

7

seasons
of poetry
on the buses



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SEASON

7

January - June 2019

Untitled

Suzann M. Baldwin

La Center, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-01

Remember all those
feelings you left twisting in
the wind?

Here they come again.



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Old Memories

an'ya Bartolović

Florence, OR

JANUARY 2019 | 007-02

old memories
like tangled fish hooks
impossible
to pick up only one
without all the others



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Hole

D.H. Carol

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-03

There was a hole put
into me so very long ago.
It will never fill with
me.
No radiant self.
Part of me gone before
I could say no.



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Wildflowers

Laurie Cutter

Ridgefield, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-04

The quick delicious
dropping away downhill
Onrush of honey—
suckled air, mingled swirl
of earth and sky, blurred
leaves, buttercups,
morning glory



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I remember

Lauren Duquette

Vancouver, WA

hawk feather smoke
cedar bough crackle
heat red brick fireplace
our home, our shell
all cheeks ablaze atop
precious sweated bodies
smiling and round



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Soaked

David Hubka

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-06

Circles scatter across curbside puddles

Dancing erratically to

The hidden pattern of the

Percussive falling rain.

Foolishly, we skip from street to curb

As if we can avoid getting wet;

Like we aren't already soaked.



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Historical disaster

Holly Miller

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-07

If I was with Aaron, I wouldn't feel so lame.

If I was with Elias, I might have a cool last name.

If I dated Ben, my trust issues would be worse.

But if I dated Bryan, I'd probably be in a hearse.



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Queen Anne's Lace

Gay Garland Reed

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-08

When Queen Anne's Lace,
in all its delicate grace,
appears along the roadside
we know that
we are sliding
down the back of summer.



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Untitled

Jacob Salzer

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-09

empty theater...

the weight of trash



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note to the letter carrier

Mark Sargent

Agia Eirini, Sparti, Greece

JANUARY 2019 | 007-10

If the intended
is absent
or dead
please,
forward to the void.



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Untitled

Melissa Clarke Ward

Sisters, OR

JANUARY 2019 | 007-11

my uphill shadow
soft and composed
the edge, radiant



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SEASON

6

July - December 2018

Ode to Summer

Annie S. — 3rd Grade, Eisenhower Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

Summer, I love you.

Touching the tulips that glow
as the river gently flows.

Looking at the ocean as the waves crash
as the sun comes out

all the people play and shout.

Summer, I love you!



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How the Phoenix Flies

Christina S. — 12th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Poets in the Schools Program

Sometimes we forget that
the fire will not again burn
and kindling refuses flame
'Til the eyes dry their tears
and the hands steady their course so again
Hope may blaze from phoenix wings.



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Strangers

Christina S. — 12th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-03

When our televisions scream, wailing grief
and the papers bleed tragedy from ever' leaf,
When hope has seemed to run her course
and our very touch it seems does shame endorse,
It is the strangers, human neighbors
Who in kindness of random labors
That remind us that we are worth it.



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Across the River

Ella J. — 4th Grade, Hough Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-04

Feeling weary, afraid to jump
Crossing the river
gathering courage
to take my flight.



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To be a Book in 2068

Grace W. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-05

I hold many pages of wonders and stories,
Perhaps that is why I used to get so much glory.

But now I sit here on this dusty old shelf,
and I have tried but I just can't open myself.

Oh, if only they knew all the things I could do,
They would get off their phones and come down here too.



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The Butterfly that Stands Out

Hanna P. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

Hi, hi butterfly

You love to sing and dance, oh my!

You may not always like the song
but you always try and dance along.

I love that you like to try new things
As you glide around with your colorful wings.



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Land of Magic

Lillianna K. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-07

This is a place where no worries come out during the day
Where you can run around and just play
No parents to wave you hello or goodbye
No homework or books just the beautiful stars
in the black night sky
Here you have no bedtime at all
Here in this land of magic you will no longer be afraid to fall.



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The Beach

Margaret H. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

To the west, to the beach
Soft sand covers my feet
Like a blanket, warm and relaxed
Wind whistling, salt water crashing
on the sand
Seagulls sing
Like a choir.



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Spaceships

Noah S. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-09

Discovery

Helpful Fearless

Soaring Flying Falling

“One small step for man, one large step for mankind.”

Blasting Shaking Flying

Large Important

Apollo



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Snowy Mountains

Nyomi S. — 4th Grade, Hough Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

High and low
the mountains go
there up top
with white blank snow
When you look below
there's not a home
where you will feel
all alone.



