

Title **Dominic Triglia** 03/09/2023
by **Dominic Triglia** in **Napa County Poet Laureate - 2023** id. 35918354
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

Original Submission 03/09/2023

Applicant Full Name **Dominic Triglia**

Email Address [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Check to Confirm: **Applicant is 18 years or older**
Applicant's primary residence is in Napa County, CA

Phone: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]
Calistoga, Ca. 94515
This is my current street address. We recently moved to this address. In the box that asks for proof of residency I used our last address. We have a PO Box so it's tough to find a street address in our correspondence to use. Please contact me for clarification.

Mailing Address (if different from Street Address): [REDACTED]
Calistoga, Ca. 94515

Why do you want to be the Poet Laureate?
I love poetry. I love poetry in all its forms. I have been active in the poetry of Napa Valley for 46 years. In that time I've made many friends and contacts in the writing community. Through their help, I can draw on them to create exciting events. Both the last two Poet Laureate's of Napa County are close friends. I've been directly involved with the programs they produced through the last four years. From my experience, I believe I can carry out traditions they've made while in the position, and add new ideas to implement as the new PL.
I love seeing people grow as poets. I recently conducted a poetry workshop in Fairfield on the making of chapbooks. One person got up to read their poem and started to apologize for her work before she read it. What she felt and said is not unusual for people to express when reading in public. I told her to own her work. Get up and be proud of her piece. Don't apologize for your creativity. I believe she grew as a poet that day. I love helping people gain confidence in their writing and presenting. I love poetry.

What would your top three priorities be as Poet Laureate?

- 1. To continue the traditions created by past Poet Laureates.**
- 2. Engage with poets of all ages in the County and bring them out in the open. I know many people who write poetry and never share their work. I also know poets from the Valley who were active years ago. I'd try to lure them back to sharing their poetry with the community.**
- 3. Work on getting video equipment and or volunteers to film poetry events. I would like to see events recorded for future generations to view.**

As Poet Laureate, how would you engage with the community?

I have many contacts from Calistoga to Yountville. I would work hard to make a presence in Napa, the largest city in the county. One of my ideas would be to have a booth supporting poetry at the Farmer's Market in Napa. Also to have readings in Napa at local bookstores and the Napa Library.

I plan to have a discussion with my good friend and fellow poet Richard Talavera about how to engage the Latino community for events involving poetry.

I plan to have events that involves and includes the LGBTQ community.

I look forward to working with teachers to bring poetry into the schools.

I want to tap the young people in their 20's and 30's to express themselves through poetry. Far too often the events I attend are filled with seniors. That's not a bad thing, but I'd like to see more young people attend poetry events.

Proof of residence in Napa County, CA (Copy of official mail with applicant name and address)

[IMG-7255.jpg](#)

Letter of Intent

[Application_Letter.doc](#)

Resume

[Resume_for_PL.pdf](#)

Letter of Support/Recommendation

[Nick_Letter_of_Rec.pdf](#)

5 Supporting Poems (Text, Video, or Audio format)

[BECAUSE_OF_YOU_I_WALK_THE_VINES.docx](#)

[IN_THE_VALLEY_OF_TASTING_ROOMS_Autosaved.docx](#)

[PUT_THE_MAIL_IN_THE_BOX.pdf](#)

[URBAN_HAIKU_NEWS_CHAIN_MIGRATION.pdf](#)

[The_question_is.docx](#)

Open Letter to the
Arts Council Napa Valley
Napa County Board of Supervisors

I am applying for the position of Poet Laureate of Napa County. For over 40 years I've been active in the Poetry Community of the Valley. With my experience I feel it is time to use my powers to lead the Poetry of the Valley to new areas and heights along with carrying on the traditions of past Poet Laureates. I don't take this responsibility lightly. I've seen the hard work that both Jeremy Benson and Marianne Lyon have put in as Poet Laureate.

I am up for the challenge.

Listed in this application is my resume. I hope you take into consideration the number of events I've been involved in through the years, and consider me a worthy candidate for the position.

Sincerely,
Dominic (Nick) Triglia

Dear Christopher, Anthony, and the Napa County Board of Supervisors,

please consider appointing Nick Triglia to the post of Poet Laureate of Napa County. Having some insight into the role, I believe Nick is a deserving candidate for the mantle. He already performs many of the tasks asked of, expected from, or hoped for in a Poet Laureate. For all intents, Nick was my unofficial deputy during my term, but I was his right-hand man for many of the events we co-produced. Nick has a passion for poetry, is a natural community builder, and has a knack for producing events. To boot, he is a life-long resident of Napa County.

