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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.