TCP1. POEM IN Your POCKET DAY ANTHOLOGY 2023

Between
The pages of
One old library book
Paper songbirds nest waiting for
Release.

Carrie Cuinn

Dream caught and rinsed and fried Breath blurt bursting through kissing tonsils

A nocturnal ledge step, sit, somersault Red and blue danger disco dance Scrunched closed eyes and arm out Sudden sleep snores Rising from a familiar narrow, long, white bed, not mine, Again.

Veronica Haunani Fitzhugh

The bride in me collapses, a day-after tent that was caught in a hilltop storm before it could be torn down.

Now
I have my inner fire,
which of course flickers
at the whim of winds,
blowing shadows at my sins
and burning in an offspring.

The stiff fall grass will still be in my hanging dress.

Audrey Baker

Kyiv railway station 20 March 2022
Inside the train, fingertips pressed to the window, hard.

On the platform fingertips against the window, hard

against departure.

Wheels turn clockwise west. He trots along westward, fingers slipping, her face in shadow, then gone.

Against the station wall

The news camera sends pixels to everyone to tell

What it is like to go to war.

LeGrace Benson

Street reader

We are on the street reading.
Some stop and listen.
Others look at us staring into space
As if the weather had nothing
More than love to do with it,
Wrapping us in wind and rain
Or sun to applaud
Our simplified meanderings.
Perhaps a change of costume
Would gather more attention.
The audience is particular,
And while we are well-rehearsed,
We are not all that well dressed.

Michael Foldes

bestowing light. And also, I choose to think comings and goings just as it follows you too I'm not that special; the sun follows me in my from horizon to zenith and back down at every point on its ascension the sun will greet me from the East and watch over me the sun's habit. I can trust that on the morrow all this beauty reminds me that this is indeed that my imagination can turn into whatever it likes transforming clouds into cotton candy blobs infusing the sky with changing hues it travels on its journey west toward tomorrow Look at the sun following me everywhere, even as

Yael Saar

For my co-worker Nuncy

Holds expire Yes, it's true, but what's a Rich man like me to do?

So I hand the job today to you but please be kind and gentle for holds have feelings, too.

Rich Recchia

There is "u" in unity, United we stand, In this time, In this place.

Unity is loving everyone, every race Without "u", there is no unity, No "u" is needed To make unity complete Complete with love

We are United In our time, In this place.

Susan Mccclellan

The Bench on the Hill

That night was special.

The field of tall grass pink from
The sunset. We climbed

Up the hill to the Bench and sat until we could Barely see back down.

Greta Unetich

AHH.

How wonderful it is to fall in love with another, and with the world, to bathe in a river of hope and flow toward shores of peace.

To be in this precious space together, and sweetly wash all sorrow off our skin. We shed our pains under the light of the sky drift arm and arm, united in waters of our oneness.

PEACHES GILLETTE

ICED TEA AND POETRY

Iced tea and poetry
A little break
For you and me
Grab your cup
Put on your smile
Let's enjoy ourselves awhile!

Janie E. Bibbie

What the Wall Said

Find stillness.
Hold the way this light of Greece holds me, sun to stone.
Voices may carry from afar but you need not listen.
Only the song of a copper bell from a silent goat beyond these pines is what you need to comprehend you and I are here to be who and what this island needs to thrive within the sea.

Katharyn Howd Machan

The littlest bit a human eye can see a mote, a fleck of dust, and only when the sunlight tilts, and for a speck of time, we're in the audience, watching atoms dance.

Invisible, impenetrable life, the dance only a microscope can see, the coupling, birthing, aging, dying beings for whom we feel no kinship or regret.

And in the vast blue cosmology, worlds—round, gargantuan, and bright—dance, though only a telescope can see, perceiving us in certain slants of light.

Susan Weitz

Beetle

I'm sleeping on the back of a beetle—dung eater, busy working. Black and every petroleum color.
Origins, destination.

I am the beetle.

In dream interpretation all characters in a dream are actually the dreamer. So in her gravity cradle, radiation hammock, through ongoing night, the earth dreams us and herself.

