

WCPA Annual Poetry Contest Winners' Reading: *The Frank O'Hara Prize*

Sunday, September 24 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

First Unitarian Church
90 Main St, Worcester

Featuring readings by the contest judge, Lori Desrosiers, and the 2017 contest winners:

First Place - Richard Fox
Skating on the Edge of Flesh

Second Place - Jeff Walt
*Each Morning I Rise Like a Sleepwalker
And Rot a Little More*

Third Place - Jennifer Freed
On Their Anniversary She Whispers His Name

Honorable Mention - Marsha Kunin
In the Garden of the Blind Barbarian

The Worcester County Poetry Association annual poetry contest was established in 1973. In November 2009, the contest was renamed the "WCPA Poetry Contest: *The Frank O'Hara Prize*" in honor of Frank O'Hara and in grateful recognition of the O'Hara Family for its support of the Worcester literary community.

The WCPA wishes to thank Phil and Pat O'Hara for their ongoing support.

Before the split
by Lori Desrosiers

barefoot summer days
daffodil's white spring bloom
long grass white pulp chewed
cling of cotton shorts sweat
plucked stripped yellow flowers
toes scooped wet stones
pocketed pink quartz
surveyed caterpillars' climb
sting of rain dazzle of lightning
not yet phased by future

dallied in creek water
airborne by breath
feet met soil rocks ants
bees caressed honeysuckle
suckled sweetest part
practiced skimming flat ones
caught newts tadpoles toads
up oak birch maple bark
scudded home daisies bending
not yet split asunder

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