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SEASON

5

January - June 2018

Reflections

April Bullard

Vancouver, WA

A bright reflection of my face
shimmers on the window like a ghost,
flickering a million emotions
in disconnected frames of a living movie.
What does that spectral image expose?
What face do I show the world?



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Elevate the Floor

Diane Cammer

Vancouver, WA

When our glass dreams range impossibly high
we brush aside bruised clouds with open palms
turn to our toes to lift us up
fill our lungs with tempest air
and everyone will watch us rise.



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One Heart's Desire (an excerpt)

Denise L. Campbell

Vancouver, WA

whatever song
had fluttered there
within the confine of my ribs
still sings deep among the briar,
the only bed
that's fated for the gentle rose.



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In A Pow Wow

Stella Jeng Guillory

Vancouver, WA

I am the drum.

A dozen drummers sit surrounding me.

They sing and howl, like coyotes.

I am the circle. The circle of dancers is forming.

Its tail curls up to its beginning.

Two dancers embrace each other.

The circle of loving continues.



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At Home

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, WA

Here the mossless stone
has settled.

Here where peace unstirs a restless mind,
your primal home is waiting,
door open.



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Time

Pat Sciuchetti

Vancouver, WA

Scoop it up in your fist.

Squeeze it through your fingers.

Rip it. Shred it. Grate it on a cheese grater.

Breathe it. Taste it. Slurp its tangy juice.

Stare it in the eye.

Swirl in its fierce current.

Wring it dry!



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Daybreak

Gary F. Suda

Battle Ground, WA

The lift of morning,
caught between
dense fog of coffee's kiss
and first light.

The hydrangea lumbers up
the red brick wall.



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Bus Stop

Susan Williams

Vancouver, WA

Find a seat and sit a spell.

Close your eyes,

take a breath,

smile a smile.

Feel the motion as you move
to the next stop in your life.

Open your eyes.



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In-Between

Angela Winfield

Vancouver, WA

It's in the grey spaces
Between the yin and yang
Where fresh waters meet the sea
Brackish and sweet
The sonnets we sing



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Who Rides?

Louise Wynn

Camas, WA

You never know who you'll see on this bus.
Not Shakespeare, for sure. But what if
you did see him? Here's what I'd do:
I'd ask for a rhyme,
we'd rap, double time,
then I'd say, "Thanks a lot, Bro,
I flunked English because of you."



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SEASON

4

July - December 2017

North Carolina

James B. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

In North Carolina

I see different types of birds, trees, and flowers.

I see different types of rocks.

North Carolina has buzzing bees and birds,
flowering dogwood, southern pine and
my Grandma and Grandpa, still watching.



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Arizona

Gavin B. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Red rocks dancing

in dust devils.

Red Robins riding rain drops.

Wrecked nests dropping down

on dying red roses.

Running runners working hard.

The red Phoenix red hot.



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Picture of Your Heart

Brooklyn C. — 2nd Grade, Hough Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Picture of your heart.

Outrageously cool.

Everything is awesome!

Makes everything better.

Special for everyone.



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If

Ellie G. — 8th Grade, Amboy Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

If you ever got the chance
to see yourself through someone
else's eyes, you'd be surprised at
how extraordinary you really
are.



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The Way Earth Is

Allison K. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Planet is turning,
hued places circumvolving,
revolving the sun.



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Lady of the Sea

Kaylee K. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Laying in the sea
where she's longed to be.
Tiny sailboat
afloat in the water.
Lime green grass
after a morning's splash.
Lady of the sea.



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My Loving Prince

Berenice L. — 6th Grade, Discovery Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

His warm, friendly smile welcomes me.

It welcomes me like the way the night
welcomes the moon and stars.

His sweet light blue eyes sparkle,
they sparkle like the ocean surface.

I love him for the type of person he is
and for his personality.



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The Right Way

Jacob R. — 8th Grade, Amboy Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Look forward, up
never look down and back
the right way is the hard way, but
the wrong way is the easy way.



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Book

Johanny S. — 6th Grade, Discovery Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Closed, lonely.

Just sitting there waiting to be opened again
like dead grass waiting for someone to play
or a flower slowly dying.

It reminds me of a lonely old man,
no grandchildren, no kids, alone
wishing its pages were flipped again.



