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Something new: Poetry

(Editor’s note: Local poet Trina Porte suggested that the Jewish World begin publishing poetry. And she sent us a selection of her poems to kick off this occasional feature. We invite local Jewish poets to submit their poems for publication. Please send your poems, along with a brief bio, to: poetry@ajwnews.com.)

By TRINA PORTE

Shalom, AJW readers!
One beautiful way that we can uplift each other in these tough times is through poetry: sharing it, writing it, reading it aloud, reading it in silence. Whatever we long for and hope for and work for exists in

poetic form. Psalms, songs, prayers, rhymes — all kinds of verses woven throughout our lives provide us with strength, with solace, with humor, with the rituals that frame our faith, our grief, our love of learning, our joyous moments.
Poetry clarifies. Poetry codifies. Poetry celebrates. Poetry questions.

Poetry gives voice to everything we yearn for and everything that tears us apart. Poetry is all that we know and everything we cannot understand. Poetry saves lives and poetry memorializes those who don’t survive. Poetry is magic: It is a gift from the past that is placed in the hands of the future. Read on...

an ex-wife’s midlife crisis in verse

love was the tightrope
love was the net
love was the owner
love was the pet

love was the beehive
love was the honey
love was the vault
love was the money

love was the kite
love was the sky
love was the sight
love was the eye

love was the recipe
love was the cook
love was the earthquake
love was what shook

a poem is

dessert for the brain
a truffle of words
dense and delicious

an idea’s egg
complete and yearning
cracking open the fragile

a weed of wisdom
colorful irritant
airborne and unpredictable

2 a.m.

in darkness a cat sleeps
startled slightly
by the little sounds
a dreamer’s twitch
the silent call of things imagined

a dry plant leaf falls
started off its unwanted stem
by rising invisible heat
or simply lack of attachment

loud car lights
jump onto the ceiling
and for an instant
its radio rattles everything

proportions change
when measured only by touch
i feel my way to bed
where sleep waits
but i push it away

i drag myself into
that nightly whirlpool of emotions
soaking little pieces of the day
until swollen and misshapen

from this exhausted soup
a poem spits out its tiny self
i chaperone it onto paper
grinning
and finally fall asleep

Trina Porte writes: When I was seven years old, my best friend’s mom gave me my first journal and I’ve been writing ever since. My most exciting entry for that year consisted of an attempt at drawing a ring around the full moon I saw when taking out the garbage. I was afraid of the dark, but that moon was so bright it made my shadow into a big strong me. I’m still trying to put that feeling into words, and I write poems because I wouldn’t know what to say without them. My work has been featured in the Textile Center of Minnesota, Bet Gavriel Arts Center, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Moon Palace Books, Bluestockings, Brecht Forum, Cornelia Street Café, public libraries, Vulva Riot, Queer Voices, A Slant of Light, Nickel Empire, lifeblood, Just Like A Girl, gatherings, twice in a blue moon and many other forms and places.

The American
Jewish World

VOICES OF MINNESOTA’S JEWISH COMMUNITY

REAL ESTATE
AND HOME
IMPROVEMENT

SPECIAL SECTION

We will publish a special section in the **February 4, 2022** edition, focusing on the real estate market and what’s new in home improvements.

Reach homeowners in the Jewish community who are making a transition from a home to a condo or apartment, and those who are renovating the family home.

This special section is a prime marketing opportunity for realtors, landscapers, remodeling contractors, plumbers, electricians, arborists, handypersons and anyone offering goods and services to homeowners.

The deadline for ad space reservations is January 26. For advertising sales information, call Mordecai Specktor at 612-824-0030 or email: editor@ajwnews.com