

***Moving Through Grief:
Poems, Songs and After***

With Jane Yolen and Molly Scott

April 14, 7:00

Smith College, Neilson Browsing Room

“Moving Through Grief: Poems, Songs and After” is a celebration of Jane Yolen and Molly Scott’s long productive lives as artists. Both have published books about mourning and the arc of grieving loss to recovery. Their work addresses grief in its many variations, not only the deaths of loved ones—husband, friends, colleagues—but also the horrors of war, Newtown, the lack of civility in modern discourse, plus confronting the gifts, as well as the losses, of aging. Both agree, as Yolen says, “We aren’t letting grief define us, but are using it as a springboard for the rest of our lives—in poetry and in the real world. So of course our program ends in celebration and the twinning of poetry and song.”



Yolen, Smith '60, is a well-known poet and writer of over 350 books, acclaimed for her work for young people, including “Owl Moon,” “The Devil’s Arithmetic,” and the “How Do Dinosaurs...” series. Her books of adult poetry include “The Radiation Sonnets: For my Love in Sickness and in Health” and “Things to Say to A Dead Man: Poems at the End of a Marriage and After,” “tough, angry and moving love poems” about the death of her husband, David. She was recently an invited international poet at the StAnza Poetry Festival in St Andrews, Scotland. Yolen is also a songwriter, an accomplished storyteller, and the recipient of six honorary degrees from colleges and universities, including Smith. She was one of the children’s book responders to the schoolchildren of Newtown, CT after the tragic shootings there and

will include poems written from that experience in this reading as well. (Photo © Jason Stemple)



Molly Scott, Smith '59, is a singer, poet, psychologist, and international workshop leader who has had many careers: early on in theater, television, concerts, composition and recording, and later, as a clinician, educator and pioneer in the use of the voice in therapeutic treatment called Creative Resonance Therapy. As a poet, she was awarded the 2015 Robert Frost Foundation first prize for poetry and recently published “Up to the Windy Gate: Poems of Grief and Grace” about the loss of her long-term music partner, Sarah Benson. Much of Scott’s musical life has been devoted to social justice, environmental and peace concerns. Her recent recordings include “We Are All One Planet,” “Honor the Earth,” and “Sanctuary,” a live concert recorded after the 9-11 attacks.

Both poets will have their work available for signing after the presentation. Refreshments will be served. The program is free of charge. Not suitable for children under the age of 11.

For additional information contact: janeyolen@aol.com or the Smith College Poetry Center at poetryct@email.smith.edu,

web: www.janeyolen.com & www.mollyscott.com

Co-sponsored by The Poetry Center at Smith and Straw Dog Writers Guild