

## PYM16 Seminars

Thursday, 1:30 PM

- Ivy Beckwith: "Living into God's Alternative Future: The Role of Transformative Community" (106)
- Andrew Esqueda: "Hope Beyond the Now: Liberating Salvation" (Youth Room 107)
- Evan Moffic: "What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus" (Sanctuary)
- Doug Pagitt: "FLIP Your Youth Ministry" (Choir Room)

Thursday, 4:45 PM

- Tony Jones: "You Need a Better Atonement" (Sanctuary)
- Matthew Moorman: "Combat Theology and Youth Culture" (Youth Room 107)
- Morgan Schmidt: "When Churches Play Together: Building A Collaborative, Ecumenical Youth Community" (106)
- Brandy Walker: "Holy Sexuality: Teaching Our Kids While We Figure It Out Ourselves" (Choir Room)

Friday, 3:45 PM (Super Seminars)

- Stephen Ingram: "Organic Student Ministry" (106)
- Phil Madeira: "A Conversation with Phil Madeira" (Choir Room)
- Yadi Martinez: "What makes Youth Ministry a Safe Space for LGB and Transgender Youth?" (Sanctuary)
- Danielle Shroyer: "Original Blessing: Getting Beyond the Doctrine of Original Sin" (107)

Saturday, 10:00 AM

- Mike Baughman: "Extended Adolescence: Lessons from Coffee Shop Ministry with College Students and Young Professionals" (129)
- Susan Cottrell: "True Colors: The Beauty in the Margins and the Fault in the Church" (116)
- Wesley Ellis: "Human Beings and Human Becomings: Departing from the Developmental Model of Youth Ministry" (126)
- Teer Hardy and Amanda Pine: "Youth Ministry Beyond the Bubble" (134)
- Robert Hubbard: "Conservative to Evangelical to Progressive: How to Transition Your Life and Your Ministry" (Choir Room)
- Jim Melson: "Spiritual Formation as a Journey Inward, Outward, and Together" (135)
- John Vest: "Progressive Christianity and the E-Word: Evangelism That Doesn't Suck" (Youth Room)
- Hillary Watson: "Spoken Word Poetry as a Tool for Teen Emotional Literacy" (106)

### **Ivy Beckwith: “Living into God’s Alternative Future: The Role of Transformative Community”**

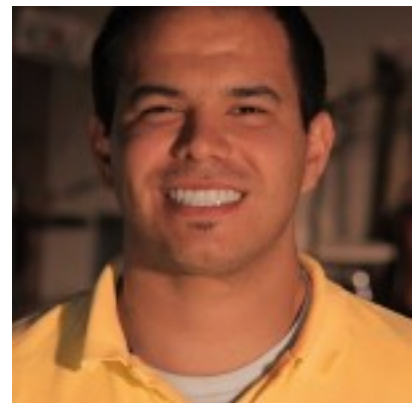
Much of faith formation is capturing the imaginations of our children and youth for God’s story and the reality of the reign of God. Faith communities that seek to build into God’s alternative future are faith forming and transformative. Building on the work of consultant Peter Block this workshop will discuss the characteristics of transformative communities and steps churches can take to become these types of communities.



*Rev. Dr. Ivy Beckwith is the Faith Formation Minister and Team Leader for the national setting of the United Church of Christ. Ivy is a well known author specializing in the faith formation of children and youth. She has served several churches in the East and Midwest and has logged time in the Christian publishing industry. She lives in Westlake, OH with her Cairn Terrier, Lola and her cat, Maris.*

### **Andrew Esqueda: “Hope Beyond the Now: Liberating Salvation”**

This seminar will engage the question of salvation in a way that moves beyond traditional, and dualistic, understandings. We will explore how to engage with students theologically, how we have historically taught the concept of salvation to adolescents, and how one might move beyond traditional understandings of salvation in a way that liberates students, and the church as a whole, from their present situation. Constructively, I will put forth a theology of salvation that embraces time and eternity: a theology of salvation that liberates us from the confines and parameters of time, a theology that gives us a “hope beyond the now”.

