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Splendid Poets: James Scully and Peter Everwine
Read Their Poems at the Berkeley Public Library

Berkeley Public Library is proud to present two splendid poets, **James Scully and Peter Everwine**, at **Berkeley Public Central Library's 3rd floor Community Meeting Room on Saturday, March 8 at 2pm. This program is free and sponsored by the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.**

James Scully is the author of nine books of poetry, three book-length translations and the seminal essay collection, *Line Break: Poetry As Social Practice*. He has been a key figure in the movement to radicalize the theory and practice of American poetry—in how it is lived as well as in how it is written. His numerous awards include an Ingram Merrill Foundation Fellowship, the Lamont Poetry Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, NEA fellowships and the Islands & Continents Translation Award. Recently he participated in an international literary conference in Serbia and Kosovo.

About *Donatello's Version*, his most recent poetry collection, Richard Wilbur writes, "James Scully's splendid new book . . . is a social poetry which arises not from opinionation and facile protest, but from clear-eyed witness, hope, and *saeva indignatio*. His art is impatient of art, yet handsomely honed and phrased; it demands that we see and face injustice." Adrienne Rich says, "James Scully's fierce moral intelligence, poetic craft, and grim humor are all alive and well in this long-awaited collection."

Peter Everwine was born in Detroit and raised in western Pennsylvania. Among his books are *Collecting the Animals* (Atheneum, 1973, reprinted as a Carnegie Mellon Classic Contemporary, 2000); *Keeping the Night* (Penumbra Press and Atheneum, 1977); and, most recently, *From the Meadow: Selected and New Poems* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004). He is a recipient of the Lamont Award and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He retired from California State University, Fresno, in 1992.

“For nearly five decades, readers have been enthralled and enchanted by Peter Everwine’s calmly dazzling poems. He’s never been a writer clearly aligned with any single school or style, yet adherents of all schools and styles admire his graceful turns of phrase and intense vision. From the Meadow features selections from four previous collections, along with a group of new works. The poems, which include Everwine’s deft translations from Hebrew and interpretations from Nahuatl, vibrate with the intensity of small truths distilled to their very essences.” (<http://www.upress.pitt.edu/BookDetails.aspx?bookId=35488>)

Philip Levine recommends Everwine’s *From the Meadow: Selected and New Poems*: “This collection presents all of Everwine’s poems that he still regards with affection in a career that spans forty years or more, many of the poems never collected before. It includes a few of his remarkable translations from the Hebrew as well as some of his interpretation of Nahuatl poems. For me the true gems are his own poems, which are like no other in our language: they possess the simplicity and clarity I find in the great Spanish poems of Antonio Machado and his contemporary Juan Ramon Jiminez but in contemporary American English and in the rhythms of our speech, that rhythm glorified. He presents us with poetry in which each moment is recorded, laid bare, and sanctified, which is to say the poems possess a quality one finds only in the greatest poetry.” (<http://www.pshares.org/issues/article.cfm?prmArticleID=8146>)

For questions and accessibility information, please call 510-981-6107, TTY (510) 528-1240, or <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

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