

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH CELEBRATION BIG DEAL FOR SOUTHERN POET

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Jayne Jaudon Ferrer decided to spread the poetry each April when the US celebrates National Poetry Month, and the response has been astounding.

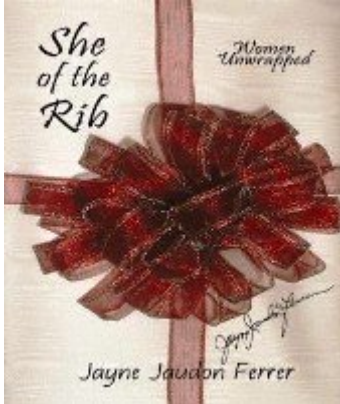


Poet Jayne Jaudon Ferrer received a certificate of appreciation from the Julian branch of the San Diego County Library System. Jayne Jaudon Ferrer has achieved what most poets will never know—several of her poetry collections have been best sellers. She’s authored 4 books and her platform is definitely poetry, but she’s also written fiction and nonfiction. I can’t remember the first time I met her—there’s the poet bond, the mom bond and the women bond so maybe that’s why it feels like I’ve known her forever. A native Floridian, she now lives in upstate South Carolina. Jayne and I have read poems together at various author events and book festivals, and I subscribe to her

newsletter. One of the perks comes each April when she sends readers a poem a day—an official Poetry Parade featuring diverse works by noted and emerging bards. The newsletter and the April Poetry Parade are free, available with a simple registration at [Jayne’s website](#) where you’ll also find full information about her work and her books. Poets and Main Streeters number among her fans.

Jayne has traveled the country to read her work, and she has fans of all ages. When she read at a library in Ramona, Calif., a young girl told her she’d memorized one of Jayne’s poems and presented it at school. The Southern poet’s work has also found enthusiasts in Canada. “I actually have a lot of fans in Canada,” she said, “so that’s great!” Jayne has discovered fans of her newsletter and her work may not be typical poetry die-hards—in other words, she’s not one of those poets who sell her book only to other poets.

She describes the variety of readers who’ve opted in to her April Poetry Parade. They’re a bit different than her regular newsletter subscribers. “A few of my ‘spectators’ are poetry lovers to begin with, but most are skeptics. And most are amazed to discover the diversity—and entertainment and emotional impact—of poetry. I suspect 90 percent of my readers never look at another poem from May until March, and that’s fine. I’m just out to prove that you can’t categorically dismiss poetry as boring or irrelevant.”



I asked Jayne if she thinks the economic and other woes the US is experiencing will draw people to poetry for comfort. “I don’t know,” she said. “When my life gets tough, I like to escape into long novels with happy endings. Historically, though, hard times do seem to bring a resurgence in poetry’s popularity. There are studies showing that poetry soothes stress and lowers your heart rate, so turning off the news and picking up a book of poetry might be an excellent way to get through the next few months.”

Observing my poet friend over the years, I’ve often been astounded at her pace. Neither her feet nor her pen stay idle for long. She said she’s completed two novels—“hoping the nibbles I’ve had will turn into sales.” But like most writers she has a favorite child in the [literary mix](#). “My first love will always be poetry. I’m currently working on a collection called ‘Love Notes for the Long Wedded.’”

Jayne has seen her Poetry Parade grow from a circle of friends to a circle of readers around the globe. I enjoy the poem she sends out each day in April—it brings a contemplative moment to my adrenalin-charged routine. Some academics deride National Poetry Month, but I’ve always viewed it fondly. What’s not to like about taking a moment to read a poem a day during poetry’s special month?