



500 Prospect Street
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March 22, 2018

Dear Friends:

April is Poetry Month and we happily celebrate VSA arts RI's and The Arc of Blackstone Valley's

Twenty Seventh Annual Allen Ginsberg Poetry Competition!

This contest is open to all **adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities** and provides a great opportunity to showcase everyone's creative writing talent.

This year we are celebrating the life of Stephen Hawking who was a professor, theoretical physicist, father, and perhaps the smartest and most notable intellectuals we will ever have.

While his passing on March 14 left us heartbroken, his life as someone with a disability- being loved, respected, thriving and changing the world with a disability - was an inspiration to us all. He once said,

"Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up."

For this year's Ginsberg Poetry Competition, we ask you to write a poem inspired by either the life of Stephen Hawking (maybe do a little research about him) or one that expresses what difficulties you have faced and what successes you have accomplished.

Poems entered in the competition are due here at VSA arts by 3 PM, Wednesday, May 9th.

The 27th Annual Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award Ceremony is scheduled for
6:00 PM

Thursday, May 24,, 2018

**Independence Square
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI,**

At this event there will be refreshments, an opportunity for all participants to read one of their poems and all poets will receive recognition for their participation. The poet who is honored with the first place award will be presented the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Prize. All poets and poetry lovers are encouraged to attend this community event; it is an evening of great fun.

Enclosed is our Call for Poems with complete entry rules, so write a poem - write two! We look forward to receiving and reading all of them. If you have any questions please call VSA arts Rhode Island at 725-0247!

Sincerely,

Jeannine L. Chartier
VSA arts Rhode Island

VSA ARTS RHODE ISLAND & THE ARC OF BLACKSTONE VALLEY

CALL FOR POEMS

Twenty Seventh Annual Poetry Competition

for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

*“Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something
you can do, and succeed at.*

It matters that you don’t just give up.”

--Stephen Hawking

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

✦ **The competition is open to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities**

Developmental disability is defined as a disability, developed before the age of 22 years old, which results in substantial limitations in major life activity and is due to mental retardation or related conditions including

—We ask that you write a poem inspired by Stephen Hawking or express what difficulties you have faced and what successes you have accomplished.—

cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or other neurological conditions.

✦ **Submit one or two (maximum) of your best poems on the theme**

✦ **Poems must be typed (double spaced) and original, unpublished work of the author**

✦ **Poems can not be previous entries or longer than two 8 1/2” x 11” pages
and in minimum 12 point font size**

✦ **ONLY the poem title should appear on the page with the poem. Poet’s name, address,
telephone and poem title must be on a separate piece of paper.**

✦ **Deadline for submission is 3 PM Wednesday - May 9, 2018**

Send entries to:

**VSA arts Rhode Island
500 Prospect Street**

VSA ARTS RHODE ISLAND & THE ARC OF BLACKSTONE VALLEY

invite you to the

27th Annual Poetry Award Ceremony

First place winner will receive the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Prize

Thursday, May 24, 2018

6:00—8:00 pm

Independence Square Auditorium
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

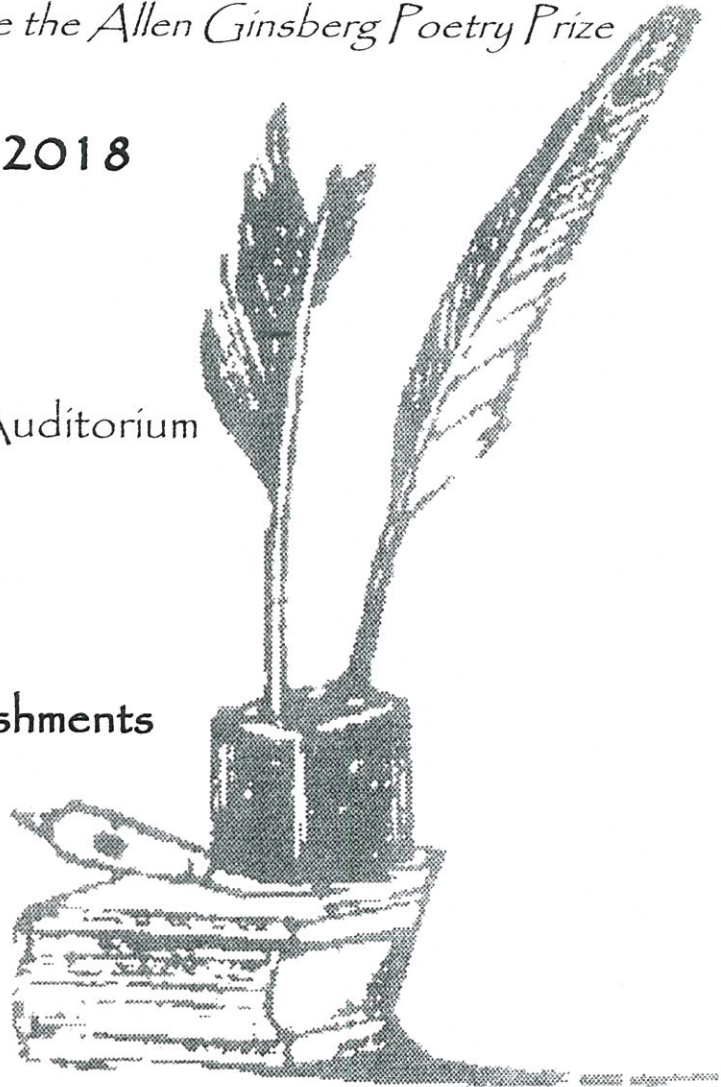
Poetry reading and refreshments
Bring friends and family!

For further information call:

VSA arts Rhode Island

401.725.0247 (voice/tty)

or email: programs@vsartsri.org



provided with generous support from the
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