



INDEPENDENT

THINGS TO DO

Poet, rapper leads 3 workshops at Glendale libraries in April



(City of Glendale)

"The Sun and the Moon," Dale Chihuly's blown glass chandelier, hangs in the lobby of Foothills Branch Library in Glendale.

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April is National Poetry Month and Glendale Public Libraries will offer free workshops that poet, teaching artist and rapper, Sean Avery Medlin will lead in the city Foothills Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave.

People age 15 and up of all experience levels can engage in exercises aimed at helping them convey heartfelt messages in this literary form. They will have the opportunity to discuss other writers' poems and share their creative pieces in a safe space designed to foster growth.

"Poetry is just a fantastic vehicle for whatever sort of message you're trying to get out," Medlin stated in a press release. "I love the library audience. It's so diverse age-group-wise and interest and skills-wise. People can expect to be greeted where they're at. There are no mistakes. It's art."

Medlin teaches English, poetry and African-American studies at a Valley high school and has an extensive background in creative arts, including as a Writer in Residence for Tempe Public Library, a Resident Educational Writer for Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, a Teaching Artist and Project Coordinator for Childsplay Theater.

Medlin has been a teaching artist and workshop facilitator for Arizona State University's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing.

Anyone ages 15 and up can sign up for one, two, or all three workshops. Registration starts a week before each workshop and can be done via the Glendale Public Library website at <http://gplaz.org/events>.

All workshops are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Hummingbird Room at the Foothills Library. Workshop dates are as follows:

- **To Inhabit Another Voice (Persona & Personification):** on April 3: Review poems that use personas or characters to learn how to use these devices to build imagery, character, metaphor and other elements in
- **Ancestral Affirmations: Poetry & Nonfiction Workshop:** on April 17: Think about writing to heal. Writers can develop ways to use things they appreciate about their ancestors or anyone else they admire by writing affirmations they can use in poems.
- **On Self-Love and Celebration:** April 24: Inspired by poet Ariana Brown's workshop "On Love, Names, and Odes," this event will focus on the subject of many poems, love itself, in particular the love one has for oneself.

To learn about the Glendale Public Library's many events, visit <https://gplaz.org/events>

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