ROARSHOCK PAGE

www.roarshock.net

Volume 13, Number 13 San Francisco December 24, 2020

This year has been unlike any other (which is not to say that any year is like any other) and it is a blessing to be here at the end of 2020 with hopes for a better future. Twenty-two years after first debut on December 24, 1998 (and including a hiatus between 2002 and 2012), ROARSHOCK PAGE has come to the end of its run. Editor and Publisher D. A. Wilson is looking forward to new adventures in poetry and working on longer fiction and prose works. Thank you readers, and please continue to follow the roarshock.net website and social media platforms.

WE ARE THE POMEGRANATE

Now has come October
the harvest mostly in
the last radishes dug
from the ground
the last green tomatoes
wrapped in paper
and stored in the pantry.
On the southside
of the house
the pomegranate-tree
droops beneath
the weight of fruit.
I watched them grow
all through
the solitary summer
small green bulbs
to large red balls.
Out of the unexpected blue
cosmic transmissions on the social web
where 2020 introduced me to many dozens
of brilliant supportive poets
spatially dispersed around the planet
but all caught in this same damn year
I am contacted by Paul Jolly
one of the first poets I personally knew
when we were students at Maybeck High School
in Bruce Henderson's poetry class
it had been 45 years since we last spoke together
Paul was returned at last to old Berkeley
after decades working the halls and lobbies
in Washington, DC
and all that time away from poetry,
but now returned with all his great sincerity.
We exchange video links
of our readings
and books via U.S. Mail
we meet virtually in cyber chat
bridge that great distance
at least in 2020
between Berkeley and Martinez.
In pleasing synchronicity
I had just been thinking of Paul
maybe a day before his contact.
Remembering that time he approached me
at Maybeck in Trinity Hall
and held forth two halves of
a pomegranate
the myriad bright red seeds
gleaming, glistening
under the high ceiling lights,
"We are the pomegranate."
Paul said laughing
and I laughed
for us "we are the pomegranate"
became a catch phrase
and metaphor.
I also told Paul Jolly
back in 1975
that it was the title of a poem.

Majid harvests the pomegranates
before they bend the tree to breaking
two huge baskets
these will be good
until February
(as was 2019's harvest this year)
when we are in a new year 2021
and 2020 has been endured
and the lucky have survived.

2020
Still a few weeks to go...
Fingers crossed, all nervous
spells and incantations
breath right
relieve stress
and whatever boosts immunity.

A nervously dry November
waiting for California rains
to douse the parched land
knock down the wildfires
for a while
while the United States
had the highest turnout
election for President ever
and over 70 million citizens voted
to re-elect President Donald Trump
but more than 80 million citizens voted for Joe Biden
and in the necessary states,
but Trump claimed fraud
and as has been the case for years now
disputed the factual basis of reality
and his fans backed his claims
on no other authority
and absent any objective evidence
perhaps the weirdest behavior
in utterly weird 2020.
Meanwhile the pandemic
sickened and killed
thousands and thousands
in the United States
and around the world
and Dummkopfs
gathered and marched
from Berlin to Washington
to Sturgis, South Dakota,
hell no, we will not wear masks!
More reason why
I am staying in
until this year is safely passed.

But, we are the pomegranate.
All of us, regardless of our vision
be it cloudy or clear
if we are striking out
because we are so injured
so emotionally hurt
so fearful that we hit and hurt
or we are forgiving
and loving
ourselves
we can reach out
in love
to all the brilliant seeds
all the love radiating from souls
we can help and heal
all together now
love is all we need
and the pomegranates
growing again next year
and every year
let the seasons roll around
we are the pomegranate.

— D. A. Wilson

2020 ALMANAC

02/02	The Kansas City Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LIV.
02/11	COVID-19 disease named by World Health Organization (WHO).
02/29	Luxembourg became first country to make all public transport free to public.
03/11	The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.
03/16	Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 2,997.10, single largest drop in history.
04/07	John Prine died of COVID-19.
05/04	Michael McClure died in Oakland, CA.
05/25	George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis leading to wide protests.
06/29	Carl Reiner died in Beverly Hills, age 98.
06/30	PRC passed Hong Kong security law.
07/15	Twitter accounts of prominent political figures, CEOs, and celebrities hacked.
08/25	Africa declared free of wild polio.
09/18	U.S. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died.
09/29	COVID-19 death toll exceeded one million worldwide.
10/25	Diane di Prima died in San Francisco.
10/26	NASA confirmed existence of molecular water on the sunlit side of the Moon.
10/30	Robert Fisk. Journalist, died in Dublin.
10/31	Sir Sean Connery died in Nassau, age 90.
11/03	Joe Biden elected 46th President of U.S. defeating incumbent Donald Trump.
11/08	Alex Trebek, host of *Jeopardy!,* died.
11/30	American icon Mark Twain's (Samuel Langhorne Clemens') 185th birthday. Protein folding solved by artificial intelligence company DeepMind.
12/14	The first COVID-19 vaccinations were administered in the United States.
12/21	A great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn occurred.

http://roarshock.net/almanac.html

https://twitter.com/RoarshockPage

https://www.facebook.com/RoarshockPage

ROARSHOCK PAGE
www.roarshock.net

Published by:
Roarshock
North Beach Station
P.O. Box 330108
San Francisco, CA 94133-0108

roarshock@gmail.com

Copyright © 2020, D. A. Wilson