

POET LAUREATE ACTIVITIES

Mary McElveen (Poet Laureate 2007-2010)

READINGS/ WRITING REQUESTS:

Writing of original poems for the following occasions:

- Initial poem for City Council: "City of Songs" --2007
- Re-dedication of the Freedmen's Cemetery --2007
- Annual Alexandria Birthday Celebration—2008, 2009
- Re-dedication of T.C.Williams High School--2007
- The Alex Awards --2007
- Alex Awards—2008: Special Award to Mayor Euille—original poem
- Event sponsored by the Del Ray Artisans celebrating the arts--2007
- Alexandria Commission on Women, Salute to Women Awards Dinner --2009
- Dedication of the Charles Houston Recreation Center—2009
- Poem for retirement of City Councilman Ludwig Gaines--2009

Readings:

- poetry reading at local nursing home (Woodbine)--2007
- poetry cafe at a Fairfax County high school (West Springfield)--2007
- four poetry readings/ workshops for the Hollin Hall Senior Center—2007 thru 2009, also scheduled for May 2010
- the Alexandria Library's Alexandria Authors evening--2008
- the Yockadot Poetics Festival-2007
- painting class readings at the Torpedo Factory—2008, 2009
- reading for Retired Teachers Association (Alexandria), October 2008
- Greenspring Retirement Community reading—2009 (requested for 2010—unable to reach agreement on date)
- Hooray for Books: Saturday afternoon reading (Poetry Month)
- PIYP Day readings at Market Square (day), The Athenaeum (evening)
- US Patent Office Trademark Expo: Reader for children --2009

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Workshops:

- Writers' Walking Workshop—2007
- summer poetry workshop for developmentally disabled kids--2007
- after-school poetry workshop with 2nd graders--2008
- Charles Houston Recreation Center after school workshop for elementary school children—2009
- Hammond Middle School: 3 poetry workshops with 6th grade classes—2009
- Hammond Middle School: 5 poetry workshops for 6th grade classes—2010
- Del Ray Artisans summer art camp workshop—Summer, 2009

Speaking engagements/ Appearances:

- poetry slam for an Alexandria elementary school (Mt. Vernon Community

School)--2007

- Poetry Month speaker at an Alexandria elementary school assembly--2008
- the City's PTA Reflections contest, as judge and speaker at the awards ceremony--2008
- the City's elementary school poet laureate contest—2007, 2008, 2009
- a panel discussion on Gerard Manley Hopkins and his work sponsored by a local church--2008
- Read Across America program at Hammond Middle School-2008
- Poetry Speaker at Hammond Middle School—2009
- Stories in the Park--a library program for toddlers and their parents during the summer
- Assistance with an elementary school 'opera' about the city's role in the Revolution, the Civil War, and Reconstruction (George Mason Elementary)
- Mt. Vernon High School Poetry Expo: guest poet, April 2010

REPRESENTATION OF CITY AT LOCAL POETRY EVENTS:

- event at the German Embassy initiating a program of poetry cards in the Metro (2007)
- reading by the former poet laureate of Pennsylvania, Samuel Hazo, at a local university (2008)
- reading by Virginia poet laureate, Carolyn Foronda, at GMU (2007)
- appearance at the National Convention of the League of American Penwomen, held here in Alexandria (2008)

PROGRAMS:

Poem-in-Your-Pocket Day April, 2009

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