

The 2024 Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration is scheduled for April 20 at Parkview United Methodist Church which is located at 514 North Border Street, Benton, AR. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the conference will begin at 9:30 a.m. There is no registration fee and a lunch will be available for a fee. Laura Bridges will serve as Spring Celebration Chair. The featured speaker is Sandy Longhorn.

With a 30-year history of writing, publishing, and teaching, Sandy Longhorn is the author of three books of poetry: *The Alchemy of My Mortal Form*, *The Girlhood Book of Prairie Myths*, and *Blood Almanac*. Longhorn also teaches in the Arkansas Writer's MFA program at the University of Central Arkansas. Her current project involves writing place-based poetry in all of Arkansas' 52 state parks. For this project, Longhorn is traveling to each park and then translating those experiences into 52 poems. Place-based poetry is the contemporary version of traditional pastoral poetry. During her talk, Longhorn will share poems by other place-based poets and offer writing prompts and guidance for audience members interested in writing their own poems based in places that are meaningful to them.

Each year this conference honors Dr. Lily Peter in recognition of her efforts to promote poetry in Arkansas. For conference questions contact John McPherson at mcpherson8391@gmail.com or 501-305-9972.