Wren Tuatha

an unspoken language what is the greater sum of these parts? that makes poetry of the daily profanities if every infinitesimal piece of this living world Belongs, tell me something

have you ever seen the birds fly?

defiantly mumbling its prayer through the cracks of fundamental reality

Annie Sumi - an excerpt from "Expanding Horizons"

How far will you let me into your life?

Is there some kind of predetermined extent, or are you winging this too?

I love you, you know

Okay, twice I've met you once

We watched movies together, old futon springs digging in A week or two, a month, at some point -

I have known you for uncountable lifetimes

Hove you Hove you Hove you

Just one pinky, looped over yours - that would be enough yes ours now, our table and our bed and even our own little cat) Take my hand (on the futon, on your bed, in my car, at our kitchen table -

(You take my hand again) That would last me the next uncountable lifetimes worth of not knowing

(And again)

Broken

A heart

A glass

A fingernail

A twig

A car

A bone

A treaty

A promise

A dream

A season

All pieces

reorder anew

into whole.

Ellen Hirning Schmidt

todas comeremos by the sweat of Your brow To Her, he said: the rise. with painful labor (the drops that had flavored Her sopa for your husband which have not long been forgotten. -Krista Ochoa that sent me to Her sueñitos por que soy terca) (ode to Nadia)

Maiden, Mother, Crone

I feel you, still. Together, though apart. I finally rest and think of you within me

United by the memories in my muscles.

Black Swan soreness flying to parts I didn't know could hurt.

I blame you, and I miss you.

When will I hold you again? Your absence, an ache in my heart and head and belly. Love, will you be with me forever now

The emptiness, a tenderness I carry on?

As the piece of me discovered, then lost?

Alyssa Weber

singing in praise of trees and stones and birds, to sail on mystic journeys without fear when light shines into darkness, boding fair inexplicable, when the far comes near, reaches to depths of matters hard to find the sense of all the greatness of the mind which describe but can never quite fulfill chanting with rhapsodic melodies, words a world of unity. It has its laws When looking at our only earth, I pause They are touched on only in moments rare The eternal now, both moving and still, From womb to life, with everything unfurled is the unity of our grand sweet world

Roni Fuller

the year i thought i was dying

was only a few months' time, a burning spoon that scooped my spine, the most delicate goodbyes.

it was the year i drove into the busiest intersection in town under a red light, hoping i would die.

survivor's guilt is no lie, mania either as i have come to know. buying

time, drugs, any semblance of affection is all i've ever known, dining at an empty table:

serrated knives cut bone better and this meal is poisoned, in my eyes.

i believed i was a ghost without a home long before i began to step into this flesh and bone,

i had never felt so alone.

Alex Kabat

OUEEN BOUDICCEA

Their sandals were crafted for warmer climate,
Though growing weaker against tribal defiance,
The flogger bit her flesh as she was viciously torn,
Vengeance would soon be hers, to that she had
sworn.

The damsels she bore lay shattered beneath them, These soldiers of Rome whose days shall draw grim,

She cried and cried then cried some more, The Celtic revolt brought 80,000 to death's door.

She fell in defeat but without regret,
For in these days the spirit of Celts had been met,
The mystics envisioned a bloody end,
They fought in the fields, the streets and at the
river bend.

Nero was Caesar but she was the Queen, The likes of which these men had never seen, Today her figure stands outside Cardiff Hall, Even without it she'd be remembered by all!

Cynthia Morrison

Benefits

Dragging home from the benefits office neither social nor secure

frustrated, fearful

Guy on a porch calls out

"I like your tee!" I pause, look down..trees.

"Are you an arborist?" he asks

"Not by profession", I say, "maybe by heart."

We talk aspens, continental root systems

models of collaboration

oxygen cycles, shade, air

green

I walk on,

Benefitted.

susan eschbach

Enlightenment I

I thought it was the sunset
But it was enlightenment
I beheld with honest eyes
Absent of striving after spiritual purity:
The stars - enlightenment
The sunrise - enlightenment
The diamond dewdrops,
The rainbows
in the oil puddles in the parking lot Enlightenment.

Carol Whitlow

Remembering

There's so much I have forgotten—
The way we laughed 'till our sides ached
The wonder and awe of space flight
Our shared dream of a peaceful world
How to extend my hand when words fail.