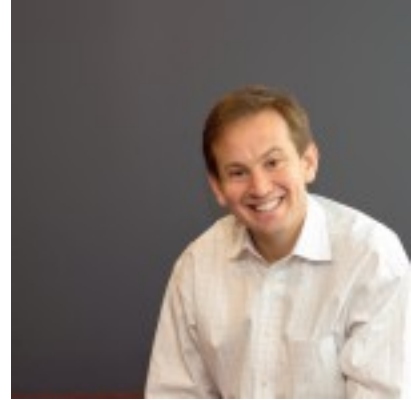


*Andrew Esqueda is a native of San Diego and a Southern transplant. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Megan and son Isaiah, and is the Director of Youth and Families at Trinity Presbyterian Church. He has an M.A. in Theological studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. Andrew has presented at regional meetings of the American Academy of Religion on the topics of Political Theology and the Suffering of God, and is the Co-Organizer of Open Atlanta. Andrew reads the likes of Karl Barth, Jurgen Moltmann, Eberhard Jungel, and Sarah Coakley in his spare time and has a passion for further integrating theology into the practice of youth ministry.*

## **Evan Moffic: “What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus”**

*Evan Moffic is a rabbi and speaker dedicated to making the Old Testament and Judaism more accessible to Christians. Originally from Houston, Texas, Evan graduated from Stanford University in 2000, and after studying in Jerusalem and Cincinnati, he was ordained as a Rabbi in 2006. Since 2009, he served as the spiritual leader of Congregation Solel in suburban Chicago. He is one of the youngest rabbis of a major congregation in the United States.*

*He blogs regularly for the Huffington Post and Beliefnet, and speaks about the Old Testament and early Jewish life at churches, synagogues and interfaith institutions across the country.*



## **Doug Pagitt: “FLIP Your Youth Ministry”**

Based on Doug’s book *Flipped* this seminar will help you think about Jesus phrase “You have heard it said...but I say to you” as a means for creating meaningful engagement with helping teenagers engage in their faith. The Flip can allow you to partner in the faith of your students rather than being the one who directs their faith.

*Doug is a possibility enthusiast who seeks to find creative, entrepreneurial and generative ways to enlist people to join in the hopes, dreams, and desires God has for the world. Doug is a national Initiator with Convergence a collective of faith-engaged organizations, individuals, institutions, and networks who seek to embody a generous and just Christian ethos leading to constructive collective action in the United States. Doug is the founding pastor of Solomon’s Porch, A Holistic Missional Christian Community in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Doug is a speaker and consultant for churches, denominations, and businesses throughout the United States and around the world on issues of Inventive Age culture, social systems Christianity, and Leadership. Doug has worked in churches, for a nonprofit foundation, and has owned three businesses in Minneapolis. Doug is the author of books on spirituality, Christianity and leadership. Doug is a novice ultra marathoner who on most days wishes he was out on a run. Doug is married to Shelley, they live in Edina, Minnesota and are parents of 4 young-adult children. Doug has a BA in Anthropology and a Masters of Theology from Bethel Seminary.*



### **Tony Jones: “You Need a Better Atonement”**

While progressive Christians will readily acknowledge that Jesus' death is the centerpiece of the faith, we often struggle to describe *how* exactly it works. By what mechanism did one man's death atone for the sins of the world? Or did it? Happily, the conservative version—penal substitutionary atonement—is not the only option. Several alternative interpretations of the crucifixion are available to us. In this seminar, we'll not only discuss these options, but investigate their relevancy to our youth.



*Tony Jones is the author of Did God Kill Jesus? He's also the co-owner of The JoPa Group and the co-founder of the Progressive Youth Ministry conference. Tony teaches at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He lives in Minnesota with his spouse and children.*

### **Matthew Moorman: “Combat Theology and Youth Culture”**

**Centurions Guild** provides religious education to churches engaged in ministry with current, former and future military personnel. Living between the patriot-pacifist binary, we try to cultivate constructive conversations about the intersection of Christian faith and military service. In other words, we try to think critically and theologically about what it means to be a Christian soldier. "**Combat Theology and Youth Culture**" is a brief exploration of how and why to apply combat theology and the martial hermeneutic in a youth ministry setting. To learn more, visit [centurionsguild.org](http://centurionsguild.org).



