LESSON #73

As the amber glow
of barrel-aged
bourbon fills my olfactory
my grandfather
  unfolds.

Smoke and pussy-
                willow grey
ashes

furl in a lead crystal cigar bowl
that rainbows across a dark oak
coffee table polished
by someone

I never see
                except once
(by mistake).

I let the sweet charr coat
my tongue before I speak.

JUDITH CAMANN

Judith Camann is a poet, fiber artist, grandmother and education specialist living in Seattle Washington. Born and raised in New Hampshire, Judith has spent years traveling without spanning oceans. She learned early in life that there are cultures and sub-cultures within our continent that are too often taken for naught. Traveling thorough streets, neighborhoods and homes, waiting in lines, waiting for her number to be called, living by-and-large has brought her to people and places, situations and language, values and beliefs far from her safe childhood haven. Earning multiple advanced degrees in early childhood education, special education and counseling Judith has followed both paths. She has taught and created programs from childcare centers to elementary and high schools on through the University of Washington and Seattle Pacific University in their respective schools of education. She has also been a counselor at The New Hampshire State Prison and the Whatcom County Youth Diversion Program in Washington. In 2016 she returned to the challenge of being a student for yet another advanced degree; this time earning the terminal degree of MFA in Creative Writing from Ashland University in time for her 60th birthday celebration. Her poetry has been featured by Floating Bridge Press/Pontoon Poetry, So It Goes: The Literary Journal of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, (where she was invited to perform her piece), Adanna Literary Journal and others. She was awarded an Allied Arts Foundation Grant for poetry in 2020 and was a semifinalist for the 2021 Press 53 Award for Poetry. You can find her around Seattle as well as at www.judithcamann.com.