IN MEMORIAM 1952-2017



We are saddened to report the passing of Will Hochman. In 1993, he submitted a poem "Not Always Located in Nicaragua," that we published. Within a year, he had accepted the position of WLA's first poetry editor, a post he occupied until 2010. PhD in English aside, Will never quite shed his New York City cabbie hustle, and not long after his appointment, we were attracting and publishing many developing poets as well as such established ones as Robert Bly, Richard Wilbur, Linda Bishop, Carolyn Forché, and Robert Pinsky. Will's contribution to the world of letters extends well beyond his work for WLA. He'll long be remembered for his seminal scholarship on J.D. Salinger. All who met him valued Will's energy, warmth, and sensibility. We miss him, as we know others do. Peace, Brother.

Not Always Located in Nicaragua

The snow has fallen gently
Along a trail parallel to a swift river
There's a hidden contour of gray rock and brown trees
There's a turn and a distance that brings you
Close, but not touching, red but not rose

Somehow you feel prison, only prison
And you want a jailer
But even in this everyday, solitary confinement
Where dreams are doors without locks
Even here, not close to sentence
Your caul becomes cover for the escaping plots
You never lived out

You learn to live by remembering
You once wanted to be alive
Today, it's to a hot spring in the Rockies
Not far from Yellowstone
Where you and your lover
Bathe beside a rushing winter stream
Wrapped under a pine
In a blanket of mist and snow

You kiss the extremes of the yelling moment And you remember your father South of all borders, Sublime in his cell