Cobalt Poets Series # 590 ~ October 10, 2023

NEURODIVERSITY SEQUENCE

birthday request
her first pair of glasses
on the way home
she asked how long
the river had been there

seventh grade
the Weekly Reader test
I was clueless
wondering how others
remembered what they read

at birth
the doctor said
she had Down Syndrome
she proved him wrong: appearance
alone did not define her I.Q

devoted husband
his wife with Alziemers
took her dancing and dining
a pearl necklace
edging her bib's neckline

at five
she did her best
but scolded;
at seven the big number
on the eye chart blurred

one child autistic
a time when it was called "dumb";
raised at home, not "discarded"
dad accepted autistic, another bright.
Son waited decades to be called Mary

middle age twins
argue like toddlers
angry at birth order
oldest insists her sister
stole part of her genes

parenting
in a wheelchair
will teach compassion
the child will grow up accepting
others as they are

SIGRID SARADUNN

Sigrid "Siggi" Saradunn was born and grew up in Wisconsin. She worked for close to 40 years as a registered nurse with a focus on gerontology in DownEast Maine. Her home for 50 + years is across the narrow Trenton Bridge from Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park. Since "forever" she has had an interest in art and writing. Since age 12 obsessed with photography. If it “move" she takes a picture of it. If it doesn't move she takes a picture.” These were her main side passions until COVID. In early 2020, writing became her focus. Siggi studied with Paul Nelson in Seattle over Zoom, finding a poetry world that expanded her horizons. Kathabela Wilson's poetry group sharpened her writing of Haiku and Tanka. From England, ai li introduced new forms of poetry, cherita and other short forms. Kathabela introduced her to Rick Lupert's Cobalt Zoom and Michael Czarnecki, Wheeling Hill, NY…Her world expanded beyond belief during the lockdown of COVID. Through Paul, Kathabela, Rick and Michael she has met so many wonderful poets who have enriched her life and world. Bright lights in a dark world.