

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park

The Ladies of Sherman Avenue

*At summer's end, the ladies emerge
at dawn from the cocoons of their kitchens,
barefoot and nightgowned,
to give welcoming hugs
to those migrating home.*

*Their hands flutter like wings
over the tousled heads of children.
Babies are passed like presents,
while possessive cats rub velvet backs
around the ankles of their mistresses.*

*They pause in their confidences to wave
and nod saucily to the graying poet
who slows his battered sports car to grin at them,
shaking his head, disarmed by their affection,
slightly in love with them all.*

*Ghosts hover over the rainbow houses,
drawn by the laughter:
Spirits of cherished ones they knew,
remember, there, in the periphery of vision,
silently egging them on.*

Beth Baker

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, an urban poetry walk, is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library with assistance from the Takoma Park Department of Public Works. Designs of the poetry are by students at the School of art and Design at Montgomery College. For more information about the Friends, visit www.FTPML.org.

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