

## **Biography for Cupertino Poet Laureate**

Amanda Williamsen

July 30, 2015

Amanda Williamsen is a poet, parent, and educator who have lived in Cupertino for nine years. She has taught writing and literature at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Alabama, Capital University, and Pinewood School in Los Altos Hills. Additionally, she has served as a poet-in-residence for the Nueva School in Hillsborough, and she has been invited to lead a one-day creative writing workshop at St. Stephen Lutheran School in Mountain View, planned for fall of 2015. When her older child entered kindergarten, she volunteered four hours each week in his classroom at Christa McAuliffe School.

Her writing style includes stichic narratives, prose poems, lyric free verse, and traditional sonnets and villanelles, and her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Fabulist*, *The Baltimore Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Midwestern Gothic*, and other publications. Currently, she is working on a series of poems about growing up along a river in rural Ohio. Her collection, which she intends to become her first book, explores the influence of landscape and the thematic dichotomies of fire and water, ice and flood, parent and child, and summer and winter. It is essentially a memoir. As the Cupertino Poet Laureate, she hopes that one of her projects can be to offer our elders an inspiring forum to create or enhance their memoirs through poetry.

She is very excited about becoming our third Poet Laureate and looks forward to promoting poetry in our city.