



## Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

### Ode to lost arts and poetry

Sometimes, a thought pops into my head and gets kind of stuck.

I have never really knitted, aside from the basic “knit two, pearl two,” but admire those who do. I especially admire the creativity of those who can crochet, especially those able to crochet lace along the edge of a pillowcase.

I also admire those who can make doilies. Some of us may remember doilies with circles of fluff and how we used to soak them in sugar water to make them dry with each fluff in place.

Remember, in “the olden days” we did not have Amazon or any of what we now refer to as box stores. We did not even have gift cards.

So, when we were in need of a gift, we often got out the sewing machine (treadle of course), knitting needles, or crochet hooks.

That reminds me of a poem I ran across from a 1985 newsy little column. I have searched for and cannot find “Tying the Knot” by Patricia O’Grady. Sadly, the last word in some of the longer sentences were cut off when it was reproduced.

The first line is missing the ending. It starts with “I marveled how Grandma’s hands \_\_\_\_\_” followed with the next line “\_\_\_\_\_ the large ball of string with a hook.” The last three lines of the second verse end with “There’s no need for tears When life’s snarls appear, Knotted thread will make lace, if we \_\_\_\_\_.”

I have found many women with that author’s name, but so far have not located the poem. Help? Thank you!

Recently, I’ve been sorting and sorting and sorting pictures, dishes, knickknacks, linens, clothes, and on and on and on. That’s how I found the poem that’s plaguing me.

Well, as if by divine design, I was sent a meaningful (to me) reading this morning. I tried to locate the writer or source, but to no avail. I will share it anyway.

“The truth is that all of the stuff here on earth that we work so hard to buy and accumulate does not mean a thing.

At the end of the day, people will be cleaning out our stuff, going through our stuff, figuring out what to do with all of our stuff -- this stuff we’ve accumulated in our life.

The only thing of value that remains are the memories and what we deposit into others.

May we all learn to spend less time accumulating stuff and spend way more time making memories.”

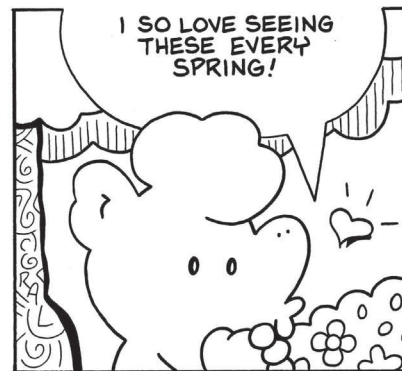
That’s so powerful! I need to remember that each day!

In summary, a wise man shared four areas to downsize to create a more simple life: your stuff, your schedule, your expectations, and your negative thoughts.

And, yes, it’s a good idea to start now.

ZED by Duane M. Abel

THIS WASN'T HERE YESTERDAY! IT SPROUTED UP VERY FAST, BRIAN!



## Off the Shelf

by Kelly Knudsen



### Library can help you tap into your inner bard

“Poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder, with a dash of the dictionary.” ~Khalil Gibran

As April blows in, it’s time to acknowledge an artistic, fun and favorite genre of literature: poetry!

It’s National Poetry Month and Warrenton Community Library (WCL) is celebrating. We all can connect with poetry if we try. It is a part of our lives throughout the year -- songs are poems set to music and dance is poetry expressed physically.

Most people start out their lives hearing and enjoying poetry and don’t even realize it. Parents and caregivers read stories and poems in verse to kids to teach about language or they sing nursery rhymes before bed to soothe their hearts and minds. Listening to and reading poetry

helps children practice reading aloud with expression, learn new words and exposes them to rhyming.

As we get older, poetry becomes somewhat confusing or misunderstood, as readers must wade through all types of figures of speech, such as hyperbole, irony, metaphor, or simile to gather the message of the poem. But poetry is a vital art form in our world and life. It can help us to see, feel, hear, touch, smell and appreciate the world around us, without going anywhere. Poetry offers a diverse perspective we may not otherwise experience.

All month at WCL, we are celebrating poetry with some passive programming including Found Poems for children and Blackout Poetry for juniors, teens, and adults. Passive programming means activities which do not require staff direction -- we leave the instructions and supplies at a table for patrons to enjoy.

Found Poetry, often described as the literary equivalent of a collage, is when you take existing words, phrases or passages and reframe them to create poetry. Found Poetry helps children play with words and express

themselves.

Blackout Poetry (or Redacted Poetry), stems from found poetry and is characterized by the use of a marker (usually black marker) to existing text (e.g. pages from a discarded book) and redacts words until a blackout poem is formed.

Stop by the library this month, “find” a poem and tap into your inner bard!

I leave you with a poem in this month of celebrating poetry. What does it mean to you?

*Invisible fish swim this ghost ocean now described by waves of sand, by water-worn rock.*

*Soon the fish will learn to walk. Then humans will come ashore and paint dreams on the dying stone.*

*Then later, much later, the ocean floor will be punctuated by Chevy trucks, carrying the dreamers’ descendants, who are going to the store.*

“Invisible Fish” from “Secrets From the Center of the World” by Joy Harjo, copyright 1989, The Arizona Board of Regents.

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