Matt Moorman is a church educator, deacon, Air Force Reserve veteran and Operations Director of Centurions Guild. With a BA in sociology from NC State University, he is an MDiv student at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, and an Inquirer for ordination in the PC(USA). He has been engaged in youth work for over a decade, in Chapel Hill, Philadelphia, Dublin, and his hometown of Raleigh, through churches, non-profits, social work agencies and special needs service provider agencies. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Emily, and their dog, Frances.

## **Morgan Schmidt: “When Churches Play Together: Building A Collaborative, Ecumenical Youth Community”**

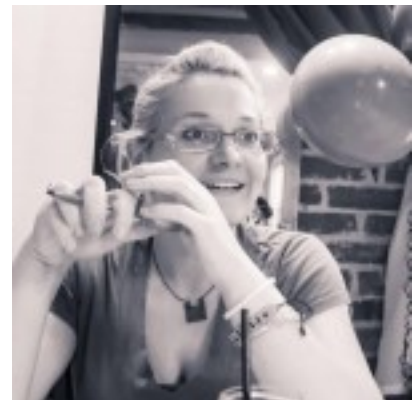
We are better together. Join us for a conversation on the philosophy, process, and nitty-gritty of collaborative, ecumenical youth ministries. The Bend Youth Collective has been practicing and experimenting for the past five years with a shared youth community (and shared youth staff) between local Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Methodist churches. We can't wait to share what we're learning and how our youth, families, church, and larger community are thriving as a result of our collaboration.



*Morgan Schmidt is the Director of Teens & 20-Somethings at First Presbyterian Church in Bend, Oregon and serves as the Co-Director of the Bend Youth Collective: a progressive, ecumenical, collaborative youth ministry that encourages teens to follow in the peacemaking way of Jesus. She is passionate about cultivating teenagers’ desires to be more whole people who help make earth more like heaven. Morgan received her MDiv from the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology, but doesn’t remember any Greek. She is also the author of Woo: Awakening Students’ Desire to Follow in the Way of Jesus, and a contributing author to various blogs including the Princeton Institute for Youth Ministry and 30 Hour Famine. She loves working and playing in Bend, Oregon with her husband, Ian, and golden retriever, Buddy.*

## **Brandy Walker: “Holy Sexuality: Teaching Our Kids While We Figure It Out Ourselves”**

We want our kids, as Rob Bell has said, to have to "unlearn" as little as possible. We don't want to strap them with our baggage. But, as a society, when it comes to sex, we all have a lot we need to unlearn. As youth workers, how do we approach this topic? This seminar will attempt to answer that question and likely raise a few more.



*Brandy Walker is a writer and a coach who believes vulnerability is a superpower. She and her husband, Jermaine, lead the high schoolers at Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, MD, attempting to impart some semblance of wisdom. They mostly just play games. She tries to make light of the dark stuff at her site, [brandyglows.com](http://brandyglows.com), and as a blogger for The Huffington Post.*

## **Stephen Ingram: “Organic Student Ministry”**

Organic Student Ministry is a holistic ministry approach for student ministries that moves away from the chemical, insta growth themed quick fix approach found in most youth ministry approaches and calls the youth minister to dig deep in the soil of church finding the local context and learning what grows best in that soil.



*Stephen Ingram is a dad, husband, and foodie and he finds entirely too many things interesting. He has been in student ministry since 1998 and has the joy of serving as the Director of Student Ministries at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Birmingham, AL. He holds a BA in Religion from Samford University and a Masters of Divinity from McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta. He also serves as a lead consultant with Ministry Architects and blogs regularly at [www.organicstudentministry.com](http://www.organicstudentministry.com). He lives in Birmingham with his wife Mary Liz and their three kids Mary Clare, Patrick, and Nora Grace. His books include *Hollow Faith*, *ExtraOrdinary Time*; *365 Ordinary Moments with and Anything But Ordinary God* and *Organic Student Ministry*.*

## **Phil Madeira: “A Conversation with Phil Madeira”**

Join on of our conference musicians, Grammy winning songwriter Phil Madeira, for a conversation about faith and creativity.

