

M.J. Iuppa

Good Faith

This time, though, was different. I
walked down three flights of stairs

that empties into a corridor, dark &
moist, with exposed pipes hanging

overhead— blistered industrial
paint bearing evidence of lead.

The beautiful lie that school is safe,
like good faith— I stood in ranks

of loneliness, knowing death could
be just ahead, waiting . . .

And I was taught to expect this—
this dreamless uncertainty

that's been my sole companion.
Do not rouse the dead who live

here. Even though I've missed
them, I've felt them next to me—

their hands pressed against
my shoulders, walking me out

into morning's steady rain.

M.J. Iuppa is the Director of the Visual and Performing Arts Minor Program and Lecturer in Creative Writing at St. John Fisher College; and since 2000 to present, is a part time lecturer in Creative Writing at The College at Brockport. Since 1986, she has been a teaching artist, working with students, K-12, in Rochester, NY, and surrounding area. She has three full length poetry collections, most recently *Small Worlds Floating* (2016) as well as *Within Reach* (2010) both from Cherry Grove Collections and *Night Traveler* (Foothills Publishing, 2003) as well as five chapbooks. She lives on a small farm in Hamlin NY.