

# The year of the poet

May 2014

## May's Featured Poets

**ReeCee**

**Joski the Poet**

**Shannon Stanton**

**Dedicated To our Children**

## The Poetry Posse

Jamie Bond

Gail Weston Shazor

Albert 'Infinite' Carrasco

Siddhartha Beth Pierce

Janet P. Caldwell

June 'Bugg' Barefield

Debbie M. Allen

Tony Henninger

Joe DeVerbal Minddancer

Robert Gibbons

Neetu Wali

Shareef Abdur-Rasheed

Kimberly Burnham

William S. Peters, Sr.

Lily of the Valley



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of the  
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*The Poetry Posse*

*inner child press, ltd.*

# The Poetry Posse

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# General Information

The Year of the Poet  
May Edition

The Poetry Posse

1<sup>st</sup> Edition : 2014

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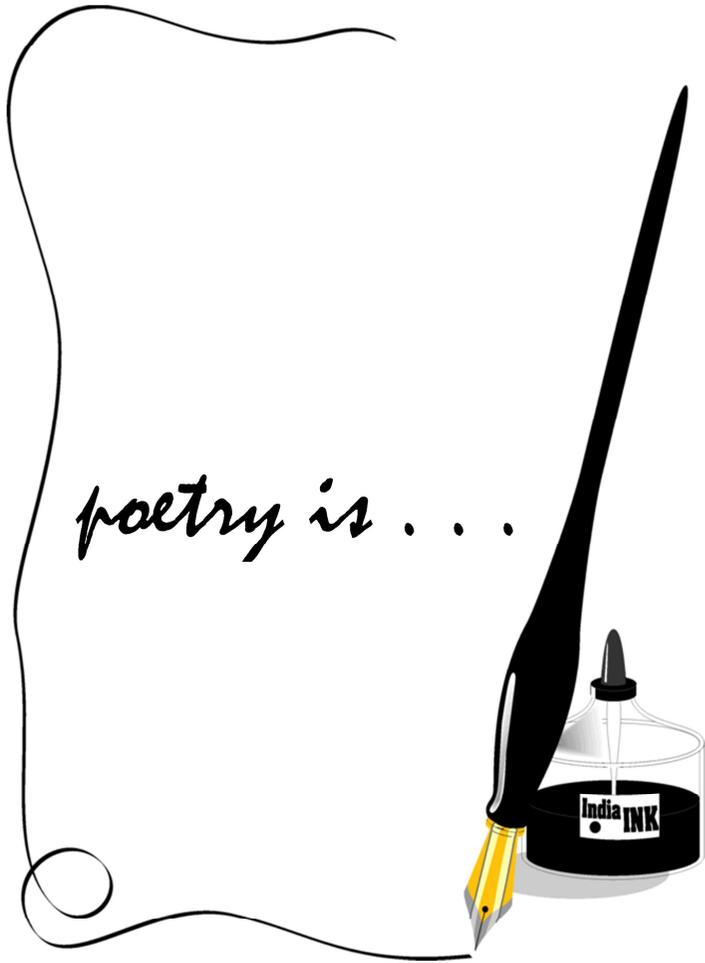
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# Dedication

This Book is dedicated to

Poetry

&

the Spirit

of our Everlasting Muse.



Poets . . .  
sowing seeds in the  
Conscious Garden of Life,  
that those who have yet to come  
may enjoy the Flowers.

# F oreword

Dear Friend,

I am the Father of 11 Children, and the Grand Father of 8 more, so when i consider the plight of our children in our world today, i am deeply concerned about not only their well being, but their happiness. I think the world today steals the precious moments of childhood in so many ways with all the Social Issues, Abuse, and Molestation that can potentially affect our treasures. This for me is very saddening, for i had the opportunity to be a Child in the purest of senses.

Perhaps we can attribute our own awareness to the instantaneousness of our modern day world system of communication with such things as the Internet, Tablets and Smart Phone. If nothing else our awareness of the challenges that face our children and that of the future generations to come becomes that more poignant.

This month we at The Year of the Poet, for the first time selected a theme for our monthly offering of May 2014. Our theme is simply Our Children. We are addressing via our individual perspectives the challenges they face in our ‘modern’ day society. Our aim si simply to elevate the awareness and perhaps motivate others to action. Yes, we must change, and that is the focus of our works as

conscious Human Beings and Conscious Poets. There are some great minds contained in this month's offering and we do hope not only do you enjoy our work, but that you pass it on.

All of our Books are available for a Free Download at the Inner Child Press Web Site.

<http://www.innerchildpress.com/the-year-of-the-poet.php>

Feel free to share our works and "Pay It Forward"

Print copies are available direct for just \$5.00.

Thank you

Bless Up

bill

*Thank God for Poetry  
otherwise  
we would have a problem !*

~ wsp

# Preface

What is the Year of the Poet?

The year of the poet is a one of a kind wonderful collaborative cognizant commitment offered as a free download and a low cost book form by 14 dedicated poets being published once a month for an entire year of 2014.

The reason we created it is because statically they say that the average Author will publish maybe one book a year. The more productive writers, perhaps a few, and yet the average reader can read a typical novel in somewhere between 2 hours and 3 days. Statistics also say, the average person will read about 6-7 books a year.

This was the conversation that sparked ‘just bill’ and I to consider and thus commit to publish a book a month for the entire year of 2014. This was never about who is the best or better than anyone else as far as their writing. This was to ensure that we exceeded the mundane statistics of being ordinary. We are not doing it for the fame; WE are doing it to sharpen our pens with devotion.

As you read the lineup, it will give you frissons to know that each one of the Writers on this team despite their location, culture, political and religious beliefs; despite what’s going on in each of their personal lives are dedicated to bringing this into fruition and thus creating history.

Ladies and Gentlemen . . .

This is simply and intricately historic. Sometimes theme based as a collective awareness... What else could we possibly call it besides, The Year Of The Poet? Look at the elite pens on this roll call The Poetry Posse that are self-conscious and unselfishly committed to raising the bar within. This is a task and vision that we have under taken to add to our poetic resume as well as share our offerings with you . . .

You get the best of our ink for FREE and We are delighted to be read.

We All Win!

Remain empowered and inspired Enjoy;

*Jamie Bond*

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Poets, Writers . . . know that we are the enchanting magicians that nourishes the seeds of dreams and thoughts . . . it is our words that entice the hearts and minds of others to believe there is something grand about the possibilities that life has to offer and our words tease it forth into action . . . for you are the Poet, the Writer to whom the Gift of Words has been entrusted . . .

~ wsp

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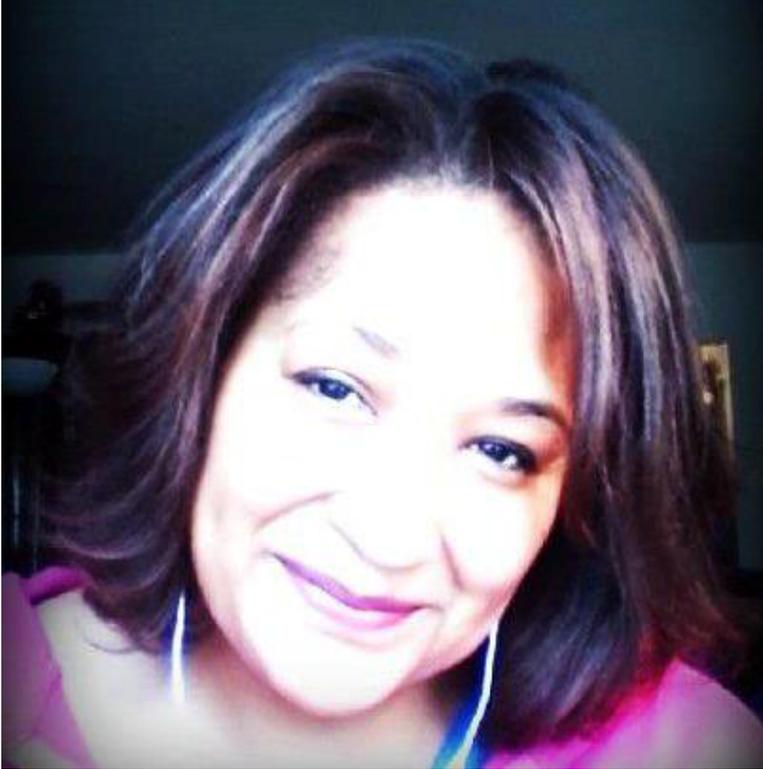
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*Poetry succeeds where instruction fails.*

~ wsp

*Jamie  
Bond*

*Jamie Bond*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Jamie Bond aka UnMuted Ink is an authoress, radio show hostess, poetess and spoken word maven.

She is; as she says “google-able” if you type in itsbondjamiebond or unmuted ink; you'll find her on various social networks. Born and raised in Brick City aka Newark, NJ. Jamie Bond has been recognized publicly by her peers in various genres for her poetic influences. Her Poetic resume is extensive and her spoken word performances go far beyond 1,000 stage appearances globally. Best known for her networking and marketing skills; her future goals are to become more grounded as a liaison for a variety of fundraisers, activism, volunteering as an advocate as she uses her pen and voice to empower and raise the consciousness of those around her.

### Her Motto

*Help me to help you to help us... BUT if helping you hurts me, then I can't help you!*

<http://www.facebook.com/IBJB.BrickCity>

## Manhood ?

To the stepfather it's a malicious joke,  
Mom invited him to stay without a vote  
His threats make the little boy uneasy  
HIS little hurt has Novocain feelings  
And in her absence he molests him,  
Beats him like a hazing until he's bleeding  
His little body can't take this any more  
His court appointed weekend now over  
Terrified and afraid to tell his Daddy  
He smiles, shakes hands with this predator  
The Mom made this sick pervert his gatekeeper  
Ill-treatment by him His cries go unheard  
While his little soul begs and screams without words  
BUT MOM insists that her son listen to him  
Told him he must comply with the stepfather  
Only feeling safe every other weekend  
His would be victorious soul slaughtered  
Battered assaulted like a sacrificial offering  
Step Father waves dad off and locks the door  
This is not love and yet... Mom never questions  
His motives for wanting Quality time  
With his unbiological child  
Convinced that a man is being made of him  
Teaching him responsibility when  
Evidence of his scars are visibly seen  
His naive character easily distorted  
Silently wishing he were aborted  
Are you going to believe him or me?  
The stepfather presses the mother of him  
So he's viewed as a compulsive liar  
Happenstances quickly taken out of context  
Everyone sees it and nobody takes notice

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Hard to believe that no one knows this  
Infamous for his unfathomable actions  
He embezzles the preciousness of this kids  
Innocence, adolescence, trust, & dreams  
Being humped and beaten his existence  
Becomes aimless the kid carries the sperm  
Of a demon deep inside of his torn anus  
Schools called with excused absences he is  
Repeatedly raped Dismantled and manhandled  
Being completely manipulated  
For the sick sexual desires of the stepfathers  
As the little boy is frightened and fighting  
In the wee hours of the middle of the night  
His stuffed teddy bear cries thru his one button eye  
Forced to observe this assault that's everyone's fault  
Unable to shut this gruesome porn flick off  
There's a monster thrusting and humping on him  
Nothing under the bed or in his closet  
Could be a worse nightmare than this to the kid  
The demonic glare of this predator  
As he's raping him over again and again and again  
He's told that he better not scream, better not tell,  
Or else everything he loves will be killed  
He's over powering in many ways  
And mom refuses to notice the foul changes  
The poor little kids got a busted lip,  
Black eye, limping with dislocated hips  
Will you look at this shit! It's ridiculous  
Why does the mom keep allowing this for her kid  
When the stepfather insists he's just clumsy  
He's masterfully swayed her that her own  
Flesh and blood is somehow uncoordinated  
He's just inept it's just another accident  
Older now and the light gone he doesn't care  
Left for dead on the train tracks of hopeless despair

*Jamie Bond*

How many times did he try to plead with mom?  
All The signs there refusal to pay attention?  
And how many times were his pleas discredited  
Avoidable but blinded by her ignorance  
His obvious outbursts justifying  
Many times her calling him a problem child  
Continuing to get a check for him  
Quick to medicate & label him a problem  
His mood swings off the chain Behavioral out breaks  
A developed hate for women he cannot explain  
The Stepfather gives Mom an ultimatum  
Make a choice...it's me or your son,  
Last straw was drawn,  
He's bored and the kid is getting too old for him  
The alternative made made no sense to others  
She said I did the best I could to raise him  
As if she had limited resources  
And very few options without his natural father  
Too much to care for considered a handful  
The natural father confused and can't do  
Anything for him so he's shuffled home to home  
Just needed one person to ask the right questions  
One adult to appear concerned enough to save him  
How dare SHE be proud and pop her collar  
AS IF she deserves an award for that bullshit!!!

