



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 16, 2012

CONTACT: Marc Chery
619-236-5817

**SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTINUES *DOWNTOWN VERSE*
POETRY & SPOKEN WORD PROGRAM**

Local Poets to Perform their Poetry during April, National Poetry Month

SAN DIEGO - The San Diego Public Library continues its poetry and spoken word series *Downtown Verse* during April, National Poetry Month. The next featured poets are Ted Washington on Monday, April 16; Shadab Zeest Hashmi on Wednesday, April 18; Ketayun Guard on Monday, April 23 and Penny Perry on Monday, April 30. All performances begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Lobby of the Central Library located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. These events are free and open to the public.

Ted Washington is an artist, author, actor, poet and reluctant businessman. He is the founder and CEO of Puna Press, a San Diego based publisher of poetry and art that features several San Diego writers and artists. Specializing in pen and ink, his art has garnered local, national and international awards. More information about Ted Washington and Puna Press can be found at www.punapress.com.

Shadab Zeest Hashmi is a writer-in-residence at San Diego State University. Her book, *Baker of Tarifa* won the 2011 San Diego Book Award for poetry. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and her work has appeared in Poetry International, Nimrod, The Bitter Oleander, Journal of Postcolonial Writings, The Cortland Review, and other places. More information about Shadab Zeest Hashmi can be found at <http://shadabhashmi.com/1/Home.html>.

Ketayun Guard (Katy for short) comes from India and has studied Yoga for more than 45 years. Katy's schooling was in languages and law and she received her BA and LLB degrees from Bombay University. She has written two poetry books titled *To Warm Your Heart* and *The Essence of Joy!* For more information please visit www.cambodianvillagefund.org.

Penny Perry, also known as Kate Harding, is a Pushcart Prize nominee in both fiction and poetry. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including Contemporary World Literature: Journal for the Arts, Poetry International, Perigee, Today's Alternative News and The San Diego Poetry Annual. Garden Oak Press (<http://sandiegopoetryannual.com>) has just published her first collection of poetry titled *Santa Monica Disposal & Salvage*.

Downtown Verse will spotlight the poetry and spoken word scene in San Diego and feature area poets and spoken word artists on an occasional basis. Learn about this and other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources (including those for local authors), or search for materials online in the Library's catalog at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

###