

## **Elizabeth Schultz**

### **Visiting Jane In The Pioneer Ridge Health Center**

Gnomic and static, she fills  
the recliner, eyes alert in  
her sagging face. A shoulder,  
where the pain stabs, slopes.  
This is where she is now,  
incarcerated, but served.  
With a grabber, she clutches  
at a batch of newspapers.  
She needs to stay informed  
about local and international  
weather, knowing she'll  
never control either. Her ears,  
elephantine, stretch forward  
for info from those testing  
her wits and obscure thresholds  
of pain, from those paying  
homage and bringing local  
gossip and her garden's last  
peonies, drooping. From deep  
in her "I Love Paris" handbag,  
she parcels out hidden chocolate-  
covered, hazelnut toffee and  
rewards herself for tolerating  
fools, as her fingers knit  
themselves over and over into  
a basket holding only anxiety.

Following retirement from the English Department of the University of Kansas, **Elizabeth Schultz** remains committed to writing about the people and the places she loves, including Herman Melville, her mother, and her friends, Kansas wetlands and prairies, Michigan's Higgins Lake, Japan, where she lived for six years, and oceans everywhere. She has published two scholarly books, five books of poetry (three in 2014), a memoir, a collection of short stories, and a collection of essays. Her scholarly and creative work appears in numerous journals and reviews. She is a dedicated advocate for the arts and the environment.