## Transparent Gem

Behavior is more aggressive & rebellious  
And it just gets worse the older she gets  
Her truths are twisted and challenged  
No one on her side her feelings are invalid  
She's a mirror reflection of her environment  
And telling an adult was never a prerequisite  
Tells you she fell, Will you look at this shit!  
She's damaged & weary she can't live like this  
Take notice of the turmoil this is gross negligence  
Made to never feel safe again always feeling depressed  
Empty is the stare in the back of her eyes  
Yet nobody NOBODY bothers to ask why  
She's a constant casualty of a silent crime  
Trapped and assaulted there's no escape from her rapist;  
Unaccountable for his actions he steals her adolescence  
That's her lifelong definition of love and affection  
Regression in the form of avalanche  
Molested in her own safe haven  
She competes for affection and lowers her standards  
Now fast in the ass & Lacks etiquette and manners  
Her self-esteem is now stained and it just doesn't matter  
He ignited the seed invoking her soul to slowly fester with  
cancer  
And as I sit face to face and share her space  
The light is gone in her eyes I see she has died  
She believes her life was a message  
That seems to convey no meaning  
And it's your fault I couldn't resuscitate her  
Since your selfishness prevented intervening  
For years she'll require therapy that can't even heal her  
She's still rebelling while you're in denial her tears a dried  
river

*Jamie Bond*

For so long she was a zombie just wanting her mommy  
A hypothetical question undefined waiting to be answered  
No more a delicate rose, nothing more than a stem with  
thorns  
She is a survivor of a war which she never signed up for  
So it's a fight she'll never win  
Internally the fatality is never detected  
All of this could have been prevented  
Had someone played detective  
Smh... Its premeditated sin against a Transparent Gem  
And as a community; WE ALL allowed this to happen!

## The making of a Bully

Anger inside she can't contain  
She gets humped and punch  
Her little bones get crunched  
The woman starves her  
The man has her for lunch  
The victim of a twisted system  
At home she's tormented by em  
But at school she's acting out  
She senses innocence  
Smells the stench on her friends  
And so the bullying begins  
Every boy in her little mind  
Needs to be destroyed  
Every girl with a toy is the target  
For her hitting to be enjoyed  
She terrorizes the lives  
Of all the other children meanwhile  
Inside she is crying out to be rescued

At home she sleeps on the floor  
And gets treated less better than a dog  
This is her 5th home in 13 months  
Trapped in the foster care system  
The new hosts tell her  
That nobody's missing her  
She's beaten and mistreated  
She's only a monthly  
Automatically deposited check  
Her birth certificate is a receipt

*Jamie Bond*

She's tired of crying  
Slapped and told to stop whining  
And now our society  
Has a monster in their system  
Of course it falls on blind eyes  
As social services stay quiet  
The avoidance of paperwork  
...They see she's hurt but...  
Unfortunately saving her  
Seems like too much work....

*Gail  
Weston  
Shazor*

*Gail Weston Shazor*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

This is a creative promise ~ my pen will speak to and for the world. Enamored with letters and respectful of their power, I have been writing for most of my life. A mother, daughter, sister and grandmother I give what I have been given, greatfilledly.

Author of . . .

"An Overstanding of an Imperfect Love"

available at Inner Child Press.

[www.facebook.com/gailwestonshazor](http://www.facebook.com/gailwestonshazor)

[www.innerchildpress.com/gail-weston-shazor](http://www.innerchildpress.com/gail-weston-shazor)

[navypoet1@gmail.com](mailto:navypoet1@gmail.com)

## Homeless Etheree

Bump

Each night

Light wakes me

Shining coldly

Across the car hood

Boy legs are my pillows

Their knees are hurting my head

Mommy says soon we will be home

But she cries over the steering wheel

When she thinks we are already asleep

## Retired Double Etheree

She

Used to

Wear diamonds

In her cleavage

Age, her enemy

Marking final battles

In lines around her tight mouth

She bears his happiness with pain

And remembers their wedding story

On the front of society's section

Now even the invitations have stopped

Appearing in her empty mailbox

She could not afford the new dress

He even kept the diamonds

To adorn a new neck

Her young replacement

A new model

A younger

Blonder

She

## UnPunked Double Etheree

He  
Backs up  
Against walls  
Cutting his eyes  
So hard that he swears  
He sees around corners  
A valuable talent here  
Where the dealers are expecting  
He will pay for his junkie mother's  
Broken back, last word, spaced out promises  
And in the morning when he gets to school  
His savings will buy him      some heaven  
Sunshine and hope in his locker  
Just to still his anxious heart  
On an empty belly  
He sleeps with the iron  
Dreaming when he  
Might escape  
His born  
Hell

*Albert  
Infinite  
Carrasco*

*Albert 'Infinite' Carrasco*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Albert Carrasco writes hieroglyphics encrypted in poetic form. His linguistics are not the norm. When it comes to wisdom, sleet ,rain snow and hail its a lyrical storm. He's pure like Fiji, he got the power to hear the dead with no auji. For living a life so tabu, He learnt a die-a-lect , his mouth moves... But at times it's the voice of the crossovers coming through. When he's on stage he has a body temp of 98 degrees... When He recites you feel this chilling breeze, hair stands on skin when he's in the avatar state of his kin. He's non traditional, an unorthodox outspoken urban individual that lived through the subliminal, now he's back to give guidance to his people.

Infinite the poet 2014

Infinite poetry @lulu.com

Alcarrasco2 on YouTube

Infinite the poet on reverbnation

The Poems this month are from my Book

### **Infinite Poetry**

available at

<http://www.lulu.com/us/en/shop/al-infinite-carrasco/infinite-poetry/paperback/product-21040240.html>

## Attempted Suicide

My heart is racing, beating to a drum like a percussionist

Beads of sweat dripping down my body as if I was in shower

These thoughts and voices are far more destructive than peer pressure

They are controlling like a ventriloquist

I'm stuck between a rock and a hard place, life , and a life ending conquest

I have a family that's loves me friends that adore me, but I hate me!

My depression makes me feel I'm less than who I am, a kid full of ambition, to end it all is what I'm wishing.

I've cut at my veins, I popped pills not sooth but to inflict more pain

Why am I alive? I have no idea, these voices say kill myself, so I try. I think its best

So maybe I don't have to live life depressed after death

This will be my third or fourth time in a month I try to succeed in finally finishing

Now its more stitches and stomach flushes after I cut my self and take multiple pills

I Keep trying to take my life, but I don't think its gods will.

## How we ate

I would say grace in the street when it was time to eat, lord..." thank you for every thing you do for me. but... my stomach is growling so please guide me through hell in housing, me and my homies are just hungry that's why we're out here living scandalous, some of us are Jehovah's Witness, some Muslim, some Christian. we had religion, its that at certain times our thoughts were blank like atheist living blasphemous for that in god we trust,"... Then we would grab packs out cracks and feed the rush. I didn't want to die. I didn't want my boys to die, but growing up from a boy to a man there was many times I broke down like Wanya because it was so hard to say goodbye to friends of yesterday. I wish that would've stopped me from running the streets. what it did was make me go harder to make ends meet. Although I saw reality I still told myself that can't be me, it was just a matter of time when I would see differently, blam blam slugs tore through me, I got lucky to live, every day I have a reminder in me on how I used to live, when the last blast rung a slug made itself home by my lung, so close, operation wasn't even an option. Still I chose to poverty oppose. I said thanks to the doc and with a cast and cane I was back on the block selling rock cocaine. I was on a relentless run to nowhere, speeding through the ghetto hov lane with no cares, the street was going to have to kill me before I left the game.

It wasn't for fame why I desecrated my last name, it was because I had drive but was driven in the wrong direction. If someone would've taught us a skill other than manufacturing my men probably wouldn't of been dead and i wouldn't have to deal with being a survivor of an attempted assassination. I'm happy that I'm living, just sad that a lot of good men are no longer breathing and can't witness a new beginning... a new found way of eating...expression through writing.

## A. lotta kidz

Where I'm from in the ghetto us kids always played rough, we showed each other we were tough. Slap boxing, wrestling, all for one, we played those games as preparation for bully's troublemakers and for those that tap pockets for allowance through intimidation. There was this one boy that never participated and he was a big brawny lad, when the horseplay came his way, with a face of fear he would run away. I used to feel so bad. He was very private, very quiet, none of us really knew anything about him but his name "A. lotta kidz" and that his happy and sad face looked the same...unless he was never happy, but that's impossible, we were kids.

Where ever we went he was always worried about time, I mean really worried. If he had to be home at six he would leave at four thirty to get home early when he was only about fifteen minutes away. He never invited us over, he never offered his phone number, that wasn't a strange thing in the hood because not everyone had a phone and not everybody was okay with company due to bad living conditions shared with their family. When I wanted to hang out with him, I used to whistle downstairs in front of his window, he had asked all of his friends to do so without calling his name, things got stranger.

We met in the winter in the middle of the school year, spring passed and summer came. Its 100 degrees out, all the fellas got together so we can walk to Pelham to jump on the five bus and spend the day at the beach. We all have on summer wear...shorts, sandals and tank tops, not A. Lotta..he wore boots, jeans and a long sleeve shirt, the one

## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

thing he has different today than any other day was his shades. They were really dark ones. I remember complimenting him on them and him saying his eyes were sensitive to the bright rays of the sun. We arrive at the beach. Ahhh. What a beautiful day.

We sat on beach chairs and watched all the beautiful girls in bikinis in drooling stares, we're young, to us that's bra and panties. we all had them x rated thoughts when they walked by with a switching strut. I'm looking at A. Lotta actually having a good time. About two hours passed. Everyone is dripping sweat, A. Lotta is dripping wet because he had yet to remove the long sleeve and jeans he wore, nor the shades. One of the fellas gets up and sprints towards the water.. then another and another, soon we are all in the water..except A. lotta. We decide to get out and man handle him in a friendly manner to throw him in. He must've of figured we was coming for him because as we got close he started running. We chased and got him.

We're trying to strip him to his bathing suit, he's putting up a good fight something he never does, through the fun and laughter I noticed he's fighting as if he's fighting for his life. He's not smiling, he's not playing, he was serious, in the moment the fellas didn't notice this. His shades fly off, his shirt gets ripped off, his jeans get lowered but he doesn't have a bathing suit, he has boxers on. His eyes are black, he has lacerations all over his back, his legs are bruised his arms have burn marks and scabs on top of new scars cause old wounds haven't heeled. I grabbed him and asked who did this, crying in fear and shame he mumbles... this is why I couldn't give you my number or invite y'all over, it was forbidden by my abusive father. This is A. lotta kidz story.... A lot of kids.

*Albert 'Infinite' Carrasco*

*Siddhartha*

*Beth*

*Pierce*

*Siddhartha Beth Pierce*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

**Siddartha Beth Pierce** is a Mother, Poet, Artist and African and Contemporary Art Historian. Her art, poetry and teaching were featured on PBS in April 2001 while she was the Artist-in-Residence and Associate Professor at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. She received her BA in Studio Art from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and her M.A.E. from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. She continued into PhD. Studies in African and Contemporary Art studies at Virginia Commonwealth University where she is now All but Dissertation. Her works of poetry and art have been featured in numerous newspaper articles, journals, magazines and chapbooks.

<http://www.innerchildpress.com/siddartha-beth-pierce.php>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ87NrLt\\_to](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ87NrLt_to)

<http://www.writerscafe.org/Siddartha>

## No More Wire Hangers

Fluorescent  
lights  
Balding  
Rays.

Blinded  
afflicted  
Flattened  
Bed of nails  
She laid  
Awake  
aware  
stiff, taut.

Her daughter,  
Eden  
The womb, the angel  
Petrified  
vacuumed  
suctioned  
Slurped  
agony  
Cocooned  
and Lost.

The Bloody Corpse  
traipsed  
away  
upon the flat iron death bed  
flushed for vegetation.

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

The teenager  
remained  
medicated  
for several  
hours  
in a daze  
and spoke  
not a  
word  
of the  
Matter.

## Sirens

The attack-  
the attic nap yarded  
quilted  
As the sitter sat before  
soap operas  
Her son stole away  
to the loft  
molested the four year old girl  
where the sun don't shine.

He warned-  
'I will kill your parents  
if you ever tell that I have touched you'

She told eventually  
they reported next door  
and the old woman cried  
for his curiosity-

Fire department volunteer  
was he-  
and to this day  
when the red truck  
blows by  
alarming the neighborhoods  
she secretly wishes  
that he would die  
in a pyre of those flames.

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

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## Her Voice

The young girl lay upon the ground  
spread-eagled  
on a dark, deserted road  
waiting to be found  
as from the distance a Light  
approached.

She could not make out a face  
but heard the words  
'The Truth you seek is your Voice.'

She arose having found the answer  
she sought  
as she brushed off her dirty knees determinedly  
she did not see or hear the oncoming semi  
sweep her off her feet once again.

She lay upon the ground  
spread-eagled  
on a dark, deserted road  
waiting to be found  
as from the distance a Light  
approached  
enveloping her wholly  
consumed by the Light  
her voice became one of the millions  
that had crossed this road before  
falling sweetly, knowingly upon death's door  
to be heard from nevermore.

*Janet  
Perkins  
Caldwell*

*Janet Perkins Caldwell*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Janet wrote her first poems and short stories in an old diary where she noted her daily thoughts. She wrote whether suffering, joyful or hoping for peace in the world. She started this process at the tender age of Eight. This was long before journaling was in vogue.

Along with her thoughts, poetry and stories, she drew what she refers to as Hippie flowers. Janet still to this day embraces the Sixties and Seventies flower power symbol, of peace and love, which are a very important part of her consciousness.

Janet wrote her first book, in those unassuming diaries, never to be seen by the light of day due to an unfortunate house fire. This did not deter her drive. She then opted for a new batch of composition journals and filled everyone. In the early nineteen-eighties, Janet held a byline in a small newspaper in Denton, Texas while working full time, being a Mother and attending Night School.

Since the early days Janet has been published in newspapers, magazines and books globally. She also has enjoyed being the feature on numerous occasions, both in Magazines, Radio and on a plethora of Sites. She has gone on to publish three books. *5 degrees to separation* 2003, *Passages* 2012 and her latest book *Dancing Toward the Light . . . the journey continues* 2013. All of her Books are available through [Inner Child Press](#) along with Fine Book Stores Globally. Janet P. Caldwell is also the Chief Operating Officer of Inner Child ltd.

