

2024 DASHing Words in Motion – Poets' Bios

Zeina Azzam is the poet laureate of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for 2022-2025. Her poems have been published widely and she has two poetry collections: *Some Things Never Leave You* (Tiger Bark Press, 2023) and *Bayna Bayna, In-Between* (The Poetry Box, 2021). Zeina has been nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize.

Nathan Brownback has lived in northern Virginia since 2012, and in Alexandria since 2014. He is a husband, a father to two current (and one future) ACPS students, and a lawyer. This is the first piece of his poetry that has appeared anywhere publicly. He is grateful for the honor.

Kacie Candela is a civil rights lawyer and poet who delights in alliteration, onomatopoeia, and rhyme. Her poetry seeks to crystallize moments and explores themes such as human connection, household objects, and the natural world. Her work has been displayed by the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Alex Carrigan is an editor, poet, and critic from Alexandria. He is the author of *Now Let's Get Brunch: A Collection of RuPaul's Drag Race Twitter Poetry* (Querencia Press, 2023) and *May All Our Pain Be Champagne: A Collection of Real Housewives Twitter Poetry* (Alien Buddha Press, 2022).

Meredith D'Amore is a mother and artist fascinated by the interactions between the natural and built environment. Pulled by her son Elliott's enthusiasm for transit, the two can be found, sketchbooks in hand, weaving together a homeschool curriculum of museums, galleries, libraries, parks, and historic sites throughout the Alexandria area.

Peter Heimberg is a working physicist and youth tennis coach. He has been an Alexandria resident for over 25 years. A lifetime consumer of poetry, Peter has been actively writing for the past eight years and believes in the power of poetry to explain, to affect change, and to enhance our lives.

Stephen Lally is a potter and psychologist. He has been a resident of Alexandria since 1989, living in the Del Ray area since 1997. Stephen is married with three children and has an overly affectionate, 70-pound dog named Mac.

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. Jonathan is also a winner of the *Alexandria Haiku Project* contest and the *Golden Haiku* contest.

Jennifer Veech is a writer, editor, and teacher. She works with writers from elementary school to graduate school; otherwise, she's outside on her bike, in the garden, or tromping about.