

# THE frost place

A permanent home and museum  
for poets and poetry



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Dartmouth

THE  
frost  
place

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Submissions Period Open October 1st for Frost Place Contests**

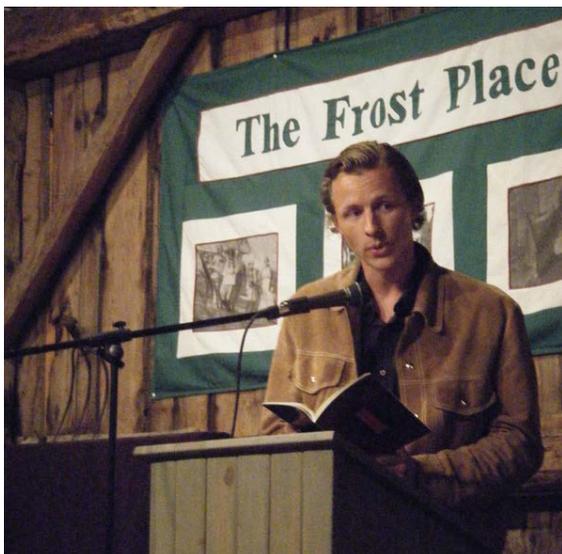
Submission Period: October 1, 2015 – January 1, 2016.

We only consider submissions sent in through Submittable. Look for the link to submit, as well as information about summer programs at The Frost Place, on the home page of The Frost Place website: [www.frostplace.org](http://www.frostplace.org).

**The 4th Annual Frost Place Chapbook Contest, Judged by Afaa Michael Weaver**

Sponsored by Bull City Press

For the fourth year we present the annual Frost Place Chapbook contest in partnership with Bull City Press! The winner receives a \$250 cash prize, 10 copies of a 200 print run of the selected chapbook, a full fellowship to attend The Frost Place Poetry Seminar valued at \$1,500, a featured reading at the Seminar, and the option to live and write for one week in The Frost Place house in September during peak fall foliage.



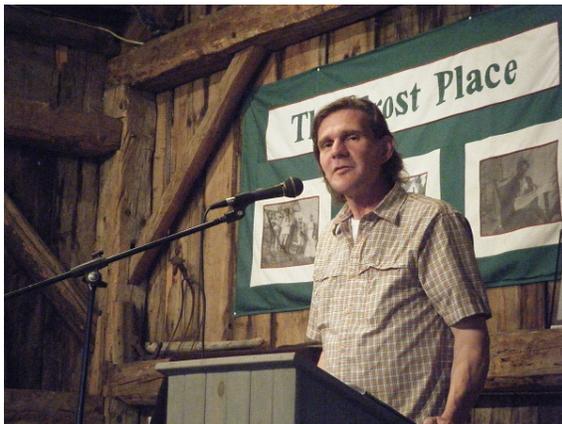
Winner of the 2015 Frost Place Chapbook Competition, **Anders Carlson-Wee**, reads from his chapbook *Dynamite* in the Henry Holt Barn.

## The 2016 Dartmouth Poet in Residence at The Frost Place

Every summer since 1977 we offer a writing residency for poetry at The Frost Place in partnership with Dartmouth College. The residency is available to a poet who has published at least one collection and our aim is to select a poet at an artistic and personal crossroads, comparable to those faced by Robert Frost when he moved to Franconia in 1915 and had not yet reached a broad public audience.

Powerful poets have come up to the North Country early in their careers to live and write in Robert Frost's house. This year's Dartmouth Poet in Residence would be joining the ranks of poets such as Robert Hass, Denis Johnson, and Mary Ruefle.

The selected poet receives a prize of \$2,000, a six-to-eight week residency at Robert Frost's former home in Franconia, New Hampshire, and featured readings at Dartmouth College and at The Frost Place.



