

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Sunday, November 15, 2020

Portsmouth Mask Ordinance now in effect. Do your part. Wear a mask.

Deaths to date from COVID-19: US: 246,210. NH: 498.

Cumulative cases: US: 11,159,000. NH: 13,929.

Current cases in NH: 2,743.

Note: NH Department of Health & Human Services dashboard is currently being upgraded. Access restored by 4 pm on Monday, November 16.

Click here for the entire Advisory collection of poems by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Tammi Truax.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/portsmouth-poet-laureate>

This morning I was inspired by Emily Dickinson's famous poem, Because I could not stop for Death (479). This is a tribute to it, to her and to this moment in time. The style can be called slant rhyme.

Because I'd Rather Not Stop for Death

Almost hear the Carriage coming
perhaps a month or two away;
the horse's heads, bearing bells
jingle gently as they sway.

Again -- I tighten my Tippet
across my troubled face
halt the gossamer of my air,
share nary one embrace.

For another day I'll stay alive --
quite busy tending Children
while and where they strive.
I've not yet put away my labor

but every leisure, as for now,
those that don't propound
to shelve their wants and wishes
--do drive the Carriage 'round.

-- Tammi J Truax

Portsmouth Poet Laureate 2019-2021/Maine Beat Poet Laureate 2018-2020

Tammi also announces the Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program "A Bridge to Japan: A Poetry Broadside Contest." The digital poetry broadside contest offers two categories for entries: Adult and Youth (age 17 and younger) and will be judged by poet and translator Patrick Donnelly. Winning entries will be awarded cash prizes and the broadside will be gifted to Portsmouth's sister city, Nichinan, Japan. Entries should be one original poem of 30 lines or less, in English or English and Japanese, and not published elsewhere. The work should show a Japanese influence in the poem and/or accompanying art and the broadside should be no larger than 11 x 17 inches. Entries (maximum of 2 per person). Deadline: midnight Jan. 31, 2021. For full details and rules, click here.

https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/Broadside_contest.pdf