

Pearls in the Pandemic

*A collection of Pantoums
From CIC/ISC December 2020*



Photograph taken by Ericka O'Cain

Pearls In The Pandemic

By Therese Bimka

I have often asked myself
Is this what a miracle looks like?
Is this what grace looks like?

Rather than less, there has been more

I want to dialogue with god more regularly
I want to serve with more love

I want to find my courage so I can stand up in when I am called

Rather than less, there has been more

TO BE LOVE under fire

I want to find my courage so I can stand up when I am called

Will I remember that everyone is a spark of the divine
if I am beaten while protesting peacefully

TO BE LOVE under fire

I want to dialogue with god more regularly
I want to serve with more love

Will I remember that everyone is a spark of the divine
if I am beaten while protesting peacefully

I have often asked myself
Is this what a miracle looks like?
Is this what grace looks like?

By Saibhung Kaur Khalsa:

I am stepping out on a string of pearls

Birthing new parts of myself

I humbly wear the mantle of truth.

By Ericka O'Cain:

Time to become a beacon of Light
Where's NYC when you need her?
Dive into the tenderness of self-love
God, I hope the nudge comes and is gentle with me.

Where's NYC when you need her?
Had enough mud. Time for the lotus.
God, I hope the nudge comes and is gentle with me.
Ready to spout wings.

Had enough mud. Time for the lotus.
Dive into the tenderness of self-love
Ready to spout wings.
Time to become a beacon of Light

By Teresa Trapani:

Covid has been difficult.
Self-care is paramount.
With awareness of my internal resources,
I have enough.

Self-care is paramount.
Where has the year gone?
I have enough, as
Covid has taught me how much we love.

Where has the year gone?
With awareness of my internal resources,
I have enough.
Covid has been difficult.

By Wendy Jo Cole:

And Mud

Outdoor school on Lenape Land Community in the park
Walks with my Orla, Reading outloud with my August
My love in the evening
My new Child Olive

Walks with my Orla, Reading outloud with my August
The moon and the stars and the mud
My new Child Olive
My own Reading and writing well that's will be the second half

Yes my own Reading and writing well that willl be the second half
My love in the evening
My new Child Olive
Outdoor school on Lenape Land Community in the park
The moon and the stars and the mud

By Kali Frye:

This is what Essential means,
my pearl in the Pandemic.
I learned to ask for what I needed
because it feeds and sustains me.
My pearl in the Pandemic –
because I am lesser for its absence
because it feeds and sustains me –
I found the Courage to love myself.
Because I am lesser for its absence
I learned to ask for what I needed.
I found the courage to love Myself,
this is what ESSENTIAL means.

Kali Fyre, 12/6/2020
In faith,
Kali

By Susan Cergol:

Contemplation and a slow pace
Deeper knowing of my gifts
Coming home to myself
Discovering the magical park by the sea

Deeper knowing of my gifts
Watching the sky shift the colors of day to evening, to night.
Discovering the magical park by the sea
I have called you by name. You are mine

Watching the sky shift the colors of day to evening, to night
Coming home to myself
I have called you by name. You are mine.
Contemplation and a slow pace

From Lyn Liston:

People leaned out of their windows and together cheered the healthcare workers

Buddy, the hugging cat, got a home where he will be cared for as he should be for the rest of his life

The air became cleaner
There's no place like home
Buddy, the hugging cat, got a home where he will be cared for as he should be for the rest of his life
A mother had a chance to have a heart-felt conversation with her son.
There's no place like home
We had great concerts in parking lots
A mother had a chance to have a heart-felt conversation with her son.
The air became cleaner
We had great concerts in parking lots
People leaned out of their windows and together cheered the healthcare workers

The Pearl of The Pandemic
By Don Foster

Since March
I have been working from home
With more freedom to be me
And a spaciousness to connect.

I've been working from home
With Spirit and my dear wife.
There is a spaciousness to connect
And have fun at Zoom dance parties

With Spirit and my dear wife
I have more freedom to be me.
It's fun to have Zoom dance parties
Since March.

From Lauri Ingram

Spirit is at work
Life is glorious
Grieve what is lost and find joy in what has been found
Life is fragile and precious

Life is Glorious
One day I will return to the stars
Life is fragile and precious
We are here to do magnificent things

One Day i will return to the stars
Grieve what is lost and find joy in what has been found
We are here to do magnificent things
Spirit is at work

By Nikki Happi:

I walk with the energy of change, and I've accepted it as my teacher.
Where is God in this? Always right here.
We have new family traditions, rituals, and celebrations
I've had an invitation to see the mirror, and I've accepted to daily look at who I am.

