

PAT HANAHOE-DOSCH

The Unnamed Ones

For the 277 discovered buried in a mass grave near Brcko, Bosnia, in 1992 and re-buried in another mass grave in 2007 with only 80 of them identified.

leak into our tents
through the pores of the flapping roofs
and zippered doors, under
the tightly stretched
army cots as we lie still,
listening to trees scratching the air.

The unnamed ones
are in the vapors we breathe, in the burning trash,
in the green, foamy trench our waste water runs off
into the marsh, into the misty rain
before the deluge that muddifies
the ground around the wooden boardwalks
we navigate around camp.

The unnamed ones
are hungry ghosts, pulled
toward other stones engraved by families,
the river has digested all it can of them

they leak through the mud and weeds
to reclaim their names in the voices of loons and owls
but we hear only silence and birds.

The unnamed ones
are in the sparrows scattered by a few kicks
as they peck at crumbs under the DiFac tables,
the wasps we trap in plastic bottles
of sugar water, hanging from the limbs
of the DiFac tents,
the stray cats we trap and kill
with poison to prevent un-named diseases
the mice glued to plastic trays and thrown away, to starve.

The town below swallows its secrets
We think we can make it vomit them up
but only the river leaks putrescence,
only the river gives up its stories
but not the names. It will be 15 years
before we give them a place,
a marker for families' sorrow.
The river will have a new bridge.
New names will haunt the houses.

PAT HANAHOE-DOSCH holds an MFA from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, and is currently an Associate Professor of English at Harrisburg Area Community College, Lancaster campus. Her poems have been published in *The Atticus Review*, *Confrontation*, *The Red River Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Red Ochre Lit*, *Nervous Breakdown*, *Quantum Poetry Magazine*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Abalone Moon*, *Switched-on Gutenberg*, and *Paterson: The Poets' City* (an anthology edited by Maria Mazziotti Gillan), among others. Her story, "Sighting Bia," was selected as a finalist for A Room of Her Own Foundation's *Orlando Prize* for Flash Fiction. Her book, *Fleeing Back*, published by FutureCycle Press, is available through futurecyclepress.org or Amazon.com.