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PREFACE

Welcome to *The Delmarva Review*, a literary journal publishing new prose and poetry from the region and beyond.

Volume 5 contains the selected work of twenty-seven authors, most from Maryland, Delaware, or Virginia, the tristate Delmarva region. It includes authors from nine states in all, the District of Columbia and three foreign countries.

The themes expressed in this edition include personal identity, aging, independence, sense of place, loss, love, healing, and even a touch of ironic humor. Considering these topics within the perspective of life as a journey over time, the cover photograph, by Rafael Garcia, becomes a visual metaphor for traveling the distance.

In its fifth year, the Review continues to evolve. First, you'll see that we've made room for more short fiction. Among the stories, we are pleased to publish the first place winner of *The Delmarva Review* Short Story Prize. Barbara Esstman judged the contest submissions and selected Iain Baird's "The Flight," which concludes this volume.

You will also notice poetry clustered by author, giving more exposure to the unique voice and range of the poet. Some will see the poetry in these pages as more complex than in the past, with no loss of accessibility.

We invited an essay, "Writing Rwanda," by scholar Lee Slater, on the role of writing to heal a nation after one of the worst genocides in human history. She describes the power of writing to reconnect people with a sense of community and provide a contemporary literary history to the East African nation of Rwanda. A similar theme follows in a review of Ron Capps's *Writing War*, a book offering literary guidance to our military, returning from combat duty, for writing as a tool of expression and healing, in a project for Operation Homecoming.

The Delmarva Review is published by the Eastern Shore Writers Association, a nonprofit organization devoted to the writers and literary arts on the Delmarva Peninsula. All of our editors, submission readers, and the designer contribute their services to the review on a voluntary basis. We benefit from the remarkable talents and generous spirit of our volunteers.

Wilson Wyatt, Jr.
Executive Editor

VOLUME 5 • THE DELMARVA REVIEW

DEDICATION TO JOHN ELSBERG

It is with both pride and sadness that we dedicate this volume of *The Delmarva Review* to the memory of one of our own, John Elsberg, poetry editor for five years and one of the founders of *The Delmarva Review*. John passed away on July 27, 2012.

John was a poet, reviewer, editor, and historian. The author of more than a dozen books and chapbooks of poetry, his work has been published in many anthologies. He started the open poetry readings at The Writer's Center, in Bethesda, Maryland, and in the 1970s was fiction editor of the literary journal *Gargoyle*. Since 1975, he has been the editor and publisher of *Bogg*, a magazine of contemporary writing from America and the U.K. As a young man he taught at the University of Maryland.

We offer one of his poems in remembrance.

VIRGINIA IN LATE AUGUST

John Elsberg

There is a softness in Virginia light
in late August the light promises
of the good days of autumn to come
it is the reward for enduring all
that sweltering heat of mid summer
it does not pretend to have dark shadows
it is the light of unwinding of having
a beer on the reclaimed front porch
feet propped on the rail it is
the light that gives a distance to all
those small defeats of the past a softness
that comes from that coolness after mowing
that makes any virtue as easy
as the curl of the bead on the glass at rest.

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