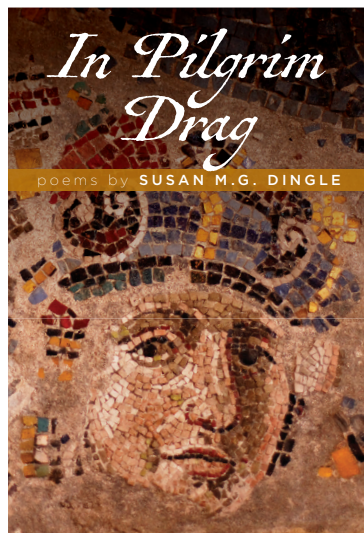


Poem for the Cutchogue Volunteer Fire Department at 3am (From a Grateful Neighbor)

At 3AM you answer the call of the fallen, arrive with
EMTs and Fire Chief, when an emergency is medical and the fallen is
Someone old, frail, infirm, you answer a call with kindness even when
It is more than once in the same month;
And when flames engulf a house, you show up at any hour you are
called In any season, you are an answered prayer;
And in gratitude several thousand citizens line up in your parking lot
for barbecued chicken under your tents every last Saturday in August,
if they are lucky enough to get tickets for your only fund-raiser,
for as many years as anyone can remember but not
This year when you have answered more midnight calls of the fallen
than ever, victims of virus, unseen fire.
Dear First Responders, Firefighters, EMTs, thank you,
for it is 3AM, and I remember last year whenever my husband fell, the
best thing I could do was call for you.
Yet in New Suffolk on July 4, 2020, one does not need to call
for you to appear, sirens wailing, lights flashing, bright red, invincible,
leaving in your wake, red white and blue reminders
of what we have to be grateful for, especially this year,
when we have lost more than we can remember, grateful
that you are our parade, and we can think of new ways to thank you.

Susan Grathwohl Dingle
www.susandingle.com



To thank Our First Responders
Send check to
CUTCHOGUE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
260 New Suffolk Rd., Cutchogue NY 11935

To Pre-order Susan Dingle's new book of poems
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