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Browse the **Table of Contents**!

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## **CML News**

We often describe the people who work or have worked for CML since 1962 as a family. There have been many and the family continues to grow (see *Newsletter #326*). Recently, we lost **Elma Musetta Feltner Beattie**. "Kitty," as she was known to us, proudly served CML from 1976 to 1991, first as Director of Public Information and then as Poetry Editor. Until quite recently, we thoroughly enjoyed her informative, prolific, and newsy letters, notes, recommendations, postcards, and holiday cards (with enclosed articles and photos), all while she continued to spread the word about CML to those around her. Many thanks from all of those who had the good fortune to work with Kitty and call her family, and those of us who remain to carry on the powerful legacy of words she championed.

## Highlights

To welcome the summer, we have an exciting issue for you, featuring art thieves, actors, singers, spies—and, oh yes, even an oil well pumper! The majority of these dynamic figures are women.

Our issue includes "Lost in the Deep," an account by **Ed Caesar** of the research vessel *Petrel's* search for the remains of the U.S.S. *Wasp*. The *Wasp* was an American aircraft carrier sunk in the Coral Sea by Japanese torpedoes on September 15, 1942. The late Paul Allen (a co-founder of Microsoft) owned the *Petrel* and funded the search, inspired in part by his own father's service in World War II. The *Petrel's* crew must contend with vast and turbulent waters, sudden medical emergencies, debris from other naval battles, discrepant reports of the carrier's last position, and of course the ever-present awareness of the war's human toll.

Our fiction offering in this issue includes "Preservation," a short story by Maria Lioutaia, featuring a lonely functionary at a Russian museum in the chaotic first years after the fall of Communism. Tasked with preserving the relentlessly decaying corpse of Vladimir Lenin, she finds an ingenious solution that might save both her imperiled job *and* her love life. We also bring you outstanding stories by Maxim Loskutoff, Michael Byers, and George Singleton, as well as poetry by Elizabeth Spires, Joanna Klink, Michael Torres, and Stanley Plumly, a major American poet, who passed away in April 2019.

Music-lovers will be delighted by "String Theory," **Justin Davidson**'s profile of the contemporary singer and musician Rhiannon Giddens. Besides being an acclaimed and tireless international performer in multiple genres (including opera!), Giddens is also a scholar recovering vital but forgotten African-American music, reconstructing lost and unique instruments, including early forms of the banjo.

## **TOP PICKS:**

"The King Becomes Her" by **Parul Sehgal** follows the legendary British actress (and former Member of Parliament!) Glenda Jackson as she prepares for her Broadway debut as King Lear, one of Shakespeare's most demanding and emotionally devastating roles. Jackson contemplates how the experience of aging has prepared her for the role of Lear... but beware her razor-tongue and acid wit!

We also recommend "The Hedgehog's Great Escape," by **Lynne Olson**, the thrilling story of yet another remarkable woman, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, codename "Hedgehog," who ran the largest and most successful spy network in the French Resistance against the Gestapo during World War II.

If acting and espionage aren't gutsy enough for you, what do you think of oil well pumping? Meet Rachael Van Horn, veteran of the Iraq war, who tends to over thirty wells per day in Western Oklahoma. Her portrait by **Ian Frazier** in "Pumper's Corner" reveals a complex and fascinating individual.

## **And Special Thanks To...**

**Gary M**. from Winatchee, WA who said, "I really, really enjoy the selections from so many different magazines and journals!"

Happy Summer from Annie, Mike, Jay, Alfredo and Raquel!

**Did you Know?** "Anthos" is Greek for flowers, and the suffix "ology," from "logos," Greek for speech. That might compel some of us to describe a CML anthology as a 'talking flower arrangement!' Enjoy.