

Scott Owens

The Sense of Place

Nothing happened here.
No one was born.
No one died.
No one fell in
or out of love.
An unexceptional child
was raised here
in the room with mustard yellow
walls unlike any
seen elsewhere because
two people rolled on
one layer of custom-made colors
after another for 20 years.
It is enough that the room
could hold a family comfortably,
that candles on the mantle were burned
down to almost nothing
from lighting every Friday night,
that sunlight, filtered through leaves
of a weeping cherry, poured in
through large front windows
each afternoon making
the room warm and bright
even on the coldest of days.
It was enough that three doors,
each marked with mezuzah,
welcomed anyone in or
opened on anywhere you wanted to go.

but the nothing that surrounds us all.

Author of 6 collections of poetry and over 700 poems published in journals and anthologies, **Scott Owens** is editor of *Wild Goose Poetry Review*, Vice President of the Poetry Council of North Carolina, and recipient of awards from the Pushcart Prize Anthology, the Academy of American Poets, the NC Writers' Network, the NC Poetry Society, and the Poetry Society of SC. He holds an MFA from UNC Greensboro and currently teaches at Catawba Valley Community College.