of poetry, *Temperaments*, published in 2016, and *Primal*, published in 2022 by Main Street Rag Publishing. He is a member of The Academy of American Poets, The New England Poetry Club, and Ocean State Poets, and facilitates poetry workshops in libraries and other venues in Rhode Island. David serves on the board of Rhode Island-based non-profit Arts organization Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.



Yvonne Wingard

Featured Poet Yvonne Wingard, who is Communications Manager of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council shared her heart-felt poem entitled *In the Solace of Mother Earth*, which was selected for and included in Notable Works' publication **Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet III**. This publication was officially released on June 11, 2023 at a special event at Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, Rhode Island. **Yvonne Wingard** hails from Providence and enjoys being able to express her gratitude and love for our dear planet through her writing." "She is applying to the URI's Masters in Environmental Science and Management program for Fall 2024. Yvonne hopes to continue learning about and growing closer to the natural world through personal and spiritual journeys, which has led her down this path. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with her cat, journaling and spending time outdoors in the warmer months."



Sharon E. Alexander

Featured Poet Sharon E. Alexander, read her acrostic poem *Resilience*, which was published in Notable Works' Publication **Voices of the Earth the Future of Our Planet II**.

Sharon E. Alexander, “a Narragansett Indian, who grew up living off the land, was born and raised in Washington County, RI observing firsthand, the devastating effects of pollution, toxic waste, a nuclear power plant now closed, and global warming. She has been described as ‘a woman dedicated to her faith, being a mom, family, culture and career’. Recently she was named ‘The People’s Poet’, had one of her poems read and distributed at a graduation class and selected winner in a local contest.”



Diana Cole

Featured Poet Diana Cole shared her poem entitled *The Slater Mill Poem* which was part of a special project by Ocean State Poets and published in a book entitled **You Work, We Write**, which focused on young children who began working in the mills at a very young age. Diana Cole, a Pushcart Prize nominee, has had poems published in numerous journals including Poetry East, Spillway, The Tar River Review, The Christian Century, Cider Press Review, The Public’s Radio 89.3, Friends Journal, Verse Daily, Tipton Poetry Journal, The New Verse News, Main Street Rag, Crab Creek Review and upcoming in Orison Books. Her chapbook, *Songs by Heart*, was published in 2018 by Iris Press. She is a senior editor for Crosswinds Poetry Journal and conducts workshops in Reading Poetry Aloud.



Braden Collins

Featured Poet Braden Collins started writing poetry when he was 8 years old. Braden wrote a poem on the death of John F. Kennedy, and it was posted all over his school. He was very proud of his work and that sparked his interest in poetry. Notable Works published his poem entitled “The Crusade.” This poem was inspired and dedicated to the front-line workers at Emergency Rooms who were overcome by all the new patients coming in during the Covid 19 pandemic. Notable Works published this poem in **Love Warms the Homeless Heart II** in 2021. Braden worked as a volunteer for Notable Works and is now a member of Notable Works’ Board of Directors.



Lawrence J. Krips

Featured Poet Lawrence J. Krips was a member of the panel of judges for **Notable Works’ 2023 Poetry Initiative**. Lawrence is an evolution coach, gatherings leader and poet. A founding member of Ocean State Poets and contributor to the Origami Poetry Project, Larry’s poetry has appeared in *Tifferet*, *Rhode Island Writers’ Circle Anthology*, *New Verse News*, *The Best of Kindness II anthology*, *Love’s Chance Magazine*, *The Open Door* and *50 Haikus*. He has appeared with the musical group, *Mouthpeace* and *Thunder and The Bird*. Mr. Krips received a Pushcart Prize nomination for his poem *Yahrzeit*. His first book, *A Soul’s Way . . . Soulspeak*, was published by Hallowed Abyss and is also available as a cd. You may contact Larry at: illuminationcoaching@aol.com.



Kate O’Kula

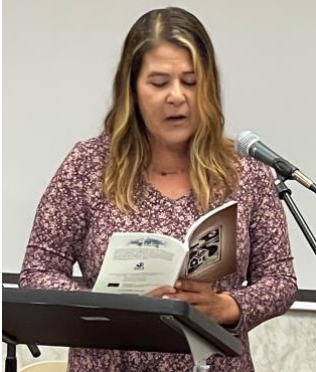
Featured Poet Kate O’Kula is a former social worker, administrator and consultant. She moved to RI in 2003 and engaged in local, national and international advocacy efforts, which still continue. She is a founding member of the Ocean State Poets and served as president for many years. She joined fellow poets in conducting poetry workshops at the RI prison facility for ten years and participated in many public performance outreach efforts. Her poetry has appeared in the journals *Affinities* and *Tifferet*, and anthologies *Where Beach Meets Ocean* (Block Island Poetry Project), *They Work, We Write* (Ocean State Poets), *Kindness* (Origami Project), and the *Ocean State Poets Anthology*. Her poetry was chosen for three publications of Wickford Arts Association’s “Poetry and Art,” and her poem, “Timeless,” was awarded third prize by Notable Works in 2023.



Jim Manchester

Featured Poet Jim Manchester (*Pictured left*), shared two of his wonderful poems, one of which was entitled *Resilience*, which was selected for and included in Notable Works' Publication **Love Warms the Homeless Heart II**, which addresses the issue of homelessness, was officially released in 2021.

Jim Manchester is a retired English/theatre teacher, gardener, retired voice actor, and sometimes poet. He resides in the lovely and historic seaport town of Bristol, RI.



Heather Sullivan

Featured Poet Heather Sullivan read her poem entitled *All the Difference* which was published in Notable Works' **Love Warms the Homeless Heart II**.

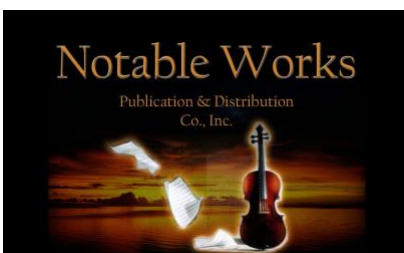
Heather is a founding member of Ocean State Poets and the editor of two poetry collections, *Butterfly Wings* and *Poems on Branches*, published by Salve Regina University. Her chapbook, *These Onyx Hours*, was published in 2014 by Finishing Line Press. In 2007, Heather was appointed Assistant Creative Director of The Writers' Circle, Inc. where she worked until 2010. Her writing has appeared in numerous regional and national publications. She can be reached at: www.poetheathersullivan.com.



Dr. Anne Marie Vale

The program came to a climatic conclusion with an extraordinary and mesmerizing performance of *Mambo Swing* by percussionist Dr. Anne Marie Vale, who taught for the Town of North Providence. Dr. Anne Marie Vale is a member of **Notable Works' dedicated Board of Directors**.

Dr. Anne Marie Vale received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Rhode Island College, a master's degree in psychology from Divine Mercy University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in organizational leadership from Regent University. Anne Marie was an elementary music specialist and classroom teacher for 29 years in the North Providence School System. In 2006, she was honored as "North Providence Teacher of the Year". Her first book, *Whispers from Above and Reflections of the Heart* (available on Amazon), contains poetic reflections on nature and biographical narratives. Anne Marie and her husband, Michael, enjoy strolling along various nature walks throughout Rhode Island. She also performs regularly with the award-winning Providence Drum Troupe throughout the Northeast, as well as the annual Honk Festival in Austin, Texas.



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