

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Jo-Anne Cappeluti: Four Poems

Jo-Anne Cappeluti · Wednesday, January 6th, 2016

Jo-Anne Cappeluti earned her Ph.D in English at the University of California, Riverside. She is a widely published poet, most recently published in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Lyric*, *Grey Sparrow*, *Summerset Review*, and *Spiritus*. She recently retired after teaching for 30 years at California State University, Fullerton.

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### Cold Drink

That childhood fear  
of seeing a wave  
crashing down  
drowning you  
comes back  
like your father  
with something sweet to quench  
your thirst  
but so cold it hurts  
all the way down.  
It makes you swallow  
all these years later  
just thinking of it—  
half-longing for it.

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### Xmas Poem

Xmas is old.  
You know what to give  
to something old—  
the promise of time  
baking, cleaning  
wrapping gifts  
filling albums with photographs.  
Xmas is so old you  
half-believe

you're the one who keeps it  
alive—because you don't know  
what you'd do  
if it died on you.  
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## Wake-up Call at Thirty

—*for Tim*

Your brother was only thirty-two  
a sobering thought as you stand at his grave  
remembering when you were three  
crossing the street, staring, frozen  
at a car veering toward  
you, your brother's voice  
from out of nowhere  
in your face  
*Run!*  
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## What He Feels

Watching his father's casket  
lowered  
he remembers watching  
his father backing  
the car down the driveway  
staring ahead  
in the rearview mirror  
not waving back.

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