

Patricia Gomes Named New Bedford Poet Laureate



Patricia Gomes

Mayor Jon Mitchell appointed Patricia Gomes as the City of New Bedford's new Poet Laureate. The Mayor announced the appointment earlier today during an event at the Renaissance Community School for the Arts hosted by the Greater New Bedford Writers' Block, in celebration of National Poetry Month.

"I am honored and excited to appoint Patricia Gomes as New Bedford's new Poet Laureate," said Mayor Mitchell. "Patricia is a New Bedford native and an award-winning poet and author. She is already engaging the community with her poetry and is eager to help celebrate our city's beauty and diversity. I am confident that Patricia will represent New Bedford well during her term as Poet Laureate."

Patricia Gomes said, "As a life-long resident of this loving city, I will do my very best to make its citizenry proud and promote the literary arts and in all forms. I look forward to a productive term as New Bedford's Poet Laureate."

The New Bedford Poet Laureate position is a three-year appointment to commence on May 1, 2014. The Poet Laureate's duties will include raising public awareness of poetry throughout the community, engaging New Bedford Public Schools

to enhance the teaching of poetry in the classroom, and creating poems for specific occasions as requested by the Mayor.

It has been several years since New Bedford has had an active Poet Laureate. The last two poets to receive the honor were John Landry, named in 2007 and Everett Hoagland, who served from 1994 to 1998.

This was first time the City invited poets to apply for the position under the auspices of the New Bedford Cultural Council. A five-member sub-committee of the body oversaw the application and selection process, and ultimately made a final recommendation to the Mayor.

About Patricia Gomes, New Bedford Poet Laureate

Creator of the Octologue, an 8-line syllabic form of poetry, award winning poet/author Patricia Gomes has been published in countless literary journals and anthologies, both in print and electronically. She is the author of four chapbooks and performs her work extensively throughout the New England area in addition to running poetry workshops and hosting poetry venues in and around the greater New Bedford area.

Ms. Gomes was the editor of *Adagio Verse Quarterly* from 2002 until 2009. From 2001 until 2013, she was the on-line poetry moderator of iVillage's (ivillage.com) Poets Workshop, a division of NBC. 2005 brought a Second Place win with her poem, *Elsie Cardoza* at the Narrows Center for the Arts Poetry competition in Fall River, MA. She earned a 2008 Pushcart prize nomination from the publishers of *Mannequin Envy* for her (2007) poem, *One Man's Claret*. In 2009, Ms. Gomes was a finalist in the annual Mattia Family Poetry Contest in Canada. In 2010, Ms. Gomes won first place in the Dave L. Osgood Poetry Competition. In addition to the United States, Ms. Gomes' work has been published in the UK, Australia, Canada, and India.

In 2013, Ms. Gomes was published (print) in *Maintant 7's Dada Issue* by *Three Rooms Press*. The book was launched in Paris, France. She is a co-founder of the GNB Writers' Block workshop in New Bedford, MA, an active member of the Bartley Scrivener Poetry Group in Dartmouth, MA, the Massachusetts State Poetry Society, the Cape Cod Literary Press, and the New England Horror Writers Association. Ms. Gomes is currently serving her second term as president of Gallery X.

Recent publications include: *Unlikely Stories*, *Chlorine Gunsmoke*, *Black Cat Lit*, *The Bay State Echo*, *Blue Fifth Review*, and *Rose Red Review*.