I have let others draw lines, boxes Making prisons of us all Mind, heart, hope, snared with A million media tendrils.

I must remember now—
Stand up. Speak the truth each moment.
Our human family is one.
One heart. One mother planet.
One shared destiny.

Eva Marques

jettison off the moon, warping time and space. arms wander my back when we embrace, Waltzing woman, And I never want it back. hand on waist, hitched inhale, I lost my life when you looked me in the eyes,

A piece of me is entrusted to you, and it's reveling in it's new home.

Andreas Candelario

Dulce et decorum est, pro patria mori.

Day and night shells rain from the sky like a perpetual torrent of storm. Rain and mud like quicksand, thunder of guns like lightning.

"For your country!" our captain shouts, its the last thing he ever says. can taste the blood, like metal in my lungs.

AD VICTORIUM

then its gone I stand with my brothers united, like a wave of friends and comrades in arms,

The last thing I see is the top of a trench, then nothing.

by my side. I die not with pride for my country, but with unity for the brothers that lay

Dulce et decorum est, pro patria mori

Dashiell W. Capps

You found me.

You found me at my cold.

You found me at my dark.

And you sparked a fire in me.

You found me.

And now I see your cold.

And now I see your dark.

Your hope was like a revolution

You found me.

And I found my words.

And I found my anger.

Camden Goeller

My family is important to me.

We are as strong as super glue when we unite. My family's unity is important to me.

My family's loyalty is important to me.
Our loyalty is stronger than duck tape.

We are as strong as super glue and gorilla glue combined

Anonymous

The Story-Girl

Knowledge was your refuge until the books were burned, the quills, buried.

You're part of a whole, a stroke in a painting, a thread in a quilt.

Dive beneath the blue and re-emerge with fairytales between your teeth—

un-biased thievery is your life's blood.

Sarah

A night of the wind Occurs in the hole of soul That sucks in air And whistles in the dark.

The ultimate finity of body Unlike the limitless soul sky Captive to the fleshy puppet Of this whistling daughter

Let me unfurl a banner
Exalt my high note to the moon
Raise my voice to the stars
And fill my sinking soul with song.

Alone, but with many alone, I make a connected home.

Anonymous

Unity Poem

Your music is a heartbeat, loud, but not as rhythmic.

Silence, too loud to hear, there for a second gone in a moment Fingers sting but hold fast over metal strings

It comes to fast for me to decide, give me more time

lasts a lifetime. I stare over open waters, the sun gleams off the waves, brief, but a second

Anonymous

rivers my favorite is six mile creek the water is clean at six mile creek this is the hope of a clean lake. All the rivers are separate but the all come together at cayuga lake of these

joni pain

Desire

Mold spreads with a single drop of water It feeds off of local hosts, Thus strengthening its colony

The strawberries in my fridge Are the farms of the people The dew, a call of hunger

For every bacteria, Every spore, Every infected, discarded, sore-sighted lump of guck

They sprout like mayflowers in an open field, And link with chains of shared desire

Life;

To live.

Unity is a circle rather than a line Across all bodies, it remains As the desire to live is enough to connect souls alike.

Ayden Githinji

Peace over conflict

Often people choose to shout to deaf ears rather than listen to open mouths

Elizabeth Parrish

All for one or one for all
Many kingdoms has chosen wrong
Unite all together to take a stand
Weapons drawn to each hand
To battle a tyrant that stands tall
Eventually we will make him fall
All together under one flag
The tyrant's head drags
The end of war
Together as one

zack

He is a dumpster He is like a urinal He is a dog after it rains He is like a black metal fan He is Al Gore He is like a swamp He is neon green with smelly He drinks motor oil He eats bugs He is woodstock 99 He is jimmy fallon He eats coles law willingly He is named Tristen They come together and fight because he smells so awful and is truly nasty

anonymous

Slumbering upon the night sky
Drifting with the shooting stars
Sleeping on the crescent moon
I dream of you as I rest.

To unite our fates, under the backdrop of the stars. To hold you in my hands My dear luna, how i wish Reflecting upon the still waters You are the glistening moon

elizabeth ortolaza

Unity is coming together
Unity is like a puzzle
Unity is like bricks in a wall
Unity is like buildings in a city
Unity is family

Unite

Unity is like a tree
Many Branches stemming from one root.

