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For Immediate Release

Poetry in the Park Invites Community to Share an Afternoon of Verse Poets, Reciters and Listeners Are All Welcome at This Free Outdoor Gathering

Marysville, Calif., September 14, 2026 – Bring a favorite poem, an original work, or simply an appreciation for the spoken word to Poetry in the Park, a relaxed community gathering on Sunday, September 27, at 2 p.m. at Sycamore Ranch Park, 5390 Highway 20 in Browns Valley.

Poetry in the Park is open to experienced poets, first-time writers, enthusiastic reciters and anyone who would simply like to sit beneath the trees and listen. Participants may read their own poetry, recite a beloved poem written by someone else, or enjoy the afternoon as part of the audience. There is no pressure to perform, and no previous experience is necessary.

Persian poet Omar Khayyam famously celebrated the simple pleasures of poetry, companionship and the natural world in a passage often translated as: "A Book of Verses underneath the Bough, a Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou beside me singing in the Wilderness." Poetry in the Park hopes to capture some of that same spirit: good words, good company and a beautiful outdoor setting.

This is a collaborative event by the Yuba Sutter Rotary Night Club and Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture. The idea was first proposed by Rotary Member, Katy Rose, an Author, and Functional Medicine Practitioner who just loves poetry and as a newcomer to the area, is looking for ways to connect with like-minded people in the community. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, picnic blankets or anything else that will make the afternoon comfortable. Some beverages and light snacks will be provided, and attendees are also welcome to bring refreshments and snacks to share. Adult guests may bring their own wine or other preferred beverages, as permitted under park rules. The gathering will celebrate poetry in all its forms, from ancient verses and familiar classics to contemporary voices, humorous poems, spoken-word pieces and brand-new work. Poems may be profound or playful, polished or still in progress. The goal is not competition or critique, but the simple pleasure of hearing meaningful words spoken aloud.

Several of our community's poets and writers will be in attendance, including Yuba-Sutter's Poet Laureate, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, the recent recipient of a 2026 Upstate Individual Artists Fellowship from the California Arts Council. Marcelo is a poet, memoirist, translator and co-founder of Undocupoets which works nationally to open doors for immigrant writers into literary spaces, and through teaching and mentorship, he brings poetry to local agricultural spaces in Yuba and Sutter Counties where he was raised. He'll be joined by Maree Gauper whose poetry has been widely published along with her husband, Bob, who is a well-known memoirist.

Admission is free, and the event is open to all. Come prepared to read, recite, listen, laugh and perhaps discover a few new favorite poems along the way. If planning to attend, contact David Read at 530-749-8065 or by email at david@yubasutterarts.org for more information. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the lobby of the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street, Yuba City.

About YSAC: Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide arts programming, education, advocacy, assistance, and service to artists, organizations, and residents of Yuba and Sutter Counties. The local affiliate for Yuba and Sutter of the California Arts Council for 45 years, its programs include Arts in Education, Veterans Initiatives in the Arts, Arts in Corrections, Stage 754, Center Stage Productions, the Yuba Sutter Big Band and many more.

End



Marcello Hernandez Castillo



Maree Gauper



Katy Rose