

Home

Winter/Spring
2011

Autumn/Winter
2011

Summer 2010

Spring 2010

Winter 2010

Autumn 2009

Summer 2009

Spring 2009

Autumn 2008

Summer 2008

Spring/Summer
2008

Winter/Spring
2008

Editor's Note

Guidelines

Contact

Three Poems

by Linda Leedy Schneider

First Snow

I walk into my office, and the world is changed:
A life-dividing moment like my first breath,
my first step, the first time I rode a two-wheeler alone,
my first kiss, the time I left home
suitcase in hand and climbed the steps alone,
the first job, the birth of my first child,
her leaving for kindergarten,
the death of my father.

Through the French doors I see
snow like a quilt on the yard,
deadheads of daisies,
rabbit tracks like a message,
the skeletons of trees against the gray sky,
and I wonder will I ever be ready
for the last dividing moment,
ready ever to let go of this snow globe world?

Rain Washes

the maple's hands
muddies the soil
around the perennials
they planted silently last weekend.

Yesterday's yarrow has collapsed.
Yellow saucer heads tilt.
Yarrow's wild cousin, Queen Ann's Lace,
remains upright, a throne for the purple queen.

Fuchsia phlox bend
with the breeze
touch the ground
but do not buckle.

Daisy searches for the sun,
the reflection of its all-knowing
yellow eye. Daisy always
ready to decide

Saffron daylilies trumpet--
open, ready, reckless, wanting--
unaware,
this is their only day.

She walks
to the garden
releases her hair to the wind,
lifts her hands to the rain

Things to Discard

a friend whose talk leaves me daydreaming,
the size 6 jeans I may be saving

for my granddaughter or that final illness,
the oversized jacket in firecracker red,
love letters from the Viet Nam war,
his dog tags, the dreams that still come,
an unworn blue silk nightgown,
six wedding dresses, my mother's,
which she doesn't remember,
mine torn from children's dress-up,
three from the weddings of my two daughters,
one I am keeping for a divorced friend,
the pictures from the first marriage,
his green letter jacket,
files full of poems marked in process
the spider webs on my easel,
the longing that has lasted
throughout this marriage.

Linda Leedy Schneider is a poetry and writing mentor and psychotherapist in private practice. She has been a faculty member at Aquinas College and Kendall College of Art and Design. Linda received a Readers' Choice Award from *Pedestal* and was honored by the Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She leads workshops nationally including the Manhattan Writing Workshop. Her work has been published in hundreds of literary magazines including *Pedestal*, *Rattle*, and *The Sow's Ear*. She has written six collections of poetry including *Some Days: Poetry of a Psychotherapist* (Plain View Press 2011) and has edited two collections of poetry written by poets whom she has mentored: *Mentor's Bouquet* (Finishing Line Press 2010) and *Poems From 84th Street* (Pudding House Publications 2010).

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