<http://www.janetcaldwell.com/>

<http://www.innerchildpress.com/janet-p-caldwell.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/JanetPCaldwell>

## 5 degrees to separation

I learned to count early  
Read the bible too  
Wrath, punishment  
Seemed no absolution  
Separate at five

In the morning  
When I was defiled  
Five screams a minute  
Five shiny points from  
The glass shards

Five fingers, to check off  
As I calculate  
In five minutes I'm clean  
and new  
Separated by five degrees

Five from what I don't want  
To remember, anything green  
Black or brown

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Make it easier

Five letters/numbers are my friends

The ceiling fan;

Wood, glass, white, brown, brass

Another set of quints

A quick escape

When I should need one

My rabbit hole with

Back-doors aplenty

Five senses all shut down

I've got good and can count

Before what might happen.

Safe in numbers, hidden

When I separate from myself.

## Weep For the Child That Never Was

Tears fall down my face  
for a child with no name  
A child filled with anguish  
suffering disgrace

How could they have lied  
and treated her so  
Why didn't they love her  
just let her go?

Buy her new clothes  
fill her with song  
Mess her up more  
you can't be wrong!

She grew up with walls  
forever all around  
The music you played  
she couldn't hear a sound

You look at her now  
with disgust in your eyes  
You can't see her though  
she wears a disguise

Hand-made by you  
so carefully sewn  
With coagulated drops  
all her own

You thought that you knew her  
but there's no way that you could  
She's not what you think  
behind the mask stained with blood

## Daddy # 2

I Remember (him)  
Glassy blue eyes  
Fingertips brown  
Black greasy hair  
Forehead high  
Child killer  
Sick bastard

I Remember (me)  
Scuttling like a rat  
Running from a cat  
Scattering across the tile  
Like a roach on fire  
When the lights came on  
Better scatter, Daddy's home!

I Remember (séances)  
Straddling his head  
The shoulders so high  
Calling up the dead  
Peering in the sky  
Let the dead now arise  
It'll stop daddy's cries

I Remember (abuse)  
Dancing to the belt  
That beat me blue  
Decorated with welts  
Daddy, I remember you . . .

*Janet Perkins Caldwell*

June  
'Bugg'  
Barefield

*June 'Bugg' Barefield*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

June Barefield ~ Poet-Activist-Teacher-Author

Born and raised in the Midwest, currently residing in East St Louis, IL. June's interests include long walks, sunrises, cheesecake, and words. He considers the NRA, and its supporters 2B a 21st century Nazi-ism! The author of two collections of poetry which include *B4 the Dawn*, and *The Journeyman*

I B. Self educated, and proud to be humbled. An avid reader, and teacher, counselor in his community at what we as a society have termed "at risk children". June refers to them as Gang members, and dope dealers. A brilliant speaker, and motivator; fluent in at least three religions! June's favorite quote: "FUCK THE SYSTEM!"

for booking call : [720 404 8563](tel:7204048563)

<http://authorsdb.com/authors-directory/2292-june-barefield>

you can get more of June here . . .

<https://www.facebook.com/JuneBugg900>

<https://www.facebook.com/june.barefield.7>

<http://www.innerchildpress.com/june-barefield.php>

## "BIG HOMIE SAY"

"Where to go, what to do?"

"I'll pursue this life of crime; so fuck a job  
and fuck school too!"

"I'm never taking what they offering fool.

"And how long will this last? "My entire community  
is on dope, taking them good, 100000NG blasts..."

"It ain't no money in that though; I'll end up stealing  
from my mother..."

"So, instead I'm like my brother's keeper; Got these  
Nigga's out here going to see the Grim Reaper!"

My BIG HOMIE SAY...

"You can't wait for the next man to give you shit!"

"Can't switch it up; Gotta be down to RYDE 4 the click!"

He said, "The enemy rolled up on him today bustin', but  
them damn fools missed..."

BIG HOMIE SAY...

He said, "He copped my first case ate thee age of ONE-  
THREE."

Said, "He beat a bitch so bad that now he has bad  
dreams..."

BIG HOMIE SAY...

"The right to remain silent is a mutha fuckin' joke."

He passed me the blunt,

I thought about it for a sec

Took me one of them little bitty ass tokes, you know?

I thought a little more, and then I took my young ass  
home!!

## Tell Them

Tell them that after they have learned to read  
to write  
fumble about with their computers  
Be not distracted  
there's more to learn to bring forth  
solutions  
tell them that they're being educated just to conduct the  
nations LABOR  
and while they're told they're free  
tell them to observe they're own family  
Still slaves  
2 the dollar bill  
tell em learn the dynamic of economics  
the tricks unlearned  
4 the treats being served  
across the tracks  
out of sight sound or touch  
of the INNER city  
where ALL lines R  
BLURRED.  
Tell them  
the TRUFF.

## *June 'Bugg' Barefield*

### A VERSE.

My bedroom used to B so dark I thought I'd become an astronaut  
There was a ferocious crocodile behind my closet door  
I'd lock him inside & hide; afraid of the shifting shadows  
on the wall, the hollering in the hall; I felt so small  
Time and again I would crawl into myself, and imagine I  
was somewhere else  
Never screamed out once, but  
I wanted help...  
I found my comfort outdoors running & jumping  
Playing in the streets  
At home my mother preached  
ducking left hooks, and throwing books in a corrupted flux  
of "fuck you's" & "I don't give a fucks"  
Waiting 4 someone to come in and kiss me goodnight  
Knowing damn well they had to first finish the fight  
Heart beating like the meanest kid on the playground now,  
and  
Made me want to break something.

I'd like to maybe sniff the glue that binds families together  
Get some attention before I reach detention  
B the smart kid just once, and revel in my clever  
Never did sit on daddy's lap  
Most of the words he had for me tasted a lot like uncooked  
carp  
To me, he was always a fishy ni99a  
It would take a little time, but soon enough I'd imitate the  
fool and steal all his fuckin' liquor  
Every now and then my momma would swing me in her  
arms like a chandelier, and that was nice  
but fleeting...  
Mostly though, to be precise  
I only wanted 2 break something

*Debbie*

*M.*

*Allen*

*Debbie M. Allen*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Debbie M. Allen is a Pennsylvania native that has remained true to her passion for the love of poetry. She has always had a passion for poetry. In 2010 she took that passion and made it her cause, always maintaining the truth of her experiences and the beliefs she holds dear.

Debbie is the Author of “A Poet Never Dies,” her first book of poetry which was published in 2012. Since then she has published her second book of poems, “The Spiral of a Pisces: In Manic Flow,” which encompasses her ever spiraling transition of expression. She can be found participating in various avenues of spoken word and poetry under the pseudonym D. Flo’essence including The Truth Commission Movement, Penology Ink Productions, Jersey Radical Productions and What’s The News.

## Shelter Note

Child...

Things are bound to get easier

Even when the toddle of tales are gone...

And the flatter of new fawn wears off your skin...

As long as you remember

Never let your reflection dull

In dirty mirrors...

I know it's like hear say in a court of

Passing years

Yet judgment only passes

Into weakened ears...

If you let the echo of despair

Bounce too hard against your ear drums

Suffocating your beat

Into a conundrum of stutters

In the hurt of aching feet...

Youth grow out of shoes so quickly

But we can always walk in the stellar of faith...

Bypassing the hateful lacing of reality

That seems to trip every step

Before you get to see traces of that yellow brick road...

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Time gets as old as re-runs of life episodes  
But the heart is an abode of new themes  
Hold your esteem like gold to shield from its breaking  
Making yourself a star  
That shines even when the sun  
Can't divide clouded lines...  
Shake your senses beyond the crime  
Of groundless thinking  
Settle yourself in the battle against shrinking...  
Because...child...  
Things are bound to get easier  
As long as tall is how you stand in  
Sheltered notes to self  
Knowing that if you ever need help  
There are hands always ready to lift you...  
Those footprints in the sand  
Never disappear...

## Unknown Daughter

I feel like I was hated since the day I was born...  
Uterine scorn  
How I can I live in that shadow?  
Daddy was a pan handler of panties  
And mama handed choices over  
In the bottom of his bucket...  
So my birth didn't fit their budget  
I became a woman from lessons of a woman darned  
Of ragged yarn...  
And daddy was a word I only uttered  
In soul poems...  
Who are you? So I can know me...  
But that would never be  
Because he was just a figment in the mind of prisons...  
Society given  
Never being more than the word of a senseless man  
Because actions don't know sense  
In hollow glands...  
So he never sweated me...daddy...  
And mommy...  
I was a lil shoulder for her heavy tears to cry on...  
Killing my years too early  
Surely if I had been a seed...she would have grown me...  
If seeds could grow from ill thought dreams  
From killed out schemes that had her reeling...  
So my hands are constantly dealing  
Worn out Aces...that never traced back to one...  
I am just the chip in argued fits of lackluster worth  
Bursting at the seams ...  
With no stitch to at least trick me into believing  
I would be whole again...

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Mommy and daddy....  
They call me their twin...  
Does that mean I will meet the same unconscious end?  
That they met....  
Sometimes I regret being born...  
But that is not really my regret to hold...  
I just held the coffin of a womb  
Under bitterness boldness...for a moment...  
Used to carry the load of their weakness...  
There is no real deepness in that  
Just shallow snaps of a cord that never  
Would lead back to life...  
No hype...no future in fairness  
Only careless hugs that left me colder than  
The slap of the doctor's hand that gave me first  
Sting of reality...  
I was never meant to be  
Special...  
I was always the special of the day  
Thigh claps on the lap  
Of worthlessness...  
Mommy and daddy lost my hope in craps  
That morning...  
Dawning me into another generation of misery...  
And yes...I will remember  
How they cheated me...  
In raptures seemingly  
Only rupturing me  
In the claims or an unknown daughter...

*Debbie M. Allen*

## The Sovereignty of My Verses

Childhood was a bitter beast  
Battling loneliness that seemed to  
Bagger me into sleep...  
Bullied by nightmares...because  
Nobody cares to dream about lost children  
So I became misplaced...vanishing  
Slowly until there was no trace  
Of adolescence...  
Arthritic in my thoughts...  
Caught up in magnitudes small hands could never grasp  
Until tiny fingers gave clasp

Around the barrel of a pen...

Ink and I became very best friends  
Playing patty-cake around verses  
In make believe universes that saved me  
From being alone...  
And gave words the perfect home to live in...  
Strengthening a broken spirit  
Baring a gift that made Christmas year round  
Although it wasn't Santa but God that gave me my poetic  
crown  
Knowing Princesses still have fears to live in...

And Lord knows  
Teenage years split hairs to no end...  
Body begat a womb  
That the lust of men tried to fit in...  
Spreading the seed that spread legs to urgency  
I...believing time developed my hour glass shape

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

To curve along the raping of my fate...  
The girl six of their fantasy birthing wisdom too late  
Mommy became my name before  
Creation could create a woman...  
So the mimic of grown hands

Sought a childhood friend in my pen

Trying to fit mothering in a world  
Where mothering was a metaphor run thin?  
Searching for anything to bring shame understanding...  
Hands shaky in the skipping of ages  
Until rings on a spiral notebook became the engagement  
Of pages...  
Writing hope into my youth  
And as my belly grew  
So did the space of my expression...  
Keeping me divided from despair  
With lessons scrolled in stages of quills giving self  
A selfless muse to be still in...  
Baby birthing baby  
Streamed in black rivers of my ink...  
Cradling her with kisses of the messages  
That kept my heart in sync at the beating of her bay...  
Lines leading to the future  
Defined by the hymns I bore her...  
Humming peace in the ripple of poetry to unknown waters

Then the years cursed breaths in the drown of torture...  
Smacked into me with the death of hands  
Demanding that my life only live along the bank of  
Of caging borders...  
Two daughters, two sons and me with  
Broken love that broke the run of my words...

*Debbie M. Allen*

Mocking birds singing tone deaf  
To the disorder of my verbs...  
Wing clipped prayers unable to filter tales  
To the expiration of my soul...  
Decomposed...unheard...  
While I pondered the scripture of headstones  
Hurling at the hellish spin of destiny  
Trying to best me out of what I once found  
In my own sacred terms  
Yet memories stole away in the back of my mind  
Reminded me that words never burn...

In the ashes of defeat  
Laid my pen rendered steel  
Welded over time to remain the one thing real  
I could feel...clutched deep inside  
Turning water wheels to purge me of my cries...  
So I can will a bit of heaven  
Gold lined sheets I now walk in the paving of my rhyme  
Influenced divine...everlasting beyond the caving of life  
A sanctuary within

My survival story  
Through the power of my pen...

*Tony  
Henninger*

*Tony Henninger*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Tony has been writing for about 20 years. He has published one book titled “ A Journey of Love.” He has also contributed to several Anthologies. His book is available at Innerchild Press and Amazon.com.

You can find him at [Facebook.com/Tony](https://www.facebook.com/TonyHenninger)

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*Tony Henninger*

## Remember

Do you remember being a child?  
When the skies were bluest blue  
and the future looked so bright?  
Everything was possible then.  
Imagination was unbound.

Pretending to fly so high,  
soaring up, down, and around,  
like the birds in the sky.  
Then falling to the ground  
with belly aching laughter.

What a beautiful sight,  
children at play in the meadow.  
Twirling around with delight.  
Chasing their own shadows.  
Searching for the end of the rainbow.

