Cobalt Poets Series # 593 ~ November 7, 2023

Hannah

The last thing I saw was the wired hanger

Emptiness pulsed inside me.

A river of pain lingers.

Guess I'm lucky to be alive.

Somehow, I awoke in a real hospital,

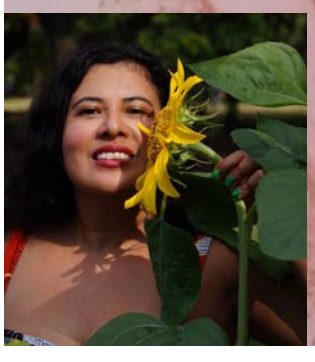
Away from the dank room, red-stained sheets,

glass vials and bloody hangers.

Nurse says a boy heard me tapping out the distress signal

Papa taught me

Dot dot dot dash dash dash dot dot dot



Melinda Palacio

Melinda Palacio holds two degrees in Comparative Literature, a BA from UC Berkeley and an MA from UC Santa Cruz. Her novel, *Ocotillo Dreams*, (ASU Bilingual Review Press 2011), won the Mariposa award for the Best First Book at the International Latino Book Awards and a Josephine Miles Award. Her first poetry book, *How Fire Is a Story, Waiting* was a finalist for the Milt Kessler Award and is now in its second printing from Tia Chucha Press. Her other books include *Bird Forgiveness* and *Folsom Lockdown*. Melinda is a musician who plays guitar and ukulele. She is the current Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara and writes a poetry column for the Santa Barbara Independent.