

Listen Up Downtown and Hear the Spoken Word



CARIL GLASSMAN

At kiva cafe last month, Danita Geltner recites her poetry to a group of avid listeners.

Ah, the joy of the spoken word! Opportunities to sit back and listen to poets and writers read their work abound Downtown. Here's a sampling of this month's events.

BARNES & NOBLE TRIBECA

Readings at Barnes & Noble take place in the back corner near the beautiful oversized photography and art books. The line-up this month is "Generation Kill" author Evan Wright (April 9, 7 p.m.) and "John Henry Days" author Colson Whitehead (April 29, 7 p.m.). Actresses Brooke Shields (April 22, 6:30 p.m.) and Julianne Moore (April 30, 11 a.m.) also make appearances, readings

from their recently published children's books. *Barnes & Noble Tribeca*, 97 Warren St. 212-587-5389, bn.com.

KIVA CAFE

Since the beginning of the year, Kiva café owner Beebe Okoye has been hosting biweekly poetry readings in her very cozy shop on Reade Street. This month's readers are essayist and Tribeca resident Wickham Boyle (April 2, 8 p.m.), poet/musicians Danielle Gasparro and Raphael McGregor and Gar Elliot (April 16, 8 p.m.). Jackie Kurt and Sumi Valsa, local Warburg brokers are sponsoring April 16th readings, where wine will be served. The final month's reading is on

April 30 at 8 p.m. with Chude Mondlane. *Kiva*, 139 Reade St. 212-587-1198, kiva-cafe.com.

MYSTERIOUS BOOK SHOP

Treachery, intrigue and suspense are always afoot at the Mysterious Book Shop. This month, noted crime author and former Manhattan prosecutor Linda Fairstein will pay a visit to the shop. On April 28 at 6 p.m., she will read from her latest addition to the adventures of Alexandra Cooper (Fairstein's fictional alter ego), entitled "The Prosecution Rests," which just hit the stores. *Mysterious Book Shop*, 58 Warren St. 212-587-1011, mysteriousbookshop.com.

PEN PARENTIS

M.M. De Voe, co-founder of the Pen Parentis After Work Reading Series, says the three-month-old program is an "intimate and inspiring" exploration of the hardships and hazards of being both a parent and professional writer. This month, the series features bestselling novelist (and father of two) Arthur Phillips, as well as journalist Julie Klam (April 14, 6 p.m.), author of the forthcoming book "Please Excuse My Daughter." *Pen Parentis at The Libertine*, 15 Gold St. penparentis@gmail.com.

"POEMS & PINTS"

What better way to listen to poetic musings than over a frothy mug of beer in a 200-year-old tavern? This month is the last reading in the Poems & Pints series, sponsored by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, at the Financial District's landmark Fraunces Tavern. The reading on April 7, 6:30 p.m., features Columbia University professor Sophie Cabot Black and former New

York State Poet Laureate Sharon Olds. *Poems & Pints at Fraunces Tavern*, 54 Pearl St. 212-219-9401, lmcc.net.

ALSO AROUND DOWNTOWN

Other readings this month are:

- *Bodies...*The Exhibition is the perfect place for acclaimed anatomical author Mary Roach ("Stiff," "Spook") to read from her latest tome, "Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex." On Monday, April 6, 7 p.m. *Bodies...The Exhibition*, 11 Fulton St. 1-888-9BODIES, bodiestheexhibition.com.

- Fia Backstrom will do a live narration and reading to accompany Poetry and Pottery exhibit. Saturday, April 18, 3 p.m. *Jack Hanley Gallery*, 136 Watts St., 646-918-6824, jackhanley.com.

- Readings that explore how societies rebuild and heal through remembrance will take place during a program entitled "Blooming Through the Ashes: An International Anthology on Violence and the Human Spirit Art." \$10; \$7 students, seniors. *Museum of Jewish Heritage*, April 22, 7 p.m. 646-437-4202, mjh-nyc.org.