Remember those treasured times  
and help stamp out the crimes  
committed on children today,  
both, near and far away.

We must cherish and nurture  
the life of a child.

Our future depends on it....

## A Child's Smile

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon  
I was sitting on a park bench  
enjoying the serenity and beauty  
of watching children at play,  
thinking, "Ah, what a rare sight today."  
Unbound, unafraid, imaginations soaring.  
Lost in their own little world, not knowing,  
just a few feet away, the real world  
stood cold and foreboding.  
Can you hear the cries in the night?  
Of loneliness, hunger, and fright?  
Places where there are no parks.  
Where there are no children at play.  
Where children are "things" owned.  
Burdens, mistakes, or baggage,  
and sometimes even garbage  
to be used and thrown away.  
In these, so-called, "civilized days"  
it is appalling and sad to see  
a child not able to be a child  
yet, still giving love unconditionally.

Love lies in a child's smile,  
not in the tears on their face.

Bring out their wondrous smile  
and this world will be a better place

for all.

*Tony Henninger*

## A Mistake

On a cold dark night  
misty from the rain,  
far away from the light  
near an old storm drain,

She lay crying.

Unheard and unwanted,  
freezing to her bones,  
pleading for the warmth  
that left her on the cold stones,

She lay sighing.

All alone and full of fright,  
reaching out for a love token,  
as under darkness of the night  
a mother/child bond was broken,

She lay dying.

Tossed aside....

A Mistake....

Joe  
Da Verbal  
MindDancer

*Joe Da Verbal MindDancer*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Joseph L Paire' aka Joe DaVerbal Minddancer . . .  
is a quiet man, born in a time where civil liberties  
were a walk on thin ice. He's been a victim of his  
own shyness often sidelined in his own quest for  
love. He became the observer, charting life's path.  
Taking note of the why, people do what they do.  
His writings oft times strike a cord with the  
dormant strings of the reader. His pen the rosined  
bow drawn across the mind. He comes full-frontal  
or in the subtlest way, always expressing in a way  
that stimulate the senses.

<https://www.facebook.com/joe.minddancer>

## Letter To Daddy

The water falls over my body as hot as I can stand it.  
I scrub and scrub to the point my skin is raw.  
The full bar of soap I started with has withered to a sliver  
In my hand, I hold a loofah its pores filled with my pain.  
I feel stained in shame; it will not wash down the drain.  
Daddy I feel I am to blame; it is insane  
However, my brain tells me I am dirty.

I can't run to you and say Daddy he hurt me.  
You're off fighting a war see! Mama won't hear me  
It's her lover that...OH GOD PLEASE.  
Let this soap wash away from me this terrible memory.  
How could she take from me, my private sanctity?  
Just to satisfy his lust for me,  
My own Mother has no love for me.

DADDY; Please come home to me  
Maybe you can set me free.  
I can't regain my dignity, will I become a whore like she?  
I pray and bath constantly to remove their sins off of me  
I'm being used and abused repeatedly.  
I know this hurts you to read Daddy, it's killing me.

I am trying hard Daddy, but no one will listen  
Every time I go outside people are whispering  
The boys think I am easy, the girls call me fast.  
Mama and he are drinking now, DADDY  
I don't know how much longer I can last.

## Listen To Them

Red and Blue flashing lights; Clear Clear.  
We almost lost her.  
Poor little thing she's so beautiful  
Hang on lovely one; we are almost here.  
Come-on Doc; please; you've got to save her  
Pulse is weak; Lord God my Savior..  
See the light see the shadow going up or down below.  
It's judgment time; for this life she tried to take..  
Caught up in life; caught up in turmoil's wake  
Dealing with loneliness; surrounded by crowds  
Which one among you;  
Now wipe the sweat off your brow.

Fun on the outside crying with-in  
She talked to her mother; she is not listening  
Family woes, family throws as many hard punches  
As the ones, we do not know.  
Be hard be strong be like the rest  
Will this behavior help pass life's test?  
Dealing with school dealing with fools  
Dealing with Moms perverted friends;  
She cannot prove

Alone in a world all about self, no structure is the culture  
It's all about wealth; Get money get ends make that paper  
Your friend just raped her; now she tries to escape her!  
You can't be found; because you're on your own caper  
Look at the shadows, which one is next  
The oldest the youngest; the in between  
Any family any where life shattered dreams

*Joe Da Verbal MindDancer*

When a loved one cries out; is it get back in the race?  
Or taking time out to hear out the case  
Flat line \_\_\_\_\_ she did not make it,  
She took the life she felt was forsaken  
Her Mother thought her lover; she had taken  
Wouldn't hear she had been raped then  
Cause of death Suicide...  
Hidden facts for "Family Pride"  
Heaven's door, was opened wide  
Listen to Them ...All Kids Don't Lie.....Peace

## Hand Me Down

Hey, man is you all right.  
Looks like you got the worst of that fight.  
It had to be more than three;  
You're twice as big as me.

Girl, did that fool hit you again?  
Oh my god girl look at your eye  
I told you them boy's ain't bout nothing.  
All they want is a little humping

Yeah man they got me good,  
Yeah girl he was tripping.  
Both of them embarrassed  
To say they got whippings

Daddy drinks too much  
Mama on some otherworld tip  
The both of them;  
From pasts that tolerated it.

Spare the rod; spoil the child  
Moms too afraid when Dad gets wild  
3, 5, 7 year old boys punched like men  
2, 4, 6 year old girls looked upon as women.

Ghetto life, Suburban living  
Rural communities or Backwoods' hillbillies  
Some parent or relative are slapping them silly.  
He fell down the stairs, She's on her monthlies

Notes to schools when they don't show up promptly  
Explanations when the cops come on your property.  
Scared children lie in the hopes they'll find peace.  
Instead it's see what you did, you caused me misery.

*Joe Da Verbal MindDancer*

And the hands come down again and again.  
It never ends; Siblings cower and wonder whose next  
Sometimes it's the youngest, sometimes the eldest  
They walk on eggshells at home, it's very complex.

Baby girl grows breast, the oldest tries to teach her  
Tape them down, it's for the best, yes it's a mess.  
There is very little intervention, the authorities try  
But it's hard to pay attention.

So many fall through the cracks  
Mostly it's a case of too late.  
Those that make it from under, carry a heavy weight.

Failed relationships; marriages and such.  
Some carry over that same mentality  
Held in by that crust; Open your eyes.

Better yet open your mouths  
Seeing a child beat down, is not entertainment.  
"None of your business"  
Will you say that at the arraignment?

How we are taught right from wrong  
Does make a difference.  
How some of us; were taught!  
Has made; some of us oblivious.

Hand down some knowledge  
Hand down some land  
Hand down some love.  
Just handing down hands.

Robert  
Gibbons

*Robert Gibbons*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Robert Gibbons moved to New York City in the summer of 2007 in search of his muse-Langston Hughes. Robert has performed all over New York City.

His first collection of Poetry, Close to the Tree was published by Threes Rooms Press and can be purchased at :

[www.threeroomspress.com](http://www.threeroomspress.com)

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*Robert Gibbons*

for the young and modern  
Martin Luther King

“why should the world be otherwise, in counting all our  
tears and sighs?”  
(after Paul Laurence Dunbar)

Avonte Oquendo

your story is my story  
one with horror and expectation  
walking out of school for the last  
time is always the issue  
the underground of subways  
and transient byways  
and autistic sounds  
garbles the thousands  
hallucinations, our nursery  
of fears and bedlam of  
emotion finding bones  
near the Harlem river  
the baptism of Emmet Till  
kingdom come

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Patrick Alford

I saw a police  
in the twisting streets of Brooklyn  
this is made for television  
for those that think  
it is real but it is and they  
forget he is still missing  
with your broken amber alerts  
and milk carton face  
who am I to judge  
when they take out the trash  
and through his humanity  
down the chute

Trayvon Martin

you were not old  
enough to dream just  
an explosion of manliness  
in a childhood frame  
and you had no choice  
your shroud incriminates  
and the loud body parts

*Robert Gibbons*

are massive but you were built  
for war and the sniper  
takes aim  
and won

Kevin Miller

and momma greatest fear  
is to send her child out  
before dark, I can imagine  
a kitchen table with  
a space  
empty

Myls Dobson

and Jesus claims the body  
hanging like a tortured phrase  
and the wages of sin  
is death, and the grave  
marker shall read  
baby

## seven blocks home

(for Leiby Kletzky, 8)

it takes compassion to navigate the crooked streets of  
Brooklyn  
each block has its own personality, its own nationality; its  
own  
language, its own persuasion; there are seven blocks and  
seven  
days and seven complete revolutions; seven demarcations  
seven solution and seven times seven is seemingly  
historic in proportion, there are countless children hiding  
in the subways of New York and D. C. and Oakland seven  
missing expired milk cartons from the lunch room  
refrigerator  
seven amber alerts and photographs unseen unheard unfelt  
unknown in this death notebook the same cry comes from  
my  
Yiddish tongue from this elegy in song; it is a lamentation  
this seven is orthodoxy; it is democracy because the world  
is so small seven can chant like a cantor; we cant call it  
evil  
because our only focus is God.

## the ban on saggy pants

I do not always agree with you, as a child I was rebellious  
did not understand my hormones; my mother said it was  
the mark of my father; the toddler of his double; but  
somehow I was saved; the mazes of childhood and puberty  
the elmer's glue of family; we had belts and buckles around  
our house; Easter suits and baggy pants; but then there  
was the style; could never grow an afro; my hair just  
would not develop; so had to envelope a lesser do, the few  
of us remain without high top and fade; without box cut  
or the name inscribed on the side of our skull; the lull  
to be popular; the rock stars of high school

do not always agree with you; the boys on the corner  
could stay out later; could hang until the street lights  
would darken; would look at them from my window  
would wish I could be like them; but my parents were  
insistent; they had a plan for me; they demanded of me  
to be individual; not a gang; or a group; or a fade  
but home made; they way each day to say grace  
or do not forget to say thank you; I did not always  
agree, but I am a free from the judgment of others

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

the push and pull of peer pressure; create my own sense; lenses of wisdom from a mother's tongue the few among that can not develop into their own the sad song of living this way; the price of another elegy; beg them to be free; in some way this is what the metaphor means; their way of trying to be free beg them to be free; release them from restriction their pants are just back drops; beg them to be free knocking down of walls; as tall as inhibition; listen to what they wants as they walk down these roads of forgetfulness; the instinct of toughness; beg them to be free; then maybe there will be some that will understand the band; and sanction; the pent -up and the anxious; really they are not free; just look and then you will see.

*Robert Gibbons*

*Neetu  
Wali*

*Neetu Wali*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Hi! I am Neetu. Who am I? This question is very difficult to answer.

Well! If you insist, let me reveal. I am a human and like every other human I eat, sleep, drink, dance, sing, laugh, smile, cry and so on. Hang on! There is a difference. Unlike most of the human beings, I breathe and when I breathe, I relax. When I am relaxed, I draw. I draw sketches of me in words.

I have been orbiting around sun for forty years now. I started this journey on the Valentine day of 1974. I have seen people craving for heaven and I was born in the only heaven on earth (Kashmir). My Grandfather was a spiritual personality and a renowned poet of his time. Though he left me around 35 years ago, I couldn't let him go. I carry him in my eyes and mind and will do that till the end of my life. I hate words, yet I am full of words. I know words cannot express, yet I express me through words, because they are the only medium I am familiar with. That is why I try to express me as much as possible with as minimum words as possible.

When I did Masters in business administration, I never knew, writing will be the only business in my life. More than hobby writing is a necessity for me, because it helps me get the load of thoughts off my head. I don't remember when it that I wrote my first poem was. But I surely know the time of my last poem. Surely, not before my last breath.

## Skirt in Dirt

Dirty eyes around her  
Played with her torn skirt  
While she played with dirt  
She did play with dirt  
But she didn't know  
What it meant to play  
With dirt  
Till she actually  
Was forced to be the  
Dirt to play with  
She lived  
A death inside  
And how that mattered  
To the world outside  
The world needed  
Her skin  
Not the soul within  
And now something  
Inside her says  
Time for another skirt  
Another round of dirt  
And she asks herself  
Should I??

## Cage of Age

Wrinkled face  
Age sprinkled everywhere  
Like colours wide and vast  
Yet so colourless  
Eyes emotionless  
Yet oceans of emotions  
Hidden within  
Life so intense  
Beyond experience  
Nothing else  
Just life  
Pure life  
Moments count and add  
One by one  
As breath revives  
A moment of life survives  
With no clue  
Of how and why  
Just life  
Pure life  
Please never ask

*Neetu Wali*

When you see  
A hand that is  
Soft bones covered with hard skin  
Holding abnormally tight  
And stoic eyes  
Staring innocently wild  
A platter full  
Coz it is neither taste  
Nor texture  
Just life  
Ounces of pure life  
Life signs a secret lease  
Always keen to release  
This is just  
A cute try to trap a cage  
Cage of age

## Train of Thoughts

Train of thoughts  
Run across the brain  
A thought gets down  
And a new one boards  
The roads never end  
Thoughts are never dead  
Without any brakes  
The train runs amuck  
Brake-less and driver-less  
End of this journey  
Is the end of life  
And the goal of journey  
Becomes the goal of life  
We all are placed  
Where our thoughts place us  
A deed is done  
First in thought  
An achievement is achieved  
First in thought  
A crime is committed  
First in thought  
A sin happens  
First in thought  
A life comes free  
When a thought is brought

*Neetu Wali*

*Shareef  
Abdur  
Rasheed*

*Shareef Abdur ~ Rasheed*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Shareef Abdur-Rasheed,AKA,Zakir Flo was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. His education includes Brooklyn College, Suffolk County Community College and Makkah, Saudi Arabia. He is a Veteran of the Viet Nam era, where in 1969 he reverted to his now reverently embraced Islamic Faith. He is very active in the Islamic community and beyond with his teachings, activism and his humanity.

