

SOUTHBURY MAKERS SPOTLIGHT



Faith Vicinanza, Artist and Southbury Poet Laureate

Faith Vicinanza has worn many hats throughout her creative and professional career: hedge fund consultant, ballroom dancer, photographer, painter. Most recently, this multi-talented Southbury resident was also named the very first town Poet Laureate.

Poetry has always played a big role in her life. Originally inspired by her mother, who was also a poet, Vicinanza draws on personal experiences to shape her craft. "I work full time and do ballroom dance four nights a week," says Vicinanza. "I'm a photographer, painter, and grandmother. My life is very hectic and I live by the premise that everything and anything is subject for a poem. I write best under pressure, forcing myself to put time aside and usually with a project in mind."

Vicinanza hopes to use her role as Poet Laureate as means to share these skills with the community. "I have been providing poetry programs for decades, in libraries, in school, at retreat weekends, at the college level as a visiting artist, as a private tutor to other poets, and as a manuscript editor," says Vicinanza. "I am thrilled to have this opportunity to bring poetry, poetry advocacy, and community through the arts to Southbury, not that any of that is new, I am joining a long line of great local talent, and thrilled to do so."

After a medical crisis four years ago, Vicinanza found solace and meditation through painting. Her process involves intricate patterns formed from tiny, multi-colored dots of paint. Her paintings are currently on view at Gallery 25 in New Milford, though her primary focus is on two new books of poetry and a memoir. Her most recent book, "Arturo", is available directly through the author and will soon be on her website and on Amazon.

When asked what piece of advice she would give an aspiring artist or poet, she cited a favorite quote: "Leap and the net shall appear!" She continued, "I have long been a fan of leaping, and sometimes it gets me in trouble, but I'm always up for an adventure – poetry is its own adventure – tally ho!"

For more information about this month's maker, or if you are interested in being featured in an upcoming issue of the Southbury Makers Spotlight, please contact us at edcsouthburymakers@gmail.com.

POETRY BY FAITH

Mother

*We gather wild raspberries
in late afternoon, your hands
always ready to receive.
Where the brook widens, water
pools cool against the bank.
How, after all these years,
have we come to stand
on the same side?*

Angel

*He is five, singing in a tub
brimming with bubbles,

surrounded by super-duper
heroes, both genders, some alien,

some he fancies himself becoming --
his voice a bright wish.*

WHERE TO FIND THEM

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