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We'll Remember These Days

Christina S. — 11th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

We'll remember these days
Poised taut on the precipice of adventure
With the rain polishing our way
The future crooning beyond the next swooping gorge
For who can forget the home which taught us
The sun doesn't need to be shining
For a day to be ours for the taking?



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SEASON

3

January - June 2017

from With Apologies to Andre Breton

Tod Marshall, Washington State Poet Laureate

Spokane, WA

Line up to the left if you believe in magic.

Line up to the right if you're here for wisdom.

Line up in the middle if you live driven by the feeling that
you've just fallen in love.

Go to the back of the line if you've never fallen in love.

Go to the front of the line if you believe love can save the world.

Go home if you think this is getting sappy.

Go to sleep if you're tired; it's okay. Here's a pillow; it's called a poem.



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pavement pastoral

Christopher Luna, Clark County Poet Laureate

Vancouver, WA

there is a determined melancholy
to the suicide dive of
autumn leaves
as they tear themselves
from the limbs of trembling trees
to spiral earthward like eels
caught in zoetrope flicker



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Hope, embossed

Gwendolyn Morgan

Vancouver, WA

Each one of us has an owl, sparrow, crow,
an ordinary bird that follows us around our home.
Kali, Ganesh, and a host of gods and goddesses,
step over the hearth. We pick up maple seed pods,
hope embossed in several languages,
yellow swallowtail, butterfly wings
ten thousand things.



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A Long Ago Memory of Calmer Times

Bruce D. Hall

Vancouver, WA

Lightning flash, flash, and another flash
walls shake, china rattles, chest vibrates
in rhythm with kettledrum thunder
wind howls, fire crackles, kettle bubbles
buttery bread sizzles in skillet
we savor our meal by fireglow
listening to the music of the storm.



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Calling

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, WA

The Earth is calling,
even if you don't listen.

Get lost in Nature,
and you will find
yourself.



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Camilla

Alex Vigue

Ridgefield, WA

She lets her son dress up in leftover pastels
does not scorn him when he twirls in a dress
only laughs and notes the skirt's shape as it swirls
an opening flower, the pink of a cheek
her own and his
her father taught her how to garden
so that she may cultivate a rare child



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Joy

Cherish DesRochers-Vafeados

Battle Ground, WA

The dawn has gone, the sun has risen
I'm finally free of my temporary prison

my heart's at ease
my mind is still and
joy is real



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Just Breathe

Bridget Nutting

Vancouver, WA

Breathe in, deeply – exhale, slowly.

May the eternal spirit of all that was,
all that is, and all that will ever be

Surround you and caress you with His healing touch,
Bringing you unending comfort and peace.



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Subsequent Layers of Existence

Bill Lucking

Vancouver, WA

We exist in a present that is fleetingly fast
swiftly moving our now towards a vanishing past.
Too soon our new-present too swiftly arrives,
replacing the place where our present-now lies.
Subsequent presents come sliding on in
and are quickly supplanted, again and again.



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from how to love

Desiree Wright

Battle Ground, WA

she's just a woman

like me

making her way in a world

not meant for her

to make it in



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from Why We Don't Belong Here

Livia Montana

Vancouver, WA

All day it was raining and you told me,
“That’s just how it is in some parts of the world.”
I prayed then, we wouldn’t stay
on this planet for long.
You’ll think me particular, but you can’t blame
me for desiring the dark of space, or how we’ve learned
to make comets come to heel in our wake.



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Eulogies Are for the Living

Angeline Nguyen

Vancouver, WA

Do not wait
until the flower wilts
to praise the gift of its aroma.

Celebrate
the buddings and bloomings
before Winter extends its pale hand.



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SEASON

2

July – December 2016

A Candle, A Light Bulb, A Glowing Fire

Colwyn B. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Midnight black hair. Glowing, smiling, sending
love wherever she goes. Eyes as wide and blue
and deep as the ocean she lives across. Beautiful
in mind, body, and spirit, wholly innocent as the
sun. And she is mine, and I am hers.



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Still I Rise

Elora H. — 6th Grade, Discovery Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Someday I will grow the rest of the way up

I will do anything I set my mind to

I will do anything people with full sight do

But I do have full sight

I see the world differently

No one can stop me

Still I rise



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Don't Be Afraid

Ashley S. — 10th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Don't be afraid of love
love will find you when you're ready
love will find you when you learn to love yourself



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From the Airplane

Jaden L. — 7th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Blinking lights, midnight silhouette, wire of a river,

Tiny headlights of automobiles commuting.

