

Tom Lyons – Two Poems

Void

She left.
In doing so she left a void
Perhaps a chasm so wide, so deep my mind's eye sees an abyss
She left.
She had no right to die and yet she did
She left.
Left me with memories, smiles, flashes of what was and most of all
loneliness
Time passes. Everything changes- nothing changes
The void is filled
With emptiness

Generation Gap

My Fathers people go back 4 maybe 5 generations.
My grandfather's grandfather read the ads: No Irish Need Apply - heard the call of Mick!
Potato eater! And worse Paddy
My Mother was a first generation American now three generations ago, had to bear the
taunt of Dago! Grease ball! Wop! Guinea!
The Dagos took the Mick's hard fought jobs away for less pay
The battles didn't always stop before the killing
No love lost a violent cliché'
New generations move old ways and tug at prejudice
It was no different here
Irish and Italian, Italian and Irish
Cultures merged
Passion begot marriage, begot a new generation
And new prejudice arose aimed at cultural differences of that generation
McWop was the flavor of the thirties.
My generation heard the slurs, but for me they held no lasting meaning
They were too far in the past and no longer held a bite
We had our own prejudice.
Race, Culture, Class, Religion
They weren't taught but they were learned-learned too well
Over time they were Kept and expanded by some, reviled and rejected by others
But enlightenment remains aloof
New prejudices replace the old
Prejudice has no Generation Gap

Tom Lyons wrote a lot of poetry in the 70's and 80's and had some success at being published in a couple of poetry magazines. His job as an Auditor, A COO and a Management Consultant kept him on the road for nearly 30 years. During the last few years Tom turned to writing novels, first a western and now working on a mystery. Two years ago he bought the New England Mobile Book Fair, the largest independent brick and mortar book store in New England. Recently among author events he has started holding well attended poetry readings. Once again inspired to create, these are two of his new poems.