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## 'Inspired Mic' events encourage local writers

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FLAGLER BEACH — Blustery winds didn't keep die hard writers from the stage during a recent "Inspired Mic" night on the deck at the BeachHouse Beanery.

Bundled in coats and hats, audience members listened intently to original poems and story excerpts read by local authors.

Inspired Mic founder Michael King was happy that people still came out on such a chilly night. The evening's readers ranged from well-known community members to unknown authors.

"Becky read an intense adult piece that had the crowd asking for more time," King said of author Becky Pourchot, who read a piece laced with expletives.

Robin G. Coles told a story of a woman, Delia, who escaped a domestic violence situation, while Georgia Turner read from work done in the 1980s.

Onicas Gaddis performed a "freestyle writing session" that drew a standing ovation from the crowd. Focusing on his life in foster care, recalling how he bathed in the same bathwater as his siblings, he said his inspiration came from overcoming obstacles.

"The goal is for kids to hear it," Gaddis said. "I chose that not to take me higher, but to inspire."

The monthly events have become a staple of the beachside eatery.

"We're thrilled to have it here," said Carol Fisher, co-owner of the Beanery. "We appreciate Michael (King) with Clearview Press and the Inspired Mic and for making this happen here."

The event also brought writers and lovers of writing from outside Flagler County.

"I came out to support Michael and hang out," said Sue Couslin, who brought Jan Turney along for the night.

"I am a proofreader for an author in St. Augustine and he is interested in checking out the venue," said Turney.

Typically offered at the BeachHouse Beanery, the Dec. 17 event will be held at Christmas Come True in honor of the holiday season. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., guests can enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and wine during the event, which is a fundraiser to benefit families in need in Flagler County.



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Robin G. Coles does a reading during a recent Inspired Mic night at the BeachHouse Beanery in Flagler Beach. The next event is Dec. 17.

King said he wants the evening to be special, so only 10 readers will be selected to share their work.

“Since this is a special event, I want it to be best foot forward,” said King.

Seating will be limited, with only 30 tickets available. They can be purchased at Christmas Come True, 1399 N. Oceanshore Blvd, Flagler Beach, or from Michelle Brown at the Flagler Beach Gift Shop, 105 N. Oceanshore Blvd.

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