*A member of Emmylou Harris’ Red Dirt Boys and a Grammy Winning songwriter, Phil Madeira doesn’t rest on his laurels. He’s produced records for and performed with many amazing artists, including Shawn Mullins, Buddy Miller, Sam Bush, The Civil Wars, The Lone Bellow, Vanessa Williams, Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and Keb’ Mo’. His *Mercyland: Hymns For The Rest Of Us* project debuted in 2012 and yielded a Grammy Winning song for the Civil Wars, “From This Valley”.*



*Volume 2 of *Mercyland* released in the fall of 2015 and features Ms Harris, Sugar & The Hi Lows, The Wood Bros, The Lone Bellow, The McCrary Sisters, and Angel Snow singing spiritual songs “for the rest of us”. The singer-songwriter is also known for his multi-instrumental abilities, having played Guitar and Keyboards on hundreds of records, including hits by Toby Keith, Garth Brooks, and other mainstream stars, but his real love is roots music, like the Americana songs he’s written for Alison Krauss, The Wood Brothers, and Keb’ Mo’.*

*His new book, *Postcards From Mercyland*, will go to press in 2016. Phil is often on the road, playing guitar and singing in clubs, and conducting songwriting clinics with Merrill Farnsworth and their *Mercyland Songwriter Workshops*.*

## **Yadi Martinez: “What makes Youth Ministry a Safe Space for LGB and Transgender Youth?”**

Creating a safe space takes preparation. Stickers, signage and name tags are a good start. Creating safe spaces goes beyond the visible things we provide as Youth Ministers. We believe that our Young Friends do not fit into a narrowly defined cultural box. Creating a safe space takes intention and commitment from an entire church community. This workshop approaches this topic through a lens of “cultural

humility”. \*Ethnicity, race, gender identity and sexual

orientation are just a few elements that influences the way we see the world through the lens of a young person. We will explore through a process of self examination and awareness building how to best provide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth intentional and supportive safe spaces. Come and Join Youth Pastor Yadi Martinez as they navigate the importance for a shade of purple outside the comfort zone of pink and blue.



*Yadi I. Martinez is bilingual in English and Spanish was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas. Martinez currently lives in Collin County with a partner and eleven-year-old son and identifies as a gender non-conform latino(a). Martinez’s ability to advocate for Youth and Young Adults has driven Martinez’s career. Martinez currently works as The Minister of Youth, Young Adults and Mission at Cathedral of Hope, United Church of Christ in Dallas, TX. Martinez is License in Ministry from the United Church of Christ and a member in Discernment. Martinez also serves as a member of Cathedral of Hope’s Communication Team and serves our Hispanic congregation La Catedral de la Esperanza with social media and design needs.*

## **Danielle Shroyer: “Original Blessing: Getting Beyond the Doctrine of Original Sin”**

Christianity flourished for four hundred years without any concept of original sin, and some branches of our Christian family tree continue to reject it. For those of us in the West, original sin is entangled in what we think about God, Jesus, the cross, and our own self-worth. What if, instead of centering around the idea of a fallen nature, we proclaim and profess a doctrine of blessing?



*Danielle Shroyer is an author, speaker, blogger and pastor. She serves as Theologian-in-Residence at Journey Dallas, one of the first independent emerging communities of faith, where she pastored for 8 years. A graduate of Baylor University and Princeton Seminary, Danielle lives in Dallas with her husband and two middle schoolers. She is the author of The Boundary-Breaking God: An Unfolding Story of Hope and Promise, Where Jesus Prayed: Illuminations on the Lord’s Prayer in the Holy Land, and the forthcoming Original Blessing: Putting Sin in its Rightful Place.*

**Mike Baughman: “Extended Adolescence: Lessons from Coffee Shop Ministry with College Students and Young Professionals”**

Because of economic, social and cultural realities, most young people aren’t “completing” the developmental tasks of adolescence until well into their twenties. Rev Mike Baughman is the Community Curator and Founding Pastor for Union, a coffee shop new church start in Dallas that is primarily in ministry with 18-30 year old church refugees. This session will explore what he is learning about ministry with young professionals (most of whom are church refugees) that apply to the work done in traditional and non-traditional youth ministry settings.



