



Be Peace. Choose Peace. Create Peace.

PEACE THROUGH ACTION EVENT INFORMATION SHEET

Event Title	Voice of Remembrance: Understanding Black History Through Spoken Word Poetry
Date, Time, Location	02/23/2023, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET
Event Webpage	Here
Event Description	

Voice of Remembrance: Understanding Black History Through Spoken Word Poetry commemorates Black History Month with a unique virtual spoken word poetry performance and community discussion. Guided by a Black law enforcement trainer and National Poetry Slam Champion, this event seeks to enhance intercultural connections and amplify public understanding of the historical and contemporary experiences of Black Americans. In viewing this spoken word poetry performance and insightful discussion, participants will increase empathy for and appreciation of the African American experience. Viewers will survey legacies of power imbalances in America and review strategies to fortify social justice efforts in their local areas. This presentation details one Black man's personal process of reflecting upon the past, present, and future with an emphasis on social cohesion, cultural exchange, and intercultural understanding. Participants will widen their knowledge of Black History in America, learn strategies to support social justice work in their local communities, explore leading-edge approaches to law enforcement training, and leave with a new appreciation for the power of the spoken word to promote peace.

Presenter Biographies

[Mallary McHenry](#), of East Akron, Ohio, is a father, National Poetry Slam Champion, Black law enforcement trainer, and accomplished military Veteran who served for 15 years in the United States Army and rose to the rank of Captain after multiple deployments in combat zones abroad. He now operates as the Director of Homeownership for East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation.

Mallary has performed as a touring spoken word poetry artist for over a decade. He is the recipient of the International Poet of Merit Award and contributed to the world-record holding World's Longest Poem for Peace. In 2014, he contributed his skills as both a performer and team coach to the Colorado Springs Hear Here National Slam Poetry team that performed poetry around the United States and went on to win Group Piece Finals at the National Poetry Slam. Mallary has also been a member of the Denver Slam Nuba poetry team and performed at the Individuals World Poetry Slam in 2017. He now dedicates his time to amplifying the voices of the younger generation and provides vital guidance for emerging writers and performers.

Mallary brings to this speaking event a special talent for bridging intimate personal experiences with wider cultural legacies through the power of poetry. His unique experiences as a father, military Veteran, and law enforcement trainer provide this event's commemoration of Black History Month with a necessary and vital perspective. Mallary is motivated to contribute to this event because he strives to open minds with the potency of his voice.

Learning Resources

- Event Webpage
- Event Presentation
- [Event Recording](#)
- [Peaceful Readers Book Club](#) information page
- [Promoting Racial Healing: Recommendations of a Dispute Resolution Practitioner](#) personal reflection
- Watch Mallery McHenry and Chris Walonski, the Director of Programs and Partnerships at Peace Through Action USA, winning Group Piece Finals at the National Poetry Slam together with the poem “Open Carry” in this [video](#) (3:26)
- Mallery McHenry performs his nationally renowned poem “Birds & Bees” in this [video](#) (3:36).
- View Mallery McHenry and Chris Walonski, the Director of Programs and Partnerships at Peace Through Action USA, winning Group Piece Finals at the National Poetry Slam together with a poem about the bystander effect in this [video](#) (3:30).
- Mallery McHenry and Jovan Mays perform “My Mother’s Recipe” in this [video](#) (3:22).
- Explore resources for poetry and youth development from Youth Speaks [here](#).
- Consider bringing poetry curricula to your school or classroom with resources from Get Lit [here](#).
- Review resources for learning about Black History Month from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History using this [link](#).
- Learn more about the history of Black Americans from the nation’s oldest independent African American Museum, [The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center](#).

Resources and Services in Calvert County, Maryland

- Connect with the [Concerned Black Women of Calvert County](#) in their mission to address issues in the community that include education, heal, economic well-being, and improving the quality of life for African American Women and their families.
- Engage with the [Concerned Black Men of Calvert County](#) in their work to support and strengthen African-American families and youth.
- Explore programs, resources, and services from [Calvert County’s NAACP Branch](#).
- Use this [resource page](#) to discover Southern Maryland’s rich and remarkable African-American history.