

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 2018

# BEFORE *the* DAWN

The 25th Annual Alternative New Year's Day  
Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza

January 1, 2019

1 PM to 9 PM

Free Admission

150 Performers Plus Open Mic

St. John's Lutheran Church  
81 Christopher Street

(Between Seventh Avenue S.  
and Bleecker Street,  
Manhattan.)

Easily accessible by mass  
transit. By subway, take the  
1 Train to Christopher Street  
or the A, B, C, D, E or F to  
West Fourth Street /  
Washington Square.

By bus, take the M8 or M20.)

We encourage donations of  
paperback books, and canned  
or boxed food or drink.

<http://booksthroughbarsnyc.org>  
<https://cityharvest.org>

\*And don't forget to take some  
poets home with you by  
getting a copy of our yearly  
ANYDSWPE Anthology, on  
sale at the event and online  
December 24th.



**"Hail, gentle Dawn! Mild blushing goddess, hail!"**

- William Somerville

One of New York City's biggest literary events featuring more than 150 scheduled performers plus an open, where any person can sign up, will have a new venue this coming New Year's Day. The 25th Annual **Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza** takes place on January 1, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. at: **St. John's Lutheran Church in Greenwich Village**, a hub of social, political and cultural ferment. This year's theme is "Before the Dawn."

**The Alternative**, which continues to be free to the public, features poets, prose writers, monologists, musicians, dancers and other performers in an eight-hour showcase that ranges from some of New York's most seasoned talents to emerging stars. The lineup evolves each year to keep the event fresh and democratic. The audience is encouraged to donate paperback books to **Books Through Bars**, for people incarcerated in prison, and canned or boxed food or drink for **City Harvest**, which provides for the hungry in New York.

The Alternative began on New Year's Day in 1995, and quickly became one of the most popular events on the city's poetry and literary scene. Founder **Bruce Weber** is ably assisted by a staff of writers, designers and curators. Each year a fresh group of performers are plucked from all corners of the Tri-State area to enliven and transform the Alternative in unexpected ways. Adding to the mix for the sixth consecutive year will be an anthology comprised of featured writers, published by **Rogue Scholars Press** under the guidance of **C. D. Johnson**.

*"We're very excited to hold the event at St. John's on the 25th anniversary of the Alternative, and look forward to continuing to bring some light into our dark times,"* said Mr. Weber of this year's event.

Among poets scheduled to read on January 1 are **Joel Allegretti, Jennifer Blowdryer, Steve Cannon, Michele Carlo, Steve Dalachinsky, Cornelius Eady, Bob Holman, Jesús Papoleto Meléndez, Nancy Mercado, Tracie Morris, and Bill Zavatsky**.

In keeping with its spirit, there will be intervals within the day's program for audience members (who are not on the featured list) to sign up and perform on the open mic. The Alternative draws an overflow crowd every year.

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