

# Poetry Slam for Peace

An Annual Event to Celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace



Produced by **The Nuyorican Poets Cafe** and **The Assemblage**  
Sponsored by **Global Family for Love and Peace**  
with **Unity Earth** and the **NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY**

September 17, 2018

## WHERE

The Assemblage -- NoMad

**Poetry Slams** empower youth through the mastery of literacy and language – “If you don’t learn to write your own life story, someone else will write it for you”. Poetry Slam is recognized among young people of diverse backgrounds as a democratizing force.

Poetry Slams encompass all manner of individual and poetic voices, using allusions to contemporary popular culture to provide a medium for crafting communication, venting emotion, and creating art, in a constructive atmosphere of equality, sensitivity and progress to encourage discussion, creativity, empowerment and alliance.

## HOST

Erik “Advocate of Wordz” Maldonado

## POETS

Joel Francois

Kearah-Armonie  
(Kearmonie)

Roya Marsh

Elizabeth Velasquez

Rich Villar

The **United Nations International Day of Peace**, September 21st, is observed “... as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day.” The UN invites all “... to commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.”

Recognizing the International Day of Peace each year with the Secretary General ringing the Peace Bell, the UN affirms that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace “... strengthens the ideals of peace and alleviates tensions and causes of conflict.”

The 2018 Theme for the International Day of Peace is “The Right to Peace”. [www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/](http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/)

## The Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Located on the Lower East Side, this iconic landmark has presented groundbreaking works of literature, music, theater, performance art, poetry slam, hip-hop and visual art, from various artists of every background and age group. [www.nuyorican.org](http://www.nuyorican.org)

The Assemblage believes in making a commitment to personal transformation by contributing our skills, experience and expertise to others as a way of finding our own purpose. [www.theassemblage.com](http://www.theassemblage.com)

## The Assemblage

## Global Family for Love and Peace

GFLP was founded by Dharma Master Hsin Tao, who vowed to spend his life following the spiritual examples of Bodhisattva Guanyin, the Goddess of Compassion, and has been working for peace through dialogue, education and service. GFLP's long-term goal is to sow seeds of peace to bring to life the UN Resolution on the Right of Peoples to Peace. [gflp.org](http://gflp.org)

Unity Earth intends to bring people together through growing a Worldwide Spiritual Culture by fostering reverence for the Sacred and respecting all forms of diversity. Music, events and media are used to proclaim the universal unity of all beings. [unity.earth](http://unity.earth)

## Unity Earth

## NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

NGOCSD monitors implementation of the commitments pertaining to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Committee works closely with relevant UN commissions and agencies and the UN NGO community. <http://ngocsd-ny.org/>

**Erik "Advocate Of Wordz" Maldonado** is a Jester, Philosopher and Poet who takes pride in teaching kids how to talk their way out of detention and sharing his own personal skewed perception of what is in front of us all. Raised in the Bronx, his words have evolved into a perverse eloquence that has led him to be referred to as 'incomparable' and has afforded him the fortune of traveling the nation performing comedy and poetry.

## Master of Ceremonies

## Poets

**Joel Francois** is a Haitian born, Brooklyn raised, creative writing major at Brooklyn college and a slam poet. He has performed at the Bus Boys and poets, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Brooklyn college, and traveled to compete nationally. His writing inspires those who listen to embrace his truth as well as their own.

**Kearah-Armonie (Kearmonie)** is a Queens-born/Brooklyn-raised Poet, Spoken Word Artist, Blogger, Filmmaker, Teaching Artist and Mentor. Kearmonie recently completed her B.A. in Documentary Film Production at Brooklyn College, where she hosted and facilitated events as part of the school's poetry slam team and was their 2016 Grand Slam Champion. Kearmonie's writing exhibits the condition of the Black American from a millennial lens, with personal accounts of love, family, oppression and womanism.

**Roya Marsh** is the poet/author of the chapbook *Not All of Me Shall Die*. She brings a heartfelt intensity and deep beliefs to the stage, that will penetrate the dark pockets of prejudice, injustice, and hurt, buried deep within each of us. She has recently been ranked second in the nation at the Woman of the World Poetry Slam. Roya has been featured at many venues around the country.

**Elizabeth Velasquez** is a writer of Puerto Rican descent, mother and feminist from Brooklyn. She began performing in 2009 under the stage name Ms. Sick Prose, a name self-chosen to escape an environment surrounded by mental illness. Her poetry explores feminism, body positivity, mental illness, and women's choices through an intersectional lens.

**Rich Villar** is a freelance writer/editor and is the author of the poetry collection *Comprehending Forever*. He has been quoted on Latino literature and culture by both the New York Times and the Daily News. His poetry and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in Black Renaissance Noire, Hanging Loose, Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Amistad, Latino Poetry Review, and the acclaimed chapbook series *Achiote Seeds*.