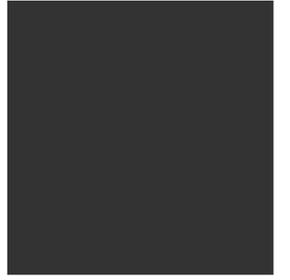


February



29th

On the extra day
the waterman gave each
an additional sip
it was tepid
but better than zero.

On the extra day
archers paused under the prosceniums
watching anchors in the bay
finally being released
from the muck and brine.

On the extra day
the miller crushed less potash
and pumice
into the meal
but no infant lived a second longer.

On the extra day
the sky was really the same
but the sun felt new
the tillers sowed
the rocky, rubble earth
with more speed and less sweat.

Michael Cluff

On the extra day
the commissar claimed
it was his real birthday
the plateau mumbled
and an angel and three devils wept.

Michael Cluff is a full-time Associate Professor of English at Norco College where he teaches Creative Writing and Critical Thinking as well. His latest book of poetry *Casino Evil* was published in 2009. He has also published several other books of poetry: *Duck 'N' Cover*, *Moraines*, *Double Breasted*, *Quilted Flesh* and *Treacherous Pauses* to name a few. He has hosted readings in Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Norco, Baldwin Park, Temecula, Montclair, Temple City, Corona, Victorville and Anaheim Hills to name a few spots. His poetry has also been published in *PoetrySuperHighway*, *Dissident Editions*, *Muse*, *Mosaic*, *San Fernando Poetry Review* and *Pudding House* amongst others. Last October he appeared on KPFK's *Poetry Cafe* radio show with Brandy Burrows and Mary Copeland. He is also an actor would has done community theater in the Inland Empire and Palm Springs area since 1998. He has appeared in works by Shakespeare, O'Neill, Williams, Coward, Christie, Wilde, Wilder, Simon, Albee, Steinbeck, and Inge in his time and is looking forward to working with the Redlands Shakespeare Festival this May.

