

## **Press Release-For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Beverly Lenihan, CFRE  
(m) 408-981-6066  
bev@reresults.com

### ***Cupertino Poet Laureate Applications for 2016-17 Term Are Open*** **Entries due by 5PM July 10, 2015**

**MAY 21, 2015 -- CUPERTINO, CA**—Applications are now being accepted for the 2016-17 Cupertino Poet Laureate term. Application forms are available through: [www.PoetLaureate@cupertino.org](mailto:www.PoetLaureate@cupertino.org), City Hall Reception Desk, the Cupertino Library Reference Desk and at various locations throughout the city.

Interested individuals will need to submit the written application, along with three to five original poems, and two letters of recommendation. The applications and accompanying materials should be addressed to the Cupertino Poet Laureate Selection Committee and delivered to Cupertino City Hall no later than 5pm July 10, 2015.

The other requirements have been broadened for this two-year term. In addition to applicants needing to be at least 21 years of age, the adult must be an active poet, been published or recognized publicly for his or her contributions to poetry. Two consecutive years of living or working in Cupertino have always been required. This application process has widened the pool of prospects to those who have two consecutive years of demonstrable ties to Cupertino. An honorarium of \$500 each year is being offered to the 2016-17 Cupertino Poet Laureate by the Cupertino Library Foundation.

“My two-year term as Poet Laureate has gone so quickly,” remarked current Cupertino Laureate, Jennifer Swanton Brown. “It has been so rewarding engaging with different groups throughout the community. I believe we have awakened more youth and older adults to the variety of poetry styles.” Dave Denny, Cupertino’s first Poet Laureate concurs, and both are actively involved in the selection committee.

In December 2010, the City Council of Cupertino unanimously adopted a resolution put forth by the Library Commission establishing the office of the Cupertino Poet Laureate. During the two years that the Cupertino Poet Laureate presides there are personal presentations and hosted educational events. The Laureate will introduce adults and youth to the benefits of personal and community expression which, among other qualities, highlight the benefits of living and working in Cupertino.

“This third term will begin officially January 1 and continue through December 31, 2017,” clarified Bev Lenihan, member of the Cupertino Poet Laureate Selection Committee. “The past two terms have started in October, but the past two Poets Laureate and we believe the success of the program lies in giving the new appointee time to plan for his or her term.” Interviews will be held with the Selection Committee the later part of July, and a recommendation made to City Council through the Library Commission in August.

The Cupertino Poet Laureate program is co-sponsored by the City of Cupertino, the Cupertino Library Commission, the Cupertino Library Foundation, and Friends of the Cupertino Library. Members of the Poet Laureate Selection Committee are: The members are Ann Stevenson from the Cupertino Library Commission; Kathy Stakey, The Friends of the Cupertino Library; Deborah Vanni, English Teacher in the Fremont Union High School District; Jennifer Swanton Brown, current Poet Laureate; Dave Denny, past Poet Laureate; Pushpa MacFarlane, area educator; Beverly Lenihan, Cupertino Library Foundation; Adrian Kolb, community leader. Gayathri Kanth, Cupertino Librarian, is a resource to the Committee.

Visit [www.cupertinopoetlaureate.org](http://www.cupertinopoetlaureate.org), or follow the program on Facebook. # # #