

Keith Tornheim

Sun and Shade

In winter's chill I choose
the sunny side of the street,
to warm my face and perhaps
for better footing if the morning's rays
have warmed the sidewalk just enough
to melt the snow from yesterday.
But now in summer's heat,
as I walk past parched grounds
with sweat beading on my arms,
I seek the shady side
and give thanks
for trees and townhouses
that rise high enough
in Boston's old South End
to shield me from the blast of sun.

Keith Tornheim, a biochemistry professor at Boston University School of Medicine, has five recent books, *I Am Lilith*, *Dancer on the Wind*; *Spirit Boat: Poems of Crossing Over*; *Can You Say Kaddish for the Living?*; *Fireflies: Poems of Love and Family*; and *Spoiled Fruit: Adam and Eve in Eden and Beyond*. His poems have appeared in *Ibbetson Street*, *The Somerville Times*, *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Poetica*