

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# *047-2014*

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **LIKE2LOVE MIAMI BEACH POETRY CONTEST**

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2014 FEB -7 PM 5:03  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

We are pleased to announce that Miami Beach resident Phyllis Barash has won the Like2Love Miami Beach poetry contest.

The poetry contest, which ran from November 1 through December 2, 2013, produced 27 qualifying entries. In them, contestants highlighted everything that makes Miami Beach a great place to live, work and play with their verses, while driving the community to visit our communication tools and channels.

All entries submitted will be hung on a Poet Tree at Lummus Park from February 7 - 28, 2014.

All entries incorporated the phrase "Like to Love Miami Beach." Poetry and communication professionals selected three finalists during the competition. Judges (P. Scott Cunningham, poet and founder of the poetry festival O, Miami, Nina Duval and Sam Brown, Miami Beach Senior High English teachers and Marcia Monserrat, special projects administrator, City of Miami Beach) evaluated each poem for relevancy to topic, poetic structure and originality. The public was asked to select one grand prizewinner from the finalists via the city's website and Facebook page.

The grand prizewinner received a two-night stay at the Catalina Hotel, second prize won the Taschen book "Gustav Klimt. The Complete Paintings" and third prize won two tickets to Panic! At the Disco at the Fillmore Miami Beach Jackson Gleason Theater.

Like2Love Miami Beach is an outlet for the public to tell their story about the positive attributes of the city. It also serves as a vehicle to increase the number of residents that are connected and engaged in their city government. In 2012, a Like2Love Miami Beach photography contest was held.

Attached are the three top poems, along with a sample of how the poems will be displayed on the tree.

JM/MM/NR/MB

## LIKE2LOVE MIAMI BEACH POETRY CONTEST

### *First place*

I like to love Miami Beach  
Museums and cafes within easy reach  
I can stroll in the spell of the tropical heat  
Delight in the charm of each Art Deco street  
Concerts, theater and ballet to see  
Miami Beach offers its treasures to me  
Sunrises appear in a magical way  
I fall more in love with life here every day.

### *Second place*

#### Beach Kids

When I tell you I like you like easy mangrove honey and sea salt sting  
what I mean is—just like our choices, the ones we make at the marina  
spotting manatees in the morning, like to love Miami Beach even in summer  
when it's humid and the landscapers blow cicada songs through the hedges  
so we cruise back alleys desperate for quiet, until we find it, black kittens  
nursing feral from their mother under a bush of blooming bougainvillea—  
there's something sweet-bitter in the water here—soft hand that catches—  
and I like the rough ends and I like the smooth ones, worn down by the wind.

### *Third place*

#### Like to love Miami Beach

It's more the rose gold sunrise  
bronzing both sky and skyline along Collins  
on the walk to work.

It's more the Venetian's violet nightlights,  
the spinning cotton candy colors of the Julia Tuttle —  
the flickering of night along Biscayne Bay

that makes me like to  
love Miami Beach.

**POEMS AS THEY WILL BE DISPLAYED FROM THE POET TREE**

1  
First Place

I like to love Miami Beach  
Museums and cafes within easy reach  
I can stroll in the spell of the tropical heat  
Delight in the charm of each Art Deco street  
Concerts, theatre and ballet to see  
Miami Beach offers its treasures to me.  
Smiles appear in a magical way  
I fall more in love with life here every day.

By Phyllis Barzsh



LIKE LOVE  
MIAMIBEACH

### Like2Love Miami Beach Poet Tree

The City of Miami Beach held a poetry contest on November 1 through December 2, 2013 that helps us highlight everything that makes our city a great place to live, work and play.

Judges selected three finalists and the public helped choose the grand prize winner.

We hope you enjoy reading all of the entries on our Lummus Park Poet Tree.