Shareef's spiritual expression comes through the persona of "Zakir Flo" . Zakir is Arabic for "To remind". Never silent, Shareef Abdur-Rasheed is always dropping science, love, consciousness and signs of the time in rhyme.

Shareef is the Patriarch of the Abdur-Rasheed Family with 9 Children (6 Sons and 3 Daughters) and 42 Grandchildren (24 Boys and 18 Girls).

For more information about Shareef,  
contact or follow him at :

<http://www.facebook.com/shareef.abdurrasheed1>

<http://zakirflo.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.innerchildpress.com/shareef-abdur-rasheed.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Muslim-Writers-Forum/370511683056503>

sullen..,

faces looking in space  
these reps of the humanrace  
cross eachother's paths  
everyday never so much  
as a word to say  
do they look into anothers  
eyes...  
try to visualize how is their  
lives?  
how do they live,for what do  
they live?  
how much of a dam do we give  
call it live 'n' let live?  
how many years did you ride by  
their side  
look into space,blank look in their  
eyes?

going to and from where ever their  
going to ,coming from  
age of technology has digressed  
from humanity  
and they call this progress,civilized  
or is this insanity collectively  
conceptualized  
can we make a change,a difference  
or remain a society of indifference  
institutionalized  
untill our demise is realized?  
how can we grow and thrive  
when humans perpetually show  
little or no humanity  
riding side by side?

**in real time!**

gestures to restore order  
tend to border on the  
absurd  
considering the masses  
kicked to the curb,  
literally!  
left to rot like corpses  
labeled collateral damage  
by the world's governments  
controlled by their corporate  
bosses!  
scorned, ignored, lives torn  
driven from their homes  
in droves  
left to wander the roads  
with what possessions they  
were able to load!  
posturing, rhetoric, sound bites  
is by far the relief sent to the  
millions of wretched souls in  
flight  
who everyday have to fight to  
to have the right to stay on this  
cold earth another day!

who can feel the refugee  
driven away from their homes  
with families to roam?

*Shareef Abdur ~ Rasheed*

yet we can sit safely  
with the audacity to complain  
about what amounts to bull\$hit  
by name  
compared to those who's lives  
were delt serious blows  
enduring human suffering that  
most will never know!  
as it's intended insolation shows  
once again the people have been  
abandoned,offended!  
and will continue to provided  
mankind stays divided as intended!

food 4 thought!

born of..,

the forlorn, abandoned scorned,  
hidden in full sight  
the plight of those the system  
oppose and constantly deprive  
of rights

born of..,

the forlorn, abandoned, scorned

from day one was branded  
told to hold the hand it was  
handed from a marked deck  
holding jokers smirking @ ya  
in disrespect!  
you lose! what you expect  
life can be a bitch!  
born naked, die barefoot  
with no shoes, not even a  
stitch!  
born to lose from da roots  
how you gonna "Pull yourself  
up by your bootstraps"  
when you ain't got no boots!  
answer..,  
you still have the means  
to "choose" life and fight!  
go from upside down  
to upright!  
refuse to accept the brand  
stand up and take a stand

*Shareef Abdur ~ Rasheed*

faith, honesty, consistency  
hard work, dependability,  
humility,  
can translate into legitimate  
viability!  
put an end to self denial  
accepting labels vile  
all da while of course  
force a fake smile!  
tap dance 'n' grin  
while inside you hate the  
the skin your in  
it's a dam sin, no way to  
live  
born to die forlorned, scorned  
like you never was here, or  
ever been!  
dam shame because you caved,  
gave in,. never tried to rise!!  
bad way to live, worst way to die!

food 4 thought!

*Kimberly  
Burnham*

*Kimberly Burnham*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

An Integrative Medicine practitioner, Kimberly Burnham uses poetry, words, coaching and hands-on therapies to help you heal. A published poet in several Inner Child Press anthologies, including *Healing Through Words* and *I Want My Poetry To*, Kimberly is winner of SageUSA's story contest with a poem about her 2013 Hazon CrossUSA bicycle ride. She is writing *The Journey Home* about that 3000 mile expedition.

Now, you get to be her muse with a list of seven experiences you yearn for. She writes a poem as if already, you are feeling the exhilaration of living your dreams.

You can find Kimberly ...

<http://www.KimberlyBurnhamPhD.com>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/KimberlyBurnham>

<http://www.amazon.com/Kimberly-Burnham/e/B0054RZ4A0>

## Let The Child Write a Poem

Whether a small child  
using words  
expressing big feelings  
or an inner child  
grown wise  
through experiences  
histories portraying  
hope  
so different  
from your own

Help her see  
the world  
through a new lens  
shapes shift  
yet stable enough  
to walk forward  
learning to balance  
unique differences

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Shine a light  
a softer touch  
for him  
all feelings welcome  
finding ways to channel  
energy and emotions  
like a river bed  
into a broad field  
nourishing carrots

Words raining down  
on children  
you choose the effect  
the path to the heart  
impacts on  
time  
space  
me

## Are You A Child's Mirror

Imagine everyone  
around a mirror  
reflecting back  
who you are  
you think  
it's accurate  
a steady clear mirror  
instead like a funhouse glass  
tall and wavy  
short and blurry  
who you are  
reflected back

Words spoken in anger  
in haste  
defining your potential  
seem to reflect reality  
only of those  
who unaware  
look not through  
the reflection  
to the inner core  
more precious than diamonds  
shaped with skill  
or crushed by blood

## Opposites Attract

Parents so different  
in this world of duality  
don't make me choose  
who is right  
who is wrong  
teach me  
difference is good

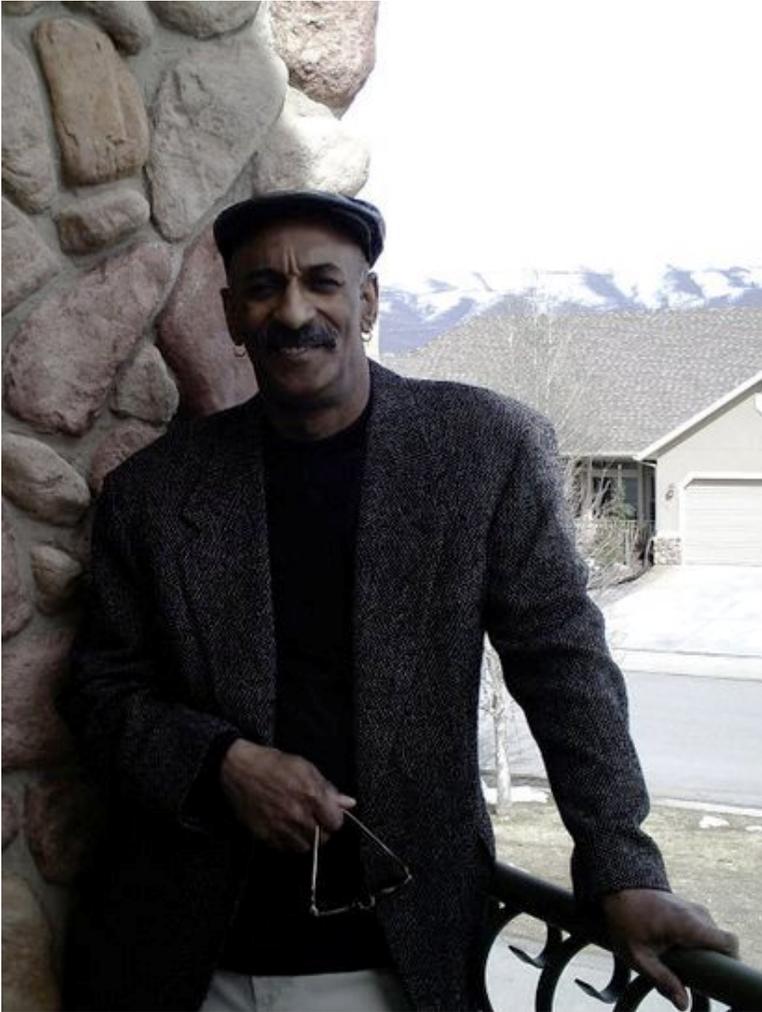
I am unique  
that makes me  
wonderful  
trying to conform  
I see conformity's benefits  
but I am different  
I can change  
not enough  
to meet  
a world of expectations

I hear the drum  
tapping in my head  
as present in my body  
I sway back and forth  
my heart expands  
my mind quiets  
and I witness myself  
reflecting outward in joy

*Kimberly Burnham*

*William  
S.  
Peters, Sr.*

*William S. Peters, Sr.*



*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Bill's writing career spans a period quickly approaching 50 years. Being first Published in 1972, Bill has since went on to Author 24 additional Volumes of Poetry, Short Stories, etc., expressing his thoughts on matters of the Heart, Spirit, Consciousness and Humanity. His primary focus is that of Love, Peace and Understanding!

Bill is the Founding Director of Inner Child Enterprises as well as the Past Director of Publicity for Society Hill Music.

Bill says . . .

I have always likened Life to that of a Garden. So, for me, Life is simply about the Seeds we Sow and Nourish. All things we "Think and Do", will "Be" Cause and eventually manifest itself to being an "Effect" within our own personal "Existences" and "Experiences" . . . whether it be Fruit, Flowers, Weeds or Barren Landscapes! Bill highly regards the Fruits of his Labor and wishes that everyone would thus go on to plant "Lovely" Seeds on "Good Ground" in their own Gardens of Life!

to connect with Bill, he is all things Inner Child :

[www.iaminnerchild.com](http://www.iaminnerchild.com)

Personal Web Site

[www.iamjustbill.com](http://www.iamjustbill.com)

*William S. Peters, Sr.*

help

she cried all night

every night

and i could not understand it

i was loosing my tolerance

and i realized

we both needed help

## Alone

yes she had thoughts  
of what she wanted to be  
and they were beginning to come together  
in how she saw her self

she knew nothing of  
Sleeping Beauty  
though she was one of her own

she dreamed of such personages as  
Nicki Minaj, Lindsay Lohan  
and the Kardashian Girls  
that's what she wanted to be  
another Robyn "Ri Ri" Rihanna  
or a Beyonce  
so she could live the life  
she was being taught should be

but it was all beyond her

all she knew  
was she did not want to be  
like her Mom  
alone

## Help Lizzy

the Cabs were busy  
and there was a girl named Lizzy  
looking for a free ride  
walking the streets  
looking for treats  
for her best friend, her mother had died

she was lost and alone  
a runaway from home  
and a Father she never knew  
she did not understand  
just what was God's plan  
neither do i, do you ?

she had lost all her hope  
she was now doing dope  
doing tricks to feed her vice  
sometimes she would cry  
and just wish she could die  
yet she bore her cross like Christ

she was only fourteen  
with no shoulder to lean  
no Mother nor Father nor Friend  
if you should see her about  
be a caring soul and reach out  
and bring Lizzy's story to an end.

May  
Features

~ \* ~

Joski the Poet

ReeCee

Shannon Stanton

# May Features

Joski  
The Poet

# *Joski The Poet*



## *The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

Joski The Poet has appeared live at several venues all around as well various competitions such as : Battle of the Sexes, The Men of Erotic and also poetry for Cancer project. You can also find me as a regular supporter and contributor of different online shows as well.

Through Joski The Poet's eyes Poetry for me is and always has been, one of the most beautiful art forms around. Whether I'm writing a strong socially conscious piece I feel the need more to let the light shine on through poetry or to reach the hearts and souls of those who read my work and support me. Every type of poetry has it's place in any poetry community.

I initially was introduced to poetry through my best friend Tonya Moore who is wonderful Poetess in her own right. I was told about a website called GS Poetry. I was intrigued. I began writing short erotic stories and would then email them to friends to share. Soon after my short stories caught the attention of a few people affiliated with various magazines who soon inquired if I would be able to write short stories and also turn my short stories into poems. I later branched over to Face book to expand my ink game there and network with fellow Poets.

I also have a music background and love to sing when time and circumstances allow. Poetic Influences In my opinion all poetry is beautiful and should be read simply because it is an expression. Some of my early poetry influences are : Maya Angelou, Marcus, Garvey, Rakim & 2pac. Other influences include : King David from the Bible. I find his words to be melodic.

### Joski The Poet's Vision

My vision for poetry is no matter what form you choose. Make sure you're doing it for the love of the art!