2015 Dartmouth Poet in Residence at The Frost Place, **Todd Hearon**, reads in the Henry Holt Barn at The Frost Place.

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## New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud Registration Open

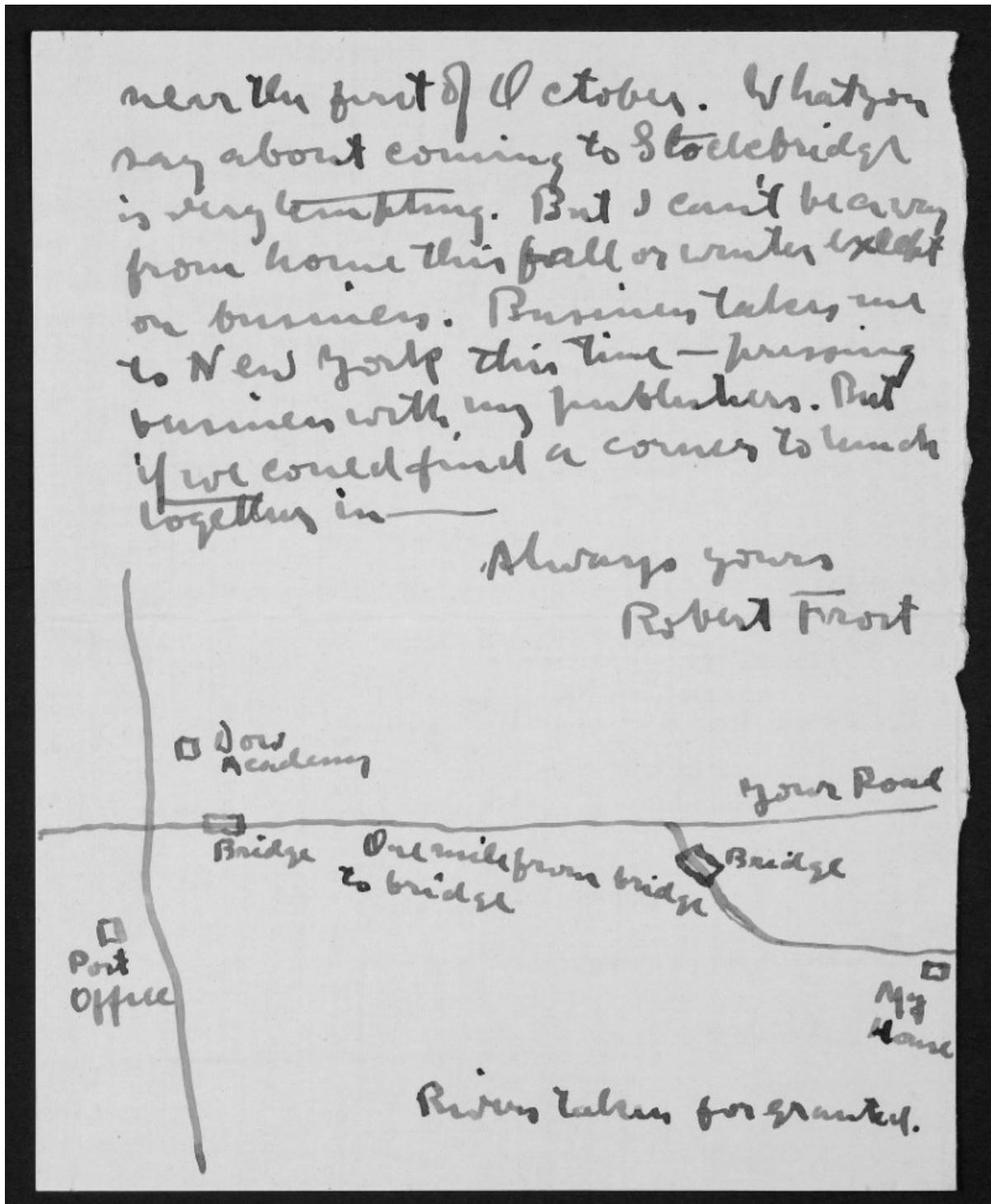
Registration for the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' Poetry Out Loud 2016 has begun! Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud is a national competition for high school students that encourages them to memorize and recite great works of poetry.

