

SAN MATEO COUNTY POET LAUREATE



Poetry Reading *by*

San Mateo County Poet Laureate Caroline Goodwin

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

ABOUT THIS POEM

My friend Rebekah Bloyd is a writer based in San Jose. Last year we made our own writers' retreat and enjoyed a couple of walks between writing sessions. This poem is about some of the images we saw; the italicized section is from her poems "Mona Reservoir" and "Hope Studio II".

I have loved every moment of serving as your San Mateo County Poet Laureate. Thank you to everyone who supported me and who will continue to support poetry in our county. Congratulations to Lisa Rosenberg!

FOR REBEKAH

friend, there is
nothing like this bay
 quiet fern
cool spot on the back
 of the hand

tonight the water's surface
 reflects the smokey-rose
and the day passes and what
 can i show for it?

oh cone-bearing
 incense cedar
western yew and birch
 a bright gold band

inside that clamshell and thistle
 this flycatcher, that
turkey vulture circling the field

where we ascend the old
stairs, the lichen at work
 at its trumpets and cups
and lobes

and we set out to explore
 our own thoughts, two
friends at their desks

two juncos in the alders,
 a few lines of a poem
and what mystery reveals itself:

rose-shaped, so slowly, in the mind, in
 the daylight bending away