I met Nick soon after my appointment to Poet Laureate, when he eavesdropped on an interview I gave to his friend Yvonne Henry for the Calistoga Tribune. He had agreed to be a silent spectator during the interview, but he let a torrent of questions and comments flow over lunch. He then asked me to perform at the Storytelling Speakeasy, an event he organized for Arts in April, and soon, we were meeting regularly over wine and cheese to talk about poetry.

Which brings me to the first requisite quality one should have to earn their laurels: a passion for poetry. Of course, Nick writes poems, and continues to learn and hone his craft. He is part mad scientist--what if he electrocutes this idea, this emotion?--and part memoirist. He loves word-play and social absurdity like George Carlin, and silliness and sorrow like Richard Brautigan. Nick's poems are funny and touching and frustrated: they are human. As a performer and emcee, Nick plays his voice like a well-conducted orchestra, pulling audiences in.

Nick seeks out readings and gatherings in the Valley and beyond, often organizing small pilgrimages to Petaluma's Poetry Walk, or to San Francisco's City Lights bookstore and the Beat Museum (to which Nick has loaned, from his collection, a rare postcard signed and doodled by Jack Kerouac). Nick has judged the Poetry Out Loud competition for Napa County teens. Nick maintains a long email list of poetically-interests acquaintances, which he uses to share his delight in newly discovered poems.

Which brings me to the second requisite quality of a Poet Laureate: community. Nick invites people in, shows they are welcome. It helps, here, that Nick has lived in Napa Valley most of his life--so he knows a lot of its residents, and continues to tell its oral histories. During the pandemic, Nick helped launch a monthly writing group and featured-reader series held on Zoom; he also started a chapbook exchange he calls the Witness Protection Program Poets. In the events that he and I co-produced, Nick sought to include poets and writers of all ages and identities: Nick is eager to include everyone. Nick celebrates the work of others in the community, as he did earlier this year, when he and Marianne Lyon surprised local writer Bob Winters with a reading of his work on his birthday.

Which brings me to the third requisite: event organizing. Nick has always been gathering people together to have fun with words. In the time that I've known him, he has produced the standing-room-only Speakeasy Storytelling events in Calistoga with the Arts Council and on his own. He has worked closely with Chris Rogers of the Tucker Farm Center to host readings, classes, and open-mics at the landmark hall. With Marianne Lyon, Nick has taught chapbook-making workshops in Napa County and beyond. Nick produces these events with pride--he understands it is sometimes, but not always, as simple as gathering people with similar interests, but sometimes an event is an Event, a show, it's entertainment. As he attends events, he notes which readers he and the audience respond to, and he then invites them to perform at his events--he has booked Oakland poet Richard Loranger, and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Forrest Gander.

Nick is a great choice for Poet Laureate, and I can't recommend him enough.

Thanks,
Jeremy Benson
Napa County Poet Laureate Emeritus
March 8, 2023

Resume: I don't have a degree from College. In one of my poems I wrote that...at the age of 56 I'm still a Junior in College. In my twenties I took a creative writing course through Napa College extension in Calistoga. The instructor was Michael Dow. In 2016 I took the same class offered at the St. Helena campus. The instructor was Ana Manwaring. I also attended a writing course by Ana Manwaring at the Rhianda House until the pandemic hit.

