

Common Thread



2018

A DISCUSSION OF POEMS BY MASSACHUSETTS POETS

What is Common Threads?

Common Threads is a free outreach program produced by Mass Poetry, with a goal to broaden the audience for poetry and support poets and poetry in Massachusetts by helping people across the Commonwealth come together in small groups to read and discuss poetry.

Common Threads is as a way for people to engage with a few poems in an easy and comfortable manner. Join host Robert Steele for a reading of the poems, and a discussion.

Download the 2018 Common Threads poetry discussion guide from the Mass Poetry website at <http://www.masspoetry.org/commonthreads/>.

Worcester County Poetry Association, PO Box 804, Worcester, MA 01613
<http://worcestercountypoetry.org> - 508-797-4770

**Two Sessions:
April 11 & 25
@ 7:00pm**

**Held at the WCPA
Offices within the
Sprinkler Factory,
38 Harlow Street,
Worcester**

**Facilitated by
Robert Steele**

**Free and
Open to the Public**



Sponsored by the Worcester County Poetry Association, a non-profit organization with a mission to celebrate the rich literary history and creative energy of Central Massachusetts.

Common Threads 2018



About this year's theme, *Born to Be Lonely: Massachusetts Poets on Connection and Disconnection*

"It seems that I'm interested in the tension between a desire for loneliness and a need for connection with others. "I am lonely, lonely / I was born to be lonely / I am best so" sings William Carlos Williams in "Danse Russe," dancing naked in his attic-study while his wife and the baby are downstairs. Since I'm a grandfather now, I can tell you with some authority that we come out of the box pretty much as the people we're going to be. So perhaps because of something inherent in me, we could look at these poems as being

about connection and disconnection." – *Alan Feldman, 2018 Guest Editor*

Alan Feldman is the author of *Immortality*, which was awarded the 2016 Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry. He is professor emeritus and past chair of English at Framingham State University, and for 22 years taught the advanced creative writing class at Harvard University's Radcliffe Seminars. He offers free, drop-in poetry workshops at the Framingham, MA, public library near his home, and in the summer at the Wellfleet library.

Featuring:

- 1) "Billy in the Darbies" by Herman Melville
- 2) "Her Kind" by Anne Sexton
- 3) "Talking in the Woods with Karl Amorelli" by Etheridge Knight
- 4) "Bird Swerves" by Linda Bamber
- 5) "What the Living Do" by Marie Howe
- 6) "Who Burns for the Perfection of Paper" by Martín Espada
- 7) "Ivan Ilyich at the Lake" by Jeffrey Harrison
- 8) "How to Love" by January Gill O'Neil