In 2015, close to 10,000 students from 38 NH high schools and other group sites participated in Poetry Out Loud. The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts invites teachers, students, and parents to visit our Poetry Out Loud page ([www.nh.gov/nharts](http://www.nh.gov/nharts)) & click on the POL button, to register on-line and find out how your school can get involved.

Due to resources and capacity, Poetry Out Loud is accepting 40 high schools. The registration deadline is Nov. 2, 2015! We encourage middle school English teachers

to also make use of the national Poetry Out Loud Resources and on-line anthology of poems at [www.PoetryOutLoud.org](http://www.PoetryOutLoud.org)

## Tones Living in the Cave of the Mouth An Autumn Letter About Poetry from Robert Frost



On September 18, 1915, after his first summer at the house on Ridge Road, Robert Frost sent a letter to Walter Pritchard Eaton, a Massachusetts critic and author.

Frost would have written this letter as he sat on his porch, iconic lapboard across his knees, miles of autumn foliage laid out before him into the White Mountain range. The letter is a treasure. Pictured above is the map Frost draws for Eaton to entice him into a visit to Franconia.

My dear Eaton,

Of course if you refuse to come within talking distance I must just do as I have to do and write you a letter (with map of the surrounding country.) Mind you it is not altogether from laziness that I prefer talking to letter writing. Let it not go unsaid that once I enjoyed letter writing as much as anybody.

In this letter we find not only a map of The Frost Place in Robert Frost's own hand, but also an illuminated theory of poetics, a map to the poet's Platonic cave, which had been steadily evolving in Frost's work over decades.

. . . I was grateful to both Howells and Garnett for marking so little difficulty of my blank verse, I have nothing in common with the free-verse people. There is no more distressing mistake than to assume that I have. (Some of the western reviewers have been assuming it.) I am not really so very novel take it from me. I am only interesting to myself for having ventured to try to make poetry out of tones that if you can judge from the practice of other poets are not usually regarded as poetical. You can get enough of those sentence tones that suggest grandeur and sweetness everywhere in poetry. What bothers people in my blank verse is that I have tried to see what I could do with boasting tones and quizzical tones and shrugging tones (for there are such) and forty eleven tones. All I care a cent for is to catch sentence tones that haven't been brought to book. I don't say to make them, mind you, but to catch them. No one makes them or adds to them. They are always there—living in the cave of the mouth. They are real cave things: they were before words were. And they are as definitely things as any image of sight. The most creative imagination is only their summoner. But summoning them is not all. They are only lovely when thrown and drawn and displayed across spaces of the footed line. Everyone knows that except a free-verster. It is the conventional thing. It may not be in the text-books but everyone knows it though he may have lost sight of it in an age of mere diction and word hunting. Now Tennyson—

Standing on Frost's porch today, the house behind you, the mountains ahead, you can almost feel those pre-language 'tones' in the air, the ones Frost 'summoned' and 'drew' across the lines of his greatest poems. Check out [our Facebook](#) for pictures of Fall in Franconia from Frost's porch and come visit The Frost Place to stand on Robert Frost's porch yourself. Frost has drawn the map for you himself.

Portions of letter excerpted from *The Letters of Robert Frost* (2014, Harvard):

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## Fall Events and Readings

Saturday, Oct. 3, 5:15pm

Reading: The Poetry Society of New Hampshire

Location: The Frost Place, 158 Ridge Road, Franconia, NH ([directions](#))

Poetry happens every day in countless forms, the world over. Join us on Saturday Oct. 3 at The Frost Place to stand upon the hallowed literary ground of Robert Frost's homestead and listen to contemporary voices in New Hampshire poetry. Celebrate the writers of today as part of a tradition of New Hampshire poetry stretching back to Robert Frost. The following writers will be reading:

- Andrew Periale
- Don Kimball
- Gordon Lang
- Sylva Boyajian-Haddad
- S Stephanie

Saturday, Oct. 10, 3pm

Reading: The Frost Place Presents The Still Puddle Poets

Location: St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, St. Johnsbury, VT ([directions](#))

The [St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](#) is a sight to behold. The Athenaeum (from the Greek — Monument to Wisdom) was built in 1871 by Horace Fairbanks. St. Johnsbury's heritage is synonymous with the Fairbanks family and their company, whose precision platform scales transformed commerce and are still sold around the world.

