Necessary Light

Fargnoli, Patricia

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The May Swenson Poetry Award was named for May Swenson, and honors her as one of America’s most provocative, insouciant, and vital poets. During her long career, May published eleven volumes of poems, and she was loved and praised by writers from virtually every major school of poetry. She left a legacy of nearly fifty years of writing when she died in 1989.

May Swenson lived most of her adult life in New York City, the center of poetry writing and publishing in her day. But she is buried in Logan, Utah, her birthplace and hometown.
Praise for
Necessary Light

Readers will discover many facets of Fargnoli’s voice . . . but
I think the two attributes that will most impress readers are,
first, the almost shimmering gladness with which Ms. Fargnoli
replies to the gifts of beauty and of human love; and, second,
the compassion with which she addresses whatever is beyond
her own intimate surroundings. Whatever it costs her, whatever
it takes, there seems to be for Ms. Fargnoli only one world and
only one way to live within it: with a ferocity of attention, care,
and response.

—Mary Oliver

In Necessary Light, Pat Fargnoli proves that joy is not only
possible, but that the highest joy is arrived at only after bearing
the weight of experience through some terrifying valleys. Ms.
Fargnoli’s heartening, disturbing, mature first book is rich
with two things poetry can never have enough of: energy and
wonder.

—Brendan Galvin

Photo by Jane Billings