# Joski The Poet

## twisted sister

She wore decorated tears to protect her  
Painted pain on her face by the men who would molest her  
Undress her  
Right under her mother's nose  
Mother did not notice she woke up in her other clothes  
I regret this image I must project  
about this fragile little doll in the projects  
Her mom failed this frail object,  
As his torture he subjects  
Never would she view her man as a suspect  
or  
Suspect that he would have sex  
With her baby  
she would whisper through her tears, "God save me"  
Lately her next future ex  
Paid midnight visits  
No need to knock on her door for she knew who is it  
He would lie in her baby's secret garden  
He would play with her privates to keep his privates  
hardened

She begs for pardon, as her lips were muffled  
He whispered keep this secret or you will be in so much  
trouble  
As tears drip from here eyes down to her nasal passages  
As memory banks recollect mental baggage  
The reality is she has no hiding places  
Tears well up in her eyes as her body faces  
New traces for her portraits

She tells her mommy he harm me, she doesn't believe her  
poor kid  
She picked orchids of "he loves me ,he loves me not" kisses  
her eardrum

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

She believes his pleas, which eases her fear some  
I can hear teardrops from this good girl, gone bad  
So I switch my Bic on this script, grab my pad  
Her song had a twisted humming section  
Her mommy's men fiddled as they diddled their little  
erection  
In her direction, shall we list her as a casualty of war? Hell  
no  
Tears drain and stain her face til she's rotten to the core  
She forgot to keep score of these encounters  
From all of her mom's men friends who would mount her  
For bedroom counters, but her mother does not notice  
She's so blind to find a man she loses focus  
Baby feels hopeless as now all men are the enemy  
She is the epitome of a girl who feels no empathy  
She feels no sympathy for the youth she once had  
Although her tears tell a different story that she wants so  
bad  
She wants her dad, but he was nowhere to protect her  
She screams out for mommy, but that woman only neglects  
her  
She deflects her disgrace as misplaced hate  
Tried to find her happy place to replace what this place  
takes  
Grave mistakes as she trades love for pain.

A skewed point of view for she only knows what love was  
His glove tugs at her teeny, tiny opening  
Her will is broken, but she adopts new skills for coping  
Hoping that someday this monster will leave her room  
Her temple is now her tomb, but now there's baby in her  
womb  
She soon will berth a child spawn from demon seed  
She tastes her hate for she would rather see men bleed  
We men need to protect her from this twisted mister  
In nine months she will give birth to her twisted sister...

## Joski The Poet

### Through Her Eyes She Seen Danger And Pain

She was all  
Alone in the bathroom scrubbing all clean  
She needs to know why and what did it mean.  
Was it just that she was in the wrong place?  
To have to cope with feeling disgrace.  
She was just walking home like she would any day  
She had considered going a different way.  
But for fear of being hurt she took the shortest path  
Not knowing she would become his cruel laugh.  
The white van she saw but she tried to go round it  
He came out of nowhere and pulled her to sit  
Inside his van where no one could see  
She hates to tell us what happened to her.  
The things that he did are beyond belief  
And to be here in my bathroom is such a relief.  
She thought he would kill her as he took what he did  
She was only 13... Just a little kid  
He took from her that precious thing  
He took her virginity and dirt came within.  
She was scared and so worried of what he would do  
She just prayed and waited for the time to be through.  
He threw her out as he finished his work  
Telling her she was horrid and had just been his perk.  
She ran all the way home and climbed into her bath  
Hearing that sound as she ran from ... his laugh.  
This can happen to anyone at any given time  
Know where your kids are protect them  
So that this doesn't happen to them  
Please.

## Children with no voice

Pt. 1

A mother leaves her kids at her parents house  
While she goes off to work.  
She kisses her 2 yrs old and 6 months old on the head  
And says: mommy loves you see you later.  
Grand parents say be safe baby driving to work  
You know the road has drunken jerks.  
Grandpa reads a bed time story to the grand kids  
Little babies drift off to sleep lying in bed right next to  
grandma  
Few hours went by then and event that would change there  
family  
Forever happen  
**Bang, bang, bang shots rang out**  
Grandpa ran in to the bed room to tell family to duck on the  
floor  
He could here foot steps running away from the house  
Grandma clenching the babies but only one was crying  
She screams in horror becuz her 2 yr old grand baby was  
dying  
Struck suddenly in the head  
The grandpa screamin' not my baby  
She can't be dead  
The grandma looking in pain all out distraught  
But while she holding the 6 month old she seen he had be  
shot  
911 was called the paramedics and firemen and cops all  
were there  
With the look of unbelief and despair  
The 2yr old died before help could arrive now the question  
Will the 6 month old survive?

## Joski The Poet

The police notified the mother of her lost  
She drops knees screaming in agony  
Oh noooo not my baby  
You got the wrong mother or something  
They mention the kids name she passed out  
Rush to the same hospital no doubt  
Mother sees the  
6 month old hooked to ventilation tubes  
Grandpa praying to god looking confused  
The men who shot the kids were on the loose  
They hid from sight for about 4 months they were on the  
run  
They thought the coast was clear hanging with homies  
drinking beer  
Then a mistake was made that led a capture

In their drunken state they got into a fight  
and the cops were called... People scattered and were  
screaming they have guns  
run and hide...  
Shots rang out once again there was more anger in the air  
People ducking and diving in lieu of fear  
The cops arrived and to their surprise gun shots  
Still rang out through the thickness in the air  
people on the ground crawling trying to keep from being hit  
by stray bullets  
the cops got down behind their cars and yelled put down  
your weapons or we will open fire of course the men said  
f\*\*\* the police and started to shoot  
One telling the other cover while they grab guns and loot  
And realized that they had made a bad decision...  
The cops finally ended the shoot out with all suspects alive  
but wounded.

*The Year of the Poet ~ April 2014*

A cop was staring at one of the suspect...told the detective that  
Their guns should be taken and sent to ballistics and sure enough these were the same guns that shot and killed the 2 yr old and shot the 6 month old...  
These men were questioned and they didn't know that the cops were still looking into this case they thought they were in the clear.... But when the cops questioned them about the shooting they were shocked and tried to deny it...  
But god doesn't like ugly so they couldn't hide it.  
But one of the guys couldn't keep his guilt and shame from coming to the surface...  
So he yell we didn't mean to hit them kids  
A tear ran down his face as his pain lead to pure disgrace  
Violence in our community's really must end  
Before another child life is cut down before it begin  
Justice is not true  
Since a little girl life ended at 2  
She could been a doctor, lawyer, business woman, or president  
For a kid who no has no voice to make her choice.  
The criminals were all sentenced to 2 life sentences for this crime...  
So when oh when will violence of any kind be eradicated in its time

# Joski The Poet

ReeCee

ReeCee



## *The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

ReeCee is a copy-editor by trade and as well as a poetic activist. She has been writing poetry since the age of four & has been doing performance poetry/spoken word since 1995.

She has been published in a number of magazines and new including the Oubache and The Illinoisan. Additionally, she had had her work published in two anthologies "Bullying Awareness" and "A Gathering of Words: Poetry and Commentary For Trayvon Martin."

ReeCee's own personal book of poetry, prose & photography entitled "Fishing In Winter" is scheduled for release in May 2014.

She is a mother, artist, founder of Weekend Angels (a community outreach organization for families in Southern Illinois) as well as a volunteer at various homeless, lgbt and womens shelters.

ReeCee can be booked at [ree\\_cee@ymail.com](mailto:ree_cee@ymail.com) or reached at and (618)204-9809.

<http://www.facebook.com/reecee72>

## For Hannah

Oh, Hannah,  
Dearest Hannah,  
blessed was your fire/  
stoked though  
feet of eight/  
darkened block/  
snuffed flame  
sealed your  
unconscionable fate.

I inhale the soot  
which marked the spot  
where once your  
hands held paper.

Your splintered pencil  
wrote of faith and country,  
love and purpose  
and I choke from the  
breadth of their  
enmity towards your innocence.

The sediment grows thick  
with apparitions  
for whom vindication  
has not come, as  
I struggle with breaths  
acidic from decades of decay.

I am reduced to travailing,  
as my lungs, my heart  
digest the stench  
of horrors you endured.  
I want to mourn for you

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with peace and reverence,  
but am filled with anger  
that young poet so gentle  
was made martyr.

They caged you,  
though could not constrict your spirit.  
They beat you,  
though each hit only served to remind you were still  
breathing.  
After grown men had torn into your youthful flesh,  
punishing your temple for simply being Jewish,

you faltered only for fleeting moments  
before again taking in hand pencil  
to write again of blessings and hope.

When they knew finally  
they could not break you,  
they stood you without benefit of mercy,  
no counsel, no marches,  
no chance for reprieve  
no final countdown  
no media,  
as you kneeled  
before uniformed soldiers/  
shot you like thief,  
like vagrant/  
young girl at war,  
unable to grasp  
the impact of your existence.

In those last days of  
dolor and muck,  
wash and ascendance,  
what name did you call  
but Mother, Dearest Mother,

## ReeCee

what God acknowledged you  
Daughter, Faithful Daughter.

No calvary sky darkened/  
connect undone/  
words not heard,  
while execution  
fulfilled their plan.

Who came for you,  
who came for you  
while your Hebrew pen  
grew lonesome  
for your hand?  
Did no one think to aide  
those decedents  
who now grieve  
for never having read  
what more you had to say?

Who failed to rescue you,  
who WAS it, Hannah?  
What man lacked a sense of humanity

and let your worn shoes  
be stripped from  
weary ankles,  
after you paced in circles,  
gazing upwards towards  
Adonai and Mother?

Did no one come  
while ashen tears  
fell upon the  
blemished face of man?

*The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

Who comes for us all,  
when we give life for  
mission, exchange  
sanctuary for mortuary?  
Who will rescue OUR words,  
who will hear OUR pleas  
for love, for peace,  
what name will  
WE call, but Mother,  
Dearest Mother/  
when the soot  
fills our lungs and our  
pens write no more?  
Will no one come, Hannah?  
Will no one come  
for us as  
no one  
did for you?

Hannah Senesh (July 17, 1921 – November 7, 1944)

## Fishing In Winter

Muddy worm held between two fingers  
and our giggles carried like the wind across  
the pond waters before us.

"If I catch a fish, I'm letting it go,"  
I said with mocked defiance to my sister,  
two years younger  
but older than her days of calendar.

"I can't kill the worm either,  
you'll have to do it."

Taking the wriggling thing from me  
and laying it out flat in her hand,  
we both stared transfixed  
as it balled up.

"He wants to be free, I think."  
She looked with intent towards the water,  
tears in eyes not spilling over.

Shivers from breezes not external shook us both,  
as dusk held off  
for our decision.

Minutes passed,  
while God turned his indulgent gaze  
away from us,  
though briefly.

*The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

Our eyes watched the movement of a turtle  
slowly climbing atop a felled sapling.

"We could drown ourselves here  
and no one would look for us,"  
her voice barely audible.

The worm shrunken atop the lines of her palm  
rolled slightly.

"Ok, but let's let him go first, please."  
This said twice,  
as I thought the lack of response  
reflected her not hearing my whisper.

Nervously,  
I looked then over rounded shoulder  
towards the house I knew to  
be deserted.

She kneeled down upon  
sunken footsteps freshly made  
and set the worm  
gently into one of the tracks.

"It's too cold to drown today, Sis,  
so we'll wait until it's warmer, ok?"  
she rhetorically asked,  
without need of answer.

## ReeCee

Helping her up from the ground,  
we walked together,  
arms linked in solidarity.

Trudging through tall grasses,  
we headed towards the corn field,  
our favorite hiding spot.

We began singing quietly in sibling unison,  
"You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,  
you make me happy, when skies are gray."

Death postponed needs no explanation,  
neither did our pain.

I turned to whistle for our two puppies to follow,  
but they stayed there,  
resting on the banks,  
without ever looking towards us.

Eyes fail to look towards two little girls  
in desperate need of being seen.

## Long Before That, I Knew Her When

In midnight whispered confessions  
she told me her extremities had  
never been used for any purpose  
other than pleasing men,  
but long, long before that,  
I knew her when/  
knew her smile as though my own reflection,  
can even now resurrect the tone inflections  
Of the voice that haunts my resting.

Knew her when first she got braids,  
twisted them like knots in school boy bellies,  
when she winked her rare green eyes  
in no specific direction,  
she knew her glances left grown men  
with erections she could use  
to her benefit.

Knew her before her father found proof  
Of her indiscretions, so when her footsteps  
came in my direction to ask for shelter,  
I with no hesitation took her in.

Did not know her womb would fill three times  
with clinic rid, unborn children,  
did not know her full lips would occupy  
both seduction and addiction.

Just knew that she was beautiful and earthy/  
thick as red clay pots drying on rocks  
soaking up heat without knowing  
sun sealed shapes can't know further molding.

## ReeCee

Far too many fatherless sons had left the fires  
Of desertion smoldering deep within her  
And no amount of consoling,  
No hours of holding her after night  
terrors kept us both awake,  
was ever enough to heal her,  
for lying deep within were the  
echoes of all those men telling her  
“bitch, you ain’t good enough for love.”

But long, long before that, I knew her when  
she and I were like young children,  
before she was too far gone  
and I was too far away  
To wrap my arms around her quickly shrinking frame.

Before I could convince her  
That her value was in more than hips and contorted legs.  
Was worth more than boots and heroin packs,  
More than riddled tracks which littered her battered, sunken  
skin.  
Before I could empower her with truth and fact  
She fell back  
inward.

So it should have come as no surprise when her mother  
called late one night and said “baby, I’m real sorry to call  
you late like this, but the police think they have her  
body down at the morgue and since it’s been  
two years since last I seen my girl, I was  
hoping you could come down  
to the police station  
and possibly

*The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

help me  
identify  
her  
body.

As they pulled the sheet back off her head,  
it just reminded me of all those nights she'd  
laid beside me in bed, sharing her utopian dream  
of one day growing old with me.

I wanted to scream out, "Please, God,  
do not take her from me!!! Not yet, please, just not yet."  
Yet the pain constricted my breathing,  
so I was only able to say four words:  
"Yes sir, that's her."

But long, long before that,  
I knew her when  
and I loved her.

