



National Poetry Month
is almost here!



Meet the Poetry Machine!

Pretty much anyone who knows me knows I love National Poetry Month!

For many years I have sent out “Live Your Poem” postcards during April as a way to celebrate the month.

Many an April I've written a poem a day.

Last year I installed a “Poem in Your Pocket” bulletin board at Oneonta Public Library.

This year I wanted to do something else public and accessible, and I found the perfect inspiration this past November with my friend and fellow poet Marcie Atkins at Boston's Beacon Hill Books & Cafe. Tucked on the second floor of this adorable shop is a coin-operated machine that dispenses original art prints. See Marcie's post about it [here](#). Cool, huh?

That got me thinking...how could I do something similar, but for poetry?

And so the Poetry Machine was born! I took a 25-cent gumball machine and filled it with pods. Each pod contains a wee original poem. There are at least forty different poems inside—some sad, some sweet, some funny. So it's kind of like a poetry fortune cookie; you never know what you'll get!

AND, in the Amish tradition of creating quilts that include “humility” squares (squares that feature some imperfection), I included a few poems with typos. Anyone who gets a poem with a typo can contact me, and I will give them a prize!

About the video: That's my dear husband Paul acting as hand model! For 35 years now he's been my Best Accomplice in All Things Poetry! I still feel like the luckiest girl in the world.

I'm so grateful to Dawn at Pink Porch Market for helping me debut the Poetry Machine at her April market (April 3-7). Then the Poetry Machine will move to Charlie B's Restaurant and will stay there for the rest of the month. Thanks, Lee!

****Local friends, let's please show these poetry-loving businesses our appreciation!***

FREE

Free #HFGather

Celebrate National Poetry Month with Poets



Jolene Gutiérrez JaNay Brown-Wood Irene Latham Charles Waters Lacresha Berry

Tuesday, Apr 1, 2025 | 7:00 PM ET | **FREE**

Highlights Foundation

POETRY FUN FOR ALL

Need a poetic lift? We got you covered! We'll be

sharing word-joy through poems and prompts.
All are welcome to join us! (If you can't tune in,
the program will be recorded so you can catch it
at your convenience!)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

More poetry fun coming soon!

Inked VOICES



“Harness the Power
of Punctuation to
Create More
Impactful Poetry”



May 6, 3 pm CST



\$25

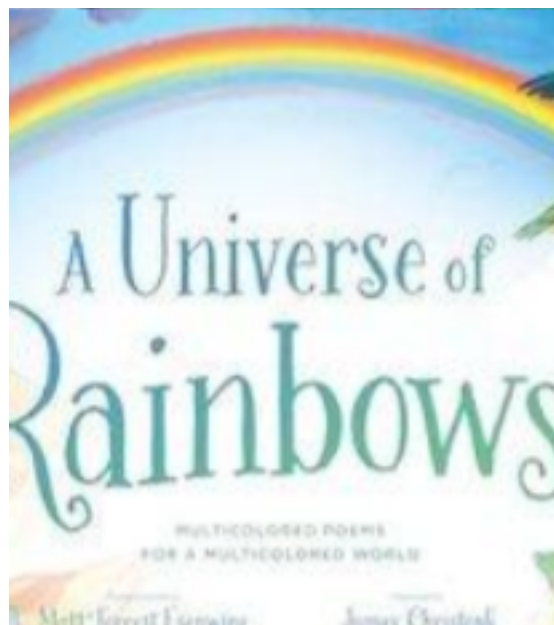
webinar led
by poet,
author &
editor Irene
Latham





register @<https://shorturl.at/VLmUK>

RECENT POETRY BOOKS I'VE ENJOYED





DON'T MISS SYLVIA VARDELL'S BEAUTIFUL "POETRY FROM DAILY LIFE"
COLUMN THAT SHARES HOW POETRY IS ALL AROUND US!

READ IT NOW

Window

A poem is a sheet of glass
Tucked between wood frames.
Your world will be transformed
When you peek through the panes.

