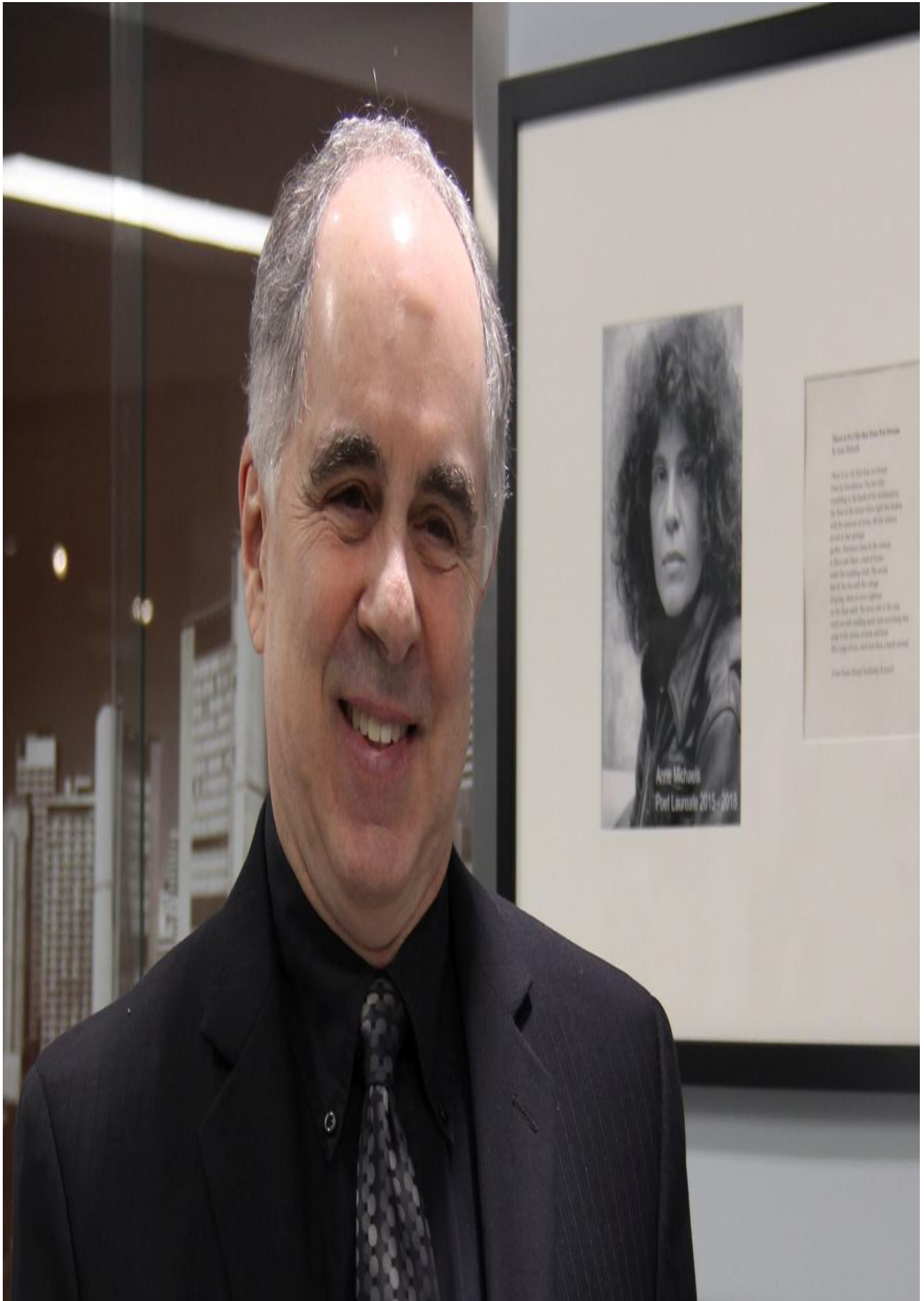


Read Toronto poet laureate Al Moritz's poem commemorating van attack tragedy

Moritz, Albert F . The Toronto Star (Online) , Toronto: Torstar Syndication Services, a Division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. Apr 23, 2019.

[ProQuest document link](#)

FULL TEXT



The City of Toronto's poet laureate, Albert F. Moritz, wrote this to commemorate the first anniversary of the Yonge

Street van attack, which occurred on April 23, 2018. He read it aloud at the city's memorial at North York's Mel Lastman Square, near the site of the attack, on Tuesday. We are running it here in its entirety.

Their Charge of Love

Yonge Street Tragedy Commemoration Poem

23 April 2019

1

Let me remember you each minute:
yes, in this monument and ceremony,
but more in my heart. My heart—
what is it, and where is it?
Now it is the place in me, the centre of me
that is holy because you are in it.
You live there now, perpetually.
You come back home there again and again,
the same way you used to walk in the door,
and you move and talk and work with me.
And suddenly I am poor no more.
I always hear you, singing within.
Because you are there, my singing heart
is more than just a dream, a tiny part
of me—it's the whole of me, it's why I feel
a hope that is true. Out of all the good
and evil things there are,
this hope is the thing most real.
This truth of you: that we'll
meet face to face once more.

2

For us, now, April arises,
beautiful fountain,
and they come back to us
through its foam of flowers
smiling, and they tell us,
"Don't be anxious
about remembering.
You'll never forget
because we're with you."
They're with us here
still making the choice
they always made—
to rejoice.
If they ever saw anyone
hurt another,
they would run,
whatever the danger,
to the hurt one's aid.
This is the way they lived,
how they believed

what every day they did,
a glory
we hear them calling
us to be worthy of:
if there ever comes any
charge of harm,
to answer it
with their charge of love.
Here in North York,
again we pick up
the beautiful work:
our daily happiness,
daily pain and daily bread,
with them beside us,
inside of us
planting and building
(beyond so many
Aprils of springs and flowers
that have gone back
to winter and died),
the human April
that is like they are:
fountain ever living,
unwavering spring tide.

—A. F. Moritz

28 March –10 April 2019

CAPTION: Al (A.F.) Moritz, is pictured the day he became Toronto's new Poet Laureate. The city says the four-year appointment is for a "literary ambassador."

CREDIT: Albert F. Moritz

DETAILS

Subject:	Poets; Anniversaries
Publication title:	The Toronto Star (Online); Toronto
Publication year:	2019
Publication date:	Apr 23, 2019
Section:	Entertainment
Publisher:	Torstar Syndication Services, a Division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited
Place of publication:	Toronto
Country of publication:	Canada, Toronto

Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
Source type:	Blogs, Podcasts, & Websites
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	2212784333
Document URL:	http://myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/2212784333?accountid=14771
Copyright:	Copyright 2019 Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. All Rights Reserved.
Last updated:	2019-04-24
Database:	Global Newsstream

LINKS

[Check for full text via 360 Link](#), [Link to OCLC WorldCat](#)

Database copyright © 2019 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)