As you walk into the Athenaeum you enter the 19th century. French Second Empire architecture is expressed by elaborate woodwork and ironwork, tall, artful windows, spiral staircases, and a stunning floor inlaid with alternating strips of ash and walnut.

The undeniable centerpiece of the Athenaeum is “The Domes of Yosemite” an enormous ten by fifteen foot painting by Albert Bierstadt. The painting depicts the view, at overwhelming scale, from midway up Yosemite falls, and the paint seems to glow of its own accord. Bierstadt's work — one of the largest of ever produced by the Hudson Valley School of painters — emphasizes vertical elements of the Yosemite domes, deliberately evoking the architectural forms of a medieval cathedral.

The author Fitz Hugh Ludlow, who traveled with Bierstadt to Yosemite, wrote of his impression upon first entering the valley with Bierstadt:

We did not so much seem to be seeing from that crag of vision a new scene on the old familiar globe as a new heaven and a new earth into which the creative spirit had just been breathed. I hesitate now, as I did then, at the attempt to give my vision utterance. Never were words so beggared for an abridged translation of any Scripture of Nature.

The Still Puddle Poets, led by **Deming Holleran** and **Phyllis Katz**, is a small group of poets based in the Hanover, NH area which meets monthly to share their work in a collaborative spirit. The group has published two collections of their work, and several members have published poetry collections since the inception of the group. The Still Puddle Poets will read beneath the great painting.

Join us on Saturday Oct. 10 for this rare opportunity to hear wonderful local poets read in a venue where every facet of its design is imbued with artistic and intellectual spirit.



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Watch A Celebration of Donald Sheehan at The Norwich Bookstore

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On June 24, the Norwich Bookstore presented *The Grace of Incorruption: The Selected Essays of Donald Sheehan on Orthodox Life and Poetics*, the new book from the late Executive Director of The Frost Place. Members of the poetry community -- Cleopatra Mathis, Phyllis Katz, and Baron Wormser -- read from Sheehan's book and discussed his contributions to the world of writing.

Professor of literature, scholar, teacher of poets and poetry, convert to the Eastern Orthodox Church, and man of prayer, Donald Sheehan wrote the wide-ranging essays in *The Grace of Incorruption* with a common commitment to understanding the ways in which the ruining oppositions of our experience can be held within the disciplines of lyric art -- held "until God Himself can be seen in the ruins... and overwhelmingly and gratefully loved."

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## Polly's Pancake Parlor Partners with The Frost Place



The Frost Place and the famous Polly's Pancake Parlor have cooked up a special deal. After enjoying pancakes at Polly's come on over to The Frost Place, bring your receipt, and receive a free Robert Frost poster with the purchase of a museum admissions.

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## Celebrate Foliage at The Frost Place with Extended Hours



We are open daily from 10:00 - 5:00 through October 12th. We are closed on Tuesdays. Don't forget, the porch is always open!  
Visit us at 158 Ridge Road, Franconia, NH.



During the fall foliage season at The Frost Place, we extend our hours to welcome visitors from across the country and from around the world.

The changing leaves are stunning, and what better place to view them than from Robert Frost's former front porch.

Contact us about scheduling your tour at the museum. We can accommodate large groups and provide private tours.

Office: 603-823-5510

[www.frostplace.org](http://www.frostplace.org)

Share your fall foliage photography with us on [Facebook](#), and on [Instagram](#) and

Twitter with the handle @frost\_place.

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