

Richard Luftig

Late dusk

is when all
our shadows
quit for the day,
come home
from town.

It is when jays
retire, finish
up their gossip
about those people
who don't venture

out much anymore
or put on brave faces
in this cold prairie
wind, but who cannot
bear to face another night

alone. Late dusk
is when cobalt winter
makes diamonds
on the insides of windows
we have forgotten again

to caulk. It is the time
our blue-light TV's
flickers, trying to
keep us company.
But the rose bush out back

amid the dead grass
knows how to best use
this time, roots held
deep in frozen soil,
bare arms raised

just above the snow.
It insists on keeping
faith with spring even
if that distant season
should decide never to arrive

Richard Luftig is a former professor of educational psychology and special education at Miami University in Ohio now residing in California. His poems and stories have appeared in numerous literary journals in the United States and internationally in Canada, Australia, Europe, and Asia. Luftig's poems have been nominated for the Pushcart prize and two of his poems recently appeared in *Realms of the Mothers: The First Decade of Dos Madres Press*. Luftig's latest book of poems will be forthcoming from Unsolicited Press in 2019. His webpage and blog may be found at richardluftig.com