My circuit board of a city at night

bears infinite intrigue.

I, spectator, sit transfixed.

Never has a simple town

been so significant to me.



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Ego Poem

Andrew H. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

My eyes are the ocean

My breath carries the wind

My palm holds the word

My essence is the light



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Space

Marley J. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

I am sitting on
a star inside the milky way
looking at the planets
looking at them from far away
they are very fascinating



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Slowly Sinking

Rheanna N. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Fear is quicksand
it holds you captive,
threatens to drag you down.

If you hold on to other people
you can pull yourself out.



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Stoney Surprise

Emma L. — 10th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Hermit crabs in minuscule shells

snails leave slime trails

slick on the ragged stone.

Anemones wave hellos before returning to their dinner party.

The barrel chest bear says it's time to leave.

The small hands wave goodbye to new friends,

and the tiny feet walk happily away.



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Snow

Breanna K. — 3rd Grade, Riverview Elementary

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

We are freezing cold and are very icy and light.

We make you feel way beyond jubilant.

We are millions of tiny balls of frozen rain with a white coat.

We cover the ground with a humongous white blanket.

We sound like a peaceful warning.

We are snow.



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Love

Jessica K. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

I am my father's gentle goodnight kiss.

I am the aroma of pancakes with coffee in the morning.

I am the laughter of my childhood.

I am the sparkling stars in my father's loving eyes.

I am love.



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SEASON

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January - June 2016

Excerpt from “Extern”

Neil Aitken

Vancouver, WA

Sometimes I dream of the ghost of a bird
its eyes dark like mine
asleep in the fold of a tree
its shadow the shape of a harp.



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Everything Settles

Tiffany Burba-Schramm

Vancouver, WA

The frost settles upon the ground.

Snow settles upon the limbs of trees.

The ceiling in my house settles; creates small cracks.

The floor creaks and settles the weight of dogs approaching.

We settle, let the weight of the world crack our ambitions.

We let others' harsh words and criticisms drape us
like settled winter fog.



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We could fly

Diane M. Cammer

Vancouver, WA

yet we stand, feet bound to ground
arms spread wide, wings in
another world, another time
waiting for wind, an updraft
when all that's required
is a single bold step into the unknown.



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Pilgrimage, 1988

Sherri H. Hoffman

Vancouver, WA

Start at Dodger Stadium, Chavez Ravine, most perfect field. Onward to Candlestick, Wrigley, Three Rivers, Shea. Until Cooperstown, Holiest of Holies. Blessed with field grit rubbed into our salted skins, we'd say the sacred names. Koufax. Drysdale. Marichal. Campanella from the Brooklyn years. Jackie Robinson, born the same day as our Grandma Wildish. And Pee Wee Reese, who kept the faith, refusing to sign the petition to ban Robinson for being black. The game transcendent.



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Excerpt from “Ours”

Erin Iwata

Ridgefield, WA

I have to believe that something of seventeen still lingers
though she pains me with her adolescent optimism

I return, hoping she wasn't wrong
that there is beauty in the stacked stones along the path
that there is a path indeed
mountains to be scaled and conquered
that the world is still ours



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Counterpart

Tim Klein

Vancouver, WA

At this very moment
someone
somewhere
is doing
the very same thing you are doing
for the very same reason.



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From *Ghost Town, USA*

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna

Vancouver, WA

the dirt beneath
Bonita's fingernails
did not discourage him
she was reading a bilingual edition
of Dante's *Inferno*
on the 37
and that was more than enough



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Honeycomb Prophecy

Toni Partington

Vancouver, WA

In the residence of your heart
I wish to be a cubicle made of beeswax
translucent, unfiltered, bright with buzz.

Together we will construct a confluence
of resin and lace; a suspension bridge
across hedge thorns and conflict.



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Journey

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, WA

We are the tide's twin, swimming
with the faithful senses of salmon—
we smell fresh river
from out of the salt, we are
drawn home under moon-watch
for as long as the journey takes.



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Fourth Plain Boulevard

Karen Read

Vancouver, WA

A home for hundreds walking—yet to name
the dreams that rise before they dare to speak.

Colorful signs that fly above—untamed
wave low and high, press forward, reach, and peak.

So often you find only what you seek.

Your power lines of old are not here sown.

They surge beneath this skin of place unknown.



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