

Keith Tornheim

My Father's Other Birthday

Today is my father's other birthday,
August 21st, the official one,
the one on his birth certificate.
But he said he was actually born on August 20th,
late at night, but still before midnight.
However, the doctor was really tired,
perhaps had to deal with a few more births,
and when he finally got around
to filling in the forms, he misremembered.
So my father was more than a little bothered
that sixty-five years later, he had to work an additional day
before he could retire.

Keith Tornheim, a biochemistry professor at Boston University School of Medicine, has five recent books, *I Am Lilith*, *Dancer on the Wind*; *Spirit Boat: Poems of Crossing Over*; *Can You Say Kaddish for the Living?*; *Fireflies: Poems of Love and Family*; and *Spoiled Fruit: Adam and Eve in Eden and Beyond*. His poems have appeared in *Ibbetson Street*, *The Somerville Times*, *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Poetica*