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## Sicily

Edwin Romond  
*Retired*

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# Again September

*for Kevin Horn*

by Edwin Romond

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*.

Now retired, Romond taught English at Metuchen High School and Warren Hills Regional High School, Washington, New Jersey. A native of Woodbridge, New Jersey, he now lives in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania, with his wife and son.