

## SPRING 2018

It means the earth beginning to tilt  
causing each hemisphere to warm  
and plants to grow  
It means March through June in the Northern Hemisphere  
and September to December in the Southern Hemisphere

It was warmer in February  
We hadn't had Spring  
until the end of May  
so went back to wearing  
turtlenecks, sweatsuits, jeans,  
dresses with tights, warm socks,  
boots, parkas, hats and scarves

Gray, gloomy days and still rain  
Frequent flight delays at SFO  
Everyone complained to the KPIX 5 meteorologist  
who said Spring would come by Memorial Day  
the unofficial start to Summer  
People picnicked at Lake Temescal, Lake Merritt  
and the Emeryville Marina  
Our neighbors had barbeques  
in their backyards  
and the air carried  
the sounds of many conversations and music  
There were tanks, shorts and sandals,  
wide brim hats and sunglasses  
Only for it to get cool again  
two days later

Springtime means unpredictable weather:  
In New York City and Paris  
it means transitioning from snowstorms to thunderstorms  
in Barcelona it means warm, sunny days  
turning to cool, rainy nights  
In Buffalo it means sixty-four degrees one day  
and snow the next  
In Venice and Rome it means  
rain one day and sun the next  
In Alabama and Tennessee  
it means going from forty-degrees and snow one week  
to eighty-degrees the next  
It means the beginning of wildfires in the West  
and the beginning of hurricane season in the Atlantic and Gulf

The cherry blossoms begin to bloom  
at U.C. Berkeley and La Loma Park  
There are the cherry blossom festivals  
in San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and Japan

People begin to travel by car, rail and air  
for Spring Vacation, Passover, Easter and Memorial Day  
The security lines at airports get longer and slower  
and the planes are packed full of families

It means the N.B.A. playoffs, semi-finals and finals  
and the beginning of baseball season  
Sometimes the Warriors and A's play at the same time  
at the Oracle Arena and the O.co Coliseum

Springtime means graduations  
from pre-school, elementary, middle and high school,  
college, masters and doctoral programs  
It means college acceptance letters

Spring turning into Summer  
means new haircuts,  
new travels,  
transitioning schools,  
Summer camp,  
Summer school,  
Summer jobs,  
Summer festivals,  
and hot weather  
ending with the longest day of the year