Again, September

Edwin Romond
Retired

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Again September  
for Kevin Horn  

Again September arrives shedding 
stubborn heat of a summer already 
in our museum of memory. Again 

we note darkness sneaking in earlier 
and earlier, maybe we’re caught 
by surprise as we were last year 

and will be again next year. Strange 
how each September seems a beginning 
even as leaves die in shrouds of color, 

the earth turning orange and red 
after months of solitary green. Good 
teachers consider the coming fall 

a mystery to unfold with students 
starting as strangers on a class list 
but blooming into learners after weeks 

turn to months in the enriching, 
fulfilling, sometimes exasperating, 
one of a kind story of a school year 

that begins again in September. 

Edwin Romond is the author of eight collections of poetry and has been awarded writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Councils on the Arts. In 2013 he received the New Jersey Poetry Prize for his poem, “Champion.” Garrison Keillor has twice featured Romond’s poetry on National Public Radio and his memoir, “The Ticket,” appears in Tim Russert’s New York Times bestseller, Wisdom of Our Fathers.