

Periodical Poetry.

Editor: Stephanie Kendrick

Stephthepoet.org

POET'S PANEL

Folds

There it was. An amber ring
lost in the folds of paisley
left in the dust of an old tin
sewing box, found in the
attic's solace. What password
slipped through the neat pleats
of her mind and into the
sharpened heartbeat of now?
Something brought her steps to
surprise. Urgent her treasure.

Resistance In Fall

This remains. Your back yard.
Still yours, even after
leaves pulse first drop
from tree you last admired them.
How they waited with your
windows late, trembled a hope
then surrendered
into vulnerable November.
Teapot. Porcelain. Hushed
blue and white, still
not centered on your wooden
picnic table, blue bird feeder
echoes. Still. Yours,
and Irish shamrock plant
resists this
degree change. No one
thinks to bring it inside
even after.

--Sandra Feen

"Resurrecting Wash Day, 1915" is about an old photo that, sadly, I no longer have. "Resistance in Fall" is an ekphrasis response to a photo in my first photo show last February, at Sunbear Studio, in Westerville, Ohio.

Ramblings...

I could not be more thrilled at the ability to feature the magnetic Sandra Feen in this issue. The announcement that she has been named **Ohio's state Beat Poet Laureate** may have been just the excitement I needed to pull me from my writing-hibernation. With her pieces *Folds* and *Resistance in Fall*, I am reminded of my simultaneous hold, and lack of control that I have in this space. There is always something to surprise us, and always something waiting to pull us back to Earth. Read more about how you can find more of Sandra's work

on the next page. As mentioned, I have been in a state of creative hibernation since March; resting up for the adventure in store as I prepare for the release of my chapbook *In Any of These Towns*. Working with Hayley at Sheila-Na-Gig editions has been a dream, and I cannot wait for this book to be out in the world. Keep an eye out for upcoming readings! Reader, as we move through the Dog Days of another strange and pivotal year, remember the value of community, the strength in partnerships, and the power of listening. We do better together. Thank you for being here.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Open Mic @ Threefold Roasters in
Albany every Friday Night!
6pm-8pm**

**IF YOU SEE
SOMEONE WITHOUT
A SMILE, GIVE
THEM YOURS.**

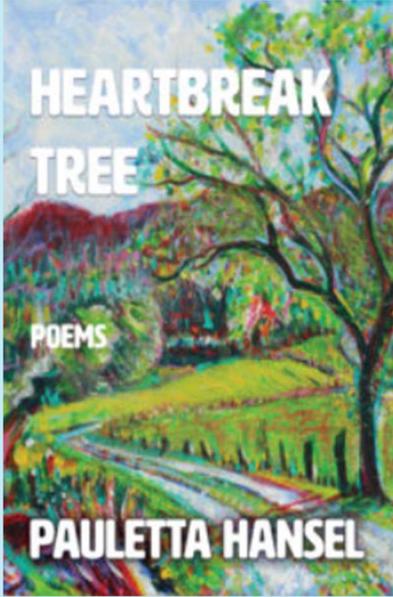
—DOLLY PARTON

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Heartbreak Tree, a review

-Bonnie Proudfoot

Sometimes a book of poems can be a story of a period of time, a tale told in poetry, revealing the perspective of the poet, allowing the language to mediate life experience. Pauletta Hansel's recent books, *Palindrome*, *Coaltown Photograph*, and *Friend* fall into that category: the passing of a parent, a reckoning with place, a pandemic diary. But Hansel's newest, her ninth book of poems, *Heartbreak Tree* (Madville Publishing, 2022) takes that previous stance as a springboard, and turns it inside out, goes deeper. What tree is the heartbreak tree? "the magnolia— bud, blossom, decay / all on one branch."



Heartbreak Tree can be seen as a thrice told tale, a book that looks at representations of generations (the line of grandmothers to mothers to daughters), representations of homeplace (in Hansel's case, Kentucky coal country) and representations of self/gender, and at the way the poet has presented her truth to herself over the course of her own life. The poems question whether the poet has looked deeply enough into her own assumptions, they push against what is said and what isn't, they question their own conclusions as the poet asks for deeper truths.

Hansel writes, "You were a girl who wrote yourself into a woman. . . Shhhh... We don't talk. We don't talk about. . . Over the years, I wrote myself/ out of that girl, / but into silence. . . It's not as if you can't see the cracks."

Poet Alison Luterman calls *Heartbreak Tree* "a gorgeous book." Poet Linda Parsons calls it "the breakout work of a lifetime," and poet Rebecca Gayle Howell says that "We survive what others do to us, and we survive what we do to us . . . we go on because we must— mustn't we?— smiling, pleasing. But sometimes, rare and sure, a voice comes out of this silence, unpleased and singing. . . Pauletta Hansel's *Heartbreak Tree* is just such a miracle."

Our featured poet, Sandra Feen has several books out in the world, waiting for you to snatch them up:

Fragile Capacities: School Poems \$12
Night Ballet Press www.nightballetpress.com

Meat and Bone
Luchador Press

Evidence of Starving \$8
Voice Lux Journal, printed by Bottle Cap Press)

Her poetry collaboration with Rikki Santer, titled *Emotion Bus* is currently online, published by *Heavy Feather Review*.