

THE INK WELL

By Lynn Berry
Guest Contributor Christopher Sedlmeyer

As the month of March arrives, poets everywhere and in every age have begun their ancient hymns to spring. Some of the oldest poems we have surviving in the English language are, not surprisingly, poems celebrating the hope intimated in the coming of spring. Our submission this month carries on this venerable tradition in a fresh and vibrant way. “Spring” by Jill Hult uses a barrage of images and metaphors to explore the kaleidoscope of life, memories, and experiences that are for her the sound and rhythm of spring’s insistent call to her senses. Hult uses the refrain “Spring is beckoning” to punctuate series of tight, well-wrought vignettes of spring: the warmth of sunshine and the cool tickle of grass, the coming spring flowers, bees, and summer fruit, the falling rain and subsequent memories of childhood mudpies, the mighty oak bridging the decades of springs past and future, and finally the ebb and flow of streams, spring breezes, and the very breathing of life itself. Hult’s masterful use of repetition, imagery, and the association of metaphors creates the expectant feeling that is at the very heart of the spring poem and the expresses the lively hope for new life that is the very heart of what it is to be human.

Spring

Oh dare I say
Sweet sunshine,
I felt your warmth
Soak my face
Spring is beckoning
Cool earth and
Redolent grass
Tickle my toes
I am alive!
Youthful as a
Lily
Nectar for bees and
Juicy peach
Water in my mouth
Spring is beckoning
The rain fell for
Mud pies with
Honeysuckle topping
I am reminiscent
Branching as a
Live oak
Lifting to the sky
Rooted in ground
Spring is beckoning
Rivers babble lowering
Winter swells and
Dogs pant
I respire
A tepid air
Spring is beckoning

----- Jill Hult

---**Writer’s Idea:** In your next work, sprinkle your poem with vivid language. For instance, Hult uses uncommon words to introduce new and unfamiliar sounds that work with the tones of the poem and, at the same time, pack multiple meanings into a single well-placed word. Instead of the common word “fragrant”, Hult uses “redolent”, which has an added layer of meaning related to an object that brings up or suggests a memory or a thought. Instead of the word “breathe”, she uses the word “respire”, which colors the action of breathing. Instead of “warm”, she uses “tepid”, which also implies something that is unsure, timid, gentle.

---**Writer’s Tip:** A poem’s structure is often a powerful, though subtle, support to the poem’s meaning. For example, notice that Hult repeats the line “Spring is beckoning” and that repetition is like a beckoning, inviting the poet again and again in an insistent way. Also notice how she often cuts lines off and finishes their meaning in the next line, which mimics the expectation of something coming that is not yet here. The reader’s eye must move forward down the poem to complete the thought or image, just like the poet is looking forward to the coming spring. Try some of these techniques in your own writing to accentuate the meaning or action of the poem at the level of the actual words, lines, stanzas.

---**WE ARE LOOKING FOR LOCAL POETRY. WE NEED YOUR POEMS!** Please send your original submissions to InkwellVernonia@gmail.com or by mail: PO Box 333 Vernonia, OR 97064. Please include your name and contact information.

Write--Express--Expand.

Chris Sedlmeyer holds an M.A. in English, specializing in archetypal criticism and medieval spirituality. He has written for the American Benedictine Review and currently writes a weekly blog on Carmelite spirituality and discernment for the American Province of the Order of Carmelites of the Ancient Observance.

Your Horoscope: March 2013



By Ms. Luna

March shows the beginnings of spring, beware of colds and flus.

Pisces (Feb 19- March 20) This month is all about you! Devote some time to think about where you’d like to be in 12 months. Relationships, creativity, and communication will all be strong themes until March 2014. Team work will get you further. Unexpected expenses at month’s end, saving and budgeting should be your priority. Check credit report for errors.

Aries (March 20 –April 19) Extra energy and vitality are yours around the 12th. Curb your impatience and temper. Listen to other viewpoints with an open mind. Say less and steer clear of difficult people in the workplace. The person that can anticipate challenges before they occur will win the day. Extra sleep, good food, and warm clothes will keep you well.

