

Andrea Barton is a mother, a daughter, a poet, a teacher, and now a Poet Laureate, in that order. Her work has appeared in publications such as *The Labletter*, *The Cleave Webzine*, *Broken Publications*, (a journal of domestic violence,) *Haiku Journal #42*, and *Bards Against Hunger Anthology*. In 2010, she published *Leaves Pasted Akimbo, Poems for my Daughter*. Most recently, she and some other local poets (including Jim Finnegan) published an anthology, *Shadows from Unfinished Things*. In 2021, she was appointed as Poet Laureate of the Town of Glastonbury. She has taught Creative Writing, Poetry, American Lit, and Communications at RHAM High School in Hebron, CT for 26 years. She and her 20-year-old daughter live on 4 acres of ticks and spiders and yard work in Glastonbury, CT.

Tony Fusco is the Poet Laureate of the City of West Haven and Past President of the Connecticut Poetry Society. He has a master's degree in Creative Writing from Southern Connecticut State University. He was the editor of *Caduceus*, the anthology of the Yale Medical Group, past editor of *The Connecticut River Review*, and *Long River Run*. He has published six books of poetry, *Lost in the Brain Fog* (2023), *Don't Make Me Laugh* (2019), *Extinction* (2018), *Java Scripture* (2014), *Droplines* (2010), and *Jessie's Garden* (2003). His poetry won The Sunken Garden Poetry Prize. A life-long resident of West Haven, Connecticut, his writing is infused with the local flavor of growing up a Catholic Italian, and with memories of the now defunct Savin Rock Amusement Park as well as working at the Yale School of Medicine.

Benjamin S. Grossberg's books of poetry include *My Husband Would* (University of Tampa, 2020), winner of the 2021 Connecticut Book Award, and *Sweet Core Orchard* (University of Tampa, 2009), winner of a Lambda Literary Award. He also wrote the novel, *The Spring Before Obergefell* (University of Nebraska Press, 2024), winner of the 2023 AWP Award Series James Alan McPherson Prize. He directs the Creative Writing concentration at the University of Hartford.

Anthony Patichio is Ashford, Connecticut's Poet Laureate. His poetry has appeared in *Feed Literary Magazine*, *Hedgehog Poetry* anthologies, *Black Bough Poetry* anthologies, *Cape Magazine*, and *New Square Literary Magazine*.

Virginia Shreve's poetry has been published in a variety of journals and anthologies, including the *Southern Poetry Review*, *Slippery Elm*, *Naugatuck River Review* (1st prize 2015 contest, and nominated for a Pushcart Prize), *Phantom Drift*, *Crucible*, *Local Gems Poetry Press' Goddess*, *BEAT-itude*, and *NW CT Poets*, and online at *Your Daily Poem*. She has participated and performed at many Word Art and Spoken Word events, and poetry readings, in libraries, art galleries, theaters, barrooms, doctors' offices, alleys, and outdoors in rain and sun and dark of night. She lives in Collinsville.

Faith Vicinanza is the inaugural Poet Laureate for Southbury, CT. She has served as a Master Teaching Artist in Poetry for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, as editor for several literary magazines, and as the founder and director of the Connecticut Poetry Festival (1997, 2001, 2003). She is the author of four collections of poetry, her fifth and sixth collections due out in 2024 include *Breathe* from Stairwell Books, York, England. A member of two national slam poetry teams, she competed in National Poetry Slam Championships in 1994 and 1996. She was a member of the U.S. Slam Team that competed in Sweden in 1997, as well as the executive director of the 1997 National Poetry Slam Championships held in Middletown CT. She was the recipient of the 2003 Connecticut Commission on the Arts Advocate for the Arts Award. A visual artist, she is the proprietor of Vicinanza Studios & Gallery, LLC in Southbury, CT.