

## Poetry for the people

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Poet Julia Spicher Kasdorf will share the gift of poetry with aspiring writers during her time with Newcomb College Institute's Arons poetry program. (Photo from Julia Spicher Kasdorf)

"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words," wrote Robert Frost. But how does an aspiring poet learn to bring those thoughts and emotions to the page? Creative writing students in New Orleans will have the opportunity to explore the possibilities of poetry with noted poet Julia Spicher Kasdorf as part of [Newcomb College Institute](#)'s Arons poetry program.

[Julia Spicher Kasdorf](#), professor of English and women's studies at Pennsylvania State University, has published three collections of poetry. *Eve's Striptease* was named one of *Library Journal*'s Top 20 Best Poetry Books of 1998, and *Sleeping Preacher* won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize and the Great Lakes College's Association Award for New Writing. Her poems, appearing in numerous anthologies, received a 2009 NEA fellowship and a Pushcart Prize.

While in New Orleans, Kasdorf will [lead a workshop for high school faculty and students](#) as well as visit the undergraduate creative writing class of Peter Cooley, a

professor of English and head of the creative writing program at Tulane University.

“She is an ideal fit for the Arons poetry program since her poetry deals with women's issues as part of her concern with the wider world around us. And the craft in her poems is always at the service of moving her readers,” says Cooley, himself a noted poet who recently was named Louisiana's poet laureate for a two-year term.

Kasdorf will read from her work at a free public event on Monday (Sept. 21) at 7 p.m. in the Freeman Auditorium of Woldenberg Art Center on the Tulane uptown campus. A reception and book signing will follow.

Kasdorf's visit is the latest in a series of events made possible with support from the [Arons poetry program](#). Florie Gale Arons graduated from Newcomb College in 1950, and her daughters established the program in her honor. Since 1999, noted poets have visited campus to share their insights and experiences.

*Aidan Smith is external affairs officer for the Newcomb College Institute.*