Unity is a volcano One minute it is calm Suddenly, chaos.

Tall and short
Young and old
Holding hands as if we are family
The air thick of smog and fumes
But together we stand.

Owen

Unity
It's like a machine
Full of gears, twisting, turning
Lose one, it could stop.
Each gear is a tree
Each tree makes the forest
It's part of the unit.

Limerick for Unity through Libraries

I could not with any impunity,
Declare it a healthy community,
If it doesn't have books,
Or in any way looks,
Like it doesn't have spirit and unity.

Benjamin Cornwell

Ants at a picnic

On a sunny day lies lots of unwanted leftover food at a picnic

In unity they gather food for their community

Each ant carrying large portions on their backs Tiny ants swarm the are like a moth to a flame

With more dedication than a soldier towards their mission they proceed

Marcus Szurczynski

Unity

I gather with my family at home to play video games,

Video games are as fun as hanging out with friend at the all,

Shopping is fun when you are with friends or when you're shopping for clothes I could play video games all day just like shopping,

or things you like or want. When me and my family gather together to hangout it is always fun

Birthdays are load of fun When me and my friends hangout it is a pun

If it was a pun it would have been a good one

To hangout with friends and family

decland grant

Unity is nostalgic. It's like eating with your family at a picnic, Unity is the past, future and present.

Everything is broken into pieces, There's no unity here. There's no unity in me.

There's no nostalgia.

Leo Dickerson

There is strength in our unity

Even if we are different in many ways

We can still come together as one

To form a force so strong

No one thing can tear us apart

Our unity is a gift

Of the strength and power

We have when we stand together.

Beehives need bees to be a beehive

Schools need kids to be schools Book stores need books to be book stores Bird Nests need birds to be bird nests

A pen to paper

A mother to a baby

A tree that has bent to make somewhere shady,

A student to their studies, a ring to a hand,

The super sweet flowers that cover the land.

A bird to its nest, a song to the ears, A childhood memory with childish fears. A part of unity that will make you confused Is the definition of how its used..

They say it's not meant to be You and Me.

We face against them With no one else.

Yet as time moves on We see Others are on our side And we can face the world Hand in hand.

Together.

Maria

Unity

The crowds cheer your name
The war is over

Come one come all

We are united now as one big family

I come from a country in pieces
Shattered, clash, and bang
Broken by the people I stand with today

Those memories that turn into nightmares haunt me in the night
We all share

In one form or another

I was a scared little girl covered in ash and the smoke turned my eyes cloudy But that's all in the past

We don't care what they say we will take on the world hand and hand together

Sadie LeBlanc

Leaves are molded to the tree
Stuck on a lonely branch
Holding onto the wooden bow
Lifted above the dirt
Together swaying intertwined
As one above the guts and grime
Stuck together, holding hands
The leaves are free of hurt and pain

Will

The hypocrisy of Unity

Among every tribe, people and tongue we strive for unity.

The sacred idea in which every faith prays for Yet only with my god What every ideological leader calls for

Yet only with my political philosophy

In which every leader yells and gives speeches for Yet only under my natation We see tribes and people beg for it But as long as itis without the others

But unity doesn't mean that It is the idea that all people can live in peace and prosperity

No Matter the god or ideology or cutler or tongue or nation that belong to

Yet the leaders and people say "we can only achieve unity under my ideas"

But unity doesn't mean that we all must be under one idea

Unity means tolerance

Reese Duet

Glances stolen under street lamps, Foggy breath, tired eyes, A moment's respite, Burned into their minds.

Metal tainted with blood,
Heavy hands and fists,
A war between the forgotten and the loved,
Broken by a name uttered in memory.

Racing hearts and tear stained cheeks, A confession uttered in near silence of the voice,

A reciprocation, Like lovers, Like sin,

This is our unity.

Rowan

These flowers are calling my name The grass whispers in my ear, Tickles my back and stains my knees.

Follow the fox prints in the snow, You set the mouse free I am grateful for my mother and my eyes and my hair like water.

We found a rotting deer,
We built a home here.
I'm safe and warm and teased and loved.
I discovered that forget-me-nots are my favorite flower.

