

Editor's Introduction

Natalie Welsh

Founding Editor

2023 Holiday Supplement



"[T]he holidays [are] a great place to celebrate our accomplishments and still keep our unaccomplished dreams alive."

~Cemil Otar, Featured Artist

This is the second *Syncopation Literary Journal* Holiday Supplement. When curating the first Holiday Supplement in 2022, I intended the volume to be an end-of-the-year gift to *Syncopation* readers and contributors, a "lagniappe" of sorts. I hope that it has been received as such.

With every issue, I aim to publish work from a diverse set of artists, yet the stories in this holiday issue are held together by a thread of common humanity. While the past few years have been marred by countless global

tragedies, the stories in the 2023 Holiday Supplement are filled with messages of hope. Cemil Otar, the writer and artist who designed the cover image, reminds us that "the holidays [are] a great place to celebrate our accomplishments and still keep our unaccomplished dreams alive." The poetry and prose in this issue contain the hopes and dreams of the contributing authors.

In the short story "Elephant Shoe," Andrew Shaughnessy tells an original Christmas tale of love from the viewpoint of young children. In Ann Wehrman's

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"Midnight Mass," a young orphan looks past the ethnic and religious differences of another youth who finds her in the streets, hungry and afraid. In "George Harrison Never Stopped Dreaming," Elan Barnehama reflects on the life of a legendary artist, reminding us of the importance of "peace, love, and understanding."

It has always been a starry-eyed belief of mine that music and literature can allow us to consider, and perhaps comprehend, other worldviews.

Thank you to all of *Syncopation's* readers and contributors. Thank you to my family and friends for their ongoing support in my creative journey. Happy Holidays, and all the best for 2024!

Natalie Welsh
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Syncopation Literary Journal

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