



Spring Into March at Shake Rag Alley Events

MINERAL POINT, Wis., March 3, 2020—Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts welcomes the approach of spring with the following events this month.

3 More Chances to Meet Award-Winning Authors

The 2019-20 Winter Writers Reading Series wraps up this month with poet Kathryn Gahl and fiction writers Liam Callanan and William Stobb. Since 2011 Shake Rag Alley has partnered with the Council for Wisconsin Writers, the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, Wisconsin People & Ideas magazine, and the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission to offer week-long residencies to their annual writing contest winners. From December through March, contest-winning writers and poets are provided with a week of uninterrupted time in Shake Rag Alley's inspiring lodging facilities surrounded by the nurturing environment of historic Mineral Point's artist community. Save the date to enjoy the chance to meet and hear from the following award-winning authors. Unless otherwise noted, the free talks are at 7 p.m. at the Lind Pavilion, 411 Commerce St. Each reading features refreshments and ends with a half-hour open mic.

- **7 p.m. March 4, 2020: Kathryn Gahl**, Council for Wisconsin Writers Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award. Gahl earned a B.S. in English at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a B.S. in Nursing at Syracuse University. After 25 years in nursing and nursing management, she became a full-time writer. Her poems and stories are widely published in small journals and she's been a finalist for numerous awards. Her readings have been described as "lively and pulsating. Even if you don't like poetry, you will get goosebumps when you hear Kathryn."
- **7 p.m. March 18, 2020: Liam Callanan**, Council for Wisconsin Writers Edna Ferber Fiction Book Award. (Note: Callanan's reading will be held at the Mineral Point Public Library, 137 High St.) Callanan was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Los Angeles, but now calls Wisconsin home. He is the author of two previous novels — "The Cloud Atlas," an Edgar Award finalist set in World War II Alaska, and "All Saints," set in a beachfront high school in California, as well as a short story collection, "Listen and Other Stories." He teaches in the English department of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- **7 p.m. March 25, 2020: William Stobb**, Council for Wisconsin Writers Zona Gale Short Fiction Award. Stobb is a poet and fiction writer, professor, editor and audio art enthusiast. He holds a PhD in rhetoric and works as associate professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He is also part of the editorial team at Conduit magazine and its book-publishing arm, Conduit Books & Ephemera.

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Register by March 7 for Limerick-Writing Workshop

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, pairs of adults and children aged 10 and older are invited to spend a creative and fun morning with limerick lover Nancy Schmalz. The workshop will be held at 10-11:30 a.m. March 14 and costs only \$25 per adult (no fee for youth partners). To learn more and register by March 7, see www.ShakeRagAlley.org.

Driftless Poets Monthly Workshop March 14

Local and aspiring poets are invited to the monthly Driftless Poets workshop at 2 p.m. March 14 in the Lind Pavilion, 411 Commerce St. (Note this month's location change.) The purpose of the group is to provide support and encouragement for serious or aspiring poets seeking honest feedback on their work. Free; please RSVP to director.shakeragalley@gmail.com or call (608) 987-3292 for more information.

Women's Art Parties Resume March 18

This month the Women's Art Party resumes its regular schedule, meeting on the third Wednesday of the month through November to work on new projects or those brought along from home. This month's project: Using women's magazines from the 1930s through the 1970s, we will generate work reflective of collagist Wangechi Mutu, as featured in "Citizen: An American Lyric," our April NEA Big Read by Claudia Rankine. If you'd like to integrate your work into magnets and wearable buttons, supplies will be on hand. Materials fee: \$5. 6:30 p.m. in the Lind Pavilion, 411 Commerce St. Drop-ins welcome.

For more information, see www.ShakeRagAlley.org or call (608) 987-3292.

April Events at Shake Rag Alley

Save the Date to #readwithmp During the NEA Big Read

Celebrate poetry and the joy of sharing a good book during the Mineral Point Big Read in April. Together with the Mineral Point Public Library, Mineral Point School District libraries, and MultiCultural Outreach Center, Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts is celebrating National Poetry Month with a month of activities focused on "Citizen: An American Lyric" by Claudia Rankine. Get a free copy of "Citizen" when the Mineral Point Big Read kicks off at 10 a.m. April 4 at the Mineral Point Opera House and culminates with the free keynote session featuring Rankine and Wisconsin Poet Laureate Margaret Rozga at 7 p.m. April 25 at the Mineral Point Opera House. For more information about upcoming events including book discussions, lectures, a companion film series, and art-making activities, see <https://shakeragalley.org/big-read/> or call (608) 987-3292.

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Spring Garage Sale April 17-18

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On April 17-18, come to the Lind Pavilion, 411 Commerce St., for the Spring Garage Sale to support Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts. In conjunction with Mineral Point's spring city-wide garage sales, this annual fundraiser for the nonprofit arts education center features piles of art supplies and materials, as well as donated household and collector items, that are ready to relocate. Sale hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday. Donations are welcome at the Lind Pavilion 9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 13-15.

About Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts

A nonprofit school of arts and crafts founded in 2004 by local artists and community members, Shake Rag Alley's 2.5-acre campus at 18 Shake Rag St. in Mineral Point (population 2,500) is a national destination for participants of adult workshops, a robust summer youth program and a host of annual special events. In addition, Shake Rag offers on-site lodging and custom facility rentals for meetings, events and celebrations. For additional information about Shake Rag Alley's 2020 workshops and events, or to request a catalog and information about facility rentals and volunteer opportunities, see www.ShakeRagAlley.org or call (608) 987-3292.

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