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**APRIL IS SHOWERS & FLOWERS – AND NATIONAL POETRY MONTH**

*It Could be You, Celebrating Poetry in the Lou at the Greater St. Louis Book Fair*

(ST. LOUIS – April 4, 2017): The Greater St. Louis Book Fair is pleased to recognize National Poetry Month, the perfect time to appreciate poetry in the United States and in our region. In preparation for the May 4-7 Book Fair, we've been asking St. Louis notables to share their all-time favorite reads so we can pass them along to the public. Now is the time to get excited about the rhyme!

Aaron Williams is Founder and Champion of The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Poetry Foundation, [www.7GP.org](http://www.7GP.org) or @7thgradepoetry. Committed to improving educational opportunities for young people and honored for poetic contributions, Williams is Chair of the St. Louis Poet Laureate Task Force, which created, funded and selected St. Louis' first Poet Laureate.

"I think any personal top ten list of poetry books changes over time, considering life experiences, the evolution of one's literary taste, and what connects a poem to any reader at any point in time. This list is culled from a lifetime of favorites," said Williams. He offers these for Poetry Month:

1. *Collected Poems* by Jane Kenyon
2. *Mockingbird Wish Me Luck* by Charles Bukowski
3. *100 Love Sonnets* by Pablo Neruda
4. *Collected Poems* by Edna St. Vincent Millay (Harper Perennial 2011 edition)
5. *The Selected Levis* by Larry Levis (Revised Edition, Pitt Poetry Series, edited by David St. John)
6. *White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems 1946-2006* by Donald Hall
7. *The Road not Taken* by Robert Frost (published by Henry Holt, 1951)
8. *A Trumpet in the Morning* by Arthur Brown (River Styx #16 Special Issue)
9. *Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle..and Other Modern Verse* compiled by Stephen Dunning and Edward Lueders
10. *Collected Poems* by Marie Ponsot

With a new location and a millions of great reads, the 2017 Annual Greater St. Louis Book Fair will be held May 4-7, 2017 at Greensfelder Recreation Complex in Queeny Park. The Greater St. Louis Book Fair presenting sponsors are the Clark-Fox Family Foundation [clarkfoxstl.com](http://clarkfoxstl.com), First Bank [firstbanks.com](http://firstbanks.com), and Hogan Transport [hogan1.com](http://hogan1.com). For more information visit [StLouisBookFair.org](http://StLouisBookFair.org), [Facebook.com/STLBook Fair](https://Facebook.com/STLBookFair), call (314) 993-1995 or email [info@stlouisbookfair.org](mailto:info@stlouisbookfair.org).

**About the Greater St. Louis Book Fair:** Since 1950, the Annual Greater St. Louis Book Fair has been a favorite spring destination of book lovers and collectors nationwide. Volunteers work year-round gathering over one million new, gently used, and rare items from individuals, estates, businesses and other organizations. Fair proceeds assist local education and literacy programs with operational expenses, student aid, and other financial needs.