

Ann Christine Tabaka -- Two Poems

Retirement Woes

Each morning
starts with a dread,
with a sickness
in my stomach
as I rise to greet
a new day.

Another day
with no place to go,
nothing to do.
I know some
who looked forward
to retirement – I did,
and all the shining
possibilities it held.

Now, I struggle with ennui
while I make plans
for the day.
My body is
too attached to my youth
to give up the illusion.

Growing Old

I put my life on the shelf too many times,
splinters of hope, collect dust.

Weeds have taken over once again,
garden chokes, struggles to survive.

Pile of dreams gather in a corner,
rot away, while I piteously wallow.

Time takes its turn, dealing out promises,
that it cannot keep, will not keep.

Window to my soul grows ever cloudy,
vision fades with each passing breath.

Things left unfinished, stay unfinished.
Old age does not grant favors to the past.

Ann Christine Tabaka was nominated for the 2017 Pushcart Prize in Poetry, has been internationally published, and won poetry awards from numerous publications. She is the author of nine poetry books. Christine lives in Delaware, USA. She loves gardening and cooking. Chris lives with her husband and two cats. Her most recent credits are: *Ethos Literary Journal*, *North of Oxford*, *Pomona Valley Review*, *Page & Spine*, *West Texas Literary Review*, *The Hungry Chimera*, *Sheila-Na-Gig*, *Synchronized Chaos*, *Pangolin Review*, *Foliate Oak Review*, *Better Than Starbucks!*, *The Write Launch*, *The Stray Branch*, *The McKinley Review*, *Fourth & Sycamore*. (A complete list of publications is available upon request.)