

Steve Deutsch

Heat Lightning

Allied Van Lines
was parked by
your old place today.

Day-labor gleaned
from the local Goodwill
moved packing crates

and furniture in.
Yes, I pass by still—
hoping for...

I am no closer to knowing
where you've gone—
but then, that last night

I didn't know
that we were saying
our goodbyes.

Tonight I watch
the distant flash
of heat lightning

create an abstract show—
“like sky painting,”
I can hear you say

And, god, we need
the rain.
But that storm

will offer no relief.
It is somewhere else—
somewhere far from here.

Steve Deutsch lives in State College, PA. Some of his recent publications have or will appear in *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Rat's Ass Review*, *RavensPerch*, *MacQueen's*, *8 Poems*, *Louisiana Lit*, *Burningword Literary Journal*, *Third Wednesday* and *Muddy River Poetry Review*. He was nominated for Pushcart Prizes in 2017 and 2018. His chapbook *Perhaps You Can* was published in 2019 by Kelsay Press. His full length book *Persistence of Memory* was just published by Kelsay.