

Joseph Lisowski

Spirit Love

Yesterday we dreamed
Angels,
Comforters

Of our nights
Shaken by dread
Alone.

What escape
Is beyond quivering?
A torch

Of flesh
Close
To touch

From 1986 to 1996, **Joseph Lisowski** was Professor of English at the University of the Virgin Islands. St. Thomas serves as the setting for three of his detective fiction novels *Looking for Lisa*, *Full Body Rub*, and *Looking for Lauren*. He is now teaching at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina and directing The Center for Teaching Excellence there. Recent chapbooks include *JB (Poetry Repair Shop)*, a dialogue in poem form between John the Baptist and King Herod (PoetryRepairShop), *Stashu Kapinski Strikes Out* (Rank Stranger Press), *Fatherhood at Fifty* (Tamafyhr Mountain Poetry), *Art Lessons* (Tamafyhr Mountain Poetry), *Stashu Kapinski Gets Lucky*, (Pudding House Press), and *Stashu Kapinski Looks for Love* (erbacce press, Liverpool, UK). (Stashu Kapinski is an amalgam of voices from the Lawrenceville neighborhood in Pittsburgh where I grew up—unemployed steel workers, chronic drunks, disenfranchised immigrants—who, in spite of it all, have not totally given up hope.) Lisowski has lived many lives: as a wide-eyed boy, a keeper of keys, a beach comber... (There are poems somewhere commemorating them all.) Now he regularly bicycles along the banks of the Pasquotank River near the outer banks of North Carolina where he and his wife Linda are both professors at Elizabeth City State University.