



Poet as Witness of a Moment
Saturday, February 24, 2024
1:00-3:00 p.m. Central Time
on Zoom

Marj Hahne is a freelance editor, writer, and writing teacher, and a 2015 MFA graduate from the Rainier Writing Workshop, in poetry. She has performed and taught at over 100 venues around the country, including public radio and television programs. Her poems have appeared in literary journals, anthologies, art exhibits, and dance performances. To make poetry hospitable, she reads poems to dogs and pairs poems with craft beers, spirits, and coffee for her YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/33lOqH1>.

You can learn more about her from her website: www.marjhahne.com and on social media: Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/marjhahne/>; LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/3QswHVE>; Facebook: www.facebook.com/MarjHahne

For the Deflated in December

Eventually, you come up for air. I've learned, you could say, the hard way: in third grade, during recess, Mike Batzer was chasing me on the playground, and when I twisted, I saw he was closing in like a shadow, and I slammed chest-first into a brick column and got thrown backward, flat on the grass, the wind knocked out of me, diaphragm spazzing to freeze. Then, in fifth grade, in front of a bunch of kids on the platform tower, Mark Stewart, neighbor boy who'd share half-pints of chocolate milk free from his milkman-father's cooler, teased, "Look, Marj has humps!" and I couldn't climb down the ladder fast enough, cow-heavy, slouching all through middle school, high school, college. Now, I can't say it gets better, Santa, Polar Bear, Nutcracker, Snowman, you who deserve your gargantuan hearts, pooled on lawns like sunken blooms until dark.

~ Marj Hahne

Paul Éluard wrote, "There is another world, and it is in this one." Poems we remember, poems we return to, likely presence for us what it means to be human as a secular spiritual being. How do we write poems that transcend mere description of our visible world? Conversely, how do we write poems about the invisible world, without weighty abstractions, and instead with the sensory details of our earthbound lives? In this workshop under the leadership of Marj Hahne, we will look at poems by other poets to discuss whether they successfully or unsuccessfully bear witness to human experience. We will then review submitted poems, attending to aspects of poem-making that establish the poet as credible witness.

Workshop Assignment: Poets are invited to submit one one-page poem for critique by **February 18**. Your submission, **with P & P in the subject line**, should be emailed to wildamorris4@gmail.com. If you do not get a reply to an e-mailed poem, call Wilda at 630/739-2983 to be sure your poem was received.

Fee: The workshop is free if you do not submit a poem for critique. If you submit a poem, the fee is \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members. If you submit a poem, you must pay the fee even if you do not attend because the poems are critiqued in advance. If you can, please pay online at poetsandpatrons.net; otherwise mail your check made out to Poets & Patrons to Caroline Johnson, 709 Vinewood Avenue, Willow Springs, IL. 60480.

Announcement: Members who have not done so this winter may submit one poem for posting on our website this winter. Email your poem to Laura (lferrario@sbcglobal.net) with *P & P Poem Submit 2024* in the subject line, by February 15.