## Declaration of War, Securing The Peace

Peace does not come as a result of silence.  
Sometimes holding your tongue  
serves only the purpose of choking yourself.  
Swallowing on words unsaid and gagging  
from the thickness of suffering/  
with taste of mud and grit of sand,  
the past, rotten like fruit left out to spoil  
in hot rays of sunshine,  
which give life  
yet boil  
blisters upon the albino skin  
of whitewashed histories.

Fusion ignites as hate darkens eyes  
like pigmentation gone awry,  
looking out from muted faces/  
lips closed while the mind races  
without action.

Sermons are to be preached  
even if it is only to mirrored glasses.  
Looking in your eyes and  
Seeing there one who was victimized,  
No longer accepting blame  
or giving out passes  
to those who trespassed  
against you for their own pleasure.

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So you pour salts steadily into  
wounds to remind you  
of pains purposely inflicted,  
refusing to bury secrets,  
or let your voice be constricted.

Closing off breaths of fresh air  
while behind the pigmentation  
of dark iris your eyes stare  
out at a world which doled out harm,  
like garbage piled deep in landfill farms.

Raising stench like cattle, diseased minds like produce.  
Strangling love, preferring to breed abuse,  
fertilizing emotional death like flowers which bloom.

So today, I take pack power from you,  
though the rain is too acidic to quench my thirst  
I declare war so as to preserve life,  
force my voice to erupt like seeds from the Earth/  
not gently peeking out  
but pushing forth with such voracity  
the dirt can not contain it  
and if peace and safety  
are not properly planted  
I will claim them,  
with words that can not be stifled/  
take aim with vocal armory, shot like rifles.

I won't wait for justice with my tongue tied,  
proclamations of happened transgressions  
I refuse to hide under blankets of whispers and fear.

## ReeCee

So don't hold your ears near,  
As I am prone to scream.

I refuse to let the refuse which was bequeathed to me  
lie buried inside quietly.

Yes, I vow to declare war for the purpose of peace/  
Boisterously,  
So that others like me  
will not  
have to suffer  
alone,  
silently.

Shannon  
Stanton

# Shannon Stanton



## *The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

My name is Shannon Stanton and I consider myself an artist. I love to write poems and stories about my ever growing personal experiences that have brought me joy, pain and purpose. In the 41 years that I have lived, my most rewarding and valuable gift is the ability to express my feelings and thoughts thru my GOD-given gift of writing. My purpose is to give back what was so freely given to me: the message of hope, freedom and joy through all of my trials and afflictions. After all, what good would my gift be if I'm not willing to share it? My main objective for writing is that GOD uses me as a vessel to bless someone, and that GOD continues to bless us all....real good.

# Shannon Stanton

## Broken Child

As I look back on my childhood, I see a child was scorn,  
It often had me wishing that I never had been born.  
I harbor a lot of memories I wish I'd never kept,  
Flash backs of a broken hearted child crying out for help.  
Always looking for attention because my father wasn't  
there,  
I was a loner that always thought that no one really cared.  
I had to deal with beatings and I was far too young to fight,  
Always pointed out for all my wrongs and nothing I did  
right.  
My childhood was a stopping point, I never had a chance to  
start,  
I learned to be a broken child, and that really broke my  
heart.

## I am not 7

I hope this poem releases me, I am not 7.

More than anything else, i just want to be free, I am not 7.

Just because my innocence was taken away, I am not 7.

Doesn't mean I have to re-live it each day, I am not 7.

I sometimes dwell on what was lost, I am not 7.

I must understand that it wasn't my fault, I am not 7.

Even though I'm a victim to what has been done, I am not  
7.

I understand now I'm not the only one, I am not 7.

I realize now that I had no control, I am not 7.

It's time to release the pain I still hold, I am not 7.

I refuse to let guilt consume me any longer, I am not 7.

What didn't kill me has made me stronger, I am not 7.

I refuse to be angry and put on a mask, I am not 7.

I am a survivor of my past, I am not 7.

I refuse to use my past a a crutch, I am not 7.

It's time for the little girl to finally grow up, I am not 7.

# Shannon Stanton

## Alone

When I chose the pressure over the peer, I didn't know  
what I'd done,  
I didn't know the pain and misery that was soon to come.  
So young and naive that at the time, I didn't know what to  
do,  
I never once considered the hurt I'd put my family through.  
I wandered down the road of life without any direction,  
And when danger was all around I didn't have any  
protection.  
I looked for love in all the wrong places, and when I made  
it there,  
I was never satisfied with anything, and that got me no  
where.  
Back when I was only a child, I was always scrutinized,  
It made me feel so worthless, I was nobody in my own  
eyes.  
Before I knew what happened, all my self-esteem was  
gone,  
Reality hit me and I thought it was best to try to make it all  
alone.

## I remember

I remember being caught in a trap, and no one seemed to care,  
I remember the night i forgot to dream and life turned into a nightmare.  
I remember when I would sell my soul, just to get some more,  
I remember when I had no hope and nothing to live for.  
I remember when fear was chasing me, I tried to run and hide,  
I remember feeling so empty and numb on the inside.  
I remember when I would jump in cars with strangers willing to pay.  
I remember when some of them tried to kill me and take my life away.  
I remember how I fought and screamed and managed to escape,  
I remember trying it all again, I remember being raped.  
I remember being homeless and I had no where to go,  
I remember being hungry, tired and outside in the cold.  
I remember when I thought it couldn't get any worse for me,  
I remember when the doctor said, you now have HIV.  
I remember being all alone and feeling sorry for myself,  
I remember the day I prayed to GOD because I knew that HE would help.  
I remember how he fed my soul with positive energy,  
And when the world had witnessed the worst, GOD bought out the best in me.  
I remember how my life was then and how GOD came and changed it,  
I will never forget without GOD on my side, I never would have made it.

Shannon Stanton

# *Song Lyrics*

*works by*

Where Do The Children Play?

**Cat Stevens aka Yusuf Islam**

Father And Son

**Cat Stevens aka Yusuf Islam**

Time In A Bottle

**Jim Croce**

Cat's In The Cradle

**Harry Chapin**

## Song Lyrics

### Where Do The Children Play?

*Cat Stevens aka Yusuf Islam*

Well I think it's fine, building jumbo planes.  
Or takin' a ride on a cosmic train.  
Switch on summer from a slot machine.  
Get what you want to if you want,  
Cause you can get anything.

I know we've come a long way,  
We're changin' day to day,  
But tell me,  
Where do the children play?

Well you roll on roads over fresh green grass.  
For your lorryloads pumping petrol gas.  
And you make them long, and you make them  
tough.  
But they just go on and on,  
And it seems you can't get off.

Oh, I know we've come a long way,  
We're changin' day to day,  
But tell me,  
Where do the children play?

*The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

When you crack the sky, scrapers fill the air.  
Will you keep on building higher  
Til there's no more room up there?  
Will you make us laugh, will you make us cry?  
Will you tell us when to live?  
Will you tell us when to die?

I know we've come a long way,  
We're changin' day to day,  
But tell me,  
Where do the children play?

<http://youtu.be/7a4DCxAi020>

# Song Lyrics

## Father And Son

*Cat Stevens aka Yusuf Islam*

Father

It's not time to make a change,  
Just relax, take it easy.  
You're still young, that's your fault,  
There's so much you have to know.  
Find a girl, settle down,  
If you want you can marry.  
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.

I was once like you are now, and I know that it's  
not easy,  
To be calm when you've found something going  
on.  
But take your time, think a lot,  
Why, think of everything you've got.  
For you will still be here tomorrow, but your  
dreams may not.

Son

How can I try to explain, when I do he turns away  
again.  
It's always been the same, same old story.  
From the moment I could talk I was ordered to  
listen.  
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go  
away.  
I know I have to go.

*The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

Father

It's not time to make a change,  
Just sit down, take it slowly.  
You're still young, that's your fault,  
There's so much you have to go through.  
Find a girl, settle down,  
if you want you can marry.  
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.

Son

All the times that I cried, keeping all the things I  
knew inside,  
It's hard, but it's harder to ignore it.  
If they were right, I'd agree, but it's them you know  
not me.  
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go  
away.  
I know I have to go.

<http://youtu.be/Q29YR5-t3gg>

# Song Lyrics

## Time In A Bottle

*Jim Croce*

If I could save time in a bottle  
The first thing that I'd like to do  
Is to save every day till eternity passes away  
Just to spend them with you

If I could make days last forever  
If words could make wishes come true  
I'd save every day like a treasure and then  
Again, I would spend them with you

But there never seems to be enough time  
To do the things you want to do, once you find  
them  
I've looked around enough to know  
That you're the one I want to go through time with

If I had a box just for wishes  
And dreams that had never come true  
The box would be empty, except for the memory  
of how  
They were answered by you

But there never seems to be enough time  
To do the things you want to do, once you find  
them  
I've looked around enough to know  
That you're the one I want to go through time with

## Cat's In The Cradle

*Harry Chapin*

My child arrived just the other day  
He came to the world in the usual way  
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay  
He learned to walk while I was away  
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew  
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, Dad  
You know I'm gonna be like you"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue and the man on the moon  
When you comin' home, Dad  
I don't know when, but we'll get together then  
You know we'll have a good time then

My son turned ten just the other day  
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's  
play  
can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today  
I got a lot to do", he said, "That's ok  
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed  
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah  
You know I'm gonna be like him"

## Song Lyrics

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue and the man on the moon  
When you comin' home, Dad  
I don't know when, but we'll get together then  
You know we'll have a good time then

Well, he came from college just the other day  
So much like a man I just had to say  
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while"  
He shook his head and said with a smile  
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car  
keys  
See you later, can I have them please"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue and the man on the moon  
When you comin' home son  
I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad  
You know we'll have a good time then

I've long since retired, my son's moved away  
I called him up just the other day  
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"  
He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time  
You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the  
flu  
But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad  
It's been sure nice talking to you"

*The Year of the Poet ~ May 2014*

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me  
He'd grown up just like me  
My boy was just like me

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue and the man in the moon  
When you comin' home son  
I don't know when, but we'll get together then, Dad  
We're gonna have a good time then

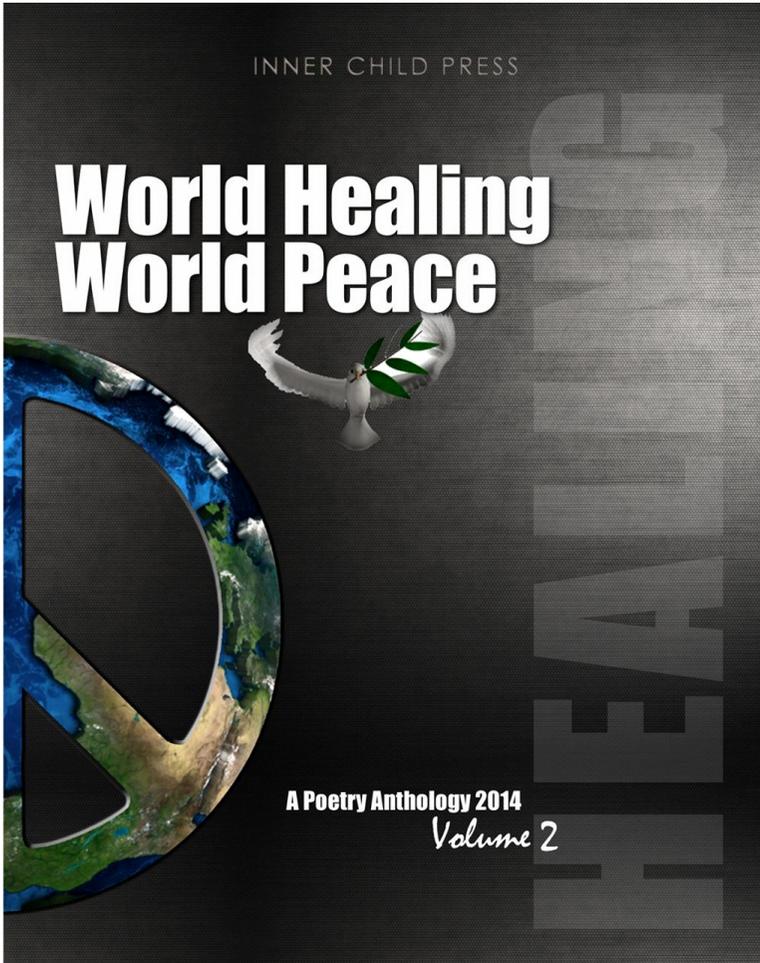
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# Song Lyrics

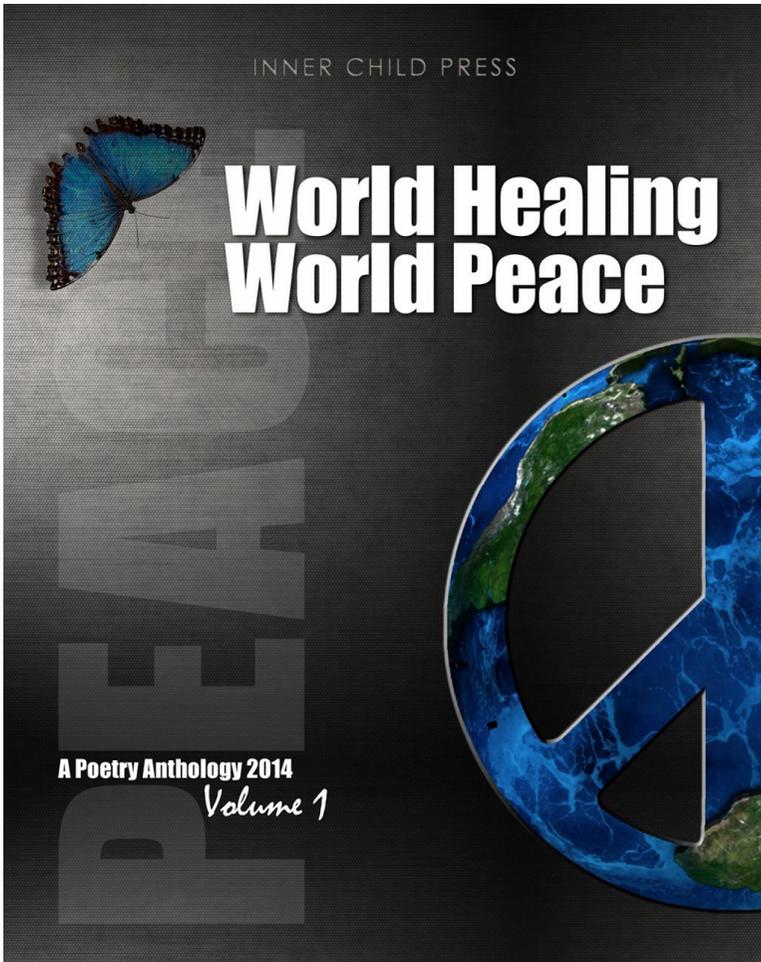
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April 2014

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Albert 'Infinite' Carrasco  
Siddhertha Beth Pierce  
Janet P. Caldwell  
June 'Bugg' Barefield  
Debbie M. Allen  
Tony Henninger  
Joe DeVerbal Minddancer  
Robert Gibbons  
Neetu Wali  
Shereef Abdur-Rasheed  
Kimberly Burnham  
William S. Peters, Sr.