1. In 1977, at the age of 26, was the first time I read my poetry in a small bar and restaurant in Calistoga.
2. After that first time, I co-produced many readings and open mics in Calistoga.
3. In the late 70's and early 80's I read poetry in venues in Yountville and Guerneville.
4. Through the 80's and 90's I was involved in an ever changing critique group of writers.
5. In 1992 a friend of mine and I had a poetry and prose marathon of readers. It went from 7am to 7pm. It was held at the Calistoga Roastery. We gathered 48 readers! Readers were allotted 15 minutes. We raised money for the Local Food Bank. My friend moved and the next year I continued the marathon, although it was less hours. I think it was 10 am to 7pm.
6. Calistoga hosted the Relay for Life for a number of years in the early 2000's. To raise money for Relay I brought back the marathon. It was also hosted by the Roastery. Since there was already a Mustard Festival, I dubbed it the Ketchup Festival. I employed ages from 7 to 70 and beyond to read at this event.
7. I have two writer friends who keep in contact by email. We share our work frequently to comment and critique.
8. For many years I co-hosted bi-monthly poetry readings at the Calistoga Roastery.
9. Since 2002 till the present I've written over a dozen 'oral history' stories for the Calistoga Tribune, a weekly newspaper. Although its been a few years since I've written for the paper. In 2005 I won a first place award for one of my stories from the California Newspapers Association. The story was titled The Polenta Club.
10. In 2018 I won first place in the Jessamyn West poetry contest for the poem Urban Haiku News Chain Migration.
11. In 2017 I was asked by Danielle Grant to produce the Storytellers event in conjunction with Arts in April at Tank Winery in Calistoga. The event was standing room only. I put the same event on the next year at Tank and then moved it to Tucker Farm Center the next year.
12. In 2018 I co-produced a reading of writers from the Broken Nose Collective at Tucker Farm Center. We had over a 100 people show for the event!
13. In April of 2019 I put on a poetry event titled Poetry Palooza. I employed 15 people to read at the event.
14. In 2019 I was invited to join the Broken Nose Collective Chapbook Exchange. I've since written 5 chapbooks and am working on my 6th.
15. In 2020 I started my own chapbook exchange group called the Witness Protection Program Poets. I've conducted two rounds of exchanges. The combined rounds has included over 35 people.
16. In 2020, due to the pandemic, I co-produced a monthly zoom meeting titled the FUNdamentalists with Ana Manwaring. Each month we'd bring a guest speaker. The list of guests includes Iris Dunckle, Poet Laureate Emeritus of Sonoma County and Forrest Gander, Pulitzer Prize winner, along with Georgina Marie Guardado, current Pet Laureate of Lake County. I stayed involved with the group for 18 months.
17. In 2022, I co-produced a Chapbook Workshop at the Napa Library with Marianne Lyon. We did another Chapbook Workshop last month at the Fairfield Library.
18. In January I produced a Poetry reading at the Saint Helena Library in honor of Bob Winters and his work in poetry. Bob has Parkinson's disease and is unable to read in public. In coordination with Bob's wife Colleen, we employed ten people to read Bob's work.

19. On the 18th of this month I'll be reading Bob Winter's poetry at Copperfield's in Calistoga.
20. In January I produced a gathering of relatives and friends of Richard Talavara to celebrate Richard's Birthday. People read poems and stories to Richard.
21. Once a month I attend a gathering of up to 14 writers at Hill Winery in Yountville. We read and critique each other's work.

IN THE VALLEY OF TASTING ROOMS

I'm tasting wine today,
by appointment only
I have a spit bucket,
but won't use it,
who wants to clean
a spit bucket?

A sign in my tasting
room reads: No swirling
wine in your glass,
it makes me dizzy.

The words floral, black
cherry, persimmon, leather,
pear, tobacco, peach, barnyard,
berry, wet dog hair,
bell pepper, earthy,
cacao, cat pee, hazelnut
stone fruit, smoky, cedar,
ginger, diesel, vanilla,
graham cracker,
and especially cassis,
are strictly forbidden to
say when tasting
wine in my tasting room

No talking is allowed in
the Wine
Library and is strictly

enforced, the tasting room
includes showers
and locker rooms for
Wine Club members only.

I opened without a permit
to the public for private
tastings, after 2 months I
turned myself in to
the County Supervisors
for running an
illegal Tasting Room,

I demanded a hearing!

At the hearing I expect to
be allowed fifteen parking
spaces, an access road
to a future winery facility,
a no limit use to ground water,
and the ability to conduct concerts,
weddings, baptisms,
funerals and exorcisms.

My life is funky
but chic, I wear
a faded blue shirt
and jeans with
a holster on my
belt for pruning
shears, in my back

pocket is a red
bandana for various
uses—a head
band (to relate to my
workers), scarf
(to relate to the
tourists), or—to blow
my nose (to relate to
people with allergies.)

I'm known as a Cab
farmer, the kind
of farmer who sits
in the cab of an air-
conditioned truck
and watches his
workers tend to the vines.

