

During my tenure as Poet Laureate of the City of Alexandria, I have:

- Participated in (and wrote a poem for) the USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration, the Yockadot Poetics Festival and an event celebrating the arts, sponsored by the Del Ray Artisans;
- Written and read "One American High School" for the dedication ceremony of the new TC Williams High School facility
- Composed and delivered a poem, "Half Turn" for the 2007 Alex Awards
- Conducted a poetry workshop for developmentally disabled kids;
- Worked with elementary school classes at George Mason Elementary on an 'opera' about the city's role in the Revolution, the Civil War, and Reconstruction;
- Been a guest speaker during a 2008 Poetry Month event at an Alexandria elementary school (MacArthur) assembly;
- Led an after school poetry workshop with 2nd graders at MacArthur Elementary;
- Read selected works of poetry along with another Alexandria poet at a reading at a local nursing home
- Participated in and read at the 2007 Stories in the Park--a library program for toddlers and their parents during the summer;
- Spoken and offered poetry workshops in association with the Read Across America Day program at Hammond Middle School;
- Judged a poetry slam for an Alexandria elementary school
- Served as a judge and speaker at the City's PTA Reflections contest awards ceremony
- Attended and spoke at the City's elementary school poet laureate contest;
- Served on panels for the Library's Alexandria Authors evening and for a local church to discuss the work of Gerard Manley Hopkins.
- Received recognition from the Fairfax County Parks and Recreation Department for presentations of poetry workshops at the Hollin Hall Senior Center
- Composed and delivered a poem for Alexandria's "Salute to Women" awards dinner
- Composed and delivered a poem for the dedication of the Charles Houston Recreation Center

**EVERYBODY
has a
POCKET**

Put a poem in yours on April 30 !



Join your fellow Alexandrians for our

**1st Annual
POEM-IN-YOUR-POCKET DAY**

On April 30, in celebration of National Poetry Month, carry a favorite poem (original or copied) or just a few lines with you to share with friends, family, colleagues or classmates.

Watch for special poetry events around town at schools, libraries and participating businesses!



For information visit: alexandriacommisionforthearts.org



**April is National Poetry Month:
Put a Poem in Your Pocket and Celebrate with Alexandria!**

Celebrating Poetry in Our City

Mary McElveen, Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Office of the Arts, and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts invite all city residents to celebrate National Poetry Month in April.

April 30th is the first annual "Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day." Carry a poem to share with others – or keep for your own secret enjoyment. You might find that having a poem in your pocket brings you unexpected rewards!

On April 14, Mary McElveen will address the Mayor and City Council to encourage their participation, and she will present them with a collection of the poems she has written during her tenure as Poet Laureate. McElveen was named Poet Laureate in April, 2007 as the unanimous recommendation of a selection committee representing the citizens of Alexandria. Since that time, she has been very active in the community, visiting schools, teaching poetry classes, creating and reading poems for City events, and bringing her love of poetry to many other places and events. Her appointment has inspired interest in Poet Laureate programs in several other communities, including Fairfax County, VA and Santa Clara County, CA, which just appointed a Poet Laureate. Mary also will work with Office of the Arts to involve businesses, civic associations, libraries, schools, and recreation centers in National Poetry Month and Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day.

Why Celebrate Poetry?

The Academy of American Poets has designated April as National Poetry Month to call attention to the ways poetry can enrich everyday life. In Alexandria, we celebrate poetry to:

- Promote an appreciation of the written word in all forms, especially poetry.
- Emphasize the importance and pleasure of reading and writing to Alexandria's young people.
- Uphold and call attention to Alexandria's reputation as an arts center.

Current Initiatives

- Working with public and private schools in Alexandria to encourage teachers and students to participate.
- Sharing information with City Recreation Centers to encourage poetry activities during April.
- Asking local businesses, especially book shops, coffee shops, and pastry shops, to help advertise Poem in Your Pocket Day and recognize customers with poems in their pockets by offering discounts.
- Requesting local libraries to display poetry books and information about National Poetry Month and Poem in Your Pocket Day.
- Developing a website to post all activities and list businesses and other groups participating in Poem in Your Pocket Day. Draft site: <http://marymce.googlepages.com/alexandriapoetry>
- Working with local media, including the *Gazette Packet*, *Washington Post*, and *Local Kicks*, to publish information about these initiatives.

Ideas for All

The Academy of American Poets suggests the following ideas for individuals and groups to participate:

- Start a "poems for pockets" give-a-way in your workplace.
- Offer rewards (lunch, candy, etc.) for those carrying poems.
- Post pocket-sized verses in public places.
- Handwrite some favorite lines of poetry the back of your business card.
- Form a team to pass out poems on the streets in your neighborhood on April 30.
- Distribute bookmarks with your favorite poetic lines.
- Add a poem to your email footer.
- Post a poem on your blog or social network page.
- Project a poem on a wall, inside or out.
- Text a poem to friends.

For more information about Alexandria's Poet Laureate program, National Poetry Month, Poem in Your Pocket Day, or other programs and activities offered by the Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts call 703-838-6348 or email: aca@alexandriava.gov.

Participating Businesses: Poem-in-Your-Pocket Day

Books-A-Million	503 King St Alexandria, Va 22304	703) 548-3432
Hooray for Books	1555 King Street, Alexandria, Va	(703) 836-2498
Aftertime Comics	1304 King St. Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)548-5030
Cokesbury Books & Church Supplies	3737 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA 22304	(703)370-6161
Nvcc Alexandria Campus Bookstore	3001 N Beauregard St. Alexandria Va 22311	(703)671-0043
Alexandria Pastry Shop & Cafe	3690 H & I King St, Alexandria, VA 22301	(703) 578-4144
Bread & Chocolate	611 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314	(703) 549-7524
Caboose Café & Bakery	2419 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria, Va	(703)566-1283
Chesapeake Bagel Bakery	3610A King St, Alexandria, VA 22302	(703) 379-6462
Firehook Bakery & Coffee House	214 N Fayette St. Alexandria, Va	(703) 519-8028
Firehook Bakery & Coffee House	105 S Union St. Alexandria, Va	(703)519-8021
Landmark Bakery & Café Incorporated	670 S Pickett St. Alexandria, Va	(703)370-7941
Mediterranean Bakery Incorporated	352 S Pickett St. Alexandria, Va 22304	(703)751-0030
Panera Bakery & Café	3201 Duke St, Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)751-1800
Bread & Chocolate	611 King St Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)548-0992
Cosi	700 King St Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)299-9833
La Madeleine Bakery Café	500 King St Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)739-2854
St. Elmo's coffee pub	2300 Mount Vernon Avenue Alexandria VA 22301	(703)739-9100
Starbucks Store King & Union	100 S. Union Street Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)-549-1752
Uptowner Café	101 Harvard St, Alexandria, Va 22314	(703)836-3162

City of Songs

Poems for Alexandria



Photo by Ernest Lilley

Mary McElveen
Poet Laureate
City of Alexandria
