

2023 DASHing Words in Motion Poets

Zeina Azzam is the poet laureate of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for 2022-2025. Her poems have been published widely and her chapbook, *Bayna Bayna, In-Between*, was released in 2021 by The Poetry Box. Her forthcoming poetry collection, *Some Things Never Leave You*, will be published in summer 2023 by Tiger Bark Press.

Kacie Candela is a debut poet. She delights in alliteration, onomatopoeia, and rhyme. Her professional career is in civil rights law and she holds a B.A. in English and a J.D. from Fordham University. Previously, she was a public radio journalist.

Christine Riccardi Coker, an Alexandria resident of 40 years, enjoys reading poetry and prose. She wrote this poem, based on three stanzas inspired by haiku, remembering her bus commuting days across the city.

Rose Dallimore is a proud English teacher, poet, playwright, friend, public transit lover, and advocate. She teaches 6th grade English at Francis C. Hammond Middle School and dedicates this poem to her students. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and hails from Chattanooga, Tennessee and New York City.

Christa Edwards, a poet who lives in Alexandria, started writing poetry in 2021. She writes from the heart, and her poems are based on her experiences. She hopes the words will inspire others in a meaningful way and will make a positive impact on the reader.

Jonathan Lewis is the author of the chapbook *Babel On* (Lines + Stars Press). His poetry has appeared in *The Northern Virginia Review*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, the *Washington Post*, and other publications. He is also the editor of *The Federal Poet*. He moved to Alexandria last year and loves it here!

Elizabeth Reese is a public historian and writer who is proud to call the City of Alexandria home. She is the author of the upcoming book, *Marquis de Lafayette's Tour of the National Capital Region*, which is scheduled for publication in 2024.

Anthony Smith enjoys words and writing. This contest is his first foray into poetry, though he has long been inspired by John Keats, Robert Frost, and Ogden Nash. He has called Alexandria home for 17 years.