Our April Featured Poets

Fahredin Shehu  
Martina Reisz Newberry  
Justin Blackburn  
Monte Smith



Sweet Pea

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Robert Gibbons  
Neetu Wali  
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daffodil

Our March Featured Poets

Alicia C. Cooper & hülya yılmaz

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February 2014



violets

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Neetu Wali  
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*Our February Features*

Teresa E. Gallion & Robert Gibson

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Carnation

The Poetry Posse

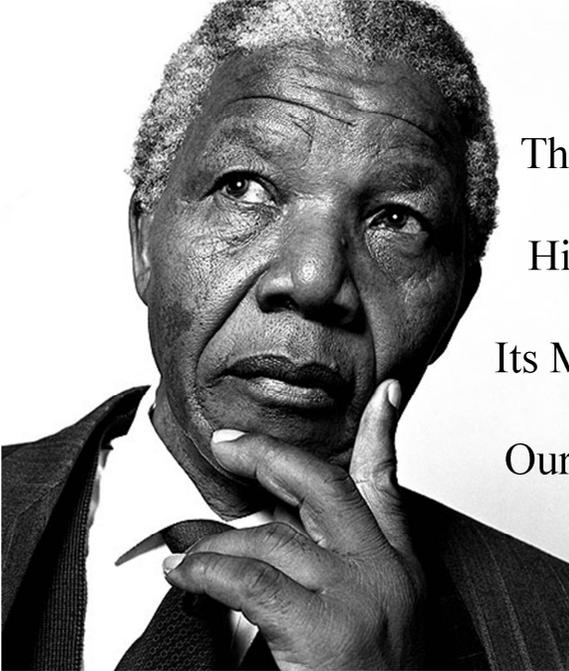
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Our January Feature

Terri L. Johnson

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# Mandela



The Man

His Life

Its Meaning

Our Words

Poetry . . . Commentary & Stories

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## **A GATHERING OF WORDS**

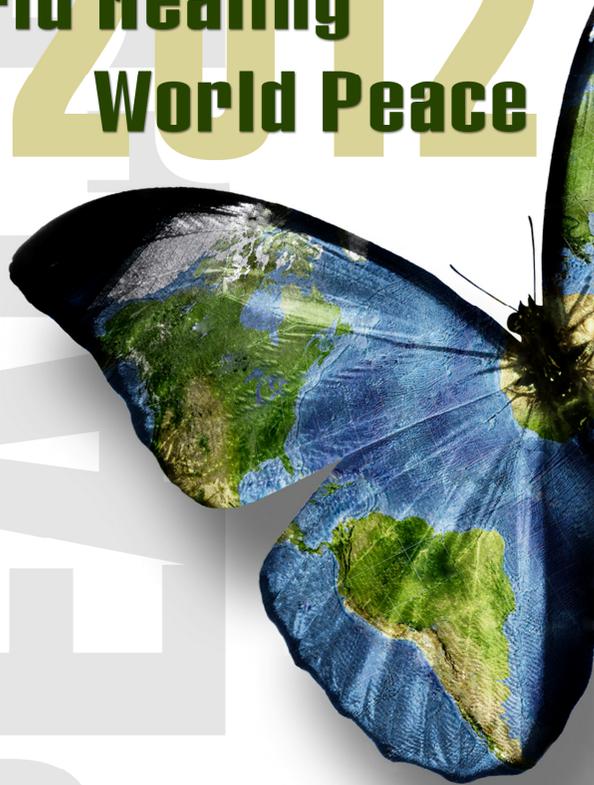


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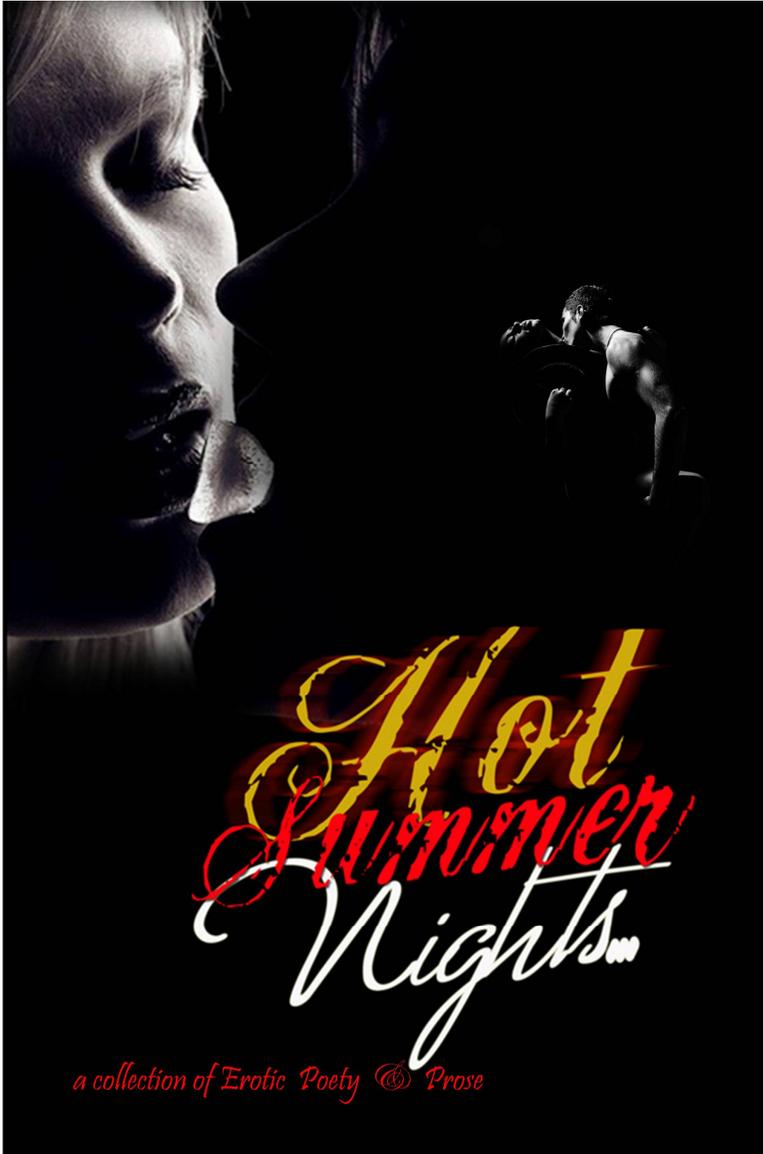
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*healing through words*

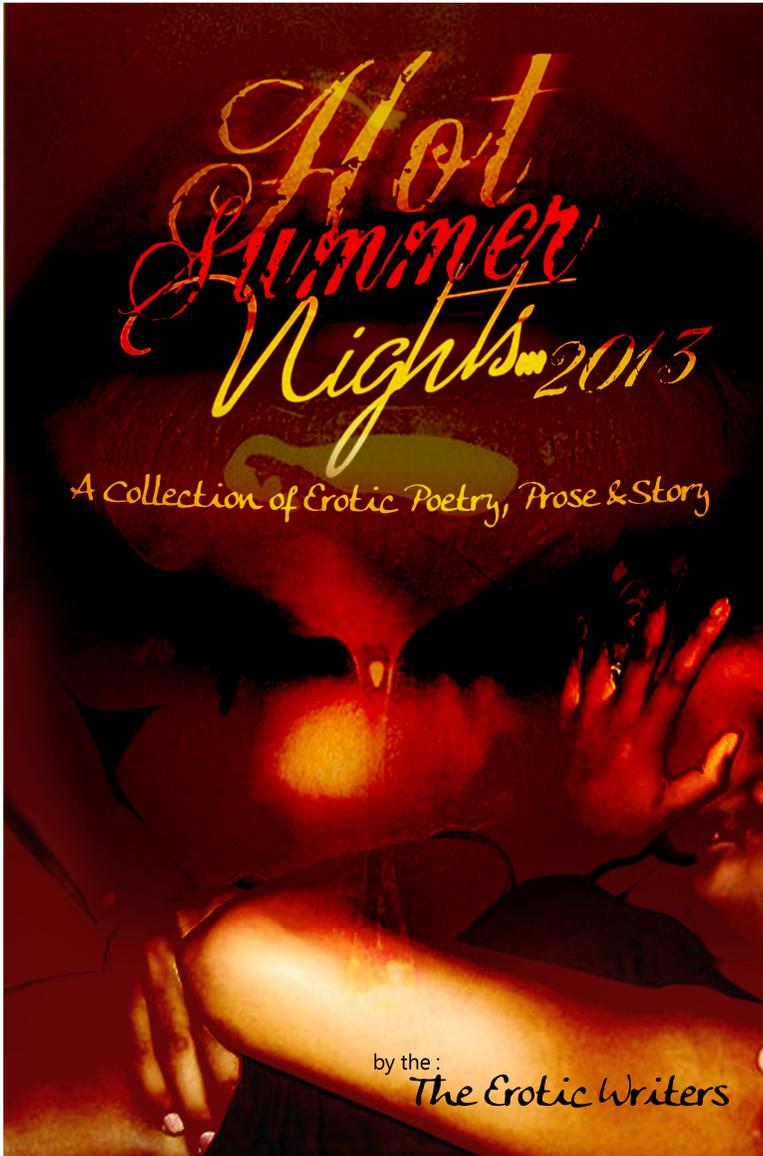


*Poetry ... Prose ... Prayer ... Stories*

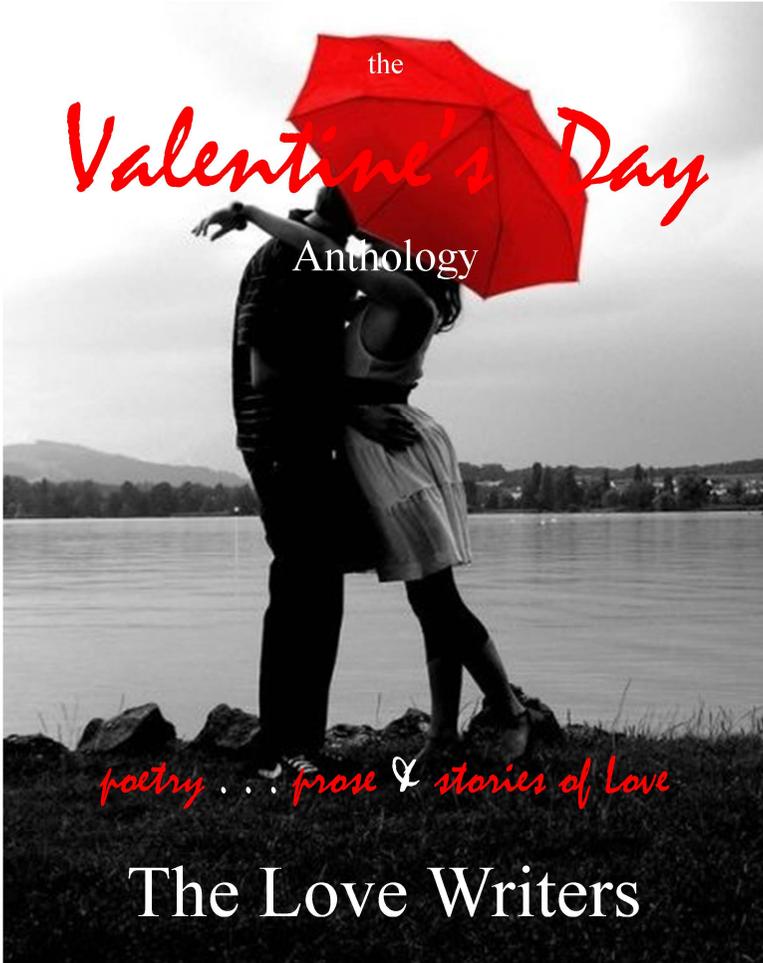
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**FINI**

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## May's Featured Poets



Joski the Poet

ReeCee

Shannon Stanton



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