

Niina Pollari to read with 4 local poets in Asheville

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(Photo: Courtesy of Niina Pollari)

Celebrated Brooklyn-based poet Niina Pollari will read from her debut collection of poetry, "Dead Horse," (Birds, LLC) at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 at Downtown Books & News, 67 N. Lexington Ave. in Asheville.

Joining Pollari will be local authors Lockie Hunter, Caroline Wilson, Leah Shapiro and Allison Jarrett. Presented by the Juniper Bends Reading Series, the event is free and open to the public.

Hunter's works have appeared in publications including Slipstream, Brevity, Nerve, Gulf Stream Literary Magazine, The Baltimore Review, Main Street Rag, New Plains Review and Arts & Opinion.

Wilson is one half of the community reading series Juniper Bends, with Hunter. Shapiro is community

editor for The Laurel Asheville magazine and co-author of the zine Friends with PUNefits. Jarrett is a senior at Warren Wilson College in creative writing, focusing on poetry.

Copies of "Dead Horse" will be available for purchase at the reading, and Pollari will sign books after the event.

"These poems are so rhythmic you can almost ride them," Melissa Broder wrote of Pollari's book in a review. "Moving through the daily deaths of the earth, the questions of what to hold together and what to let, Niina Pollari writes from a place where emotion meets bone, exploring what it means to be a blood container. You will see your own skull."

Folklore Society meets at WCU

The NC Folklore Society, which meets at different spots across the state each year, will hold its 102nd annual conference on Oct. 9 and 10 at Western Carolina University and the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Cullowhee.

This year's theme is "Native Voices: A View from the Mountains." The meeting will feature a series of talks, demonstrations and exhibits on Cherokee culture, Southern Appalachian heritage and mountain traditions. Performances will include music by the Junior Appalachian Musicians and storytelling by Gary Carden, of Sylva.

The conference is open to the public, with most activities free of charge or covered by a \$5 registration fee.

Dean Reed will share Cherokee stories, and the keynote address, "Language as a Window into Culture," will be delivered by Tom Belt, WCU's Cherokee Language Program coordinator.

Said Anna Fariello, an associate professor at WCU, "This is an accessible, casual event that celebrates community and all are welcome." Learn more at www.ncfolkloresociety.org (<http://www.ncfolkloresociety.org/>).

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