Orange County Fair
Wine Competition
awarded me numerous
Bronze ribbons and
now I own
a trophy wife.

I've renamed my dog Pinot,
call my house a Chateau,
drive a pickup with a winery logo,
and changed my name to Marcello.

My grapes are from small
lots of 100 year old vines,

blended with juice trucked
in tankers from Lodi California.

The wine pairing suggestions
on the back label of
the bottle read:
*Granny Goose Potato
Chips or Lamb.*

The sign facing the
highway reads:
We make Bitchin' Wine!

The gift shop guests can buy
stemmed-glasses
for target practice,
and tee-shirts that read
*Glassy-winged Sharp
Shooter Breeder*
on the front... and on the back,
It takes a Spillage.

It's time to close
my tasting room
for the day,
time to drink a
bottle of wine

PUT THE MAIL IN THE BOX I

Put the mail in the box, go to the next box
Put the mail in the box, go to the next box
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All work and no play makes Nick a dull boy
All work and no play makes Nick a dull boy
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PUT THE MAIL IN THE BOX II

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Put the mail in the box, go to the next box
Put the mail in the box, go to the next box
STOP look at the mail.
Go back to the last box, look at the mail,
take the mail back to the box before that,
put the correct mail in the box,
go to the next box,
put the correct mail in the box,
go to the next box,
put the mail in the box, go to the next box.

PUT THE MAIL IN THE BOX III

Everyday is the same
Everyday is different

Put the mail in the box, pick up nails off
the street, put the mail in the box, pick up
daily paper, walk up to porch, drop it near
the door, put the mail in the box, water
flowers in the summer, knowing residents
are away, put the mail in the box, help
move a piece of furniture into a bedroom,
put the mail in the box, help start

lawnmower, put the mail in the box, turn off hose left on by mistake, put the mail in the box, jump start a car by pushing down the street, put the mail in the box, help a woman turn on the water to the residence, put the mail in the box, speak to single senior daily, watch for signs of failing, put the mail in the box, pull off shoe of child whose foot is caught in spoke of bicycle, put the mail in the box, hear a call for help, find neighbor who has the key to trailer, pull out elderly naked woman stuck in bath tub, put the mail in the box, place crying barefoot three year old in mailbag and return her two doors back to grandparents' house, put the mail in the box, woman screams that her brother was not responding in motor home parked near curb, she removes faithful pit bull, I enter and find he's dead, push on chest and yell his name until EMTs come, put the mail in the box, read postcards while walking down the street, put the mail in the box, eat homemade chocolate chip cookies given to me on front porch, put the mail in the box, place the mail on TV tray inside the house for invalid, put the mail in the box, overpay the lemonade stand attendant, put the mail in the box, go to the next box.

The question is:
"Who is your favorite poet?
The answer determines which
part
of
heaven
or
hell
is expecting you." YH.

ANSWER

My pick is William Blake
I'll take the fire in the lake
or Howl all the night in
Reality Sandwich with
Allen Ginsberg at my side
Rod McKuen's poetic spell
would be my personal hell
William Carlos Williams
with his "no ideas but in things"
I'd taste the plum and see
the red wagon in his
Patterson Paradise
Theodore Roethke'd help me
wake to sleep in my dream
Maya Angelou cage
my heart to sing and know why
she is a worthy pick
or
Ogden Nash's candy and liquor
for an afterlife of limerick
Swim in the ancient dusty rivers
of Langston Hughes
or
count small boned bodies with
Robert Bly,
hear the deaf mutes muffled roaring
trapped in a building filled with smoke,
with Denise Levertov,
feel the itch of hay dust in sweaty shirt
of Gary Snyder,
and I, with John Berryman ask relevant
questions of Mr. Bones.
It is not an easy pick,
I'd rather take a dozen over one and
follow this band

through all the depth and misery
take my chances with their
heaven and hell,
so I could be in good company.

URBAN HAIKU NEWS CHAIN MIGRATION

- I. Orange light filled with greed
What have we done Almighty?
Dim bulb shine no more
- II. Flu bug kills baby
Parents wail their grief to God
God grants men home runs
- III. AR-15 fires
Bullet pierce student body
Playground now kill field
- IV. Blood stains Science class
Fear the new curriculum
Second Amendment
- V. Nightly News reports
ICE catches one illegal
How many broken hearts?