



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Mayor*

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## Franz Douskey Named Hamden's First "Poet Laureate"

**HAMDEN** – Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is proud to announce that Mr. Franz Douskey was recently appointed as Hamden's 1<sup>st</sup> "Poet Laureate". This honorary position was created to recognize the substantial contributions of Hamden residents to the Arts, specifically poetry and written works. Mr. Douskey has been chosen as the first appointee to this honorary office, in recognition of his enormous contributions to American art and culture throughout his life. He was the unanimous recommendation for this honor by the Hamden Arts Commission, who led the charge advocating for this recognition in Hamden and selecting the first recipient.

Mr. Douskey is a poet, novelist, teacher, and American writer who has been published in almost 200 publications, including: The New Yorker, The Georgia Review, The New York Quarterly, and Rolling Stone Magazine. His first full-length book of poetry, "West of Midnight and Selected Poems" was published in 1982, and he has read from this and many of his works in hundreds of venues across the Nation. "West of Midnight and Selected Poems" was nominated for a 2012 Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Douskey was honored by the Hamden Arts Commission on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and was officially proclaimed Hamden's "1<sup>st</sup> Poet Laureate" by Mayor Leng.

Commenting on the appointment of Mr. Douskey as Hamden's Poet Laureate, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng stated, "It is with great pleasure I bestow this honor upon Franz Douskey. Mr. Douskey's life work and achievements so very impressive, and he is certainly more than deserving of being named our "Poet Laureate". I am so pleased that Franz chose to call Hamden home."