

IN THE MARGINS

POETRY

EDITED BY FLORINE MELNYK

The Shore You Reach

I'd spread me
like a cloak
across the
 roily mudpond
a dark
grey morning,
and let you
 dance across,
but the soaked soil
 of the puddle's
 stark far shore
would probably
be lost in fog,
and bullfrog voices
bobbling from the pond

would croak
 cross warnings:
"Wade." "Don't
cloak-dance." "Wade."
Because the bobbling
bullfrogs know,
 and teach,
that soon or late
the fog lifts, and
the shore you reach
 by dancing
is surely not
the same shore
 you reach
when you wade.

—loren keller

shopping cart

i see her lean heavily on the metal bar handle,
i see two dozen other white-haired elderly ladies
in the same posture,
navigating the aisles in the grocery store;
she peruses the stacked can goods,
the miles of too many choices,
looking for the familiar brand, in the familiar package,
the one her mother taught her,
the recipe she cooked for decades for the children,
and, then, sometimes for the children's children.
i've been in her home,
or homes just like it,
after the children
or the children's children moved her
to a nursing home,
or after the final trip to the hospital.

always, a hoard of old greeting cards
sent by the children, or the children's children,
or from friends, now long gone.

always, a clutch of white gloves or doilies,
now available to the public for a pittance.

someday, someone will be pawing through
the remnants of my life
when the estate sale is held.
if i have any warning,
i'll burn my cards and gloves first
and dance around the bonfire

—ryki zuckerman

LITCITY

7/13

Chautauqua Literary & Scientific Circle. 3:30pm. Roundtable lectures in the Hall of Philosophy, every Thu. This week: Anthony Arthur, author of *Upton Sinclair: Radical Innocent*, will mark the 100th Anniversary of the publication of Sinclair's *The Jungle*.

7/16

Just Buffalo Open Readings. 7pm. Hosted by Livio Farallo, featuring Richard Olsen & Ed Taylor with ten slots available for open readers. Rust Belt Books (202 Allen St., 885-9535)

7/18

Literally Speaking. 12pm. Lunch-

time Book Discussion Group will focus on *Stuck in Neutral*, by Terry Trueman. Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (1 Lafayette Square, 858-8900).

7/19

Non-Fiction Reading Group. 7pm. Discussion of *The State Boys Rebellion*, by Michael D'Antonio.

Barnes & Noble (7370 Transit Rd., Buffalo, 631-4755).

Poetry Reading. 6:30pm. Open reading hosted by Robb Nesbitt. Riverside-Salem Cottage (3449 West River Rd., Grand Island, 773-1426).

Poetry/Fiction Reading. 7:30pm. Featuring Loren Keller, with ten

slots available for open readers. Screening Room, Northtown Plaza (3131 Sheridan Dr., Amherst 837-0376).

7/20

Booksigning. 5:30pm. Amy Benjamin, author of *The Waking Dance*. The Coffee House (5005 Sheridan Dr.).

Booksigning. 7pm. Joseph Cardillo, author of *Bow to Life: 365 Dojo Secrets for Daily Living*. Borders Books (2015 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, 685-2844).

Chautauqua Literary & Scientific Circle. 3:30pm. Roundtable lectures in the Hall of Philosophy, every Thu. This week: Noted landscape and garden designer Julie



"I can't buy a Harley® because I don't know how to ride a motorcycle." While that may be technically true, let's sit on that for a second and follow that train of thought to its logical conclusion, in terms of your personal development thus far: "I can't leave my crib because I don't know how to walk." "I can't take off my diapers because I don't know how to control the natural urges of my bladder." "I can't French kiss because I don't know anything about France." "I can't get a job because I don't know how to work." "I can't buy a Harley because I don't know how to ride a motorcycle." Truth is, if you never learned anything new, you would never amount to squat.

Find out more at harley-davidson.com/biglife