

“JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY” TO VISIT TRIO BISTRO IN GREENFIELD

James Whitcomb Riley interpreter Jon Burroughs will bring the famous Indiana poet to life at the Trio Bistro restaurant in Greenfield on Saturday, September 24. The event will begin at 11:00 am and go until 2 pm. Burroughs' appearance at Trio occurs just two weeks ahead of the James Whitcomb Riley Festival, which is also in Greenfield.

Burroughs, a retired Indianapolis Public Schools teacher, has been doing one-man shows featuring Riley since the late 1980s. He has also appeared at the Riley Days Festival and parade many times.

“‘Bud’ Riley and I go way back,” Burroughs reports, recalling Riley’s nickname when he was a boy. “In Cub Scouts we were taken to his birthplace home which now is just four houses away from where I live. Around the same time I sang Riley's "The Prayer Perfect" at Tuxedo Park Baptist Church. Of course,” he says with a laugh, “that was back in the days when I could sing, not croak.”

Riley died in 1916 and so Burroughs never met him. He has, however, met people who did. He recalls one notable time when he was doing his Riley one-man show at the Anderson Library. “A very old lady came up to me afterwards and said, ‘Mr. Riley, when I was a little girl, I sat with you and other children and had my photograph taken.’ I jokingly responded, ‘Have I changed much?’”

Burroughs, who is also a mystery author writing under the name J. Paul Burroughs, will sign copies of his books afterwards. Joining him will be fellow authors from the Speed City Chapter of Sisters in Crime to which Burroughs belongs. The Chapter’s latest short story collection is Tricks or Treat: Tales of an All Hallows’ Eve, which includes a story by Burroughs. It will be available.

Founded in 2005, Speed City is the Indiana chapter of the international mystery/crime writers organization, Sisters in Crime, that promotes the work of women crime fiction writers, as well as supports greater diversity in the literary industry. Local members come from a variety of professions, and many are published and award-winning mystery authors from Indiana and the Midwest.

The Speed City chapter hosts monthly meetings with speakers that have included best-selling authors, public safety officials, forensic specialists, weapons experts, and publishing and media professionals. The chapter also hosts writing and other educational workshops for its members with well-known authors and publishing professionals.

Since 2007, the chapter has published eight, short-story anthologies written and edited by members with themes related to Indiana or the Midwest. Its latest is the Halloween-themed collection, *Trick or Treats*, which was published in 2021. Local chapter members also wrote and produced a play, *Deadbeat*, which premiered at the Indianapolis Theater Fringe Festival in 2018.

Burroughs' short stories appear in the Speed City anthologies *Homicide for the Holidays*, *Murder 20/20*, and *Trick or Treat*. He also has a novel out, *Karma and Crime*, which was published two years ago.

More information about Sisters in Crime and the Speed City Chapter can be found at their website, www.speedcitysistersincrime.org

To learn more about Trio Bistro, find their website at triogreenfield.com.