

## Steve Deutsch

### Raking

leaves today—  
old whisk rake  
with the sound  
of someone  
trying to get  
my attention.

The leaves fell  
from a street  
maple—a tree  
about as old  
as I am.  
We thought we'd  
lost it last year

but a little  
trimming  
brought it back  
to life—  
these leaves  
the reward.

Now I can't  
help wonder,  
as I lean  
on my rake  
like the codger  
I've become,

if that old maple  
will outlive me—  
and if it does  
will it somehow  
acknowledge  
my passing?

**Steve Deutsch** has been widely published both on line and in print. Steve was nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. He is poetry editor for *Centered Magazine*. His Chapbook, *Perhaps You Can*, was published in 2019 by Kelsay Press. His full length book, *Persistence of Memory* was published in 2020 by Kelsay, Steve's third book of poetry, *Going, Going, Gone*, was published in November 2021.