

2026 DASHing Words in Motion

Brief Bios

Marta Ali. As a long-time resident of the City of Alexandria, over time, I've come to appreciate even more what DASH and the Trolley transportation system represent for our community — not only enabling travel from one place to another with ease but also facilitating connections and shared daily life experiences.

Marco Albergo. Since retiring, Marco has been volunteering for a local non-profit organization, refining his guitar skills, and he has “finally started writing” his first book. Marco is proud of his career as a Journalist and a Marketing Communications Specialist with several media companies.

Gayle Converse. The first woman broadcast news director in Southwest Virginia, Gayle Converse's career has included national television news production and serving as senior communications director for the Office of the United States Surgeon General. Her passions involve history, research, writing, walking, and volunteering for a myriad of Alexandria organizations.

Cristi Donoso Cristi Donoso serves as the 2025 – 2028 Poet Laureate of the City of Alexandria. Her writing has been published in various journals such as Pleiades, Waxwing, and The Cincinnati Review. She is a former PEN/Faulkner Writer in Residence and Fellow of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Her work often explores migration, girlhood, grief, and motherhood. She loves to write about the role of art in personal and public life, and advocates for accessibility in educational, literary, and creative spaces.

Carrie Hayner has lived in Alexandria for 10 years, moving from California at the tender age of 57. She loves to write poetry and creative essays and is inspired by Alexandria's many opportunities for community service, its history, and its beauty.

Jennifer Lee. Jennifer currently works for a court and is an evening law student. In her free time, she enjoys running with her mom, Sin Gi Jung, from whom she draws artistic inspiration, and exploring trails using GPS. At the end of her studies, if she gets the right to do so, she hopes to offer a warm helping hand to those who need it.

Noah Mink. Noah Mink lives in Del Ray with his wife and two children. Best known locally for his family's enthusiastic participation in their neighborhood's annual Halloween festivities, Noah also serves as an attorney for a government agency. His poems have primarily graced birthday and anniversary cards for family members. (pending)

Sophi Shi is a teenage writer interested in every aspect of art. When not armed with a pen and a dream, she can be found reading postwar Japanese literature, dabbling in film photography, knitting cable cardigans, or watching Batman movies!

Edmund Smith. Twenty years ago, I moved to Alexandria from the Finger Lakes region of upstate NY. I worked overnight in a hotel full time and as a part time dog walker. In 2020 I started my own dog walking business and left the hotel business for good. I have always had an interest in creative writing and poetry. My favorite writers are John Steinbeck, Robert Frost, and Seamus Heaney.