



Thursday Memo – June 12, 2014

Back to poetry; thank goodness. This week's Memo is written by Stefan Topolski, Clinical Medical Director statewide for Commonwealth Care Alliance's OneCare ICO program and medical director/CEO for a new integrated & teaching health center (Caring in Community) in Shelburne Falls, MA as well as a department faculty member who helps out at Leominster Family Medicine Residency with education and various teaching duties at the medical school. He has offered up a reflection that should inspire us all to get out of bed in the morning and enjoy the interweaving of our jobs and lives with work and pleasure and the many mysteries that make us, us. Fitting as we enter summer - a good time for observation and celebration in general.

You can respond with comment to Stefan at stefan@cottagedmed.org or to the list serve in general. Enjoy!

Arrived

A cold damp quiet like Maine morning
Cutting and pruning and burning brush
Tending wooden boats on trailers out back
Family asleep in the house above
Traffic moaning by on the road below
The drum beat of nature all around and
The heart beat of life in the school concert so much better than ours ever were
and the dance recital coming up tonight while children grow so fast too fast
Research papers on my screen proofed for publishing
Fresh floors to lay and wiring to run for our new shop in town
Still hate calling an office anything but an honest 'shop'
Always loved working with hands and heart as much as head
Leaving behind the lure of books and tests and school which never really mattered
On call this holiday for four unrelated jobs yet one related calling
House calls and barter and sliding scales and free care
An old man of 98 in hospice still making sure to give me a HARD hand shake
Older women homebound insisting on their hugs and kisses
The sweet wine of life
Loving being a country doctor