

Silver Linings

- 🌈 The quest for a project during this pandemic led me to review my files and notebooks from writing classes and moments of inspiration. I was surprised with how much I had and startled that some were good!

I have published in some regional anthologies and was selected for a second prize in poetry at the 2019 HRW Writers' Conference. The combination encouraged me to self-publish the best of the poems and essays. **Of Things Visible and Invisible** debuts in early fall of this pandemic year. This slim volume of forty-eight poems and ten essays offers insights from a Christian response to life events, large and small, and the wonder of the world seen and unseen.

More information is available on Facebook at Sandy Robinette, poet and on the internet at SandyRobinettepoet.wixsite.com/website.

- 🌈 Before a Zoom meeting, I can have a meal loaded with garlic and no one will care. – Lee
- 🌈 During this time, I contacted my church for senior people I could reach by phone and/or address. Of the names I received, one lovely lady/stranger-to-me and I have become pen/phone pals and plan to meet in person for lunch when "the plague" is over. Definitely a "silver lining"! -- Laura
- 🌈 Once things shut down back in March, I realized that I enjoyed spending more time at home. Not being so busy out and about gave me more time to spend with my dogs, plant more flowers than ever before to enjoy, clean out very neglected closets and drawers, and binge watch several TV series as well as shows and websites recommended by the Travel Committee.
- 🌈 After a few years of sporadic frustrating attempts, I finally had time to master how to solve Sudoku puzzles! It's a personal little ego boost every time I successfully complete a 5-star difficulty puzzle. –Pat
- 🌈 I also got a lot of satisfaction in using my stimulus check to support local restaurants and majorly over tip struggling servers and out of work musicians doing online gigs. --Susan
- 🌈 My silver lining is that my grandchildren have gotten much closer to me. We text more, they come to visit me and have breakfast or lunch with me, we bake cookies together and just enjoy each other's company while watching a movie. When I had surgery, the older boys did my grocery shopping for me and even

took me to a few doctor appointments. I am so grateful for such loving and good grandchildren. They are 22, 19, 14 and 11.

- 🌈 One of the most fun and memorable things our family did to stay connected was to have “Throwback Thursdays,” where each week one of us would share, via group texts, family photos from both recent and long ago times, then in a flurry, we’d all send a comment in response. What interesting remembrances the many photos generated! Looking back on this most challenging time, and one we’re still dealing with, I have appreciated the less hurried pace and will remember fondly our special family “remote” get togethers. –Pat
- 🌈 Silver Linings are part of life. For me one of the best surprises recently was finding out I could continue to be a member of ILR even though I moved to CT in May of this year. An added bonus was participating in Linda and Ed Dye’s Zoom class. Thank you for expanding membership and offering assistance with zoom. Betsey