



# Tidal Wave

DENNIS H. LEE

Winner of the Henry Morgenthau III Poetry Prize

## PRAISE

*“Tidal Wave* is a serious achievement, carrying off what Charles Simic called ‘the said quality’ of growing up and growing older, as if these two worlds existed simultaneously on parallel planes. Much of childhood abides in Dennis Lee’s recollection of the shape and meaning of a button, in offices where doctors ride small horses into the waiting rooms of life, and analysts sit in spare, unfurnished rooms (whose offer of a cup of coffee would mean so much), in the fortune cookie that offers not wisdom, but a dance. I admire the intelligence and honesty of these poems and the sense of a life constantly at the threshold of a change of heart. Their tides are driven by moon powers: the lift of spirit; the swell of the imagination; the crashing body; and at last, the undertow of memory.”

David Keplinger, Judge  
Henry Morgenthau III Poetry Prize

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## **Passager publishes first book by New Jersey Poet**

Passager Books announces the publication of *Tidal Wave*, a first book by Hillsborough, NJ poet Dennis H. Lee. The book won Passager's Henry Morgenthau III Poetry Prize for a new poet 70 or older, the first of its kind in the country.

Lee grew up in Brooklyn in the 1950s. "It was like living in Camelot," he said. "I had to ask an adult to cross me to the other side of the street to get the bus. I could ride my bike to the beach or the ocean to go fishing. I could go to Dodger games or Yankee games. This was all before I was 13 years old."

A U.S. Navy vet who served on the U.S.S. Enterprise, he spent much of his career as a computer software engineer. A poet and songwriter for over a quarter of a century, his work has appeared in many literary journals. Lee and his wife, Donna, co-founded the DVP Reading Series in Princeton, NJ which continued for over 25 years.

Morgenthau Competition judge David Keplinger said, "*Tidal Wave* is a serious achievement of growing up and growing older, as if these two worlds existed simultaneously on parallel planes. Much of childhood still abides in this poet, the recollection of the shape and meaning of a button, or in offices where doctors ride small horses into the waiting rooms of life."

Passager editor Kendra Kopelke says that this spirited book “careens between funny and serious, with poems teetering on stories and dreams to evoke a tidal wave of human experience.”

*Tidal Wave* is available from [www.passagerbooks.com](http://www.passagerbooks.com)

In its 30 years of publishing, Passager has shared the work of more than 1,000 writers, many in their 80s and 90s, in its 69 journal issues and 29 books. In doing so, this not-for-profit press has gained a reputation for longevity in a field in which few magazines and journals last more than a handful of years. With *Tidal Wave*, Passager continues its tradition of bringing the compelling writing and insight of older writers to the public.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dennis H. Lee grew up in Brooklyn and would spend Shabbat at his grandparents' home just outside of Seagate, on Coney Island. His parents owned a stationery store on 44th Street in the theatre district of Manhattan, where he met many actors. He graduated from the College of the Sequoias, with a degree in Electronics and he served in the U.S. Navy, part of that time on the U.S.S. Enterprise. In the 1960s, he sang with the doo-wop group *The Nocturnes*, which once followed Richie Havens at the Cafe Wha? in NYC. He worked as a computer software engineer for many years. Dennis and his wife, Donna, co-founded the Delaware Valley Poets Reading Series in Princeton, which continued for more than twenty years.



## ABOUT THE PRIZE



### **The Henry Morgenthau III First Book Poetry Prize for a poet 70 or older**

The prize honors Henry Morgenthau III, author of *A Sunday in Purgatory*, his first collection of poems at age 99. After a distinguished career as a writer and producer for public television, Mr. Morgenthau began writing poetry in his nineties, pursuing it with great seriousness and passion. He gave readings and book signings, enthralled audiences of all ages with his intelligence and wit, and fielded correspondence from people inspired by his poems. His audience was changed by him and he in turn by them. As he said, “to finally, in my nineties, after such a long and public life, be able to write and publish poems – to connect with other people from my deepest, truest self – was a gift. To be open to others in this way . . . I don’t know why I waited so long.”

Dennis H. Lee is the first recipient of this award.

## ORDERING INFORMATION

*Tidal Wave* by Dennis H. Lee

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