



COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

Public Library & Information Center

NEWS RELEASE

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Library Hosts North Carolina Poet Laureate on April 30 *Joseph Bathanti presents programs and seeks to work with veterans*

Award-winning poet, professor and advocate for literacy, North Carolina Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti will present two programs at Headquarters Library, 300 Maiden Lane on Tuesday, April 30. The first program is a workshop, *Discovering Your Story, Discovering Your Voice* at 2 p.m. This workshop is open to anyone who wants to explore their own life experience through poetry. As the newly appointed Poet Laureate, Bathanti plans to also work with veterans to share their stories through poetry.

At 6 p.m., Bathanti speaks about his books and experience as a writer. His books of poetry include: *This Metal*, *Restoring Sacred Art*, *Land of Amnesia*, *Anson Count*, *The Feast of All Saints*, and *Communion Partners*. Bathanti has published two novels, *Coventry* and *East Liberty* along with a book of short stories, *The High Heart*. His works will be available to purchase following the program and both programs are made possible by support from the Friends of the Library and the North Carolina Arts Council.

Bathanti is a professor of creative writing at Appalachian State University where he is also Director of Writing in the Field and Writer-in-Residence in the University's Watauga Global Community. He has taught writing workshops in prisons for more than three decades and is former chair of the N.C. Writers' Network Prison Project.

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