*Rev. Mike Baughman is the Community Curator and Founding Pastor for Union Coffee in Dallas, TX. A new kind of new church start, Union exists to care for the well-being of its neighborhood with outstanding coffee, robust community and engaging causes. With over a decade of Youth Ministry experience and both an M.Div and M.A. in Youth Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary, Mike has a huge heart for youth ministry and has carried lessons learned with youth into his work with young professionals. He compiled an upcoming book, called Flipping Church: how successful church planters are turning conventional wisdom upside down. He has also served as a development editor, writer, script editor and reviewer for a long list of Sparkhouse curricula including reform: traditions, Connect, Holy Moly and CoLabOrate.*

**Susan Cottrell: “True Colors: The Beauty in the Margins and the Fault in the Church”**

Susan will show the faultline that makes the “box-church” reject LGBTQ and other outliers in contrast to the “true church” that loves those in the margins with the love Jesus lived and gave to us. The needed shift is at the very foundation.



*Susan Cottrell is the prominent voice for faith parents of LGBTQ children, as a national speaker, teacher and theologian. Through her nonprofit—[FreedHearts.org](http://FreedHearts.org)—Susan champions the LGBTQ community and families with her characteristic tender-heartedness, and she zealously challenges Christians that love—of God and others—is the foundation of faith. Her classic book “Mom, I’m Gay” —Loving Your LGBTQ Child Without Sacrificing Your Faith is endorsed by The Human Rights Campaign, PFLAG, The Gay Christian Network and others; her latest book True Colors: Celebrating the Truth and Beauty of the Real You is endorsed by Dr. Mel White, author of Stranger at the Gate, and by the Human Rights Campaign. She and her husband Rob have been married nearly 30 years and have five children, two of whom are in the LGBTQ community. They live in Austin, Texas.*



**Wesley Ellis: “Human Beings and Human Becomings: Departing from the Developmental Model of Youth Ministry”**

Since its origins, youth ministry has been deeply invested in developmental psychology for its theorization of young peoples' experience. Youth, or "adolescence," is conceived as a transitional "stage" of development on its way to adulthood. The goal of youth ministry, then, is to develop adolescents into mature Christian adults. But what if our preoccupation with development is actually obscuring us from seeing and learning from what God is doing in the lives of young people here and now? In this seminar, we will examine how an anthropological and eschatological approach to youth ministry can help us to see God's action in all the 'wrong' places, and to make youth ministry about *youth* and *ministry* again.



*Wes Ellis is a youth worker from the San Diego area in California and a student at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He is a Member in Discernment in the United Church of Christ and has over ten years of ministry experience. Wes has published scholarly articles on the intersection of Youth Ministry, Eschatology, Childhood Studies, and Ethnography. He's passionate about theology and youth ministry and he's convinced that the two belong to each other.*

**Teer Hardy and Amanda Pine: “Youth Ministry Beyond the Bubble”**

Are you constantly plagued by the “numbers” question? How many people are attending your programs? How many are new this week? This workshop will provide participants with practical, tried and true, ways to incorporate an intentionally outreaching focus into your youth ministry setting. Together, we will move beyond the traditional models of ministry and begin the practice of risk taking as a faith community.



*Teer Hardy is a husband, father, and brewery theologian. He serves as the Director of Youth Ministry at Great Bridge UMC in Chesapeake, VA. Amanda Pine is a cradle Presbyterian who currently serves the congregation of Great Bridge UMC as Director of Christian Education.*



## **Robert Hubbard: “Conservative to Evangelical to Progressive: How to Transition Your Life and Your Ministry”**

*Rob was born and raised in Georgia. At age 22 he moved to England and stayed for 10 years. He now lives in Birmingham, AL serving in a Student Ministry. He is married with 3 children and is pretty amazing at dodgeball.*



## **Jim Melson: “Spiritual Formation as a Journey Inward, Outward, and Together”**

From the first century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, three interconnected aspects of the journey of faith have been at the heart of living into the way of Jesus.

These three aspects provide a holistic, non-linear, and practical model of Christian discipleship that goes beyond momentary inspiration or pre-packaged programming. Spiritual formation is a unique journey for each person and an ongoing practice that is adaptable to each of our unique contexts and relationships.



