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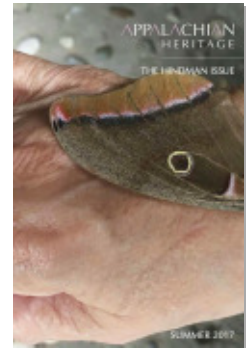
Poet Reading

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POET READING

for Kathryn Stripling Byer

Each poem was a stationary dance:
 lifting her sturdy left foot behind her
 and marking time with it in the charged air,

she pressed on open palm in the small
 of her back as if gliding across the floor
 to someone who would mirror her movements,

swaying left and right, then raising high
 the hand that had written the very words
 that she and her partners were now dancing to.

MICHAEL MCFEE
SPRING 2005