

## “EACH MORNING GIFT”

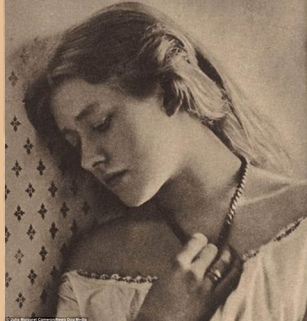
By George Lober

When beneath  
the marine layer  
a clear horizon,  
a bay one shade  
grayer than the sky,  
a tide swirling  
against the rocks,  
cormorants  
gliding in-line  
above the surface,  
a cooper hawk  
on the phone line,  
deer unconcerned  
standing in meadows  
of scrub and sedge,  
scents of wormwort,  
bellflower, yarrow,  
lifting off the dunes  
in a common breath,  
our words carrying  
as we walk no trace  
of the thing eating  
this world, or the fear  
it will someday  
find us, only how  
the day moves on—  
each morning gift  
should be received  
with kindness.

George Lober teaches English at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. He lives in Monterey. *Shift of Light* is his first book of poetry and *A Bridge to There* his second.

## AMERICANA POETRY PAST AND PRESENT Spoon River Anthology, Edgar Lee Masters

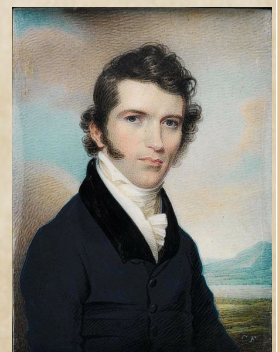
*Elsa Wertman*



I was a peasant girl from Germany,  
Blue-eyed, rosy, happy and strong.  
And the first place I worked was Thomas  
Greene's.  
On a summer day when she was away  
He stole into the kitchen and took me  
Right in his arms and kissed me on my throat,  
I turning my head. Then neither of us  
Seemed to know what happened.  
And I cried for what would become of me.  
And cried and cried as my secret began to show.  
One day Mrs. Greene said she understood,  
And would make no trouble for me,  
And, being childless, would adopt it.  
(He had given her a farm to be still.)  
So she hid in the house and sent out rumors,  
As if it were going to happen to her.  
And all went well and the child was born—They  
were so kind to me.  
Later I married Gus Wertman, and years passed.  
But—at political rallies when sitters-by thought I  
was crying  
At the eloquence of Hamilton Greene—  
That was not it.  
No! I wanted to say:  
That's my son! That's my son!

*Hamilton Greene*

I was the only child of Frances Harris of Virginia  
And Thomas Green of Kentucky,  
Of valiant and honorable blood both.  
To them I owe all that I became,  
Judge, member of Congress, leader in the State.  
From my mother I inherited  
Vivacity, fancy, language;  
From my father will, judgment, logic  
All honor to them  
For what service I was to the people!





Your car means independence. But what if you haven't actually driven in many months or no longer have the ability to drive safely? The reassurance of knowing your car is in the driveway can become expensive. Insurance alone costs several hundred dollars a year, and unlike a home, an automobile depreciates in value. So every day your car sits in the driveway, it's worth less.

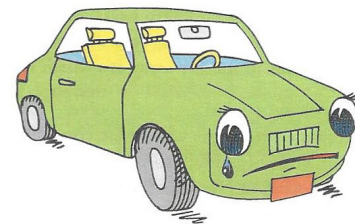
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## TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK



"...requiring either masking or distancing infringes on individual liberty. Well, sure. So do red lights and speed limits—which, like masks, save lives. It's no exaggeration; the anti-maskers are killing people."

~~~~~ Alan S. Blinder, Princeton University Professor & former Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve, WSJ August 13th



## Voting in the November 3, 2020 Election



All registered voters in California will automatically be mailed a Vote-By-Mail ballot.

Go to [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) to verify that your registration is current. If you don't use a computer, your neighbor will help you. Vote by mail ballots will be mailed beginning October 5 and should be return-mailed early.

Go to [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov) if you need to register.

Go to [VoterGuide.ca.gov](http://VoterGuide.ca.gov) if you want an Official Voter Information Guide.

Steve Brooks

## AN OCCASIONAL PRAYER

So far today, I've done all right.  
I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my  
temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy,  
nasty, selfish, over-indulgent.  
I'm very grateful for that.  
But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going  
to get out of bed. And from then on,  
I'm probably going to need  
a lot more help.  
Amen

## NEW/SOON-TO-BE RESIDENTS

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Sandy Storm          | Martin & Karen Wiskoff |
| Beverly Hamilton     | Marie-Frances deSibert |
| James & Betty Kasson | Barbara Fowble         |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|      |            |      |          |
|------|------------|------|----------|
| 8/21 | Mary S.    | 8/25 | Char M.  |
| 8/21 | Jerian C.  | 8/27 | Peggy S. |
| 8/23 | Clare R.   | 8/28 | Rena Y.  |
| 8/23 | Lorette P. | 8/29 | Lynn K.  |
| 8/24 | Otto N.    | 8/29 | Will F.  |
| 8/25 | Jeanette   | 9/3  | Games G. |
| D.   |            | 9/3  | Dot W.   |





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**A vandalized statue of George Washington in Washington Square Park, New York...Summer of 2020**



**19th century covered bridge over Spoon River, Knoxville, Illinois. The bridge burned down in 1994 and was rebuilt as it was before.**





**I am not old, she said.**

**I am rare.**

I am the standing ovation at the end of the play.

I am the retrospective of my life as art.

I am the hours connected  
like dots into good sense.

I am the fullness of existing.  
You think I am waiting to die,  
But I am waiting to be found.

I am a treasure. I am a map.

And these wrinkles are imprints of my journey.

Ask me anything.

*-Samantha Reynolds*

**PUBLICATION STAFF**

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Editor Janet McDaniel  
janlaine@comcast.net  
Publisher: Celina Manzanarez  
Proofreader: Arden Hoppe  
Photographer: Sheila Cooper  
Contributor: Steve Brooks  
Grace Merrill

Information regarding the Manor can be obtained from  
[WWW.CVMANOR.COM](http://WWW.CVMANOR.COM)  
or from the Director of Community Relations, Angie Machado  
(831) 626-4867 or (800) 544-5546

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