

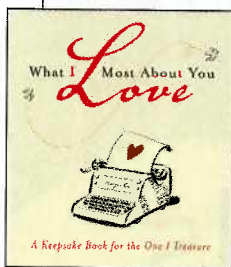
# Back to Basics

Love, food and people... the simple needs for anyone's healthy existence. We bring you in touch with your own basics with these three books, as they delve into realms of love, entertaining and the beautiful, sometimes crazy, faces of the people who surround us.

By Cheryl F. Hendrick

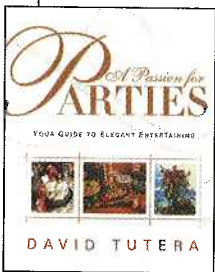
## What I Love Most About You

Why do you love your special someone? Is it the way they look when they are sleepy? Is it how they behave with children? Whatever it is, tell them. With an introduction by Doris Wild Helmering, a clinical social worker who has appeared on *Oprah* and *Good Morning America*, this book opens communication lines with playful listings to be checked off as reasons people love each other. So bring your love, honesty (and even a bottle of wine) to the table, cuddle up with your loved one, and ask why.



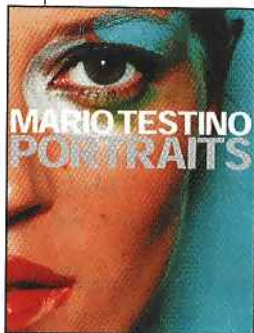
## A Passion for Parties

Expert planner **David Tutera** has dazzled party guests of such luminaries as Elton John, Tipper Gore and Tommy Hilfiger with rock 'n' roll flash, quiet Victorian charm or contemporary flare, whatever the host wishes. Bring your own guests to their knees (hopefully onto comfortable throw pillows) as Tutera shares his secrets and tips on throwing the perfect party, from lighting to liquor, music to menu. Your elaborate extravaganzas (or intimate gatherings) will never be the same.



## Testino: Portraits

Commemorating his gallery exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London, *Mario Testino: Portraits* features more than 150 of his most sexy, famous and beautiful images. A true A-list of subjects, *Portraits* brings you face-to-face with Gwyneth Paltrow, Madonna, Princess Diana and many others—all in rare form, all with rare beauty.



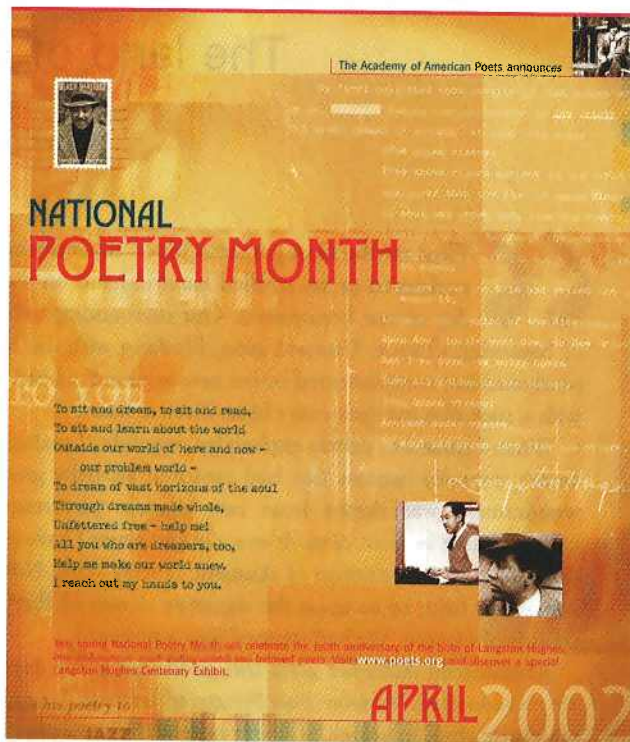
# A Month of Prose

April celebrates poetry and African-American writer **Langston Hughes**

By Rebecca Winkel

**A**pril is National Poetry Month. Inaugurated by The Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month (NPM) brings together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops and other events.

This year, NPM will bring special attention to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Langston Hughes. Hughes, who claimed Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Carl Sandburg and Walt Whitman as his primary influences, is particularly known for his insightful, colorful portrayals of black life in America from the '20s through the '60s. He wrote novels, short stories and plays, as well as poetry, and is also known for his engagement with the world of jazz and the influence it had on his writing, as in "Montage of a Dream Deferred." His life and work were enormously important in shaping the artistic contributions of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. Unlike other notable African-American poets of the period—Claude McKay, Jean Toomer and Countee Cullen—Hughes refused to differentiate between his personal experience and the common experience of black America. He wanted to tell the stories of his people without personalizing them, so the reader could step in and draw his/her own conclusions.



For more information about National Poetry Month events in your area, visit [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) or call The Academy of American Poets at 212.274.0343.