

A Gift Of Poetry: One Of Many Creations Boothbay Register
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Salt Marsh Reflections is not the usual "slim volume of poetry." It may be slim, but it has more energy and style than most of that genre. The collection of 14 poems and 15 photographs, now available at Sherman's Book Store, is a collaboration between Aline Fourier and her 17 year-old son, Zachary Daniel Burack.

The inspiration for the book was a small, brackish pond beyond Fourier's Newagen home. The physical description of the salt marsh does not do it justice, for it is an extension of the ocean beyond and is bounded by undulating grasses, evergreens, and dramatic ledge.

In the book's introduction, Fourier writes that, "Zachary visited and began to explore the salt marsh through the lens of my Nikon camera. Delighted by the results of his 'seeing,' I was inspired to create Salt Marsh Reflections as a gift for Zachary on his seventeenth birthday." Each color reproduction is accompanied by a poem written by Fourier in response to the image in the photograph.

The illustrations range from close-ups of flowers to expansive shots of the marsh with the sea and sky beyond. A common theme which runs through the free-form poetry is change: tidal, seasonal, and personal. Atmospheric and natural images pervade the verse, giving it an organic quality.

"I've always written poetry," Fourier says. "It's a reflection of what's going on inside." She finds that speaking the poems while writing them improves the rhythm.

The book's cover is a clue to the creativity within. Fourier binds each copy herself, using Indian rag-and-algae paper bound by a twig from the marsh and lengths of nubby yarn. She scanned the photos herself and produced the entire book on her computer. On the back cover is her company name, Creative Response, Inc.