

## **Ann Mirabile Lees – Three Poems**

### **Front Page Headline**

Dated June 3, 2018

“Jill Ker Conway,  
former president  
of Smith College,  
dies at 83.”

The lengthy obituary  
describes her dramatic  
accomplishments,  
does not reveal  
her cause of death.  
That’s my age, too, yet  
I’m still alive, and well.  
It’s hard not to wonder  
what unknown malady  
I’ve managed to escape  
and for how long.  
But this morning my task  
is to plant quiet flowers  
in my summer garden.

### **Sonnet for a Sailboat**

My body is a boat that sails  
upon a complicated sea  
with a cargo of my thoughts,  
words and actions,  
and my interactions  
with all the other craft  
that thread that crowded sea.  
Some see my boat as old –  
hull repainted many times,  
sail a patchwork quilt.  
I see it is a vessel  
that has survived many storms  
and still transports me carefully  
past lurking reefs and shoals.

## Unexpected Guest

I stand before the kitchen sink,  
stare at a pile of silverware  
soaking in the dog bowl,  
squirt soap onto a sponge,  
and set to work on autopilot.  
Foamy spoons and forks  
pile up. I gaze out the window  
at two massive icicles  
hanging from my neighbor's roof,  
thick and long as tree roots.

A knock at the door. I open it.  
My sentient self walks in.  
We chat about the icicles,  
how they grow drop by drop  
during the day, freeze solid at night,  
how they glitter in sunlight,  
how lethal they can be  
when they plunge to earth.  
But when the conversation  
turns to death, I show that self  
to the door, return  
to rinsing silverware.

**Ann Mirabile Lees** is a retired research physician and a Massachusetts poet. Starting with her high school year book, her poems have been published in the *Charles River Review*, the four issues of a short-lived journal, *Vineyard's Writing*, an anthology, *Martha's Vineyard Poets*, *Minerva Rising*; *Clementine Poetry Journal* and the *Martha's Vineyard Times*. In 2012, Antrim House published her chapbook, *Night Spirit*.