

Gary Beck

Poor Choices

The yells of approval
for football games
resound in packed stadiums,
while the empty corridors
of math and science buildings
are hauntingly silent.

Fair Share

I lost my job
in the recession,
lost my home
when I couldn't pay the mortgage.
Now my family lives
in a homeless shelter.
We don't eat too well,
while the lords of profit,
bailed out by the government,
stuff themselves on caviar.

Streamlining

We persist in life
driven by hungers,
eager to acquire
wealth, power, fame,
public acclaim
for service to the state,
achievement of desires.
Yet as we rush to the end
some of us realize
we can't take anything with us,
so the wise want less and less,
shedding burdens of possessions
as we prepare for whatever
does or does not come next.

Nourishment

When the evil of the world
seems to possess my soul
I relieve some of my anguish
looking at a Christmas cactus,
exquisite red-pink blossoms
bursting with beauty,
and for a few peaceful heartbeats
I am reenergized,
resume the tribulations,
as well as redeeming joys
encouraging continuation.

Reminder

Bursts of passion,
more infrequent as we age,
arouse ardent desire,
reminding some of us
we're still fortunate
to have a lover.

Gary Beck has spent most of his adult life as a theater director, and as an art dealer when he couldn't make a living in theater. He has 11 published chapbooks and 2 more accepted for publication. His poetry collections include: *Days of Destruction* (Skive Press), *Expectations* (Rogue Scholars Press). *Dawn in Cities*, *Assault on Nature*, *Songs of a Clerk*, *Civilized Ways*, *Displays*, *Perceptions*, *Fault Lines*, *Tremors and Perturbations* (Winter Goose Publishing) *Rude Awakenings* and *The Remission of Order* will be published by Winter Goose Publishing. *Conditioned Response* (Nazar Look). *Resonance* (Dreaming Big Publications). *Virtual Living* (Thurston Howl Publications). *Blossoms of Decay*, *Blunt Force* and *Expectations* will be published by Wordcatcher Publishing. His novels include: *Extreme Change* (Cogwheel Press), *Flawed Connections* (Black Rose Writing), *Call to Valor* (Gnome on Pigs Productions) and *Sudden Conflicts* (Lillicat Publishers). *State of Rage* will be published by Rainy Day Reads Publishing, *Crumbling Ramparts* by Gnome on Pigs Productions. His short story collection, *A Glimpse of Youth* (Sweatshoppe Publications) and *Now I Accuse and other stories* will be published by Winter Goose Publishing. His original plays and translations of Moliere, Aristophanes and Sophocles have been produced Off Broadway. His poetry, fiction and essays have appeared in hundreds of literary magazines. He currently lives in New York City.