

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