

the favorite poem project

NEWSLETTER

2025



Director's and Founder's Notes

News

Past Events

Upcoming Events

A NOTE FROM ANNETTE FROST

director of the favorite poem project

As the school year ends, so does a chapter for the Favorite Poem Project. Our founder, Robert Pinsky will retire from Boston University on June 30th, 2025 after more than 36 years. The Favorite Poem Project will be moving from our offices at 236 Bay State Road, across the parking lot and into CAS where we have a new home at the BU Center for the Humanities. At BUCH we will continue growing our poetry programming and educational resources. If you haven't already signed up for our newsletter, email fpp@bu.edu or go to www.favoritepoem.org, scroll to the bottom and add your name to stay up to date.

For more than a quarter century guided by Robert Pinsky's notion that poetry is a bodily art, that on a human scale the reader is the vessel intended by the poet, the Favorite Poem Project has been facilitating meaningful events and readings and creating videos to illustrate this connection between the reader

and the poem. Our most recent video, with BU's new president Dr. Melissa Gilliam presenting a poem by Maya Angelou embodies this connection. We are excited for this next chapter at BUCH and for our programming to expand in both content and reach. Come visit us if you're in the area. Have a wonderful summer!

A NOTE FROM ROBERT PINSKY

founder of the favorite poem project

To what Annette says here, I add my own celebration and gratitude that BU, with the Center for the Humanities, has provided an extended home and future for the Favorite Poem Project. As an undertaking in public art, with its unique emphasis on “public,” the FPP has always included a vision of the humanities. The new Poetry Archive at www.favoritepoem.org, now including materials from the “Art of Poetry” MOOC and the PBS NewsHour videos, gives me great encouragement, in a personal way and as a Professor Emeritus at Boston University.

News



Congratulations, Robert!

Robert Pinsky, founder of the Favorite Poem Project, is retiring from teaching after 36 years at Boston University. When asked to name what he believes is the most important lesson he's tried to impart to his students, Pinsky says, **"You use the past. You do not worship it - you consult it."**

New Home

The Favorite Poem Project is moving! We will have a new home at the BU Center for the Humanities, where we will continue to champion poetry and public arts.



Bishop, "At the Fishhouses"
ELIZABETH BISHOP



Bishop, "One Art"
ELIZABETH BISHOP



Boland, "The Emigrant Irish"
EAVAN BOLAND



Bolina, "Make Believe"
JASWINDER BOLINA

Stay Tuned!

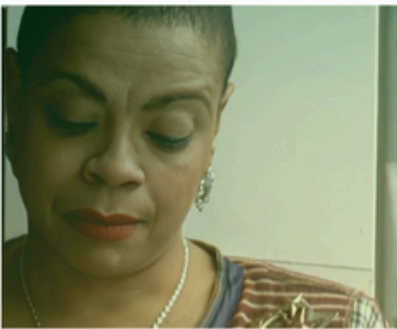
This June, we'll be sharing three new Favorite Poem Project videos featuring poems by Maya Angelou, Ifeanyi Menkiti and Rudyard Kipling.

News



The FPP at AWP

In March, The Favorite Poem Project traveled to Los Angeles for AWP! We were able to share our free Classroom Resources with educators from across the country.



[Introduction to Poems in Translation](#)



[Line It Up](#)

Our poetry-focused lesson plans and other educational resources are available on our website. Though our materials are sorted by age, they can be adapted and modified for all students.

The Voice of Poetry

The Favorite Poem Project has a new course in BU Creative Writing. Starting in Spring 2026, students can enroll in EN107: The Voice of Poetry,

PAST EVENTS



Poetry with a View: RETIREMENT READING AND CELEBRATION

On Thursday, May 1st, we celebrated Robert Pinsky, poetry, and the Favorite Poem Project. Karl Kirchwey gave a wonderful introduction, and Robert read beloved poems like “Shirt” and “Samurai Song.” We premiered Boston University President Dr. Melissa Gilliam’s Favorite Poem Project video.



Angelou, “Caged Bird”

MAYA ANGELOU



A recording of Robert Pinsky’s Retirement Poetry Reading, as well as Dr. Melissa Gilliam’s reading of “Caged Bird,” are available on our website.

PAST EVENTS



Fall 2024 Robert Lowell Memorial Lecture MONICA YOUN, SARA DANIELE RIVERA

On November 7th, we welcomed BU MFA alum Sara Daniele Rivera and award-winning poet Monica Youn to Boston University for our Fall 2024 RLML. The recording is available in our Poetry Archive.



Rivera read from her book *Blue Mimes*.



Youn shared some work from *Blackacre*.



PAST EVENTS

A jazz show. A poetry happening.

PoemJazz con Salsa was held on January 18th at the Regattabar Jazz Club in Cambridge. Robert Pinsky performed alongside Laurence Hobgood, John Lockwood, Catherine Bent, Stan Strickland, and Francisco Mela.



PAST EVENTS



The Final RLML

MAGGIE DIETZ, CARL PHILLIPS, & ERIN BELIEU

On March 5th, Boston University alum Maggie Dietz, Carl Phillips, and Erin Belieu read as part of our Spring 2025 RLML, the final installation of a 20-year reading series. [The recording for this event is available in our Poetry Archive.](#) You can listen to Dietz read “If You Would Let Me,” Phillips read “Back Soon; Driving-” and Belieu read “Instructions for the Hostage.”

*“[These poems] are in the spirit of
the duty of knowing.”*

Robert Pinsky on the works of
Dietz, Phillips, & Belieu

UPCOMING EVENTS

at the Favorite Poem Project

Robert Pinsky Tribute Reading

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2025

Stay tuned for more details!

Pedestrian Space Exhibit 2026

MARCH 26-27TH, 2026

Keep an eye out for more information.

Check out <https://www.bu.edu/humanities/>