

Publisher's Note:

HIPFISHmonthly is an alternative journalism publication serving the Lower Columbia Pacific Region of Oregon and Washington since 1997. This collection of poetry by Florence Sage marks the publication's foray into literary publishing.

Florence authored "The Poetry Venue," a column that ran in HIPFISH for a number of years. The column was unique in that it presented a monthly juried poem, and two features: *About the Poet*, and *About the Poem*. The intention: to expose people to what makes good poetry.

In addition, HIPFISH sponsored "Monday Mike for Spoken Word," a monthly poetry gathering with a solid five year run at the River Theatre in Astoria, Oregon – Florence Sage the co-founder and co-host. So, it is with this longtime association that we joyfully progress to "Nevertheless: Poems From the Gray Area."

Here is an opportunity to more fully engage in a wide range of lyric narratives by a noted poet in our area – a poetic map of the deeply personal, even if, as she claims, it's all made up. The poet uses plain language and may feign simplicity, but beware; here is sophistication, and underneath, a strong pulse, heavy breathing. The gray area awaits your reading. It's exciting to make this publication available.

Dinah Urell
Editor/Publisher of HIPFISHmonthly



HIPFISH Publications

Astoria, Oregon | hipfishmonthly.com

ISBN 978-0-692-27642-6 \$15.00
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9 780692 276426

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