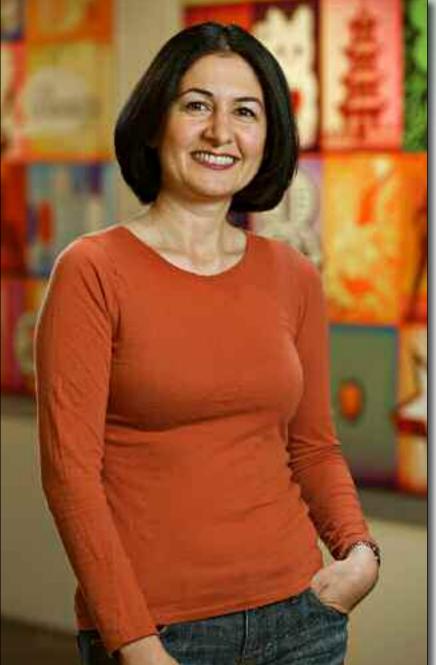


Poetry

BY ROZA ETEMAD

<u>Ma</u>nhattan **Slaves**



Roza Etemad is an Assistant City Attorney with the City of Phoenix. She has been writing poetry for close to 20 years. Currently, she is working on multicultural children's books, hoping to have her first book finished by the end of 2008. Aside from creative writing, her interests include oil painting, yoga, Tai chi, culinary and arts venues, travel and wine.

I am one in 400 plus skeletons exhumed like a treasure buried deep in an alley low Manhattan living and dying the first black boy on the block 200 years in the past mother laid me down in words of a map -Negro's Burying Ground.

I am two feet away from my father whose hollow face still holds strong teeth in chemical traces like seeds in his jaws.

I am three minutes laughing when I hear from my skull with filed incisors how Congress halted this vast construction in our dead honor.

Curious how much they treasure our bones which withered in black blood shed by the white.