

## ***Wayne-Daniel Berard***

### **explosion**

They held hands often.  
The one said, "My hearing's  
been damaged in the Explosion.  
If I speak too loudly, please  
Just squeeze my hand."  
Time passed, fire and concussion  
receded. Never a squeeze.  
"Am I too loud?" The one wanted  
to take care and give it.  
"And if I asked that about me,  
what would you say?"  
"That your sound is my soundness," the one.  
"A wholeness, a shalom. Who can have too much shalom?"  
"Well, then," the other smiled.  
Until the day of the Letting Go.  
"Too much! Too loud! For too long!"  
"Why didn't you squeeze me?" the one's heart poured, cascading toward the fuse,  
only closer  
to the Explosion.

**Wayne-Daniel Berard**, Ph.D. is Professor of English, Director of Spiritual Life and Chaplain of Nichols College, Dudley, MA. He is a Peace Chaplain, an interfaith clergyperson commissioned by the Peace Abbey, Sherborn, MA. Raised in Taunton, MA, Wayne-Daniel spent five years in Franciscan seminary. An adopted child, his discovery as an adult of his Jewish birth-parentage led to years of on-going Torah study with Rabbi Alan Ullman's School for Judaic Studies, Newton, MA. He is a published poet and essayist, his chapbook *The Man Who Remembered Heaven* having received the 2003 chapbook award from the journal *Ruah*. His first full-length book *When Christians Were Jews (That Is, Now)*, subtitled, *Recovering the Lost Jewishness of Christianity with St. Mark's Gospel*, was published in 2006 by Cowley Publishing. He is a member of B'nai Or, a Jewish Renewal community in Newton, MA, and resides in Mansfield, MA with his wife, The Lovely Christine; their shared families include six children, numerous cats, a rescued black shepherd and very spoiled dachshund.