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### Two volumes of poetry spring up here

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Article Text:

When wood-sorrel's trefoil hoofprint  
spreads in the first mud,  
humanswantrocks, root clumps, moss,  
and words -the lips of mushrooms  
to move. In the dirty ears of humans  
just peeled from hibernation,  
in a bent dogwood, a phoebe calls;  
in forsythia, saturated, drenched  
yellow, a song-sparrow. In an ash  
a dove mourns: ooh, peligro,  
meaning: beware snowmelt, floods,  
and other budding delusions.

"Alternatives to Snow"

Gwyn McVay

Local poet Gwyn McVay, author of a new book titled "Ordinary Beans," will be the featured reader at an open-mic event sponsored by Millersville University's literary magazine, George Street Carnival.

The poetry reading, staged in memory of late MU professor and poet Dr. Gregory Jerozal, is free and open to the public. It will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, in the Club de 'Ville in the Student Memorial Center on the MU campus, where McVay teaches in the English department.

"I describe my poetry as weird! Whatever the subject, from the landscapes of the prairie and other places I've lived (my family lived in Grand Forks, N.D., for 10 years, hence all the buffalo that keep showing up in the book), my take on it is not going to be quite normal," McVay said in an e-mail interview.

"Just about any situation or aspect of the world that catches my attention can serve as the catalyst to break open a poem that I've been carrying around with me," she continued. "I don't shy

away from the political or controversial, but I also don't reject any subject matter out of hand as insufficiently 'poetic.'

"Thus, I have poems in that book about roadkill; crows eating from Dumpsters; changing a tire; paintings and sculptures I've seen; being bored in eighth-grade Earth Science class; holding my mother's eyeglasses shortly after her death .... The word 'Wal-Mart' occurs in this book. Anything and everything is a potential starting point."

McVay has a degree in English from Penn State University and a master of fine arts degree in poetry from George Mason University. She also teaches at the Pennsylvania School of Art & Design.

"Ordinary Beans," a 71-page paperback, was published by Pecan Grove Press at \$15. She is also the author of the chapbooks "Brother Ikon" and "This Natural History."

Wax poetic about Williams Apothecary, Route 30 and the Rockvale Outlets? Former Lancaster resident **Debra Gingerich** does, in "Where We Start," her first book of poetry, released last month by Cascadia Publishing House.

Gingerich's poetry has been strongly influenced by her experiences as a part of a Mennonite community and the wife of a native of the former Yugoslavia. Her work explores tensions between the individual and the community, in both the U.S. and Eastern Europe.

Poet Robin Behn, a professor at the University of Alabama, said Gingerich's poems "stubbornly eschew the sentimental, buggy-riding, creamed-corn version of 'Mennonite.' They serve up, instead, a complex, glinting, hard-edged testimony of faith, love, and history that ranges from barnyard to Balkans."

The 92-page book, published by DreamSeeker Books, is priced at \$12.95.

Gingerich, a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University and Vermont College, lives in Sarasota, Fla., and may be contacted through her Web site: [www.DebraGingerich.com](http://www.DebraGingerich.com)