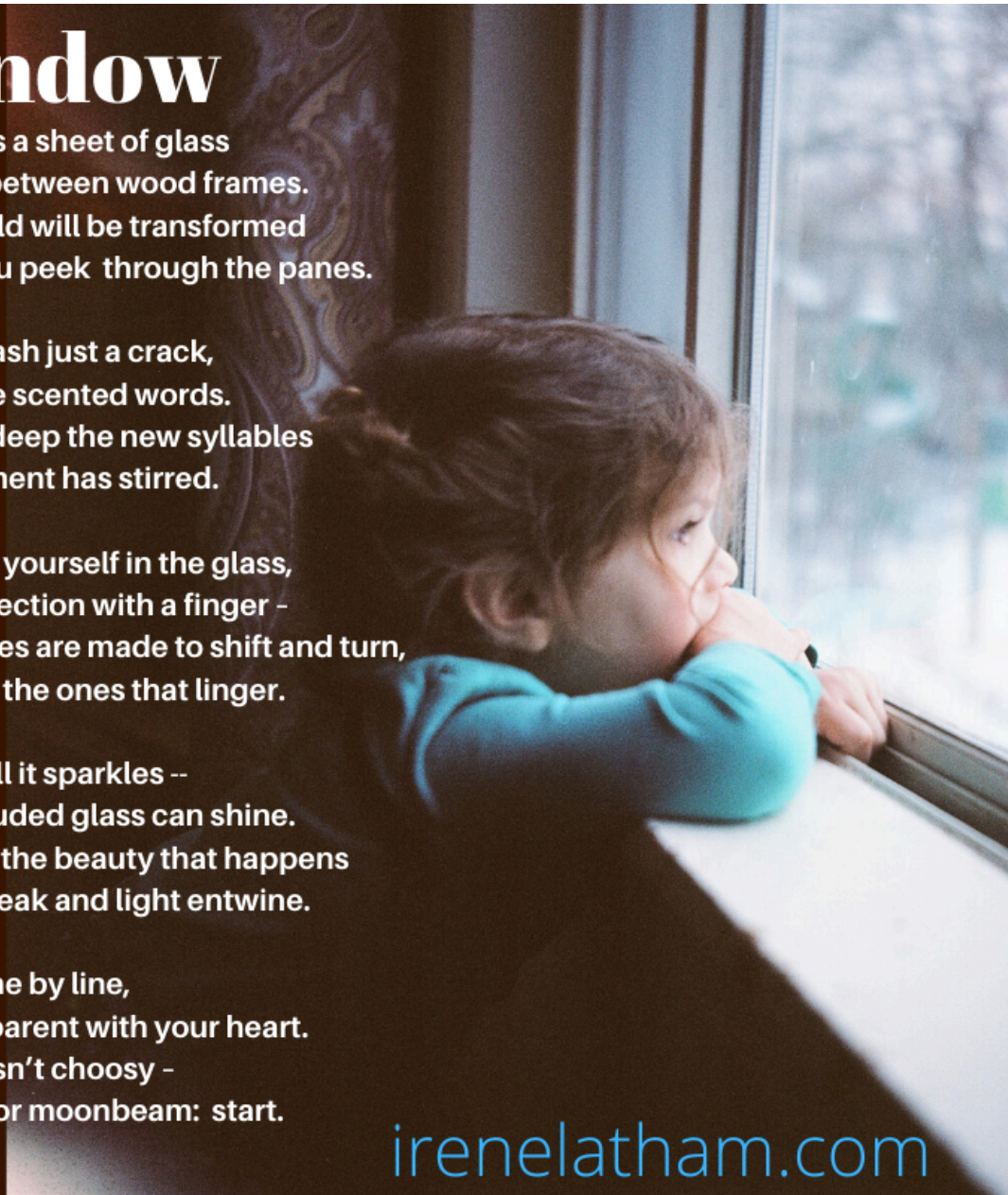
Lift the sash just a crack,
Catch the scented words.
Breathe deep the new syllables
This moment has stirred.

Now find yourself in the glass,
trace reflection with a finger -
These lines are made to shift and turn,
Embrace the ones that linger.

Work it till it sparkles --
Even clouded glass can shine.
Discover the beauty that happens
When streak and light entwine.

Take it line by line,
Be transparent with your heart.
A poem isn't choosy -
sunlight or moonbeam: start.

irenelatham.com



How will YOU celebrate poetry this month?
Hit reply and let me know! Until next time. . .

LOVE,

Irene



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