

# Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry: NEWS!

**Her Kind: The Witch in History, Popular Culture and Poetry:** This exhibit explores the symbolism, meaning and history of witches as they have appeared in our public discourse, institutions, folklore, film and TV history, and literature. The exhibit will run through 2024.



**Witches Brew Book Club:** To accompany the witches exhibit, ROMP has been conducting a book club with different books about witches. The remaining books this year include the following listed. The club meets at noon. You can attend as many meetings as you want or can. Books can be checked out and the lunch is free.

Mar. 25      Macbeth by William Shakespeare  
Apr. 8        The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare  
Apr. 22      Wicked by Gregory Maguire

This book club may continue in the fall 2024—details pending.

**Wacky Poem Life:** This 30-minute podcast recorded at ROMP explores a poem that a visitor has left in the museum. But it is not just about poetry—it is about life in all its wacky glory. It is a fun, breezy 30 minutes with co-hosts Shaun Perkins and Bill Guthrie that anyone could enjoy. [WackyPoemLife.com](http://WackyPoemLife.com).

**LTAI, Let's Talk About It:** This book club sponsored by Oklahoma Humanities is free to join. We read books, and different scholars from Northeast Oklahoma present programs with refreshments with each book one Thursday a month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The spring 2024 theme is Coming of Age in America and has 2 books left:

March. 21, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers  
April 25, The Last Picture Show by Larry McMurtry

The LTAI book club will continue in the fall 2024—details pending.

**Craft Workshops:** Cherokee artist Louisa Soap offers workshops on random Saturdays. All materials are provided free by ROMP. Check our Facebook page to be aware of which workshops are upcoming.

**Martial Arts & More Class:** This course, taught by martial arts expert Master Paul Flaherty, emphasizes breathing exercises, self-defense and purposeful movement. Free for all area adults. Poetry elements are incorporated throughout the class. Meets twice a week: 9-10 a.m. Mondays & Thursdays at ROMP Rummage Store, 112 E. Main.

**Autograph Book Poetry:** This small display is a shortened version of an exhibit from the past that is a favorite of many museum visitors. The exhibit includes a wide variety of autograph books from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and takes you on a tour through the poetry within them.

**19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Exhibit:** In 2020, the museum's entire exhibit was a celebration of the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment and women's right to vote. The museum still includes a condensed version of the exhibit with some of the artwork, poetry and activities from the original display.



**Poetry on Postcards:** This small exhibit in the foyer celebrates the practice of sending poetry on postcards through the mail. ROMP has been a member of the Postcrossing organization since 2013 and has received poetry on postcards and sent postcards to people all over the world. The exhibit has some of those postcards on display and a map of the world to show which countries have participated.

**Gift Shop:** The museum has a small gift shop that sells some local art, handmade products, books and ROMP t-shirts, buttons and mugs. New items include handmade witch hat pillows that go along with our latest exhibit.

**Wonder City Wordfest:** ROMP's annual celebration of poetry, story, words, art and community will be held on April 13, 2024. The day of celebration will include giving out the awards for the annual Oklahoma Poem Contest, martial arts demonstrations and a haiku contest, free food truck, and many activities with prizes.

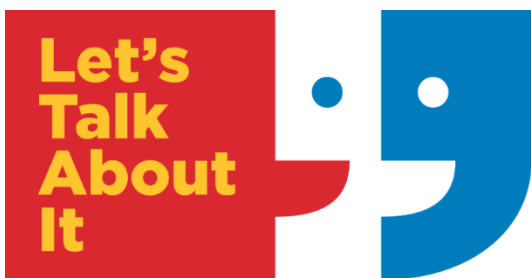
**Poetry Out Loud:** ROMP sponsors a regional contest for this national recitation competition. High school students in the region who do not have a contest at their schools can participate in ROMP's. The winner goes on to the state competition in Edmond. See ROMPoetry.com for details.

**Poem in Your Pocket Day:** Each April, the museum celebrates Poem in Your Pocket Day, an initiative from the Academy of American Poets during National Poetry Month. Pick a poem, print it out or copy it onto a page and carry it in your pocket all day. Come in the museum and read the poem to us and get a prize.

**ROMP Rummage Store:** This thrift store at 112 E. Main is the main source of income that keeps the museum open. Inside, you will find a variety of items at very low prices, including 25 cent books, \$1 clothes, jewelry, albums, toys, knickknacks and more. The store is open Mon.-Fri., 10-4, and Sat. 10-2. The second full week of each month is Bag Sale Week, with clothes \$3 a bag.

**Oklahoma Poem Contest:** Each year, ROMP sponsors an Oklahoma Poem Contest for people of all ages to honor the state and win cash prizes when doing so. The winners read their poems at Wonder City Wordfest each year. Details with the entry form are at the ROMP website.

**Newsletter & Email List:** ROMP publishes an occasional newsletter with current news. You can sign up for it at ROMPoetry.com. ROMP Director Shaun Perkins also does a poem a day with a brief not in email list. You can sign up for it at PoemLife.org.



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