



Shaun Griffin Literary Arts: Poetry



Virginia City, NV
(775) 847-9311 x105
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Program Types

Readings, workshops,
seminars, residencies

Language Proficiencies

English, fair Spanish

Fees

Contact to Inquire

Availability

Contact to inquire

Audiences

Schools (grades K-12), adults,
senior, at risk, incarcerated
individuals, persons with
disabilities, social services
groups,
hospital/healthcare/ESL/ELL

Venues

Schools, colleges;
communities, community
groups, healthcare facilities

Technical requirements

Contact to inquire

Counties

Statewide



Shaun Griffin is a poet, a writer, and a teacher. He is the co-founder of Community Chest, a non-profit agency that has served children and families in northwestern Nevada since 1991, and has taught a poetry workshop at Northern Nevada Correctional Center for over two decades. He has worked as a teaching poet at colleges, at Frost Place in New Hampshire, and at writers' conferences in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Griffin's most recent is *Anthem for a Burnished Land*, a memoir, published in 2016. His volume of poems, *This Is What the Desert Surrenders*, was published by Black Rock Press in 2013, and his edited volume about the poet Hayden Carruth, *From Sorrow's Well*, was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2013. *Bathing in the River of Ashes* was published by the University of Nevada Press in 1999, and *Death to Silence* (translations from the Chilean poet Emma Sepulveda) was released by Arte Publico Press in 1997.

Shaun has received numerous awards for his work including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1995, the Mike O'Callaghan Humanitarian Award in 2004, and the Rosemary McMillan Award for Lifetime Achievement in Art from Sierra Arts Foundation in 2006. In 2014 he was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame at the University of Nevada, Reno.

School & Community Workshops

My approach to poetry is to make it something everyone can access, participate in, and practice. Poetry has largely been overlooked in our culture and yet there are some wonderful poets writing today and, of course, in the past. I try to make poetry seem like an invitation to the particular experience being described, to open the poem to discussion, and to make it seem like it is something the participants can partake in. There are so many great poems that one of them will appeal to the senses of any given reader. It simply takes time, takes someone to present the poem in such a way that it can seem like it is possible to learn from it, to enjoy it, and to savor it.

Poetry is not a private language for the chosen few. It is an art form that has been spoken and written for millennia and has been part of culture since the beginning of man. We need what poems say and, more than that, we need to know how to access them.