Taurus (April 19 – May 20) Take the initiative to mend any misunderstanding that may have happened in Feb. Someone you talk to on the 7th could deliver good news by the end of the month. Take the lead at work, people will be looking to you for answers and guidance. Make relaxation and nutritious meals your priority.

Gemini (May 20 to June 20) Information will begin to flow your way mid- month. Monitor expenses as you could stretch your entertainment budget at month’s end. A dating relationship could reach a turning point the week of the 27th. Good news arrives soon after. Be aware of children’s online activities.

Cancer (June 20- July 22) The 7th may bring news of business travel, best if not done until after the 17th as there may be delays or items lost. If you or your child is awaiting college acceptance or scholarships, news may arrive around the 28th. Make sure your insurance coverage is up to date. A business started now with a partner is unlikely to have a positive outcome.

Leo (July 22- Aug 22) Relationship misunderstanding or money mix-ups can be put right after the 17th. You will be put in touch with in-laws or distant friends. Your finances will be energized and could push you to take on more than you can realistically afford. Travel requires caution nearing the 27th. Avoid challenging authority figure despite your strong feelings.

Virgo (Aug 22- Sept 22) There is a bit of luck in the career arena this month. Working in tandem can accomplish more and ensure future teamwork. Connect and reconnect with loved ones, close friends and your partner. Unexpected expenses could arise, but near the 28th take a chance on the lottery and you may see a small win.

Libra (Sept 22- Oct 22) This month could feel like ‘all work and no play’ but there will be time for socializing with friends. You may feel overloaded, but the potential to draw the attention of decision makers is at a high.

Extra efforts now can pay off this summer. If job hunting, send resumes near the New Moon. Your strong urge for freedom could spark conflict.

Scorpio (Oct 22- Nov 21) Romance is in the air for both committed and dating Scorpions. Socializing from 11th to the 16th may bring a reunion with a former romantic interest. Workplace changes could trigger increased stress. Stay calm and make no hasty decisions. Be cautious of investments. Your health may be depleted near month’s end, rest and eat right.

Sagittarius (Nov 21- Dec 21) Planetary alignments will bring memorable moments with family, including good news at month’s end. You could have a few challenges with your children later in March. If you’re involved in a serious dating relationship, you might decide to part ways. Avoid snap decisions; you may not have all of the facts. Play the lottery at month’s end.

Capricorn (Dec 21- Jan 20) By the 7th you will be able to put your outstanding organizational skills to work at home and on the job. It is a great time for information gathering as well as reading and research. It will be difficult to balance career and domestic responsibilities, look to friends for help. Take extra care if you work with tools or ladders, accidents is

highly possible.

Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 19) See friends, host a party, create memories, and enjoy a hobby and other leisure-time activities. Get acquainted with neighbors, romance could be connected. If you net a gain, save first and spend only a little. Be cautious on the roads during the last week. Catch a ride, have a designated driver if you attend social events. News comes from a distance- a relative, in-law, or someone from the past.

St. Patrick's Day Word Puzzle by St. Pierre Graphics

C B S T E W P T S P S E
O R A N G E G E S O B Y
R I R I S H R A I T D E
N S H A M R O C K D O Y
B K L S E P O T A T O E
E E C V P D A P N O H N
E T O U N A I T C C O R
F L R I L N I A R N R A
C E L T I C E A E I N L
A P B S H I M E B R C B
B R R A I N R O C E A K
B E B A N G E R S L B C
A C W H I S K E Y A B I
G H O J S N I C K N E R
E A B W H I B O L D G A
S U I S A I G O L D G P
G N C H I L T I W H I S

ALE~BANGERS~BLARNEY~BRISKET~CABBAGE
CELTIC~CLOVER~CORNBEEF~DANCING~GOLD
GREEN~IRELAND~IRISH~JIG~LEPRECHAUN
LUCK~MARCH~ORANGE~PADDY~PATRICK~POTATOE
RAINBOW~SAINT~SHAMROCK~STEW~WHISKEY