I will never forget you.

Or you.

Or you.

You were my family.

Together as all of the oceans combine
Separate but still one
Aparat is a wavering task
The stability i ache and ache to keep
I crave
We crave
Each half to a whole
Longing to keep it whole
We are one

Zoe

Unity is when people work together

Unity is were people help each other

Unity is when people come together and form a community.

Unity is when a community comes together and creates something new Unity is when a community comes together and builds up a society

Unity is when a society comes together and forms a town

Unity is when cities come together with everyone else as well as other cities Unity is when the people of the town create a city

Unity is when states create a country

to create a state

Unity is when the states are unified and honest

Unity is when the states build each other back up when one gets knocked down.

Let us not forget about what the "U" stands for in the U.S.A.

To be united is to have a strong sense of unity

One tree can not make a forest
One grain can not make a beach
One drop of water can not make a lake

Unity is the battle all face
Unity is like a sound ecosystem

Rain

River Song

Together we stand
She's holding me up
Her arms wrap around me like grape vines
Keeping me from falling in the dark water below
She holds me up when I want to fall
She kisses my hair as the water sings to us
A broken song of betrayal and misery
I want to join in but my voice is too quiet
So I don't

I stay complacently wrapped in my lover's arms Our tears fall and mix with the singing river And just like that our pain is added to the whole Our song added to the chorus

Ursi

like planets rotating around stars of protons and neutrons Everything is electrons rotating around nuclei

of hydrogen and helium

The sound of my alarm is like my world ending right in front of me

As going to this place at least it has good food and it's also free

The way of getting back into my bed is like my dreams and happiness

We love to sleep, everyone does.

Each flower introduced to the bunch with purpose

With an artistic vision

Each flower adds to the bundle

Leaving fewer opportunities for it to crumble and fall apart

Forming a strengthened and unified bouquet

Even Water

Ice has slowed the creek's flow like hardening lava, but underneath beads of water like little fish flee their slowly shrinking confines

as water struggles to keep its fluid self alive, to not renounce the noisy onrush as it infiltrates the land; even water dreads the hardening of its arteries.

Gail Holst-Warhaft

unity is sand Alone but just a small grain Together a beach **Anonymous**

Family, friend, neighbor we all share unity
We all are linked to one another

like a chain, the bond is unbreakable.

We have shared a home, a mother, father, an aunt or uncle; our family is unified by people.

Neighbor, whether it be the color of our houses, the routes we take to get home from the grocery sto

the routes we take to get home from the grocery store we are united.

Far beyond knowing we are united by thought Generated from the mind's knowledge. We all do it, We are thinkers

We are thinkers.

We smell through our noses, communicate, interpret Even when we do so we do it in unison with one another. For we all are unified simply by being people.

MAYDAY

when solving a Collective problem someone May say & april May work All Day to agree- We see Comm Unity to All the king's forces-no more hierarchy no one way or the highway

& none today, that makes Us All for fun, none for All low alone

that makes Us not With You Let's get All Mixed Together / instead of All Mixed up

Assemble the Ensemble Connection in spite of.

Duan don Huisto

-Brandon Hricko 3/28/23

is as equal as a bird cawing on a streetlamp Both know that they're just as important as the other Birds are like cameras, watching you up above The cat that sways because they're a snake in a tree

But a cats hunger does not stop

Unity

Unity flutters all around us
Soaring through the sky
Rushing through our young blood
Flowing like a river
Screaming into the void
Unity is in us
We are unity

The community unites in harmony The puzzle comes together like a community

Collaborates like a sweet melody Connecting like a bridge

Standing up for what we believe in We are one!

Joining hands,

Cameron Kelly

For My Brother On What Would Have Been His 58th Birthday

Great flocks of geese are flying south today

Low clouds also drift southward Filling most of the sky with their gray-bottomed whiteness

My copper-furred companion and I tread barefoot On the wet grass of the hillside below

The geese fly higher than the clouds

And the faraway sound of their spirited honk-chatter moves faster, too Toward the southern horizon

Sailing across a narrow blue window But they are like ghosts to our eyes Until a loosely-strung V appears for a moment

Todd Rose

INTO ONE

It's wrong to be at the computer

When the evening light glows soft

Bad to be indoors

When spring breezes waft

At least come to the window

To see the last of this

Beauty, the fading pinks

And deepening blues

Blending into one

Night with only pinpoints of stars.

