

Adventures in Ink



We'll soon close the door on 2025...

December may be full of merry-making, but it is also a time of reflecting and planning. I've had this quote on my mind:

"Time is a created thing. To say 'I don't have time' is to say 'I don't want to.'" – Lao Tzu

So I've been listening to myself. Maybe the things "I don't have time" for are things I need to shed...

Another quote: "**I am learning to love the sound of my feet walking away from things not meant for me.**" – A.G.

Below, you'll find a roundup of December news and musings. What are you thinking about right now?? Go ahead and put it in a poem or a journal or an email...writing often brings clarity! And if you need a reader, I am here, and I'd love to hear your plans and reflections as we round out of one year and into another. Happy everything, and thanks so much for reading!

December Top 5

Giveaway Winner!

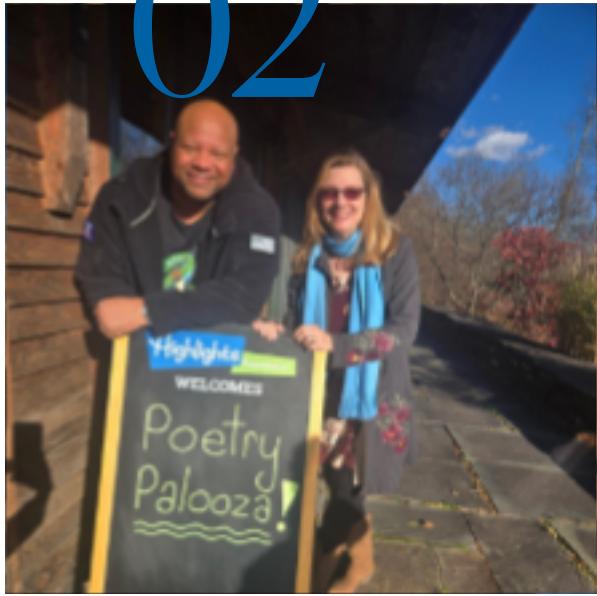
Congratulations to Mary E. Cronin, who won the book pack in celebration of my 20 year Blogiversary! Thanks to all who entered.

[ABOUT THE BOOKS >](#)

01



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Highlights from Highlights!

Community is SO IMPORTANT for writers. I'm grateful to my fellow faculty members, attendees, and the amazing staff at Highlights for another fill-the-cup experience at Poetry Palooza.

[JOIN US IN 2026 >](#)

Thankful for food, friends, and family.

Paul and I are loving this stage of life that includes sweet/fun times with our adult children.

[A SHARING TABLE POEM >](#)

03



Sharing Table

We gather round.
We feast for days.
We offer thanks.
We dream of rain.

We close our eyes.
We gather round.
We nuzzle up.
We burrow down.

Our bellies fill.
Our hearts expand.
We gather round,
stars in our hands.

Time to warble!
Wear a sky-crown!
Bless this table
we gather round.

04



Poetry Open Call!

Attention, Poets: the (short!) Submission Window will soon open for mine and Charles Waters' next middle grade poetry anthology: *The Periodic Table of Poetry*! We can't wait to read your poems.

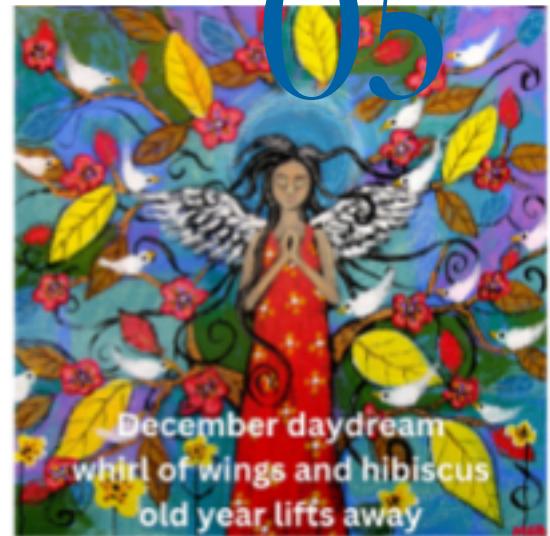
[GET THE DETAILS >](#)

Looking ahead...

I'll soon select a new One Little Word...and a new ArtSpeak! theme...and I'll be turning my attention to my 2026 book releases: 3 new picture books for children; 3 poetry books going to paperpack; my first play being produced; and my first novel for adults!!! And, thanks to book recs collected at NCTE, I have a staggering stack of library books on my nightstand. Can't wait to dig in!

OLD YEAR / NEW YEAR HAIKU>

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EXPLORE THE BLOG



Thanks for being an incredible part of my writing journey. Your support means the world to me,

Irene

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