BEFORE THIS DAY

FOR PAUL

Before we met/dated/married
before we tripped through lonely days
before adulthood, puberty, childhood
long before we were born
before our parents dreamt our names
before they met/dated/married
long before they were born
before their parents/their parents/
their parents conceived
before their ancestors emigrated
to America, to New York, to forge a path
to lead us here today.

Before man, before woman
before there was language
before dinosaurs dominated our land,
before grass, before trees, before planets
orbited in the rmament
before day, before night,
before there was light
we were destined to be one.

J R TUREK

J R (Judy) Turek, Long Island Fair Superintendent of Poetry, 2020 Hometown Hero, 2019 Long Island Poet of the Year, 2017 New York State Woman of Distinction. J R is an internationally published poet, translated into Korean, Romanian, French, and Italian; editor, mentor, workshop leader, and 25 years as Moderator of the Farmingdale Creative Writing Group; she has 2 Pushcart Prize nominations, recipient of the Conklin Prize For Poetry, and author of *24 in 24, Midnight on the Eve of Never, B is for Betwixt and Between, A is for Almost Anything, Imagistics,* and *They Come And They Go*. She hosts 3 Performance Poets Association (PPA) monthly poetry readings, is the Associate Editor for several Long Island writing groups, and has written a poem-a-day for the past 18 years. The Purple Poet, lives on Long Island with her soul-mate husband, Paul, her dogs, and her extraordinarily extensive shoe collection.