Maude Rith

Unity is...

Unity is teamwork

Unity is love

Unity is kindness

Unity is togetherness

Unity is a good friend

Unity is loving family

Unity is working together

Unity is playing together

Unity is standing for the pledge of allegiance

Unity is caring for each other

Isla R.B.

UNITY

It could be a Wordle solution or an aspiration for a group — though not this country, where E Pluribus Unum's become an ever hollower motto in the age of the chaos machine, mass shootings and legislative shame. Disunity's the word. Too long to fit a line in the game. Try split.

— Mark Ashton

On Again, Off Again

Shoelace bunny ears. Flat. Untied. Tied again. Double knotted. To not fall apart or trip.

Gianni Renna

Corner Pocket

secretly. You know that, too. Safe in the arms of a spring day. Riding the market wave. Love to see you in the nets. Pressing the heat button at the bus stop in January. disaster fountain. Hard to catch like water. A couch resting on the other corner. A truck that could not stop. Silly taxes, and spill out onto the lowlands. 100 years is not that long. Swelling up the parking lots and parking spots. The parade in between. circling in infinity. The kids, they come and go and come and go. mausoleum. City deer having picnics. Eric and the turkey feather into the bottom of our shoes. Stone door hobbit hole We took the cemetery road downtown with July cooking there with the day on your crown. We still want to see magic, Viva will cross the street and we'll remember happy bees Poor man's pizza 2 am. One day that creek will get too high

Rachel Coye

Teamwork

When you fall

Ask someone for help

When you are lonely

Ask for a friend

You should never give up

But you can always call for help

Oliver

Unity here we come

Together we work as a team

unity

Together we form an idea

unity

Together we help each other

unity

Together we make the plan

unity

Together we brainstorm

unity

Together we make it work

unity

Together we win

unity

Unity here we come

Elena, age eight

Yes unity

You want to work together not alone so

you like unity

Unity means you work together

and don't give up!!!

Unity for example is a sit in and you don't leave!

So yes unity so just say unity

here I come loud and proud.

Together we will work as a team!

So you will see me standing there with <u>UNITY!</u>

So remember what this means and stand there like me with unity.

And remember just say loud

and proud YES UNITY!

Eliza age 9

We are United

WE ARE UNITED.
WE ARE ONE.
WE WORK TOGETHER NONE LIKE ANOTHER.
WE STAND TOGETHER.
I STAND WITH YOU, YOU STAND WITH ME
TOGETHER WE MAKE UNITY.
WE HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH LIGHT AND DARK.
WE STAND UP TO ALL THOSE BITING SHARKS.
EVEN IF YOU FEEL YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS,
LOOK TO YOUR HEART THERE YOU'LL SEE ME STANDING THERE WITH UNITY.
SO WITH THIS POEM I'D LIKE TO SAY YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Rosalee. May. H. M. Age 9

Morning Song

Heat rises in the pipes, purrs with its furry beat while under the covers the cat, cave safe, sings the day into being.

Jack Hopper

Yet longing for the pace of another, the comfort and lust of young flames My head swirling among the Gorges and my heart perched along the Hemlocks My body remains split Stimulated by the passion and high hopes of one

I could label it homesickness but that would do me no favors

Where insecurity and immaturity still flourish As home is the source of my limitations

In idling Mother myself and keep my wits to make room for tension and find solace in not knowing Therefore, I must make do, tend to my own small worries

For as I leave these winding hills once again My head and heart *exhaling longer* I slowly regain the momentum to cultivate myself, for myself They will connect soon enough

Kathryn Wolfe

Celebrate National Poetry Month and put a Poem in your Pocket.

Library Hours

9AM—8PM Mon—Thur 9AM—6PM Fri 10AM—5PM Sat 1PM—5PM Sun (seasonal)

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Poetry & Prose Open Mic Thursday, May 4, 6:30-7:30pm Online — Learn more at tcpl.org. Come share your poetry with the community!

