

Poets Laureate Program

Feb. 26, 2024

 **Nikki Winslow**, District Director

**Bringing PEOPLE + IDEAS together for an Altadena
where all are learning, growing, and thriving together**

Origin Story of Altadena Poets Laureate

- Program started on a Saturday afternoon in March 2003 with a conversation between poet/patron Ralph Lane and Pauli Dutton, former ALD director & poet
- First Poetry & Cookies event: 12 poets, photocopied handouts, and cookies
- Second Poetry & Cookies event: 15 poets, cookies, and a printed compilation of poems, which was cataloged and added to the district's collection
- Program grew and in 2004, chose first Poet Laureate Ralph Lane



Altadena Poets Laureate

- Ralph Lane | May 2006 — April 2008
- Marcia Thompson | May 2008 — April 2010
- Alene Terzian | May 2010 — April 2012
- Linda Dove | May 2012 — April 2014
- Thelma T. Reyna | May 2014 — April 2016
- Elline Lipkin | May 2016 — April 2018
- Hazel Clayton Harrison & Teresa Mei Chuc | May 2018 — April 2020
- Jessica Abughattas & Khadija Anderson | May 2020 — April 2022
- Peter J. Harris & Carla R. Sameth | May 2022 — April 2024

2022-2024 Poets Laureate

- Carla R. Sameth and Peter J. Harris chosen from many qualified candidates
- Created a season schedule, collaborated with marketing to create distribution list/newsletter
- Connected with many types of artists: dancers, painters, etc.
- Published 38 poets who wrote in synergy with the showcased work of 14 artists in Altadena Poetry Review (online)



2022-2023 Poets Laureate Season

- Held 12 livestreamed events (August 2022-April 2023)
- Events attended by more than 450 people
- Youtube videos viewed about 700 times



2023-2024 Poets Laureate Update

- Honored with fellowship/grant (along with only 22 other poets nationally) by the Academy of American Poets
- Hired a part-time admin to assist with programming demands
- Along with regular season (5 events), also hosting **Ode to the Land** series (4 events), bringing together senior citizens and high school students for workshops and readings



Peter J. Harris

Poet Laureate Fellow, Altadena, CA



Carla Rachel Sameth

Poet Laureate Fellow, Altadena, CA

Altadena Poets Laureate 2024-?

- Article highlighting Altadena Poets Laureate program and current poets scheduled to run in April *Altadena Neighbors*
- Next event (Feb. 27) of readings by 4 past Laureates received an excellent promotional write-up in *Pasadena Now*
- Deadline for applications for 2024-2026 Poets Laureate was Feb. 10. Ten poets applied, and there are some excellent candidates. Review committee comprised of past laureates will meet with current poets via Zoom on March 9.
- The poets will be publishing a hard-copy of *Altadena Poetry Review* in 2024 with Golden Foothills Press

THANK YOU!

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»» **Nikki Winslow**, District Director
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