- **The Journey Inward:** Intentional openness to Christ and spiritual growth through practicing various spiritual disciplines such as centering prayer, prayer of embodiment, Lectio Divina, and devotional reading
- **The Journey Outward:** Discerning and following God’s call for your life as part of the Body of Christ. Living into your unique piece of God’s dream of peace and reconciliation (shalom) for all people.
- **The Journey Together:** In-depth Christian community in a small committed group for mutual love, support, accountability, shared leadership, and mission

Together we will discuss ways to develop shared practices that help all of us to live and grow into the people God created us to be.

*The Rev. Dr. James (Jim) Melson is in his 15<sup>th</sup> year as the Director of The Cornelius Corps ([www.corneliuscorps.org](http://www.corneliuscorps.org)), a ministry of New Community Church in Washington, DC. New Community is one of the faith communities of The Church of the Saviour. The ministry of The Cornelius Corps focuses on working with churches in the areas of spiritual formation and racial justice/reconciliation. Jim also serves as the Director of Spiritual Formation at the John Leland*

*Center for Theological Studies in Arlington, VA. He is an ordained pastor in The United Methodist Church. He served for 19 years as the pastor of local churches in the Virginia Annual Conference before founding The Cornelius Corps in 2001. Jim is a graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA (1978 BA in Greek and Religion) and Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA (1982 D.Min.). Jim has been married to his wife Vickie since August of 1977. They have two grown children: Katie Leslie, (married to Adam Leslie) of Pittsburgh, PA. and Kristie Wells, (married to Colin Wells) of Richmond, VA. They have three grandchildren: Campbell and Sophie Leslie of Pittsburgh, PA. and Asher Wells of Richmond, VA*

**John Vest: “Progressive Christianity and the E-Word: Evangelism That Doesn’t Suck”**

Progressive Christians often avoid evangelism like the plague, but bearing witness to the ways in which God changes our lives and changes the world is an integral part of following Jesus. Authentic evangelism doesn’t need to be manipulative or coercive. It doesn’t need to be about conversion, “saving souls,” or growing the size of your youth group. In this seminar a veteran youth worker who is currently teaching evangelism at a mainline Protestant seminary will explore what evangelism can mean for progressive Christians and why it is critical for youth ministry.



*After fifteen years of ministry in the Chicago metropolitan area, most recently as the Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry at Fourth Presbyterian Church, John W. Vest currently serves as the Visiting Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He holds degrees from Rice University (B.A.), the University of Chicago Divinity School (M.Div.), and McCormick Theological Seminary (D.Min.), and has studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is co-founder of the Progressive Youth Ministry conference, recently published a collection of confirmation sermons called It’s Not Conformation, and blogs about his “Adventures in Post-Christendom” at [johnvest.com](http://johnvest.com). An enthusiastic pitmaster, John dreams of one day achieving the mystical union of church and BBQ.*

## Hillary Watson: “Spoken Word Poetry as a Tool for Teen Emotional Literacy”

Those who work in youth ministry spend much of our time teaching young people healthy coping strategies for dealing with the emotions and events of the teen years. What is it that makes poetry a healing space? What basic poems and writing exercises can be used with your youth? What catharsis happens in the sharing of art that facilitates deeper relationships and reflection? This workshop will explain poetry’s potential as a coping mechanism and offer tangible resources for poets, poems, and writing workshops with youth.



*Hillary Watson is Associate Pastor at Lombard Mennonite Church. Since 2010, she has competed at the National Poetry Slam five times, representing both Atlanta and Chicago, under the name Hillary Kobernick. She appeared on Finals Stage of the National Poetry Slam in 2012, performing [“The Last Judgment,”](#) a poem that explores Michelangelo’s perceptions about faith and sexuality. She holds an M.Div from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology with a certificate in Religious Education and has led poetry workshops in a variety of settings. Her poems have appeared in various magazines, including *catapult*, *decomp*, and *Bellevue Literary Review*. She is slammaster of the *Mental Graffiti Poetry Slam* (Chicago) and hosts a monthly open mic in Lombard, IL.*