



For Immediate Release  
August 1, 2006

PRESS RELEASE  
Contact: Sarah Bracey White  
(914) 682-1574

## Greenburgh, New York. Town of Greenburgh Names Its First Poet Laureate

Brenda Connor-Bey has been named the Town of Greenburgh's first poet laureate. The Greenburgh Arts and Culture Committee selected Ms. Connor-Bey for her body of work, contributions to the field of poetry, and encouragement and support of poets of all ages. Ms. Connor-Bey's inauguration ceremony into her two-year volunteer term will take place 7 pm, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Greenburgh Town Hall. Poets and poetry lovers are cordially invited to attend.

Ms. Connor-Bey is the author of *Thoughts of an Everyday Woman/An Unfinished Urban Folktale* and the recently completed *Through the Mists of Remembering*, and *Crossroad of the Serpent*. A former creative writing teacher at Marymount Manhattan College, she has edited a short story collection, *The Landing* by Ishan Bracy (Cool Grove Press) and co-edited a poetry anthology, *en(compass)* (Uganta Press).

"Brenda Connor-Bey unflinchingly tackles the subject of African American identity with unparalleled grace and narrative strength," says Ann Cefola, poet and former Greenburgh Poetry Contest judge. "Her poems are riveting forays into lyric narrative. By exploring her family's heritage, she makes a big – and too neglected – piece of our American cultural history come alive."

Ms. Connor Bey's work has appeared in *Confirmation: An Anthology of African American Women* (Wm. Morrow & Co.) edited by Amina & Amiri Baraka, *Working Classics: Poems on Industrial Life* (University of Pittsburgh), and *Obsidian II: Black Literature in Review* (North Carolina State University), among many others. Her work has been performed by Black Women in Theatre, the Lincoln Center Performance Ensemble, and included in the play *Her Talking Drum* at the American Place Theatre in NYC.

Her other honors include the Westchester Fund for Women and Girls' Outstanding Arts Educator Award, a NYS CAPS award for poetry, four PEN awards for non-fiction and a NYFA grant for fiction. A MacDowell, YADDO and Cave Canem Regional Fellow, she has led writing workshops for children at the Hudson Valley Writers' Center and Greenburgh's Kids' Short Story Connection. She has conducted numerous residencies through the Westchester Arts Council at the Neuberger, Hudson River and Katonah Museums.

Founder of MenWem Writers Workshop, Ms. Connor-Bey is also a member of Slapering Hol Press Advisory Committee, the Hudson Valley Writers' Center Board of Directors, the Harlem Writers' Workshop, the Poetry Caravan, and the advisory committee for the Westchester Center for Creative Aging. She lives in Greenburgh, NY with her husband, James Miller.