Where is God in this? Always right here
How can I step up?
I've had an invitation to see the mirror, and I've accepted to daily look at who I am.
Let us be seen.

How can I step up?
We have new family traditions, rituals and celebrations.
Let us see and be seen.
I walk with the energy of change, and I've accepted it as my teacher.

By Julie Christine:

The treasure of Life slowed down
Feeling into Silence
The voice of timeless possibility
Feeling into Silence
I acknowledge my divine Self
Inhabiting my wholeness, my greatness
I humbly wear the mantle of Truth
Feeling into Silence
The voice of timeless possibility
I acknowledge my divine Self
And humbly wear the mantle of Truth,
The treasure of Life slowed down

And from Julie's triad:

I am stepping out on a string of pearls

Birthing new parts of my Self

I humbly wear the mantle of Truth

By Sonia Florentino:

Resetting of consciousness
entering the void
embracing the vastness
holding onto faith
entering the void
I journeyed within
holding onto faith
into the wildness of the heart
I journeyed within
embracing the vastness
holding onto faith
resetting of consciousness

By Nancy Dessables:

Connect with my mortality
Be with the mystery
A little tiny microbe
Brought us to our knees
I can adapt to anything
Trust the process
Connect to my mortality
Trust the process
Trust the process
Trust the process
A little tiny microbe
Trust the process
Connect with my mortality

Ndominique Dessables

The Pearl in the Pandemic
By Brad Learmonth

I stepped into the cold, windy late winter into my garden
the naked trees I love so much stood in sharp relief, bold etchings of black scrawl against the sky
I learned to sit with myself, to navigate my world with caution and care and new creativity
and then a collective fury, cry and march toward justice
the naked trees I love so much stood in sharp relief, bold etchings of black scrawl against the sky
I had to move toward understanding the collapse of the world around me and how I could serve
and then a collective fury, cry and march toward justice
The osprey would fly into winds one could barely walk in with deftness, purpose and grace.
Their flight became my mantra
I had to move toward understanding the collapse of the world around me and how I could serve
I learned to sit with myself, to navigate my world with caution and care and new creativity
and then a collective fury, cry and march toward justice
I stepped into the cold, windy late winter into my garden

The Pearl in the Pandemic (pantoum)
By Sara Tucker

More time with my baby girl
Putting song into more things
Merging with the trees, dancing through journeying, feet in the mud, dismembering in the water
More freedom.

Putting song into more things
Sea lion surfing in the waves
More freedom
Delicious connecting with like-minded people.

Sea lion surfing in the waves
Merging with the trees, dancing through journeying, feet in the mud, dismembering in the water
Delicious connecting with like-minded people
More time with my baby girl.

By Suzanne O'Connor:

Crystallization of what is essential: love, family, acknowledgment that everyone I love (including me) will not always be here.

Gift of time

Being outside in Nature

Every day with Danny

Gift of time

Died peacefully in her sleep

Every day with Danny

Space to participate in morning meditation

Died peacefully in her sleep

Being outside in nature

Space to participate in morning meditation

Crystallization of what is essential: love, family, acknowledgment that everyone I love (including me) will not always be here

By Marie Wallace:

Witnessing and celebrating the unfolding of new ways of being.

Connecting in new and creative ways

Acknowledging what's present here and now

Gifts of the pause and silence

Connecting in new and creative ways

Intentional practices of grounding and connecting with the Divine

Gifts of the pause and silence

Finding home within me.

Intentional practices of grounding and connecting with the Divine

Acknowledging what's present here and now

Finding home within me

Witnessing and celebrating the unfolding of new ways of being.

Pearls of the Pandemic

By Laurie Rios

Unexpected connections
Moments of grace
How can I help?
Lucky and healthy.

Moments of grace
A new world
Lucky and healthy
Opening to another soul.

A new world
How can I help?
Opening to another soul
Unexpected connections.

Today is the Pearl
by Sally Schwager

Today is the pearl
Wandering the underground, so raw without a skin
Berry pies steaming up the kitchen window
A Connecticut housewife – how did that happen?

Wandering the underground, so raw without a skin
Finding a new life, far from the viruses that have defined me
A Connecticut housewife – how did that happen?
The snap of dry kindling in the frigid air so satisfying

Finding a new life, far from the viruses that have defined me
Berry pies steaming up the kitchen window
And the snap of dry kindling in the frigid air so satisfying
Today is the pearl