

**These Matters Must Be Spoken –**

for Bonnie Hoag after the death of her partner, Geoffrey Ovington

Let me envision through my hands,  
once warmed in clay, an horrific howl  
like that from the canine coyote hunters  
housed at the edge of your natural paradise  
with its stony woods, streams and fields,  
where animals and you, their humane protector,  
live in fear of the demise of all earthly life.

Let these matters unspoken by a majority,  
here and everywhere, then until now,  
matters abstracted from details delivered,  
let them be addressed and dealt with  
by a persistent constancy.

Your personal grief enters the global arena,  
as you, a woman aware and frightened,  
seek recourse, now without your partner  
who could soften a hateful world in an evening,  
giving you respite before the onslaught  
of the next tumultuous day.

Ann Shapiro  
Summer, 2018