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**Poetry Slam**

Poetry, Spoken word, & Rap are Welcome

**Theme:** *“Using Your Voice to Rise: Lifting Your Brothers and Sisters”*

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Poetry Slam is to promote and encourage positive, uplifting, and high vibration lyrics in the creation of poetry and spoken word. Our aim is to have the current and next generation of artist to rethink how they use words. It has been said that words are “things”. It has also been said “as a man/woman think-eth so goes he/she”. If these statements are true, and they are, we should use words that inspire, words that elevate and uplift, words that truly speak to the hearts and minds of the current and the next generations.

**Participant Eligibility:** Students currently enrolled at Booker T. Washington High School, Notasulga High School, and Tuskegee University. There will be separate competitions for high school and university students with 3 winners from high school and 3 winners from the university.

**Rules:** The poem, spoken-word, or rap MUST:

1) Pertain to the theme, i.e., *“Using Your Voice to Rise: Lifting Your Brothers and Sisters”.*

2) Be submitted online, by **Sunday September 30th**, to: naturesgardenvp@gmail.com.

3) 3 to 5 minutes long (participants are encouraged to time themselves when practicing).

 4) Participants may, if they chose use background music and small props.

5) Abide by all rules.

**Criteria:** The spoken word pieces will be judged in the following ways:

* The meaning, the message, the relevance/importance of the lyrics, the words.
* The piece should be rhythmic and catchy beat.
* Voice tone quality during performance.
* Familiarity with the piece is it recited by heart, by memory.
* Stage presence, the connection with the audience, eye contact, body language.

**Prizes:** 1st Place Winner $100.00

2nd Place Winner 75.00

3rd Place Winner 50.00

***\*\**Winners will perform at the *Art N Nature Fest* on Saturday Oct.27, 2018 and will receive cash rewards there.**

**Poetry Slam Contestants will be evaluated and ranked by a Panel of Judges**.

**Information contact:** Dr. Muhjah Shakir at (334) 421 – 7160 or naturesgardenvp@gmail.com