

WCW POETRY SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

at the WILLIAMS CENTER — One Williams Plaza in Rutherford, NJ (201-939-6969)

*It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.*

— from “Asphodel, That Greeny Flower,” by William Carlos Williams

SATURDAY, September 20

- 9–9:30** Welcome by Della Rowland, WCW Poetry Symposium Chair. Remarks by Joe DeFazio, Williams Center Board President. Proclamations by Mayor John Hipp.
- 9:30–10:30** “WCW’s Rutherford: Growing Up and Living in a Small Town”
— Historic media presentation by Borough Historian Rod Leith
- 10:45–11:30** Talks on WCW, Ezra Pound, & New Directions Publishing founder James Laughlin
“Dear God / Dear Bill: The Turbulent Discourse of Poet and Publisher”
— Ian MacNiven (biographer, Professor Emeritus SUNY Maritime College)
“The Care and Feeding of a Literary Reputation”
— Peggy Fox (New Directions president and publisher)
- 11:30–12:15** “To All Gentleness: Revisiting My Old Friend, WCW”
— Neil Baldwin on the reissue of his biography, *to all gentleness: William Carlos Williams, the Doctor Poet*

LUNCH 12:15–2:15

- 12:30–2** – **Historic Bus Tour #1** – led by Rod Leith
- 12:15–2** – **Book Sales & Signings** in Williams Center lobby
- 12:30–1** – **Commemorative Stamp Cancellation Ceremony by Rutherford PO**
- 2:30–4** “What I *Didn’t* Put in My Books – a personal remembrance of WCW”
— Pulitzer Prize winning Harvard Professor Dr. Robert Coles. Discussion and multi-media presentation of his photo-essay book *House Calls with William Carlos Williams, MD* (with photographer Thomas Roma)
- 4–5:30** “Still Getting the News from Poems: WCW in the 21st Century”
Panel discussion of WCW’s poetic legacy — moderator Kerry Driscoll; with Neil Baldwin, Paul Cappucci, Ian Copestake, Edith Vasquez, Bill Zavatsky

SATURDAY, September 20 (cont.)

DINNER 6-8

6-7:30 – **Historic Bus Tour #2** – led by Rod Leith

6-7:30 – **Book Sales & Signings** in Williams Center lobby

SPECIAL EVENING EVENT

8-10 An evening with WCW biographer and award-winning poet Paul Mariani
— Poetry reading, conversation about WCW, plus Q&A

SUNDAY, September 21

9:30-10:15 “Poetry in Music” – A concert on the Williams Terrace of works based on poems
— Anthony Serrao on the Raquel Williams Piano and soprano Shannon Callandrillo

"January" from *The Seasons* (for piano solo) Piotr Illyich Chaikowsky
(after a poem by Leo Tolstoy)

“Gretchen am Spinnrade” Franz Schubert
(after Goethe's *Faust*)

"Grass" from Four Poems Vincent Persechetti
(after Emily Dickinson's "Grass"),

Serenade No.1 from *Four Serenades* (for piano solo) Vistislav Novak
(after anonymous Czech Poetry)

"I'vidi in terra angelici costumi" Franz Liszt
(after Petrarch)

"Sure on this Shining Night" Samuel Barber
(after "Permit Me Voyage" by James Agee)

10:30-11:30 Readings by 10-county high school poetry contest winners
— awards presented by poets Lewis Warsh, Joel Lewis, Jim Klein, and Zorida Mohammed, contest judges

12-1 “Pictures for *A River of Words*” by children’s book illustrator Melissa Sweet
— Reading and talk with art presentation on WCW-influenced illustrations

LUNCH 11:30-1:30

11:45 – 1:15 – **Historic Bus Tour #3** – led by Rod Leith

11:45 – 1:00 – **Book Sales & Signings** in Williams Center

- 1:30–2:30** “Poet among Painters: Williams and His Artistic Brother and Parents”
— A documentary by Emily Mitchell Wallace (ed, *An American Dad*, essays on WCW by William Eric Williams)
- 2:45– 4:15** “The World Class Williams Family of Rutherford, NJ”
Multi-media panel discussion featuring Edith Williams Horn (daughter of Edgar Irving Williams), Will Horn and Elin Ingrid Wackernagel-Slotten (EIW grandson and granddaughter), Suzy Williams Sinclaire, Erica Williams Gilbert, and Daphne Williams Fox (WCW granddaughters); with Andrew Krivak (ed, *Letters of WCW to Edgar Irving Williams, 1902 to 1912*)
— moderator Emily Mitchell Wallace
- 4:30–6:30** Poets read WCW and their own works, plus Open Readings as time permits
— John Dollar, Harvey Shapiro, Lewis Warsh, Bill Zavatsky, Joel Lewis, Jim Klein, and Zorida Mohammed